

Eleven Charged At Highway Drug Check

BY TERRY POPE

Eleven people were charged with drug violations at an Aug. 1 highway narcotics check.

Brunswick County narcotics officers say they have a 100 percent success rate in district court on persons arrested at road checkpoints this year.

To date, 56 persons have been arrested on various charges as a result of Operation RIP (Rural Interdiction Program), operated by the Brunswick County Sheriff's Department, N.C. Highway Patrol officers and their drug-sniffing dog, Marcos Augustus Ceasar.

"In court, everybody has either been found guilty or pled guilty to charges," said Lt. David Crocker, narcotics detective with the sheriff's department.

Operation RIP was organized in March to help fight the flow of drugs on the county's highways. The program is unique to Brunswick County, Crocker said.

The following charges were filed last week:

- Wendy Grimes Culbreth, 25, of Sandy Forks Road, Raleigh, was charged with misdemeanor possession of marijuana by State Trooper Roy Murray.
- Christopher Scott Willing, 23, of N. Howe Street, Southport, was charged with misdemeanor possession of marijuana and possession of drug paraphernalia by Murray.
- Samuel David Prevatt Jr., 24, of Buccancer Hills, Supply, was charged with possession of drug paraphernalia and misdemeanor possession of marijuana by State Trooper J.V. Dove.
- Richard Lawrence Crawford Jr., 24, of Logan Road, Castle Hayne, was charged with misdemeanor possession of marijuana and possession of drug paraphernalia by Dove.
- Terry M. Lavitz, 35, of Lancaster, Calif., was charged with possession of drug paraphernalia and misdemeanor possession of marijuana by Dove.
- Todd A. Nance, 28, of College Station Road, Athens, Ga., was charged with possession of drug paraphernalia by Dove.
- John Farmer Bell, 29, of Carrs Hill Road, Athens, Ga., was charged with misdemeanor maintaining a vehicle to keep drugs, possession of drug paraphernalia and misdemeanor possession of marijuana by Dove.
- Vivian Nadine Taylor, 28, of Buckingham Avenue, Wilmington, was charged with possession of drug paraphernalia and misdemeanor possession of marijuana by Detective R.D. Todd.
- Carl Robert Summerson, 30, of Lakeside Apartments, Leland, was charged with misdemeanor possession of marijuana and possession of drug paraphernalia by Todd.
- Robert Michael Smith, 31, of Green Acres, Fla., was charged with misdemeanor possession of marijuana and possession of drug paraphernalia by Todd.
- Richard Avon Hodgin, 40, of Broughton Street, Garner, was charged with misdemeanor possession of marijuana and possession of drug paraphernalia by Crocker.

Holden Beach Launching Water Rescue Program

BY DOUG RUTTER

Holden Beach officials aren't waiting any longer to get a water rescue program afloat.

Reacting to four recent drownings, commissioners have agreed to spend up to \$15,000 in occupancy tax revenues on equipment, training and operating costs to launch the program.

That budget should provide Holden Beach with an equipped corps of qualified water rescue volunteers by the start of October.

Town board members voted Monday to buy nearly \$11,000 of water rescue equipment and designated Tri-Beach Volunteer Fire Department as the lead agency in future water rescue efforts.

Concerned about recent drownings, water safety has been a top priority with commissioners over the past month. They have been worried about the lack of equipment, trained personnel and organization of past rescue attempts.

Three Greensboro men drowned in the ocean May 28 after a fishing boat sank off Shallotte Inlet. A 12-year-old boy from Knightdale drowned in the surf at Holden Beach July 4.

"I think we're all very serious about this," Commissioner Judy Bryan said Monday. "We all have children and grandchildren."

Besides the \$15,000 to start a water rescue program, commissioners hired a marine safety consultant about two weeks ago. The board received his written report and recommendations Monday.

Preston Colby, a nationally known water search and rescue instructor and trainer, recommends in his report a combination of education, engineering, equipment, training and enforcement.

The cost of the equipment approved for purchase Monday night

"Few parents understand that a child can be swept away by a current and drown in the time it takes to spread out a beach towel."

—Preston Colby
Marine Safety Consultant

is estimated at \$10,765. The major item is a rescue patrol boat that can be launched from the surf, similar to one used at Ocean Isle Beach.

Holden Beach also plans to buy communications equipment, life jackets, helmets and other accessories for the rescuers. The boat and supplies will probably be stored at the police station.

Keith Sawyer, an officer with Tri-Beach VFD and member of the town's water rescue committee, said he developed the equipment list based on Colby's recommendations.

Sawyer said 10 area residents will be qualified to use the rescue boat and other equipment after they complete a second-level water rescue course in late September.

The crew of two Holden Beach police officers, two rescue squad members and six firefighters completed a basic water rescue class last month at Ocean Isle Beach.

Colby taught the course, and Sawyer said plans are already being made for another basic water rescue class at Holden Beach in the spring. That should broaden the base of volunteers qualified to participate in water rescue.

