



He's a Distinguished Citizen

Mooreville's Tommy Chester (left) accepts the Mooreville's Civilians' prestigious Distinguished Citizen Award from club officials Hood Hill (middle) and Kerry Teeter during a recent ceremony. The award is given annually to a person in the community "who has given exemplary service to a group or groups of people that are less fortunate than them." Chester has led home-building teams from his church — Broad Street United Methodist — to Mexico, eastern North Carolina and Alaska to assist with rebuilding efforts following floods and hurricanes. He has also been heavily involved with Habitat for Humanity for many years, as well as a veteran leader of the Boy Scouts.

Rodeo to benefit My Sister's House

The Troutman Rodeo will be held Friday, July 27 and Saturday, July 28 at 8 p.m. at the Iredell County Fairgrounds in Troutman. A portion of the rodeo's proceeds will benefit the Iredell County women's shelter. Advance tickets may be purchased at Galaxy Food in Troutman, Kawasaki of Statesville, and Quality Farm & Country in Mooreville. For more information, call Tommy Poovey at 704-462-1863.

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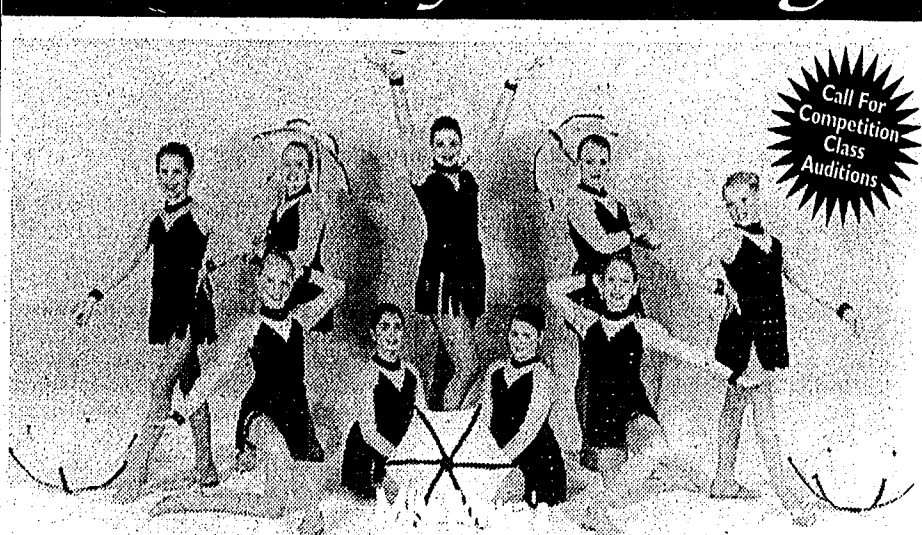


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AGES 4 TO ADULT

'Ho, ho, ho!' It's Christmas in July for Fifth Street Ministries

By JONATHAN WEAVER

Woody Woodard's characterization of Santa Claus was, to say the least, unique.

Outfitted in a grass skirt, wicker bra, straw hat and lei, Woodard addressed the crowd at Fifth Street Ministries' Christmas in July event Sunday with a hearty "Ho, ho, ho."

He then spoke of the event's importance.

"We live in a capitalistic society, and we need money," Woodard said with a smile. "Iredell County people have some of the biggest hearts when it comes to giving. People will give to a cause if they believe in it. We want you to spend your money."

And Sunday, they did. From buying the ham and turkey with all the trimmings dinner to silently bidding on donated items, people showed their support of the non-profit organization that locally operates a homeless shelter, an emergency shelter, a free medical and dental clinic and a soup kitchen, along with sponsoring other programs.

Roughly 30 elegantly adorned tables were set up inside Statesville's Civic Center for guests to eat dinner. Gray's Chapel Youth Choir, Bonita Eisele and Alan Eisele, who portrayed Elvis Presley, provided the entertainment.

