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HIDTA  
Website

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# HIDTA TIMES

## Director's Message

The Oregon-Idaho HIDTA was recently awarded a total of \$610,485 in HIDTA discretionary funds to support 4 strategic initiatives.

- \$250,000 was awarded to continue supporting eTrace and National Integrated Ballistic Information Network (NIBIN) being conducted in the region. That funding will continue to fund analysts assigned to the Salem Police Department and the Portland Police Bureau. The Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms eTrace system is an online tool used by law enforcement to facilitate tracking the origin and history of recovered and seized firearms. NIBIN allows for the capture and comparison of ballistics evidence to aid in solving and preventing violent crimes involving firearms. The utilization of NIBIN is vital to any violent crime reduction strategy because it provides investigators the ability to compare their ballistics evidence against evidence from other violent crimes on a national, regional, and local level, thus generating investigative links that would rarely be revealed absent the technology.
- \$150,485 was awarded and will be utilized by the Clackamas County Interagency Task Force to purchase and deploy a portable mass spectrometer real time drug detection device that detects drugs such as fentanyl with a high level of sensitivity and selectivity. Those funds will also be used to purchase and deploy portable, enhanced video surveillance equipment. All of this equipment will be made available to other HIDTA initiatives in the area which will enhance their investigative effectiveness and efficiency.
- \$115,000 was awarded to enhance the Oregon Overdose Response Strategy initiative by facilitating the creation of an Oregon-Idaho HIDTA demand reduction/prevention strategy. Funding will be used to hire a contractor to work with Washington-Baltimore HIDTA's ADAPT (A Division for Advancing Prevention & Treatment) initiative to complete a drug prevention strategic plan. Funding will also be used to convene a conference of drug prevention professionals in the region with the goal of enhancing relationships and the sharing of information and best practices.
- \$95,000 was awarded to supplement Oregon-Idaho HIDTA initiative efforts to address the country's overdose situation. The Executive Board is currently evaluating 5 funding proposals that focus on prevention, education, information sharing and enhanced investigations.

Congratulations to Portland Police Bureau Assistant Chief Art Nakamura on his upcoming retirement. Assistant Chief Nakamura has been a staunch advocate of drug enforcement in Portland as well as a true ambassador of the HIDTA mission in the state, region, and nation. Assistant Chief Nakamura has served as a HIDTA initiative investigator, supervisor, middle manager and executive. He leaves a legacy of selfless leadership and commitment to his drug enforcement peers and the community that he has served. Assistant Chief Nakamura's retirement leaves a drug enforcement leadership void that will be very difficult to fill.

***Chris Gibson, Director  
Oregon-Idaho HIDTA Program***

## ***BLUE MOUNTAIN ENFORCEMENT NARCOTICS TEAM***

- ◆ In August 2023, during a planned arrest, the Blue Mountain Enforcement Narcotics Team (BENT) arrested the leader of a drug trafficking organization (DTO) related to an ongoing long term investigation. Throughout the investigation, BENT seized a total of approximately 8.6 pounds of methamphetamine, 6,500 dosage units of fentanyl pills, and one handgun.

During the 3rd quarter of 2023, two other DTO members were arrested. These additional arrests lead to a seizure of over one pound of methamphetamine, about 100 fentanyl pills and one firearm. All suspects are facing charges associated with commercial drug offenses and two suspects are facing charges associated with the possession of a firearm.



***Pictured above: fentanyl pills, methamphetamine and firearm seizure***

- ◆ During August 2023, BENT concluded a long term investigation of a Pendleton man. Detectives identified the suspect as a psilocybin and cocaine trafficker in Umatilla County. At the conclusion of the investigation BENT executed a residential search warrant in Pendleton, Oregon. Throughout the investigation BENT seized a total of approximately 1,768.3 grams of psilocybin mushrooms, 7 dosage units of LSD, 81.6 grams of cocaine, a small amount of fentanyl pills, 2 handguns, and subsequently the arrest of one suspect.



***Pictured above: mushrooms, LSD, cocaine, fentanyl pills, and firearms seizure***

- ◆ On September 6, 2023, BENT concluded a one year long investigation. With the assistance of the Oregon State Police SWAT, BENT executed a search warrant at the residence of Luis Cornejo, DOB 06/23/1979, 230 East Beech Avenue, in Hermiston, Oregon.

During the service of the search warrant, BENT detectives located approximately 550.0 grams of suspected cocaine, 204.0 grams of suspected methamphetamine, 6,418 suspected fentanyl pills, 185 grams of suspected heroin, \$3,988.00 in US currency, 9 handguns (including one silencer), 3 rifles, packaging material and other items associated with the distribution of illegal controlled substances.



