

Stolen vehicles, equipment found by deputies

By Bob Stockton

The McCormick County Sheriff's Office responded to a "a lot of tree-down calls after last Monday morning's (Jan. 3) wind storm, but nothing spectacular," according to Sheriff Clarke Stearns.

The new year, however, did not stop law enforcement incidents. On Tuesday, Jan. 4, Town of McCormick police broadcast a "be on the lookout" for a stolen pickup truck taken from a gas station in town.

County deputies observed a vehicle matching the description pull into a local business on highway 378 west and converged on the vehicle, but the occupant had fled into the woods.

Deputies confirmed the vehicle to be stolen from the town and attempted to search the immediate area with negative results. The vehicle was processed, photographed and returned to its rightful owner. She reported that her wallet, credit cards and \$70 in cash was missing.

About 8:30 a.m. the next morning, dispatch received a phone call in reference to a "suspicious" person in one of the convenience stores on highway 378 west. Deputies responded to the store and stopped the individual, who denied having any identification and gave several different names and dates of birth.

He said he had been in the Town of McCormick the previous evening around the time the vehicle was stolen. Deputies took his picture and texted it to a Town Police Officer who in turn took it to the gas station where an employee positively identified the suspect as the person who had stolen the truck.

The suspect was arrested for grand larceny and transported to the detention center for booking and processing. Once booked, his true identity was verified via fingerprints. Additional warrants for providing false information to law enforcement will be sought from the magistrate.

On Thursday, Jan. 6, dispatch received a request for assistance from the Edgefield Sheriff's Office which had obtained warrants for child neglect for two individuals who lived on Whitetown Road in McCormick County.

Deputies responded to the address and located the two wanted subjects. They were transported to the detention center to await pick-up by Edgefield County deputies.

That same day, McCormick deputies, assisted by Town of Ninety Six police officers, arrested two subjects for possession of stolen property. Investigators had learned that the pair had in their possession a generator and table-saw which had been previously reported by a contractor in McCormick.

Deputies and officers petitioned the magistrate for a search warrant for an address in the Town of Ninety-Six. The search warrant was executed on the residence, and the generator was recovered. The suspects reported that the table saw had been sold the day before.

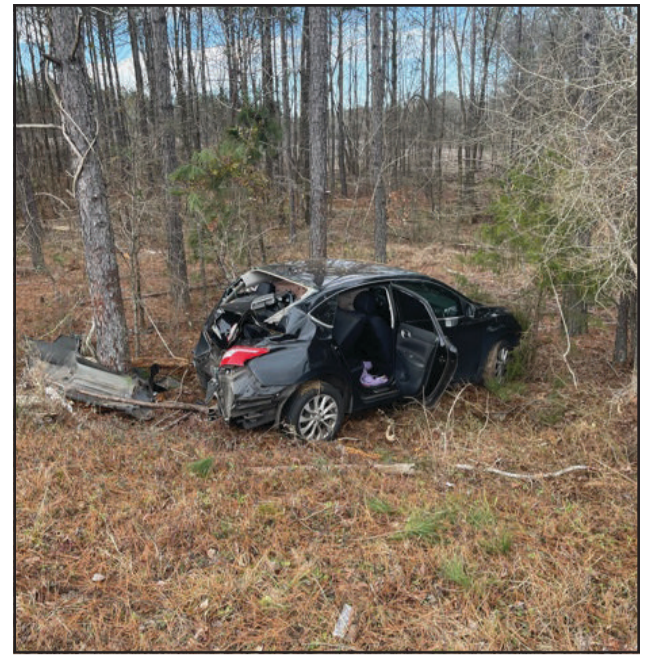
Deputies arrested the subjects and transported them to the detention center for booking and processing. The case remains open as investigators ascertain the location of the stolen table saw.

On Friday, Jan. 7, deputies obtained information about a vehicle stolen from Richmond County, Ga. being located in the Lost Wilderness Sub-Division on Cherokee Trail. They responded to the location and identified the possible unoccupied stolen vehicle.

Deputies confirmed the vehicle was stolen, the victim was contacted and advised he had not given permission for anyone to drive his vehicle. Richmond County officials were contacted and requested McCormick deputies impound the vehicle for processing. A report was generated for informational purposes.



Deputies were dispatched to a single car accident on highway 81 just south of Mt. Carmel. The lone vehicle with two occupants left the roadway and crashed into a grove of trees. The passenger had a compound fracture to his leg and was transported to a local hospital. The driver was shaken, but unhurt. Alcohol is suspected as a factor in the accident. The SC Highway Patrol (SCHP) was called to work the incident. -Sheriff's Dept. photo



Deputies were dispatched to another single car accident on highway 28 southeast of Serpentine Road. A vehicle left the roadway, crashed into the woods and air bags were deployed. The driver was not injured, and the SCHP was called to work the accident. -Sheriff's Dept. photo

Deputies busy responding to multiple vehicle incidents

By Bob Stockton

A rash of vehicle incidents kept McCormick County Sheriff's deputies busy recently.

Deputies were dispatched to highway 378 east in reference to a vandalized vehicle and talked with the complainant who stated while driving his father's vehicle, it stalled. He pulled the car onto a small portion of the road when it was safe to do so and called his brother to pick him up. He would retrieve the vehicle in the daylight hours.

