

Florida Keys Keynoter (Marathon)

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Cops harvest pot plants from Keys homes

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Jun. 19--Two marijuana grow houses were found in the Keys this week as part of a larger statewide operation called Operation Rake, the Monroe County Sheriff's Office says.

Overall, authorities say, 67 houses were searched, 63 people were arrested, 3,308 plants were seized, 64.87 pounds of pot were found, 13 guns were seized and \$19,562 was taken for likely forfeiture.

In the Keys on Wednesday, detectives say, they found 34 six-foot marijuana plants that were ready to be harvested, 23 pounds of harvested marijuana and one gram of cocaine at 65 Park Drive in Key Largo. Arrested was Omar Moya, 22, of Hialeah, charged with cultivation of marijuana, possession of marijuana with intent to distribute and possession of drug paraphernalia.

Detectives say he had converted the two-bedroom house into a full-blown marijuana grow lab with lights, air-purifying systems, cooling systems and an irrigation system. Estimated retail value of the marijuana seized was \$57,000.

Also Wednesday at 6621 Maloney Ave. No. 26 on Stock Island, detectives say they found nine marijuana plants and 58 grams of marijuana. Arrested was William Muir DeChenel, 74, charged with cultivation of marijuana, possession of marijuana with intent to distribute and possession of drug paraphernalia. The total street value of that marijuana was \$9,000, detectives say.

Two other houses were checked. Marijuana was found, but not plants.

Agencies involved in the statewide sweep besides local agencies were the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, the Internal Revenue Service, the Monroe **High Intensity Drug Trafficking** Area and the Miami **HIDTA**.

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