



Madison County drug agents seize \$421,000 worth of prescription pills, cash during bust

By Niki Doyle, The Huntsville Times

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Eric Schultz / The Huntsville Times

Sgt. Mike Salomonsky shows the drugs recovered after searching a Moores Mill Road home and a storage facility in north Madison County.

HUNTSVILLE, AL -- Madison County drug agents discovered more than 20,000 pills and \$180,600 cash in a storage facility during one of the county's largest investigations into illegal prescription medication sales.

Sgt. Mike Salomonsky of the county's narcotics team said the drugs are valued at about \$240,700. Investigators confiscated the following:

- 11,000 Methadone pills
- 1,500 amphetamine tablets
- 3,000 Soma tablets
- 1,000 Dilaudid pills
- 1,500 Xanax
- 2,500 Phentermine
- 60 Morphine pills
- 200 Oxycontin
- 35 bottles of Tussinex cough syrup
- 15 pounds of marijuana

Investigators also took a gun and the cash from the facility.

"In my 14 years in law enforcement, I have never seen this amount of

prescription pills together," he said.

Salomonsky said the bust was the result of an investigation that started in the summer of 2009, when 49-year-old Ricky Glenn Taylor was arrested for trafficking in prescription pills.

The Madison County Narcotics Team received information from a confidential informant and from an anonymous e-mail that led them to execute a search warrant Thursday at Taylor's house at 6967 Moores Mill Road and at the storage facility.

Salomonsky declined to release the address of the storage unit, citing concern for the business owner, who was not involved in the drug ring. Deputies arrested Taylor's girlfriend, Christy McBride, 27, who had been living in his home since his arrest last year. Taylor is still being held in the Madison County Jail without bond.

The storage unit was listed under McBride's name, Salomonsky said. After drug agents searched the home, she gave them the keys to the storage unit.

She is being held in the Madison County Jail on a \$200,000 bond for trafficking in marijuana, Salomonsky said. He said additional charges are pending, but he hopes to arrest another eight or nine people first as part of a criminal enterprise case. By charging all the suspects under the state's "kingpin law," they would be subject to a stricter sentence if convicted.



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Madison County Jail

Christy McBride, 27, is charged with trafficking in marijuana.

Drug agents also arrested Taylor's brother, Ronald Edward "Bo" Taylor, 60, and Albert Ernie Maples, 53, in connection with the trafficking of prescription pills. Their bonds were set at \$500,000 and \$200,000 respectively, but they have both made bond and have been released from jail.

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