



Morgantown Police Department

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NEWS RELEASE
For Immediate Release

April 11, 2014

“MonValley Drug Task Force Seizes Meth Lab”

Pursuant to an ongoing investigation, Detectives of the MonValley Drug Task Force (MVDTF) executed a search warrant on April 10, 2014 MVDTF at a residence located at 501 White Avenue, Morgantown.

Agents of the MVDTF obtained and confirmed information that resulted in the issuance of a search warrant to search for evidence of a clandestine methamphetamine laboratory.

Agents of the MVDTF, with the assistance of the Morgantown fire department, seized approximately 60 "one pot" labs.

One pot labs refer to a method that uses small containers such as soda pop bottles to make small batches of Methamphetamine (Meth). All ingredients are put in the bottle which creates a reaction and that results in the production of meth. One pots (also known as the shake and bake method) is extremely dangerous due to the volatile chemicals and chemical reactions that are used.

At this time one arrest has been made, Gary Rayfield Shroust 41 Years of Age, has been charged with one count of operating a clandestine laboratory and one count of child endangerment. Additional charges anticipated at the conclusion of the investigation.

The City of Morgantown Code Enforcement Office assisted MVDTF and as a result of the dangerous chemical contamination the building located at 501 White Avenue has been condemned. The condemnation resulted in the Red Cross providing immediate assistance to relocate and temporarily house the residents of the building.

The Department of Health and Human Resources (DHHR) and the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection (WVDEP) has been contacted to take custody and remove the hazardous materials.

The Morgantown Police Department is committed to its goal of eliminating crime in our city. Citizens are encouraged to become a **“Partner in Policing”**, by reporting suspected criminal activity to Morgantown Police Department Switchboard at (304) 284-7522. If you need immediate Police attention or a crime is in progress call 911.

Ed Preston
Chief of Police