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NEWS RELEASE

4 ARRESTED FOLLOWING DISTURBANCE/VEHICLE INVESTIGATION AT FOOT OF WEST DEL NORTE STREET

On March 5, 2009 at about 7:39 AM, Eureka Police Officers were dispatched to the foot of West Del Norte Street for a reported disturbance involving two males who were attempting to pull a female from a truck. Upon arrival, Officers contacted 4 subjects associated with two vehicles parked at that location.

While waiting for the results of a records check on the subjects, Officer Stan Harkness smelled the odor of marijuana emanating from inside one of the vehicles, a green Ford F-150 pick-up truck. He looked through the opened passenger window and saw a plastic bag containing marijuana on the seat. Police dispatchers then confirmed the two occupants, Dalina Lynn Cardoza-Sovereign (age 30) and Billy Joe Giddings (age 29) of Fortuna, were both of active CDC parole.

During a subsequent search of the Ford, Officer Harkness located and seized approximately one-ounce of marijuana and an illegal pair of hard metal ("brass") knuckles. Sovereign and Giddings were both placed under arrest for possession of a dangerous weapon and for parole violation.

Officer Harkness next spoke with the occupants of the other vehicle (a white Ford Ranger pick-up truck), Robert Anthony Leitch (age 45) and Rebecca Joanne McKinnon (age 36). While speaking with Leitch next to the open driver's door of his vehicle, Officer Harkness saw a small plastic drug baggie containing white residue in the door's side pocket. A subsequent search of the vehicle resulted in the discovery of drug paraphernalia including several syringes and small plastic baggies containing suspected methamphetamine residue. During a search of McKinnon's person after she also admitted to having a hypodermic syringe in her pocket, Officer Harkness located a syringe filled with suspected methamphetamine. Leitch confessed he'd just given the methamphetamine to McKinnon.

Leitch was taken into custody for furnishing a controlled substance and for possession of drug paraphernalia. McKinnon was taken into custody for possession of a controlled substance.

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