Written by Steve Frank
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Wilkes authorities arrested a man wanted for a double murder in Wilkes County within a couple of hours of a bulletin being issued seeking him, that early this afternoon. Warrants were issued charging Jason Ryan Pardue, 33, with 2 counts of Murder, 2 counts of 1st Degree Sex Offense with a Minor under 13, and 1 count of Incest. Yesterday, the Wilkes County Sheriff's Office began to receive reports of two missing persons, Kelly Marie Pruitt, 33, and her 8-year old son, Kevin Michael Hurley—and that the two of them had not been seen since on or about March 8th. During the investigation into the missing persons cases, the Wilkes County Sheriff's Office and the North Carolina State Bureau of Investigation served a search warrant at the victim's residence at 2642 Statesville Rd, North Wilkesboro around 3 this morning. During the search, the bodies of Kelly Pruitt and her son Kevin Hurley were found in the house. Witnesses reported bags of evidence were removed—as were two interior doors. The release said that Ms. Pruitt's apparent cause of death was the result of multiple stab wounds, and that Kevin Hurley's death was probably the result of suffocation. An exact cause of death will be determined by autopsy. Sheriff Chris Shew said officers had been called to the residence during the week, but did not specify the call, but saw no evidence of the murders, telling reporters that the bodies had been hidden in the house he shared with Pruitt and Hurley. Pardue's black 1998 Ford Explorer 2 door with a Kentucky license plate was listed in the bulletin. The release said Pardue has an extensive criminal history and was be considered extremely dangerous, but he uttered to reporters as he was being taken into the jail that he was 'very sorry.'

Photos: WCSO, Dave Faherty, WSOC-TV