

# Area Businesswoman Pleads Guilty To Worthless Check Charges

A Southport businesswoman who was charged with embezzling more than \$4,400 from a Southport revitalization group received a suspended prison sentence last week after she pleaded guilty to reduced charges.

Olivia Russell Costango, 41, owner of the Southport advertising firm Costanzo Ventures, pleaded guilty April 3 in Brunswick County District Criminal Court to nine counts of obtaining property by worthless check, according to the Brunswick County Clerk of Court's office.

Judge William C. Gore Jr. sentenced Ms. Costango to a two-year suspended prison term, with three years of unsupervised probation. Also, she was ordered to pay \$4,848.94 in restitution to ANCHOR Inc., the organization she was serving as treasurer when the offenses occurred.

Court records state Gore also ordered that the defendant cannot "hold any official position or position of trust in any non-corporate organization" during her probation.

The plea agreement was reached during a probable cause hearing that had been continued from two earlier court dates subsequent to Ms. Costango's Feb. 21 arrest on embezzlement charges. Ms. Costango was represented by Shallotte attorney Roy Trest. Assistant District Attorney Napoleon Barefoot Jr. prosecuted the case.

The charge of obtaining property by worthless check carries a possible maximum penalty of a two-year prison term. The felony offense of embezzlement by a public officer can be punished by up to 10 years in prison.

Misdemeanor statements of charges filed last week by Barefoot indicate that Ms. Costango's offenses occurred between July 1988 and September 1989. The court documents state she wrote six ANCHOR checks totaling \$3,711.14 to her company, Costanzo Ventures, and three other unauthorized checks totaling \$751.80 to Wilmington Printing Company, Custom Specialties of Wilmington and the Southport State Port Pilot.

Ms. Costango's firm published its first and only edition so far of *The Brunswick Magazine* last spring. In 1989, she was named the state's Women in Business Advocate of the Year and was appointed to the U.S. Small Business Administration's Charlotte District Advisory Council. She also was an unsuccessful candidate last year for a seat on the Southport Board of Aldermen.

Also during the April 2 through 4 term of Brunswick County District Criminal Court, Judge Gore heard the following cases:

Tara Anne Allen, operating a motor vehicle without financial responsibility, Brunswick County Jail 30 days, suspended sentence one year, \$50 and cost, not operate motor vehicle unless valid registration and insurance.

Jose Luis Alvarado, Jr., no driver's license, fictitious card/tag, both voluntarily dismissed—defendant is a juvenile.

Levy Don Daniels, no driver's license, operating motor vehicle without financial responsibility, Brunswick County Jail 30 days, suspended sentence two years, unsupervised probation two years, \$75 and costs, not operate motor vehicle until valid license, not operate motor vehicle unless properly registered and insured.

John David Griffith, assault on a female, voluntarily dismissed.

Andre Tyrone Hill, no operator's license, \$25 and costs.

Kenneth Edward Howard, pur-

chasing beer/wine by 19/20 year old, \$25 fine and no costs.

Jefferson D. Jenrette, sanitary sewage collection, health improvement permit, consolidated judgment, Brunswick County Jail 30 days, suspended sentence one year, unsupervised probation one year, immediately remove himself and all other persons located at Russtown Farm Lot #10 Shallotte—until he has obtained a permit to install a sanitary disposal and same is properly installed. Health Dept. official is to go and see if defendant is removed from house—if not he is to be immediately incarcerated, allowed three days to remove from his premises within 96 hours with the accompaniment of Sheriff of Brunswick County, costs—pay within 90 days.

Glen Hemingway Parker, reckless driving, \$20 and costs.

Timothy Maurice Price, no driver's license, prayer for judgment continued and costs remitted.

Michael L. Riggan, DWI, voluntarily dismissed—no plaintiff.

Kenneth Roberts, assault on a female, discharging firearm in city limits, consolidated judgment, Brunswick County Jail six months, suspended sentence two years, not assault plaintiff for two years, assessment—follow treatment, costs, weapon ordered to be destroyed by Brunswick County Sheriff's Department.

Crystal Sharpe, failure to return hired property, Brunswick County Jail 39 days, suspended sentence one year, unsupervised probation one year, restitution \$89.90 to Hollywood Video, costs, not violate any laws for two years.

Doris M. Stegall, simple assault, prayer for judgment continued and costs remitted.

