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NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

Sheriff's Office Narcotics Unit Have Busy Start to New Year

Union County Sheriff's Office narcotics detectives picked up where they left off at the end of 2017. The unit has been busy throughout the month of January conducting interdiction stops and following up on leads generated through tips and citizen complaints. A few highlights from the month of January are highlighted below.

On January 5, 2018, an interdiction traffic stop on Roosevelt Boulevard in Monroe led to the seizure of nearly a pound of marijuana from the vehicle operated by **William Chip Creel, age 40**, of Trevor Simpson Drive in Indian Trail. As a result of the traffic stop, detectives traveled to Simpson's residence and executed a search warrant where they located and seized additional quantities of marijuana, drug paraphernalia, a quantity of US Currency, more than 20 Oxycodone pills as well as a number of Tramadol pills. Creel was arrested and charged with a number of drug related crimes, including Possession with Intent to Sale and Deliver Marijuana, Maintaining a Drug Vehicle, Possession of Drug Paraphernalia, Simple Possession of Schedule II Controlled Substance and Simple Possession of Schedule IV Controlled Substance.

Also on January 5, 2018, another interdiction stop on Roosevelt Boulevard in Monroe resulted in a positive K9 alert for the scent of narcotics by "Yago." A subsequent search of the vehicle and the passenger, **Michael Ed Vega Vazquez, age 39**, of Echo Forest Drive in Charlotte resulted in the seizure of heroin and methamphetamines. Vazquez was arrested and charged with Possession of Methamphetamines, Possession of Heroin and Possession of Drug Paraphernalia.

On January 11, 2018, an interdiction stop in the 2100 block of Younts Road in Indian Trail resulted in the arrest of **Marko Lamar Gonzalez, age 32** of Lake Charles Way, Indian Trail. Detectives located a trafficking level quantity of heroin, a quantity of

methamphetamines as well as drug paraphernalia. Gonzalez remains in the Union County Jail.

On January 16, 2018, detectives stopped a vehicle in the 7800 block of Idlewild Road, Indian Trail and a search of the vehicle resulted in the seizure of a 9 mm handgun, more than 100 grams of marijuana and drug paraphernalia. The vehicle's driver, **Timmy Leon Davis, age 39**, of English Hill Drive, Charlotte, was arrested and charged with Possession of Firearm by Felon, Felony Possession of Marijuana and Possession of Drug Paraphernalia.

On January 16, 2018, detectives performed a traffic stop of a vehicle occupied by **Retha Ann Crow, age 57**, of McIntyre Road, Wingate and Carole Lee Sousa of White Store Road, Wingate. After the stop occurred, detectives determined that a quantity of drugs was thrown from the vehicle as the stop was occurring. Investigators located and seized a pill bottle and two balloons containing a quantity of more than 4.5 grams of suspected heroin. Crow was arrested as a result of this seizure. Crow has been the subject of a long term drug investigation and as a result, she faces multiple counts of Trafficking in Heroin or Opium and multiple counts of Maintaining a Vehicle or Dwelling. She remains in the Union County Jail.

On January 18, 2018, detectives performed an interdiction traffic stop on a vehicle operated by **39 year old Carole Lee Sousa** of White Store Road, Wingate. As detectives were stopping the vehicle, the driver, Sousa, threw an item out the window, later determined to be a condom containing bags of suspected heroin. The evidence was seized and Sousa was arrested and charged with Trafficking in Opium or Heroin.

Sheriff Eddie Cathey praised the hard work and dedication of the narcotics unit and stressed the benefits of having K9 detectives assigned to the unit. He stated, "Our drug investigators continue to work hard every day looking for indicators of drug trafficking. The detectives, working with the K9 handlers, are getting results and taking drugs and drug traffickers off the streets. We still have work to do but hopefully the message will be heard that drugs and drug dealers are not welcome in Union County."



CREEL



DAVIS



SOUSA



VAZQUEZ



GONZALEZ



CROW

Point of contact for this press release is Chief Communications Officer Tony Underwood, 704-292-2707.

Citizens with information concerning criminal activity are encouraged to call:

Union County Sheriff's Office at 704-283-3789

Or

Union County Crimestoppers at 704-283-5600

