Written by Staff Reports Wednesday, September 11, 2013 12:18 AM -

Information submitted



DELPHOS — After yet another lengthy joint investigation, the Delphos Police Department and West Central Ohio Crime Task Force conducted another large drug related roundup Friday, executing felony indictments that were handed down by the September session of the Van Wert County Grand Jury.

The following nine individuals were arrested, totaling 25 separate drug-related indictments and two nondrug-related warrants:

- Lola D. Busch, 65, 1400 S. Clay St., Lot 5, Delphos, three counts of trafficking in prescription drugs.;
- William L. Smith, 36, 708 E. Third St., Delphos, three counts of trafficking in heroin;
- Jesse J. Blackburn, 21, 317 N. Bredeick St., Delphos, one count of trafficking in heroin;
- Candy J. (Diltz) Brooks, 49, 1321 S. Bredeick St., Delphos, three counts of trafficking in heroin;

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— Lyle L. Diltz, 47, 1321 S. Bredeick St., Delphos, two counts of trafficking in heroin;
— Justin W. Diltz, 59, 835 W. Skinner St., Lot 21, Delphos, three counts of trafficking in heroin, one count felony; possession of heroin; and three counts permitting drug abuse with a vehicle specification;
— Jeremy J. Detwiler, 21, formerly of Delphos, no current address known, is currently being held by Columbus Police Department on charges stemming from an incident in Columbus. Extradition proceedings are being worked out with Columbus Police to bring Wilson back to Van Wert County to face the charges of one count of trafficking in heroin and two counts of receiving stolen property in connection with a July Delphos burglary;
— Catherine E. Wilson, 25, formerly of Delphos, no current address known, is currently being held by Columbus Police Department on charges stemming from an incident in Columbus. Extradition proceedings are being worked out with Columbus Police to bring Wilson back to Van Wert County to face the charges of four counts of trafficking in heroin; and
— Korey D. Briggs, 28, of 20799 Road 24T, Fort Jennings, one count of trafficking in heroin.
A 10th individual was indicted for one count of trafficking in heroin but has not been arrested/located as of this date.
The police department and the WCOCTF will continue to investigate drug-related offenses within the City of Delphos in an effort to reduce drug abuse/trafficking and all of the "spin-off" crime it generates.
The department anticipates additional individuals will be arrested in the near future as a result of additional drug-related indictments.

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During late 2009, the police department began to notice an increase in drug-related activity and crime within the City of Delphos. The majority of this was attributed to heroin and opiate-based pain pills.

In May of 2010, the department and the task force conducted a large drug-related "roundup" and arrested 19 drug trafficking defendants with 58 separate indictments in one day.

During the course of 2011, local police and the task force arrested five separate drug trafficking defendants with numerous indictments over a period of time. These were done one defendant at a time and not as a large roundup.

In March of 2012, the groups conducted another large drug-related roundup and arrested 14 drug trafficking defendants with 43 separate indictments in one day.

In addition to this, since late 2009, drug-related search warrants have been served on 21 separate residences within the City of Delphos.

The West Central Ohio Crime Task Force is comprised of officers from the following agencies: Allen County Sheriff's Office, Van Wert County Sheriff's Office, Lima Police Department, Delphos Police Department and multiple state/federal agencies. The task force also works closely with the Putnam and Paulding County Sheriff's Departments. This task force operates within a multi-county area to combat drugs and major crimes.