

Missouri Community 2000

Inside this issue:

Candy flavored meth continued	2
Gov. Blunt announce new proposal	3
Missouri meets Blueprint goal	4
New Ad to debut during Super Bowl	4

Candy flavored meth

By: Monte Mitchell of the Winston-Salem Journal out of North Carolina; December 19, 2007

Drug dealers could be distributing candy-flavored methamphetamine to children. Or reports that they are could be an urban legend spreading on the Internet and in the news media, depending on who you believe.

But in Ashe County, (North Carolina) Sheriff James Williams' nose told him that a batch of pink meth seized by his investigators during the three-month investigation earlier this year sure smelled different.

"You could smell the flavor in it," Williams said. "It was like a crystal meth, only it was red-looking. It had kind of a strawberry smell to it."

Reports of candy-flavored meth have made news headlines since January, when authorities in Carson City, Nev., seized a pink-colored meth that became known as "strawberry quick."

Skeptics note that no one in

law enforcement probably knows what the substance tastes like.

David Duncan, the chairman of the illicit-drugs council of the National Association of Public Health Policy in Reston, VA said that the candy-flavored meth stories are myths, fueled by misunderstandings and a gullible media.

Steve Robertson, a Drug Enforcement Agency special agent and spokesman, said that the DEA has not analyzed any flavored methamphetamine, but it has heard from informants and intelligence sources that "people are trying to flavor meth to make it more attractive."

A spokeswoman for the State Bureau of Investigations said that the agency is investigating two or three cases of colored meth, but it doesn't know yet if the meth was flavored.



Candy flavored meth, myth or threat?

The reports were enough for Sen. Steve Goss, (North Carolina) D-45th, whose district includes Ashe County, to announce this week that he's working on legislation to fight what he called a scourge and real danger to children. He's still developing the details, but he said that the approach could include stronger penalties and the appointment of a task force.

"There's much to be learned about this new threat," Goss said. "We believe it's being targeted to younger children."

Goss isn't the only politician calling for tougher laws. Responding to police and

(continued on page 2)

-Quick Reference-

- Visit www.dea.gov/concern/meth_factsheet.html for more information about methamphetamine.
- Web site includes street names, methods of usage, history, statistics, cost, effects, etc.

Candy flavored meth continued...

Media reports, U.S. Sens. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif., and Chuck Grassley, R-Iowa, introduced legislation in April to increase federal penalties for drug dealers who use flavored drugs to entice young people. The bill is still in committee.

Meth is typically a white or brown crystal that is most often smoked, inhaled, or injected, although some people swallow it. Traffickers may add chocolate powder, gelatin or other flavorings to downplay the dangers of the drug and make it more attractive, Robertson said.

Colored meth has been around for years. Some makers add dye to distinguish their "brand" for marketing.

Information on the Web site www.snopes.com, which debunks many stories circulating on the Internet, says that candy-flavored meth is an urban legend.

One widely distributed e-mail in October said that strawberry-flavored meth was being handed out to school children. The e-mail was purportedly from Special Agent Todd Coleman of the federal Department of Homeland Security.

Reached by telephone this week, Coleman said that the e-mail did not come from him or his office.

Bob Curley, the news editor for Join Together, a program of Boston University's School of Public Health, said this week that he didn't know of any confirmed instances of flavored meth in the United States.

Curley said that the DEA issued warn-

ings after the report came out of Carson City, Nev., and major news outlets picked up the story.

"Flavored meth is somewhat akin to the Loch Ness Monster; everyone has heard of it, but first-hand sightings are hard to track down and verify," Curley wrote.

He said that when he spoke to officials at the Carson City Sheriff's Office they couldn't confirm if the meth they seized was flavored or just colored. He said that both the DEA and the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy told him that they haven't been able to identify a single confirmed seizure of flavored meth.

In Ashe County (North Carolina), sheriff's Capt. Chris Miller said that a local newspaper reported the local case-including its Web site-he was contacted by a doctor in Alaska, as well as others, either telling him that candy-flavored meth is an urban legend or asking questions about it.

"I can only tell you what we got, it's not rumor," he said.

The sheriff's office conducted an undercover drug investigation from July to September in Ashe and in Grayson County, Va., and seized about 10 to 11 ounces of the meth, he said. Meth is often odorless or can sometime have a pungent chemical smell if it's wet, he said. This was different.



"Meth is typically a white or brown crystal..."

"It smelled like candy, a sweet candy odor," he said. "It looks like a pink crystallized candy."

He said he's heard the drug called "strawberry delight" in Ashe and Alleghany counties.

He said that the DEA information says that candy-flavored meth is being made to entice children, but that authorities don't believe that's what happened in Ashe. He said that the drugs that were found appear to be simply what the dealer had been provided with by his supplier.

"Colored meth has been around for years. Some makers add dye to distinguish their "brand" for marketing."

"We have no information children are being targeted in this area," Miller said.

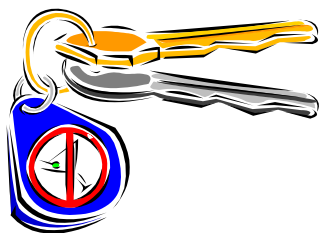
Monte Mitchell can be reached in Wilkesboro, North Carolina at 336-667-5691 or at mmitchell@wsjournal.com.

Article Web Site: http://www.journalnow.com/servlet/Satellite?pagename=WSJ%2FMGArticle%2FWFSJ_BasicArticle&c=MGArticle&cid=1173353916456&path=!localnews&s=1037645509099

Gov. Blunt announces new proposal to keep drunk drivers off Missouri highways and roads

For Immediate Release
Thursday, January 10, 2008
Jessica Robinson, 573-751-0290

Jefferson City-Gov. Matt Blunt today announced his plan to better protect Missourians from drunk drivers requiring repeat offenders to modify their vehicles to ensure they cannot endanger other Missourians by drinking and driving.



