

Traffic stop leads to 7 arrests, \$28k, 12 lbs. of pot

by Cheryl McDermott

Two California men are being charged in Lake County, Oregon following a traffic stop Monday afternoon near the Oregon-California border that resulted in the men's arrests and the seizure of over 12 pounds of marijuana plus \$1,300 cash, Oregon State Police (OSP) reported. A follow-up investigation led to the arrest of five Idaho State University students and the seizure of an additional 1/2 pound of pot and \$28,000.

Two California men and five Idaho State University students were arrested in connection with over 12 pounds of marijuana and more than \$29,000 seized -- all stemming from a traffic stop in Arizona for invalid license plates. OSP photos At noon on April 9, OSP trooper Cliff Hargis stopped a 1986 Honda Accord driven by Thomas Allan Jones, 18, of Arcata, California for a vehicle license violation as it traveled northbound on Highway 395 just north of the state border.

While speaking with Jones and his passenger, 20-year old Forrest Jefferson Beeman of Eureka, California, the trooper noticed a strong odor of marijuana and searched the car. Trooper Hargis discovered over \$1,300 cash and about 12 1/2 pounds of marijuana in large bags in the car trunk. According to an OSP news release, the marijuana has an estimated value of \$40,000.

Jones and Beeman are scheduled to appear in Lake County Circuit Court on charges of manufacturing, possession and distribution of a controlled substance - marijuana.

A subsequent investigation by an OSP Drug Enforcement Section detective working with the Idaho State Police (ISP) Boise office identified a "middle man" in Boise, who ultimately led the investigation to Pocatello, Idaho, ISP Agency Information Officer Rick Ohnsman reported.

OSP and ISP detectives transported cooperating suspects and the marijuana to the Pocatello area, Ohnsman said. There they made a "controlled delivery" of the 12 pounds of pot to David Troy Roberts and Stephen Joseph Foster, both 21, at the Motel 6 in Chubbuck, Idaho. Chubbuck Police officers arrested Roberts and Foster without incident.

Detectives served a search warrant at Roberts's residence at 528 S. 5th Street in Pocatello, where the search yielded an additional half-pound of marijuana, drug paraphernalia, scales, packaging materials, sales records, and \$27,846 in cash, ISP Officer Rick Ohnsman said.

Three individuals at the residence during the search were also taken into custody: Nicholas Ron Gebhart, 21; Peter Robert Travers, 22; and Jessica Marie Yeats, 22.

Roberts is accused of taking delivery of the 12 pounds of pot in Idaho. Cash, scales, packaging material, and marijuana were seized from his bedroom.

Foster is also accused of taking delivery of the 12 pounds of marijuana.

Gebhart and Yeats are charged with frequenting a place where illegal drugs are used or sold, and Yeats's vehicle was used by Roberts and Foster when they took delivery of the drugs.

Travers lives at the Pocatello residence where the search took place, and is charged with possession of marijuana.

All five Idaho residents arrested are students at Idaho State University, Ohnsman said.

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