



DELAWARE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

280 PHOEBE LANE • SUITE ONE
DELHI, NEW YORK 13753

Thomas E. Mills
Sheriff

Craig S. DuMond
Undersheriff

PRESS RELEASE

March 21, 2014

DRUG SWEEP LANDS (14) FELONY CHARGES

After several lengthy investigations conducted by Delaware County Sheriff's Investigators, a major sweep was conducted late Thursday netting five arrests on Sealed Grand Jury Indictment Warrants charging a total of fourteen felony level drug charges as well as additional charges stemming from those arrests.

The following arrests are the result of five separate investigations conducted earlier this year by the Delaware County Sheriff's Office Criminal Investigation Division:

On Thursday afternoon, Delaware County Sheriff's Office Deputies and Investigators, assisted by the Otsego County Sheriff's Office, arrested 32 year old **Landon L. Cullipher** of State Highway 23, Oneonta, on a Sealed Indictment Warrant charging him with three, class B felony charges of Criminal Sale of a Controlled Substance in the Third Degree.

Cullipher is accused of selling **heroin** in the Town of Davenport on three occasions earlier this year.

On Thursday evening Sheriff's Investigators arrested 21 year old **William J. Effner** of Ehlermann Road, Delhi, on a Sealed Indictment Warrant charging him with three, class B felony charges of Criminal Sale of a Controlled Substance in the Third Degree.

Effner is accused of selling **heroin** in the Village of Delhi on three occasions earlier this year.

Investigators also arrested 28 year old former Treadwell resident **Johnathan S. Hawley**, now of West Street, Oneonta, on a Sealed Indictment Warrant charging him with two, class C felony charges of Criminal Sale of a Controlled Substance in the Fourth Degree.

Hawley is accused of selling **Suboxone** in the Town of Meredith and the Village of Delhi earlier this year.

Sheriff's Deputies and Investigators, assisted by SUNY Delhi University Police, also arrested two SUNY Delhi students following two unrelated narcotics investigations in the Village of Delhi. **Shawn Prakash**, 20, of Hicksville, NY and **Joshua A. Rutt**, 22, of Port Jervis, NY, were both arrested on Sealed Indictment Warrants charging each of them with three, class B felony charges of Criminal Sale of a Controlled Substance in the Third Degree.

Prakash is accused of selling **cocaine** on the SUNY Delhi Campus on three occasions earlier this year.

Rutt is accused of selling **cocaine** at his Village of Delhi residence on three occasions earlier this year.

All of the defendants were arraigned on the Sealed Indictment Warrants in Delaware County Court on Friday morning by the Honorable Carl F. Becker, County Court Judge and returned to jail without bail pending further court action.

In addition to their arrests on the Sealed Indictment Warrants, Cullipher, Rutt and Prakash also face additional charges.

Cullipher was arrested and charged with Promoting Prison Contraband in the First Degree, a D felony, and Criminally Possessing a Hypodermic Instrument. Cullipher is accused of possessing a hypodermic instrument upon intake at the Delaware County Correctional Facility.

A search of Cullipher's clothing conducted by Delaware County Correctional Facility intake officers upon his admission to the jail resulted in the discovery of a hypodermic syringe and needle secreted within the hem of his jacket.

Cullipher will be arraigned on those charges in the Town of Delhi Court at a later time.

Prakash will also face additional drug related charges, which will be filed by SUNY Delhi University Police as a result of their execution of a search warrant on Prakash's SUNY Delhi dorm room Thursday evening.

Rutt was also charged with Unlawful Possession of Marihuana and issued an Appearance Ticket returnable in the Town of Delhi Court at a later date. He is accused of possessing a quantity of marihuana at the time of his arrest.

In addition, as the result of possible fraud involving the possession of a Public Assistance Benefit Card by one of the defendants, a referral was made to Otsego County District Attorney's Investigators regarding potential public assistance fraud in Otsego County.

In closing earlier this year, in an effort to discourage the introduction and possession of drugs within the Delaware County Correctional Facility, Sheriff Thomas Mills instituted a new policy authorizing random K-9 narcotic searches within the jail. The K-9 searches augment random searches of the facility that have been routinely conducted by Correction Officers. Several K-9 searches have been conducted within the jail this year by K9 Handler Deputy John Demeo, K-9 "Ozzie" and members of the Criminal Investigation Division. No drugs or drug related paraphernalia have been located within the jail housing units or recreation areas as a result of the on-going searches.



Jail Search



Landon Cullipher



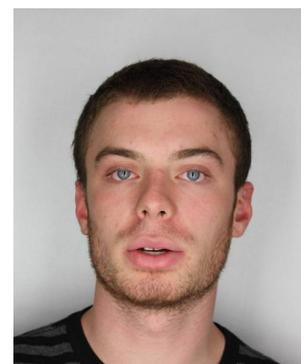
William Effner



Johnathan Hawley



Shawn Prakash



Joshua Rutt