***Pictured above: cocaine, fentanyl pills, heroin, methamphetamine, firearms, and cash seized from Cornejo***

## ***DOUGLAS INTERAGENCY NARCOTICS TEAM***

- ◆ On July 28, 2023, detectives with the Douglas Interagency Narcotics Team (DINT) seized 2,337 illegal marijuana plants from a location in the 500 block of Shively Creek Road in Days Creek, OR.
- ◆ On August 2, 2023, DINT executed search warrants at two locations in Dillard, OR - the 200 block of Hult Street and the 800 block of Dyke Rd, and found 1,674 marijuana plants, and approximately 860 pounds of processed marijuana. The following suspects were arrested:
  - 29 yr old Julio Romero-Garcia, of Dillard
  - 27 yr old Juan Sanchez-Holguin, of Dillard
  - 34 yr old Oleksandr Kolisnichenko, of Hallandale Beach, Florida
  - 40 yr old Oleksandr Podzizey, of Darien, Illinois
- ◆ On August 4, 2023, DINT conducted enforcement actions at two locations - the 3000 block of Boomer Hill Rd in Myrtle Creek, OR and the 700 block of Pruner Rd in Riddle, OR. DINT detectives seized large scale illegal marijuana extraction labs from each site, along with over 50,000 pounds of processed marijuana, 30,000 ML's of marijuana extract, and 60,000 pounds of processed hemp. The following were arrested:
  - 49 yr old Emiliano Sundt, of Myrtle Creek
  - 45 yr old Dmytro Rudakov, of Myrtle Creek
  - 49 year old Majnun U-Din Nathanson, of Myrtle Creek
  - 50 year old Alexey Belyaninov of Myrtle Creek
  - 59 year old Yevgeniy Radaev of Roseburg
  - 45 year old Iryna Vyshar, of Roseburg
- ◆ On August 15, 2023, DINT executed a search warrant at a former illegal marijuana site located in the 1000 block of Westside Road in Camas Valley, OR. The search revealed an illegal psilocybin mushroom cultivation operation. DINT seized approximately 44,000 pounds of psilocybin mushrooms, an illegal firearm, and evidence of marijuana production. This is the largest psilocybin seizure on record in Douglas County. The following were arrested:
  - 40 yr old Alberto Salgado-Mendoza, of Camas Valley
  - 27 yr old Elias Perez-Diaz, of Camas Valley
  - 18 yr old Francisco Nunez, of Camas Valley
  - 28 yr old Luis Hernandez, of Camas Valley
  - 25 yr old Abel Perez-Diaz, of Camas Valley
- ◆ On August 15, 2023, DINT executed a search warrant in the 1100 block of Reston Road in Tenmile, OR and located an illegal marijuana grow consisting of over 12,000 marijuana plants. This case is related to the Westside Road case noted above. Two arrests were made:
  - 36 yr old Joaquin Valdovinos-Torres, of Stockton, California
  - 34 yr old Claudio Cardoza, unknown residence
- ◆ On August 22, 2023, DINT detectives contacted the driver of a vehicle during a traffic stop on I-5 at milepost 161. The driver, 51 yr old Bryan Bakken of Springfield, was immediately detained regarding a warrant for his arrest from the US Marshals Service. Bakken was the subject of an ongoing investigation, and detectives had reason to believe Bakken was in possession of a large amount of narcotics. A search of Bakken's vehicle revealed approximately 4 pounds of suspected methamphetamine.

Bakken was lodged at the Douglas County Jail on several narcotics charges, as well as the Marshals warrant.
- ◆ On September 6, 2023, DINT executed search warrants at two neighboring properties simultaneously in the 2300 block of Azalea-Glen Rd in Azalea, OR. This resulted in the seizure of 178 marijuana plants and approximately 124 pounds of processed marijuana. Additionally, detectives discovered one person, Wayne Picard, in possession of suspected child pornography. This investigation is ongoing, but the following persons have been arrested:
  - 76 yr old Wayne Picard, of Azalea
  - 60 yr old Doris McEwen, of Azalea
  - 34 yr old Shaun Greer, of Azalea

*DINT continued on next page...*

*DINT continued*

- ◆ On September 8, 2023, DINT executed a search warrant in the 800 block of Tunnel Road in Glendale, OR. Detectives discovered approximately 450 marijuana plants, over 400 pounds of processed marijuana, and a small amount of cocaine. Arrested in this case were the following:
    - 30 yr old Natanael Zavala-Aguilar, of Glendale
    - 44 yr old Jassen Rumsey, of Grants Pass (unlawfully delivering water)
    - 62 yr old Kevin Helmer, of Grants Pass (unlawfully delivering water)
  
  - ◆ On September 20, 2023, DINT executed search warrants in the 600 block of Ranchero Road and the 100 block of Fawn Lane, in Glendale, OR. DINT executed search warrants at both locations simultaneously, along with two other locations outside the county (one in Grants Pass and one in Medford). These search warrants resulted in the seizure of over 12,000 marijuana plants, 9,000 lbs of processed marijuana, and a small amount of cocaine. The following persons were arrested in this case:
    - 30 yr old Michael Avendano-Leon, of Roseburg
    - 23 yr old Tomas Ayala-Garcia, of Glendale
    - 27 yr old Aquilino Cruz-Garcia, unknown residence
    - 18 yr old Alexis Jimenez-Lopez, unknown residence
    - 29 yr old Antonio Mendoza-Valencia, of Glendale
    - 20 yr old Ulises Edrel-Rotas, of Santa Clara, California
    - 33 yr old Eladio Lopez-Diaz of Santa Rosa, California
    - 28 yr old Juan Merino-Avendano, of Santa Rosa, California
    - 24 yr old Mario Garcia-Cruz, of Clearlake, California
    - 21 yr old Alfonso Cevallos-Magana, of Glendale
    - 40 yr old Leonides Romero, of Clearlake, California
    - 33 yr old Pablo Mendoza-Mendoza, of Grants Pass
    - 32 yr old Marisela Ayala-Valencia, of Grants Pass
  
  - ◆ On September 29, 2023, DINT executed a search warrant at 6222 Upper Cow Creek Rd, in Azalea, OR. Detectives located 108 growing marijuana plants, 302 grams of suspected methamphetamine, 164 grams of suspected fentanyl, 3.5 grams of suspected cocaine, and small amounts of various other controlled substances. The following people were arrested:
    - 38 yr old Steven Brooks, of Crescent City, California
    - 60 yr old Frances Nuss, of Azalea
    - 33 yr old Kayleen Chacey, of Azalea
    - 44 yr old Josh Bolen, of Crescent City, California
  
  - ◆ DINT and the Douglas County Sheriff's Office had been working on a joint investigation since July of this year. This case started as an investigation into a stolen vehicle that was recovered in the Roseburg area by the Douglas County Sheriff's Office. Suspicious items were found inside the stolen vehicle, and they were suspected to contain illegal narcotics. DINT detectives applied for a search warrant to open the items, and found a large amount of suspected fentanyl. In total, deputies and detectives located approximately 2 pounds of suspected fentanyl powder, along with evidence of fentanyl sales.
- On October 6, 2023, DINT detectives took the suspect into custody in the Eugene area. 35 yr old Mitchell Ramsey, of Gerber, California, was lodged in the Douglas County Jail on fentanyl related charges.

