



# ASHE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

SHERIFF B. PHIL HOWELL

CHIEF DEPUTY DANNY HOUCK



P  
R  
E  
S  
S  
  
R  
E  
L  
E  
A  
S  
E

For Immediate Release  
March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023

## Pennington Arrested After Multiple Searches

LANSING, N.C. – Sheriff B. Phil Howell announces the arrest of 27-year-old Wesley Pennington of Lansing, NC, and 44-year-old Marcie Jo Lipford of Creston after a month-long search that left two patrol cars damaged.



Over the past several weeks, Deputies from the Ashe County Sheriff's Office have attempted to apprehend Wesley Pennington on outstanding DOC Absconder warrants.

On March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2023, Deputy Johnson patrolled Lansing and spotted Pennington. Pennington immediately attempted to flee by driving recklessly, approaching high speeds that endangered everyone. Pennington then backed his vehicle into Deputy Johnson's patrol car several times, causing extensive damage.

Pennington fled into the woods on foot, where law enforcement from the Sheriff's Office, NC Probation Officers, and U.S. Marshals extended the ground manhunt while N.C. Highway Patrol attempted to locate the subject from above ground.

During a second incident on March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2023, Deputies attempted to apprehend Pennington when he fled once again, striking Deputy Chamberlain's patrol vehicle head-on. Deputy Chamberlain was able to apprehend and place Pennington under arrest at this time.



ASHE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE  
140 LAW ENFORCEMENT DR, JEFFERSON, NC 28640

WWW.ASHESHERIFF.COM  
336.846.5633  
INFO@ASHESO.COM



# ASHE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

SHERIFF B. PHIL HOWELL

CHIEF DEPUTY DANNY HOUCK



P  
R  
E  
S  
S  
  
R  
E  
L  
E  
A  
S  
E

The continued investigation led to several arrests during the manhunt – one of the subjects, Marcie Jo Lipford of Creston. Lipford was charged with harboring fugitive, white pills, and two baggies with a white crystal-like substance which was later to be identified as methamphetamine.

Additional evidence has been submitted to N.C. State Bureau of Investigation Crime Lab for further analysis, which may result in additional charges at a later date.

Deputies transported Pennington and Lipford to the Ashe County Detention Center, where they were booked with the following charges:

**Wesley Samuel Pennington** of Lansing, N.C., was charged and held without bond.

- Four counts- Felony Assault with Deadly Weapon
- Felony Flee/Elude Arrest with a Motor Vehicle
- Felony Post-Release Supervision and Parole Violation
- DWLR Not Impaired REV
- No Liability Insurance
- Reckless Driving to Endanger
- Fict/Alt Title/Reg Card/Tag

**Marcie Jo Lipford** of Creston, N.C., was charged and released with a \$10,000 secured bond.

- Felony Harboring Fugitive
- Felony Possession Schedule II Controlled Substance
- Simple Possession Schedule II Controlled Substance
- Simple Possession Schedule IV Controlled Substance
- Possess Drug Paraphernalia

