Written by Steve Frank
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Caldwell authorities have charged a Lenoir man after a marijuana drop was made yesterday. Sheriff Alan C. Jones said that the joint operation spearheaded by the Caldwell Sheriff's Office Ice Unit, aided by Boone Police, has led to the arrest Dontaye Antwain Connelly, age 31, after Ice Agents collected information which led them to believe that Connelly would be making a drop of 1 ¼ pounds of marijuana. Agents' surveillance observed Connelly in a 1994 Honda Accord north of Cheeks Crossroads traveling Hwy 321 toward Lenoir. Agents conducted a vehicle stop at the Holiday to Go Superette at Blowing Rock Blvd and Creekway Drive. A K-9 Officer with the Lenoir Police Department conducted a free air sniff around the car and alerted to the rear passenger area. Agents conducted a search and found a large bag containing 1 ¼ pounds of marijuana, already broken down for sale into five different bags, hidden underneath trash and the floor mat. The sheriff's office said marijuana would have a street value of $4600.00 according to North Carolina Street Guidelines. Connelly was arrested and charged by the Ice Unit with Possession with Intent to Sell/Deliver Marijuana and Maintaining a Vehicle to Keep/Store a Controlled Substance. The release said his criminal history record shows Connelly has been convicted of possession of cocaine, driving while impaired, maintain a vehicle/dwelling to keep/store a controlled substance, and to a lesser degree of common law robbery.