

Feds arrest DA on meth charge

By Marilyn Powers,
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Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Amarillo office arrested Rick Roach, attorney for the 31st and 223rd Judicial Districts, in Gray County Courthouse this morning the 11th day since Roach's swearing-in for his second four-year term of office.

"He was arrested this morning at Gray County Courthouse on charges stated in a federal criminal complaint citing violation of Title 21 of U. S. Code Section 844A, knowingly and intentionally possessing methamphetamine," said Kathy Colvin, a spokesperson for the United States Attorney's Northern District of Texas office in Dallas.

Colvin could not give further information concerning the charge.

"This is an ongoing investigation, and the case is open. He is in the custody of the FBI, and the charge is out of Amarillo," Colvin said.

After his arrest, Roach was transported to Amarillo or Lubbock, she said.

"I assume he's on his way to Amarillo. He may be going to Lubbock" depending on the availability of a judge, Colvin said.

"All I can do is confirm that there was an arrest this morning in the district courtroom, prior to non-jury docket call at 9 a. m., by federal agents," said 223rd District Judge Lee Waters. He said Roach's arrest occurred sometime between 8:30 a. m. and 9 a.m.

"At this point, I have no comment," said Assistant District Attorney Lynn Switzer, whose office is in Wheeler, when telephoned this morning.

A call to Roach's office extension number reached his answering machine message this morning.

"I cannot comment on it right now," said Pampa Police Chief Trevlyn Pitner. Gray County Sheriff Don Copeland also declined to comment on the arrest. Pitner had confirmed that FBI agents had visited the police department and sheriff's office this morning.

A representative of the Texas Department of Public Safety's Pampa office was not available for comment as of press time today.

The Federal Bureau of investigation's Amarillo office had not returned a telephone call by press time today.

Waters and Gray County Judge Richard Peet both said they believed a special election would be involved in filling a vacancy for district attorney. Waters said he believed the governor would call the election. A telephone message to Governor Rick Perry's office had not been returned as of press time today.

Roach's territory covers Gray, Hemphill, Lipscomb, Roberts and Wheeler counties. He was first elected to the district attorney's office in 2000. He has been a licensed attorney for the past 25 years, and was Roberts County attorney for 10 years prior to election as district attorney.