



Robert R. Snaza
Sheriff

OFFICE OF THE LEWIS COUNTY **SHERIFF**

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"Public Safety through Professional Service"

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PRESS RELEASE

Date/Time: 03-28-24 @ 0930 Hours
Contact: Undersheriff Kevin Engelbertson
Phone: (360) 740-1373
Release #: 1

Arrest Made in Chehalis Marijuana Manufacturing Investigation

The Lewis County Sheriff's Office Sheriff's Response Team and Detectives, assisted by the Washington State Patrol and Department of Ecology, served a search warrant in the 3700 Block of State Route 6 for the illegal manufacturing of marijuana. Two subjects were arrested at the location, preliminarily identified as 60-year-old Xiong Wu and 53-year-old California resident Yibiao Chen. Detectives seized over 1600 growing marijuana plants, along with approximately 50 pounds of processed marijuana ready for sale. This is the second search warrant conducted at this property in the last several years for a large-scale marijuana growing operation, where over 2900 growing marijuana plants were seized in 2022.

Sheriff Snaza stated, "These marijuana grows are sophisticated operations involving a large network of a criminal enterprise. What is even more concerning is the large amount of carcinogenic chemicals being used in this particular operation. The suspects were burning some of these pesticides and chemicals inside the grow operation. These marijuana grows not only put our community at risk, but our investigators who are processing and dealing with these chemicals."

Anyone who may have information pertaining to this case should contact the Lewis County Sheriff's Office at (360) 748-9286, or Lewis County Communications at (360) 740-1105.

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Lewis County Sheriff's Office Mission Statement:

Being a committed community partner, providing professional service to enhance the safety, security, and quality of life in Lewis County.