

# JACKSON COUNTY DRUG TASK FORCE



2010

# ANNUAL REPORT

## **HISTORY**

In 1986, the Jackson County Missouri Drug Task Force (JCETF) was organized as a multi-jurisdictional investigative initiative in response to an emerging drug problem within the county. Throughout the 1980's, drug trafficking and an active drug culture were a part of daily life throughout Kansas City, Missouri and much of Jackson County. Illicit drugs, such as crack cocaine, methamphetamine and PCP were openly traded on street corners. Drug houses and methamphetamine labs literally sprung up throughout our County overnight. During its initial years the JCETF was funded through private donations and a grant.

In 1990 Jackson County residents approved a new one-quarter of one-percent anti-drug sales tax which would later become known as the Community Backed Anti-Drug Tax (COMBAT). The tax would support a broad based attack on drugs and drug related crimes. One of the enforcement initiatives COMBAT would fund was the JCETF.

The tax was renewed for a seven-year period in 1995, 2004 and again in 2009. The COMBAT tax provided the JCETF with an adjusted budget of \$1,825,477 in 2009.

The JCETF is a voluntary law enforcement organization that operates under the direction of an Executive Board comprised of representatives from fourteen jurisdictions in eastern Jackson County. Eight of these agencies supply manpower for the Task Force, while a Legal Advisor and Fiscal Officer are maintained on a contractual basis.

- Blue Springs Police Department - **3 Investigators**
- Buckner Police Department
- Grain Valley Police Department – **1 Investigator**
- Grandview Police Department - **1 Sergeant, 1 Investigator, 1 Sworn Intel Analyst**
- Greenwood Police Department
- Independence Police Department - **1 OIC, 1 Sergeant, 3 Investigators, 2 Chemists**
- Jackson County Sheriff's Department - **1 Investigator, 2 Administrative Personnel, 1 Sworn Property Officer**
- Lake Lotawana Police Department
- Lee's Summit Police Department - **2 Investigators**
- Lone Jack Police Department
- Missouri State Highway Patrol
- Oak Grove Police Department - **1 Investigator**
- Raytown Police Department
- Sugar Creek Police Department - **1 Investigator**

The County of Jackson has approximately 454 square miles. The JCETF primarily focuses on the eastern and southern portions of the county, which includes all suburban jurisdictions and unincorporated areas.

The purpose of the JCDTF is to provide a combined and unified response to the drug and narcotics problem as it exists in eastern Jackson County, Missouri. This eastern area represents approximately 52% of the population in Jackson County.

While JCDTF participates with all federal, state and local Kansas City area law enforcement agencies its primary investigative mission and focus continues toward the outlying areas of the county which are not adequately serviced by other agencies. In order to assist and further in these efforts, in 2010 several members of the JCDTF received Federal commissions from federal agencies in order to better conduct joint operations.

During 2010, the JCDTF initiated a long term plan on vehicle replacement and site location in order to reduce the daily operating costs and increase long term sustainability for Task Force operations

### ***Controlled substances seized and purchased***

<b>2010</b>	<b>Marijuana \$7 / gm</b>	<b>Methamphetamine \$100 / gm</b>	<b>Cocaine \$100 / gm</b>		<b>Ecstasy Pills \$20 / each</b>	<b>LSD and Mushrooms \$10 / gm</b>	<b>Heroin \$175 / gm</b>	<b>Pharmaceutical Pills \$20 / each</b>
			<b>Powder</b>	<b>Crack</b>				
<b>Pounds</b>	<b>189.71</b>	<b>4.11</b>	<b>3.62</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>N/A</b>
<b>Ounces</b>	<b>3035.47</b>	<b>65.86</b>	<b>58.01</b>	<b>13.15</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>3.37</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>N/A</b>
<b>Grams</b>	<b>86054.15</b>	<b>1867.11</b>	<b>1644.69</b>	<b>373.06</b>	<b>501</b>	<b>95.61</b>	<b>4.22</b>	<b>3038</b>
<b>\$Value</b>	<b>\$602,379</b>	<b>\$186,711</b>	<b>\$164,469</b>	<b>\$37,306</b>	<b>\$1002</b>	<b>\$956</b>	<b>\$738</b>	<b>\$60,760</b>

