

BUTTE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

MEDIA RELEASE

JERRY W. SMITH
SHERIFF-CORONER



DATE : **09-30-2010**

RELEASED BY : **Sgt. Collins**

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On 09-29-10, Detectives from the Butte County Sheriff Office's Marijuana Unit arrived at the 14200 block of Sinclair Circle, Magalia, to investigate an indoor marijuana growing operation after Civil Deputies from the Butte County Sheriff Office arrived on scene earlier in the day to serve a legal eviction of renters John Macias, AKA David Garcia (age 32), and Brandi Macias (age 30).

While on scene, Civil Deputies witnessed Brandi Macias remove a large pile of processed marijuana from a dining room table, which she had been trimming just prior to the eviction. Both John and Brandi left the home along with their 3 week old and 4 year old child.

When the Marijuana Unit arrived on scene, they discovered a possible honey oil lab, where THC from marijuana is extracted by means of a chemical extraction process. These types of labs are very volatile due to the extremely flammable fumes and have led to explosions and fires.

An indoor marijuana grow was located in the home's garage, prior to the eviction, complete with a large charcoal filter (for reducing the marijuana odor), grow lights, and hydroponic equipment. In the home's master bathroom, 42 immature marijuana clones were located growing under florescent grow lights. Marijuana was also being hung to dry in the master bathroom.

In the master bedroom tubs of dried marijuana leaves, also known as shake, was located along with wet Bubblebags used in separating THC from the plant material to make concentrated THC.

A yearly expenditure list was located in the kitchen along with a projected income in excess of \$280,000.00 yearly the Macias' would make selling over 100 pounds of marijuana. The marijuana growing operation was conducted under the guise of the medical marijuana law passed by voters in 1996.

On 09-30-10, the investigation continued and the Macias' 3 week old, 4 year old, and 11 year old children were located and taken into protective custody by Child Protective Services. Brandi Macias was arrested at a home in Magalia and is charged with the cultivation and sales of marijuana, child endangerment, and manufacturing a controlled substance. John Macias was arrested at a home in Magalia and is charged with the cultivation and sales of marijuana, child endangerment, and manufacturing a controlled substance. During the search of the Sinclair Circle home, a 9mm semi-auto rifle and ammunition was located. John Macias is a convicted felon and was also arrested for being a felon in possession of a firearm and ammunition. Brandi Macias' bail is \$280,000.00 and John Macias' bail is \$320,000.00.