

## 29 Nabbed in Wilkes Drug Net

Written by Wilkesboro Police Release  
Wednesday, 16 April 2014 13:58

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The North Wilkesboro and Wilkesboro Police Departments have announced the arrests of 29 drug offenders resulting from joint undercover drug investigations between the two towns. The arrests are the result of both narcotics units working together to investigate the sale and distribution of various drugs in the community. The majority of the investigations were conducted using undercover officers to make purchases of cocaine, crack cocaine, prescription pills, crystal methamphetamine and marijuana. Many of the cases started with complaints from citizens about drug activity in their neighborhoods.

One investigation which has been ongoing for the past eight months was the sale and distribution of crack cocaine in both towns. The investigation started with a citizen complaint and continued from there. During the investigation investigators discovered that several individuals were bringing both crack cocaine and powder cocaine in large quantities into town from other jurisdictions outside of Wilkes County. Once the cocaine was in town the individuals would distribute the cocaine to other individuals for sale. As a result of this one investigation six suspects were charged. Investigators also worked with the other jurisdictions which have resulted in suppliers being arrested and charged and others being investigated currently. The six individuals charged locally from this case are:

Amanda Jean Fortner, 24 of 321 Hillcrest Drive, Wilkesboro, charged with conspiracy to traffic cocaine.

Antwain Nigel Sloan, 27, of 105 South Street, Wilkesboro, charged with conspiracy to traffic cocaine.

Charles Lamount Dearmon, 34, of Columbia, SC, charged with conspiracy to traffic cocaine, 2 counts of trafficking in cocaine, possession with the intent to sell and deliver cocaine and maintaining a vehicle for a controlled substance.

Lola Denise Parsons, 42, of 205 Zion Hill Church Road, Wilkesboro, charged with conspiracy to traffic cocaine, trafficking cocaine, and manufacturing cocaine, possession with the intent to sell and deliver cocaine, maintaining a vehicle for controlled substance and maintain a residence for controlled substance.

Dallas William Lipford, 33, of 1120 K Street, North Wilkesboro, charged with possession of cocaine.

Carmen Melissa Bailey, 38, of 1120 K Street, North Wilkesboro, charged with possession of cocaine.

Several other individuals have also been charged with drug offenses resulting from other investigations.

### Cocaine

Savanna Lynn Webb, 27, of 906 Elizabeth Street, North Wilkesboro, charged with 4 counts of possession with the intent to deliver crack cocaine, 4 counts of sell and deliver crack cocaine, 3 counts of maintaining a vehicle for controlled substance and 1 count of possession with the intent to sell and deliver within 1000 feet of a school.

Bradley Dwayne Smith, 37, of 1009 Statesville Road, North Wilkesboro, charged with Trafficking in opium, possession with the intent to sell and deliver a schedule II controlled substance, possession with the intent to sell and deliver cocaine, maintaining a dwelling for a controlled substance, and possession of drug paraphernalia.

Romel Lequan Bennett, 20, of 1009 Statesville Road, North Wilkesboro, charged with Trafficking in opium, possession with the intent to sell and deliver a schedule II controlled

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substance, possession with the intent to sell and deliver cocaine, maintaining a dwelling for a controlled substance, and possession of drug paraphernalia.

### Prescription Pills

Teddy Leon Boles Sr., 69, of 105 E. North Street, Wilkesboro, charged with 2 counts of Trafficking a schedule III controlled substance, possession with the intent to sell and deliver and schedule III controlled substance, sell and deliver a schedule III controlled substance, possession with the intent to sell and deliver and schedule II controlled substance, sell and deliver a schedule II controlled substance and 2 counts of maintaining a residence for a controlled substance.

Monika Tanielle Johnson, 27, of 307 Walker Place, North Wilkesboro, charged with possession with the intent to sell and deliver a schedule II controlled substance and sell and deliver a schedule II controlled substance.

Kasey Leigh Sellers, 20, of 123 Rogers Trail, State Road, charged with possession with the intent to sell and deliver a schedule II controlled substance, maintain a vehicle for controlled substance, possession of drug paraphernalia, conspiracy to obtain money by false pretense and accessory after the fact.

Andrew James Shinault, 26, of 123 Rogers Trail, State Road, charged with possession with the intent to sell and deliver a schedule II controlled substance, possession of drug paraphernalia, conspiracy to obtain money by false pretense and obtaining money by false pretense.

Jason Ray Crawford, 34, of 1323 Shacktown Road, Yadkinville, charged with possession with the intent to sell and deliver a schedule II controlled substance, possession of drug paraphernalia and conspiracy to obtain money by false pretense.

Darrell Dean Kilby, 36, of 1904 Parsons ville Road, Purlear, charged with trafficking opium, conspiracy to traffic opium, felony possession of a schedule II controlled substance, possession of marijuana, possession of a schedule IV controlled substance and possession of drug paraphernalia.

