

Jammed Gun: Avery Deputies Escape Ambush

Written by Steve Frank
Monday, 21 July 2014 14:38

Avery Sheriff Kevin Frye reports some of his deputies escaped a possible ambush with an automatic weapon last Thursday as they interrupted a break-in in progress. It was just before 10pm on July 17 at that deputies were dispatched to a reported breaking and entering in progress at 155 Old Plumtree Creek Road. Upon arrival, officers located one of the suspects sitting in a car in the driveway of the residence and another suspect standing just outside the house. As officers began speaking with the person inside the car, the second suspect ran back inside the house and into a bedroom where he shut the door. Officers were able to make contact with and arrest both suspects. They discovered the suspect who ran into the house had opened and turned over a recliner, appearing to be ready to be used as a barricade and the Uzi automatic weapon was found with jammed ammo making it inoperative. Charged with breaking and entering, larceny after breaking and entering and trafficking in methamphetamine were Daymon Isaac Pritchard, 25, of 852 Big Horse Creek Road, Newland and Levi Cody Hicks, 26, of 6210 US Hwy 19E, Newland. Officers also located a semi-automatic .22 caliber pistol which was in possession of one of the suspects and was reported to have been stolen. Both suspects were detained at the Avery County Jail where Pritchard was held under a \$200,000.00 secured bond and Hicks under a \$250,000.00 secured bond. Approximately 100 grams of methamphetamine was seized.