

Office of the Kane County State's Attorney



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FOUR CHARGED IN DRUG DELIVERY, MONEY-LAUNDERING SCHEME MULTIPLE STATE, FEDERAL AGENCIES INVOLVED IN INVESTIGATION

June 19, 2014

Four people have been charged in a marijuana delivery and money-laundering scheme that drew the attention of state and federal law-enforcement agencies.

Nicholas A. Salemi, 24 (d.o.b. 2-12-1990), of Sealark Lane, Fallbrook, Calif., and formerly of St. Charles, Ill., was indicted June 3, 2014, on one count of unlawful delivery of cannabis, a Class 1 felony, three counts of unlawful delivery of cannabis, each a Class 2 felony, and three counts of money laundering, each a Class 3 felony.

Maryhelen Kwiatkowski, 32 (d.o.b. 5-5-1982), of Sealark Lane, Fallbrook, Calif., was indicted June 3, 2014, on two counts of unlawful delivery of cannabis, each a Class 2 felony.

Anthony W. Salemi, 56 (d.o.b. 5-29-1958), of the 5N block of North Glen Oak Lane, St. Charles, was charged June 11, 2014, three counts of money laundering, each a Class 3 felony, unlawfully producing/possessing cannabis plants, a Class A misdemeanor, unlawful possession of drug paraphernalia, a Class A misdemeanor, and unlawful possession of cannabis, a Class B misdemeanor.

Gina T. Salemi, 52 (d.o.b. 11-5-1961), of the 5N block of North Glen Oak Lane, St. Charles, was charged June 12, 2014, with two counts of money laundering, each a Class 3 felony.

Between Feb. 19, 2014, and April 2, 2014, Nicholas Salemi and Kwiatkowski allegedly shipped marijuana from California to Kane County, Ill., through the U.S. Postal Service. On multiple occasions, the monetary proceeds from the sales of the marijuana that was shipped to Kane County were received by Anthony and Gina Salemi, who then forwarded the money back to their son, Nicholas Salemi.

On June 11, 2014, a search warrant was executed at the Salemi's home on North Glen Oak Lane, St. Charles. Authorities seized cannabis sativa plants, as well as drug paraphernalia and marijuana.

Simultaneously on June 11, Nicholas Salemi and Kwiatkowski were arrested at their Fallbrook, Calif., home, by state and federal authorities. They remain in the custody of

the San Diego County Sheriff's Department and await extradition to Illinois. Their initial court appearances will be determined after they arrive in Illinois.

Anthony Salemi and Gina Salemi were arrested June 11, 2014, in Kane County by local and federal authorities.

Anthony Salemi is free on \$18,000 bond. Gina Salemi is free on \$5,000 bond. Their next court appearance is set for 9 a.m. June 20, 2014, in Courtroom 313 at the Kane County Judicial Center in front of Circuit Judge James C. Hallock.

The arrests and charges were the result of a joint investigation involving the U.S. Postal Inspection Service, the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency, Homeland Security Investigations, the Illinois Attorney General's Office, the North Central Narcotics Task Force and the Kane County State's Attorney's Office.

The case will be prosecuted by the Kane County State's Attorney's Office and the Illinois Attorney General's Office.

"Our thanks to the postal inspectors, the DEA and Homeland Security agents, the Illinois Attorney General's Office and particularly the investigators with the North Central Narcotics Task Force for their collaboration on this case. This interagency cooperation is vitally important in keeping illegal drugs off the streets," Kane County State's Attorney Joe McMahon said.

The charges are not proof of guilt. Each defendant is presumed innocent and is entitled to a fair trial in which it is the state's burden to prove guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.