

Couple face drug charges

Police seize 70 pounds of synthetic marijuana

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Daniels



Bell

Officers from multiple law enforcement agencies recently seized over 70 pounds of synthetic marijuana and arrested a Midland City couple, charging them with trafficking a controlled substance.

Dothan Police Lt.

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Drugs

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Lt. Mark Nelms said 25-year-old Byron Scott Daniels and 25-year-old Marion Eleshia Bell face felony drug trafficking charges after local law enforcement found trafficking amounts of synthetic marijuana in three separate area counties.

Nelms said the over 70 pounds of synthetic marijuana seized as part of the investigation had an estimated street value of around \$140,000.

Nelms said law enforcement found the bulk of the drugs inside a rented storage unit in Malvern. He said they found 67 pounds of synthetic marijuana inside two garbage bags inside the storage unit on Friday.

"They're manufacturing it," Nelms said. "They basically had a little lab set up in the storage shed. They'd divvy it up, package it and sell it."

Nelms said law enforcement found the synthetic marijuana inside the storage unit after investigators with the Geneva County

Sheriff's Office and the Alabama Law Enforcement Agency served a search warrant at the property late Friday.

Nelms said charges are pending in Geneva County in connection to the 67 pounds of synthetic marijuana found at the Malvern storage unit.

Nelms said Dothan police narcotics investigators charged the couple with trafficking a controlled substance after seizing around 500 grams, or just over 1 pound, of synthetic marijuana during a traffic stop on Friday. He said the traffic stop was made before the Malvern seizure on Friday.

Nelms said Dothan vice squad investigators then assisted deputies with the Dale County Sheriff's Office in serving a search warrant at Daniel's home in Midland City.

Dale County Sheriff's Capt. Mason Bynum said deputies seized around 4.5 pounds of synthetic marijuana, along with some firearms and \$5,700 in cash, as a result of the search warrant at the home on Rodney Street in Midland City.

The Dale County Sheriff's Office charged Daniels with trafficking synthetic marijuana and felony possession of a firearm an altered ID.

Nelms said the drug seizures and criminal charges were the result of a two-three-week investigation by area law enforcement agencies.

Nelms said more charges could be pending in an ongoing investigation into the illegal sale of synthetic marijuana in Wiregrass.

Daniels was taken to Houston County Jail held without bail. Bell was taken to the Houston County Jail and held \$2,500 bail.

Court records show Daniels was out on bail for pending felony unlawful possession of a controlled substance charge from September 2014 in Houston County.

Records also show Daniels to be a convicted felon after he pleaded guilty to felony unlawful possession of a controlled substance in Houston County in October 2014. He received three years probation in January of this year.