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GCSO nets most meth ever

Fentanyl, cocaine, marijuana, cash and gun seized too



Jesus Antonio Acosta, 28, of Bell is in the Gilchrist County Jail on the following charges and bail amounts - trafficking in methamphetamine, \$50,000 bond; possession of fentanyl, \$50,000 bond; possession of cocaine with intent to distribute, \$10,000 bond; keeping a drug house, \$10,000 bond; possession of drug paraphernalia, \$1,000 bond; two counts of violation of probation, release on own recognizance.



Kimberly Rachael Barry, 24, of Bell is in the Gilchrist County Jail on the following charges and bail amounts - trafficking in methamphetamine, \$40,000 bond; possession of drugs with the intent to sell them, \$40,000; possession of cocaine with intent to distribute, \$10,000 bond; keeping a drug house, \$10,000 bond; possession of drug paraphernalia, \$1,000

bond; violation of probation, release on own recognizance.

By Jeff M. Hardison © Jan. 30, 2017 at 11:57 a.m.

Photos by Gilchrist County Sheriff's Office

TRENTON -- The Gilchrist County Sheriff's Office brought in the most methamphetamine in its history during a Friday (Jan. 27) drug bust, according to information in a press release from GCSO Capt. Sheryl Brown on Monday (Jan. 30).

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The GCSO was working with the Columbia County Drug Task Force, the Office of Eighth Judicial Circuit's State Attorney William Cervone and the Chiefland Police Department as officers served a search warrant at a residence near Gilchrist County Road 342 in Bell, Capt. Brown said.

Officers found more than three and a half ounces of crystal methamphetamine, Brown said.



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Gilchrist County Sheriff Bobby Schultz sits behind a table covered with cash, drugs, paraphernalia and a gun that were seized through the efforts of law enforcement officers with the Gilchrist County Sheriff's Office, the Columbia County Drug Task Force, the Chiefland Police Department and the Eighth Judicial Circuit State Attorney's Office. He is thankful for the assistance of other agencies and he has no qualms about telling drug sellers that they will be captured if they ply their trade in Gilchrist County.



This is a piece of crystal meth being held by an officer with a black glove to help show what it looks like.

This crystalized form of methamphetamine is the final product from a dangerous process that includes working with toxic chemicals.

According to information from "Crystal Meth Addiction (dot org)," the price of crystal methamphetamine varies from state to state and city to city.

"What price are you willing to pay for your Crystal Meth addiction?" the writers on this website asked. "Your home? Your family? Your friends? Your health? Your life?"

Determining the estimated cash value of more than 100 grams of this drug that was seized shows on average, the price of one gram is \$80, therefore the law enforcement officers just took more than \$800 worth of this dangerous drug off the street. It is the largest seizure of its kind to date in Gilchrist County.

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Gilchrist County Sheriff Robert "Bobby" Schultz III said there is another important seizure from this raid.

Detectives seized Fentanyl, which is the first reported seizure of this dangerous narcotic in Gilchrist County, Sheriff Schultz said.

Fentanyl is a powerful synthetic opioid analgesic that is similar to morphine, but it is 50 to 100 times more potent than morphine. It is a schedule II prescription drug, and it is typically used to treat patients with severe pain or to manage pain after surgery, according to the National Institute on Drug Abuse.

Fentanyl deaths are increasing, according to information from the DEA and CDC.

In March and October of 2015, the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) issued nationwide alerts identifying fentanyl, particularly illicitly manufactured fentanyl, as a threat to public health and safety.

During 2013–2014, fentanyl submissions increased 494 percent in Florida (from 33 to 196) and 1,043 percent in Ohio (from 109 to 1,246), concurrent with a 115 percent increase in fentanyl deaths in Florida (from 185 to 397) and a 526 percent increase in Ohio (from 84 to 526).

In Florida, fentanyl submissions and fentanyl deaths gradually increased during May to November of 2014, with a sharp increase during December 2014 to February 2015. The CDC recommended monitoring fentanyl deaths, according to the report.

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As for other drugs found in the Gilchrist County seizure on Friday (Jan. 27), cocaine and marijuana were also taken, according to the Jan. 30 press release from Capt. Brown.

A semi-automatic handgun, thousands of dollars in cash, and other drug-related paraphernalia were seized as well, Brown said.

Detectives estimate the street value of the narcotics seized to be in the thousands of dollars.

Detectives report that this particular drug house was one of the largest distribution sites of crystal methamphetamine for several counties in Florida.

Sheriff Schultz thanks all of the law enforcement officers and agencies involved in this operation and the Gilchrist County Emergency Services for its assistance too.

Sheriff Schultz reiterated his firm stance on illegal narcotics and to those who sell them.

"The citizens of Gilchrist County do not want our county infected with the poison these individuals are making and selling," Sheriff Schultz said on Friday. "The Gilchrist County Sheriff's Office will use all available resources at our disposal to investigate, arrest and bring to justice those who refuse to abide by the laws set forth. Some will not heed my warning and will continue to engage in this illegal activity with the false sense of comfort that they are untouchable. However, they will mess up. They will make a mistake. And we will be there to arrest them."