**PRESS RELEASE - MONITEAU COUNTY SHERIFF’S OFFICE**

On 12/27/2019 Deputies with the Moniteau County Sheriff’s Office were on routine patrol inside California, Mo. Deputies then observed a dodge pickup revving his motor up several times emitting excessive noise. Deputies then got in behind the vehicle and observed it following the vehicle in front of it at a very close and unsafe distance for the road conditions. As the deputies were behind the vehicle it continued to accelerate quickly. Deputies then stopped the vehicle on South Williams Street in California, Mo. Deputies then made contact with the driver identified as a Joseph L. Leech. Upon speaking to Leech Deputies noticed that he was extremely nervous and could detect a moderate odor of alcohol. Deputies then conducted a field sobriety test on the driver and then placed him under arrest for driving while intoxicated. A consent search was then asked for and granted for the vehicle. Upon approaching the vehicle deputies located a bag containing a white crystal substance which field tested positive for methamphetamine. Also located in the vehicle was drug paraphernalia, marijuana and scales. Leech was then transported to the Moniteau County Jail and issued citations for the following:

Operated Motor Vehicle Which Emitted Excessive and Unnecessary Noise.

Truck Under 18,000 Pounds Followed Another Vehicle Too Closely.

Driving While Intoxicated.

Owner Operated Motor Vehicle Without Maintaining Proof of Financial Responsibility.

Possession of Marijuana - 10 grams or Less.

Unlawful Possession of Drug Paraphernalia.

**Leech was then placed on a 24 hour hold for the possession of the methamphetamine**

Joseph L. Leech – Age 28 – California, Mo – Possession of a controlled substance (meth) – Bond $25,000.00

Tony Wheatley