

## **Avery SO K9 Assists in Drug Arrest**

Written by Steve Frank

Tuesday, 27 March 2012 05:33

---

The Avery County Sheriff's Office K-9 Officer and the K-9, Meeko, assisted the Mitchell County Sheriff's Office Saturday night in a traffic stop that turned up a man wanted in several states. The North Carolina Highway Patrol was the agency seeking the suspect, whose vehicle was stopped on US Hwy 19E in Spruce Pine, but the man found in the vehicle, 32-year old Shane Thomas Ratliff, was then found to be wanted from Colorado. Ratliff is wanted out of Colorado on Dangerous Drug and Auto Theft charges, with outstanding warrants also found from Texas and New Mexico. As a result of the search, Shane Thomas Ratliff was charged by the Mitchell County Sheriff's Office with several drug charges including Possession of Schedule II, Possession of Methamphetamine with intent to Sell or Deliver and Possession of Drug Paraphernalia. He was jailed awaiting court action in Mitchell and possible extradition from other states.