

Thanks to drug dog Miki, a Boone man was caught with heroin in Avery County.

The K-9 alerted Deputy Shawn Turbyfill to the vehicle, giving him enough cause to perform a search. Heroin is a rarity for narcotics detective Eddie Hughes. According to Hughes, heroin busts do not happen often in Avery County. 26-year-old Steven Brett Airey was the sole occupant of a vehicle in which the drug was found, according to Hughes.

Several needles with what is believed to be heroin were found in his possession, Hughes said.

An SBI lab will have to confirm how much heroin was in the syringes. Drug paraphernalia was also found in the vehicle, including a container for the needles. Hughes believes the suspect to be a user, not a dealer. Marijuana was also found at the scene. More arrests and charges may be pending, according to Hughes. In the meantime, Airey was charged with felony possession of heroin, misdemeanor possession of marijuana, and possession of drug paraphernalia. He was held under a \$10,000 secured bond.