



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PROJECT CEASEFIRE
ONE FELON, THREE DRUG USERS INDICTED
FOR ILLEGAL POSSESSION OF FIREARMS

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that one felon and three illegal drug users were indicted by a federal grand jury today, in separate and unrelated cases, for illegally possessing firearms. Today's indictments, Graves said, are part of Project Ceasefire, the district's ongoing anti-crime initiative.

* **Billie C. Mullen**, 27, of Independence, Mo., was charged in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury in Kansas City with being a felon in possession of a firearm.

Count One of the federal indictment alleges that **Mullen** was in possession of a Heritage Manufacturing 9 mm semi-automatic pistol on Dec. 26, 2004. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for anyone who has been convicted of a felony to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition. **Mullen** has two criminal felony convictions for stealing that occurred in 1996 and 1997.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Christina Y. Tabor. It was investigated by the Independence, Mo., Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

* **Steven W. Wait**, 43, of Independence, Mo., was charged in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury in Kansas City with being an unlawful user of a controlled substance in possession of a firearm.

The federal indictment alleges that **Wait** was in possession of a Sturm Ruger Single Six .22-caliber revolver on May 26, 2004. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for any unlawful user or addict of a controlled substance to be in possession of any firearm. **Wait** was an unlawful user of methamphetamine at the time he possessed the firearm, the indictment alleges.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Christina Y. Tabor. It was investigated by the Independence, Mo., Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

* **Randy L. Hopkins**, 37, of Independence, Mo., was charged in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury in Kansas City with being an unlawful user of a controlled substance in possession of a firearm.

The federal indictment alleges that **Hopkins** was in possession of a Cobray 12-gauge semi-automatic shotgun on July 3, 2003. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for any unlawful user or addict of a controlled substance to be in possession of any firearm. **Hopkins** was an unlawful user of marijuana and Xanax at the time he possessed the firearm, the indictment alleges.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney David A. Barnes. It was investigated by the Independence, Mo., Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

* **Steven S. Jones**, 24, of Independence, Mo., was charged in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury in Kansas City with being an unlawful user of a controlled substance in possession of a firearm.

The federal indictment alleges that **Jones** was in possession of a Mossberg 12-gauge bolt-action shotgun on Nov. 17, 2004. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for any unlawful user or addict of a controlled substance to be in possession of any firearm. **Jones** was an unlawful user of crack cocaine at the time he possessed the firearm, the indictment alleges.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Christina Y. Tabor. It was investigated by the Independence, Mo., Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

Graves cautioned that the charges contained in these indictments are simply accusations and not evidence of guilt. Evidence supporting the charges must be presented to a federal trial jury, whose duty is to determine guilt or innocence.

Project Ceasefire

Project Ceasefire, launched in October 1999, is a cooperative initiative by federal and local law enforcement and the Kansas City Crime Commission that targets for federal prosecution persons who unlawfully use or possess firearms.

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
www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow