



U.S. Department of Justice

United States Attorney

Southern District of Iowa

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MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
July 18, 2008

CONTACT: Mike Bladel
Law Enforcement Coordinator

Several Ottumwa Area Residents Arrested in Conspiracy to Distribute Cocaine

Ottumwa, IA - During the early morning hours of July 18, 2008, law enforcement officials arrested nine people in Ottumwa, Iowa on federal charges of Conspiracy to Distribute Cocaine announced U.S. Attorney Matthew G. Whitaker. The arrests are the result of a twelve month investigation by local, state, and federal authorities of the Dugout Bar located at 533 Church Street and an after-hours nightclub known as the Plowboy located at 105 East Main Street, both in Ottumwa, Iowa.

The nine people arrested in Ottumwa are identified as:

James R. Edwards
Ottumwa, Iowa
Age 39

Sandra Lee Piedlow
Ottumwa, Iowa
Age 32

Israel Joubert
Ottumwa, Iowa
Age 38

Jerry Eugene Miller
Ottumwa, Iowa
Age 24

Mario Vincent Gadberry
Ottumwa, Iowa
Age 22

Derek Oneal
Ottumwa, Iowa
Age 45

Rafael DeLazaro
Ottumwa, Iowa
Age 37

Marlon Rayon Rust
Ottumwa, Iowa
Age 34

All eight defendants above are currently being held without bond pending their initial appearance before the U.S. Magistrate for the Southern District of Iowa, in Des Moines, Iowa.

Additionally, William Albert Edwards III of Eldon, Iowa was arrested on similar federal charges in St. Louis, Missouri. He is also being held without bond pending an initial appearance in Des Moines, Iowa.

This case is being investigated by the Ottumwa Police Department, the Wapello County Sheriff's Office, the Iowa Division of Narcotics Enforcement, the U. S. Drug Enforcement Administration, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives and the Internal Revenue Service - Criminal Investigations.

Please see page two for a list of all the agencies that participated or assisted in this morning's arrests and search warrants.

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Agencies Participating in Search Warrants and Arrests:

Ottumwa Police Department
Centerville Police Department
Mt. Pleasant Police Department
Wapello County Sheriff's Department
Jefferson County Sheriff's Department
Van Buren County Sheriff's Department
Southeast Iowa Interagency Drug Task Force
South Central Iowa Drug Task Force
Iowa State Patrol
Iowa Department of Corrections
Iowa Department of Narcotics Enforcement
U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration
U.S. Alcohol, Tobacco, & Firearms
U.S. Internal Revenue Service - Criminal Investigations
U.S. Attorney's Office For the Southern District of Iowa

PLEASE NOTE: "A criminal charge is merely an accusation and a defendant is presumed innocent until proven guilty."

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