

Fortuna site raided ... again; 1,300 more marijuana plants taken, investigation ongoing

Jillian Singh/The Times-Standard

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Humboldt County Sheriff's Office Drug Task Force officers are continuing to investigate a storage facility in Fortuna where they found around 1,300 growing marijuana plants in a unit on Thursday.

"We served another warrant on Thursday based on information we gathered from the day before that led us to believe marijuana is being grown here on a commercial level, and at this point, we believe the growing in the units we've investigated are connected," Humboldt County Sheriff's Office Special Services Division Sgt. Bryan Quenell said.

No arrests were made Thursday.

"We're continuing to follow evidence and leads we've gathered and will go from there," Quenell said.

The task force contacted the Humboldt County Planning and Building Department to pull the Pacific Gas and Electric Co. meter to shut off power to the units in question due to unsafe wiring, Quenell said.

The latest search warrant is the sixth one served at the property in the last three years, he said.

"It's in very preliminary stages, but we're talking and working with the Humboldt County District Attorney's Office to figure out if there's anything the property owner can be held accountable for," Quenell said. "We'd have to be able to prove they knew what's been going on to pursue charges."

Investigators seized 2,000 growing plants a day earlier after serving a search warrant on three units in the same facility based on complaints from neighbors.

Robert Lee Weese, 27, was arrested Wednesday at the units on suspicion of cultivation of marijuana and possession of marijuana for sale.

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