

NEWS RELEASE



**Russel Burger, Sheriff
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DATE/TIME OF INCIDENT: 10-19-06 9:00 am

DATE/TIME OF RELEASE: 10-19-06 5:00 pm

NATURE OF STORY: Search Warrant Service/ Marijuana Operation

LOCATION: 22481 Sheffler Road, Elmira

**INVOLVED: Jeffrey Schlageter, 29, of Elmira
Edward Schlageter, 20, of Islip, N.Y.
Charlie Meckel, 30, of Eugene
Brandon Meek, 20, of Elmira
Morgan Paige, 22, of Independence, OR.
Stacy Lincoln, 24, No residence given**

DETAILS:

On 10-19-06 at approximately 0900 hrs., deputies from the Lane County Sheriff's Office executed a search warrant at a residential property located at 22481 Sheffler Rd. west of Elmira. After receiving information from a citizen a few days ago, deputies with the Sheriff's Office Forest Emergency Services unit were able to develop probable cause to obtain a warrant to search the property. When deputies arrived and announced their presence, one subject fled from the area of a greenhouse type structure on the property. A search was conducted, that included support from a Eugene Police Department K-9 team, but the subject was not located. Six other adults on the property were detained, and ultimately housed at the Lane County Adult Correction Center, on preliminary charges related to the unlawful manufacture of marijuana. Final determinations on charges will be made by the District Attorney's Office. A 3 ½ year old girl was also on the property; the child was released to her mother, who was not on the property at the time the warrant was served.

On the residential portion of the property (an approximately 4 acre tract with a house and several outbuildings), deputies discovered a significant marijuana production operation, including separate stations for seedlings and young plants, a greenhouse containing over 100 mature plants, a plant “preparation” area where plant buds were separated from the stalks and leaves, several drying areas, and a packaging area. Behind the residential part of the property, on an approximately 40 acre parcel of (former) logging land, evidence was found indicating that several hundred plants had been grown and harvested using an elaborate irrigation system along with efforts to conceal the plants by scattering the grow sites throughout a former logging area, hiding the plants near young trees and other natural features. Inside the house, and in two trailers located near the house, a large quantity of marijuana was discovered, in various stages of processing and packaging. In addition to the plants themselves, over 50 pounds of packaged marijuana was found in the residence.

Prepared by/

For further information contact: Lt. William Thompson