

"Wild Fire" Burns 14 Drug Suspects

Written by Steve Frank

Tuesday, 01 October 2013 06:12

The Avery County Sheriff's Office and Municipal Drug Task force rounded up 14 suspects beginning with early morning calls Friday morning with assistance from local police departments and the NC State Bureau of Investigation. "Operation Wild Fire" is said to be the culmination of months of various drug investigations, according to Sheriff Kevin Frye, who indicated that there are approximately 20 felony warrants to be served and Friday, fourteen of the 20 suspects were arrested and in Avery County custody. The other suspects have or are going to be arrested by other jurisdictions in connection with "Operation Wild Fire," according to Frye. He said, "Our goal and hope is somehow these people will quit selling drugs in Avery County and will get the help necessary to eventually become productive members of society." Charged are:

Denise Andrews, 33, of Newland, charged with Possession with intent to sell a schedule III substance, misdemeanor larceny and Obtaining Property by False Pretense. Andrews was set \$20,000.00 bond.

Forty five year old Tammy Austin of Hwy 194 was charged with Possession with intent to distribute a schedule III drug, Trafficking in Opium or Heroin and Maintaining a Dwelling for Controlled Substances. Austin was jailed under a \$30,000.00 bond.

Ryon Calhoun, 53, of White Oak Rd., was charged with Possession of a Schedule III substance with intent to sell and Maintaining a Dwelling for Controlled Substances. Calhoun jailed under a \$20,000.00 bond.

Sixty two year old Jonelle Canter of Horse Bottom Rd was charged with Possession with intent to sell a Schedule III substance, Possession with intent to sell a Schedule IV substance and Trafficking in Opium or Heroin. Canter was placed in the Avery County Jail under a \$30,000.00 bond.

James Robert Cook, 23, of Newland is charged with Possession with intent to sell methamphetamine and maintaining a dwelling for controlled substances. He was placed in the Avery County Jail with \$20,000.00 bond.

Forty one year old Marty Joe Gordon of Old Chestnut Mountain Rd was charged with Possession of Methamphetamine with intent to distribute and maintaining a dwelling for controlled substances. Gordon was placed in the Avery County Jail under a \$20,000.00 bond.

Erica Hicks, 21, of Old Smokey Rd was charged with Possession of a Schedule II substance with intent to sell and maintaining a dwelling for controlled substances. Hicks jailed under a \$20,000.00 bond.

Twenty five year old Carrie King of Little Horse Creek was charged with Possession of a Schedule II substance with intent to sell. King was placed under a \$10,000.00 bond at the Avery County Jail.

Watauga County resident William Railing, 21 was charged with Possession of a Schedule II substance with intent to sell, Possession of a Schedule III substance with intent to sell, maintaining a dwelling for controlled substances, breaking and entering and larceny after breaking and entering. Railing was placed in the Avery County Jail under a \$40,000.00 bond.

Also from Watauga, Kattie Williams, 28, of Boone was charged with conspiracy to sell methamphetamine and conspiracy to sell Heroin. Williams was placed under a \$20,000.00 bond at the Avery County Jail.

Forty seven year old Patricia Tucker of Goose Hollow was charged with two counts of

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Possession of a Schedule II substance with intent to sell and maintaining a dwelling for controlled substances . Tucker was placed in the Avery County Jail under a \$30,000.00 bond. Rocky Wright, 30, of Elk Park was charged with Possession of a Schedule III substance with intent to sell and maintaining a dwelling for controlled substances. Wright was jailed under a \$20,000.00 bond.

Fifty six year old Ronnie Moody of Newland was charged with Trafficking in Opium or Heroin , Possession of a Schedule III Substance with intent to sell and maintaining a dwelling for controlled substance. Moody was placed in the Avery County Jail under a \$30,000.00 bond. Johnny Hughes, 53, of Banner Elk Highway was charged with Possession of methamphetamine with intent to sell and maintaining a dwelling for controlled substances. Hughes jailed under a \$20,000.00 bond.