

## Arrests made in meth, pot case

Written by Dave Blanks  
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Two men allegedly involved in an illegal drug business in Caldwell and Ashe counties were arrested this past week.

Thirty-One-Year-Old Ricky Charles Arnette of Boone, and Fifty-Three-year-old James Andrew Hicks of West Jefferson, were arrested last Sunday. The two were charged as a result of an investigation conducted by the Caldwell County Sheriff's Office and the Lenoir Police Department. Arnette is charged with intent to sell and deliver marijuana and maintaining a vehicle to keep a controlled substance. Hicks is charged with possession with intent to sell and deliver marijuana, possession with intent to sell and deliver methamphetamine, conspiracy and maintaining a vehicle to keep a controlled substance...all felonies. Authorities seized one pound of marijuana and 17 grams of methamphetamine...together valued at \$4,525. Arnette posted his \$5,000 bond within 24 hours of his arrest. He was given a court date of Monday, April 23.

Hicks is being detained in the Caldwell County Jail with a \$60,000 bond. His court date is Tuesday, April 24.

Authorities anticipate more arrests in the case.