Out-of-state Drug Suspects Arrested

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Sheriff Armando Fontoura stated that Deputies Kenneth Poggi and Kevin Macken were on routine patrol at South Orange and Littleton avenues at 1:00 a.m. Wednesday when they observed the occupants a 2004 Volvo sedan toss a lighted cigarette from the car’s passenger window.

Sheriff Fontoura said that the deputies stopped the vehicle and as the driver, 24-year-old Joshua Barber of Barton, New York, rummaged through the vehicle’s center console a valid insurance card the deputies spotted an orange prescription bottle and a ziplock plastic bag containing hypodermic needles and metal spoons.

Barton and his passenger, Jason Vanalstine, age 27, of Sayre, Pennsylvania were then taken into custody and charged with possession of drug paraphernalia.

During a search of the suspects, Deputies Poggi and Macken found Vanalstine to be in possession of 41 decks of heroin. The heron was discovered in Vanalstine’s left shoe.

“Our Bureau of Narcotics and our patrol officers are aware that individuals from out-of-state come here to purchase or sell drugs,” remarked Sheriff Fontoura. “We are on constant alert for suspicious activity by individuals driving through Essex County with license plates from other states. During the past year we locked up scores of out-of-staters on drug charges.”

The deputies called for an olfactory search of the vehicle and Sheriff’s Officer George Ruiz and K-9 “Valdez” responded to the scene. The olfactory search resulted in the seizure of an additional 5 decks of heroin which was discovered beneath the Volvo’s gearshift.

In addition to the drug paraphernalia charge, the two suspects were also charged with possession of a controlled dangerous substance, possession of CDS with intent to distribute, possession of CDS within 1000 feet of Camden Middle School and conspiracy to violate New Jersey’s narcotics laws.

Barber was additionally issued summonses for throwing debris from a motor vehicle, operating an uninsured motor vehicle and possession of CDS in a motor vehicle.

Judge Michael Petrolle ordered the suspects held at the county jail on $75,000 cash bond only. It is anticipated that Barton and Vanalstine will be arraigned on Thursday.