



# Eureka Police Department

## PRESS RELEASE

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### Eureka Police Department

604 C Street  
Eureka, CA 95501  
Phone: (707) 441-4060  
FAX: (707) 441-4334

6/15/2011

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Subject: POP Serves Search Warrant – 3 Arrested on Felony Drug Charges**

**Contact:** Sergeant Steve Watson

- Front Desk (707) 441-4060
- POP Office (707) 441-4373
- Work Cell (707) 601-5464

On 6/14/11, at about 10:30 AM, Investigators with the Eureka Police Department's Problem Oriented Policing Unit (POP), assisted by EPD Patrol officers, served a search warrant at a residence on the 1100 block of O Street, Eureka. The warrant was in response to on-going neighborhood complaints of suspicious activity at the residence, including unusually heavy traffic (foot, bike, and vehicle) and suspected drug dealing.

Officers detained 4 subjects inside the residence, including the primary tenants **Wendy Anne Steimel** (AKA: "Kelly" - age 58 of Eureka) and **Michelle Jean Beaver** (AKA: Michelle Schaefer, Michelle Luchs -age 65 of Eureka). During a subsequent search of the residence, EPD Officer Ed Wilson's K-9 partner, Maggie, alerted on a chair in Steimel's bedroom. Officers discovered a hidden compartment under the chair's cushion where they found approximately 6 small baggies of methamphetamine packaged for sale, a digital scale, numerous unused drug packaging baggies, hypodermic needles, a meth pipe, and a loaded syringe containing suspected heroin.

POP Detective-Sergeant Steve Watson said of the K-9 team: *"I've been very impressed so far with the performance and potential of our newest K-9 Unit, Officer Ed Wilson and Maggie. Maggie is proving to be a great asset to our department's narcotics enforcement efforts. The fact that the generosity of our citizens helped make Maggie's purchase and training possible underscores the value of EPD's strong community partnerships."* (Maggie is a 2-year-old black Labrador retriever specially trained as a drug detection dog. Maggie's purchase and training was covered entirely by generous community donations and fundraising efforts).

Investigators also found a small quantity of methamphetamine and a meth pipe in Beaver's bedroom.

While officers were still completing their investigation, Steimel's cell phone rang. An officer spoke with a male who offered to deliver more methamphetamine for sale to the residence. Three males, including the caller, soon arrived and were detained in the backyard. Officer found a small baggy of methamphetamine and two syringes loaded with heroin on the caller. He was arrested and transported to the Humboldt County Correctional Facility where he was booked for possession of a controlled substance for sale. (Name unavailable at press time).



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Steimel was arrested and transported to the Humboldt County Correctional facility where she was booked for possession of a methamphetamine for sale, possession of a controlled substance, maintaining a place for purposes of drug use/sales, possession of drug paraphernalia, and possession of hypodermic syringes.

Beaver was arrested and transported to the Humboldt County Correctional facility where she was booked for possession of a methamphetamine, possession of drug paraphernalia, and maintaining a place for drug use/sales.

The other 4 subjects detained were identified and released after they were determined to be uninvolved.

The property owner has been contacted regarding his tenants' illegal activities and eviction proceedings are pending.

Anyone with information concerning suspected drug sales activity occurring in Eureka is encouraged to call the Problem Oriented Policing Unit at (707) 441-4373 or the Humboldt County Drug Task Force at (707) 444-8095.

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MICHELLE BEAVER



WENDY STEIMEL

