

Medical Marijuana Dispensaries and Associated Issues
Presented to the California Chiefs of Police Association
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Cmdr. M. Regan

The significant violence associated with the cultivation, possession, sale and use of marijuana is a continuing trend. Listed below are excerpts of articles illustrating that fact. As Marijuana production and sales become more lucrative, we can only expect that the level of violence will increase. Please understand that these articles represent open source information available via print and web media. I have saved these articles in their entirety for your review at a later date if you so desire.

Four men linked to drug cartel arrested for 2007 murder in Santa Barbara County

May 16, 2008 / Reported by: [Melissa Mecija](#)

SANTA BARBARA COUNTY:Sheriff's deputies confirmed this murder is connected to a record-breaking marijuana operation discovered last year.....Ruiz was shot to death. Around the same time, deputies discovered nearly 93,000 marijuana plants.....the street value more than \$275 millionDeputies confirm the killing and the marijuana are connected.....They linked the marijuana operation to a drug cartel.....

<http://www.ksby.com/Global/story.asp?S=8338751>

Benicia man to stand trial in Walnut Creek homicide

By [Malaika Fraley](#) / [CONTRA COSTA TIMES](#) / 05/23/2008

MARTINEZ:.....Jonathan Marvin, 34, is accused of killing 30-year-old Eric Martin, of Pittsburg, his friend and associate in a marijuana growing business, on Dec. 2 over a drug debt.....Marvin was working as an assistant football coach.....when he was arrested Dec. 6 after officers found two duffel bags containing two pounds of marijuana in his vehicle.

http://www.mercurynews.com/business/ci_9362632?nclick_check=1

Signs of lethal trauma lacking on body

By [KAREN WILKINSON](#), The Eureka Reporter / Apr 16 2008

No obvious signs of lethal trauma were found on the man found dead in his yard Monday, but an autopsy and other tests may determine the cause of the "suspicious" death.....It's been labeled "suspicious" because foul play or homicide is suspected,.....*In another development, a search warrant for the home, obtained late Monday afternoon, led to the reported discovery of a marijuana growing operation — with more than 200 plants — inside the garage.....*

Source: <http://eurekareporter.com/article/080416-signs-of-lethal-trauma-lacking-on-body>

Defendant called as witness

By [Raul Hernandez](#) / April 26, 2008

The defense's first witness to testify about the 2006 killing of Oxnard resident Fred Williams was the defendant, John Lewis.....Lewis seemed irritated and upset when pressed hard by Temple on such things as his truthfulness, his income and expenses, and whether he called the shots in the Oxnard-based Black Mafia gang.....*adding that what Pitts described as a robbery was a "security detail" to guard some medical marijuana being transported from Riverside County to Humboldt County. Lewis said the purchase of a rapid firing Mac-10 firearm with a silencer was done to protect large quantities of marijuana. "It's not illegal to be selling large quantities of marijuana?" Temple asked. No, he said, adding that he sold large quantities of medical marijuana to clinics.....*

<http://www.venturacountystar.com/news/2008/apr/26/defendant-called-as-witness/>

Suspect in marijuana robbery caught after highway chase

By [GLENDA ANDERSON](#) / THE PRESS DEMOCRAT

A man suspected of stealing marijuana led police on a chase on Highway 128 near Cloverdale before crashing his vehicle while trying to avoid a spike strip, authorities said.Denson allegedly pulled a small-caliber handgun and....Denson allegedly took a pound of marijuana Sommer had for medical use,Denson was expected to be booked on suspicion of armed robbery and evading arrest, he said. He already is on parole for narcotics violations.....*The incident is another example that growing and possessing marijuana, even legitimately, can attract crime..... "It's dangerous to have pot,".....*
<http://www1.pressdemocrat.com/article/20080405/NEWS/804050369/1033/NEWS&tc=yahoo>

Three armed robbers break into San Luis Obispo home, demanding marijuana

Reported by: [Lauren Knight](#) / Friday, April 11, 2008

SAN LUIS OBISPO:.....A normally quiet neighborhood turns violent when three suspects armed with a shotgun and a baseball bat kick down the door of a home up the hill. Police say the men knew what they were after. The victim has a medicinal marijuana card, and therefore pot was on the property....."Investigators are looking into past robberies with similar MOs, making sure they are not linked or looking into the fact whether they are linked,"
<http://www.ksby.com/Global/story.asp?S=8155892>

