

Ohio State Highway Patrol



MEDIA RELEASE



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Contact: Lieutenant Jon Payer (937) 773-0242

Troopers seize 120 pounds of marijuana in Preble County

EATON – Ohio State Highway Patrol troopers filed felony drug charges against a California man after a traffic stop in Preble County. During the traffic stop, troopers seized 120 pounds of hydroponic marijuana, which is valued at approximately \$330,000.

On December 13, 2017 at 8:14 a.m., troopers stopped a 1979 Dodge motorhome with California registration for a marked lanes violation on Interstate 70 near milepost 9. Criminal indicators were observed and a Patrol drug-sniffing canine alerted to the vehicle. A probable cause search revealed the contraband.

The suspect, Ronald L. Martin, 64, of Squaw Valley, Calif., was incarcerated in the Preble County Jail. He was charged with possession of marijuana, a second-degree felony and possession of criminal tools, a fifth-degree felony.

The Ohio State Highway Patrol was assisted by the Preble County Sheriff's Office, Eaton Police Department and members of the Miami Valley Bulk Smuggling Task Force.

If convicted, he could face up to nine years in prison and up to a \$17,500 fine.

A photo of the seized contraband is available for download on the Patrol's website at www.statepatrol.ohio.gov

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