



## A celebration for Ford dealer

Mooreville Ford Mercury marked the official opening of its new dealership on N.C. 150 over the weekend with music, free food, games for kids and NASCAR pit crew demonstrations. The dealership, a longtime fixture in downtown Mooreville, opened for business at the new location earlier this spring. Above, employees of 50/50, a pit crew training school in Mooreville, prepare for demonstrations of quick tire changes on a race car. At right, folks visit with a DJ from WFMX in the parking lot.



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Sunday, June 24th through  
Thursday, June 28th  
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## Complaints lead to drug arrest

Residents complaining about suspected drug activity assisted police in confiscating illegal drugs, resulting in drug charges against a Mooreville man.

Christopher Joseph Simons of Mooreville was charged with possession with intent to sell and deliver a schedule III controlled substance, possession of cocaine, possession of marijuana and possession of drug paraphernalia.

After receiving complaints about drug activity at 644 Ridge Ave., detec-

tives with the Mooreville Police Department's narcotics/vice squad executed a search warrant at the residence on June 6.

According to police, because of the Simons previous criminal history, the department's Special Response Team assisted in entering the house.

During the search of the residence, officers found four boxes containing 10 ml bottles of Ara-Test, an anabolic steroid. Also recovered were small amounts of marijuana and cocaine and several types of drug paraphernalia.

At the time of the search, Simons was awaiting sentencing on federal

charges for trafficking in LSD. Police said those charges stemmed from a traffic stop on Dec. 26, 1999 when Officer E.J. Falzone stopped Simons' vehicle. During a search of Simons and the vehicle, according to reports, more than a pound of marijuana was seized along with 500 "hits" of LSD. A search warrant was then issued from Simons' home, 548 E. Iredell Ave., and the search led to the seizure of approximately 2,500 more hits of LSD.

Following the June 6 search of the Ridge Avenue house, Simons was taken to the Iredell County Jail and was being held under a \$30,000 secured bond.

## Police Blotter

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

### MOORESVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

A Talbert Road man called police on June 16 to report that his 2000 Dodge Ram truck had been stolen from his driveway sometime between 1 a.m. and shortly after 10 a.m. According to reports, police entered the truck in the computer network for the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) and later received information that the truck was found by a N.C. Highway Patrol trooper near a construction site in Asheville.

A Targa moped, parked outside Moor Lanes, was stolen sometime between 2 and 4 p.m. on June 15.

Someone broke into a locked outbuilding at an East Catawba Avenue residence and took a chain saw sometime between May 26 and June 16.

A Mooreville woman reported an incident which took place around 3:30 p.m. on June 17 at the intersection of N.C. 150 and N.C. 115. The woman told police that she was driving north on Main Street and was stopped to make a left turn onto Broad Street. She heard a vehicle stopping behind her car. The vehicle, a navy blue Ford van, followed her car to the light at N.C. 150 and N.C. 115. She was in the right hand lane to go straight and the

van pulled into the left turn lane at the light.

The woman then told police a white male with blond hair, about 20 years old, yelled at her from the van, instructing her to "get in front of me, get in front of me," and threatened to ram the back of her vehicle to "make sure you're dead," according to reports.

The woman was able to get a license plate number but, when police checked the plate, it was registered to a 1990 Honda.

Anyone with information about this incident can call the Mooreville Police Department at 704-663-3311 or Mooreville-South Iredell Crime Stoppers at 704-663-7066. Crime Stoppers offers rewards for information leading to the arrest and conviction of people involved in criminal activities. Callers do not have to reveal their identity or appear in court and rewards of up to \$1,000 are possible.

Mooreville police filed the following recent charges: Gina Marie Moore, 24, 730 Smith St., simple assault; Sareana Christophina Leazer, 26, 313 Cabarrus Ave., simple assault; Jason Curtis Helms, 20, 402 Doster Ave., simple assault; Roy Lawrence Williamson, 41, 900-701 W. Wilson Ave., failure to file, pay tax (five counts); Dani Lea Bridges, 44, 110 Shining Armor Court, harassing phone call, first-degree trespass, assault and battery; David Michael

Brown, 18, of Kannapolis, concealment of merchandise; Fermin Rodriguez Ayala, 22, of Kannapolis, assault on a female; Garcia Santos Olvera, 24, of Huntersville, DWI, driving while license revoked; and Terrance Michael Morgan, 43, of Cornelius, possession of drug paraphernalia.

Also, Jay Lee Garrigan Jr., 19, of Salisbury, larceny; Jeffery Allen Griffin, 21, of Winston-Salem, resisting, obstructing and delaying a law enforcement officer, littering; Susan Marie Dahar, 38, 104 Pamlico Lane, DWI; Stacy Demond Adkins, 27, 618 Brookwood St., domestic assault on a female, obstructing and delaying a law enforcement officer; Dennis Ray Endsley, 43, 382 E. Mills Ave., being intoxicated and disruptive; Jennie Knox Brown, 39, 701-A School St., possession of drug paraphernalia; Grier Barringer, 52, 701-A School St., possession of drug paraphernalia; Lynn Broome Bolt, 32, 480 W. Wilson Ave., possession of drug paraphernalia; and Christopher Shannon Terry, 33, 323 E. Pressley Ave., simple assault.

### Correction

In last week's blotter, text was inadvertently omitted which appeared to link William Carroll Goodnow Jr., 50, of 265 Academy St. with Statesville man charged with possession of marijuana and possession of drug paraphernalia. Goodnow was charged only with DWI.

## Iredell native takes the helm of conservation, preservation trust

By MICHAEL LIVINGSTON

Iredell County native Jason Walser, 23, will take over Friday as executive director of the Land Trust for Central North Carolina—an organization that aims to protect natural areas and habitat.

Walser, who has deep roots in the region, graduated from Statesville High School and holds an undergraduate and a law degree from the UNC-Chapel Hill, where he was a Morehead Scholar.

The land trust has had several successes with preservation lately. Most notably, the group secured about 200 acres for permanent conservation easement on the Daltonia Plantation in northern Iredell County and is looking at preserving 400 acres more.

"There is still much work to be done," Walser said. "We have just completed a strategic plan which focuses on creating conservation corridors along the South and North Yadkin rivers," he said.

"This will also include the Uwharrie Basin, one of the last great open spaces left in our

region. It is partly protected by the U.S. Forest Service, but there are lots of willing landowners who want to see the rest of it protected."

The land trust was formed to protect land and habitat in 10 central North Carolina counties and the Yadkin and Pee Dee rivers watersheds. The organization is concentrating on Iredell County because of the encroachment of urban development on rural landscapes.

"And the Uwharrie, by some accounts, is the oldest mountain range in the world," Walser said. "I don't know, but I'm told it's older than the Blue Ridge and the foothills. Of course, they are small because they eroded so much."

"But that is a very exciting wildlife area and has some of the highest water quality in the state."

He said there is one group, the Yadkin-Pee Dee Lakes Project, that is promoting the area as a sort of North Carolina "Central Park." That is because it is within an hour's drive of all of the state's "urban crescent," basically the Charlotte, Concord, Salisbury, Winston-

Salem, Greensboro, and Durham areas.

"We are partnering with these folks and other groups to protect these corridors. We have some fun things going on."

The trust stays busy working with landowners to acquire conservation easements, but the biggest enemy is still impervious surfaces. These are the parking lots and paved areas where the water is contaminated with oils and gets into the watersheds.

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