

Lost backpack leads to heroin bust

by Cheryl McDermott

BEND, Ore. — A backpack containing syringes, balloons and cotton swabs left at a local bank last December led to a two-month investigation into the owner's possible involvement with dealing drugs, and culminated this week with the arrest of a 25-year old man after undercover officers purchased \$3,400 worth of heroin from him and raided his northeast Bend residence, detectives reported.

The lost backpack contained syringes, balloons and cotton swabs — CODE photo. (Inset) Brian Chapman Bushnell — DCJ photo.

Bushnell's backpack found at a local bank in December 2008 set off the investigation — CODE photo. According to a news release prepared by Bend Police Lt. John Gautney, working with the Central Oregon Drug Enforcement (CODE) team, undercover officers allegedly purchased heroin on several occasions from Brian Chapman Bushnell, 25, after his backpack — which also contained a paycheck stub -- was found at a Washington Mutual branch on NW Franklin Avenue.

Detectives earlier this month executed a search warrant at Bushnell's residence at 63833 Hunters Circle and he was later arrested, Gautney said. Packaging material, weight scales and a small amount of cash was discovered.

More than 13 grams of heroin were removed off the streets of Bend, the lieutenant said. The estimated street value of the illegal substance was estimated at \$3,400.

Bushnell was lodged in the Deschutes County Jail on Monday and was charged with unlawful delivery of heroin.

The investigation is continuing and more arrests are anticipated, Gautney said.

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