



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

INDEPENDENCE COUPLE PLEADS GUILTY TO HOUSING TWO METH LABS

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a second Independence, Mo., resident pleaded guilty in federal court today to conspiring to manufacture and distribute methamphetamine.

Brenda K. Hoebet, 40, of Independence, Mo., pleaded guilty before U.S. District Judge Ortrie D. Smith this morning to conspiracy to manufacture and distribute methamphetamine.

By pleading guilty, she admitted that she conspired with others to manufacture and distribute methamphetamine between June 1, 1997, and Aug. 2, 2001. Specifically, **Hoebet** admitted that law enforcement officers located remnants of a clandestine methamphetamine laboratory at her and her co-defendant's prior place of residence, where they lived on July 2, 1998. Law enforcement officers then discovered another clandestine methamphetamine laboratory in the residence that **Hoebet** and her co-defendant occupied on Sept. 23, 1998.

Law enforcement officers recovered a total of 30.35 grams of pseudoephedrine from the laboratories.

Co-defendant **Theodore W. Stillwell**, 40, of Independence, also pleaded guilty to his role in the conspiracy to manufacture and distribute methamphetamine. **Stillwell** pleaded guilty on Nov. 25, 2003, admitting that he, too, was responsible for the discovered methamphetamine laboratories.

The co-defendants were originally charged in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury on June 17, 2003, in Kansas City.

Under federal statutes, each co-defendant may be subject to a maximum sentence of up to 20 years in federal prison without parole, plus fines up to \$1 million. Their sentences will be

determined according to the United States Sentencing Guidelines. Sentencing hearings will be scheduled after the completion of a presentence investigation by the United States Probation Office.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney W. Brent Powell. It was investigated by the Jackson County, Mo., Drug Task Force, the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Independence, Mo., Police Department, the Kansas City, Mo., Police Department and the Cass County, Mo., Sheriff's Department.

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