



Arizona Department of Gaming

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News Release

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A Bad Bet Right Out of the Gate

(Phoenix) – The Belmont Racetrack was not the only one that received bad news this weekend as some gamblers found themselves on the run when Agents from the Arizona Department of Gaming raided an unlicensed horse race in Pinal County, near the rural community of Picacho.

The investigation began earlier this year when the Arizona Department of Gaming's Intelligence Unit responded to an anonymous phone call from a concerned citizen regarding possible illegal horse races. Undercover Agents gathered evidence suggesting violations of various state gambling statutes, including: conducting a criminal enterprise, promoting gambling, benefiting from gambling, and possession of gambling devices.

On the afternoon of June 9, 2012, the Arizona Department of Gaming, with the assistance of the Arizona Department of Public Safety and the Attorney General's Office, executed the search warrants and conducted the raid, shutting down the operation and seizing evidence. Agents from the Arizona Department of Agriculture were also on hand to ensure the safety of the horses.

"The photo finish today turned out to be mug shots," said Mark Brnovich, Director of the Arizona Department of Gaming, the state agency that regulates casinos and gambling in Arizona. "Illegal gambling can take many different forms, and we will continue to make investigating these types of crimes a priority."

The Arizona Attorney General's Office will now determine the final charges for prosecution.

To report suspected illegal gambling, contact Arizona Department of Gaming at 602-255-3888. For more information, to request a photo of the raid or an interview with Director Brnovich, contact Rick Medina, Assistant Director of the Arizona Department of Gaming at 602-771-4263.

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