

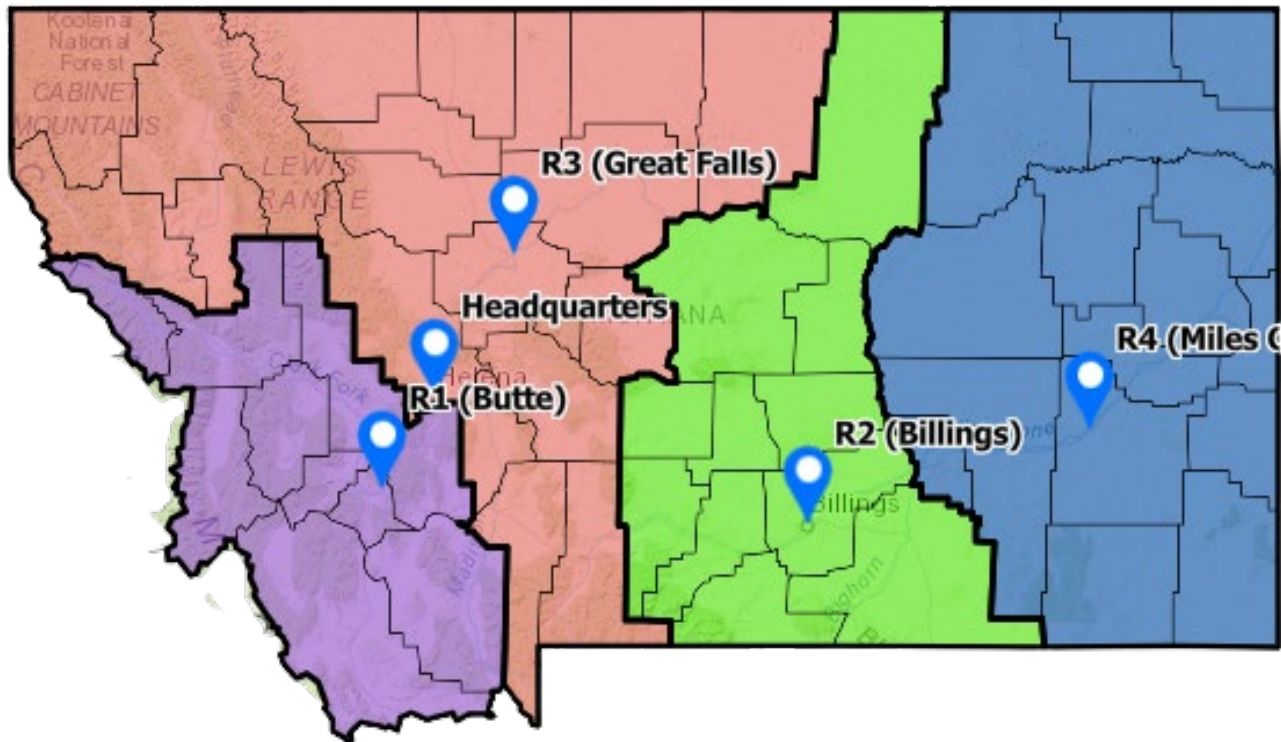


# SPRING 2023 PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

MONTANA BOARD OF CRIME CONTROL

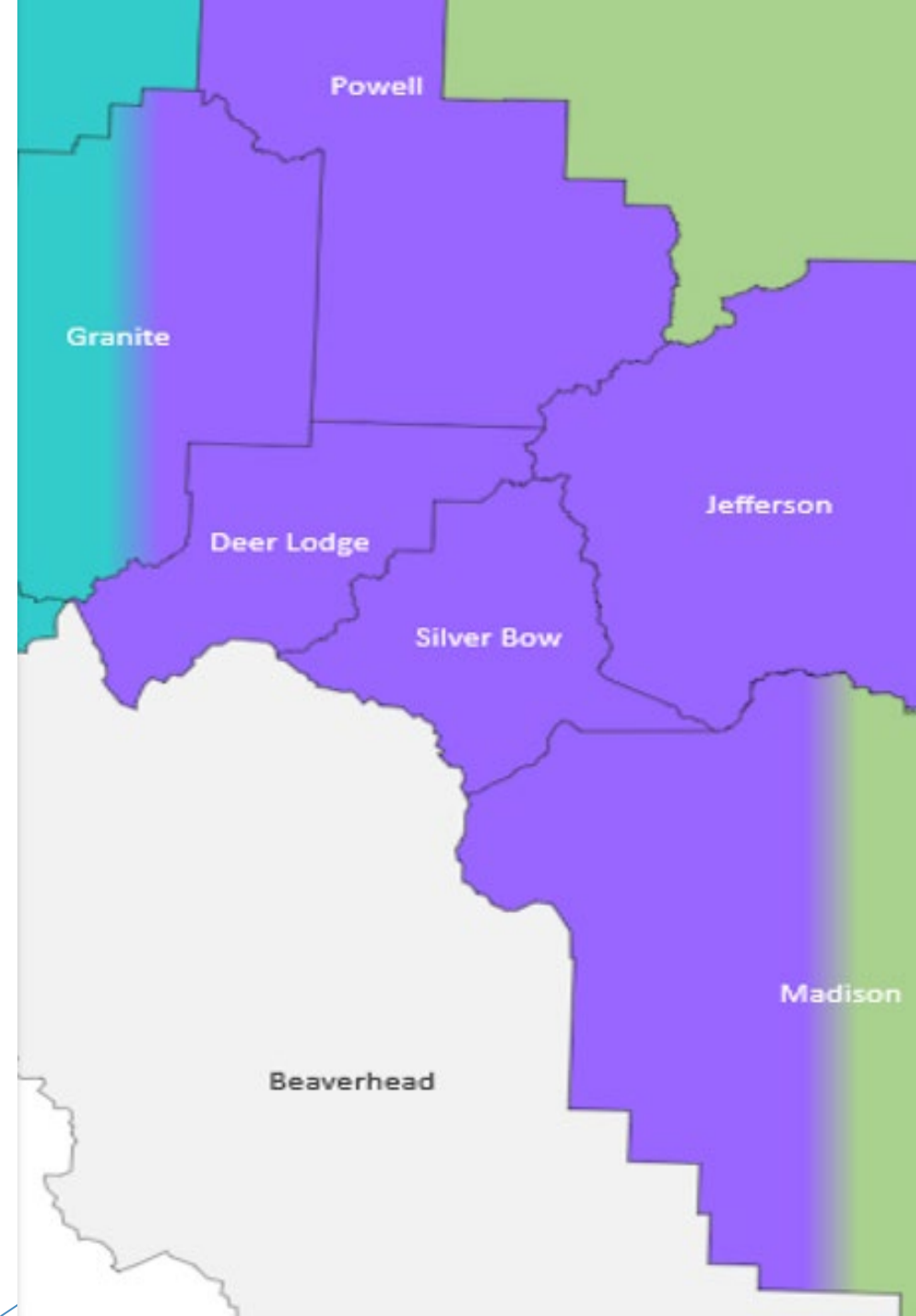


# MONTANA DIVISION OF CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION NARCOTICS REGIONS



MDCI R-1 RAC MARTY HEANEY

# MBCC BJA SUBGRANTEE SOUTHWEST MONTANA DRUG TASK FORCE



# SWMDTF HISTORY



- LOCATED IN BUTTE, AND FOUNDED ON DECEMBER 1<sup>ST</sup> 1994, BY LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES AND THE MONTANA DOJ'S NARCOTICS BUREAU. THE **SWMDTF** HAS BEEN OPERATING CONTINUOUSLY FOR 29 YEARS
- IT IS STRUCTURED ON A MODEL OF MULTIJURISDICTIONAL INVESTIGATIONS RELATED TO DANGEROUS DRUGS, AND CRIMES OF VIOLENCE
- MONTANA DCI HAS BEEN TASKED WITH SUPPORTING THE DAY TO DAY OPERATIONS THROUGH PERSONNEL, FUNDING, AND INVESTIGATIVE ASSISTANCE

