



# ASHE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

*Sheriff B. Phil Howell*

For Immediate Release – May 20<sup>th</sup>, 2026

## Traffic Stop Uncovers Illegal Narcotics

Sheriff B. Phil Howell announces the arrest of 39-year-old Jeffrey Wayne Norris and 27-year-old Emma Paige Cornett of Mountain City, TN, after a traffic stop that led to the discovery of felony probation violations and illegal narcotics.

On April 26<sup>th</sup> 2026, K9 Handler Deputy Shepherd conducted a traffic stop on a vehicle that violated traffic laws. During the traffic stop, deputies noticed the passengers acting strangely. After investigating the situation, it was found that Jeffrey Norris had outstanding Federal Probation Violations from Watauga County. Emma Cornett was found in possession of drug paraphernalia and was placed under arrest. Norris was also placed under arrest, and both were taken to the Ashe County Detention Center for booking.



Sheriff Detention Officers use the TEK84 body scanner for every inmate that enters the facility. Scans showed an unknown substance within the body. After a search warrant was executed, 2 grams of white powder, later identified as Methamphetamine, marijuana, and 4 Naloxone tablets were found. All drugs will be sent to the NCSBI Crime Lab for further analysis. More charges are expected.

**Jeffrey Wayne Norris**, 39 of Mountain City, TN, was booked under a \$35,000 secured bond and later released. His charges include:

- 2 Felony Probation Violations (Watauga)
- Felony Possess Methamphetamine
- Possess Drug Paraphernalia

**Emma Paige Cornett**, 27 of Mountain City, TN, was booked under a \$1,500 secured bond and later released. Her charges include:

- Possess Drug Paraphernalia

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