Gwendolyn M. Primm, DWI Level 5, Brunswick County Jail 30 days, suspended sentence two years, unsupervised probation two years, surrender license, \$100 and costs, no assessment—has already completed, no community service, no blood alcohol content above .00 in her body.

Christian L. Simmons, exceeding safe speed, \$5 and costs.

Lewis Ash, probation violation, probation revoked, modified to not less nor more than 30 days.

Scott Larry Carter, no driver's license, Brunswick County Jail seven days—credit for time served.

Hank Rodney Williams, unsafe movement, voluntarily dismissed.

Pearlene O. Rivcnbark, no insurance, voluntarily dismissed.

Roy Austin Brown, probation violation, admits violation, probation revoked to run concurrently with any time presently serving. Recommends the defendant be considered for enrollment in the DART program with work release not recommended at this time.

Bonnie S. Flannery, probation violation out-of-county, admits violation, probation modified and continued, transferred to Davidson County, Brunswick County Jail 24 hours—to report within 24 hours after her release to probation officer and produce evidence of payment to probation officer within 72 hours after her release.

Archie Vanoy Harrison, misdemeanor possession of stolen good, misdemeanor larceny, Brunswick County Jail two years under supervision of N.C. Department of Corrections, suspended sentence two years, supervised probation two years, neither is to go on or about premises of Paul Crawford, restitution \$200 attorney fee, costs of court, Brunswick County Jail 15 days, 24 hours of community ser-

vice within 90 days to Gaston County, not violate any laws for two years.

Diana C. Harrison, breaking and/or entering, larceny judgment, both voluntarily dismissed.

Debra Pinkett Hewett, speeding 50 in a 35 zone, prayer for judgment continued and costs.

John Steven Poe, misdemeanor breaking and/or entering, misdemeanor larceny, both voluntarily dismissed.

Peter M. Qualter, two counts of probation violation out-of-county, cases consolidated, admits violation, sentence activated, six months to run concurrently with previous sentence—considered for DART program, no recommendation for work release, sentence activated once more with six more months to run concurrently with previous sentence.

Greg Dale Rivenbark, simple possession less than 1/2 oz. of Schedule VI Controlled Substance, Brunswick County Jail 30 days, suspended sentence two years, \$100 and costs, not have any controlled substance in his possession unless prescribed by licensed physician, submit to warrantless searches on his premises for two years, submit to test, not violate any laws for two years.

Edward D. Trapp, probation violation, admits violation, allowed to try and finish up his community service and bring himself into compliance within 60 days—report back 6-11-90 to see if probation is revoked or allowed to continue on probation.

Larry Edward Watson, DWI Level 3, driving while license revoked, consolidated judgment, Brunswick County Jail 60 days, suspended sentence three years, not operate motor vehicle until valid license, surrender license, not possess or consume any alcoholic beverage or controlled substance; DWI Level 2, N.C. Department of Corrections one year; DWI Level 3, N.C. Department of Correction six months to run concurrently at expiration of previous sentences; driving while license revoked, N.C. Department of Correction two years to run concurrently with previous sentence; DWI Level 2, N.C. Department of Corrections one year to run at expiration of previous sentence—recommend he be placed in the DART program and not be paroled until his chronic alcohol illness is dealt with in the N.C. Department of Corrections; probation violation, probation activated to run concurrently with previous sentences.

Peter Qualter, probation violation, probation activated.

James Lawrence Allard, speeding 64 in a 55 zone, costs.

James Kelly Armond, assault on a female, Brunswick County Jail 30 days, suspended sentence three years, not assault, harass, molest or make communicative threats to plaintiff for three years, not go on or about premises of plaintiff for three years, Brunswick County Jail 48 hours.

Williams Thomas Baker, DWI Level 2, civil revocation driver's license, Brunswick County Jail one year, suspended sentence two years, supervised probation two years, \$200 and costs, surrender license, assessment to Columbus County, no community service or limited privilege, submit to test, Columbus County Jail seven days Sunday 10:00 a.m. until Monday 10:00 a.m. and Wed. 8:00 a.m. to Thursday 8:00 a.m. next 2 1/2 weeks, probation transferred to Columbus County.

