

Ohio State Highway Patrol

Media Release



For Immediate Release: February 28, 2011
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Patrol seizes 1.5 pounds of cocaine, valued at more than \$68,000 in Wyandot County traffic stop

BUCYRUS – A Michigan man and West Virginia woman are facing felony drug charges after Ohio State Highway Patrol troopers seized 1.5 pounds of cocaine, valued at \$68,100 during a traffic stop last Thursday in Wyandot County.

Troopers stopped a 2011 Chevy Impala rental car for a speed violation on US 23 southbound, near milepost 6, at approximately 2:39 p.m. on February 24. Troopers observed the female driver attempt to conceal 20 grams of marijuana on her person, which she then provided to troopers. A probable cause search was enacted and revealed two packages of cocaine, weighing 1.5 pounds, in the trunk of the vehicle.

The driver, Tashanna Nellum, 33, of St. Albans, W. Va., and her passenger, Lawrence Simpkins, 42, of Detroit, Mich., were both charged with possession of cocaine, a first-degree felony. Nellum was also charged with tampering with evidence, a third-degree felony.

The suspects were incarcerated in the Wyandot County Jail. If convicted, Nellum could face up to 15 years in prison and a \$30,000 fine and Simpkins could face up to 10 years in prison and a \$20,000 fine.

A photo of the seized cocaine is available for download on the Patrol's web site at www.statepatrol.ohio.gov.

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