### ***Firearms seized and purchased***

<b>Long Guns \$200 / each</b>	<b>Hand Guns \$400 / each</b>
<b>33</b>	<b>43</b>
<b>\$6,600</b>	<b>\$17,200</b>

### ***Investigative Statistics Comparison Years 2009 / 2010***

	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>Increase / Decrease</b>
<b>Cases Opened</b>	165	149	-9.7%
<b>Cases Closed</b>	134	67	-50%
<b>Search Warrants</b>	52	71	+36.5%
<b>Knock-n-Talks</b>	99	78	-21.3%
<b>Presentations</b>	8	6	-25%
<b>Narcotics Purchases</b>	87	178	+104.5%
<b>Asset Forfeitures</b>	\$176,239.62	\$140,602.00	-20.2%
<b>Meth Labs Processed</b>	9	7	-22.3%
<b>Marijuana Grows Processed</b>	2	8	+300%
<b>Psilocybin Mushroom Grows</b>	0	6	N/A

As can be noted by the above statistics, the number of methamphetamine labs process has slightly decreased, while the number of marijuana and psilocybin mushroom grow operations is on the rise.

### ***Prosecution Comparison Years 2009 / 2010***

	<b><i>Local</i></b>		<b><i>State</i></b>		<b><i>Federal</i></b>	
	<b><i>2009</i></b>	<b><i>2010</i></b>	<b><i>2009</i></b>	<b><i>2010</i></b>	<b><i>2009</i></b>	<b><i>2010</i></b>
<b><i>Cases Presented</i></b>	68	32	49	47	12	5

The reduction in the number of cases presented for prosecution is due to an equipment problem at the Crime Lab in processing evidence for the JCDTF. The problem has since been resolved and the numbers of cases presented will increase as the evidence is processed and returned.

## 2010 DRUG COMPLAINT REPORT

During 2010, there were 206 drug complaints received by the Jackson County Drug Task Force. The following is a statistical break down of the location of the received complaints, along with a listing of the source of the received complaints.

	<b>Jurisdiction of Complaints Received</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Source of Received Complaints</b>	<b>%</b>
Blue Springs	24	11.6%	1	.4%
Buckner	-	-	2	.9%
Grain Valley	13	6.3%	2	.9%
Grandview	34	16.5%	22	10.6%
Greenwood	5	2.4%	1	.4%
Independence	53	25.7%	7	3.3%
Jackson County	3	1.4%	1	.4%
Kansas City MO	22	10.6%	-	-
Lake Lotawana	1	.4%	-	-
Lee's Summit	13	6.3%	1	.4%
Lone Jack	1	.4%	-	-
Oak Grove	8	3.8%	-	-
Raytown	23	11.1%	7	3.3%
Sugar Creek	6	2.9%	2	.9%
COMBAT			5	2.4%
Informants			7	3.3%
JCDTF Investigation			14	6.7%
Phone Call / E-Mail			43	20.8%
TIPS Hotline			91	44.1%

# **SIGNIFICANT INCIDENTS - BY JURISDICTION**

*It should be noted that these are not all of the cases within each jurisdiction, but some of the more note worthy. The displayed pictures are items recovered during 2010.*

## **BLUE SPRINGS**

Working with information received concerning the distribution of pharmaceuticals, including Vicodin and Oxycotin, the JCDF personnel initiated an investigation. During the course of the investigation, several teens within Eastern Jackson County community were reported to overdosing on these same drugs. In October of 2010, while assisting the JCDF, members of the Sheriff's Department and Blue Springs Tactical Teams executed two separate search warrant simultaneously. ***During the execution of one of these warrants officers were met with gun fire at the front door.*** Both suspects were charged with the items discovered during the execution of the warrants, including marijuana, pharmaceuticals (including Oxycotin and Vicodin), guns, ammunition and a large amount of U.S. Currency which was subject to Federal seizure. The subject that shot at the officers was charged in Federal Court with the Use of a Firearm during the commission of a Drug Offense.



