

## SoCal man stopped with pot and cash

By Linda Williams/TWN Staff Writer

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A Lake Elsinore man Mendocino County sheriff's deputies believe was on a pot buying expedition was stopped Tuesday afternoon on Highway 101 just north of Laytonville for a traffic violation.

The vehicle reeked of marijuana and the driver, Bret Bateman, 33, admitted to deputies he had been smoking marijuana just before driving. A California Highway Patrol officer administered a field sobriety test, which Bateman passed.

Deputies recovered an undisclosed amount of marijuana and about \$40,000 in cash from the vehicle. According to police reports they also found "evidence that indicated Bateman had been purchasing marijuana from local persons and transporting the purchased marijuana to other locations outside Mendocino County."

Bateman was cited and released.