

Marcelino Rodriguez arrested, charged in case involving cache of drugs, cash

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A recent warrant served on an Austin man led officers to a cache of drugs and cash at an East Cherry Street residence.

Sheriff Dan McClain and Deputy Jeremy Arnold had accompanied a state parole officer to the residence of Marcelino Rodriguez, 36, on Tuesday, June 11. When they were allowed to enter the home, the parole officer saw a glass pipe in a bed coated heavily with residue.

The officers' initial search of Rodriguez also revealed a quantity of cash, over \$2,700, it was later learned. When asked where he was working, Rodriguez could not provide an answer, Deputy Arnold's probable cause affidavit related.

Some drug paraphernalia was also seized as evidence. A woman found at the home was not charged.

As Rodriguez was going through the booking process, jailers located a plastic-wrapped baggy tied in a knot. Jail Commander Doug Herald stated that the baggy came from the suspect's buttocks area. The baggy was said to contain 24 Oxymorphone pills, a Schedule 2 narcotic, and approximately 1.1 grams of heroin. Deputy Arnold field-tested the pipe residue and said it was methamphetamine.

Rodriguez was booked in at the Scott County Security Center for violation of his parole on 2007 charges that included a Circuit Court case for possession of cocaine, a Class C felony, for which he was sentenced to four years, and Superior Court charges of operating a motor vehicle while intoxicated (OVI), fleeing law enforcement and reckless driving. His sentence on those charges totaled three years.

His newest charges include possession of methamphetamine and possession of cocaine (heroin), both Class B felonies; possession of a controlled substance, a Class C felony; and possession of paraphernalia, a Class A misdemeanor.

During his initial court appearance on June 13, Rodriguez learned that his bail has been set at \$100,000 corporate surety or full cash. His jury trial has been scheduled for November 12.

The defendant also learned that day that Deputy Prosecutor Amanda Herald filed an Habitual Controlled Substance Offender charge against him. Herald cited past felony convictions for felonies that included two counts of OVI, possession of cocaine and possession of methamphetamine stemming from 2000 through 2007.

Rodriguez told Judge Roger Duvall that he planned to hire an attorney to represent him in the case.

In a related matter, a civil action has been filed in Circuit Court to retain all of the money officers seized that day at Rodriguez's home.