

Two face drug charges after Tuesday afternoon pursuit

By BEVIN PEPPARD
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MARION — Two local men face felony drug charges after leading authorities on a short pursuit Tuesday afternoon.

Marion County Sheriff Tim Bailey said the chase occurred shortly after 1 p.m. Tuesday when authorities attempted to stop a vehicle along Prospect-Marysville Road.

“They believed they were transporting narcotics,” he said, explaining that detectives with the MARMET/METRICH Drug Task Force and the sheriff’s strike team had been conducting surveillance of the vehicle for several hours. “They followed (the suspects) all the way to Columbus where they made the pick up and then followed them back to Marion where they attempted to stop them.”

The driver of the Hyundai Sonata did not comply, however, and led officers in four unmarked vehicles and one sheriff’s office cruiser on a pursuit that lasted about five minutes and went along Ohio 47, Ohio 257 and into Delaware County, Bailey said. Speeds reached up to 50 miles per hour, though he noted many of the roads were snow-covered.

“While they were chasing them (the suspects) threw out a can, which was an aerosol type can,” Bailey said. “Our officers recovered it and inside found 82 balls of heroin.”

Each ball, or dose, of heroin sells for around \$40, he said.

The chase ended when the suspects voluntarily stopped the vehicle. Bailey said officers also recovered several syringes from inside the car.

David Laughrey, 28, of 230 W. Columbia St., and Douglas A. Massey II, age 23, of 188 Elk St., have both been charged with possession of heroin, Bailey said. The case will be forwarded to the Marion County Prosecutor’s Office for consideration of formal charges.

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