## CURRENT AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY

- COMPRISED OF (7) LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES AND MANAGED BY A BOD, AND THE MONTANA DCI
- **MEMBER AGENCIES:**
  - BUTTE SILVER BOW PD,
  - GRANITE COUNTY SO, POWELL COUNTY SO,
  - JEFFERSON COUNTY SO, MADISON COUNTY SO,
  - DEER LODGE PD, DILLON PD
- **PERSONNEL:**
  - (4) FULL TIME INVESTIGATORS
  - (3) DCI NARCOTICS AGENTS
  - (1) SERVING AS A DEA TFO FOR THE TDS
  - (1) FULL TIME TFO (BUTTE PD)
  - (1) DCI FUNDED ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
  - (1) DCI REGIONAL AGENT IN CHARGE (RAC)
- **REGION SERVED:**
  - 16,300 SQUARE MILES
  - POPULATION OF APPROXIMATELY 85,000
  - HISTORICALLY AN ECONOMICALLY DEPRESSED AREA



## WHAT THE SWMDTF DOES

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- **NARCOTICS INVESTIGATIONS**
- **CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS INVOLVING FIREARMS AND CRIMES OF VIOLENCE**
- **UC OPERATIONS (BUY WALKS, SEARCH WARRANTS, ARREST WARRANTS, SURVEILLANCE)**
- **TACTICAL RESPONSE TO HIGH RISK OPERATIONS**
- **DEVELOP CONFIDENTIAL SOURCES OF INFORMATION**
- **INVESTIGATE AND SUBMIT COMPLEX AND LONG TERM CONSPIRACY CASES FOR FEDERAL PROSECUTION**
- **TARGETED ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS INVOLVING REAL TIME INTELLIGENCE**
- **DRUG INTERDICTION INVESTIGATIONS (TRAFFIC, PARCELS)**
- **DEPLOYMENT OF INVESTIGATIVE AND COVERT EQUIPMENT (TruNarc)**
- **OPERATE AS A CLEARING HOUSE AND RESOURCE FOR INFORMATION SHARING AMONGST LOCAL, STATE, AND FEDERAL PARTNERS**
- **RESPOND TO CLANDESTINE LAB INVESTIGATIONS**
- **PROVIDE EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE TO LAW ENFORCEMENT, FIRST RESPONDERS, HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS, AND THE GENERAL PUBLIC AT NO CHARGE**



## CASE INITIATION

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- **THE SWMDTF DEVELOPS INVESTIGATIVE INTELLIGENCE THROUGH:**
- INFORMATION SHARING WITH MEMBER AGENCIES
- ONGOING INVESTIGATIONS
- INTEL BRIEFINGS
- PROFESSIONAL RELATIONSHIPS WITH LOCAL, STATE, AND FEDERAL LEO'S BOTH IN AND OUT OF THE REGION
- REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE FROM OTHER LEA'S
- CONTINUING EDUCATION AND TRAINING
- PROSECUTORIAL SERVICES
- MT DOC
- CONFIDENTIAL SOURCES
- CITIZEN SOURCES



## CURRENT TRENDS AND INVESTIGATIVE SWMDTF RESPONSE

- ❖ THE INFILTRATION OF SOPHISTICATED DTO'S FROM OUT OF STATE
- ❖ DTO'S ACTIVELY RECRUITING LOCALS
- ❖ HIGH VOLUME OF DANGEROUS DRUGS SHIPPED BY PARCEL (USPS,UPS,FED-EX)
- ❖ MAINTAIN ABILITY TO ABSORB LOSSES
- ❖ INCREASE IN POLY-DRUG CASES
- ❖ INCREASE IN FIREARM RELATED CRIMES
- ❖ INCREASE IN VIOLENCE AND THREATS TO PUBLIC SAFETY BY SUSPECTS
- ❖ INCREASED USE IN DIGITAL CURRENCY
- ❖ INCREASED AWARENESS OF LE TECHNIQUES ADJUST AS NEEDED (Airbnb's, air travel)
- ❖ INCREASE IN COMMUNICATIONS VIA SOCIAL MEDIA

18:39 Mon Jul 12  
 apps.missoulacounty.us  
 Inmate Information Portal Site Links Reports Justice Links

**Missoula County Inmate Charges/Court Schedule**

**VILLARREAL, HUMBERTO HORIL**

- Age: 34
- Booking ID: 2021-00001982
- Global Jacket: 198920
- Booked: 7/8/2021 12:26:34 PM
- MANS#:

**Mugshot (if available)**

**Helpful Information**

The charges are listed numerically in the table below. Court dates are listed in the table below the charges but are not directly tied to a particular court date. For more information on what charges will be dealt with in each court and/or court date, please contact the court, directly.

