

Traffic stop nets pot-growing arrest

by Cheryl McDermott

BEND, Ore. -- A Bend man who failed to secure a load he was hauling to the dump Thursday morning ended up in jail after a drug-detecting dog alerted to the smell of marijuana, deputies reported.

Ryan Patrick Palmer - DCJ photo Ryan Patrick Palmer, 30, was stopped near Highway 97 and Young Avenue for violation of the county ordinance just before 10 a.m. on March 27, Deschutes County Sheriff's Detective Sgt. Michael Espinoza said. "Missy", the sheriff's office narcotics K-9 alerted to the odor, and deputies found evidence of a recently dismantled marijuana-growing operation wrapped inside black plastic bags.

"42 freshly cut stems from mature marijuana plants, a large amount of marijuana leaves and water supply tubing" were found, the sergeant reported in a news release.

Palmer was taken into custody and lodged in the Deschutes County Jail, Espinoza said. He is charged with possession and manufacturing of a Schedule-I controlled substance.

An investigation by the Sheriff's Office and Central Oregon Drug Enforcement (CODE) team members is ongoing in an attempt to find where the marijuana growing operation was located, and what other suspects may have been involved, Sgt. Espinoza said.

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