NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NITRO UPDATE

BARNARD RESIDENT PLEADS GUILTY TO ROLE IN NODAWAY, ANDREW COUNTY METH CONSPIRACY

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced today that a Barnard, Mo., resident pleaded guilty in federal court today for conspiracy to manufacture methamphetamine. The guilty plea, Graves said, is the result of work completed by the NITRO Task Force.

Lori Ann Clements, 43, of Barnard, pleaded guilty before U.S. District Judge Ortrie D. Smith this afternoon to conspiracy to manufacture methamphetamine.

By pleading guilty, **Clements** admitted that she conspired to manufacture 50 grams or more of methamphetamine between Sept. 1, 2001, and Sept. 16, 2003, in Nodaway and Andrew counties of Missouri. **Clements** also agreed to forfeit any proceeds derived as a result of the conspiracy, including a residence located at 303 Morehouse in Barnard, a 1999 Chevrolet Monte Carlo and $2,540 seized during the execution of a search warrant on April 10, 2003.

Clements is one of four defendants who have already pleaded guilty to their role in the methamphetamine conspiracy.

On March 8, 2004, **Lester L. Lahoda**, 27, of Bolckow, Mo., pleaded guilty to conspiracy to manufacture 50 grams or more of methamphetamine between Sept. 1, 2001, and Sept. 16, 2003, in Nodaway and Andrew counties. **Lahoda** was sentenced to two years and three months in federal prison without parole on Dec. 15, 2004.

On March 8, 2004, **Billie J. Clements**, 24, of Maryville, pleaded guilty to conspiracy to manufacture 50 grams or more of methamphetamine between Sept. 1, 2001, and Sept. 16, 2003, in Nodaway and Andrew counties. **Billie J. Clements** was sentenced to five years of federal probation on Aug. 3, 2004.

On March 12, 2004, **Kelly Dean Vore**, 34, of Maryville, pleaded guilty to the same charge of conspiracy to manufacture 50 grams or more of methamphetamine between Sept. 1, 2001, and Sept. 16, 2003. **Vore** was sentenced to two years in federal prison without parole on Aug. 3, 2004.

Under federal law, Graves said, **Lori Ann Clements** may be subject to a maximum sentence of up to 40 years in federal prison without parole, plus a fine up to $2 million. A sentencing hearing will be scheduled after the completion of a presentence investigation by the United States Probation Office.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Bruce Rhoades. It was investigated by the Nodaway County, Mo., Sheriff's Department, the Andrew County, Mo., Sheriff's Department, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives and the NITRO Task Force. NITRO is the Northwest Missouri Interagency Team Response Operation, a joint law enforcement effort by the United States Attorney's Office and federal, state and local law enforcement agencies in the 16-county region.

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This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at
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NITRO
Northwest Missouri Interagency
Team Response Operation