**List of Charges followed by Court Appearances**

Charge(s)	Crime Type	Arresting Agency/Officer	Bond/CFS	Cash/Surety	Posted By
1. Fed Hold	Stats	USMS /transport		\$0.00	

**Court Appearance(s)**

[Click to return to previous page](#)

### Three accused of dealing drug linked to overdoses in Butte

#### Butte man sentenced for meth trafficking

By NBC Montana Staff | Tuesday, July 13th 2021



U.S. Attorneys » District of Montana » News

Department of Justice  
 U.S. Attorney's Office  
 District of Montana



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday, July 13, 2021

#### Butte meth trafficker sentenced to 10 years in prison

MISSOULA – A Butte man who admitted trafficking drugs, including methamphetamine, in Montana and to receiving meth through the mail in Butte, was sentenced today to 10 years in prison to be followed by five years of supervised release, Acting U.S. Attorney Leif M. Johnson said.

Charles Joshua Petty, 31, pleaded guilty on March 15 to possession with intent to distribute controlled substances. Petty also was ordered to forfeit \$8,500 seized in the case.

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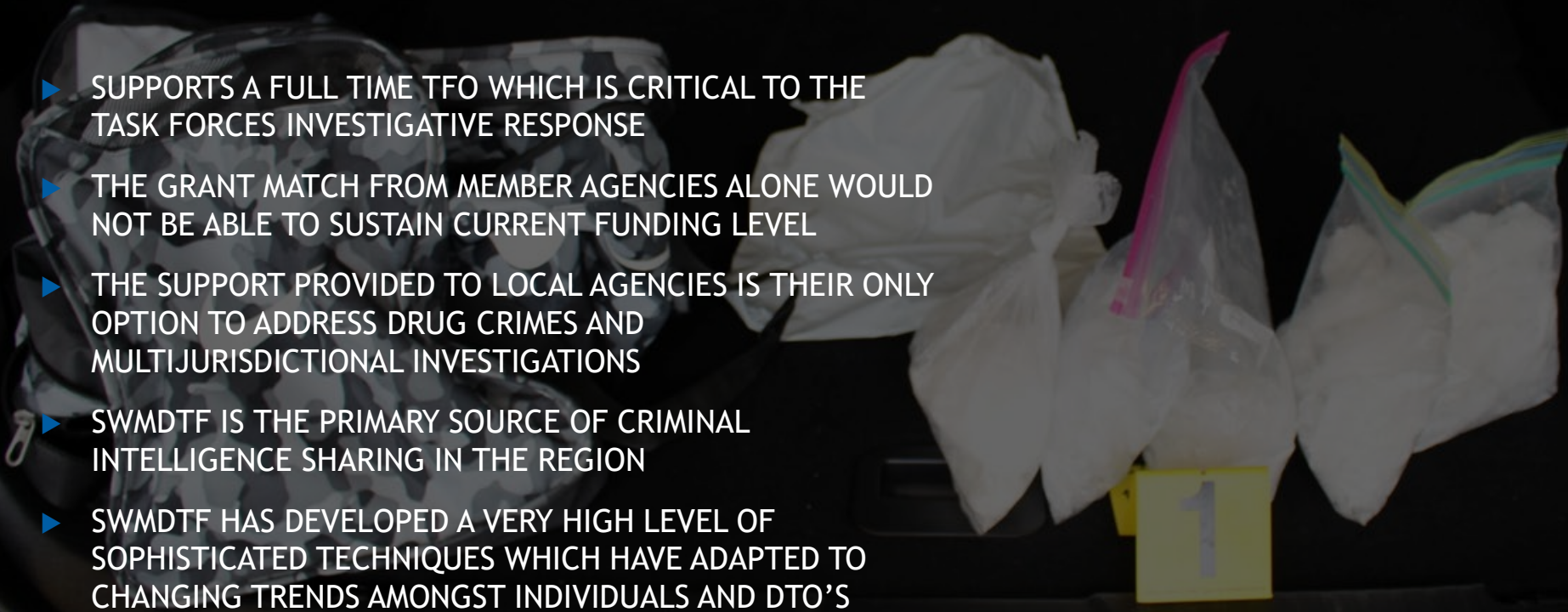
## WHY THE SWMDTF ?

