

ASHE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE



Sheriff B. Phil Howell

OPERATION
CRYSTAL BALL



For Immediate Release
December 10th, 2025

Operation Crystal Ball

Wave 2 of the Largest Case in Ashe County History

Ashe County, N.C. – Ashe County Sheriff B. Phil Howell announces that Wave 2 has been completed in the most significant drug trafficking takedown in Ashe County's history.

The operation began as an investigation in January 2025 by the Ashe County Sheriff's Office, in partnership with the North Carolina State Bureau of Investigation, and has rapidly developed into a large-scale effort spanning across North Carolina and other states. "Wave 2" of *Operation Crystal Ball* currently includes 33 new charged individuals, 27 arrests, and 8 previously arrested individuals with additional outstanding warrants, as well as 6 wanted individuals.

Wave 2 of Operation Crystal Ball commenced on December 3rd, 2025, and has remained ongoing in recent days. The Ashe County Sheriff's Office, in coordination with the NCSBI, conducted the majority of arrests in Wilkes County. We extend our appreciation to the Wilkes County Sheriff's Office, North Wilkesboro Police Department, and Wilkesboro Police Department for their valuable support during this phase of the operation. Following their arrests in the Wilkesboro area, all subjects were transported to the Ashe County Detention Center for processing.

Sheriff Howell wants everyone to know that *"We are incredibly proud of our Detectives and the countless hours they have poured into this investigation. They have worked tirelessly, day and night, even throughout the holidays to see this case through. Our partnerships and mutual-aid agreements allow the Ashe County Sheriff's Office to reach far beyond the borders of Ashe County, seizing larger quantities of narcotics and dismantling drug networks operating across the Carolinas. While some of these drugs may ultimately find their way into our communities, we are actively disrupting distribution throughout the state through our strong partnership with the North Carolina State Bureau of Investigation and many agencies throughout the US. With the help of many agents and Prosecutor Leigh Bricker, we have been able to guide this case from the first day of the investigation. We can't do this alone."*

Along with the arrest made in Wilkes County, several individuals were arrested or served with additional warrants in Ashe County.

Sheriff Howell would like to thank all the agencies that have contributed: North Carolina State Bureau of Investigation (NCSBI), North Wilkesboro Police Department, Wilkes County Sheriff's Office Criminal Investigation Division, United States Postal Inspectors Service, Alamance County Sheriff's Office (ANET), Davidson Sheriff's Office, Lexington Police Department, Kannapolis Police Department, Wake County Sheriff's Office, Greensboro Police Department (VCAT), Alleghany County Sheriff's Office, Watauga County Sheriff's Office, Boone Police Department, Wilkesboro Police Department, West Jefferson Police Department, South Bend Police Department (Indiana), St. Joseph's County Sheriff's Office (Indiana), Wisconsin State Patrol – Northwest Region Spooner Post, Jackson County Sheriff's Office (Wisconsin), Johnson County, Tennessee Sheriff's Office, Surry County Sheriff's Office, NC 34th Prosecutorial District Attorneys Office, Alexander County Sheriff's Office, Georgia Dept. of Corrections and the Georgia State Bureau of Investigation.

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INTAKE PHOTO



Julio Cesar
MEDINA

Julio Cesar Medina, age 34, of Boomer, was booked under a \$1,175,000 secured bond. His charges include:

- 3 Felony Counts Attempted Trafficking in Meth by Sell
- 2 Felony Counts Conspire Traffic Methamphetamine
- 2 Felony Counts Conspire Sell/Deliver SCH II CS
- Felony Continuing Criminal Enterprise
- Felony PWIMSD SCH II CS
- Probation Violation
- Felony Sell SCH II CS
- Maintain Place Controlled Substance



INTAKE PHOTO



William Anthony
SANER

Anthony William Saner, age 44 of Roaring River, was booked under a \$50,000 secured bond. His charges include:

- 3 Felony Counts Conspire Sell/Deliver SCH II CS

Pamela Denise Logan, age 63, of North Wilkesboro, was booked under a \$25,000 secured bond. Her charges include:

- 2 Felony Counts Conspire Sell/Deliver SCH II CS

INTAKE PHOTO



Pamela Denise
LOGAN

INTAKE PHOTO



Barbara Danielle
ALEXANDER

Barbara Danielle Alexander, age 36, of Roaring River, was booked under a \$50,000 secured bond. Her charges include:

- 4 Felony Counts Conspire Sell/Deliver SCH II CS

Mark Raymond Love, age 59, of Millers Creek, was booked under a \$50,000 secured bond. His charges include:

