

Officials said the "superlab" was discovered Thursday in the Willamette Valley town of Brownsville. The lab was at a mobile home on a rural, 10-acre property and was capable of producing 90 pounds of pure methamphetamine in a 48- to 72-hour period.

The lab had been in operation for at least five months, according to indictments filed in federal court in Portland.

The find, which U.S. Attorney Karin J. Immergut described as one of the largest labs in Oregon history, was extremely unusual in a number of ways.

U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration officials say superlabs operated by Mexican drug trafficking organizations now produce about 65 percent of all meth sold in the United States. But the number of superlabs seized in the United States has been falling dramatically in recent years. There were 53 seized last year, down from 244 in 2001, according to the DEA. Agency officials say the reason is that Mexican traffickers increasingly are moving their superlabs south of the border.

In Oregon, only a handful of superlabs—defined as a lab capable of producing at least 10 pounds a batch—are uncovered each year, according to Sgt. Joel Lujan of the Oregon State Police drug enforcement section.

"Most of the labs that we're finding are going to be the tweaker labs," Lujan said, referring to labs run by meth users for their own consumption. Those labs typically produce less than an ounce of meth at a time.

A single dose of meth is one-tenth of a gram. Ninety pounds of pure meth would make 400,000 doses; if cut to street purity of 50 percent, it would make 800,000 doses.

Drug agents arrested 15 people in connection with the Brownsville case, according to Immergut's office. Most were Mexican citizens living in Salem.

Details of how the investigation unfolded remained sketchy Tuesday. Salem Police Sgt. Pat Garrett, a member of the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration task force involved in the case, said agents were investigating some of the suspects for several months. Surveillance led agents to the mobile home in Brownsville.

"We had people we believed to be involved in the production of methamphetamine who led us to the lab site," Garrett said.

Stains on the walls of the mobile home suggested the lab operators were making meth inside, but much of the lab's equipment and chemicals were in storage outside the home.

In addition to three pounds of finished meth and \$195,000 in cash, agents found 150 pounds of iodine and 20 to 30 pounds of red phosphorous. Those chemicals make it possible to convert pseudoephedrine, a common cold remedy ingredient, to methamphetamine.

Garrett said the lab operators had finished their latest batch Wednesday.

"There was no more pseudoephedrine left," Garrett said. "They had done their cook and finished the product and were waiting to do the next cook."

Five 22-liter flasks, used to create the pseudoephedrine reaction, were found in a nearby rental truck, where they had apparently been stored.

Experts said each 22-liter flask can produce, at most, 15 pounds of meth at a time, for a total of 75 pounds. But Garrett said the lab operators had enough chemicals to make 90 pounds of meth if they ran the flasks simultaneously and replenished some as the reaction unfolded.

Five of the 15 people arrested were charged with conspiracy to manufacture meth. Sonia Violet Garcia, 20, of Brownsville, was arraigned Friday.

Four others, all Salem residents, are scheduled to make initial court appearances today: Arturo Arevalo-Cuevas, 22; Miguel Silva Chava, 26; Venancio Villalobos-Soto, 40; and Adriana Arevalo-Cuevas, 29.

#### NATIONAL HISTORY DAY

Mr. SARBANES. Mr. President, I am very pleased today to acknowledge two young Marylanders who were recently chosen to present and display their history projects in Washington, DC, as part of the National History Day program.

A basic knowledge of history is essential for our Nation's children to become informed participants in our democracy. With an eye toward increasing informed participation, National History Day—which as a national program celebrates its 25th anniversary this year—promotes history-related education in Maryland and throughout the Nation. Each year, the program allows students to use critical thinking and research skills and to create exhibits, documentaries and performances related to a particular historical subject. This year, 29 students were chosen from a pool of half a million to display their projects at various sites throughout the Nation's Capital.

Ryan Moore, a student at Mill Creek Middle School in Hughesville, Maryland, used his skills and critical thinking to create a project entitled "Television: A Key Player in Communicating the Candidate's Message." He will display and present his project at the White House Visitor Center.

Lauren White, a student at Plum Point Middle School in Huntington, MD, similarly stood out from the crowd in creating a project entitled "More Powerful than Words: The Photo Stories of Lewis Wickes Hine." She will display and present her project at the Smithsonian American Art Museum.

I congratulate both Lauren and Ryan as they are honored for their presentations, and commend them for their dedication, commitment, and creativity.

#### CONFIRMATION OF THOMAS B. GRIFFITH

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, next week we will celebrate the 33rd anniversary of title IX. For 33 years, title IX has opened doors for women and girls in all aspects of education. I can say without reservation that I would not be a U.S. Senator today without this critical law.

Unfortunately, today the Senate confirmed a vehement opponent of title IX—Thomas Griffith—to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit. I voted against this nominee because of his record on title IX, the importance of the DC Circuit Court of Appeals to title IX and other civil rights laws, and his disregard for the rule of law in his own practice.

In 2002, Mr. Griffith served on the Commission on Opportunity in Ath-

letics to evaluate whether and how current standards governing title IX's application to athletics should be revised. After the Department of Education spent nearly \$1 million on the Commission, the Bush administration made the determination to make no changes to title IX in athletics. However, as a member of the Commission, Mr. Griffith made clear his opposition and hostility towards the law and its enforcement.

As a member of the Commission, Mr. Griffith proposed weakening the standard for meeting title IX's 25-year-old requirement of equality of opportunity in athletics for young women through the elimination of the "substantial proportionality" test for compliance. This test, one of the three alternative ways to comply with title IX, allows schools to comply by offering athletic opportunities to male and female students that are in proportion to each gender's representation in the student body of the school.

Mr. Griffith claimed this provision constitutes a quota in violation of title IX and the Constitution and asserted that "[i]t is illegal, it is unfair, and it is wrong" and even "morally wrong." He made such extreme statements despite the decisions of no fewer than 6 Federal appeals courts which have upheld the legality of the test. In fact, none has ruled to the contrary. And when this fact was pointed out to him, he did not respect the decisions of all the Federal courts that have heard such cases—he said that "the courts got it wrong." Eliminating this test would clearly undercut title IX's effectiveness—and the Commission agreed. It rejected the Griffith proposal by a lopsided vote of 11 to 4.

During his confirmation process, Griffith tried to change his position on title IX. Mr. Griffith now claims that he only wanted to eliminate the proportionality test because some have "misused" or "misinterpreted" the test. He now claims that the Commission recommendations regarding the proportionality test that he supported—in addition to his own proposal to eliminate the test—were "modest" or "moderate." If these claims were so moderate, why were they rejected entirely by the Secretary of Education?

Mr. President, every Federal court of appeals that has considered this issue and every administration since 1979 have ruled that the three-part test is legally valid and does not impose quotas. Mr. Griffith's statements and actions put him in complete opposition to six Federal appeals courts. If that doesn't show that Mr. Griffith is out of the mainstream, I don't know what does.

The DC Circuit Court of Appeals is an especially important court. I believe that we must be careful when confirming individuals to serve lifetime appointments on this court, the second most powerful Federal court in the land. This court has exclusive jurisdiction over a broad array of Federal regulations, including title IX, and is