

Raid leads to Bend pot bust, seizure of 110 plants

by Cheryl McDermott

Detectives raided a southeast Bend home Thursday afternoon and arrested a 28-year old man when they found two rooms with a sophisticated marijuana operation utilizing both hydroponic and soil growing systems, an altered electrical system, and 110 pot plants.

Jayson Wesley Watkins — DCJ photo

Both hydroponic and soil growing systems were utilized, and the home's electrical system had been diverted and altered to enhance the growing process — CODE photo

Two rooms at 20351 Klahani Drive were used for a sophisticated marijuana growing operation — CODE photo

Detectives with the Central Oregon Drug Enforcement (CODE) team received credible information during the past month that Jayson Wesley Watkins was involved in the manufacturing and sales of marijuana from his residence at 20351 Klahani Drive in Bend, Deschutes County Sheriff's detective Sgt. Scott Shelton reported.

Using information gathered through surveillance and witness reports, a search warrant for Watkins' residence was obtained and executed with the assistance of Bend Police officers about 2:30 p.m. March 15.

Detectives found that two bedrooms in the home had been converted into a sophisticated marijuana growing operation with both hydroponic and soil growing systems, and the electrical system had been diverted and altered to enhance plant growth.

About 110 marijuana plants in various stages of maturity were found, in addition to approximately three ounces of dried product.

Watkins was taken into custody and lodged in the Deschutes County Jail. He is charged with possession, delivery and manufacture of marijuana; and possession of methamphetamine.

According to the sergeant, each plant will yield an estimated four ounces of marijuana, so the 110 plants could likely produce over 27 pounds. Based on current street value of \$3,500 per pound, the plants seized would have produced almost \$100,000 of dried marijuana.

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