When he returned to retrieve the vehicle, he observed damage. Deputies observed scratches to the hood, rear and passenger side of the vehicle. Deputies also observed two areas in the windshield where it appeared someone attempted to break the glass and made a report is for documentation purposes without an ability to identify a suspect.

Deputies initiated a traffic stop on a Chevy Camaro in reference to speeding and failure to dim headlights. Deputies activated blue lights and the vehicle came to a stop on highway 28 south at the intersection of highway 23.

Deputies informed the driver that they observed him flashing his headlights at vehicles coming down the roadway and clocked him on radar at 67 miles per hour in a 55 mph zone. As they were interviewing the driver, deputies detected the smell of marijuana coming from inside of the vehicle.

Deputies identified the driver and passenger and asked them to step out of the vehicle. During a pat down search of the passenger, deputies located a small baggy of marijuana.

Deputies asked if there was anything else in the vehicle that was illegal and were told "No." A search was conducted and located a backpack with an orange and black Robotics drone with 10 extra batteries.

The backpack also contained a pre-paid cell phone, five unknown big bags of contraband (believed to be tobacco) wrapped in duct tape, and a 16-ounce bag of tobacco. Dispatch advised that the driver's license was suspended through DMV.

The driver was arrested for driving under suspension, third offense and speeding. The passenger was arrested for possession of marijuana and both subjects were transported to the detention center for booking and processing.

The backpack and contraband were seized, and SC Department of Corrections Investigators were contacted. Earlier in the day, Tuesday, Jan. 11, a suspicious vehicle was called in by the prison. Dispatch advised deputies a suspicious vehicle was driving around the premises.

As deputies were responding to that call, they observed the same Chevy Camaro on highway 378 east approximately half a mile away from the prison, driving very slowly. A highway patrol trooper reported he had seen the same Camaro in the vicinity of the prison earlier in the evening.

The Camaro was impounded. SC Department of Corrections investigators indicated they would interview the suspect in the detention center, and the case remains under investigation at this time.

Messenger deadline for all news articles and ads is NOON Monday.

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\$2 Tuesday 5pm-10pm

\$2 Hotdog * \$2 Chips & Salsa * \$2 Nachos & Cheese (Add \$3 more for beef or chicken) \$3 Sausage Dog (Chili extra)

This will be the only food offered on Tuesdays

*\$2 House Liquor Shots * \$2 MoPe's Punch * \$2 Tuesday Liquor Shot of the Day...\$2 Ciroc (any flavor)... This will change each week! * \$2 Sides (Fries, Onion Rings, Tots, Fried Okra)

Party Food Friday 5pm-midnight

3 for \$12 or \$5 Each
Buffalo Chicken Dip * Bacon Cheddar Ranch Dip * Chicken Bites * Lil Smokies * Meatballs * Queso Dip * 3 Wings (one flavor)

All other menu items available EXCEPT on Tuesdays!

Wine Down Wednesday 5pm-10pm

\$5 House Wine * \$2 Wine Coolers
1/2 Price Appetizers (Fried pickles, Fried Mushroom, Mozzarella Sticks, Bacon Cheddar Ranch Dip, Cheddar Bacon Fries)

Salad Saturday 5pm-midnight

Garden Salad...Caesar Salad...Pasta Salad
*Full Salad \$8
*1/2 Salad \$5
(Add Ham or Turkey \$2 more... Add fried or grilled chicken \$3 more... Add fried or grilled shrimp \$4 more)

Closed Sunday, Monday, & Thursday

Birthdays/Wedding Anniversaries

Congratulations and best wishes to the following persons who celebrate birthdays and wedding anniversaries this week.

January 21 - James L. Lindley, Olga S. Milton, Susan Wright, Fletcher and Sylvia Pierce, Trudy and Charlie Keene, Everett Noble, Cornelius LaVar Johnson, Mark Pascoe, Deyhsuana Morgan, Elaine Morgan.

January 22 - Kristi C. Reed, Stephanie Lewis, Faye Barber, Beatrice W. Gilliard, C. Aubrey Parks Jr., Rev. Robert Settles, Mac Winn, Calvin and Mamie Chiles, Lavelle Key, Carolyn Dennis, Anthony Smalls, Hattie Murcier, Maria Leverette, Carol Grady.

January 23 - Jim Lyon, Floyd Freeman, Timothy C. Fuller, Michael Cunningham, James W. Lagroon, Lewis Richey, Albert Leroy Thompson, Hunter Scott Barnes, Michelle Coffee, Beatrice Woods.

January 24 - Mr. and Mrs. William Matheny, Julian Mears, Jimmie Moore, Calvin Chiles, Bruce E. Kelly, Eric New, Nikka Chatasha Morton, Albert Thompson, Sarah G. Robertson, Jesse Wideman, Russ McCoy, Carol Solak, Eddie Bryan.

January 25 - Mike Cameron, Neal Leverette, Wesley White, Jena White, Trudy Keene, Tracy Hearst, Mr. and Mrs. Albert Powell, Zelma Lou Wideman.

January 26 - Joyce F. Callahan, James B. Lindley, Greg McMillan, Jackie McDonald, Clara Mims, Clara Gilchrist, Ginger Dukes, Chasdy Key, Catherine Hill.

January 27 - Erika Dorn, Marian Miller, Phillip Sears, James and Vira Parks, Rosemary and E.C. Carson, Miyarae Payton, Austin Jester, Jaleliah Wiggleton, Geneva Green.