3 rob man of medical marijuana

April 28, 2008

A man sleeping in his Old River Road home on Sunday afternoon woke to three masked men who threatened him and stole his medicinal marijuana, according to a Sonoma County sheriff's official.....The robbers bound the resident's wrists with a cord and took about 1 pound of unprocessed marijuana he was growing for medicinal purposes,....
<http://www1.pressdemocrat.com/article/20080428/NEWS/804280378/1033/NEWS&template=kart>

Couple tied up; suspects steal marijuana, electronics

Published: May 1 2008,

Three suspected robbers broke into a couple's home early Wednesday morning.....The couple reported that three men entered their house and that two of the suspects were holding handguns and ordered the couple to get on the floor.....*The victims said the suspects took miscellaneous electronic equipment, a shotgun, 65 marijuana plants, 2 pounds of processed marijuana and 4 pounds of recently harvested marijuana.....One of the victims, had three outstanding felony warrants out of Virginia for conspiracy to sell marijuana, larceny and money laundering.....*

Source: <http://www.eurekareporter.com/article/080501-couple-tied-up-suspects-steal-marijuana-electronics>

2 accused of break-in at pot club after raid

Henry K. Lee, Chronicle Staff Writer / Saturday, May 31, 2008

OAKLAND -- Two men were in custody Friday on suspicion of breaking into a downtown Oakland building hours after it was raided by federal drug agents during a marijuana investigation.....*Ken Estes, 50, who manages the dispensaries,.....Estes said agents seized 318 marijuana plants and \$100,000 during the raids...He said the agents apparently left some bags of marijuana behind, which made it tempting for the suspects.....*

<http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2008/05/31/BA9O110JDE.DTL>

Heavily armed security guard legal pot store

Posted on April 13, 2008 by privateofficernews

SACRAMENTO CA. April 13 2008 — *Held up with a shot gun, a local medical marijuana shop owner roughed up by two suspects looking for pot. Then days later another shop nearby is also robbed. The question: Are the crimes connected?....Police say they got away with more than \$30,000 worth of marijuana.* “ I think I grabbed his hand and the gun was going like that,” says security guard, Randee Gains. *And then today more than a week later security guard Randee Gains was trying to protect this medical marijuana facility near 14th and Broadway when two guys armed with a shotgun and pistol tried to force their way in*, but Randee and other staff members fought back. You could still see blood on Randee’s uniform from the fight and the bruises on his head.....

Source: <http://privateofficernews.wordpress.com/2008/04/13/armed-security-guards-legal-pot-store-wwwprivateofficercom/>

Police K9 helps get suspects

06/15/2008

Two robbery suspects were apprehended Thursday night with the help of Vacaville Police K9 Greck.....The two suspects, 17 and 15 years old, were taken into custody and booked in Solano County Juvenile Hall for residential burglary....*During the same incident, the victim....were arrested on suspicion of marijuana sales, weapons possession and being a convicted felon in possession of firearms. The arrests happened after an officer who was at the victims' apartment noticed items consistent with the sale of narcotics and a strong smell of marijuana inside.*

http://www.thereporter.com/news/ci_9594324

Armed burglars likely after marijuana

Published: June 21, 2008 / By Nicholas Grube / Triplicate staff writer

.....The burglars are suspected of taking some of Layton's medical marijuana plants before he saw them running from his house,.....law enforcement estimated they had 50-100 plants in their home....*In the past year, there have been about six incidents in which medical marijuana gardens have been robbed in Del Norte County, Morris said. "It's becoming more and more common,"* he said. "This is the first one that I know of that was associated with violence." Other counties in Northern California have experienced similar situations...*"The home invasion robberies and burglaries are a by-product of growing medical marijuana,"* Morris said. "(Patients) are being victimized and that that's because the price of marijuana is not going down. It's staying very high."

http://www.triplicate.com/news/story.cfm?story_no=9220

CHP, Sheriff's Office searching for burglars in Garberville

Published: Apr 16 2008, 12:11 AM

.....The three occupants said as many as three men forcibly entered their house. They stated that two men entered the house and at least one of the suspects brandished a handgun. The two suspects reportedly demanded money and threatened to kill the residents.....The suspects eventually took a small, unknown amount of concentrated cannabis and loose marijuana and fled on foot.....