The \$10,765 equipment cost doesn't include the cost of operating the equipment, training or public education expenses. Sawyer said operating and training costs should be about \$500 this year and \$2,000

next year.

Colby's Recommendations

Colby, who is the director of Public Safety Water Rescue, makes a number of recommendations about public education in his six-page report to the Holden Beach Commissioners.

He suggests the town provide a handout for renters informing them of the importance of adults staying in the water with children at all times.

"Few parents understand that a child can be swept away by a current and drown in the time it takes to spread out a beach towel," he wrote.

Colby also suggests that the town put up large signs at beach accessways educating people about longshore currents and rip tides.

Town officials haven't made any decisions about public education efforts, but talked Monday about putting red flags on the beach to warn swimmers of dangerous currents. Colby suggested use of the flags in his report.

Commissioners also might follow another one of Colby's recommendations and ask television stations to run public service announcements on water safety.

In his report, Colby suggests the town buy an inflatable boat designed for rescue in heavy surf and 10 sets of equipment for the safety of rescue personnel.

The expense approved this week includes equipment for five rescuers, and a proposed equipment list for next fiscal year includes gear for five more people.

Colby also recommends the purchase of "victim rescue equipment" such as rescue lines, bags and tubes, boat towing equipment, backboards and thermal protection blankets.

The marine safety consultant notes that the equipment is worthless without rescue workers who are trained and qualified to use it.

"About the only thing more dangerous than not having the right equipment is having the equipment but not having the right training for the proper use of that equipment," he wrote.

Colby further recommends the town improve its access at 555 Ocean Blvd. West so it can be used by emergency vehicles. He says all public accessways should be marked with large, reflective numbers or letters so they are easily readable from both the street and beach side.

In the area of enforcement, Colby suggests the town maintain water patrols in the rigid-hull boat on heavy beach use days such as holidays and weekends.

People who own and rent personal watercraft also should be given copies of the town ordinance that prohibits their use within 500 feet of the beach between April 1 and Sept. 30.

Although commissioners have discussed hiring lifeguards to protect specific sections of the strand, they've dropped that idea for now.

Colby told the board last month that lifeguard programs are difficult to get started and maintain with high school and college students. He made no mention of lifeguards in his final report.

"It's significant in its absence," said Commissioner Bob Buck.

Rainfall Expected To Ease Up

Rainfall is expected to return to near normal levels during the coming week, reports Shallotte Point meteorologist Jackson Canady.

Canady said Tuesday that he expects temperatures to also be near normal, averaging in the low 70s at night and rising to near 90 during the daytime.

He anticipates about three-quarters inch of rainfall.

For the period July 30 through

Aug. 5, Canady recorded 4.75 inches of rainfall at his house.

He recorded a maximum high temperature of 96 degrees on Aug. 4, while the low for the week of 73 degrees occurred July 31.

An average daily high of 90 degrees combined with an average low of 74 degrees for a daily average temperature of 82 degrees, which Canady said was about 2 degrees above average.

County Fires Firm

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Agreed to seek state grants to pay for utility additions for Telechron, a firm that plans to build in the Leland Industrial Park.

Approved an assessment resolution clearing the way to begin work on Special Assessment District 12, a collection of 10 subdivisions between Ocean Isle and Calabash that are next in line to receive county water.

Set a public hearing for Aug. 19, 6 p.m., on the naming or changing

of road names. Some roads without names have been discovered since the county began installing road signs last month for the county's 911 system.

Took no action on a request to seek a Lower Cape Fear Council of Government grant for the Piney Grove Improvement Association Inc., which wants to renovate the old alternative education building at Piney Grove.

Appointed Bob Miller to the Brunswick County Airport Commission.

List Of Candidates Long In Some Towns

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ager of the Carolina Shores Property Owners Association, and Warren "Bud" Knapp, former chairman of the Calabash Planning Board.

This year's election in Calabash is in sharp contrast to 1989, when there were 16 commission candidates from District II.

Elsewhere

Outside of the South Brunswick Islands, Boiling Spring Lakes has three people running for mayor and six candidates vying for two seats on the board of commissioners.

In Bolivia, Mayor Ina Mae Mintz is unopposed in her run for a sixth straight term. Five candidates, including two incumbents, are seeking election to the four-member board of aldermen.

Long Beach voters will go to the polls early this year. A primary will be held before the general election in November to trim the candidate list.

Mayor John Vereen faces challenges from Michael Oxford and Joan Altman, and 10 people have filed for the three seats up for grabs on the town board.

Elsewhere on Oak Island, three incumbents and four challengers have filed for the three available seats on the Yaupon Beach Board of Commissioners.

Southport voters will choose between incumbent C.B. "Cash" Caroon and former mayor Norman Holden in the mayor's race.

All three incumbent aldermen have filed for re-election in Southport, but two other candidates have thrown their names in the ring.