John Mark Benton, no registra-

tion for vehicle, no driver's license, consolidated judgment, Brunswick County Jail 30 days, suspended sentence one year, not operate motor vehicle until valid license, not operate motor vehicle unless properly registered and insured, \$25 and costs; operating motor vehicle without financial responsibility, voluntarily dismissed.

Teddy Lee Bernard, exceeding safe speed, costs.

Donald Ray Blackmon, stop sign violation, prayer for judgment continued and costs.

Bertha Michell Bowens, speeding 67 in a 55 zone, prayer for judgment continued and costs.

Charles R. Bradshaw, fugitive judgment, no governor's warrant forth coming, four days remain, case dismissed.

Edward Brown, probation violation out-of-county, admits violation, probation revoked, sentence activated, may be released upon payment, \$438 and \$135 supervision fee.

Roderick Angelo Brown, no operator's license, \$25 and costs; operating motor vehicle without financial responsibility, voluntarily dismissed.

Roger Phillip Brown, speeding 67 in a 55 zone, prayer for judgment continued and costs.

Jeffrey D. Cannon, speeding 64 in a 55 zone, costs.

John Edward Clarida, speeding 69 in a 55 zone, no operator's license, \$25 and costs.

Kimberly A. Collins, failure to return hired property, Brunswick County Jail 30 days, suspended sentence one year, restitution \$209.85 to plaintiff, costs remitted, not violate any laws for two years.

Keith David Cooke, speeding 55 in a 55 zone, \$15 and costs.

Lillie D. Dorsey, probation violation, admits violation, probation extended for six months, report back on 6-13-90 to see if she has \$100 attorney fees.

Philip Freelon, speeding 64 in a 55 zone, \$10 and costs.

Lawrence R. Fulford, expired operator's license, \$25 and costs.

Gary Wayne Garner, speeding 73 in a 55 zone, no driver's license, prayer for judgment continued and costs.

Robinson Gaylord, Jr., speeding 64 in a 55 zone, \$10 and costs.

Donald Martin Golbert, speeding 64 in a 55 zone, costs.

Mattie Mitchell Gore, speeding 64 in a 55 zone, costs.

William Harden Gore, no registration, motorcycle helmet violation, failure to heed light siren, consolidated judgment, \$100 and costs.

Robert Hamel, probation violation out-of-county, admits violation, probation terminated.

Luby Henry Harvey Jr., exceeding safe speed, costs.

Charles L. Heisler, speeding 69 in a 45 zone, voluntarily dismissed; DWI Level 5, Brunswick County Jail 30 days, suspended sentence two years, \$100 and costs, surrender license, assessment, 24 hours community service within 60 days, no blood alcohol content above .00, submit to test.

Haweda Terrell Hewett, DWI Level 5, Brunswick County Jail 30 days, suspended sentence two years, \$100 and costs, not operate motor vehicle until valid license to do so, assessment, no community service or limited privilege, not operate mo-

tor vehicle with alcohol blood content, submit to test; expired operator's license, prayer for judgment continued.

Christina L. Johnson, speeding 64 in a 55 zone, \$10 and costs.

Rebecca Jane Jones, speeding 64 in a 55 zone, costs.

Carl Jordan, DWI Level 1, N.C. Department of Corrections two years, suspended sentence three years, supervised probation three years, \$300 and costs, surrender license, assessment, not possess, consume or congest any alcoholic beverage, submit to warrantless searches, submit to test, Brunswick County Jail 14 days to begin Monday at 9:00 a.m.

Robert Ray Kiehlmeier, speeding 64 in a 55 zone, costs.

Ella Varnum King, speeding 64 in a 55 zone, \$10 and costs.

Mitchell James Lamb, no driver's license, speeding 64 in a 45 zone, consolidated judgment, Brunswick County Jail 60 days, suspended sentence one year, not operate motor until valid license, assessment, not violate any laws for two years, costs.

Michael Darrin Lane, speeding 64 in a 55 zone, \$10 and costs.

Virginia M. Latta, speeding 64 in a 55 zone, costs remitted.

William C. Laverick, driving while license revoked, Brunswick County Jail 29 days. Appealed.

Richard Allen Lowe, reckless driving, \$25 and costs. Appealed.

William J. McDonald, speeding 44 in a 35 zone, costs.

David Lee Miller, operating motor vehicle without financial responsibility, no operator's license, consolidated judgment, \$100 and costs; fictitious card/tag, voluntarily dismissed.

Lawrence Moore, DWI, voluntarily dismissed.

