

Pot plants seized in SW Bend drug bust, Teen arrested

by Cheryl McDermott

A Bend teenager was arrested Thursday afternoon when drug enforcement detectives raided a southwest Bend home and found a sophisticated growing operation with 41 marijuana plants inside a room built into the garage, said authorities.

Acting on a tip received in November that Chase Garrett Cushman, 18, was growing large amounts of marijuana, Central Oregon Drug Enforcement Team (CODE) members gathered evidence to warrant a search of his residence, said Lt. Jim Porter.

CODE detectives seized over 40 pot plants in a Thursday afternoon raid on a SW Bend home, and arrested 18-year-old Chase Garrett Cushman. CODE Team & DCJ photos. Over the next several weeks, CODE set up surveillance on his home and interviewed witnesses, and on Dec. 28 detectives applied for and received a search warrant for Cushman's home at 19322 SW Laurelhurst Way, off Century Drive in Bend.

At 3:30 p.m. they executed the warrant and found a sophisticated marijuana growing operation inside a room built into the garage. Lt. Porter said the 41 pot plants seized have a current street value of about \$14,000.

Cushman was taken into custody and lodged at the Deschutes County Jail where he will face drug-related charges including manufacturing a schedule one controlled substance, and possession of more than an ounce of marijuana.

Because Cushman allegedly violated Oregon Statute by allowing a female juvenile to see the marijuana and stay at his home, he will also be charged with endangering the welfare of a minor, added the lieutenant.

The (CODE) team is a multi-jurisdictional narcotics task force comprised of detectives from all Central Oregon law enforcement agencies including: Bend Police Department, Deschutes County Sheriff's Office, Redmond Police Department, Crook County Sheriff's Office, Prineville Police Department, Jefferson County Sheriff's Department, Oregon State Police, United States Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), Deschutes County District Attorney, and the Oregon National Guard.

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