

BUTTE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE MEDIA RELEASE

**JERRY W. SMITH
SHERIFF-CORONER**



DATE : **08-12-11**
RELEASED BY : **Sergeant Marty Rolph**
CONTACT # : **(530) 538-7389**

On August 11, 2011 the Butte County Sheriff's Office Special Enforcement Unit served two search warrants, one in Paradise and another in Magalia. During the service of the search warrants, deputies located two large commercial indoor/outdoor marijuana growing operations as well as a commercial Butane Honey Oil and Hash manufacturing operation.

Deputies at the Paradise residence, located in the 4200 block of Pentz Road, found 131 mature marijuana plants being grown behind the residence and 74 immature marijuana plants being grown in the master bedroom suite. The marijuana plants found behind the residence ranged from six feet to seven feet tall with a 16 foot circumference. Deputies also located a commercial Butane Honey Oil Lab in the residence, with approximately 6.5 ounces of Honey Oil and two pounds of Keif Hash packaged for sale. Also located during the search was 43 pounds of processed marijuana and \$5,800.00 in US currency. Deputies at the home believed the resident, John Brandon Sloane, 32, who is originally from Georgia, came to California to take advantage of California's lenient marijuana laws. The investigation showed that Sloane was using Proposition 215 as a disguise for his illegal activity of growing and selling marijuana. Sloane was arrested and booked at the Butte County Jail on felony charges of marijuana cultivation, possession of marijuana for sale, manufacturing a controlled substance, and transportation of a controlled substance. Bail has been requested at one million dollars.

Deputies later served a search warrant at another residence in Magalia, located in the 14000 block of Coutolenc Road. Deputies believed the residence was a continuation of the Paradise home. During their search Deputies found 244 immature marijuana plants growing in the home's garage. As the search continued deputies found 8.5 pounds of processed marijuana, 1.6 ounces of Keif Hash, and 1.6 grams of Butane Honey Oil. Deputies also located another Butane Honey Oil Lab, and a commercial bubble hash/ice extraction operation. This home, as with the Paradise residence, was using Proposition 215 as a disguise for its illegal marijuana activities.

A total of 449 marijuana plants, 51 pounds of processed marijuana, and 2.5 pounds of hash were seized during the service of the two search warrants.



33 COUNTY CENTER DRIVE, OROVILLE, CA 95965, 530-538-7671



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