## **BUCKNER**

Acting on a tip from the community, the JCDF began an investigation into the narcotics dealings of an individual that resided in the ***near proximity to an elementary school.*** Upon confirming the information through other sources a search warrant was obtained and executed. During the course of executing the search warrant a small amount methamphetamine and misc drug paraphernalia was recovered.



## **GRAIN VALLEY**

Working with information received from the Grain Valley Police Department, the JCDF initiated an investigation on a residence believed to be involved in drug activities. During the course of the investigation, a residence check was conducted and the residents contacted. During the contact the following contraband was seized: marijuana, drug paraphernalia, methamphetamine, several prescription medications, the items needed for a ***psilocybin mushrooms grow operation and one gun.***





## GRANDVIEW

Acting on a tip from the community, the JCDTF began an investigation involving a subject **cultivating several marijuana plants** in a rural part of the community. During the course of a surveillance operation, a subject was observed cultivating and maintaining the plants. He was quickly taken into custody. A **second Marijuana Grow Operation** and small amount marijuana was location in his residence.



## GREENWOOD

Working with information received from the Greenwood Police Department, the JCDTF initiated an investigation on a residence believed to been active in the sales of illicit narcotics. During the course of the investigation, a search warrant was obtained and executed. Recovered during the execution was a **quantity of marijuana, psilocybin mushrooms, opium, perscription medications, U.S. currency and three guns.**



## INDEPENDENCE

Working in cooperation with the Kansas City Fugitive Apprehension Unit, detectives of the JCDTF conducted a room check in a motel on the south side of the City. In conducting the check, the fugitive was located along with a **large quantity of crack cocaine** and U.S. Currency.



Acting on information received from the TIPS Hotline, an investigation was initiated on in the southwest part of the city. Upon confirming the information through other sources a search warrant was obtained. Recovered during the execution of the search warrant was a small **Marijuana Grow Operation (recently harvested), a small amount of Marijuana, drug paraphernalia and three guns, one confirmed stolen in Oak Grove during 2009.**



During a pill sting operation, detectives of the JCDTF assisted a local pharmacy in detaining a suspect that was previously arrested and given a trespass warning for stealing. Rather than being charged with trespassing, the suspect provided information that led to three Search Warrants which resulted in the **recovery of an excess of \$250,000 worth of stolen property.**



known supplier of methamphetamine. During the course of the stop, ***a large amount of methamphetamine and U.S. Currency*** was recovered from the vehicle

## **JACKSON COUNTY – UNINCORPERATED**

Working with information received during several undercover drug purchases throughout the Metropolitan area by undercover officers, a search warrant was obtained for a residence in unincorporated Jackson County. Recovered during the execution of the warrant was ***a quantity of Crack Cocaine, an SKS rifle, a loaded pistol identified as stolen from KCMO, drug paraphernalia and a large quantity of cash.*** ***The suspect's vehicle was also identified as having two somewhat recent bullet holes in the hood.*** The information was disseminated to all agencies in the event that they were looking for this subject and/or vehicle in reference to a shooting.

Acting on information received from a citizen that was later confirmed through other investigative means, a search warrant was executed in the Tarsney Lake area. Recovered during the search included a small ***Marijuana Grow Operation***, Marijuana, and drug paraphernalia.

## **KANSAS CITY**

Working in cooperation with the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), detectives of the JCDF conducted a residence check on the northeast side of the city. During the course of the contact with the resident, a ***large quantity of marijuana*** was seized and the residence was held as an illegal immigrant for deportation.

