



## **CHRISTIAN COUNTY PROSECUTING ATTORNEY'S OFFICE**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**DATE: DECEMBER 16, 2011**

**RE: STATE V. BILLY PRICE 11CT-CR00497**

### **METH COOK GETS FIFTEEN YEAR SENTENCE**

OZARK, MO - Christian County Prosecuting Attorney, Amy J. Fite announced today that BILLY PRICE, dob: 08/28/1972 of Oldfield, Missouri plead guilty and was sentenced for class B felony of attempted manufacture of methamphetamine in front of Christian County Circuit Judge Mark Orr. Judge Orr sentenced BILLY PRICE to serve fifteen years in the Missouri Department of Corrections. Probation was denied.

On May 11, 2011, members of the Combined Ozarks Multi-Jurisdictional Enforcement Team (COMET) made contact with BILLY PRICE and other individuals at his residence at 407 Clayton Hollow Road. BILLY PRICE was apprehended at the scene without incident and the other individuals were apprehended promptly after a failed attempted to flee.

After obtaining a search warrant, COMET officers searched the residence and located numerous items and ingredients for the manufacture of methamphetamine including several packages of cold medicine that contained pseudoephedrine, a necessary ingredient in the manufacture of methamphetamine. After a review of area pseudoephedrine logs, which identify individuals who purchase cold medicine, COMET officers were able to determine that BILLY PRICE had purchased cold medicine similar to that found at his home about four days prior to his arrest.

The conviction of PRICE is the third conviction and sentence to stem from the incident that occurred on May 11<sup>th</sup>, 2011. DENNIS WALKER, dob: 11/16/1958 of Sparta, Missouri received a fifteen (15) year sentence and JACK GUIERN, dob: 06/14/1977 of Chadwick, Missouri received a twelve (12) year sentence for their roles in the clandestine methamphetamine operation located by COMET officers.

In response to the efficient and effective prosecution of the three defendants Christian County Prosecuting Attorney, Amy Fite stated that, "[t]hese cases demonstrate COMET's dedication to eradicate methamphetamine production in our county. As it can take years for cases of this

severity to reach their conclusion, the fact that these multiple defendants have been held accountable for their crimes is an example that the criminal justice system in Christian County has the ability to serve justice swiftly and surely.”

The class B felony of attempted manufacture of a controlled substance carries a range of punishment of five to fifteen years in the Missouri Department of Corrections.