



Newsletter

Police make 130 arrests in "Operation Wheels and Deals" crime bust

Issue 37 July 2016

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CLEAR Committee Opportunities Available

We are currently looking for folks that want to get involved in our organization, and join us in expanding our national reach.

If you have skills in event planning, vendor relations, marketing or if you have some creative computer skills and can do a newsletter — let us know

Email: crcum@cityofboise.com

Or dave.collins@signetjewelers.com

By [Bill Spencer](#) - Investigative Reporter , [Cory McCord](#)
Digital News Editor click2houston.com

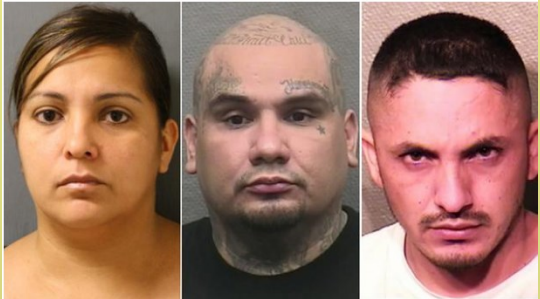
HOUSTON - An organized crime ring bust has netted 130 arrests. Police say the suspects committed thefts and other property crimes in and around Houston that amounted to more than \$2 million in stolen items.

It all started with a Houston Police Department undercover operation in April 2015 at the Port of Houston involving the purchase of stolen items.

During the operation, HPD and the Pasadena Police Department realized they were investigating the same suspects. Around the same time, the HPD Burglary and Theft Division was investigating a large theft involving a small business' entire inventory of motorcycle apparel and accessories. Police said a large criminal group targeted big-ticket items, usually transported in large trailers, and would steal the trailer and its contents.

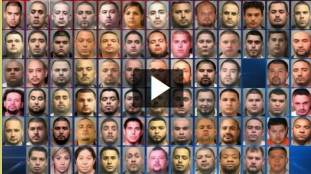
"These thieves were stealing anything and everything they could put their hands on. They went after trailers they saw parked on the streets of Greater Houston. They stole four wheelers, quad runners, lawn equipment, motorcycle equipment," says Lt. Mike Osina of the Houston Police Department.

Together, **multiple agencies** -- HPD's Criminal Intelligence, Burglary and Theft, Auto Theft, Narcotics and Eastside Patrol divisions, as well as the Pasadena and Baytown police departments and the departments of Public Safety and



Homeland Security -- teamed up to file more than 200 charges and arrest 130 suspects in what has been called "Operation Wheels and Deals."

One of the victims of this alleged gang of thieves happens to be country music singer Zane Williams.



More arrests are expected in the coming weeks.

Most of those arrested are facing charges of engaging in organized crime, aggravated robbery and aggravated assault.



A National Association

[CLEAR Mission:](#)

Build and support partnership across all investigative channels, accomplished through open communication and networking, training together toward the further development of the investigator and lastly, by supporting that legislation which strengthens laws related to property crimes.

Be a part of the

Intel Newsletter!

Submit intelligence information and upcoming conferences /training opportunities to

[Dave Collins](#)

Shoplifting arrest leads to big crystal meth bust

By KATC.com

A shoplifting arrest at Walmart in Eunice, LA has led to a huge drug bust for Eunice Police, including \$9,000 worth of crystal meth and several other drugs and weapons.

Eunice Police Chief Randy Fontenot said 38-year-old Ryan Motty was arrested in Walmart after he was reportedly seen cutting open a box of electronics. After his shoplifting arrest, Motty's vehicle was left in the Walmart parking lot.



Ryan Motty and Letha Hicks

Police received a tip the next morning that there was a large amount of crystal meth in the vehicle. Officers searched the vehicle and **found about a pound of crystal meth, a small amount of heroin and marijuana, as well as liquid codeine, steroids and weapons** that Motty was not allowed to have because he's on probation, Fontenot said.

A search of Motty's home uncovered more weapons and a lot of drug paraphernalia.



POLICE BLOTTER: 'Large white woman' busted for shoplifting, drugs

nwfdailynews.com By staff reports

NICEVILLE, FL —A “large white woman” was intercepted in the Wal Mart parking lot after a loss prevention employee identified her to Niceville Police officers as a shoplifter. During her arrest officers also found drugs and paraphernalia among her personal property.

Officers responding to a call from the store met a loss prevention employee in the parking lot, who identified 31-year-old April Lynn Macaruso as the person who purloined a pair of scissors and a comb.

Officers approached Macaruso as she was getting into a Jeep and asked to speak with her. After receiving her Miranda rights, Macaruso allegedly told the officers she had taken some items without paying for them and the comb and scissors were retrieved from her purse. Total value of the items was \$8.84.

Officers also found a digital scale, which Macaruso explained thusly: “I use it to weigh pennies for my daughter.”

But they also found two plastic bags containing a crystal substance that later tested positive for methamphetamines.

She was charged with retail theft, drug possession and drug equipment possession. Her trial date was not listed on the arrest report.