## **LEE'S SUMMIT**

During the course of an ongoing investigation, detectives from the JCDF conducted vehicle stops and executed search warrants on a resident of Lee's Summit. Recovered during the execution of these events included ***a large quantity of pharmaceuticals, U.S. currency and several guns.***

## **LONE JACK**

Working with information received from a concerned citizen, personnel from the JCDF initiated an investigation into a possible marijuana grow operation in Lone Jack. ***Obtaining***





*and executing a search warrant on the residence, a marijuana grow operation, Psilocybin Mushroom Grow Operation, Methamphetamine Lab, gun, ammunition, surveillance cameras, stolen auto and explosive device was recovered.*

## **OAK GROVE**

During this period, JCDTF personnel initiated an investigation into an Oak Grove residence due to a tip received from a concerned citizen. During the course of the investigation, a search warrant was executed on his residence. Recovered during the execution of the warrant was ***a large quantity of marijuana.***

During this period, the JCDTF responded to and ***collect methamphetamine lab trash.*** The source of the trash is currently under investigation, but is believed to belong to an resident of Oak Grove.

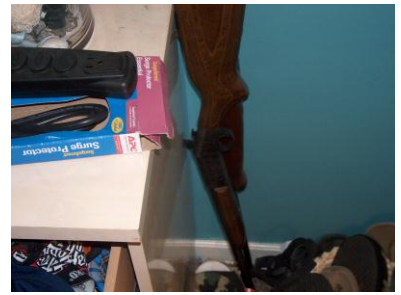
## **RAYTOWN**

Working with information received from several concerned citizens, the JCDTF initiated an investigation concerning the sale of illegal drugs. During the course of the investigation a search warrant was obtained and executed. Recovered during the search warrant were marijuana, methamphetamine, ammunition, drug paraphernalia, and Xanax. ***The resident and target of the investigation was a convicted felon.***

Acting on information that was received from a citizen, and later confirmed by other investigative means, a search warrant was obtained and executed on a residence in the south part of the city. Present in the residence when the warrant was executed included two small children and four large pitbulls. Recovered during the search was a ***large Marijuana Grow Operation, drug paraphernalia and two guns.*** As the residents were arrested on the drug charges, the children were turned over to the Missouri Department of Family Services.

## **SUGAR CREEK**

Working with information received from the TIPS Hotline, the JCDTF initiated an investigation on a residence within the city. During the course of the investigation, a search warrant was obtained and executed. Seized during the execution of the warrant was a small ***Marijuana Grow Operation*** and



***Psilocybin Mushroom Grow Operation***, along with a quantity of harvested psilocybin mushrooms and an unidentified black substance.

During the course of an ongoing drug investigation, members of the Independence Career Criminal Unit responded to an address within Sugar Creek, looking for a Federal Fugitive. While conducting a check of the residence for the fugitive, a detective inhaled the noxious fumes of what was later identified as a ***Methamphetamine Lab***. Members of the J.C.D.T.F. then responded to dismantle and collect the lab as evidence for the working case.



## **DRUG TRENDS**

**Methamphetamine** continues to be a problem in the Metropolitan area. It is readily available, user prices are reasonable and purity levels are acceptable. Law enforcement in the area is faced with two primary issues in addressing the sources of methamphetamine. Local production of methamphetamine in small portable labs is a continuing concern from both an enforcement aspect and as a public safety issue. Although they do not produce much product, the labs are a regular source of supply for addicts. The clean up of these clandestine labs is a drain on manpower and resources.



Methamphetamine Labs Reported						
	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010 As of 10/2010
Jackson County	19	18	23	16	21	24
Missouri	2252	1284	1285	1487	1774	1242

Jackson County as well as areas across the country is seeing a dramatic increase in the discovery of “ONE POT” methamphetamine clandestine laboratories. A one pot methamphetamine lab is generally contained in a 16 to 20 ounce soda or Gatorade bottle, but can be in any bottle, jar, etc. The “cook” combines common methamphetamine lab chemicals such as Lye, Camping fuel, Lithium battery strips, and anhydrous ammonia. These containers are a high risk for flash fires which are a threat to law enforcement and citizens alike.

