

# **NEWS RELEASE**

**FROM: Catherine L. Hanaway  
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For Immediate Release

## **SEVEN OUT OF TEN DENT COUNTY DEFENDANTS PLEAD GUILTY TO FEDERAL DRUG CONSPIRACY CHARGES**

St. Louis, Missouri: Seven Dent County residents plead guilty, and three are facing trial, on federal conspiracy drug charges, United States Attorney Catherine L. Hanaway and Dent County Prosecuting Attorney Jessica Sparks announced today.

Between November 2003 and December 2007, the following ten people participated in a conspiracy to possess pseudoephedrine knowing that it would be used to manufacture methamphetamine in the Dent County area.

DAVID O. GRAY, Jr., 39, Salem, MO, pled guilty yesterday, to conspiracy to possess pseudoephedrine knowing that it would be used to manufacture methamphetamine. Gray appeared this morning before United States District Judge Jean C. Hamilton, in St. Louis. Sentencing has been set for August 1, 2008.

Wade Mendenhall and Mark Brisco also pled yesterday.

Previously entering pleas:

JARED WOOD, 37, Salem, MO; MARK A. BRISCO, 44, Salem, WADE MENDENHALL, 38, Salem; MICHAEL L. CURLEY, 55, Boss, MO; SHANE CANADAY, 43 Salem, MO; and TRAVIS J. RUSSELL, 34, Salem, MO, all pled guilty in late April and early May to conspiracy to possess pseudoephedrine knowing that it would be used to manufacture methamphetamine. Sentencings are scheduled for June and August.

TOMMY TURNER, 42, Salem, MO; SHANE ROBERTSON, 32, Salem, MO; and THOMAS M.

WIND, 41, Salem, MO, are facing trial on June 9.

These charges carry penalty ranges of 20 years or more in prison and/or fines up to \$250,000.

Hanaway commended the investigative work on the case by the Missouri State Highway Patrol, South Central Drug Task Force, Dent County Sheriff's Department, U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Marshal's Service, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, Drug Enforcement Tactical Diversion Team and the Dent County Prosecuting Attorney's Office, and Assistant United States Attorney Noelle Collins, who is handling the case for the U.S. Attorney's Office.

The charges set forth in an indictment are merely accusations, and defendants Turner, Robertson and Wind are presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.