

# Marijuana plants seized at lawyer's home

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VANCOUVER — The home of a Vancouver tax lawyer has been raided by narcotics agents who seized 108 marijuana plants with a street value of \$216,000, authorities said.

Agents raided the home of Lawrence Neal, at 918 W. 21st St., after an informant offered to sell information about a grow operation in Vancouver to a Portland Police Bureau narcotics agent.

Detective Charles Drake of the Clark County Sheriff's Office said this week that the case would be referred to the county prosecutor's office. If Neal is charged, he will be mailed a summons to appear, Drake said.

According to an affidavit by Drake, the informant told Portland Police Officer Brian

Schmautz about a marijuana grow operation at 3103 S.E. 52nd Ave. in Portland.

Drake is a member of the Clark-Skamania Drug Task Force and Drake and Schmautz are members of the multiagency Marijuana Task Force, with headquarters in Portland.

The informant said that while visiting the 52nd Street house, he saw 50 marijuana plants. The house's occupant, identified in the affidavit as Jeffrey W. Husk, also told the informant that a visitor to the dwelling was his partner, "Larry," an attorney in Vancouver.

As the visitor left, the informant copied the visitor's license plate, Drake said in his affidavit.

A vehicle record check by Schmautz showed the vehicle to be registered to Lawrence Neal.

Schmautz visited Husk's residence but was de-

nied entry. Husk told Schmautz he would not allowed inside until Husk conferred with his attorney and friend, Larry Neal," the affidavit said.

So, Schmautz got a search warrant. The Tuesday yielded 50 marijuana plants and clones.

A check of Neal's electrical consumption showed a level of power use that Drake said consistent with a marijuana grow operation.

District Judge Darvin J. Zimmerman signed search warrant for Neal's home, which raided Tuesday with Neal present.

In addition to the plants, agents seized eight plastic baggies containing marijuana, an Accu-3 digital gram scale, high-pressure sodium light and other nursery equipment, \$595 in cash and other items.