# HIDTA INTERDICTION TASKFORCE

- In August of 2023, HIDTA Interdiction Taskforce (HIT) investigators were working criminal narcotics interdiction with a focus on couriers that were using commercial bus lines to transport narcotics into the Portland Metropolitan area. With the use of consensual encounters and a narcotics K9, HIT investigators seized a bag containing 8 kilograms of cocaine.

*Pictured below: eight kilograms cocaine seizure*

This interdiction initiated a larger investigation into the group's network in the Portland Metropolitan area.



- In the second week of August 2023, members of the Portland Police Bureau HIT team conducted a spotting mission in the downtown Portland area that was concentrated on fentanyl dealers. The HIT team worked with Central Patrol, Central Bike Squad, Clackamas County Interagency Taskforce, Multnomah County DA's office and the AUSA's office to coordinate the mission.

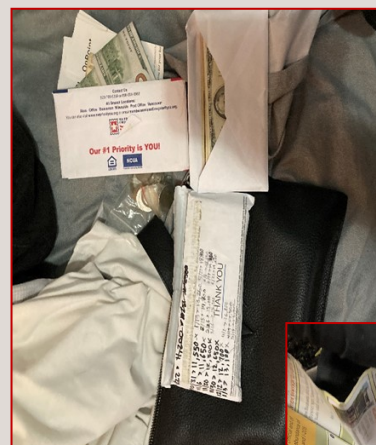
Fentanyl dealing and use has become an increased livability issue in the downtown Portland area. During the course of the mission, plain clothes officers spotted multiple hand to hand transactions. The subjects identified as dealers were followed until they were ultimately taken into custody. Over the course of 2 days, 13 subjects were arrested with 2 federal indictments and 11 facing state charges. In total 14,298 grams of counterfeit M/30 fentanyl pills, 816 grams of fentanyl powder, 2 handguns and \$11,606.00 United States currency was seized.

- Members of HIT received a complaint from a concerned citizen that an adult male was supplying drugs to high school students in the Portland metropolitan area. The male was identified as Spencer Acuna DOB 11/29/99. Messages between Acuna and students were obtained confirming he was selling to students.

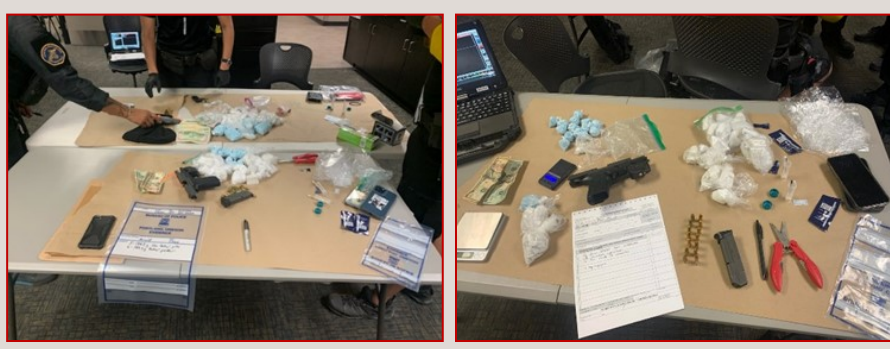
HIT conducted a consent search of Acuna's vehicle and residence after the arrest. Officers found \$25,000 cash, several bags of mushrooms, 500 LSD tabs, along with small amounts of MDMA and Ketamine. It was also discovered that Acuna was shipping drugs out of state via USPS.



*Pictured above and below: seized during downtown mission*



*Pictured left and below: cash and narcotics seized from Acuna*



# IDAHO STATE POLICE - DOMESTIC HIGHWAY ENFORCEMENT

- ◆ During the 3rd quarter of 2023 the Idaho State Police Domestic Highway Enforcement conducted four operations in Ada, Canyon, Twin Falls, and Bannock Counties. The following agencies supported the operations: Idaho Department of Corrections (Felony Probation and Parole), Twin Falls County Sheriff’s Office, Twin Falls Police Department, Bannock County Sheriff’s Office, Pocatello Police Department, and Chubbuck Police Department.

- ◆ On July 20, 2023, an Idaho State Police Trooper conducted a traffic stop in Bannock County on a Kia Sorento towing a trailer, both with Florida plates, for window tint violation. During the encounter, the trooper smelled marijuana coming from inside the vehicle; the occupants admitted to having marijuana. Occupants also described travel plans that were inconsistent with their travel.

While conducting a search of the vehicle, the trooper located 1.2 pounds of THC wax and edibles, 143.9 grams of codeine, 37 dose units of hydrochloride, and \$78,090 in cash.



**Pictured above: seized from Kia**

- ◆ On September 11, 2023, an Idaho State Police Trooper conducted a traffic stop in Bonneville County on a gray 2022 Nissan Altima with California plates for following too close.

During the stop, the trooper observed signs of criminal behavior and requested a K9 to perform an open-air sniff. After a positive alert from the K9, a search of the vehicle was performed. While conducting the search of the vehicle, the trooper located 12.8 ounces of methamphetamine, \$7,329 in cash, and 1 pistol.



**Pictured above: methamphetamine, cash, and firearm seized in Bonneville County**

- ◆ On September 22, 2023, an Idaho State Police Trooper conducted a traffic stop in Shoshone County on a gray Nissan Altima with Montana plates for window tint violation.

