

***A borrowed bow**

(Continued from page 1.)
prepare for tryouts on the

USA Team,” Sherry continued, “and some high pressure shoot down situations.”

Currently, next year’s tryouts for the USA Team are on hold due to, like every-

thing else, COVID-19. Tryouts would have been held in Italy.

In light of Sherry being a first place winner herself, she says she remains in awe of her fellow competitors and others’ levels of talent.

“Even if some of us don’t make the team, we want it to be the best team it could possibly be to go represent the United States,” Sherry said. “Whether I make it again or not, we just want it to be the best it can be.”

Admittedly, Sherry said

her biggest adversary during competitions isn’t the man or woman behind her holding a bow, it’s herself.

Head games begin when Sherry thinks her scores aren’t matching up to other top competitors during a shoot.

“I do that and then I’m keeping score for four people...we have at least two score keepers, that way nobody cheats,” said Sherry. “I’ll say to myself, ‘I’m going to blow this’ or ‘The others are on my tail’ Then

I’ll say, ‘Just stop and shoot your shot. Do what you do.’”

Everyone needs a pep talk now and then. For Sherry it’s when she’s competing against herself.

“A person always wants to do better than the time before, up your score,” Sherry said. “Traditional archery is a mental thing. If a person has anything going on in his or her life, something bothering you, a person has to go out there with a clear head.”



Pictured above, Sherry Harrell-Pugh shows off her buckle from placing first in the Howard Hill Classic Women’s Championship Shootdown. First place winners also receive a \$300 cash prize. (Photo by Matthew Breazeale)

FUNNY STUFF

By Bill Bobb

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Auditors arrest former Columbus chief financial officer for embezzlement

Press Release

On August 18, State Auditor Shad White announced Special Agents from his office have arrested former City of Columbus Chief Financial Officer Milton Rawle, Jr. after he was indicted for embezzlement by a grand jury in the district of District Attorney Scott Colom. Upon his arrest, Rawle was issued a demand showing he owes \$354,896.27 to taxpayers in Columbus. This amount includes interest and investigative expenses.



MILTON RAWLE, JR.

Rawle is accused of embezzling nearly \$290,000 by making electronic money transfers to personal bank accounts from December 2016 to December 2018. To hide the unauthorized transactions, Rawle purportedly used official-sounding labels like “payroll” and “reimbursement.” Investigators also believe he used clipart to alter city bank statements to conceal the transfers. The case was investigated after accounting discrepancies were

found and reported by a private CPA hired by the City of Columbus to complete a routine, annual audit.

“Mr. Rawle stole a great deal from the taxpayers of Columbus,” said Auditor White. “I’m thankful for the hard work of the auditor’s office investigators for building this case against him. Now it’s time for prosecutors to send him to prison and get the money back.”

Rawle was arrested by Special Agents yesterday in Jackson County. He was transported to Lowndes County where

bond will be set by the court.

If convicted, Rawle faces up to 20 years in prison and \$25,000 in fines. All persons arrested by the Mississippi Office of the State Auditor are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law. The case will be prosecuted by the office of District Attorney Colom.

“Prosecutors should not go lightly here just because Mr. Rawle is a non-violent offender,” White said. “Mr. Rawle stole much more than many burglars could ever get away with. We shouldn’t treat him differently just because he wore a tie and stole with a pen.”

A \$100,000 surety bond covers Rawle’s time as an employee of Columbus. A surety bond is similar to insurance designed to protect taxpayers from corruption. Rawle will remain liable for the full amount of the demand in addition to criminal proceedings.

Suspected fraud can be reported to the Auditor’s office online any time by clicking the red button at www.osa.ms.gov or via telephone during normal business hours at 1-(800)-321-1275.



Pictured above, Sherry Harrell-Pugh shows off her prized buckle she won by placing first in the 2020 IBO (International Bowhunting Organization) World Championship in the Female Modern Recurve Class. The buckle is made of silver and bronze with copper floral designs and bronze flowers with turquoise. (Photo by Matthew Breazeale)

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