

More than 25 grams of fentanyl recovered

Nearly 30 grams of fentanyl were recovered during a traffic stop and two are charged with drug trafficking.

Zachary Gilbert, 27, and Samantha Howell, 22, both of 168 New London Ave., New London, were arrested and charged with trafficking in fentanyl, over the bulk amount.

The Huron County Sheriff's Office executed a search warrant at 168 New London Ave. on Feb. 12 as a result of a drug trafficking investigation over the past several weeks.



During the investigation, it was learned, the two suspects were traveling back from Mansfield after purchasing fentanyl. Deputies set up surveillance and located the vehicle they were traveling in. A traffic stop was conducted which led to two individuals being arrested on drug trafficking charges.

During the traffic stop, approximately 27.6 grams of fentanyl was recovered from the suspects.

While interviewing Howell, she admitted to concealing the fentanyl on her person as they were being stopped. The narcotics were later collected as evidence.

Throughout the investigation, it was learned that Gilbert and Howell had been making daily trips to Mansfield to purchase the narcotics. It was also learned they were selling to roughly 30 to 40 people per day.

The drugs were being sold throughout Huron County, including Norwalk, Greenwich, and New London.

During the execution of the search warrant at the residence, a large amount of drug abuse instruments, drug paraphernalia, and drug trafficking evidence were collected and additional suspects were identified.

According to DEA statistics, the amount of fentanyl recovered during this investigation is enough to kill over 3 times the population of the Village of New London when contacted by a person with a zero-tolerance.

Additional charges against Gilbert, Howell and other suspects are expected as a result of the investigation, including trafficking fentanyl in a school zone.

The Huron County Sheriff's Office was assisted in the investigation and execution of the warrant by the New London Police Department and Willard Police Department. The Huron County Sheriff's Office and Willard Police Department are members of METRICH Enforcement Unit, a 10-county drug task force.

"The Huron County Sheriff's Office would like to thank all the agencies involved. This investigation is a great example of what collaboration accomplishes," said Det. Sgt. Ted Evans.

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