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DATE: APRIL 4, 2007

**TANEY COUNTY RESIDENT STEPHEN K. COX SENTENCED TO FIFTEEN
(15) YEARS**

FORSYTH, MO – On Tuesday, April 4, 2007, the Honorable Mark Orr sentenced Stephen K. Cox to fifteen (15) years in the Missouri Department of Corrections for the class C felony of possession of methamphetamine. Due to multiple felony convictions for both the manufacturing and the distribution of controlled substances including methamphetamine and cocaine, Stephen Cox faced the A felony range of punishment as a prior and persistent drug offender at sentencing.

On July, 5 2007 officers from the Combined Ozarks Multi-jurisdictional Enforcement Team (COMET) executed a search warrant at Mr. Cox's residence in Rockaway Beach. Upon search, officers discovered numerous items of drugs and drug paraphernalia throughout Mr. Cox's residence. Another co-defendant in the case, Janet Massengill still faces felony drug charges.

James Poe, Assistant Taney County Prosecutor was satisfied with the outcome. Mr. Poe said, "(b)ecause of Stephen Cox's status as a prior and persistent offender we have been able to get a known drug dealer and manufacturer off the street for a long time." Chief Assistant Prosecuting Attorney, Christopher Lebeck further added that "this result would not have been possible without the outstanding work of our COMET drug task force officers."

An A felony carries the range of punishment of ten (10) to thirty (30) years, or life imprisonment. A class C felony carries the range of punishment of one (1) day to one (1) year in the County Jail, one (1) year to seven (7) years in the Department of Corrections and or a fine not to exceed five thousand (5,000) dollars.