Source: <http://eureka-reporter.com/article/080416-police-searching-for-burglars-in-garberville>

Thibodaux man arrested for medical marijuana

Shipment allegedly came from California

Published: Friday, June 20, 2008

A shipment of medical grade marijuana allegedly bound for Louisiana from California was intercepted by state police Thursday.They searched the apartment and discovered 951 grams or 2.12 pounds of marijuana allegedly in Zugsberger's possession. That marijuana included the 934 grams of marijuana initially discovered in California. Zugsberger, Dardar said, ***admitted that he paid \$6000.00 per pound for the marijuana, which "appeared to be very high quality with a much higher THC content.....Zugsberger claimed to have a medical marijuana license from California.....***

<http://www.houmatoday.com/article/20080620/HURBLOG/859134039>

San Rafael man accused in marijuana-growing operation

[Jennifer Upshaw](#) / 04/01/2008

A San Rafael man was in custody Tuesday in Santa Barbara County after he was accused by authorities there of cultivating indoor pot-growing operations in both San Rafael and Goleta valued at more than \$1 million.Inside, they found more than 360 marijuana plants worth an estimated \$738,000, paperwork indicating the pot went for \$4,100 a pound, and several people trimming and drying marijuana. Sixty pounds worth about \$246,000 in street value had already been prepared for sale, sheriff's officials said. ***Authorities also found \$60,000 in cash inside Fischer's car and.....Documents indicated the suspect was pocketing up to \$80,000 a month from the Goleta operation, sheriff's officials***

said..... Suspecting there was a second operation, San Barbara sheriff's detectives enlisted San Rafael police Saturday to serve a warrant at...a commercial warehouse. There police found more than 300 plants growing in a set-up similar to the Goleta growing operation; police valued the pot at \$615,000.....

Source: http://www.marinij.com/ci_8777795?source=most_viewed

As border security has supposedly reduced the amount of Marijuana arriving from Canada and outdoor grows are facing more scrutiny, the number of indoor grows continue to increase. Despite the fact that this option has resulted in increased fire and safety threats, the indoor growing trend continues its upward spiral. During this quarter, the ***published seizures*** of both indoor and outdoor grows in California alone were 100,945 plants in varying stages of maturity and 407 pounds of finished marijuana.

Fire in San Jose home turns into major marijuana find

May 28, 2008

SAN JOSE, Calif.: A small attic fire in a San Jose home has turned into a major marijuana discovery. When firefighters responded to a report of smoke coming from an attic of the house Tuesday evening, they found marijuana plants growing throughout the three-bedroom residential home. Authorities say there were nearly 200 marijuana plants, with an estimated street value of up to \$1 million in the house. A fire official says the residents of the home had installed an elaborate ventilation system for the plants. The electrical circuit had also been bypassed, so the occupants weren't paying for electricity.

http://www.examiner.com/a-1411872~Fire_in_San_Jose_home_turns_into_major_marijuana_find.html

Marijuana Cultivation Suspects Busted

By: Bill Curtis / May 23rd, 2008

On 5/1/08,....Four suspects were arrested. All four suspects were armed with loaded handguns, one of which had been stolen from an off duty law enforcement officer's vehicle. Two of the handguns had the serial numbers removed. Over 24,920 immature marijuana plants were eradicated. At maturity these plants would have a street value of over 62 million dollars....

On 5/8/08.....located and eradicated 13,390 immature Marijuana plants in the Bright Star mountain range in eastern Kern County. At maturity these plants would have a street value of over 33 million dollars. No suspects were arrested.

On 5/22/08Located and eradicated 4,326 immature Marijuana plants in the Alta Sierra mountain range in eastern Kern County. At maturity these plants would have a street value of over 10 million dollars. No suspects were arrested.

<http://www.1bakersfield.com/news/read/2/152196>

Oakland cop's sensitive nose leads authorities to 2,100 marijuana plants

Bay City News Service / 04/03/2008

A three-week investigation....resulted in a Wednesday night arrest and the recovery of more than 2,000 plants, a police spokesman said today.....The structure was a former auto body shop that had been converted into an elaborate marijuana cultivation facility, police spokesman Roland Holmgren said. Officers found approximately 2,100 marijuana plants that were in various stages of maturity.....The street value of the plants was estimated to be in the hundreds of thousands of dollars, Holmgren reported. One man was arrested without incident on charges of cultivation of marijuana and theft of utilities,

http://www.mercurynews.com/breakingnews/ci_8798354

Police arrest three in marijuana bust

Danielle MacMurchy / 04 April 2008

.....the Tracy Police Department found 400 marijuana plants in a west Tracy home,Police reported that the entire house was used to cultivate marijuana.....

