



Eureka Police Department

PRESS RELEASE

Eureka Police Department

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5/26/2010

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Subject: Press Release

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On May 25-26, 2010, officers and special agents from multiple State, local, and federal agencies participated in a two day anti-crime/anti-gang sweep in the greater Eureka area. The operation was jointly led by Special Agents with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security/ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement) and officers/detectives with the Eureka Police Department's Problem Oriented Policing and Gang Units. Approximately 33 officers and agents with the FBI, CHP, State Parole, California Department of Corrections, ICE, EPD and Humboldt County Drug Task Force participated. The Humboldt County Sheriff's Department also assisted with logistical support at the county jail (HCCF).

The operation was part of ICE's Community Shield Program. The program partners federal, state, and local agencies to combat, disrupt, and dismantle street gangs and the associated criminal activities occurring in a community.

During the course of the two day operation, a total of 19 suspects were arrested for the following offenses:

Edward Paul Poehner, 56 of Eureka, was arrested for possession of hypodermic syringes and probation violation after officers/agents contacted him in the 1400 block of Pine Street, Eureka.

Peter George Longendyck, 40, was arrested on an outstanding felony domestic violence charge after officers/agents contacted him in the 2100 block of B Street, Eureka.

Cosme Hernandez Sanchez, 34, was taken into custody by officers/agents in the 1900 of Fairfield Street, Eureka, for being a previously deported convicted felon. A "Title 8" immigration hold was placed on Hernandez by ICE following his transportation to HCCF. Hernandez has numerous prior arrests for crimes such as drug possession/sales and carrying a loaded/concealed firearm.

Aron Joe Riley, 27, was arrested for a court order violation after officers/agents contacted him in the 2100 block of Broadway.



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Jerry Dean Dingler, 55, was arrested for an outstanding warrant after officers/agents contacted him at 2nd/Commerical Streets, Eureka.

Paul Scott Yuron, 40, was arrested for possession of heroin for sale and possession of drug paraphernalia at a residence in the 2200 block of Lindstrom Avenue, Fairhaven. During a search of the residence, Yuron unsuccessfully attempted to discard approximately 3 grams of suspected tar heroin. Officers found numerous drug sales related text messages on his cell phone.

Charles Davis Bowen, 32, was taken into custody for parole violation in the 1200 block of 6th Street, Eureka. Bowen is a documented local gang member.

Michael Sandor Pitek, 39, was arrested at a residence in the 1500 block of Eloa Lane, Rio Dell, for a misdemeanor warrant alleging DUI and being under the influence of a controlled substance.

James Dean Hanson, 45, was arrested for a felony domestic violence warrant at a residence in the 600 block of Summer Street, Eureka.

Rodney Donaven Sanchez, 23, was arrested for two felony warrants at an apartment building in the 1400 block of Union Street, Eureka. The warrants were for probation violation related to a prior vehicle theft and a federal weapon possession conviction. Sanchez is a suspected gang member from Southern California.

Douglas Patrick Thorpe, 31 of Eureka, was arrested for an outstanding traffic warrant at a residence in the 3500 block of Spring Street, Eureka.

Jack Philip Sarter (51) and **Mary Margaret Oliva** (53) were arrested for maintaining a space for drug use/sales, possession of methamphetamine, and possession of drug paraphernalia at a separate residence in the 3500 block of Spring Street, Eureka. Additionally, Sarter was on monitored non-revocable active parole for possession of a controlled substance. Inside their residence, officers/agents located a small quantity of methamphetamine, drug paraphernalia, approximately 140 grams (5 ounces) of processed marijuana, and pay & owe sheets indicating drug sales activity. Officers had to force entry into the residence by kicking the door down after Sarter and Oliva refused to unlock it despite repeated commands for them to do so.

Marvin Wayne Murrish (51) and **Valerie Leigh Smith** (48) were arrested for maintaining a place for purposes of drug sales/use and possession of drug paraphernalia at a separate residence in the 3500 block of Spring Street, Eureka. Additionally, Murrish was arrested for possession of a controlled substance after officers located over 1/8 ounce of crystal methamphetamine on his person. Smith was also arrested for probation violation. During a search of their residence, officers/agents also located a digital gram scale and drug use paraphernalia (meth pipes, foil, tooter straws etc.).

The arrests in the 3500 block of Spring Street stemmed from an on-going POP investigation into complaints of drug sales occurring from at least two "apartments" in the multi-unit, two story residence. POP is working with the property management company overseeing the involved rentals to aid them in the eviction process. The residence adjoins a nearby school.

Carolyn Lea Whiffing (35) and **Warren "Dirty" Clay Harralson** (30) were arrested for various drug related offenses in the 1700 block of Pine Street, Eureka. At about 3:00 PM, a POP



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officer conducted an investigative stop on their vehicle after Federal Agents witnessed them engage in suspected drug activity in the parking lot of a 4th Street gas station. Whiffing (the driver) was arrested after she was found to have an outstanding warrant for possession of a controlled substance. During a subsequent search of her person, officers located 8 small plastic baggies containing several grams of methamphetamine and heroin, a drug (meth) pipe, a hypodermic syringe, a large fixed blade knife, and a small quantity of methamphetamine. Whiffing's passenger, Harralson, was also found to be in possession of a digital gram scale and pistol ammunition.

Whiffing was arrested for possession and transportation of a controlled substance for sale, possession of a hypodermic syringe, possession of drug paraphernalia, and her outstanding warrant. Harralson was arrested for possession and transportation of a controlled substance for sale and for being a convicted felon in possession of ammunition.

Additionally, a 27-year-old female was arrested for possession of a small quantity of heroin and drug paraphernalia at a motel in the 1300 block of 4th Street. Also, a 16-year-old male gang member was arrested for an outstanding warrant at a residence near Wabash Avenue/A Street.

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