During the stop, the trooper observed signs of drug paraphernalia in plain sight. Occupants admitted to having marijuana in the vehicle.

While conducting a search of the vehicle, the trooper located 1,178 dosage units of fentanyl, 6.6 grams of marijuana, .11 grams of methamphetamine, and a stolen Washington license plate.



**Pictured above: fentanyl, marijuana, and methamphetamine seized in Shoshone County**

# MEDFORD AREA DRUG AND GANG ENFORCEMENT

3rd Quarter Update ~

- The Medford Area Drug and Gang Enforcement team (MADGE) opened an investigation into a large scale drug trafficking organization (DTO) operating in Jackson County. The Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) assisted in the investigation and MADGE detectives made contact with two suspects during a traffic stop. K-9 Bodie alerted to a backpack that the suspect said contained “a personal use amount” of methamphetamine. A telephonic search warrant was granted and detectives seized 5.03 pounds of methamphetamine from the backpack. Additional work is being done on this case.



5.03 pound methamphetamine seizure



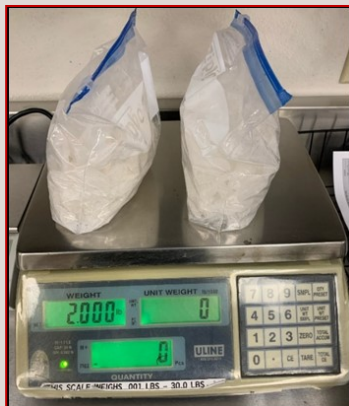
- After a lengthy investigation, MADGE made contact with a suspect during a traffic stop. K-9 Bodie alerted to the vehicle. A search warrant of the vehicle revealed 2.24 pounds of methamphetamine, 38.50 grams of fentanyl, 4 doses of LSD, 20 doses of Xanax, and 36.29 grams of psilocybin. The suspect admitted to selling drugs. He was lodged on possession, manufacturing, and distribution of both methamphetamine and Fentanyl.

### Vehicle search warrant seizure



- MADGE detectives made contact with a suspect they had been investigating for selling methamphetamine in the Medford, OR area. The suspect was on probation for past drug convictions. MADGE located two pounds of methamphetamine inside the bag he was in possession of. The suspect was charged and is facing prison time.

Two pound methamphetamine seizure



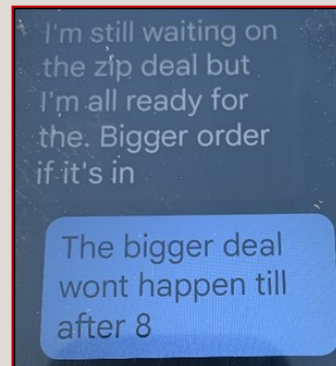
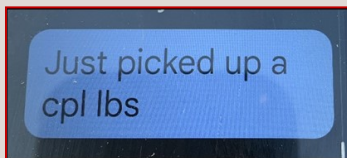
Pictured below: drugs and firearms seized during Central Point search warrant



- MADGE served a search warrant at a property in Eagle Point, OR that resulted in the seizure of 2.59 pounds of methamphetamine, eight firearms, and \$2,618.

One suspect was lodged on possession, manufacturing, and distribution of methamphetamine, and being a felon in possession of a firearm. Another suspect was cited and released on the same charges. A third suspect said she would turn herself in, but failed to do so and an arrest warrant has been requested. Charges are pending for another suspect. Additional work is being done on this case.

Messages seized during Eagle Point search warrant



- MADGE executed a search warrant in Central Point, OR where 3.75 pounds of fentanyl powder, 219 fentanyl pills, .12 pounds of heroin, 9.70 grams of methamphetamine, 13.90 grams of cocaine, 132 doses of Xanax, 21 firearms (including two ghost guns) and \$6,897 were seized. One subject was cited and released while the investigation continues.

*MADGE / IMET continued*

### Illegal Marijuana Enforcement Team - IMET

- ◆ During July 2023, the Illegal Marijuana Enforcement Team (IMET) executed search warrants at three separate properties owned by an individual out of California who did not have any licensing to cultivate marijuana at any of the properties.

The first property was in Butte Falls, OR where IMET was assisted by Jackson County Sheriff Office's deputies and detectives, and the Oregon State Police. IMET destroyed 3,704 illegal marijuana plants.

The next two search warrants were in Rogue River, OR where IMET was assisted by Jackson County Sheriff Office's deputies and detectives and the Oregon State Police. IMET destroyed 3,743 illegal marijuana plants, 41 pounds of processed marijuana, .3 pounds of psilocybin, and 4.70 pounds of marijuana edibles.

Two subjects were cited and released for possession, manufacturing, and distribution of marijuana. One subject was also charged with illegal import/export of marijuana. Charges are pending at the District Attorney's Office for other individuals. Jackson County Sheriff Office's Code Enforcement issued the property owner \$277,860 in citations for all three properties.



**Illegal marijuana grow destroyed by IMET**



**Pictured above: Rogue River illegal marijuana grow**

- ◆ During the 3rd quarter of 2023, IMET served search warrants simultaneously at two properties in Rogue River, OR. IMET was assisted by members of the MADGE team, Jackson County Sheriff Office's deputies and detectives, and the Oregon State Police.

Between both properties IMET destroyed 2,116 illegal marijuana plants, 564.40 pounds of processed marijuana and seized \$2,564. Two subjects were cited and released for possession and manufacturing of marijuana. An arrest warrant has been requested for another subject.

The properties were owned by separate individuals. Each property owner was fined \$8,000 for code violations.



