



Sheriff Jimmy Thornton  
Sampson Co. Sheriff's Office  
112 Fontana Street  
Clinton, NC 28328  
(910) 592-4141

# ***PRESS RELEASE***

DATE: January 13, 2010

TOPIC: Breaking and Entering Call Leads to Meth Lab Seizure

FOR RELEASE: Immediate

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## CONTACT INFORMATION:

Sampson Co. Sheriff's Office - Capt. Eric Pope @ (910) 592-4141

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Clinton, NC – On January 12<sup>th</sup>, deputies with the Sampson County Sheriff's Office responded to 95 Artesia Springs Lane just outside of Newton Grove, NC, due to a report of a breaking and entering. Upon arriving at the location the deputies encountered a female, who had made illegal entry into the residence to locate her boyfriend. The deputies searched the residence and located the boyfriend hiding in a shower. They also located the complainant, Brandy Nicole Arrieta, barricaded in her bedroom, unable to open the door without assistance.

When the deputies forced the door open to assist Ms. Arrieta in getting out, they observed multiple components used in the production of methamphetamine. The deputies immediately evacuated the residence and requested investigators from the Sheriff's Office Special Investigations Division. Investigators with the Special Investigations Division responded and executed a search warrant on the residence, along with agents of the State Bureau of Investigation Clandestine Meth Lab Response Team. After several hours, the meth lab components were processed and seized, in addition to two grams of methamphetamine.

Ms. Arrieta declined prosecution of the female who had made illegal entry into her residence, therefore she was released on the scene. Ms. Arrieta was taken into custody and charged with the following: Two counts of Possession/Distribution of Methamphetamine Precursors; One count of Manufacturing Methamphetamine; One count of Possession of Methamphetamine; and One count of Possession of Drug Paraphernalia. Ms. Arrieta was placed in the Sampson County Detention Center under a \$50,000.00 bond.

A hazardous materials clean-up crew responded to the scene to take possession of the meth lab components. The Newton Grove Fire Department responded as required by safety protocol, and the Newton Grove Police Department responded as mutual aid on the initial breaking and entering call.



Brandy Nicole Arrieta



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# ***PRESS RELEASE***

DATE: January 26, 2010

TOPIC: Juveniles Caught With Prescription Medications at Midway Middle School

FOR RELEASE: Immediate

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## CONTACT INFORMATION:

Sampson Co. Sheriff's Office - Capt. Eric Pope @ (910) 592-4141

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Clinton, NC – The Sheriff's Office is investigating two incidents involving juveniles bringing prescription medications to Midway Middle School on two separate occasions. On Friday, January 15<sup>th</sup> a student was discovered to be in possession of a prescription medication that is not included in the North Carolina Controlled Substances Act. On January 21<sup>st</sup>, another student was found to be in possession of a prescription medication that is not included in the North Carolina Controlled Substance Act. The medications were not prescribed for the juveniles, and the juveniles were not suppose to be in possession of them.

Deputies, along with school officials have interviewed the juveniles involved and met with their parents. The Sampson County School System has initiated disciplinary measures against the juveniles involved. The Sheriff's Office is in the process of filing "Juvenile Petitions" on the individuals involved.

The medication discovered was an anti-biotic, however if not taken under the supervision of a physician could cause harm, especially if an individual has medication allergies. Sheriff Thornton would like to take this opportunity to remind parents to secure their prescription medications and properly dispose of old medications they no longer use.



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# ***PRESS RELEASE***

DATE: January 22, 2010

TOPIC: Old Cotton Gin Road Resident Arrested in Operation Perk Up

FOR RELEASE: Immediate

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## CONTACT INFORMATION:

Sampson Co. Sheriff's Office - Capt. Eric Pope @ (910) 592-4141

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Clinton, NC – On Thursday, January 21, 2010, deputies with the Sampson County Sheriff's Office Special Investigations Division arrested Sarah Rhodes, age 64, of 445 Old Cotton Gin Road, Roseboro, NC. The arrest was the result of an undercover operation dubbed "Operation Perk Up." Additional arrests are expected in the coming days.

Rhodes was charged with one count of Conspiracy to Sell/Deliver Cocaine and two counts of Trafficking Opium. Ms. Rhodes was placed in the Sampson County Detention Center under a \$250,000.00 bond set by Magistrate Jackie Dixon.



Sarah Rhodes