

DELAWARE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

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PRESS RELEASE

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Seven people were sent to jail on felony drug charges following the discovery, dismantling and clean-up of an active, clandestine, methamphetamine laboratory in the Village of Walton on Tuesday night.

Following an investigation conducted by members of the Delaware County Sheriff's Office Criminal Investigation Division into the sale and on-going clandestine manufacture of methamphetamine in the Village of Walton, on Tuesday morning Sheriff's Investigators obtained a search warrant for a Village of Walton residence.

A coordinated, multi-agency and disciplined execution of that search warrant was conducted on 116 East Street in the Village of Walton on Tuesday night by members of the Delaware County Sheriff's Office, New York State Police Special Operations Response Team (SORT), New York State Contaminated Crime Scene Emergency Response Team (CCSERT). Deputies and Troopers were also assisted by members of the Walton Village Police Department and Delaware County Department of Emergency Services.

Due to inherent chemical, fire and explosion hazards associated with the clandestine manufacture of methamphetamine, assistance from the New York State Special Operations Response Team and New York State Contaminated Crime Scene Emergency Response Team was requested. These specialized teams are deployed statewide to respond to clandestine laboratory sites, safely enter and dismantle those laboratories, secure evidence from within those chemically contaminated environments and safely remove those hazardous wastes generated during the methamphetamine manufacturing process.

Upon entering the residence and executing the search warrant, NYSP SORT and CCSERT team members located and removed seven adults and three children from the vicinity of an actively cooking "one-pot" methamphetamine lab. The seven adults were subsequently arrested and Child Protective Services was notified to take custody of the children. All three children were provided immediate medical evaluation for potential contamination of toxic chemicals produced during the manufacture of the methamphetamine and subsequently placed into emergency foster care.

As a result of the execution of the search warrant, police seized an active meth lab, precursor chemicals, quantities of crystalline methamphetamine, several "spent" one pot, or "*shake and*

bake” meth labs, numerous prescription medications, cocaine, marijuana and public assistance benefit cards. Sheriff’s Investigators arrested and charged the following:

- James J. Nash, Sr., 35, of 116 East St., Walton;
- Amanda L. Bicknell, 31, of 116 East St., Walton;
- James M. Klinegardner, Jr., 38, of Rock Island, Tn., and 116 East St., Walton;
- Brooklyn Alford, 18, of 80 Liberty St., Walton;
- Tammy R. Lewis, 36, of Finch Hollow Road, Walton;
- Johnny Uhl, 29, of Swan Lake, NY;
- Emily L. Uhl, 22, of Swan Lake, NY;

Each of the suspects was preliminarily charged with one class D felony offense of Unlawful Manufacture of Methamphetamine in the Third Degree, arraigned in the Village of Walton Court before Judge Yvonne Pagillo early Wednesday morning and was remanded to the Delaware County Correctional Facility in lieu of \$50,000 cash bail or \$100,000 bond. Nash was additionally charged with Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance 7th (Suboxone) and Johnny Uhl was charged with Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance 7th (Cocaine) as well as Unlawful Possession of Marijuana.

Later Wednesday, each of these defendants was also charged in the Village of Walton Court with the following additional offenses:

- Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance in the Third Degree (*Intent to Sell*), a class B felony;
- Unlawfully Manufacturing Methamphetamine in the Second Degree (*manufacturing in the presence of child less than sixteen*), a class C felony;
- Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance in the Fifth Degree (*Intent to Sell*), a class D felony;
- Unlawful Disposal of Methamphetamine Laboratory Materials, a class E felony
- Three counts of Endangering the Welfare of a Child, a class A misdemeanor.

Upon recommendation of the District Attorney’s Office, all Seven defendants were returned to the Delaware County Corrections Facility on \$150,000 cash bail or \$300,000 property bond.

The Delaware County Sheriff’s Office and New York State Police wish to express their thanks and praise to the brave members of the Walton Volunteer Fire Department who responded and remained on scene throughout the cleanup to provide additional scene safety and remained ready to respond to any potential health, fire or explosion threat created by the clandestine laboratory.

Undersheriff Craig DuMond remarked, “Drug Dealers in Delaware County have been put on notice...don’t bring your poison here. Our members, along with our partners on the State, Federal and local levels will be unrelenting until we find you and bring you to justice”. “We will also call for and encourage the aggressive prosecution and sentencing of these low lives who are ruining our communities....they are destroying our future generations...the fact that parents would allow their children to be exposed to these situations is both sickening and heartbreaking”.