**Illegal marijuana grow at Rogue River property**

- ◆ IMET served a search warrant at a property in White City, OR with assistance from Jackson County Sheriff Office's deputies and detectives. The search warrant resulted in the destruction of 972 illegal marijuana plants. A total of six firearms were seized. One suspect was cited and released for manufacturing marijuana and an arrest warrant has been requested for another subject.

The property owner was fined \$296,760 for code violations. The violations included building a residential house without any building permits or land use approval, electrical installations that posed an imminent risk of fire, failure to obtain approval for marijuana production, prohibited camping within a marijuana grow site, and the use of RV's as residential dwellings.

*MADGE / IMET continued on next page...*



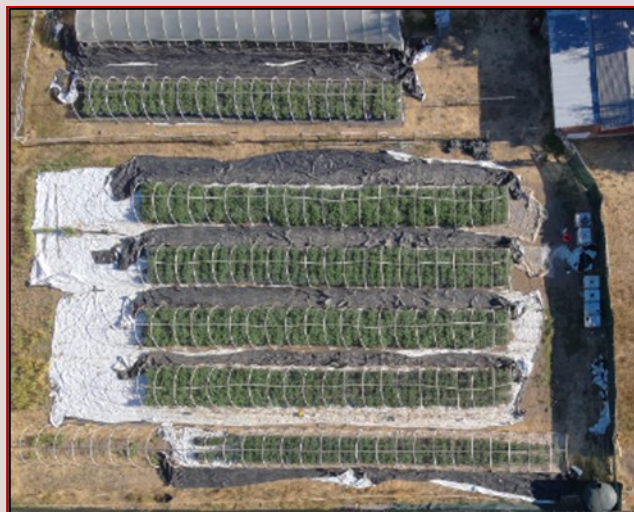
### *MADGE / IMET continued*

- ◆ IMET served search warrants at two tax lots in Rogue River, OR. IMET was assisted by MADGE, Jackson County Sheriff Office's deputies and detectives, and Homeland Security. IMET seized a total of 3,315 illegal marijuana plants, 545 pounds of processed marijuana, and \$2,396.

One suspect was arrested and charged with two counts of possession, manufacturing, and distribution of marijuana. Twelve workers were released after being interviewed. The property owner was fined \$58,000 for code violations.

- ◆ With assistance from Jackson County Sheriff Office's patrol deputies and detectives, IMET served a search warrant on two tax lots totaling 5.26 acres in White City, OR. IMET destroyed 17,000 mature marijuana plants that were being grown without the necessary licensing and seized four firearms. Two subjects fled but were captured. A total of three subjects were lodged and there are charges pending for another subject.

Jackson County Sheriff Office's Code Enforcement issued \$8,000 in citations to the property owner. The property owner is also facing violations for an illegal well and misappropriation of water from a nearby creek.



***Pictured above: illegal marijuana grow at Rogue River properties***

***Pictured below: White City illegal marijuana grow***



## ***CENTRAL OREGON DRUG ENFORCEMENT***

- ◆ During August and September 2023, the Central Oregon Drug Enforcement (CODE) team conducted an investigation on Vanessa Plazola and Mickey Moore for distributing methamphetamine in the Central Oregon area.

On September 20, 2023, police attempted to stop Plazola in a vehicle and she fled in it. Her vehicle was located later and she fled on foot. Using different investigative techniques and a drone, officers located Plazola hiding in a citizen's vehicle. Plazola was in possession of 874.53 grams of methamphetamine.

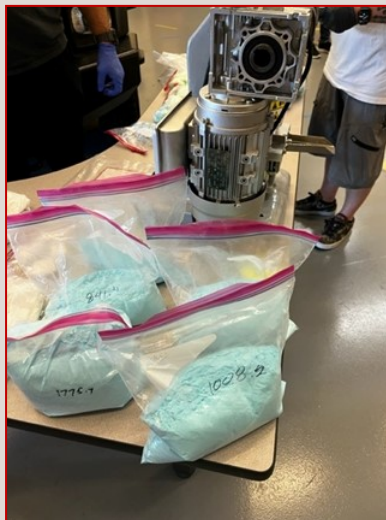
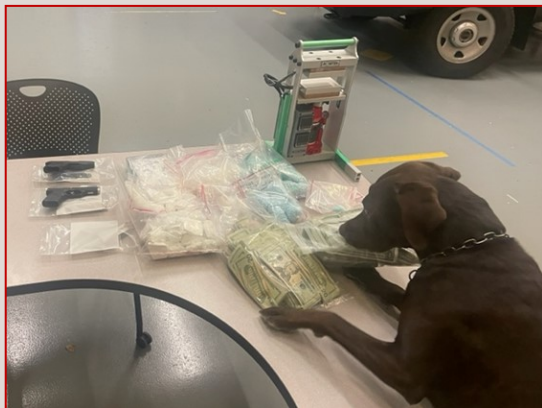
CODE conducted a search warrant on a residence where Plazola and Moore were staying. Multiple firearms were located in Moore's bedroom and in the home. Both Plazola and Moore are convicted felons. The investigation revealed that Plazola and Moore were possessing and delivering large quantities of methamphetamine in Deschutes County.



***Pictured above: methamphetamine seized from Plazola***

## ***MULTNOMAH CO. SHERIFF'S OFFICE DANGEROUS DRUG TEAM***

- ◆ The Multnomah County Sheriff's Office Dangerous Drug Team (MCSO DDT) served a search warrant on a drug trafficking organization (DTO) that had been impacting several US cities including Salt Lake City, UT, Los Angeles, CA, Oakland, CA, and Denver, CO. During this search warrant DDT seized a brick of uncut fentanyl, powdered (mixed) fentanyl, thousands of pills, a pill press, a scale, and a handgun. One brick of fentanyl can produce roughly about 600,000 pills.

