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WEST ROXBURY

Two West Roxbury men charged in 80-pound Midwest pot bust

Posted by Matt Rocheleau February 8, 2011 02:20 PM

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By Matt Rocheleau, Town Correspondent

Two West Roxbury men have been charged after Nebraska police stopped the SUV they were traveling in for a traffic violation and discovered nearly 80 pounds of marijuana inside, authorities said.

The two Boston men were arrested at around 4:30 p.m. Friday after a Nebraska state trooper stopped the 2010 Hyundai Santa Fe for "following too close" while traveling eastbound on Interstate 80 near a highway exit for Lincoln Municipal Airport.

A police dog signaled that a drug odor was coming from the back of the vehicle and a subsequent search of the SUV uncovered the marijuana in four large suitcases.

The suspects were identified as Wade Tang, 34, and Hokming B. Chan, 32. They face charges of possession of marijuana with intent to deliver.

About four hours after the SUV was stopped Friday, another 146 pounds of marijuana was allegedly discovered in a vehicle driven by a New Hampshire man stopped by police for speeding in the same direction on the same Nebraska interstate.

State Police stopped the 2003 Chevy pickup while headed eastbound on I-80 near the Kearney Interchange, about 150 miles away from the earlier drug bust. A police dog also indicated the presence of drugs, and officers seized the marijuana from several toolboxes in the bed of the truck.

Nathaniel Lesch-Huie, 26, of Harrisville, N.H., also faces charges of possession of marijuana with intent to deliver.

None of the three involved in the combined seizure of 226 pounds of marijuana has been arraigned or pleaded to their charge, but court dates have been set for later this month, officials there said today.

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