

METRICH bust nets Chinese weapons, drugs

Two suspected drug dealers were arrested Monday after a search at a Mansfield home.

METRICH Sgt. Joy Stortz said Richard Bernhardt, 28, and Mary Bernhardt, 21, were arrested without incident. The search uncovered three rifles, an unspecified quantity of heroin, drug paraphernalia and possible stolen property.

A Ruger .22 caliber carbine and two Chinese SKS .762 X 39mm guns were among the weapons found.

The operation was the result of a weeklong investigation after complaints that drugs were being sold at the property, Stortz said.

The home is at 867 N. Trimble Road, a few blocks north of Sherman Elementary School.

Both suspects are in Richland County Jail.

They have been charged with aggravated drug trafficking, a fourth-degree felony, and possession of heroin, a fifth-degree felony.

Richard Bernhardt also has been charged with possession of weapons under disability, a third-degree felony. Mansfield Municipal Court records show he pleaded guilty to domestic violence assault in August 2010 and was sentenced to probation for one year.

METRICH was assisted by the Allied Special Operations Response Team and the Mansfield Police Department.

Originally published in the News Journal on May 11, 2011.