

Zionville Man Arrested as Meth Found in Tire

Written by Steve Frank

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A Zionville man and a Hudson woman have been charged in Caldwell County as drugs were found concealed in a spare tire. The hiding spot was not concealed well enough for the well-trained nose of a drug sniffing dog, Caldwell Sheriff Alan C. Jones announcing that on May 31st, a month-long investigation into methamphetamine distributing netted two suspects, charged with multiple counts in trafficking methamphetamine. A joint investigation involving the Caldwell County Sheriff's Office Ice Unit, Lenoir Police Department, and the North Carolina State Bureau of Investigation led to the arrests of Jared William Pardue, 33 of 376 Mable School Road in Zionville, and Tawana Mae Sparks, age 31, of Chickadee Trail Place in Hudson. Both were charged with Trafficking Methamphetamine by Possession, Trafficking Methamphetamine by Transportation, and Maintaining a Vehicle to Keep or Store Methamphetamine. The sheriff said Agents had been watching the suspects and monitoring their activities, and when they learned that both suspects were returning from a trip, agents with the Ice Unit and Lenoir Police Department were able to pin them down at an undisclosed location in Hudson and take them into custody. K-9 officer "Bella" with the Caldwell County Sheriff's Office sniffed through the 1997 Acura and alerted to the presence of drugs, then agents located $\frac{3}{4}$ of a pound of methamphetamine hidden inside the spare tire. The methamphetamine was packaged in several bags wrapped inside pillow cases and towels. The methamphetamine found has a street value over \$47,000 according to North Carolina State Guidelines. Agents expect more arrests and charges from this investigation.

Photos: Dave Faherty, WSOC; Caldwell SO