The second problem is the proliferation of imported methamphetamine. This product is brought into the area in kilo quantities from California and the Southwest Border States with the original source being Mexico. Traffickers of imported methamphetamine tend to work in both cells and structured groups. These groups can be and are penetrated with longer-term investigations. Leaders predominantly have no ties to the area or the United States and thus they are flight risks. Members use multiple identities in an effort to confuse authorities. Intelligence information has been received that some wholesalers come to the area to deal large amounts of methamphetamine for a short period of time, make what money they can and then leave the area.



**Cocaine and Crack Cocaine** is available throughout the metropolitan area. Indications are that cocaine will continue to be a problem because the incoming amounts translate to a product that is relatively affordable and easily procured. Crack and powder cocaine are prevalent in Eastern Jackson County and together are judged to be the number three (3) and four (4) drugs of choice behind marijuana and methamphetamine.

Generally cocaine powder is brought into the metropolitan area from the

Southwest Border States and California. Importers use a variety of transportation techniques depending on the amount they are bringing in. Once here it is either sold in powder form or converted to crack. Cocaine abuse ranges from casual users of powder to those addicted to crack and other narcotics. Retail distributors are usually found to be individuals associated with small groups who have ties to more organized groups. The larger drug trafficking organizations have direct ties to out of state and international sources. Enforcement efforts and cooperative investigations have been successful against dealers, wholesalers and importers. Any Investigation into individuals or smaller groups always focuses on moving up the distribution chain.

**Marijuana** is readily available in all areas of Jackson County. It is the most abused and preferred drug in the area, and has commonly be referred to as the “gateway drug”, or one that leads to abuse of other substances. Marijuana is commonly found to be used in combination with other drugs and / or narcotics.



Marijuana is either locally cultivated or imported into the area. In the suburban / residential areas cultivation has been seen in small indoor grow operations. Operations such as this have been seen on a more regular basis over the past year. In rural settings, outside the metropolitan area, marijuana is grown in large outdoor plots. Enforcement of grow operations focuses on destruction of the plants and prosecution of the offender, usually at the state level when there are no extenuating circumstances or other crimes.

The source for imported marijuana is usually the Southwest Border States and California. Mexican organizations bring it across the US border for distribution with other drugs such as methamphetamine and cocaine. Enforcement targeting importers focuses on the entire organization and the other associated narcotics.



**Heroin** is becoming more prevalent and available within the metropolitan area, and is being seen in small quantities on a more regular basis. Dealers are more frequently individuals who possess and sell only small amounts. Many of the dealers and abusers know each other and operate as a small subculture, that to date has been extremely difficult to infiltrate.

**Psilocybin mushroom** grow operations appear to be on the rise, and have recently been seen on a low level scale in conjunction with marijuana grows and methamphetamine labs. Psilocybin mushrooms are not widely available on the open market at this time indicating that abuse is not widespread. As the demand





for the drug and number of grow operations increase, so will the reports of abuse. Psilocybin Mushrooms are generally not imported.

**MDMA/Ecstasy and LSD** is available in Eastern Jackson County. This is a concern because MDMA/Ecstasy and LSD users tend to be high school and college aged youth. Both of these drugs are known to be used at popular parties known as raves and in club settings. Manufacture of these drugs involves a complex chemical process and there is no known production in the area. LSD is imported from California in a variety of different methods. MDMA/Ecstasy is manufactured and imported from outside the US. LSD has been encountered in sporadic instances but it does not appear to hold the popularity or availability it once had in the area.

**PCP (phencyclidine)** is recognized as an extremely dangerous drug due to its psychological effect on users, and is rarely been seen within the area. PCP is often applied to marijuana and smoked. Availability ranges from somewhat limited in Eastern Jackson County to easily obtainable in the center of the metropolitan area.



