

# Meth suspect acquitted

By Steven H. Pollak

Staff Writer

A jury of six men and six women deliberated less than two hours on Tuesday before acquitting a 34-year-old man who had been accused of distributing methamphetamine in Forsyth County.

Prosecutors had charged Stephen Forrest Arrington with one count of possession of methamphetamine with intent to distribute after detectives with the Forsyth County Sheriff's Office reported they raided his home on Jot-Em-Down Road last March and found three grams of methamphetamine, two sets of scales, several plastic baggies and some sort of alleged chemical "cutting agent" which is used to divide larger quantities of the drug into smaller portions.

Arrington pleaded not guilty and, ultimately, the jury agreed.

"It was a hard fought case on both sides," said Vic Wiegand, the attorney who represented the defendant for the two-day trial. "We think the jury reached a fair and just decision."

In his closing statement to the jury, Wiegand reminded the men and women on

Forsyth detectives seize about four and a half ounces of methamphetamine and arrest a suspected drug dealer.  
**See story, Page 3B**

the panel that four people were in Arrington's single-wide trailer at the time of the sheriff's office raid and any of them could have been the real owner of the methamphetamine.

He also noted that the law enforcement officers found no weapons or money in the trailer.

"Is it then assumed that this is a charitable, nonprofit drug dealing operation," Weigand said. "One would think money would change hands in a drug dealing operation."

On March 28 at about 10 p.m., the Forsyth County Sheriff's Office SWAT team along with detectives from the narcotics unit and deputies from the DUI Task Force arrived at Arrington's home in the 5500 block of Jot-Em-Down Road, broke down the front door with a battering ram and searched the residence for drugs, according to court documents.

See **METH**, Page 2A