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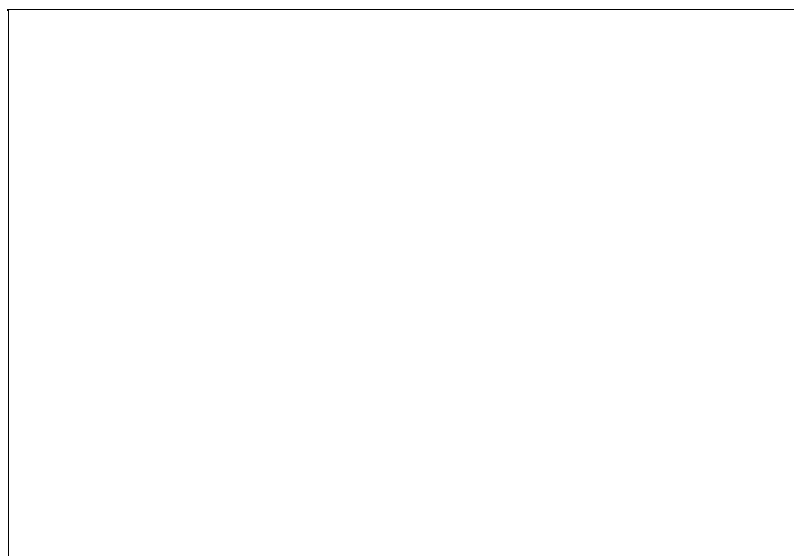
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Beverly Hills Police, L.A. County Sheriff's Bust Organized Crime Ring



Updated, April 16, 2013– 5:24 PM

A four-year-long investigation into an organized criminal enterprise carrying out large-scale marijuana distribution came to a conclusion Tuesday morning, as officers from the Beverly Hills Police Department and other law enforcement agencies executed eleven search warrants and three arrest warrants throughout the Los Angeles area.

Three suspects were taken into custody and charged with a total of 46 felony counts as a result of the operation, which also involved the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, the Santa Monica Police Department, the Los Angeles Police Department, the Drug Enforcement Administration and the United States Secret Service.

The distribution organization was involved in the operation of multiple marijuana dispensaries and hired known gang members as enforcers, who used violence and intimidation to dissuade competition, Lieutenant Lincoln Hoshino of the Beverly Hills Police Department said.

According to Hoshino, the organization has been involved in the commission of 26 documented crimes, including Attempted Murder, Home Invasion Robbery, Conspiracy, Arson, Extortion, Residential Burglary, Assault with a Deadly Weapon and Use of a Destructive Device.

Search warrants were executed at four marijuana dispensaries: "Zen" dispensary 8400 Block Santa Monica Boulevard, West Hollywood; "Alternative Herbal Health Services" (AHHS) 7800 Block Santa Monica Boulevard, West Hollywood; "La Brea Compassionate Caregivers" 700 Block North La Brea Avenue, Los Angeles; "Marina Caregivers" 700 Washington Boulevard, Marina del Rey.

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The three suspects taken into custody were identified as Andrew Kramer, 38, Rene Johnson, 50, and Jonathan Livingston, 43, all of Los Angeles.

To date, the multi-departmental investigation has identified 20 suspects in the commission of these crimes. Detectives have also seized millions in cash and proceeds from this criminal enterprise in the course of their investigation.

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 Added: April 16, 2013. 7:56 PM

Why is any of this nonsense necessary?

If this plant was simply legalized and regulated there would be ZERO incentives for criminals to be involved. This is nothing but crime created by our government so that the machine keeps turning, prisons keep imprisoning, and the war on drugs keeps getting funded.

It's over. The war on drugs was lost. The majority of this county (52% currently nationwide) want marijuana to be legalized. This percentage is growing by 2-3% every year.

The tide has turned, as the saying goes, and this type of behavior (both from the official criminals and the non-official law enforcement kind) is coming to an end. Smell the flowers, ladies and gentlemen.

ARTS/ENTERTAINMENT



Funeral services were pending today for comedian Jonathan Winters, a rubber-faced, cartoon-voiced master of improv who inspired a generation of comics, tore apart a gas station in "It's a Mad, Mad, Mad, Mad World" and traded barbs wit...

EDUCATION/ENRICHMENT



Musical Theatre students at Hawthorne performed last week as part of a theatre extravaganza. From left: Karen Kiyokawa, Megan Kalpari, Noor Hourani, Natasha Melamed, Saba Taheri and Analiese Gutheinz. The Beverly Hills Community Services Department has...

