

Alleged Drug Offenders Rounded Up

Written by Debbie Gregory
Tuesday, July 17, 2012



With illegal drug activity escalating in Macon County, the 15th Judicial Drug Task Force in a joint effort with the Lafayette Police Department launched “Operation Ridge Runner” on Wednesday, July 11th by rounding up individuals who have been indicted by the Grand Jury for various drug charges.

Also assisting were officers from the Trousdale County Sheriffs Department and the Smith County Sheriffs Department, along with Sheriff Ray Russell, Chief Deputy Wayland Cothron, and Sheriff Steve Hopper.

Chief Amalfitano said that 17 of those indicted had been picked up as of Monday morning, July 16th and the investigation to find the other suspects is ongoing.

“The Lafayette Police Department was used as headquarters,” stated Chief Amalfitano, “and once the suspects and the evidence was processed, they were immediately transported to the Macon County Jail by various officers.”

According to the Drug Task Force, this operation culminated after a year-long investigation into the fast growing drug problem in our area. They believe this operation was successful because everyone worked together well and the suspects were apprehended without incident.

“I’m very proud of the officers for all their hard work and dedication,” said the Chief. “This is a very dangerous job and when we broke them up into teams after a brief prayer, I immediately began worrying about their safety.”

“This is just the tip of the iceberg,” said Amalfitano, “and we will continue this ongoing process for as long as it takes. This is definitely not the end of the drug war in Lafayette.”

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Chief Amalfitano says that he would like to extend his thanks to the Smith and Trousdale County agencies for their assistance.

Several suspects arrested by the Drug Task Force include:

Don Junior Marshall, 42, of 745 Hall Lane in Lafayette, was charged with manufacturing of narcotics. Bond is set at \$25,000. General Sessions Court date is set for Oct. 1st.

Robert Edward Coots, 20, of 371 Wixtown Rd. in Westmoreland, was charged with manufacturing of narcotics. Bond is set at \$1,000. General Sessions Court date is set for Oct. 1st.

Theresa Elizabeth Czapla, 36, of 1532 Wilmore Hollow in Lafayette, was charged with manufacturing of narcotics. Bond is set at \$1,500. General Sessions Court date is set for Oct. 1st.

Katie Beth Slayton, 22, of Browning Branch Road in Hartsville, was charged with manufacturing of narcotics and conspiracy; criminal (felony). Bond is set at \$1,500. General Sessions Court date is set for Oct. 1st.

Bobby Dean Gammons, 56, of 248 Pleasant Valley Rd. in Hartsville, was charged with manufacturing of narcotics. Bond is set at \$1,500. General Sessions Court date is set for Oct. 1st.

James Edward Walden, 43, of 403 Days Rd. in Lafayette, was charged with manufacturing of narcotics and fraud; forged prescription. Bond is set at \$2,500. General Sessions Court date is set for Oct. 1st.

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Jeremy Odell Gregory, 35, of 206 Meador Dr. in Lafayette, was charged with simple possession (2 cts.) and possession of drug paraphernalia. Bond is set at \$1,000. General Sessions Court date is set for Oct. 1st.

William Christophe Andrews, 31, of 212 E. Locust St. in Lafayette, was charged with promotion of methamphetamine manufacture, manufacturing of narcotics (4 cts.), possession of drug paraphernalia, intent to manufacture methamphetamine and child abuse/neglect (4 cts.). Bond is set at \$15,000. General Sessions Court date is set for Oct. 1st.

Misty Leigh Summers, 32, of 205 Chamberlain Ave. in Lafayette, was charged with promotion of methamphetamine manufacture, manufacturing of narcotics (4 cts.), possession of drug paraphernalia and child abuse/neglect (2 cts.). General Sessions Court date is set for Oct. 1st.

Cecil Clark Strong, 57, of 3269 Brimstone Rd., in Moss, Tn., was charged with Schedule III drug violations. Bond is set at \$1,000. General Sessions Court date is set for Oct. 1st.