



Hernando County Sheriff's Office

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Media Release

From: Denise M. Moloney
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Re: Largest One Pot Meth Lab Bust in Hernando County

Date: April 2, 2014

Acting on a tip of methamphetamine being manufactured, Hernando County Vice detectives responded to Hawk's Nest RV Park located at 11185 Commercial Way in Brooksville early Tuesday morning.

Upon arrival at lot #4, detectives knocked on the door of a 30 foot travel trailer. Carey Norton, 41, answered the door. While speaking with Norton through the open door, detectives observed, in plain view by the door, several "one pot vessels" used to manufacture methamphetamine.

Detectives immediately extracted both Norton and his mother from the travel trailer for safety reasons as meth labs are extremely volatile.

Detectives learned that Norton lives with, and is responsible for the care of, his 62 year old mother. Norton's mother suffers from numerous medical conditions and relies on him for her daily care.

The Department of Children and Families (DCF) was contacted immediately by detectives due to the state of health of the female and the fact that she would not be able to return to her home (the travel trailer). DCF took custody of the female and placed her in an assisted living facility.

Detectives received information from neighbors that Norton had an associate living in the park at lot #1. Neighbors believed that this individual was engaging in similar activity.

Upon knocking on the door at lot #1, Johnny Carrington, 40, answered the door of the RV. Detectives immediately observed that Carrington was highly intoxicated. Detectives requested identification from Carrington. When he retreated to retrieve his identification,

detectives observed, in plain view, several “one pot vessels” used to manufacture methamphetamine.

Carrington was immediately extracted from his residence for safety reasons.

The entire scene was secured.

All residents in the immediate area were asked to vacate their homes for safety reasons. The area was secured by the Hernando County Sheriff’s Office and the Hernando County Fire/Rescue HAZMAT Team.

Detectives then obtained Search Warrants for the residences located at lot # 1 and lot #4.

Pursuant to the execution of the Search Warrant at lot #4, detectives located:

- 73 “one pot meth labs”
- 106 hydrochloric acid generators (used to manufacture methamphetamine)
- Various dangerous chemicals and items of drug paraphernalia.

It should be noted that this is the largest amount of “one pot meth labs” ever located in Hernando County.

Carey Norton W/M DOB/10-20-1972 was arrested by detectives, charged as follows:

- Drugs/Produce - Methamphetamine
- Drugs/Produce - Possess a Structure/Vehicle Manufacture Drugs
- Drugs/Possess – Listed Chemicals with Manufacture Controlled Substance
- Drug Equipment Posses and/or Use
- Bond - \$25,500.

Pursuant to the execution of the Search Warrant at lot #1, detectives located:

- 15 “one pot meth labs”
- 7 hydrochloric acid generators (used to manufacture methamphetamine)
- Various dangerous chemicals and items of drug paraphernalia.

Johnny Carrington W/M DOB/01-29-1974 was arrested by detectives, charged as follows:

- Drugs/Produce - Methamphetamine
- Drugs/Produce - Possess a Structure/Vehicle Manufacture Drugs
- Drugs/Possess – Listed Chemicals with Manufacture Controlled Substance
- Drug Equipment Posses and/or Use
- Bond - \$20,500.

Sheriff Al Nienhuis said, “The dangers of abusing any controlled substance are well documented. The manufacture and use of methamphetamine, however, is in its own league. The manufacturing process is very dangerous, creates hazardous waste, and produces a product that wreaks havoc on the user’s body. It is for this reason that we are going to encourage, if these individuals are convicted, sentences that are decades in prison.

We cannot have this type of activity going on in our community. I have directed my Public Information Officer to start a brief educational campaign that solicits the public’s help in identifying these operations, so we can put the operators out of business and into prison before disaster strikes. As I have stated before, we all need to work together to make drug

abuse socially unacceptable by discouraging our friends and loved ones from recreational use of any controlled drugs. Looking the other way is simply not acceptable.”

Detectives believe that both subjects are known to each other and were manufacturing methamphetamine for personal use.