



ASHE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Sheriff B. Phil Howell

For Immediate Release
November 17th, 2025

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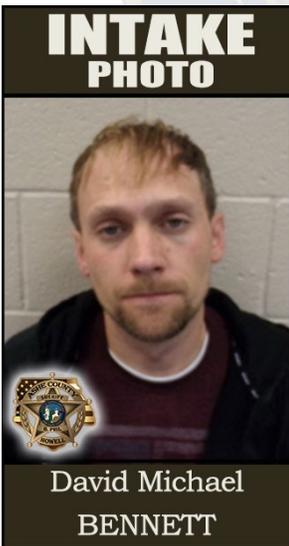
The Little Red Flag Bandit

Ashe County, NC – Sheriff B. Phil Howell announces the arrest of 35-year-old David Michael Bennett, of West Jefferson, on charges of larceny, possession of a firearm by a felon, and possession of drug paraphernalia following reports of stolen mail in the Pine Swamp area in Fleetwood.

On October 19, 2025, Deputy Call responded to a report of multiple mailboxes that had been opened, with packages missing and empty boxes left behind. The investigation was assigned to Detective Scott Milam, who later identified Bennett as the suspect.

After reviewing surveillance footage and gathering evidence, Detectives identified the suspect as David Michael Bennett. On October 29, 2025, Detective Milam obtained a search warrant for Bennett's residence. During the search, Sgt. Deputy Cox, along with detectives, located several items matching the descriptions of the reported stolen property. They also discovered a glass pipe with drug residue on the children's bathroom sink, which led to Detective Elliot charging Bennett with child abuse. Deputies also located a shotgun within the home.

Bennett was taken into custody without incident and transported to the Ashe County Detention Center. Upon arrival, he was also served with an outstanding Avery County warrant for Obtaining Property by False Pretense, as well as two Failure to Appear warrants from Ashe County.



David Michael Bennett, 35, of West Jefferson, was booked under a secured bond of \$102,150.00. His charges include:

- Felony Possession of a Firearm by Felon
- 2 Counts Felony Obtain Property False Pretense
- 2 Counts of Larceny
- Possession of Stolen Goods
- Child Abuse
- Possess Drug Paraphernalia
- 2 Counts Failure to Appear



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