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Signed, Sealed And Delivered



Levy County Sheriff's Office Lt. Duane Dykstra on Friday afternoon (June 3) posts a warning on the door of the house at 755 Pennsylvania Ave., in Bronson to notify everyone that this house has been used as a place to manufacture methamphetamine.



Lt. Dykstra is the head of the Drug Task Force Unit and he is over the Criminal Investigation Division. Dykstra said the meth problem is at an epidemic level in Levy County. Four individuals were arrested at this place where the drug was being manufactured. Seven officers performed the arrests and made the area as safe as possible from the dangers of the drug-making enterprise. More photos and details of the arrest are on the [POLICE PAGE](#)

(<http://www.hardisonink.com/florida-police-news.php>).

Photos by Jeff M. Hardison © June 3, 2016 @ 8:47 p.m. Updated June 4, 2016 @ 8:47 a.m.

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LCSO takes down meth lab



A member of the Drug Task Force makes dangerous chemical inert. While he is wearing safety equipment, people who manufacture methamphetamine are exposed to the toxic fumes from the process. A suspicious death of a child at the residence where this meth lab was found led to investigators uncovering another meth lab there later. Firefighters from Bronson and Williston departments were on the scene in case of fire, and EMS staff from the Levy County Department of Public Safety were prepared, too, in the event of an injury to one or more of the other first responders at this clandestine drug lab takedown.

This photo was provided as a professional courtesy by the Levy County Sheriff's Office

Story and Other Photos By Jeff M. Hardison © June 4, 2016 @ 8:47 a.m.

BRONSON -- With the removal of chemicals and the arrests of four people, Levy County Drug Task Force (DTF) investigators and investigators from the LCSO Criminal Investigation Division (CID) concluded an investigation Friday (Jun 3) that began in February, according to a press release from Undersheriff W.O. "Brett" Beauchamp III.

On Feb. 22, LCSO deputies responded to a reported suspicious child death at 755 Pennsylvania Ave. in Bronson. During the investigation, a clandestine methamphetamine lab was discovered and dismantled on the property, Beauchamp said.

Based on the evidence gathered in February, Inv. LCSO Joe Barrera obtained an arrest warrant for Amanda Marie Davis, 37, Beauchamp said.



This was the scene of making methamphetamine, according to investigators.



A DTF deputy puts a meth-smoking device into an evidence bag.

The warrant was issued for one count of trafficking in methamphetamine and one count of manufacturing methamphetamine. The warrant was issued by Levy County Judge Tim Browning on June 1.

On Friday, June 3, seven DTF and CID investigators went to the house at 755 Pennsylvania Ave. in Bronson to arrest Davis on the outstanding warrant, Beauchamp said.

As they approached the residence, investigators detected evidence of another methamphetamine lab at the residence. They took Davis into custody on the outstanding warrant.

During their search of the premises, the investigators located and detained Debra D. Smith, 51; Erica Christine McElveen, 29; and Brian Keith Gruhler, 49.

Investigators discovered an active methamphetamine lab on the premises, as well as a significant amount of evidence of long-term manufacturing at the location, Beauchamp said. The evidence included 338 grams of liquid methamphetamine, the undersheriff noted in the press release.

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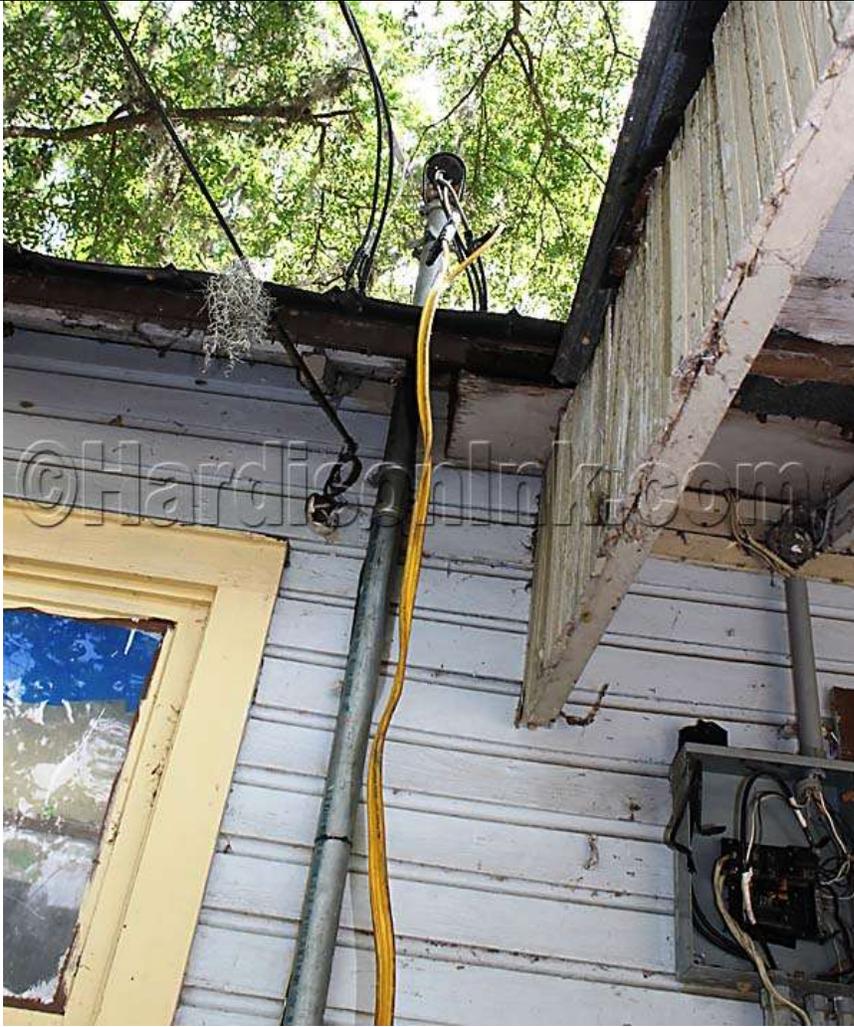
LCSO personnel were required to put on Haz-Mat suits and make the lab safe. They were assisted by personnel from both the Bronson and Williston Fire Departments. Investigators discovered that someone had bypassed the electric meter at the residence and was stealing electricity.



Jumper cables as used between two car batteries are part of the mechanism for stealing electric current.

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The meter would blink one number. Then it would blink only "8"s and then it would show a blank screen before going back to the original number. This meter is facing the relatively busy paved street.

At the conclusion of the investigation, Davis was arrested and charged on the outstanding warrant as well as four new charges for trafficking methamphetamine, manufacturing methamphetamine, possession of drug paraphernalia and maintaining a drug dwelling, Beauchamp said.

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Smith was charged with conspiracy to manufacture methamphetamine. McElveen was charged with violation of probation. Gruhler was charged with trafficking in methamphetamine and manufacturing methamphetamine, Beauchamp said.

All the defendants were transported to the Levy County Jail prior to their first court appearance, where bonds will be set. (These and other suspected criminals from Levy, Dixie and Gilchrist counties will be listed Monday or Tuesday on the Police Page, barring unforeseen issues occurring at any or all three of the law enforcement agencies that provide those lists to *HardisonInk.com*.)



Material used to make the area a bit more safe is prepared to be put away



A package that included one of the ingredients needed to make the illegal drug is seen here before being bagged as evidence.