Teresa Gail Spears, 36, 1904 Parsons ville Road, Purlear, charged with 2 counts of trafficking opium, conspiracy to traffic opium, possession of a schedule IV controlled substance, sell and deliver a schedule II controlled substance and possession with intent to sell and deliver a schedule II controlled substance.

### Marijuana

During one investigation in North Wilkesboro investigators discovered a distribution network of marijuana, hash and LSD from Winston Salem to Wilkes County. Investigators were able to identify the suspect as Michael David Tinga, 25, of Winston Salem. Investigators arranged several undercover purchases from Mr. Tinga in North Wilkesboro and were able to track his network back to Asheville, NC. Investigators worked with the SBI to follow Mr. Tinga to Asheville where they were able to stop and arrest Mr. Tinga for possession with the intent to sell and deliver marijuana. Investigators also assisted with a search warrant on the suppliers' residence in Asheville. Seized during the search warrant was marijuana, hash, LSD, Ecstasy and approximately \$8,000.00.

A second investigation was started by the North Carolina Highway Patrol. Troopers stopped a vehicle on Highway 115 and found marijuana inside the vehicle. Information from that traffic stop lead to a search warrant of a residence in North Wilkesboro. During the search several bags of marijuana packaged for sale were located inside the residence. Two individuals were

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charged in this case and they are Jared Wesley Bryant, 22, of 47 Waters Edge, North Wilkesboro and Jennifer Patricia Merkwa, 19, of the same address, both were charged with manufacturing marijuana, conspiracy to sell and deliver marijuana, possession with the intent to sell and deliver marijuana, maintaining a dwelling for a controlled substance and possession of drug paraphernalia.

Zachary Scott Shumate, 19, of 1252 Woodfield Way, Wilkesboro, charged with possession with the intent to sell and deliver marijuana, sell and deliver marijuana and maintaining a vehicle for a controlled substance.

Ryan Austin Grimes, 22, 1325 Collegiate Drive, Wilkesboro, charged with 2 counts of possession with the intent to sell and deliver marijuana and 2 counts of sell and deliver marijuana.

Teshami Juwan Vick, 22, of 907 Fairplains Road, North Wilkesboro, charged with possession with the intent to sell and deliver marijuana, sell and deliver marijuana, possession with the intent to sell and deliver cocaine, sell and deliver cocaine and maintain a vehicle for controlled substance.

Isaiah Jerome Billips, 17, of 4540 Robbins Road, Jonesville, charged with possession with the intent to sell and deliver marijuana, sell and deliver marijuana, possession with the intent to sell and deliver a schedule II controlled substance (Oxycodone), and sell and deliver a schedule II controlled substance.

Shane Adam Cline, 17, of 3612 West Wood drive, Hamptonville, charged with conspiracy to sell and deliver a controlled substance.

### Methamphetamine

One methamphetamine lab was discovered on Thursday April 10, 2014 at Windemere Apartments near Wilkes Community College. Narcotics Investigators had received several citizen complaints about suspicious activity at an apartment. Investigators conducted surveillance on the apartment and conducted a search of the residence on Thursday resulting in the discovery of a "One Pot" lab inside the apartment. Two individuals were charged with the lab.

Joseph Blake Culbreth, 32, of 1325 South Collegiate Drive, Wilkesboro, charged with manufacturing methamphetamine, conspiracy to manufacture methamphetamine, possession of methamphetamine precursors, maintaining a dwelling for a controlled substance and possession of drug paraphernalia.

Angie Lee Luffman, 32, of 258 South Wall Street, Elkin, charged with manufacturing methamphetamine, conspiracy to manufacture methamphetamine, possession of methamphetamine precursors, and possession of drug paraphernalia.

Timothy Dean Broyhill, 50, of 4175 Highway 16, Millers Creek, charged with possession of precursor chemicals to manufacture methamphetamine.

Jeffery Dean Cockerham, 53, of 141 Brook Street, Millers Creek, charged with possession of precursor chemicals to manufacture methamphetamine.

Hannah Lea Johnson, 24, of 11 Waters Edge, North Wilkesboro, charged with 3 counts of possession of precursor chemicals to manufacture methamphetamine.

Both agencies were also assisted during several investigations by the Ashe County Sheriff's Office, Mooresville Police Department the State Bureau of Investigations and the North Carolina Highway Patrol.

Chief Rankin stated that "these arrests are the result of many hours of investigative work. They reflect the results achieved by our two Departments working together. These arrests should

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send a strong message that Chief Bowlin and I are committed to use every resource available to us to deter this type of activity and protect our citizens. We will continue to make this one of our top priorities”.

Chief Bowlin stated that “we are not going to tolerate illegal drugs being used, bought or sold in our two towns. The fact that these two departments come together to identify and arrest these suspects should put others on notice. We consider it a privilege to be able to work with the fine officers of the North Wilkesboro Police Department to keep both our towns safe.”

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