Jonathan Lloyd Morgan, speeding 64 in a 55 zone, \$10 and costs.

Roger Todd Morton, speeding 50 in a 35 zone, prayer for judgment continued and costs.

Leslie Rolce, Myrie, Sr. speeding 70 in a 55 zone, \$15 and costs.

Albert Daniel Nesbitt, exceeding safe speed, costs.

Jeffrey E. Novicki, speeding 64 in a 55 zone, \$10 and costs.

Alvin Jennings Odom, DWI Level 5, Brunswick County Jail 30 days, suspended sentence two years, \$100 and costs, surrender license, assessment, 24 hours of community service within 90 days, no blood alcohol content above .00 in body, not violate any laws for two years. Appealed.

Berry E. Porter, assault on a female, probation violation, both voluntarily dismissed—no plaintiff.

Dewey Bishop Proctor, driving left of center, voluntarily dismissed; DWI Level 5, Brunswick County Jail six months, suspended sentence

two years, \$100 and costs, surrender license, assessment, no blood alcohol content above .00, submit to test, 72 hours community service within 120 days.

Sondra Dee Rabon, exceeding safe speed, costs.

Marilyn Gail Rackley, improper passing, prayer for judgment continued and costs.

Michael Andre Ritz, exceeding safe speed, costs.

Strossie A. Robbins, exceeding safe speed, \$5 and costs.

Rodney S. Robinson, speeding 70 in a 55 zone, \$15 and costs. Appealed.

Gloria West Rodriguez, red light violation, prayer for judgment continued and costs.

John Donovan Shea, speeding 64 in a 55 zone, costs.

Priscilla Scott, Smith, speeding 64 in a 55 zone, \$10 and costs.

Laura P. Strickland, speeding 66 in a 55 zone, prayer for judgment continued and costs; speed faster than reasonable, voluntarily dismissed.

John Jimmy Sullivan, reckless driving, driving while license revoked, operating motor vehicle without financial responsibility, failure to give notice, consolidated judgment, N.C. Department of Corrections one year, suspended sentence two years, supervised probation two years, \$500 and costs, not operate motor vehicle until license restored, not drink alcoholic beverages, submit to warrantless searches, submit to test, N.C. Department of Corrections three months.

John Ashley Varnum, simple possession of Schedule VI Controlled Substance, Brunswick County Jail 30 days, suspended sentence two years, \$50 and costs, not have in his possession any illegal drugs or controlled substances, not violate any laws for two years.

William Allen Walz, speeding 73 in a 55 zone, prayer for judgment continued and costs.

Bobby Dale J. Williams, speeding 70 in a 55 zone, \$15 and costs.

Sammie L. Caison, speeding 76 in a 55 zone, \$20 and costs.

David P. Russ, speeding 64 in a 55 zone, \$10 and costs.

## Clarification

The Greg White who was listed in the Brunswick County District Criminal Court record published in the March 22 edition of *The Brunswick Beacon* was not Brunswick County Coroner Greg White.

According to the Brunswick County Clerk of Court's office, the defendant who appeared in court March 12 and was convicted of assault on a female was Greg B. White, 35, of Route 4, Navassa.

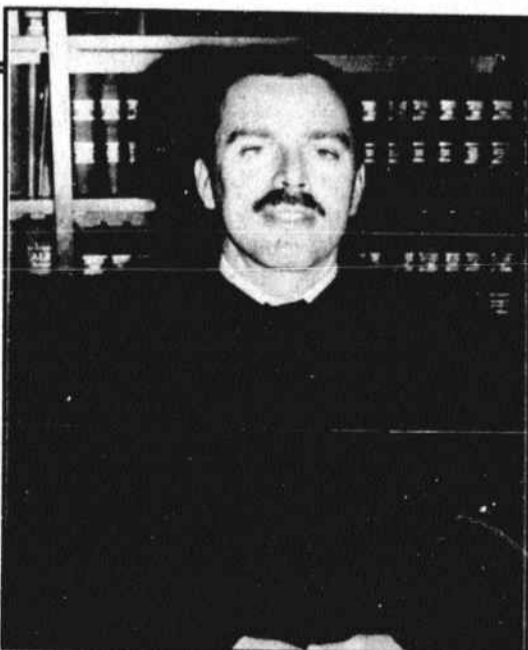
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