Leland Mayor Russell Baldwin faces a challenge this fall from former Kure Beach mayor S.L. Doty. Three town board candidates, including two incumbents, have filed for the two council seats.

Candidates for mayor and town board are unopposed in Belville, Caswell Beach and Navassa. The Southeast Brunswick Sanitary

District Board also will have no contest in its first election.

A complete list of the candidates, with the number of seats available and length of term, is below. (I) denotes the candidate is an incumbent.

CALABASH

Commissioner, District I (1 seat, 4 years):

Keith Hardee (I)

Commissioner, District II (2 seats, 4 years):

Jon B. Sanborn (I)

Robert L. Noe

Warren "Bud" Knapp

SUNSET BEACH

Mayor (2 years):

Mason Barber (I)

Council (2 seats, 4 years):

Cherri Cheek

Mary K. Griffith (I)

Cletus A. Waldmiller

OCEAN ISLE BEACH

Mayor (2 years):

Betty Williamson (I)

Commissioner (3 seats, 4 years):

William T. Bullington Jr.

Raymond Erickson

Debbie Fox (I)

E. Paul Justice

Janet Sanders

Kendall H. Suh

John Sutton

SHALLOTTE

Mayor (2 years):

Beamon Hewett

Sarah Tripp (I)

Alderman (3 seats, 4 years):

Roney W. Cheers

Sam Inman

Joe M. Hewett Jr. (I)

Gene Frink

Jay G. "Jody" Simmons (I)

Morris J. Hall

David L. Gause (I)

Alderman (1 seat, 2 years):

Wilton Harrelson (I)

Odell "Odie" Johnson

HOLDEN BEACH

Mayor (2 years):

Wally Ausley

Robertson "Bob" Buck (I)

Commissioner (5 seats, 2 years):

Gay Atkins (I)

Gil Bass

Donald M. Campbell

Diane Clark

Jim Fournier

Crawford Hart

Larry McDowell

David Sandifer

James Shafor

Sid Swarts

Larry Vogt

Roger Williams

VARNAMTOWN

Mayor (2 years):

Judy L. Galloway (I)

Alderman (3 seats, 4 years):

John David Dawson (I)

Faye Galloway

Roscoe Griffin

Tonya Robbins

Jeff Whitfield

BOLIVIA

Mayor (2 years):

Ina Mae Mintz (I)

Alderman (4 seats, 2 years):

Thurston "Tut" Clemmons Jr.

Sarah E. Knox (I)

Alice Lesh

Ella Jane Wescott (I)

Sherry Willetts

BOILING SPRING LAKES

Mayor (2 years):

Herbert C. Bunten

Charles A. Schneiders

Mark Stewart

Commissioner (2 seats, 4 years):

Bert H. Buckbee

Martha H. Bullard

Gregory P. Holley

George H. Lanier Jr.

Warren Plowden

L.K. "Randy" Randolph

Phyllis O. Vaughan

LONG BEACH

Mayor (2 years):

Joan Altman

H. Michael Oxford

John W. Vereen III (I)

Commissioner (3 seats, 4 years):

Horace Collier

David W. Drummond (I)

David E. Durr

William D. Easley

Carlton E. "Gene" Frazier

Jean C. Gray (I)

Bobbie H. Larrison

William H. "Hobe" Millard

Gregg Potter

James R. Somers

YAUPON BEACH

Commissioner (3 seats, 4 years):

Rhett Blackman

Joseph W. Broyles (I)

Michael E. Keane

May W. Moore (I)

James L. Poole Sr. (I)

Darrell D. Posey

J.M. Warren

CASWELL BEACH

Mayor (2 years):

Jack B. Cook (I)

Commissioner (1 seat, 4 years):

Esten "Jonnie" Gillis

SOUTHPORT

Mayor (2 years):

C.B. "Cash" Caroon (I)

Norman R. Holden

Alderman, Ward I (1 seat, 4 years):

Mary H. "Meezie" Childs (I)

J. Walton Willis

Alderman, Ward II (2 seats, 4 years):

Nelson E. Adams (I)

William W. Delaney

Paul W. Sweeney (I)

LELAND

Mayor (2 years):

Russell G. Baldwin (I)

S.L. Doty

Council (2 seats, 4 years):

Lynette Carlisle (I)

Jane O. Gilbert (I)

Thomas D. Hyatt

SANDY CREEK

Council (2 seats, 4 years):

Louis A. Blouir

Willie E. Milliner (I)

Brenda Gaye Mitchell

BELVILLE

Mayor (2 years):

Kenneth D. Messer Sr. (I)

Commissioner (2 seats, 4 years):

Markland S. Carper

Cindy Messer

NAVASSA

Mayor (2 years):

Louis "Bobby" Brown (I)

Council (3 seats, 4 years):

Thomas V. Merrick (I)

Walter Williams (I)

Eulis A. Willis (I)