- HISTORICALLY, SOUTHWEST MONTANA HAS HAD A VERY HIGH CRIME RATE RELATED TO ILLICIT DRUGS AND ALCOHOL
- MEMBER AGENCIES ARE UNABLE TO SUPPORT FULLTIME PERSONELL DEDICATED TO NARCOTICS
- SUCCESSFUL NARCOTICS INVESTIGATIONS REQUIRE A MULTIJURISDICTIONAL RESPONSE
- MEMBER AGENCIES ARE SUPPORTED WITH ALL AVAILABLE MDCI RESOURCES, AND INVESTIGATIVE EXPERTISE, AT A MINIMAL FINANCIAL COST
- THERE ARE NO FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES BASED IN THE REGION, MDCI AGENTS ARE ABLE TO FULLY INVESTIGATE AND SUBMIT CASES FOR FEDERAL PROSECUTION
- THE SWMDTF WORKS VERY CLOSELY WITH MONTANA HIDTA'S, TASK FORCES, THE DEA, USPIS, ATF, AND HSI, AS WELL AS LEA'S OUTSIDE OF MONTANA



# IMPORTANCE OF THE BJA GRANT

- ▶ SUPPORTS A FULL TIME TFO WHICH IS CRITICAL TO THE TASK FORCES INVESTIGATIVE RESPONSE
- ▶ THE GRANT MATCH FROM MEMBER AGENCIES ALONE WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO SUSTAIN CURRENT FUNDING LEVEL
- ▶ THE SUPPORT PROVIDED TO LOCAL AGENCIES IS THEIR ONLY OPTION TO ADDRESS DRUG CRIMES AND MULTIJURISDICTIONAL INVESTIGATIONS
- ▶ SWMDTF IS THE PRIMARY SOURCE OF CRIMINAL INTELLIGENCE SHARING IN THE REGION
- ▶ SWMDTF HAS DEVELOPED A VERY HIGH LEVEL OF SOPHISTICATED TECHNIQUES WHICH HAVE ADAPTED TO CHANGING TRENDS AMONGST INDIVIDUALS AND DTO'S INVOLVED IN THE DISTRIBUTION OF DANGEROUS DRUGS



IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2022  
gov | @USAO\_MT

CLAIR J. HOWARD  
406-247-4623

### Investigation dismantles Butte drug trafficking organization with ties to the Sinaloa Cartel

22 defendants convicted

BUTTE — A multi-agency undercover investigation into a large-scale drug trafficking organization that had ties to the Sinaloa Cartel and brought massive quantities of methamphetamine, counterfeit oxycodone pills containing fentanyl and heroin to Butte for distribution has resulted in the federal convictions of 22 persons, U.S. Attorney Jesse Laslovich announced today.

U.S. Attorney Laslovich, along with federal, state and local law enforcement partners, discussed the dismantling of the Butte drug trafficking network at a news conference at the Montana Highway Patrol office in Butte. Led by the Drug Enforcement Administration and Montana Department of Justice's Division of Criminal Investigation, with assistance from

# RESULTS OF THE MULTIJURISDICTION GRANT SUPPORTED MODEL

## ► US Attorney Jesse Laslovich

► *“The success of this collaborative enforcement action would not have been possible without the dedication, cooperation, and hard work of all of our law enforcement partners to hold offenders accountable and to keep Montanans safe.”*

## ► Montana Attorney General Austin Knudsen

► *“There’s no question that Mexico is the source of illegal drugs pouring into our state. These cases - which are the culmination of years of investigative and prosecutorial work - put that to rest,” “Our DCI narcotics agents and Highway Patrol troopers work closely with federal and local partners every day...”*