- 4 Felony Counts Conspire Sell/Deliver SCH II CS

INTAKE PHOTO



Mark Raymond
LOVE

INTAKE PHOTO



Ronda Diana
HART

Ronda Diana Hart, age 65, of Millers Creek, was booked under a \$27,500 secured bond. Her charges include:

- 2 Felony Counts Conspire Sell/Deliver SCH II CS
- Felony Possession SCH II Controlled Substance

Tony Wade Young, age 48, of Wilkesboro, was booked under a \$50,000 secured bond. His charges include:

- 4 Felony Counts Conspire Sell/Deliver SCH II CS

INTAKE PHOTO



Tony Wade
YOUNG

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INTAKE PHOTO

Jerome Ray LEEPER

Jerome Ray Leeper, age 53, of West Jefferson, was booked under a \$25,000 secured bond. His charges include:

- 2 Felony Counts Conspire Sell/Deliver SCH II CS



INTAKE PHOTO

Rebecca Ann CALL

Kenneth Brian Cleary, age 52, of North Wilkesboro, was booked under a \$25,000 secured bond. His charges include:

- 2 Felony Conspire Sell/Deliver SCH II CS

Rebecca Ann Call, age 47, of Wilkesboro, was booked under a \$175,000 secured bond. Her charges include:

- 6 Felony Conspire Sell/Deliver SCH II CS
- Felony Conspire Traffic Methamphetamine

Donald Jeffery Gant, age 54, of Moravian Falls, was booked under a \$250,000 secured bond. His charges include:

- Felony Continuing Criminal Enterprise
- Felony Conspire Sell/Deliver SCH II CS



INTAKE PHOTO

Misty Lynn TESTERMAN

Misty Lynn Testerman, age 39, of Millers Creek, was booked under a \$800,000 secured bond. Her charges include:

- 32 Felony Counts Conspire Sell/Deliver SCH II CS
- 5 Felony Counts Conspire Traffic Methamphetamine
- 2 Felony Counts Traffic in Methamphetamine
- Felony Conspiracy
- Felony Possess Methamphetamine
- Felony PWIMSD Methamphetamine



INTAKE PHOTO

Marie Church OAKLEY

Marie Church Oakley, age 51, of Millers Creek, was booked under a \$25,000 secured bond. Her charges include:

- 4 Felony Counts Conspire Sell/Deliver SCH III CS

David Barry Eller, age 58, of Wilkesboro, was booked under a \$425,000 secured bond. His charges include:

- 2 Felony Counts Conspire Sell/Deliver SCH II CS
- Felony Conspire Traffic Methamphetamine
- Felony Continuing Criminal Enterprise



INTAKE PHOTO

Kenneth Brian CLEARY



INTAKE PHOTO

Donald Jeffery GANT



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INTAKE PHOTO



John Charles SEVERT

John Charles Severt, age 56, of Jefferson, was booked under \$18,500 secured bond. His charges include:

- 6 Felony Conspire Sell/Deliver SCH II CS
- Felony Possess Controlled Substance Jail Premises

INTAKE PHOTO



Allison Shauntee LOVE

Allison Shauntee Love, age 46, of North Wilkesboro, was booked under a \$25,000 secured bond. Her charges include:

- 2 Felony Counts Conspire Sell/Deliver SCH II CS

INTAKE PHOTO

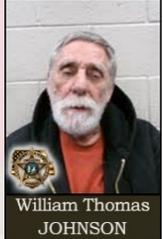


Lowell Kevin POWERS

Lowell Kevin Powers, age 60, of Millers Creek, was booked under a \$25,000 secured bond. His charges include:

- 2 Felony Counts Conspire Sell/Deliver SCH II CS

INTAKE PHOTO



William Thomas JOHNSON

William Thomas Johnson, age 67, of Hays, was booked under a \$50,000 secured bond. His charges include:

- 3 Felony Counts Conspire Sell/Deliver SCH II CS
- Felony Conspiracy

INTAKE PHOTO



Peggy Ann JOHNSON

Peggy Ann Johnson, age 47, of North Wilkesboro, was booked under a \$25,000 secured bond. Her charges include:

- 2 Felony Counts Conspires Sell/Deliver SCH II CS

INTAKE PHOTO



Kaitlin Gail FOSKEY

Kaitlin Gail Foskey, age 28, of Ferguson, was booked under a \$15,000 secured bond. Her charges include:

- 2 Felony Counts Conspire Sell/ Deliver SCH II CS

INTAKE PHOTO



Natasha HORTON

Natasha Horton, of Boomer, was booked at the Wilkes County Detention Center. Her charges include:

- Felony Conspire to Traffic more than 28 grams but less than 200 grams of Methamphetamine.

