

# Eddie Cathey

## Sheriff of Union County

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## ***NEWS RELEASE***

For Immediate Release

November 16, 2017

### **6 More Facing Drug Trafficking Charges in Union County**

The Union County Sheriff's Office narcotics unit is having another busy week after three interdiction operations yielded trafficking level seizures of heroin and methamphetamines. Five suspects are in the Union County Jail as a result of the Sheriff's Office drug enforcement unit's most recent efforts. A sixth suspect is also in custody after a long term drug investigation resulted in several drug trafficking charges.

On Monday, the Narcotics Enforcement Team (NET) was working on Pageland Highway near Landsford Road when team members stopped a vehicle driven by 23 year old **Gonzalo Martinez Barboza** of Charlotte. When one of the deputies attempted to speak with Barboza, he observed balloons in Barboza's mouth. Barboza was removed from the vehicle and multiple balloons filled with approximately 12 grams of heroin were seized from his mouth.

Barboza was arrested and remains in the Union County Jail facing a charge of Trafficking in Heroin, Maintaining a Drug Vehicle and Possession of Drug Paraphernalia.



BARBOZA



On Tuesday evening, narcotics detectives conducted another interdiction stop of a BMW in the 2400 block of West Roosevelt Boulevard in Monroe. The vehicle was occupied by three individuals, **Jonathan William Craig**, age 33, of Monroe; **Destni Lee Thomas**, age 22 of Monroe and **Jamie Desi Christensen**, age 36 of Mineral Springs. K-9 "Yago" alerted to the scent of narcotics and a search revealed more than 30 grams of methamphetamines, 18 Clonazepam pills, a quantity of Xanax, drug paraphernalia and a .22 caliber handgun. In addition, deputies found a safe in the vehicle where some of the drugs were hidden. The three suspects are still in custody at the Union County Jail facing the following charges:

**Craig:** Trafficking in Methamphetamines by Possession  
Trafficking in Methamphetamines by Transportation  
Simple Possession of Schedule IV Controlled Substance  
Maintaining a Drug Vehicle  
Possession of Drug Paraphernalia

**Thomas:** Trafficking in Methamphetamines by Possession  
Trafficking in Methamphetamines by Transportation  
Simple Possession of Schedule IV Controlled Substance  
Possession of Drug Paraphernalia

**Christensen:** Trafficking in Methamphetamines by Possession  
Trafficking in Methamphetamines by Transportation  
Simple Possession of Schedule IV Controlled Substance  
Possession of Drug Paraphernalia  
Possession of Firearm by Convicted Felon



CRAIG



CHRISTENSEN



THOMAS



On Wednesday, narcotics detectives and a member of the Sheriff's Alcohol Field Enforcement (SAFE) Unit executed another interdiction stop of a vehicle on East Independence near Indian Trail. The vehicle was occupied by 40 year old **Victor Adiel Renteria-Evangelista** of Lincoln. K-9 "Atos" alerted on the scent of illegal narcotics in the vehicle and a search revealed the presence of approximately 33 grams of heroin and \$2156.00 in US Currency. Renteria-Evangelista was taken into custody and he is in the Union County Jail facing the following charges:

- Trafficking in Heroin by Possession
- Trafficking in Heroin by Transportation
- Maintaining a Drug Vehicle
- No Operator's License
- Unsafe Lane Change



RENTERIA-EVANGELISTA



Another long term drug investigation culminated this week with the arrest of 31 year old **Robert Mandez McMurray, AKA “Rooster,”** of Macedonia Church Road, Monroe. McMurray was charged with four counts of Trafficking in Heroin and one count of Possession with Intent to Sale and Deliver Heroin. He remains in the Union County Jail with his next court date of January 9, 2018.



McMURRAY

Sheriff Eddie Cathey commented, “Proactive drug operations are a critical part of our enforcement efforts as we continue fighting this epidemic that has impacted so many people. Every gram of heroin or meth we seize is that much less that hits the streets and feeds someone’s addiction. We have more work to do, not only with arrests but with awareness and education programs.”

Point of contact for this press release is Chief Communications Officer Tony Underwood, 704-292-2707.

Citizens with information concerning criminal activity are encouraged to call:

**Union County Sheriff's Office** at 704-283-3789

Or

**Union County Crimestoppers** at 704-283-5600