## ► Butte Silver Bow Sheriff Ed Lester:

► *“I am very grateful for the multi-jurisdictional approach and the cooperation between local, state and federal law enforcement. These are lengthy, labor-intensive and detailed operations,” “This investigation was very successful in that a significant number of defendants were indicted. It puts drug traffickers on notice that Southwest Montana is a very dangerous place to do business.”*



## Officials celebrate major Butte drug ring bust

The MONTANA STANDARD

**Breast Cancer Awareness**  
A by-the-numbers look HEALTH, PAGE C1

**War in Ukraine Update**  
Suicide drone attacks WORLD, PAGE A3

**Butte Central volleyball**  
Strong show at Blocktober SPORTS, B1

WHERE YOUR STORY LIVES

Tuesday, October 18, 2022 mstandard.com • \$2

## Man in standoff identified

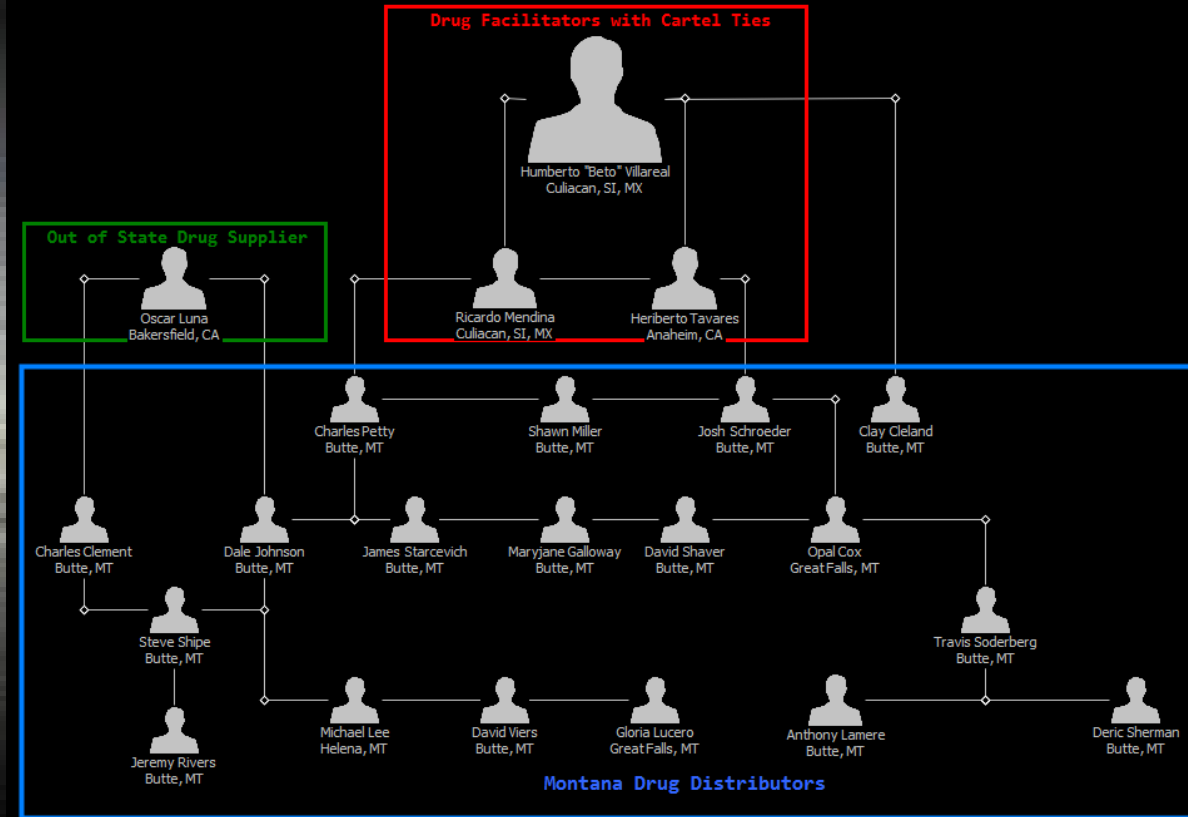
Butte man, now dead, was to be served warrant

Two hours into the standoff, Laslovich allowed a woman to leave the residence, which was on Alameda Street in Butte. The 50-year-old Butte man, now deceased, lived at 510 W. Alameda Street in Butte. He was identified as the man who was involved in last week's standoff on Butte's west side.