<http://tracypress.com/content/view/14149/2242/>

San Leandro police lead major East Bay pot bust

By Gideon Rubin, Staff Writer / 04/10/2008

OAKLAND:... Authorities seized approximately 1,000 marijuana plants and more than \$150,000 in cash, firearms, and advanced indoor growing equipment,....Overton said DEA agents on the scene described the operation as "very sophisticated," noting that the cultivators used an elaborate combination of timers and electronic equipment that required minimal manpower. "It looked like they had top of the line equipment," Overton said. He said he didn't know how long the operation had been running, but it was clear it was a profitable business. He noted that the two homes Moltaris owns are both valued at well over \$1 million.....

http://www.insidebayarea.com/ci_8884059

MONTEREY CO.: \$40 MILLION MARIJUANA GARDEN ERADICATED

Mon, 09 Jun 2008

.....Members of the County of Monterey Marijuana Eradication Team, the Monterey County Sheriff's Office Narcotics Unit and the California Highway Patrol were involved in eradicating the garden.

Approximately 10,000 marijuana plants, with an estimated street value of \$40 million, were removed, the sheriff's office reported.

<http://cbs5.com/localwire/22.0.html?type=bcn&item=MARIJUANA-ERADICATION>

Feds Raid California Homes, Find 6,848 Marijuana Plants

Associated Press / April 17, 2008

SAN DIEGO — Federal authorities say they have disrupted a major indoor marijuana-growing operation in San Diego County, California. Assistant U.S. Attorney Stewart Young says agents arrested 13 men and seized marijuana plants that could have a street value as high as \$27 million. Raids Tuesday at four homes found 6,848 plants. The houses used a sophisticated irrigation system and stolen electricity to grow the plants under lamps.

<http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,351576,00.html>

Marijuana haul yields 3 arrests

Molly Hennessy-Fiske / April 19, 2008

Three San Gabriel residents were arrested after authorities found more than 1,000 marijuana plants and cultivating equipment in three rental houses, police said.Batres said that the El Monte rental home was wired to siphon electricity to power the marijuana-growing operation, and that the plants in that house and the one in San Gabriel were worth about \$1 million.

<http://www.latimes.com/news/local/la-me-briefs19apr19,1,6841052.story>

Two arrested with marijuana, Ecstasy while driving through Victorville

The Press-Enterprise / April 23, 2008

San Bernardino County sheriff's deputies arrested two men from San Jose after finding marijuana and Ecstasy with a street value of \$2 million in the truck and trailer they were driving through Victorville.and found about 250 pounds of marijuana and 50,000 tablets of Ecstasy. The street value of the marijuana is about \$1.5 million and the Ecstasy about \$500,000, deputies said.

Source: http://www.pe.com/localnews/inland/stories/PE_News_Local_B_bcops24.4367e43.html

Seized pot worth \$25M to \$60M

Sean Garmire/The Times-Standard / 06/26/2008

Federal agents who served warrants on properties across Humboldt and into Northern Mendocino County have begun the process of sifting through the massive amount of evidence seized during Tuesday's marijuana raids, with the plants alone worth an estimated \$25 million to \$60 million. FBI indicate authorities seized more than 10,000 marijuana plants, one vehicle, computers, more than \$160,000 in cash and 30 firearms, including shotguns, handguns and fully automatic weapons.

http://www.times-standard.com/localnews/ci_9697771

Investigators Seize Marijuana Plants In High Desert Home

Apple Valley Couple Arrested Late Tuesday / June 12, 2008

APPLE VALLEY, Calif. -- Authorities said an Apple Valley couple was been arrested after \$476,000 worth of marijuana was found growing inside their home.Early Wednesday, after obtaining a warrant, deputies raided the home and.seized 136 marijuana plants in the home,

<http://www.knbc.com/news/16584898/detail.html>

Tehama County Sheriff Deputies uproot marijuana garden

BY ASHLEY GEBB-DN Staff Writer / 06/13/2008

The Tehama County Sheriff's Department destroyed 4,590 marijuana plants found Wednesday in Lassen National Forest in the first raid of the season.