**Oxycontin, Vicodin and other prescribed pharmaceutical drugs** are commonly abused in Jackson County. Diversion occurs through fraudulent prescriptions, “doctor shopping”, robberies and burglaries. Abusers and dealers consist of individuals and / or groups of individuals. Although not typically formed into organized groups, some of these individuals are beginning to form into small networks for the purpose of distribution and sales of the various pharmaceuticals. In several recent cases, the suppliers are individuals that have obtained legitimate 30 day prescriptions, which they in turn sell to the dealers at a drastic markup. The dealers would then sell the product at 3-4 times their initial costs.



## **JCDTF Commitment**

Jackson County is a primary market area for production, distribution and abuse of dangerous drugs. Although progress has been made in many areas, continued vigilance, enforcement, treatment and education is required. The Jackson County Drug Task Force will continue its successful tradition through community partnerships and a united cooperative effort against illegal narcotics.

Although limited by financial and personnel constraints, the Jackson County Drug Task Force will continue to provide the citizens of these communities the professional service that they have come to deserve and expect. The members of this Task Force have made a commitment to this office, the law enforcement profession and the citizens of this community that no information concerning the illegal sales of narcotics will go without proper investigation. With that in mind, we will continue to strive to improve on the quality of service to this community.

The Jackson County Drug Task Force actively solicits tips and information regarding all illegal narcotics activity. Should the information be related to a jurisdiction outside of Jackson County, personnel from this office will assure that the information is passed on to the proper investigative agency. Individuals having information to pass on, may contact this office through phone in complaints at 655-DRUG, via email, [jcdtf@swbell.net](mailto:jcdtf@swbell.net) or through the TIPS hotline, 474-TIPS.

# JACKSON COUNTY DRUG TASK FORCE

## 2010 PRESS RELEASES & NEWS ARTICLES

# NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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[www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow/index.html](http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow/index.html)

**MARCH 11, 2010**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **OPERATION X-MEN**

### **TEXAS MAN SENTENCED TO 14 YEARS IN PRISON FOR MASSIVE ECSTASY CONSPIRACY**

**KANSAS CITY, Mo.** – Beth Phillips, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that the 28<sup>th</sup> and final defendant in a drug-trafficking conspiracy was sentenced in federal court today for his role in distributing hundreds of thousands of ecstasy pills, worth approximately \$2 million, in Jackson County, Mo.

**Southanome Frichitavong**, also known as “Pao,” 36, of Euless, Texas, was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Gary A. Fenner this morning to 14 years in federal prison without parole. The court also ordered **Frichitavong** to forfeit to the government \$2 million, for which he is jointly and severally liable with other co-defendants, which represents the proceeds of the illegal drug trafficking.

On March 12, 2009, **Frichitavong** pleaded guilty his role in a conspiracy to distribute ecstasy in Jackson County from Nov. 9, 2004, to Jan. 1, 2007. **Frichitavong** admitted that during 2006 he sold between 100,000 and 125,000 ecstasy pills to co-defendant **Vu Nguyen Huynh**, 25, of Arlington, Texas. **Huynh** was sentenced on Jan. 29, 2010, to four years in federal prison without parole after pleading guilty to his role in the conspiracy.

**Frichitavong** is the final defendant to be sentenced among 28 defendants charged in a July 17, 2007, superseding indictment.

Four co-defendants were convicted at trial on Feb. 21, 2008, and have been sentenced. **Dung A. Nguyen**, 36, of Texas, was sentenced to 15 years and eight months in federal prison without parole. **Boun Rattनावong**, 35, of Grand Prairie, Texas, was sentenced on Oct. 31, 2008, to 20 years in federal prison without parole. **Raphael L. Donnell**, 34, also known as “Rags,” of Kansas City, Mo., was sentenced on July 9, 2008, to 20 years in federal prison without parole. **Dempsey Johnson**, also known as “Booky,” 30, of Kansas City, Mo., was sentenced on Sept. 10, 2008 to 20 years in federal prison without parole.

