

Three arrested in Prineville marijuana bust

by Cheryl McDermott

Two Prineville residents were arrested for illegal drug trafficking, and another man is in custody for frequenting a suspected drug house following a raid in a northwest Prineville home which netted the seizure of over one-quarter pound of marijuana, Prineville police reported.

The raid took place about 5:45 p.m. on January 20, but Chief Eric Bush said police had to delay the release of information in order to further the investigation.

Detectives from the Central Oregon Drug Enforcement (CODE) team and Prineville police officers executed a search warrant at 405 NW Second Street, Bush said. Over one-quarter pound of marijuana was seized along with packaging materials and scales that suggest the residence was used for street-level marijuana distribution.

Derrick Earl Walters, 20, and Mary Katherine Lant, 26, both whom reside at the Second Street address, were taken into custody and lodged at the Crook County Jail, the chief reported. They face charges of possession, manufacture and delivery of a controlled substance (marijuana). Walter's bail was set at \$25,000, and Lant is being held on \$10,000 bail.

Additional charges for the two include first-degree child neglect and endangering the welfare of a minor "charges which stem from the presence of Lant's five-year-old daughter at the suspected drug house. The child was taken into protective custody by the Child Welfare Division of Oregon Department of Health Services, Chief Bush said.

20-year old James Michael Clemens of 4611 SE Umatilla Loop in Prineville was arrested for frequenting a place where controlled substances are kept or used. He was lodged in the Crook County Jail in lieu of \$5,000 bond, but was later released due to overcrowding.

An unidentified 17-year old boy was also detained, but later released to juvenile authorities.

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