http://www.redbluffdailynews.com/news/ci_9575480

Marijuana grow busted in Benbow

The Times-Standard / 04/26/2008

Four people were arrested Friday morning on charges related to the sale of marijuana and cocaine after raiding a home.....and finding 165 marijuana plants, 75 pounds of processed marijuana and four guns.....Agents searched the house and found a sophisticated marijuana grow, and seized the plants, processed marijuana and guns, as well as an ounce of cocaine, a scale and paperwork. As agents were searching the home, John Leonardo, 52, arrived. Agents seized approximately 3.5 ounces of cocaine from Leonardo's car and arrested him for transportation of cocaine and possession of cocaine for sale.

Source: http://www.times-standard.com/localnews/ci_9064154

Detectives Seize Over 2000 Marijuana Plants - Indoor Operation in Apple Valley

By [Inland Empire](#) • May 1st, 2008 •

.....Detectives found 2,157 marijuana plants in an elite indoor marijuana grow using hydroponics techniques that use indoor lights and nutrient-filled liquids.....The MET team estimates the value of this grow to be over seven million dollars (\$7,549,500.00). Detectives also found approximately 30 pounds of dried marijuana that had recently been harvested within the last month that was being prepared for sale prior to the service of the search warrant.....Additionally, the suspects bypassed the electrical meter and have illegally obtained over \$80,000.00 in electrical service for approximately one year.

Source: <http://www.mymurrieta.com/wordpress/?p=957>

12,000 marijuana plants found in Madera County

By Louis Galvan/The Fresno Bee / 05/07/08

Nearly 12,000 marijuana plants -- valued at nearly \$36 million upon maturity -- were found growing Tuesday night in a vineyard in southwest Madera County, a Madera County Sheriff's Department spokeswoman said this morning.....

Source: <http://www.fresnobee.com/updates/story/582718.html>

6,000 seedlings found at clandestine pot garden in Big Basin

Jennifer Squires - Sentinel Staff Writer / 05/06/2008

BIG BASIN — Sheriff's deputies and State Parks rangers on Monday removed more than 6,000 marijuana seedlings from two clandestine pot gardens in the same Big Basin State Park spot as a large grow officers uprooted three years ago.....Carney said the majority of the marijuana-growing operations his team uproots during the spring and summer months are controlled by Mexican drug cartels.....Many have been a stone's throw from popular hiking trails, and when they are raided, deputies generally find guns and other weapons in the camps, as was the case with the latest raid. There were 2,360 seedlings growing in the hillside Monday, according to Carney. Another 3,760 plants were sprouting in germination boxes covered with bird nets.

http://www.mercurynews.com/centralcoast/ci_9167467

Antioch police bust \$1.3 million Brentwood marijuana growing operation

By Matthias Gafni / East County Times 5/08/2008

BRENTWOOD — Narcotics officers arrested a Brentwood trio Wednesday morning on suspicion of operating a \$1.3 million marijuana operation from an elaborate Stockton warehouse, police said. After an investigation spanning several months, agents led simultaneous raids in Brentwood and Stockton about 9:30 a.m., confiscating more than 1,200 pot plants, a couple of dozen pounds of cultivated pot, more than \$100,000 in growing equipment and a stolen gun,....To operate the lighting and irrigation equipment at all three locations, the suspects are alleged to have stolen electricity, Orman said. PG&E is investigating how much.

http://www.mercurynews.com/crime/ci_9196435

Police seize \$1 million worth of pot plants from San Jose home

By Mark Gomez / Mercury News / 05/12/2008

It started as a weekend response to reports of a shooting in central San Jose. It ended with a massive drug bust resulting in the seizure of \$1 million in pot plants, according to San Jose police.....Officers said they found more than 500 marijuana plants, ranging between 3 and 4 feet high, and some smaller starter plants, with a street value of about \$1 million.....

http://www.mercurynews.com/ci_9233701?source=most_viewed

Police search in Antioch uncovers marijuana grow operation

By Robert Salonga / Contra Costa Times / 05/28/2008

ANTIOCH — Officers serving an arrest warrant at a residence Tuesday morning not only found their man, but a weapon and marijuana grow operation, police said....Rios hid from officers, but after he was found, police found the grow operation and a saleable amount of crystal methamphetamine, police said. They also found a stolen handgun in the home. Rios was arrested on suspicion of multiple drug, firearm and property offenses.

http://www.mercurynews.com/breakingnews/ci_9402142

Bundles of marijuana wash ashore

UNION-TRIBUNE BREAKING NEWS TEAM / June 4, 2008

DEL MAR – A surfer found more than 70 pounds of marijuana washed up on the beach early Wednesday morning, sheriff's deputies reported.....More marijuana was found in a trash can in the beach parking lot, said sheriff's Sgt. Marcos Ramirez. Witnesses reported seeing a small boat in the area just before 3 a.m., Ramirez said.