INTAKE PHOTO



Nathan SHUPING

Nathan Shuping, of North Wilkesboro, was booked at the Wilkes County Detention Center. His charges include:

- 2 Felony Counts Conspire to Sell/Deliver SCH II CS

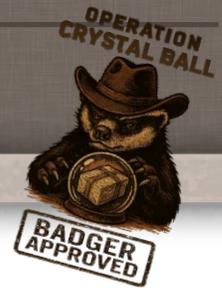


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INTAKE PHOTO



Georgia ABSHER

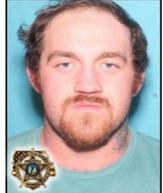
Georgia Absher, of Wilkesboro, was booked at the Wilkes County Detention Center. Her charges include:

- Conspire to Sell/Deliver SCH II CS

Darien Corey McCulloch, Incarcerated- Wilkes County Detention Center. His charges include:

- 2 Felony Counts Conspire Sell/Deliver SCH II CS

INTAKE PHOTO



Darien Corey McCULLOCH

INTAKE PHOTO



Gerardo Galan GOMAZ

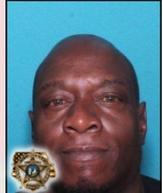
Gerardo Galan Gomaz, Incarcerated- Watauga County Detention Center. His charges include:

- 2 Felony Counts Conspire Sell/Deliver SCH II CS

Craig White, of Lenoir, was booked at the Caldwell County Detention Center. His charges include:

- Felony Conspire Sell/Deliver SCH II CS

INTAKE PHOTO



Craig WHITE

INTAKE PHOTO



Chris BARE

Chris Bare, wanted from Ashe County during Wave 1, was booked at the Bristol, VA, Detention Center. His charges include:

- Felony Conspire Sell/Deliver SCH II CS
- Conspire to Traffic Methamphetamine

Alton Hensly was served at the Wilkes County Detention Center. His charges include:

- Felony Traffic Methamphetamine

INTAKE PHOTO



Alton HENSLEY

INTAKE PHOTO



Ricky Tanner GRIFFIN

Ricky Tanner Griffin, Incarcerated- State Prison. His charges include:

- Felony Conspire to Sell/Deliver SCH II CS

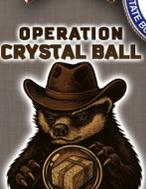
Tiffany Ashley Colbert, of Moravian Falls, was arrested in Wilkes County. Her charges include:

- Conspire to Sell/Deliver SCH II CS

INTAKE PHOTO



Tiffany Ashley COLBERT



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INTAKE PHOTO

Jerry Lee LUTHER

Jerry Lee Luther, age 52, of Wilkesboro, was booked under a \$75,000 secured bond. His charges include:

- 6 Felony Counts Conspire to Sell/Deliver SCH II CS



INTAKE PHOTO

Matthew COBBS

Rocky Lee Cleary, age 48, of Hays, was booked under a \$125,000 secured bond. His charges include:

- 5 Felony Counts Conspire to Sell/Deliver SCH II CS



INTAKE PHOTO

Rocky Lee CLEARY

Matthew Cobbs, Incarcerated at the Ashe County Detention Center. His charges include:

- 14 Felony Counts Conspire to Sell/Deliver SCH II CS
- Felony Trafficking Methamphetamine > 400g
- Felony Trafficking Methamphetamine 28-200g



INTAKE PHOTO

Marcus Joe GWYN

Marcus Joe Gwyn, age 49, of Purllear. His charges include:

- 21 Felony Counts Conspire to Sell/Deliver SCH II CS
- 2 Felony Counts Conspire to Sell/Deliver SCH III CS



INTAKE PHOTO

Tasha ANDERSON

Tasha Anderson, Incarcerated at the Ashe County Detention Center. Her charges include:

- 2 Felony Counts Conspire to Sell/Deliver SCH II CS
- Felony Conspire to traffic Methamphetamine 28-200g
- Felony Conspire to possess a firearm by felon



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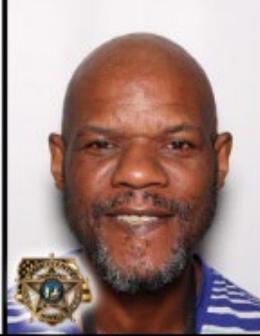
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These Individuals are still wanted by the Ashe County Sheriff's Office

WANTED  Toby BILLINGS	WANTED  Corey BOLT	WANTED  Steven Glenn BURKE	WANTED  Brian DISHMAN
WANTED  Glenna Chantel GREER	WANTED  Hannah HAMBY	WANTED  Dalton KENNEDY	WANTED  Arnaldo TORRES

Dalton Kennedy, Corey Bolt, Toby Billings, Brian Dishman, Hannah Hamby, Steven Burke, Glenna Greer, and Arnaldo Torres (Not Pictured)



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