

Local meth focus aids federal indictment

**(KAIR)--Atchison County investigations into the distribution of methamphetamine has tied into the federal indictment of five in Saint Joseph, Missouri.**

**Atchison County Sheriff Jack Laurie cites the stepped up efforts of his agency, saying, "some of our investigations here helped their case, and we're pretty proud of that."**

**According to a news release issued this week by Tom Larson, Acting U.S. Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, the five Saint Joseph residents have been indicted for their roles in a \$2.1 million conspiracy to distribute methamphetamine.**

**27-year-old James Pardee, 25-year-old Eleesea Crail, 29-year-old Johnathan Graf, 26-year-old Michael Ramsel, and 38-year-old Adam Lowe have been charged in a three-count superseding indictment returned under seal by a federal grand jury in Kansas City, Missouri on November 16. It was unsealed and made public following the arrests and court appearances of Pardee and Ramsel, both in federal custody.**

**The other three defendants are being held on unrelated state charges.**

**The indictment alleges the distribution of more than 99 kilograms of methamphetamine during the conspiracy. The five co-defendants are also charged together in one count of conspiracy to commit money laundering in connection with the drug-trafficking conspiracy.**

**In addition to the conspiracy counts, Pardee is charged with one count of possessing methamphetamine with the intent to distribute.**

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