



Bates County Sheriff's Office

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Operation Stuff the Bird A Thanksgiving Day Epidemic

On 11/23/17, Thanksgiving Day, at approximately 8:00 am Butler Police Department received a call from a Drug Task Force in the St. Louis area in regards to a drug courier in the Butler area. The taskforce advised that they were aware of a possible shipment of a large amount of Marijuana that was in the Butler area. The Lieutenant from Butler Police Department reached out to members of the CNET Drug Taskforce and Detectives from the Bates County Sheriff's Office. Agents from all three agencies began to work on the lead and located the suspected truck in Butler. Additional staff was called in for surveillance and execution of a search warrant. A search warrant for 303 E Atkinson was served at approximately 230 pm to seize the truck in question. After two separate K9 hits on the truck, a second search warrant was served to search the truck at approximately 430 pm. Agents spent several hours dismantling the bed of the truck to find hidden compartments that contained large bales of high grade marijuana.

A total of 52 bales of Marijuana were recovered with a total weight of approximately 152 lbs. The street value of the marijuana was between \$500,000 to \$750,000. The target of the investigation was not at the house at the time law enforcement seized the truck. This case is very large and a multi-person, multi-state, criminal case so local law enforcement will be presenting its findings along with the St Louis area drug task force to a federal prosecutor for a federal indictment on any and all parties involved.

Sheriff Anderson says, "This is exactly why our area law enforcement has to have good working relationships with each other. I am very Thankful for those relationships and the men and women who chose to give up their holiday with their family to go out and protect our community to take drugs off the street."

