Written by Staff Reports Friday, November 16, 2012 2:12 PM - Last Updated Friday, November 16, 2012 2:21 PM



DELPHOS — A Delphos man could face up to 23 years in prison for potential drug charges following a West Central Ohio Crime Task Force raid on a mobile home at 835 W. Skinner St., Lot 75.

The task force entered the home at approximately 9:35 a.m. Thursday following an investigation into an alleged "drug house" at that address. Matthew L. Brown 51, was found inside and was arrested for possession of heroin after a large quantity of suspected heroin was found.

Also found inside the residence were:

- A large quantity of suspected cocaine
- A moderate quantity of suspected marijuana
- A small quantity of suspected pharmaceutical pills
- A large quantity of suspected drug paraphernalia
- A large quantity of US currency

It is expected that additional charges will be presented to an upcoming session of the Van Wert County Grand Jury.

Due to the amount of suspected heroin that was found, it is a felony of the first degree and carries a 3-10 year prison sentence if Brown is indicted and convicted. Due to the amount of suspected cocaine that was found, it is a felony of the first degree and carries a 3-10 year prison sentence if Brown is indicted and convicted. If Brown is indicted and convicted on all potential charges, he will face a sentence ranging from 3 years to 23 years.

Due to the quantity of the suspected heroin and cocaine found inside of the residence, this is the most substantial drug related search warrant that has been carried out within the City of

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Delphos in over a decade.

There have been 18 people, arrested on 52 separate drug related indictments, in Delphos thus far in 2012. There have also been 12 drug related search warrants executed within Delphos since November 2011.

The West Central Ohio Crime Task Force is comprised of officers from the following agencies; Allen County Sheriff's Office, Van Wert County Sheriff's Office, Lima Police Department, Delphos Police Department and multiple state/ federal agencies. This task force operates within a multi county area to combat drugs and major crimes.