

Salem man could get up to 50 years

Written by George Browning

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Washington County Prosecutor Dustin Houchin accepted a plea agreement from Donald E. Jones.

Jones pled guilty to aiding in the manufacturing of methaphedimine, a class A felony.

In the State of Indiana a class A felony carries a sentence of between 20-50 years.

Jones will be sentenced April 23.

“We had a really good case,” Houchin said. “The county drug team did a good job and everything ran smoothly.”

Jones' plea agreement brought an end to a case that began in early March when he, along with Amanda J. McKinley, Salem, and April C. Meltion of Bedford, Ky. were arrested following the execution of a search warrant at 400 S. Harrison St. in Salem less than two blocks from Riley's Place at Depauw Park.

According to the probably cause affidavit, during the search, law enforcement officers located and seized items which are precursors for the manufacturing of methamphetamine.

A methamphetamine cook was actually in progress at the time the warrant was executed and the items were located in the kitchen area, according to the PC affidavit.

The PC affidavit also stated during the search, that officers also located and seized a a green

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plant like material which field tested positive for marijuana and weighed under 30 grams.

Washington County Sheriff Claude Combs said law enforcement officer were notified of suspicious purchases being made by a local vendor.

“One of the local businesses called the drug team and told them about these people,” he said. “That’s when the drug team started their job. The drug team has a working relationship with the local people around here. They know to call us if people start buying suspicious items.”

That call led the Washington County Drug Enforcement Team to follow the suspects to various stores throughout the day, which led to obtaining and executing a search warrant.

The cases against McKinley and Melton are still pending.