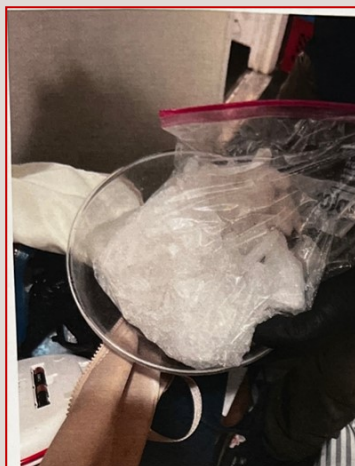


***Pictured above and left: fentanyl, paraphernalia and handgun seized from DTO***

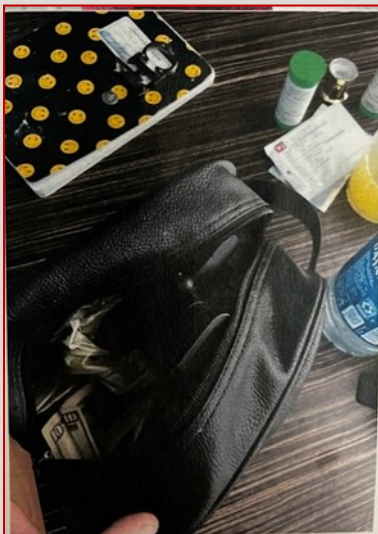


- ◆ MCSO DDT had another seizure that produced roughly \$12,000 and over 3.5 lbs of cocaine, as well as producing new leads to further other investigations. DDT also seized several dangerous firearms during the search warrant, including handguns, rifles, and a suppressor.

- ◆ MCSO DDT served a search warrant and arrested a suspect involved in shootings and fentanyl dealing from Portland, OR to Oakland, CA. The suspect has been involved in multiple different cases. Thousands of fentanyl pills were seized along with cash and firearms.



***Pictured above: cocaine and suppressor seized by DDT***



***Pictured left: fentanyl, cash and firearms seizure***

# LINN INTERAGENCY NARCOTICS ENFORCEMENT

3rd Quarter Update ~

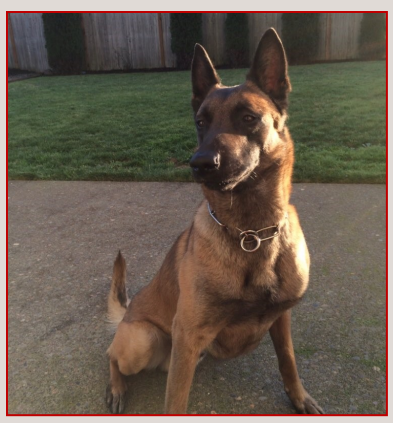
◆ The Linn Interagency Narcotics Enforcement (LINE) team continues to work indoor and outdoor marijuana grows as time allows. This quarter, LINE served search warrants at two indoor grows associated with drug trafficking organizations (DTO's). These grows were smaller than grows of previous years, however construction and practices seem to be the same or similar. In the asset forfeiture portion of these cases, LINE is seeing that properties are no longer being purchased with cash. Rather, they are being financed with little to no cash down, making the properties impossible to forfeit due to little or negative equity.

## OREGON STATE POLICE DOMESTIC HIGHWAY ENFORCEMENT

◆ On August 29, 2023, an Oregon State Police (OSP) Trooper and K9 Nero stopped a vehicle for traffic violations on I-5 north near milepost 219 in Linn County Oregon. While taking enforcement action, the trooper noted several factors that caused him to suspect the driver was involved in criminal activity. The trooper requested and was granted consent to search the vehicle. During the search, the trooper located approximately 70,000 suspected fentanyl pills hidden in a backpack in the trunk of the vehicle.

The driver was taken into custody without incident. An adult passenger and toddler who were also in the vehicle were transported from the scene and released.

◆ On August 31, 2023, an OSP Trooper and K9 Nero stopped a vehicle on Interstate 5 near milepost 219 in Linn County. While taking enforcement action, the trooper noted several factors which caused him to become suspicious that the vehicle occupants were involved in criminal activity. During a search of the vehicle, the trooper located several packages which contained a total of 14.1 lbs. of fentanyl powder.



**K9 Nero**



**14.1 lbs. of fentanyl powder seized**



**70,000 fentanyl pill seizure**

◆ On September 28, 2023, an OSP Trooper and K9 Marley stopped a vehicle for a traffic violation on I-5 north near MP 215 in Linn County. During enforcement action, the trooper became suspicious the occupants were involved in criminal activity.

K9 Marley was deployed and alerted to the odor of narcotics. A search warrant was applied for and granted. While searching the vehicle, over 10,000 fentanyl pills and 92 lbs. of cocaine were seized.



**K9 Marley with fentanyl and cocaine seizure**

## ***U.S. MARSHALS SERVICE FUGITIVE TASK FORCE/ PACIFIC NORTHWEST VIOLENT OFFENDER TASK FORCE***

- ◆ On August 23, 2023 the U.S. Marshals Service Fugitive Task Force/ Pacific Northwest Violent Offender Task Force (PNVOTF) received an arrest warrant from Portland Police Bureau (PPB) Homicide Squad for Gerardo Daine Obregon-Longares for Murder. Obregon-Longares was involved in an altercation in Portland where he approached the victim and asked him what gang set that male represented. The victim responded that he was not part of any gang and Obregon-Longares shot and killed the victim. Obregon-Longares is the de-facto leader of the 18th Street gang for the Portland, Oregon and Salem, Oregon areas.

On September 13, 2023 members of the PNVOTF located Obregon-Longares at his girlfriend's address. PNVOTF members approached Obregon-Longares while putting his infant in the vehicle. Obregon-Longares left his infant in the car seat in the parking spot and ran from the vehicle. Obregon-Longares was apprehended a few blocks later. Search incident to arrest of Obregon-Longares revealed that he was armed with a 9mm pistol which he had thrown during the foot chase.