FASHION



Charlotte Olympia, with its luxurious-yet-playful shoes and accessories, has become the most talked about brand since Christian Louboutin dazzled us with his must-have red soles. Charlotte Olympia Dellal launched her London-based shoe brand in January...

HEALTH



Workshops at area retirement centers help seniors write poems and more to help them find their voices and tell their stories...

SPORTS



Adam Scott sank a 10-foot birdie putt on the second playoff hole Sunday to beat Angel Cabrera and win the 77th Masters, becoming the first Australian golfer to capture the green jacket. Nine months after making bogeys on the last four holes to squander...

ASTROLOGY

- HOROSCOPES BY HOLIDAY MATHIS (040513)
- HOROSCOPES BY HOLIDAY MATHIS (032913)
- HOROSCOPES BY HOLIDAY MATHIS (032213)
- HOROSCOPES BY HOLIDAY MATHIS (031513)

BEVERLY HILLS FOOTBALL

- Beverly Hills High School Football Searches For New Coach After Donald Paysinger Resigns
- Beverly Hills High School Football Loses Close Game to South Pasadena
- San Marino High Tops Beverly Hills Football, Claims Courier/Tribune Trophy

COLUMNISTS

- Can Open Marriages Work?; Overprotective Parents
- Frances Allen's Desert Roundup – Pegasus Riding Academy Holds Easter Brunch
- Jerry Cutler On Film – 'The Company You Keep' Is Worthwhile Melodrama
- Dealing With A Child's Perfectionism; What Parents Wish They Knew Earlier

EDUCATION/ENRICHMENT

- Hawthorne Musical Theatre
- Tending the Garden
- Performers
- Beverly Hills High School Production of The Secret Garden Delights Audiences

GEORGE CHRISTY ARCHIVE

- George Christy Talks About Dr. Harold Karpman, The Four Seasons Hotel, Health Tips, Dr. Oz And More!
- George Christy Talks About Kevin James LA Mayor Wish List, Bruce Willis, Tom Cruise, G.I. Joe And More!
- George Christy Talks About The Professional Dancers Society, Mitzi Gaynor, Joni Berry, Debbie Reynolds And More!
- George Christy Talks About Breakfast at Tracie Bennett, Judy Garland, End of the Rainbow, Jessica Alba, Mocktresses And More!

LOCAL

- Israel Celebrates 65th Anniversary, Pledges Alliance With Boston
- Craig Zadan and Neil Meron Will Return as Producers of 2014 Oscars
- Beverly Hills Police, L.A. County Sheriff's Bust Organized Crime Ring
- Misdemeanor Charges Filed Against Grammys Stage-Crasher

REAL ESTATE

- Beverly Hills Buyers Increasingly Flock To Contemporary Real Estate Market
- Luxe Celebrates 30-Year Anniversary; A Real Estate Venture That Went Global
- Exclusive Remodeled Benedict Canyon Home Comes Up For Sale This Month
- Exclusive Remodeled Beverly Hills Villa Comes Up For Sale This Month

SUBWAY TO THE SEA

- WESTSIDE SUBWAY EXTENSION – Mayor Mirisch to Renew Motion Against Subway Unless Tunnels Under Beverly High Cancelled
- WESTSIDE SUBWAY EXTENSION: CALIFORNIA STATE AGENCY SAYS "NO EARTHQUAKE FAULTS" UNDER BEVERLY HILLS HIGH; VINDICATES BEVERLY HILLS SCHOOL BOARD, EXPERTS
- Courier Flushes The Truth Out Of Metro — Again
- Measure J Defeated

TECHNOLOGY

- Facebook Home Features Will Spread to iPhones
- Google Launches "Digital Estate Planning" Service
- Global PC Sales Plummet as Windows 8 Flops
- "Facebook Home" For Android Unveiled, Will Launch This Month

WORLD

- South Korean, American Forces On Alert for Anticipated North Korean Missile Test
- Suicide Bombing Kills 15 in Damascus
- Margaret Thatcher, Britain's "Iron Lady", Dead At 87
- Syrian Rebels Seize Checkpoint on Key Highway to Damascus

PRNews Channel

Special Agent in Charge Richard DesLauriers speaks at press conference regarding Boston Marathon explosions
 Children's book follows crazy adventure of two crime-solving Chihuahuas
 American Red Cross statement on Boston Marathon explosions
 Chicago criminal defense attorney Joel A. Brodsky named a 'Top 100 Trial Lawyer'

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