Repeat offenders will be required to have an ignition interlock device installed on their vehicle.

“To protect Missouri families and ensure our roads are as safe as possible, drunk driving offenders simply should not be allowed to get behind the wheel without some assurance they are fit to drive,” Gov. Blunt said. “My plan to toughen our drunk driving laws ensures 100 percent of repeat offenders will not be given the privilege to drive without first taking serious precautions to prevent them from again drinking and driving endangering Missourians.”

Gov. Blunt is calling for legislation to require drunk driving offenders to modify their vehicle ignition switches before their driver license is reinstated. Under current law courts required to mandate ignition interlock devices, a vehicle modification system that disables a vehicle’s ignition if the driver is drunk or drinking, on the second or subsequent offense. However, poor compliance in the judicial system has meant that more than 80 percent of repeat drunk driving offenders are getting back on the road without any protections to assure they are fit to drive.

regardless of judicial action or the penalty imposed by the courts, 100 percent of repeat offenders will be required to modify their vehicles if they wish to maintain the privilege to drive in Missouri.

In 2005 there were 3,163 drivers convicted of second and subsequent offenses. Of those only about 19 percent, or 614, were required by the courts to install the interlocks. Gov. Blunt’s proposal would modify driver license laws to require that after a second or subsequent drunk driving conviction, Missourians would have to install an ignition interlock device before receiving a license. The repeat offender would also be restricted to operating only the authorized vehicle with the ignition interlock device to allow someone whose license is restricted to drive.

Ignition interlock devices cost

Gov. Blunt’s proposal would strengthen existing law by making ignition lock devices a necessary requirement before the state will issue a repeat drunk driving offender a new driver license. The change would mean that

between \$40 and \$70 initially and about \$70 monthly to maintain, a cost charged to the offender.

The governor’s proposal continues his strong stance against alcohol offenders. Last year Gov. Blunt signed legislation closing a loophole in the law that had allowed some arrested for drunk driving to avoid prosecution on a technicality. He also signed legislation creating two new classes for repeat DWI offenders, aggravated and chronic, that both carry increased penalties. In addition the governor strengthened Missouri’s laws against underage drinking by changing penalties to address both the possession and consumption of alcohol by minors. In Missouri a minor could be found guilty of a “minor in possession” if he or she is

“To protect Missouri families and ensure our roads are as safe as possible, drunk driving offenders simply should not be allowed to get behind the wheel without some assurance they are fit to drive.” -Governor Matt Blunt

visibly intoxicated or has a blood alcohol content of more than .02. New laws enacted by the governor also prohibits adults from allowing minors to drink on their private property unless they are the minor’s legal guardians and requires school districts to create a policy detailing the consequences if a student is found to either possess or drink alcohol on school property or at school events.

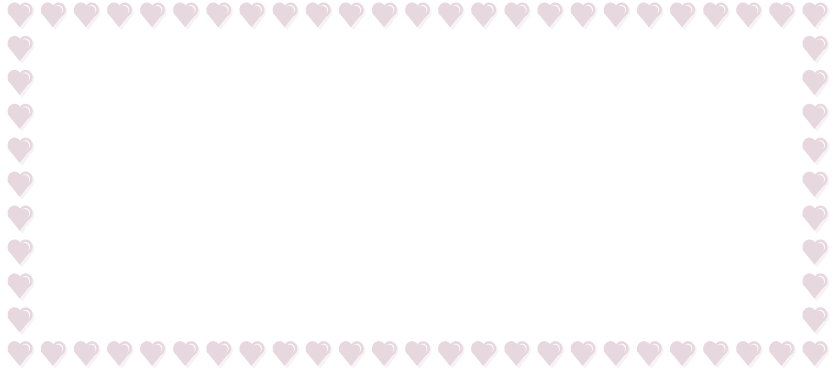
Family Counseling Center, Inc

925 Highway VV
PO Box 71
Kennett, MO 63857

Phone: 573-888-5925
Fax: 573-888-9365
Email: C2000@familycounselingcenter.org

**“An Ounce of Prevention is Worth a
Pound of Cure.”**

We're on the web!
www.fccinc.org



Missouri meets Blueprint goal

MODOT Highway Safety Office indicates that Missouri has met the Blueprint goal of 1000 or fewer fatalities by 2008.

Statewide Fatality Totals as of December 31, 2007:

2007 Year to Date fatalities-966-this number may increase because of late deaths (up to 30 days after the accident) 11 percent decrease for the year

2006 Year End Total=1,096

2005 Year End Total=1,257

2004 Year End Total=1,130

2003 Year End Total=1,232

New ad campaign debuts during Super Bowl

For Immediate Release, January 24, 2008; Jennifer de Vallance, ONDCP 202-395-6648

The White House Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) is launching its first major Federal effort to educate parents about teen prescription drug abuse. The national public awareness campaign is being done in collaboration with the Partnership for Drug-Free America (PDFA) and will begin with advertisements during this year's Super Bowl. This campaign will use broadcast, print, and online advertising, community outreach, and new print and online resources to help parents and communities combat the troubling trend of teen prescription

drug abuse. This effort is arriving shortly after CADCA's Dose of Prevention Town Hall Meetings initiative. In August, ACT Missouri was one of 10 organizations nation-wide to sponsor a town hall meeting in Jefferson City to raise awareness about teen cough medicine abuse. To read more about the ONDCP and PDFA federal effort, visit the ONDCP Web site:

<http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/>