Negotiations were ongoing but by Thursday morning, "chemical agents" were used to flush Milashevich out, but he had gone silent. Soon after, the Lewis & Clark County Bomb Squad was at the scene, using drones to locate Milashevich inside the home. Using a K-9 dog from the Montana Highway Patrol, he was found dead in a basement crawl space.

Agents officers stand in an alley behind a home on west Alameda Street in Butte.

# CONSPIRACY



## Southwest Montana Drug Task Force

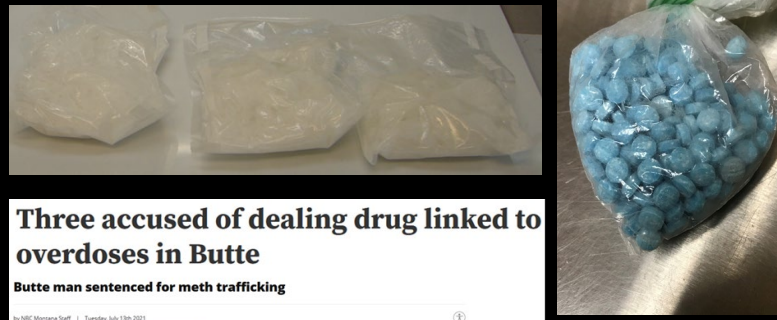
# A Case Study: OPERATION SUMMER GIRLFRIEND



# FedEx Reports Suspicious Activity

## Search Warrant at MT Distributers house

### Montana drug dealers identified



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Butte man sentenced for meth trafficking

U.S. Attorneys » District of Montana » News

Department of Justice  
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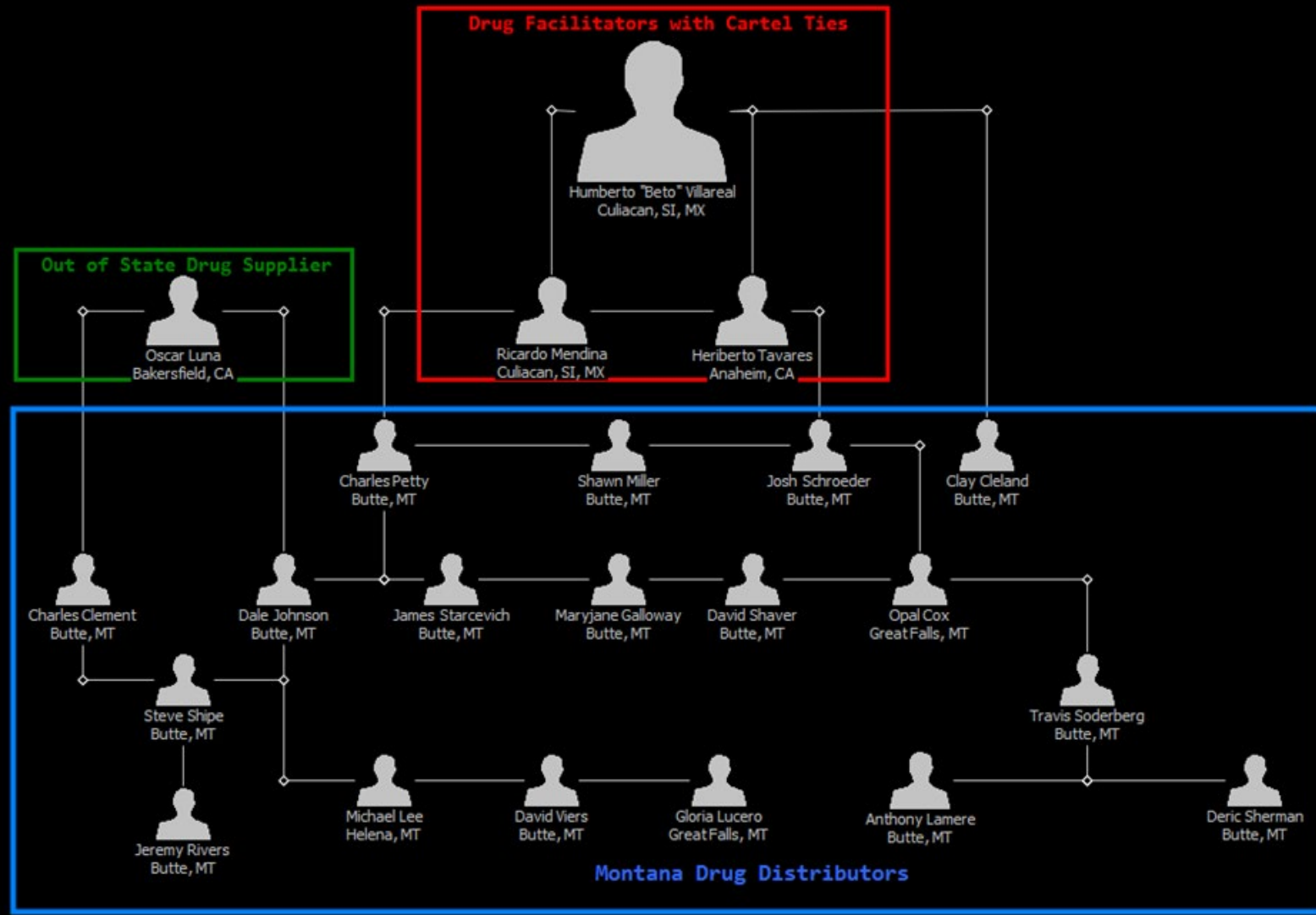
Charles Joshua Petty, 31, pleaded guilty on March 15 to possession with intent to distribute controlled substances. Petty also was ordered to forfeit \$8,500 seized in the case.

