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Two charged with trafficking



From The Bell County Ky Sheriff’s Department

After an extensive investigation relating to the distribution of suspected marijuana and marijuana derivatives, Bell County Deputies investigated a felony Marijuana trafficking operation at the Happy Smoke Shop in the Middlesboro Crossing Shopping Center.

Officers conducting the operation made controlled purchases, and surveillance determined the establishment did not ID, which placed juveniles in danger of possessing the controlled substance. The investigation was initiated after multiple agencies received multiple tips and evidence relating to other cases linking the business to the trafficking of Marijuana.

This multi-agency, months-long investigation resulted in the

execution of a search warrant Friday afternoon, June 20, 2025, at the store. Deputies located a large amount of Marijuana, cash, and drug paraphernalia consistent with the trafficking of Marijuana.

Arrested were 39-year-old Amer Allabani and 22-year-old Jared Cabrera, both of Galax, Virginia, were booked into the Bell County Detention Center, charged with trafficking in Marijuana (8oz. to 5lbs.) - 1st offense and acquiring property from income from trafficking in a controlled substance.

Agencies assisting with this investigation were DESI East, Knox County Ky Sheriff’s Department, Pineville Police Department, and the US Marshal Service.

Deputy Hunter Luttrell is leading this investigation.

More charges are pending.



Man arrested for assaulting a juvenile

On Monday, June 16, 2025 a Middlesboro man was arrested for after confronting a 16-year-old juvenile male attending a family member’s funeral at the Shumate Funeral Home property.

Middlesboro Police Sgt. Jeremiah Johnson states in a citation that 35-year-old Chase Naff assaulted the juvenile and they began fighting on the sidewalk at the funeral home then onto Cumberland Avenue. Naff was seen by those in attendance placing the juvenile in a head lock causing him difficulty in breathing.

Upon police arrival Naff fled the scene and was found behind the funeral home. He continued to flee on a scooter as Sgt. Johnson identified himself. Naff was finally arrested after taking a stance as if to fight the officer then surrendering and falling to the ground after the sergeant pointed his taser at him.

After being treated for injuries sustained in the fight, Chase Naff was lodged in the Bell County Detention Center.

He was charged with fleeing or evading police - 3rd degree, disorderly conduct - 1st degree, menacing, interference with a funeral, assault - 4th degree, assault - 4th degree (child abuse), and strangulation - 2nd degree.

The reason for the conflict was not released.

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