

United States Attorney's Office



Northern District of Iowa

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: October 28, 2004

For further information contact:
Matthew J. Cole, AUSA
(319) 363-0091

TAMA COUNTY MAN SENTENCED TO OVER 15 YEARS ON DRUG AND GUN CHARGES

United States Attorney Charles W. Larson, Sr. announced today that **TAIT PURK**, age 38, of Tama, Iowa, was sentenced today to 188 months in federal prison.

PURK pled guilty on May 10, 2004, to conspiracy to manufacture methamphetamine and being a felon in possession of a firearm. **PURK** admitted that he assisted in the manufacture of methamphetamine between May 22, 2003, and June 10, 2003. On June 10, 2003, officers located a .22 caliber revolver and ammunition at defendant's residence during the execution of a search warrant. **PURK** admitted to law enforcement that he was a user of methamphetamine. **PURK** has four prior felony convictions for burglary.

PURK was sentenced In Cedar Rapids by United States District Court Judge Linda R. Reade to 188 months imprisonment. A special assessment of \$200 was also imposed. **PURK** was also ordered to serve a five-year term of supervised release following his release from incarceration. There is no parole in the federal system.

PURK is being held in the United States Marshals' custody until he can be transported to a federal prison.

This case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Matthew J. Cole, as part of Project Safe Neighborhoods, a cooperative local, state, and federal program aimed at the enhanced prosecution of gun crimes. The case was referred to the United States Attorney's Office by the Tama Police Department and the Tama County Sheriff's Office. The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives was also involved in the investigation in this case.