Media Release

From: Michael Terry
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Re: Two Arrested in Connection with Meth Production in Brooksville Motel Room

Date: October 20, 2014

On 10-19-14 at approximately 9:00 a.m., deputies responded to the Budget Inn, 1795 E Jefferson St., Brooksville, in reference to an anonymous tip that a couple was making meth inside their motel room.

When deputies arrived the two occupants of the room opened the door where deputies observed a one-pot meth lab inside the room.

The occupants of the room, Benjamin Welch, W/M DOB/5-13-79, and Rebecca Looney, W/F 9-8-81, were immediately taken into custody.

Members of the Vice and Narcotics Unit were called in to dismantle and dispose of the meth lab.

Looney told deputies that Welch was making the meth.

Investigators then made contact with the motel’s management to inform them of the incident. Management proceeded to evict Welch and Looney from the room.

While deputies were inside the room, they located a spent “one pot,” HCL generator, tubing, pill grinder and receipts from purchases made to construct the meth lab. The items tested positive for meth.

A Citrus County Sheriff’s Office detective responded to the motel to assist in packaging and transporting the lab chemicals and waste to a secure hazardous chemical receiving site in Citrus County for disposal.

Investigators said Welch, who along with Looney is visiting from Virginia, was making the meth for personal use.
Welch was arrested on charges of manufacturing a controlled substance, possession of meth, possession of drug paraphernalia, and providing false identification to a law enforcement officer.

Looney was charged with resisting an officer without violence.