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**FIVE DRUG DEALERS SENTENCED FOR DISTRIBUTING PRESCRIPTION DRUGS**

CHARLESTON, W. Va. – Five people were sentenced yesterday for their role in a three-year drug trafficking ring operating in Lincoln County, West Virginia.

Todd Anthony Gibbs, 34, of Huntington, West Virginia was sentenced to 30 months in prison for acting as a middle-man in the drug ring. Clint Farris, 33, of Harts, West Virginia, and Andrewina Lynn Corathers, 35, of St. Albans, West Virginia, were sentenced to 24 months and 12 months in prison, respectively. All three previously pleaded guilty to conspiracy to distribute oxycodone. Allen “Stevie” Williamson, 39, of Chapmanville, West Virginia was also sentenced to 12 months in prison, and JoAnna Sue McCann, 24, of Harts, was sentenced to a three-year term of supervised release. Williamson and McCann previously pleaded guilty last October, admitting they distributed quantities of oxycodone.

“In 2011, I’m going to escalate the battle against prescription drug crime,” said U.S. Attorney Booth Goodwin. “Pill-pushing criminals wreck thousands of lives every year, and just about every West Virginian knows someone who has been touched by this crisis. I intend to attack the prescription drug problem more forcefully than ever in the months ahead. Today’s sentencing should serve as a warning to those poisoning our communities with illegal pills.”

This case stems from a long-term investigation conducted by the 119 Drug and Violent Crime Task Force into an oxycodone trafficking ring operating in and around Harts from 2007 through April 2010. According to court documents, investigators made controlled purchases of oxycodone from several people, including Williamson, Corathers, and Joanna McCann, at the residence of Kerrick Lewis McCann in Harts. As stipulated in their plea agreements, Corathers and JoAnna McCann admitted that Kerrick Lewis McCann often directed and relied upon other members of the conspiracy to distribute oxycodone from his residence during his absence from the home.

The investigation revealed that members of the drug ring obtained the oxycodone from Gibbs who acted as a middle-man between his co-conspirators and out-of-state suppliers. Farris and Williamson were among the conspirators who made trips from Harts to Huntington in order to obtain oxycodone from Gibbs. According to court documents, Kerrick Lewis McCann also made trips or recruited others to travel to Huntington to obtain the prescription pills from Gibbs.

Kerrick Lewis McCann’s case remains pending.

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