

Brothers arrested in two-house pot grow, 26 firearms seized

by Cheryl McDermott

BEND, Ore. — Two brothers were arrested early Thursday morning following a two-month investigation when detectives raided their structurally-modified homes south of Sunriver, Oregon, near State Rec. Road and discovered marijuana growing operations in concealed rooms in both residences. 78 marijuana plants and 26 firearms were seized, authorities said.

Jay Tyler Ramey, 24 (left), and Jeremiah James Ramey, 27 (right) - DCJ photos Each of the homes had been structurally modified with hidden rooms to conceal a marijuana growing operation - CODE photo A total of 26 firearms were seized from the brothers' homes - CODE photo

Bend Police Lt. John Gautney, working with the Central Oregon Drug Enforcement (CODE) team, reported that the area's version of SWAT — the Central Oregon Emergency Response Team — and CODE members executed a search warrant at 17067 Whittier Drive in rural Deschutes County about 5 a.m., June 5. The warrant was obtained following a two-month investigation into a suspected marijuana growing operation detectives believed had been active for more than two years, Gautney said.

Detectives found a sophisticated marijuana-growing operation at the first home that was occupied by the younger of the two brothers, 24-year old Jay Tyler Ramey. Ramey was taken into custody without incident, and 48 mature marijuana plants and a small amount of dried pot were seized, Gautney said. In addition, 22 firearms including 14 rifles or assault-type rifles and eight handguns were discovered, as well as gas masks and handgun magazines.

CODE members found evidence in Jay Gautney's home which led detectives to obtain a second search warrant, this time for the suspect's brother's home located next door at 17071 Whittier Drive. Jeremiah James Ramey, 27, was taken into custody without incident during execution of the warrant at his home, the lieutenant said.

Four firearms and 30 marijuana plants were discovered at Jeremiah Ramey's home, Gautney said, explaining that both homes had been structurally modified and contained "secret, concealed rooms" that housed the growing operations.

The brothers were booked into the Deschutes County Jail and were each charged with possession of marijuana, manufacture of marijuana, and frequenting a place where controlled substances are kept or sold, Gautney stated in a news release.

Brothers arrested in two-house pot grow, 26 firearms seized by Cheryl McDermott