



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

10 DEFENDANTS INDICTED IN OPERATION ICE PALACE

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced today that 10 defendants have been indicted by a federal grand jury as a result of Operation Ice Palace, a multi-jurisdictional investigation into pseudoephedrine diversion and methamphetamine manufacturing in southwest Missouri.

Lonnie Weston, 57, of McDonald County, Mo.; **Jody Weston**, 22, and **Sherry Woodard**, 44, both of Washburn, Mo.; **Billy Richard Brassfield**, 54, and **Frances Duckett**, 37, both of Pineville, Mo.; **Russell Wishon**, 44, of Goodman, Mo.; **Kevin Davis**, 43, of Exeter, Mo.; **Craig Guinn**, 40, of Westville, Okla.; **Rebecca Singleton**, 35, of Ginger Blue, Mo.; and **Michele Kreitel**, 32, address unknown; were charged in a five-count indictment returned under seal by a federal grand jury in Springfield on Oct. 15, 2003. That indictment was unsealed and made public after the arrest and initial court appearance of **Woodard**, **Brassfield** and **Wishon**.

Count One of the federal indictment alleges that all 10 of the defendants participated in a conspiracy to manufacture and distribute 500 grams or more of methamphetamine in McDonald County from as early as January 1999 to March 14, 2002.

Count Two of the federal indictment alleges that **Lonnie Weston** and **Brassfield** were in possession with intent to distribute in excess of 500 grams of methamphetamine in McDonald County on Oct. 16, 2000.

Count Three of the federal indictment alleges that **Lonnie Weston** and **Brassfield** were in possession of pseudoephedrine, knowing that it would be used to manufacture methamphetamine, in McDonald County on Oct. 16, 2000.

Count Four of the federal indictment alleges that **Brassfield** participated in a conspiracy to distribute pseudoephedrine, knowing that it would be used to manufacture methamphetamine,

in McDonald County between Jan. 1, 1999 and Oct. 31, 2000.

Count Five of the federal indictment alleges that **Woodard** participated in a conspiracy to distribute pseudoephedrine, knowing it would be used to manufacture methamphetamine, in McDonald County between Oct. 31, 2000 and March 14, 2002.

Graves cautioned that the charges contained in the indictment are simply accusations, and not evidence of guilt. Evidence supporting the charges must be presented to a federal trial jury, whose duty is to determine guilt or innocence.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Randall D. Eggert. It was investigated by the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, COMET (the Combined Ozarks Multi-jurisdictional Enforcement Team), the Missouri State Highway Patrol, the Southwest Missouri Drug Task Force, and the McDonald County 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