California Getting With Other States:

Shoplifting Ring Legislation Introduced

By TWC News Staff

Wednesday, June 22, 2016 at 08:42 AM PDT

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — Legislation to protect businesses from organized crime, especially shoplifting rings, was introduced in Sacramento on Monday.

California State Assembly members Tom Lackey, R-36th Dist., and Scott Wilk, R-38th Dist., announced Bill 22-87, which would allow prosecutors to charge thieves with felonies if they steal more than certain amount in a six-month period.

"Many criminals know there are no consequences for stealing less than 950 dollars. Reports of organized shoplifting rings have emerged, particularly harming small businesses," said Lackey.

Lackey claims shoplifting rings are exploiting loopholes in Proposition 47 which reduces certain non-violent crimes from felonies to misdemeanors. He says under the measure, if criminals steal less than \$950 worth of goods at a time, they are immune from felony prosecution.

Robert Lehner with the California Police Chiefs Association says data shows property crime dropped nationwide from 3 to 5 percent over each of the past 20 years, but not in California since Prop 47 passed in 2014



Romance Isn't Dead

Husband and wife arrested in Oregon shoplifting ring



Kaellen Hessel, Statesman Journal 10:18 a.m. PDT May 13, 2016

A husband and wife were arrested as part of an alleged shoplifting ring, police said.

Michael Rascon, 39, and Maria Rojas, 34, were arrested on charges of unlawful racketeering, money laundering, attempted organized retail theft and first-degree theft by receiving.

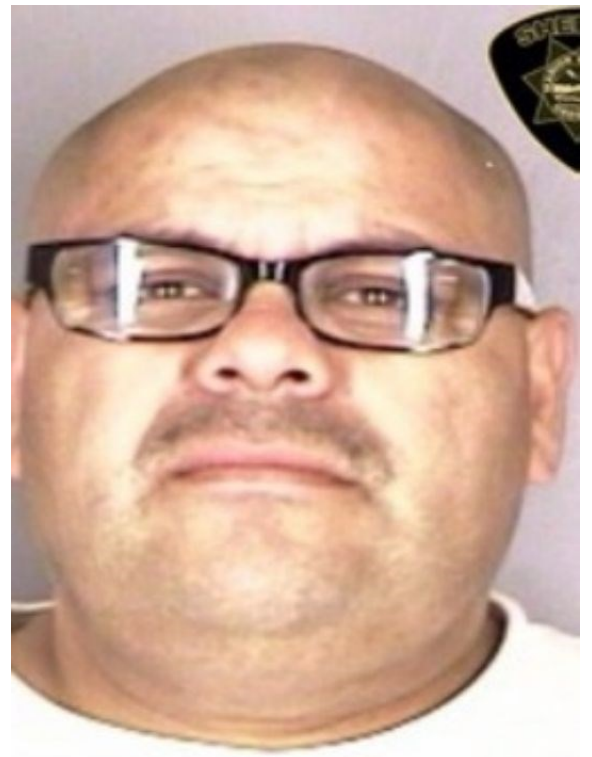
"They were directing people to shoplift specific things for them," said Lt. Steve Birr, of the Salem Oregon Police Department.

The Northwest Organized Retail Crime Alliance began the investigation into the couple who officials thought were buying and selling beauty products and some clothing. The alliance is made up of investigators with Fred Meyer, Safeway/Albertsons and Target Organized Retail Crime Units.

Undercover investigators made seven purchases, totaling more than \$11,000, from the couple with a retail value of more than \$37,000, according to a news release.

After the purchases, investigators notified Salem Police Department of their findings.

At 9 a.m. Thursday, detectives served a search warrant in the 100 block of Connecticut Avenue SE, Birr said. They found a lot of retail items in their original packaging.





The Loss Prevention Foundation Announces Scholarship Opportunities For LPQ and LPC Courses

The Loss Prevention Foundation's mission is to advance the loss prevention profession by increasing awareness of the Foundation and its' career enhancing certification programs.

The [LPF Scholarship Committee](#) strives to ensure that the [LPQ](#) and [LPC](#) courseware scholarships (valued at \$495 and \$795 respectively - exams are not included) are offered to a variety of audiences through a variety of means in order to achieve our mission.



Current Scholarship Offerings

Retail Professionals:

Financial Assistance Needed:

The Loss Prevention Foundation (LPF) recognizes that sometimes people find themselves in very difficult life circumstances where they cannot afford our [LPQualified](#) (LPQ) or [LPCertified](#) (LPC) courseware. As such, a limited number of Financial Assisted Scholarships may be awarded to applicants who are willing to share their circumstances with us

Learn more about [LPF Financial Assisted Scholarships](#)

Vector Security LPF Scholarship Program

[Vector Security](#) - Early every year Vector offers members of our community the chance to compete for LPQ and LPC **course and exam scholarships**. The LPF appreciates their continued support of LP professional certification. Exams are included.

For more information, click here <https://www.vectorsecurity.com/loss-prevention-foundation-scholarship>

Conference Scholarships

The below organizations award [LPQ](#) and [LPC](#) scholarships as conference prizes.

