

U.S. 19 east of Spruce Pine. For more information contact Ray M. Cullough at (919) 733-6360.

"A lot can happen determining the oxygen levels during that time," (See LAKE, Page 2)

Environmental science students prepare to take water samples to determine the water quality at Lake James. (Photo by Bonnie Byrd)

temperature reading at Lake James. The surface temperature at the lake at about 3:30 p.m. Monday was 82 degrees. (Photo by Bonnie Byrd)

Rec. Committee

The McDowell County Recreation Committee meeting is scheduled to be held Thursday at 7 p.m. in the board room at the Recreation Department.

Citizens' Alert

NAFTA, the North American Free Trade Agreement, will be the program at the Citizen's Alert meeting Thursday at 7 p.m. in Missionary Alliance Church on Airport Road. Eugene Pritchard will be the speaker.

Music Lessons

Lois Rabb will be at the Senior Center in Marion every Thursday beginning Sept. 16 to instruct senior citizens in music at no charge.

P.G. PTO

The Pleasant Gardens PTO's first meeting will be a covered dish supper Thursday at 6:30 p.m. in the cafeteria. This is a change from the normal meeting date for this month only.

Bake Sale

The Ladies Auxillary of Freewill Baptist Church will sell hamburgers, hot dogs, cakes and pies Saturday from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Proceeds will go to missions.

Class of '72

The Old Fort Class of 1972 will have a get family get-together Saturday at Lake James State Park. Class members are invited whether they graduated or not. For more information or to RSVP call Sandy Philbeck at 652-4606 or 668-7426.

Loftis, Davis Reunion

The family of John Harvey Loftis and Cora Davis Loftis invites all family members to the Buck Creek campground for a picnic Saturday.

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Cleanup To Focus On Lake James' North Fork

From Staff and Wire Reports

Pantyhose, dental floss, basketballs, Bibles and a bag of marijuana were among the 510,000 pounds of trash that volunteers picked up from state beaches last year.

The haul also included a 1947 Chevrolet truck found on Masonboro Island, and a cow-food can found on a Dare County beach.

But as far as numbers are concerned, nothing compared to the cigarette butts. Volunteers in the annual Big Sweep cleanup picked up 112,409 butts last year — more than any other item.

Such diligence helped North Carolina rank first in the nation in the amount of garbage collected from along its waterways, The News & Observer of Raleigh reported.

"We have had good participation in the past, and we've even had people come from out of the county to

McDowell County folks wanting to participate in the annual Big Sweep at Lake James can register at 8 a.m. Saturday at the North Fork access at Lake James Landing.

"This year we will be focusing on the North Fork side of the lake," said McDowell Clean County System Director Donna Stevens. "We will be sending some people to the state park, but the North Fork side is the worst part."

Stevens said she needed boats, especially pontoons, and lots of willing volunteers to make the Big Sweep a success. Local businesses have donated snacks and food for lunch Saturday.

While scouring the shores, volunteers inventory their bounty on data cards that are sent to the Center for Marine Conservation, an environmental group based in Washington.

help," she said.

Stevens said the biggest problem on lake this year is styrofoam. "There are styrofoam cups and plates, and even big pieces from house boats that have begun to fall apart," she said.

"There's a lot of trash out there," said Lundie Spence, a marine specialist with the University of North Carolina Sea Grant program and an organizer of the cleanups. "Our favorite was the inflatable blow-up doll we found. Life-size."

Big Sweep organizers, who have scheduled the 1993 cleanup for Saturday, are hoping for hundreds more volunteers this year.

According to the latest CMC report, North Carolina netted far more beach trash by weight in 1992 than the second- and third-ranking states: California with 380,971 pounds and Louisiana with 369,325 pounds. Nationwide, volunteers collected 4.6 million items of trash, 59 percent of which consisted of plastic — mainly bags, wrappers and beverage bottles.

North Carolina's haul raises the question of whether more trash is on state beaches, or whether North Carolinians do a better job of picking it up.

"It's probably more of the latter than the former," said Kathy Hart, an official with the UNC Sea Grant program and a vice-chairman of the Big Sweep campaign.

Since it was formed in 1986, the Big Sweep brigade has increased from 1,000 to 12,000 volunteers statewide, Hart said. Cleanup crews also are venturing farther inland, hauling tires, appliances and other heavy items from marshes, swamps and lakes.

"Our beaches are actually pretty clean," said Rex Peters, who directs the Big Sweep in Dare County. "There's some trash, sure, but now we've got people going beyond the dunes and getting stuff that has been there a long time."

The debris can be more than an eyesore; beach crews last year recorded 64 incidents nationwide in which marine life became entangled in debris or ate it — sometimes with fatal results.

Gillespie Charged In Monday Shooting

By SCOTT HOLLIFIELD
Associate Editor

One day after he was arrested for trespassing and making threats, Ricky Joe Gillespie allegedly shot a man in a dispute at a trailer park, authorities said today.

Gillespie, 30, of School Street has been charged with assault with a deadly weapon inflicting serious injury in connection with the Monday morning shooting of Johnny Martin, 23, of Grandview Trailer Park.

Donald Lee Gillespie, 44, also of School Street, has been charged with accessory after the fact in connection with the shooting.

Martin was in fair condition this morning at The McDowell Hospital. Michael Waitman, 25, of Overlook Drive, who suffered an apparent beating in the incident, has been discharged from the hospital.

The Gillespies were jailed under \$30,000 bond.

According to a report from the McDowell County Sheriff's Department, a woman who lives near Martin's trailer said she heard loud noises, yelling and cursing from the mobile home about 3 a.m. Monday.

She looked out her window and saw a white male leave the trailer and walk toward a nearby convenience store.

An hour later, she heard a simi-

Before deputies arrived, a light gray, Ford pickup truck drove up in front of her trailer. One of the occupants got out, came up to her trailer, then apparently realized he was at the wrong residence and yelled, "Down there."

The man then got a rifle out of the back of the truck and walked toward Martin's trailer. The woman said she heard loud knocking, then a gunshot. The man who apparently fired the gun ran back to the truck and threw the weapon in the bed. The truck then sped away.

When a deputy arrived to investigate the noise complaint, he found Martin shot and Waitman with head injuries.

This Was Not His First Brush With Law

According to police records, Ricky Joe Gillespie had just been released from jail on apparently unrelated charges when the shooting occurred.

Gillespie was arrested Sunday on charges of second-degree trespassing and making threatening phone calls to a Route 6, Marion woman.

He had been released on \$300 bond.

At the time of his two most recent arrests, Gillespie was awaiting trial in McDowell County Superior Court on charges of resist-



Banners flying — City worker John Beck spent two days last week putting up the green and yellow banners that adorn the Main Street of Marion. The banners reflect the country's colors.