**Obregon-Longares**

- ◆ In August of 2020, Anthony Torres-Bingert was involved in an altercation in Nassau County, NY in which he shot an individual. In June of 2023, an arrest warrant was signed in Nassau County circuit court for Torres Bingert's arrest for Attempt Murder, Assault 1, Assault2, Possession of a Firearm.

On September 14, 2023, the PNVOTF for the District of Oregon received a collateral lead request from the New York New Jersey Regional Fugitive Task Force stating that Torres-Bingert was potentially in the Portland, Oregon area.

On September 21, 2023, members of the PNVOTF located and arrested Torres-Bingert at the Veteran Affairs hospital in Portland, Oregon without incident.



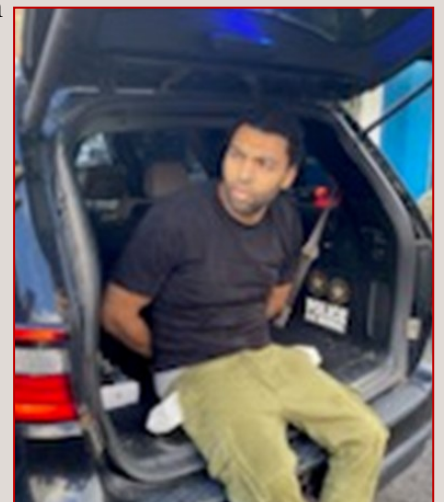
**Torres-Bingert**

- ◆ On September 27, 2023 the PNVOTF received an urgent collateral lead request from the USMS Great Lakes Regional Task Force (RFTF) in Illinois that Rene Chandler was potentially in southwest Portland, Oregon. Chandler was wanted by the Cook County Sheriff's Office for Escape, Aggravated Sexual Assault and Robbery dating back to 2019. Chandler also had warrants for his involvement in identity theft out of Colorado. According to the RFTF investigators, Chandler was operating under an alias that he used to open loans, purchase cars, and lure his female victims.

In 2020 Chandler was released from jail in Chicago on \$500.00 bond based upon his defense attorney stating that Chandler had health problems and was not a flight risk. Chandler was ordered back into custody but never returned after cutting his GPS.

PNVOTF received an anonymous tip that Chandler was going to pick up his vehicle from a detail shop in southwest Portland. PNVOTF members observed Chandler arrive at the shop and approached Chandler. Chandler was challenged by PNVOTF members and began to resist arrest and reached into his bag that he was carrying. Chandler was tased and taken into custody. Chandler admitted to PNVOTF members that he had a handgun and was trying to shoot himself in the head.

Search incident to arrest of Chandler's bag revealed approximately \$19,100.00 in US Currency, multiple fake identifications, and a loaded semi-automatic pistol. The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) and Portland Police Bureau Fraud Unit charged Chandler federally for Felon in Possession of a Firearm and Identity theft.



**Chandler**

## WESTSIDE INTERAGENCY NARCOTICS

- ◆ During the summer of 2023, the Westside Interagency Narcotics (WIN) team identified 3 unrelated overdose deaths where the chain of the fentanyl led to the same supplier named “Shorty”. The WIN team also communicated with Multnomah County DDT, and Deschutes County’s CODE, as there was information that “Shorty” was supplying their areas of responsibility.

Through a series of controlled buys, the WIN team identified 3 Honduran nationals as being involved in the distribution of fentanyl. The crew utilized Lloyd Center and Holiday Park to conduct the fentanyl sales, while they slept at a motel in Gladstone. On July 6, 2023 the WIN team conducted a vehicle takedown and subsequent search warrant service on the motel room. The WIN team seized approximately 2,000 fentanyl pills and fentanyl powder. The custody of the three subjects was transferred over to federal authorities.

- ◆ In July 2023, WIN received a tip about a large amount of fentanyl being smuggled into the Portland Metro area by an individual out of Oakland, California. The Alameda County Narcotics Task Force (ACNTF) determined the fentanyl was heading for the Portland Metro area and contacted WIN.

WIN team investigators, assisted by Portland Police Bureau's Narcotics and Organized Crime Division (NOC), located a vehicle they believed contained the large quantity of fentanyl parked near the 1300 block of SW Park Avenue. Jorge J. Alas-Avila was in the vehicle when investigators approached it and was eventually detained. Investigators quickly learned Alas-Avila was wanted for a felony warrant related to narcotics.

With the help of the Multnomah County District Attorney’s Office, investigators applied for a search warrant for the vehicle, which was granted. During the search of the vehicle, investigators located approximately 40,000 fentanyl pills and 18.4 pounds of powdered fentanyl. The total weight of narcotics seized was 28 pounds, and is the largest fentanyl seizure in the history of the WIN team. The seized fentanyl is valued at \$600,000 and contains 3.5 million lethal doses.

The WIN Team worked closely with the Portland Police Bureau, the US Attorney's Office in Portland, the Multnomah County District Attorney’s Office, and task force members from the Alameda County Narcotics Task Force (ACNTF) during the investigation.

- ◆ On August 8, 2023, Yamhill County deputies responded to an overdose death that occurred in rural Dayton, OR. The Yamhill County Interagency Narcotics Team (YCINT) investigated the death, and learned the level one supplier was located in Beaverton, OR. YCINT contacted the WIN team for assistance. The WIN team contacted and detained the level one supplier, who identified their source of supply as a male who lived in Gladstone, OR.

The WIN team conducted a series of controlled buys into the level two supplier in Gladstone. WIN received a search warrant for the suspect’s residence, and executed the search warrant on August 8, 2023 with the assistance of the Clackamas County Sheriff’s Office SWAT and Clackamas County Interagency Task Force (CCITF) teams.