In addition, many of our solution provider partners offer scholarships at their booths as drawings. [Click here](#)

Veterans - from "Hire-A-Vet" retailers:

For information to enroll in our "Hire-A-Vet" program which increases visibility and opportunity for [LPQ](#) scholarships from participating retailers [click here](#).

Full-Time Students:

For information about [LPQ](#) student scholarships [click here](#).

The International Organization of Black Security Executives offers [LPQ](#) scholarships to deserving students and as prizes at its conferences. [Click here](#) to learn more.

For additional information, go to http://www.losspreventionfoundation.org/lpf_hardship_scholarships.html



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SAVE THE DATE!

Open Source and Social Media Investigations

The Coalition of Law Enforcement and Retail is pleased to announce that we will be providing this class as part of the agenda to our annual conference in Reno, NV on Oct 24th-27th at the Silver Legacy Resort.

Panopticon is a leader in Social media and Open Source investigations and will be presenting this 8hr hands-on course. The cost is **\$175** for the full 3 day conference which includes this course which is a \$500 value in itself.

Register for the 2016 CLEAR Conference and see the full agenda at www.clearusa.org



Anyone can search the internet but it takes dedication and special training to do so effectively. Panopticon LLC is providing world class training where you will learn advanced tools and tricks for accessing free information on the internet such as:

- Advanced searches of Facebook, Twitter, Craigslist, e-Bay, backpage, shared interest networks, personals, dating venues, micro-blogging, and more.
- Assess geo-located tools and conduct effective searches using free tools.
- Monitor online social media content effectively, for free.
- Investigative photo and image searches.
- Collect and retain the evidence you identify.
- Review of legal trends as it relates to online investigations.





 <p>SILVER LEGACY RESORT • CASINO • RENO silverlegacy.com</p>	<p>407 N Virginia St. Reno, NV 89501 Phone: 775-325-7376 Fax: 775-325-7340</p>
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Silver Legacy Resort Reno NV Oct 24th-27th 2016

Hotel Rate: \$69 per night plus
\$12 resort fee and taxes

(Includes Airport Shuttle, Parking, Unlimited local and 1-800 calls, wireless internet for 2 devices in room and meeting space, admission to health spa, and boarding pass printing at bell desk)

Ask for the Coalition of Law Enforcement and Retail

Group rate (Code: CLEAR16)

Conference Price:

\$175.00 per person

Group discount: \$125 ea. for groups of 5 or more or

Buy one get one 1/2 off for Retail Partners sponsoring a Law Enforcement Partner

Receive CFI Credit



Come join us for the training, the networking, and the fun

Success through partnership

Register today at:

www.clearusa.org



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CLEAR

Seventh Annual Training Conference

MONDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2016

- 2:00-4:30 Board of Directors Meeting
- 2:30-4:30 Vendor Exhibit Set up
- 4:30-6:00 Pre-registration and Vendor Exhibits
- 7:00-9:00 Welcome Reception – Hospitality Room

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2016

- 7:15-8:00 Registration
- 8:00-5:00 Conference and Vendor Exhibits
- 8:00-8:45 Opening Comments and Awards
- 9:00-10:00 Return Fraud "A different type of ORC"
- 10:30-11:30 Insights from the other side (Defense Attorney)
- 1:00-2:00 ORC Trends Panel
- 2:30-3:45 Credit Card Fraud
- 4:00-5:00 Counterfeit Products
- 5:00-6:00 Exhibitor Reception
- 7:00-10:00 Reception and Networking

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2016

- 8:00-5:00 Conference and Vendor Exhibits
- 8:00-8:40 Bob Moraca, National Retail Federation
- 8:45-5:00 Open Source and Social Media Investigations
- 6:00-7:30 ORCA Leaders Meeting
- 7:30-10:00 Reception and Networking

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2016

- 8:00-12:00 Conference and Vendor Exhibits
- 8:00-9:00 LVMPD RAPP team
- 9:15-10:30 Identity Theft and Mobile Phones
- 10:45-11:30 Legislative Update
- 11:30-12:00 Closing

*Agenda is subject to change

On line registration available at www.clearusa.org.
For more information, please call or email:

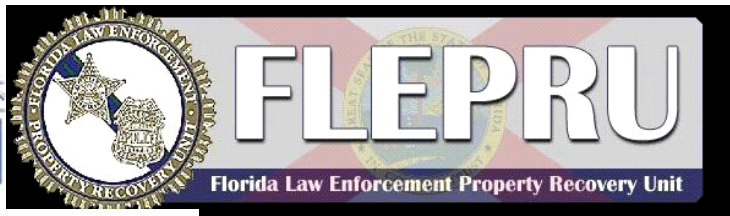
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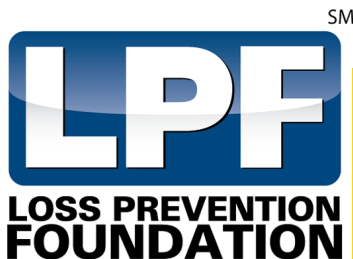
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Support that's there for you!

