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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
March 9, 2022

Killer Sentenced on Cold Case Marijuana Rip-Off

An old marijuana rip-off homicide case was partially resolved today with the sentencing of a South Carolina man in Butte County Superior Court. Matthew Boehm, 42, of Charleston, South Carolina, was sentenced to 11 years in state prison for his role in the October 11, 2013 killing of Lewis Newton, 42, of Palermo.

Butte County District Attorney Mike Ramsey said Boehm and two associates came from South Carolina to Butte County to obtain marijuana. A robbery of a marijuana grow was planned, during which Newton, who lived on and was caring for the Palermo property where the marijuana was growing, was shot and killed. His body was later discovered by his brother.

Ramsey said the Butte County Sheriff's Office continued to work on the case since 2013 with few leads. However, they received a tip in May of 2021, which led them to Southern California, Florida, and South Carolina, where Mr. Boehm was eventually arrested and transported to California.

Boehm pled guilty to voluntary manslaughter on February 9, 2022, and stipulated to the upper term of 11 years in state prison. Ramsey praised the sheriff's detectives who continued for years working to solve the case for the family. Ramsey said the victim's family was in court today to watch the sentencing and give statements about Lewis to the sentencing judge. Ramsey said, "The Newton family was given a small piece of closure today, and were pleased that at last someone was held accountable for this awful crime."