The annual celebration has been in the works since January. All proceeds go to Fifth Street's general operating expenses. The event is held to help Fifth Street through some donation-slow

months. "This just boosts our budget," said Fifth Street Co-director Patti West.

"Summer is always slow, and sometimes people forget."

New to the celebration this year was a silent auction of donated items. Attendees were able to bid on anything from Christmas ornaments to handmade quilts to a year-long family membership to

the YMCA.

There was even a baseball card collection, proceeds from which went specifically toward My Sister's House building fund. Officials broke ground on My Sister's House battered women's shelter in June.

Fifth Street officials were unsure how much money was raised Sunday, but they were pleased with the turnout.

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Restaurant employee robbed at gunpoint

Police are seeking a man who robbed a McDonald's employee at gunpoint shortly before 1 a.m. on July 19.

According to reports, an employee of McDonald's on East Plaza Drive, drove to the Mooreville Police Department to report being robbed as she locked up the restaurant and walked to her car.

The woman told police a white man, wearing a gray sweatshirt and black pants came from the Kentucky Fried Chicken parking lot, pointed a small gun at her and demanded all her money. The woman gave him two bank bags,

Crime Stoppers

which she was on her way to deposit, and the man then ran through the bushes behind KFC.

The woman then got in her car and drove to the police department.

Officers set up a search area around the restaurant and Officer R.N. Powers and K-9 Gypsy tracked the path of the suspect. Gypsy located a gray sweatshirt, black pants, a BB gun and a flashlight on the grass behind McDonald's, and then found the empty

bank bags behind another building.

An investigation is continuing. Mooreville-South Iredell Crime Stoppers is offering a reward for any information that may help investigators. Crime Stoppers offers rewards for information leading to arrests in connection with criminal incidents. Callers do not have to give their name or appear in court and rewards of up to \$1,000 are possible.

Anyone with information should call Lt. Carl Robbins at the Mooreville Police Department at 704-664-3311 or Crime Stoppers at 704-663-7066.

Police Blotter

Local law enforcement agencies reported the following recent charges and incidents:

MOORESVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

A woman reported that all four tires on her car had been slashed sometime between 11:30 p.m. on July 19 and 7:30 a.m. on July 20. The car was parked outside her J.C. Circle residence.

Sometime between 5 p.m. on July 20 and 8:30 a.m. on July 21, a large chunk of asphalt was thrown through the front window of Polytec, on North Church Street.

A dumpster fire that occurred shortly after midnight on July 23 appears to have been set. An employee of the Pantry on North Main Street called to report the dumpster was on fire and the Mooreville Fire Department was called to extinguish the fire. The dumpster, the property of Benfield Sanitation, sustained about \$300 in damage.

A Buffalo, N.Y. woman called police to report that a duffel bag containing souvenirs from Walt Disney World was stolen from a rental van while it was parked outside Cracker Barrel around 1 p.m. on July 20. One of the van's windows was broken.

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The action came on order from Superior Court Judge C. Preston Cornelius. The defendants in the suit are Gajendra Shah and his wife, Bharti Shah, owners of the motel.

This decision is the latest step in a civil nuisance abatement case brought by Iredell County District Attorney Garry Frank. "Today's judgment shows how a community can work together to solve problems," said Frank in a press release.

"I would like to thank Statesville City Attorney Edmund L. Gaines, the Statesville Police Department, the N.C. Alcohol Law Enforcement Division, and the citizens of this neighborhood for their help."

The consent judgment prohibits the Shahs from operating a nuisance anywhere in North Carolina. In addition, the property in Statesville can never be operated as a nuisance, regardless of who owns it.

This is a victory for the neighbors of this business who have been "terrorized" by the problems there for a long time," Gaines said.

Police initially filed complaints with the ALE several months ago. Chief Steve Hampton said, and the owners cleaned up the property for a while. But when complaints started coming in again, police tried a different tack — the nuisance lawsuit.

Judge closes 'nuisance' in Statesville

A Statesville motel referred to as a "nuisance" by police and nearby residents has been closed by the courts.

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