

Two Arrested During 'Operation Green Sweep'

Tuesday, October 21, 2008



Over the past few months, the Macon County Sheriffs Department has been cracking down on local marijuana operations; locating, harvesting and destroying hundreds upon hundreds of the illegal plants and investigating potential suspects during a project they have dubbed “Operation Green Sweep.”

And while their county-wide mission remains active, two suspects have been recently arrested in connection to the manufacturing and processing of a substantial amount of marijuana.

The Macon County Sheriffs Department, with the assistance of the 15th Judicial Drug Task Force, charged 49-old Bobby Joe Butram, of 3487 Oak Grove Rd. in Red Boiling Springs, and 37-year-old Darnell Nia Butram, of 2319 Parkhurst Rd. in Red Boiling Springs, with manufacturing of narcotics and possession of drug paraphernalia on Tuesday, October 14th.

According to Detective Bill Cothron of the Macon County Sheriffs Department, a search warrant of the Parkhurst area, led police to discover “a large marijuana cultivating operation,” and eight to 10 pounds of marijuana bud, which was being processed and would be ready within days for resale.

“We identified Bobby Butram as one of the primary suspects in the case,” Cothron explained. “Subsequently, agents gained consent to search other properties, where we located further marijuana processing operations in barns on an adjoining property and the growing of marijuana. Agents searched several other properties as well, where they found marijuana growing and evidence that it was being harvested in preparation to be sold.”

During their investigation marijuana was found growing and being processed on the property of Darnell Butram, and a total of 112 mature marijuana plants were confiscated during the entirety of the search.

A further examination of the area led police to discover two meth houses, which were being

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operated out of campers, and an untaxed whiskey, or moonshine, still that is believed to have been set up for an extensive period of time on the original property.

“It was quoted by the clean-up crew that this was the largest meth house operation they had ever seen, and it’s the biggest we’ve ever encountered in this county,” Cothron stated. “This has been a very complex and multi-leveled operation that has included several months of surveillance. Operation Green Sweep is still ongoing, and we are in the process of continuing to identify other persons involved. As our investigation continues, more charges are forthcoming. We are still moving forward and seeking out those individuals involved. As they’re revealed, they’ll be charged for their crimes so that we can continue to work to keep illegal drugs from entering our county and the hands of its residents.”

Bobby Butram is being held at the Macon County Jail on \$50,000 bond. Bond for Darnell Butram is set at \$3,500. Both suspects face a General Sessions Court date of October 22nd.