

MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release

July 10, 2009

Large Marijuana Bust from Traffic Stop

Sheriff Jimmy Harris states as follows:

An investigation lasting one and one-half years received a break yesterday when Deputy Gary Hill initiated a traffic stop at Piney Grove Church on Highway 227 in the Grove Oak Community. Once the vehicle, driven by Donald David Payne, 44, of Scottsboro, was stopped and a search of the vehicle was performed, Deputy Hill confiscated one pound of marijuana from inside the vehicle. Information received at the stop led to a consent search of Payne's Jackson County residence, performed by DeKalb Drug Task Force agents with the Jackson County Narcotics Unit and Scottsboro Police Department. The search yielded over three more pounds of marijuana. The case in Jackson County was led by Inv. Craig Holcomb.

The total weight of marijuana confiscated yesterday totaled almost 5 pounds, and carries a value of between \$4,500 and \$6,000.

Payne is currently awaiting bond in the DeKalb County Jail on charges of Distribution of Marijuana. Once released from DeKalb County, he will be transported to Jackson County, where he faces charges of Trafficking in Marijuana.

DeKalb County Deputy and Task Force Agent Craig White had been investigating reports of Payne's drug activity for over 18 months. DeKalb County K-9 Unit Dogs Jaeger and Wvuum were also utilized in the discovery of the marijuana.

Sheriff Harris said, "Thanks to our partnership with Sheriff Dennis Miller and his staff we were able to take a large amount of drugs off the street, not only in DeKalb County but also in Jackson County. Sheriff Miller and I were communicating during the last night's events. This is the second time in three weeks that agents from neighboring counties have successfully worked together to continue making our streets safer. Our relationship with David Chandler with the Marshall County Drug Enforcement Unit enabled us to take 50+ pounds of marijuana and a large amount of methamphetamine out of our communities three weeks ago. We appreciate being able to work with our neighboring agencies."

Jackson County Sheriff Dennis Miller said, "I appreciate the dedication of all the officers involved, and the cooperation between the agencies. This is the goal that we are looking for."