The WIN team seized approximately 10,000 fentanyl pills and 6 firearms.



**Fentanyl pills and powder seizure**



**Fentanyl pills and firearms seizure**

*WIN continued*

- ◆ The WIN team investigated an overdose death where the chain of drugs led to a Honduran national drug trafficking organization (DTO) based in Gresham, OR. The WIN team conducted a series of controlled buys into the DTO, and identified several vehicles and an apartment complex associated with the group. On September 26, 2023 the WIN team, with the assistance of the East Metro SWAT team, FBI, and Homeland Security Investigations, executed the search warrant on an apartment associated with the group. In total, three members of the DTO were contacted and detained.

During the subsequent investigation, the WIN team identified a set of keys belonging to a different apartment in the same complex. The WIN team later searched that apartment as well, and it was identified as a fentanyl manufacturing and gun storage space. The WIN team interviewed the suspects, and learned of two impending drug deals to occur later that day. WIN later successfully performed a vehicle takedown on two Mexican nationals transporting fentanyl pills. The WIN team attempted to stop a second vehicle, being operated by a Honduran national, but the suspect fled. The suspect threw a kilogram of fentanyl powder from the window while fleeing. The suspect ultimately crashed in Wood Village, OR, and fled the scene. The WIN team, with the assistance of the Multnomah County Sheriff's Office, was unable to locate that suspect.

In total, the WIN team seized 4.6 kilograms of fentanyl powder, 9.5 kilograms of fentanyl pills, 1.5 kilograms of heroin, 200g of methamphetamine, 155g of cocaine, 7 firearms, 1 kilogram hydraulic press, 1 vehicle, and over \$50,000 in cash. Five suspects were taken into federal custody and later indicted on the charges.



**Seizure from search warrant on Honduran DTO**

## ***OREGON-IDAHO HIDTA TRAINING INITIATIVE***

### **2023 3rd Quarter Training Initiative Update -**

The Training Initiative's goal is to host at least one training per quarter in our region for HIDTA members in addition to providing funding assistance to attend additional narcotic related trainings.

**During the 3rd quarter of 2023, the Training Initiative provided funding for the following trainings:**

- *August 21, 2023 in Meridian, ID ~ Narcotic Related Financial Investigations*
- *August 28 - September 1, 2023 in Portland, OR ~ Basic Narcotics Class*
- *August 29, 2023 in Salem, OR ~ Operational Red Flags for Supervisors*
- *September 24-30, 2023 in Boise, ID ~ Top Gun Narcotics Training*
- *September 28, 2023 in Pendleton, OR ~ Snapchat Investigations Course*

**2024 Training Needs Assessment Survey results show the need for training on the following topics:**

- *Gang Awareness in Narcotic Investigations*
- *Cryptocurrency Classes*
- *Narcotic Related Financial Investigations*
- *Analyst Notebook Basic and Advanced*

Details and registration information for future training events can be found on the Oregon-Idaho HIDTA website: <http://oridhidta.org/training-events>

When attending training(s) that you would like Oregon-Idaho HIDTA reimbursement for, a HIDTA Training Funds request form must be submitted and approved prior to the training.

For out of town/state training, for multiple people, or any training where you are asking HIDTA for reimbursement, please use the "***Multiple Attendee*** or ***Out of State***" request form.

Feel free to contact Oregon-Idaho HIDTA Deputy Director/Training Coordinator Ned Walls with any questions or suggestions.

#### **Contact Information:**

**Email:** [ned.walls@dpsst.oregon.gov](mailto:ned.walls@dpsst.oregon.gov)

**Telephone:** 503.569.1631

## ***ANALYTICAL SUPPORT***

### **Oregon-Idaho HIDTA Information Sharing and Analytical Coordination Center (ISACC)**

**ISACC Manager Cam Strahm**  
503.310.4411  
[cam.strahm@dpsst.oregon.gov](mailto:cam.strahm@dpsst.oregon.gov)

**Strategic Threat Analyst Terra Duncan**  
503.881.5092  
[terra.duncan@dpsst.oregon.gov](mailto:terra.duncan@dpsst.oregon.gov)

### **Oregon DOJ Analytical & Criminal Investigative Services Section (ACISS)**

**Watch Center:** 800.442.6248 or  
[oregonwatch@wsin.riss.net](mailto:oregonwatch@wsin.riss.net)

## OREGON-IDAHO HIDTA LAW ENFORCEMENT INITIATIVE ACTIVITY

(YTD = End of 3rd Quarter)

	2022	Qtr	2023 YTD
<b>DTO-MLOs Dismantled/Disrupted</b> <i>(Projected - 72)</i>	80	25	44
<b>Cases Opened</b> <i>(Average - 3,313)</i>	3,488	1595	2,459
<b>Cases Designated RPOT/CPOT</b>	0	0	0
<b>Cases Qualified as OCDEF</b>	11	3	4
<b>Kg of Drugs Seized</b>			
Cocaine	162.6	15.2	51.5
Fentanyl	59	49.4	111.2
Heroin	67.1	8.5	29.4
Marijuana	422,519	72,764	119,754
Methamphetamine/Ice	783.2	154.9	600.4
<b>DU of Drugs Seized</b>			
Fentanyl	3,020,802	1,700,270	2,298,389
Other Illicit Drugs	363,086	9,968	14,713
<b>Assets Seized</b>			
Cash	\$10,216,341	\$3,381,066	\$4,303,356
Value of Non-Cash Assets Seized	\$18,985,748	\$580,984	\$3,843,842
<b>Other Law Enforcement Outputs</b>			
Arrests	2,697	538	1,913
Firearms Seized	851	294	852
Wire Taps	46	30	42
Vaping Cartridges Seized	13,134	1,102	5,299

*Oregon-Idaho High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) Program*

Chris Gibson - Director

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