Evidence introduced in the trial of **Nguyen, Rattavong, Donnell and Johnson** indicated that the wide-ranging conspiracy involved between 400,000 and 450,000 ecstasy pills delivered to Kansas City from Texas, as well as PCP from California. Evidence included undercover drug transactions, surveillance and telephone wiretaps that recorded conversations in which co-defendants discussed drug trafficking and firearms, including automatic weapons and assault rifles. **Nguyen, Rattavong, Donnell and Johnson** were also found to be jointly and severally liable for a \$2 million forfeiture to the government, which was derived from the proceeds of illegal drug trafficking.

Twenty-two additional co-defendants have been sentenced after pleading guilty. **Derrick T. Seals**, also known as "D," 29, of Kansas City, Mo., was sentenced on June 9, 2008, to 20 years in federal prison without parole. **James Robert Petersen**, 35, of Dallas, Texas, was sentenced on Dec. 3, 2008, to 17 years and six months in federal prison without parole. **Gerald E. Dunn**, also known as "G," 37, of Lee's Summit, Mo., was sentenced on Jan. 29, 2010, to 14 years and seven months in federal prison without parole. **Shannon Dewayne Luckey**, 36, of Los Angeles, Calif., was sentenced on Jan. 28, 2009, to seven years in federal prison without parole. **Jermaine Talley**, also known as "Shorty," 36, of Kansas City, Mo., was sentenced on March 6, 2008, to seven years and three months in federal prison without parole. **Brian C. Fennix**, 43, of Kansas City, Mo., was sentenced on Dec. 11, 2007, to five years and 11 months. **Quebe Seals**, 29, of Arlington, Texas, was sentenced on June 5, 2008, to five years in federal prison without parole. **Dimitri Jones**, also known as "MiMi," 32, was sentenced on Jan. 24, 2008 to five years and three months in federal prison without parole. **Delesha Hughes**, 26, of Kansas City, Mo., was sentenced to four years and six months in federal prison on Sept. 10, 2008. **Jon C. Crawford**, 28, of Topeka, Kan., was sentenced on Dec. 13, 2007, to two years and six months in federal prison without parole. **Nicole Wyatt**, also known as "Co-Co," 30, of Kansas City, Mo., was sentenced on March 3, 2008, to 21 months in federal prison without parole.

**Wayne Williams**, 25, of Kansas City, Mo., was sentenced on July 9, 2008 to nine years and six months in federal prison without parole. Also sentenced to federal prison on July 9, 2008: **Arron Hall**, 29, of Kansas City Mo., received four years; **Adrian Washington**, 28, of Kansas City, Mo., received two years and six months; **Simona Bryant**, 38, of Kansas City, Mo., received 25 months; **Jeffery Morgan**, 30, of Kansas City, Mo., received six years; and **Jason Cross**, 24, received three years and five months.

On Aug. 5, 2008, four other defendants were sentenced: **Maurice Davis**, 31, also known as "Reese," of Kansas City, Kan., received three years and 10 months; **Adrian Wright**, 33, also known as "Fat A," of Kansas City, Mo., received 10 years; **Andre L. Brice**, 28, also known as "Dre," of Kansas City, MO., received 10 years; and **Tremayne Tyler**, 37, also known as "Pig," of Los Angeles, Ca., received nine years. **Damon S. Bryant**, 39, also known as "D," 38, of Kansas City, Mo., was sentenced on September 23, 2008 to 10 years in federal prison without parole.

This case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney David DeTar Newbert. It was investigated by the Jackson County Drug Task Force and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

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This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at

[www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow/index.html](http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow/index.html)

## Two Face Drug Charges

By Jeff Martin - [jeff.martin@examiner.net](mailto:jeff.martin@examiner.net)

**The Examiner**

Posted Feb 13, 2010 @ 12:24 AM

Blue Springs, MO —

Two Oak Grove men face felony drug charges after they were arrested outside their home early Friday morning.

Dan Cummings, an Independence police officer and Jackson County Drug Task Force spokesperson, said the home, at 506 S.E. 21st St. in Oak Grove, had been a problem home for some time.

