



Montezuma County Sheriff's Office

Steven D. Nowlin – Sheriff

730 East Driscoll Street
Cortez, Colorado 81321

Telephone 970 / 565-8452
Fax 970 / 565-3731
www.montezumasheriff.org

PUBLIC INFORMATION

Taking Over \$1 Million in Dangerous Drugs Off Our Streets for the past six months, the Montezuma/Cortez Narcotics Investigations Team (Montezuma County Sheriff's Office and Cortez Police Department) has been working tirelessly behind the scenes.

We are proud to announce the conclusion of a major undercover illicit drug importation and distribution operation on May 8, 2026. In a massive collaborative effort with the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), the U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), and with the cooperation of Montrose Police Department, Montrose County Sheriff's Office, U.S. Marshals Service, Colorado Bureau of Investigation (CBI), and the U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM).

An arrest was made and successfully seized:

- 61+ pounds of high-grade crystal methamphetamine
- Approximately 56,000 counterfeit M30 fentanyl pills

The photograph below shows only the evidence seized during the final phase of this investigation. With a total street value exceeding \$1,100,000, these substances are no longer a threat to people in Montezuma County and the State of Colorado. We remain vigilant in our mission as guardians of our community, and an honor to serve and protect. Because criminal investigations are ongoing, no further information will be released at this time.

Steven D. Nowlin, Sheriff
Montezuma County, Colorado