#### Deer Lodge man sentenced to five years in prison for meth trafficking, firearms crimes



Photo by: Missoula County Jail  
Shawn James Miller, 33, pleaded guilty on Feb. 18 to possession with intent to distribute controlled substances and to prohibited person in possession of a firearm.

# OPERATION SUMMMER GIRLFRIEND



# Drugs smuggled from Mx to CA



# Drugs mailed to Montana



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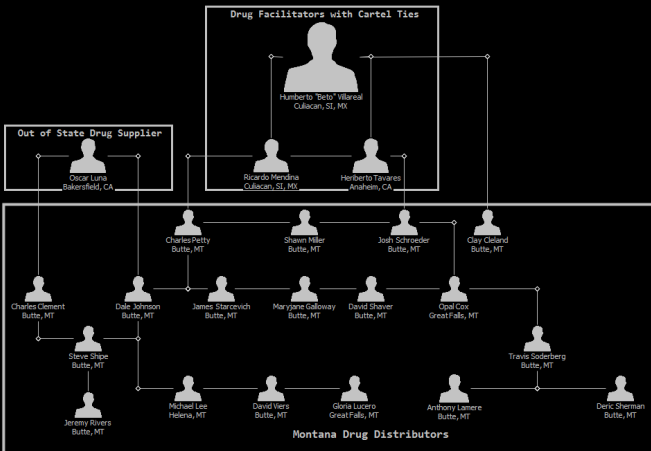
# Drug Trafficking

- Money carrier / Drug Trafficker
- Crosses into the U.S. Via walking lines
  - Rents a car p/u drug in Anaheim
  - Drives to Butte to sell drugs and pickup drug proceed monies.



# Summery

- Identified a large poly-drug, Drug Trafficking Organization (DTO)
- Identified & indicted out of state & international targets
- Established ties between DTO and the Sinaloa Cartel
- Seized: 65lbs meth, 2k “M30”, 19 firearms, 32k cash





## Closing:

- Essential to this case.....  
MBCC grant funded TF Agent
- DTO's historical cash trade:
  - 2.98 Million
- DTO's historical drug trade:
  - 2,043 pounds of meth
  - 722,000 pills
- Sentencing: 1,739 months (144yrs)

