

Alleged scam artist arrested in Hunt County

Written by By FAITH HUFFMAN, News-Telegram News Editor
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The man alleged earlier this week to have scammed an elderly woman out of \$8,000 by pretending to be an electricity company representative was taken into custody in Hunt County Friday afternoon.

Noah Michael Bell, 31, of Caddo Mills was arrested by Greenville police officers at a Chrysler dealership on the Hopkins County exploitation of elderly charge. He is also wanted in Collin County for another exploitation of a child, elderly or disabled person charge and on a theft of more than \$1,500 worth but less than \$20,000 worth of property. He remained in the county jail Saturday morning in lieu of \$20,000 on the Hopkins County charge and \$3,500 bond on each of the Collin County charges, according to jail reports.

Bell is alleged to have pulled up to the elderly woman's residence and indicated he was an electric utility worker. He told her he had equipment in his vehicle that allowed him to detect electric problems in homes. He said he had detected potential problems in her home.

He walked around inside her home then said she had problems that would require \$840 to correct wiring. She wrote him a check.

The bank employee called the woman a short while later to verify she wrote the check. She confirmed it. He then claimed the amount he'd originally told her was wrong. The repairs would actually cost \$8,400. The elderly woman issued another check, which he then cashed at a local bank Tuesday, according to Tatum.

The man was identified by the ID he used to cash the check as well as by bank video as 31-year-old Noah Michael Bell. A records check showed Bell to also be wanted in Collin County on the same charge.

Investigators put out a plea to the public for help in locating Bell and obtained a warrant for the Tuesday offense.

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Greenville Police Department officials notified Hopkins County Sheriff's Office Friday that they had Bell in custody on the Hopkins and Collin County charges. Hopkins County Sheriff's Chief Investigator Lewis Tatum and deputy John Clark drove to Greenville and took custody of Bell.