“We’d been receiving anonymous complaints about the home for some time,” Cummings said. “It’s been a significant problem.”

Cummings said the two men – believed to be a father and son – were in a car driving away from the house as officers arrived to conduct the raid shortly before 8 a.m. Friday.

Police arrested both men without incident. There was nobody inside the home when officers went in, Cummings said, adding that officers found a “significant amount” of marijuana.

The raid and subsequent arrests surprised Ryan Zimmerman, a neighbor who lives next door.

“I didn’t think there was anything strange going on there,” he said. “They were the only neighbors I’ve talked to since I moved here. One of them was always outside playing with the dog.”

Zimmerman said he saw about 20 police officers standing outside when he looked out the window. He described five SWAT team officers behind trees. When he stepped outside, Zimmerman said he was told to go back inside.

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## Sugar Creek meth lab shut down by police

By Michael Glover - [michael.glover@examiner.net](mailto:michael.glover@examiner.net)

**The Examiner**

Posted Jan 29, 2010 @ 01:08 AM

Sugar Creek, MO —

Investigators spent Thursday busting a suspected methamphetamine lab at a property on the 11500 block of East Lexington Street in Sugar Creek.

The Jackson County Drug Task Force and Sugar Creek Police Department detained five people at the house in connection with the bust, according to a spokesman with the task force.

Investigators served a narcotics search warrant at the property around 6 a.m. Thursday.

During the search, they located numerous chemicals and components of an actual working meth lab, said Sugar Creek Police Chief Herb Soule.

“They had a meth lab both in the house and they had, perhaps because they were paranoid we



might come, moved part of the material to the woods behind the house,” Soule said.

One of the individuals admitted that they had made the drug at the house, Soule said. Soule said the house was merely a source of production and not distribution.

“They were not selling it there. They were transporting it out of there and using it at another location,” he said.

It was undetermined how much of the drug was being made on the property, Soule said.

The five people were released pending formal charges from the Jackson County Prosecutor’s Office. That may not come for about another month or longer. The seized materials will be analyzed by a crime lab.

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## **COMBAT tax is still making a difference in KC, forum finds**

**By LYNN HORSLEY**

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The sluggish economy has taken a toll on Jackson County’s tax collections for the COMBAT anti-drug effort, but the program is still having a profound impact.

That’s the assessment from a public forum Saturday that featured presentations on COMBAT’s law enforcement, treatment and prevention efforts. Since voters in 2009 reauthorized the quarter-cent sales tax for seven more years, Jackson County officials have said they will present information more regularly to the public to ensure accountability.

COMBAT staff director Stacey Daniels-Young told a gathering of about 40 people that annual tax collections have dropped from nearly \$26 million in 2004 to just \$19.6 million last year. But she said the money still benefits numerous organizations, and she is seeking ideas to deliver even more effective results.

Presenters gave moving testimonials Saturday about how COMBAT-funded programs are helping homeless men re-enter productive society, persuading truants and troubled teens to stay in school, and helping abusive families overcome dysfunction.

Jeanne Carton, principal of Nowlin Middle School, said 75 struggling Nowlin students have dramatically improved their attendance and grades in recent years through a program called Success Court.

“We have made a difference in the lives of scores of our students,” she said.

The money also is making a difference in law enforcement. Independence Police Capt. Dan Cummings, currently in charge of the Jackson County Drug Task Force, said COMBAT provides about \$1.8 million annually for the task force. It has 14 detectives, including five undercover, working primarily in eastern Jackson County.

In the last year, Cummings said, the team has cleared about 40 cases resulting in felony charges, some with multiple defendants. The group made a key arrest just last week in an OxyContin/heroin ring in Blue Springs. They have conducted over 130 drug buys this year and served 59 search warrants.

Cummings said meth lab cases have dropped from 150 annually during the 1990s to just six last year.

“We have eliminated the majority of the meth labs in Jackson County,” he said.

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