



# ASHE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

SHERIFF B. PHIL HOWELL

CHIEF DEPUTY DANNY HOUCK



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For Immediate Release  
May 6th, 2024

## Early Morning Chase Ends in Two Arrests

Sheriff B. Phil Howell announces the arrest of 2 individuals after an early morning chase that ended on Hwy 163. Sarah Elizabeth Caldera, age 25, of Jefferson, NC, and Derrick Scott Whisnant, age 30, of North Wilkesboro, NC.

On April 27<sup>th</sup>, 2024, Sgt. Daniel Cox was patrolling and running radar when he noticed a vehicle traveling at a high rate of speed. Sgt. Cox then initiated blue lights and sirens. During the chase, the vehicle failed to stop and exceeded the speed limit by more than 50 mph. Deputy Cody Call and Jacob Bledsoe arrived to assist with the chase. The vehicle came to a sudden stop on HWY 163, and Deputy Call and Sgt. Cox was able to apprehend both subjects.

K9 Deputy Bledsoe deployed K9 officer Keeko, who performed an open-air sniff, which led to a positive alert inside the vehicle. Officers located a clear baggie of a crystal substance, later identified as Methamphetamine, Marijuana, and several drug paraphernalia. Additional evidence was submitted to the N.C. State Bureau of Investigation Crime Lab for further analysis, which may result in additional charges at a later date. Officers transported both subjects to the Ashe County Detention Center without further incident.





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**Sarah Elizabeth Caldera**, 25 years of age, Jefferson, NC, was booked under a \$40,000 secured bond for the following charges:

- 2 Counts Felony Flee/Elude Arrest with Motor Vehicle
- Felony Possession Sch. II Controlled Substance
- Felony Possession Marijuana
- Fail to Heed Light and Siren
- Speeding
- DWLR Not Impaired REV
- Simple Possession Sch. IV Controlled Substance
- Possess Drug Paraphernalia



**Derrick Scott Whisnant**, 30 years of age, North Wilkesboro, NC, was booked under a \$30,000 secured bond for the following charges:

- Felony Possess Sch. II Controlled Substance
- Felony Possession Marijuana
- Possess Drug Paraphernalia