<http://www.signonsandiego.com/news/metro/20080604-1849-bn04pot.html>

Brothers in Crest charged in marijuana inquiry

EAST COUNTY: Two brothers were caught with a load of marijuana in the back of their pickup and more at their parents' houseOn the way to investigate, deputies saw a pickup with a number of large marijuana plants in the bed.....Narcotics Task Force agents searched the parents' house and found a sophisticated growing system and about 170 plants.....

<http://www.signonsandiego.com/news/metro/20080525-9999-1m25pubsafe.html>

Advocates have repeatedly stated that Marijuana has little or no effect on motor skills, below we see two incidents where marijuana appears to have played a factor in fatal collisions. We can only assume that other less “news worth” events occur significantly more often.

Marijuana Dispensaries Linked to Fatal Car Crash

Dispensary Sold Drugs to Man Who Crashed into C.H.P. Officer While Under the Influence of Marijuana

MAY 27 --(LOS ANGELES) The owner-operator of six Los Angeles-area “medical marijuana” dispensaries and his wife were arrested this morningAuthorities are seeking a third defendant, an employee who allegedly sold a pound of marijuana out the back door of one of the dispensaries. The investigation.....began after a horrific accident in which a CHP officer was critically injured and the driver he had stopped was killed. *“The consequences of marijuana use extend far beyond those who abuse and traffic the drug,” said Timothy J. Landrum, Special Agent in Charge of the DEA in Los Angeles. “The individuals arrested today claimed to sell marijuana for medicinal use, but it is clear that they are nothing more than drug traffickers.....*CHP Officer Anthony Pedefferri was conducting a routine traffic stop on the shoulder of Highway 101.....Parra was killed, and Pedefferri was gravely

injured. He remains paralyzed. The pick-up truck was driven by Jeremy White, who is currently being prosecuted by the Ventura County District Attorney's Office for gross vehicular manslaughter while intoxicated. The investigation revealed a large amount of marijuana and marijuana edibles in White's vehicle. White acknowledged being under the influence of marijuana when the accident took place, saying he had purchased the marijuana from a "medical marijuana" dispensary in Compton. "This case demonstrates the harm that can occur when individuals seek to line their pockets while operating under the guise of California's medical marijuana laws," said United States Attorney Thomas P. O'Brien. ***"The dispensaries involved in this case were simply drug-dealing enterprises designed to generate profits for those who chose to ignore federal law and flout state law. The tragic accident that killed Andreas Parra and crippled CHP Officer Pedferri can be directly linked to this disregard of the laws."*** <http://www.dea.gov/pubs/states/newsrel/la052708.html>

17-year-old Dead, Three Other Teens Injured in Malibu DUI Rollover Crash

Posted On: April 11, 2008 by John Bisnar

A 17-year-old high school football player, who was reportedly drinking and driving a Subaru station wagon filled with teens who had been drinking and possibly using drugs, died after he lost control of the vehicle, which rolled over. Three of his classmates were seriously injured of which one girl is said to be critically injured and fighting for her life, according to news reports. ... ***Investigators reportedly found a large, empty bottle of Jagermeister on the floor of the car, a glass pipe and a pill bottle containing medical marijuana.*** Investigators also reported that the teens were not wearing their seatbelts. http://www.californiainjuryblog.com/2008/04/17yearold_dead_three_other_tee.html

As stated earlier, the use of indoor grows is expanding. Enforcement agencies in other states and Canada are conducting investigations and beginning to take enforcement actions against the equipment suppliers and real estate agents involved in these grow operations.

New target in fight against indoor marijuana growing

By Stuart Glascock, Los Angeles Times Staff Writer / April 27, 2008

TUKWILA, WASH. -- ***First they noticed a spike in home-based marijuana growing operations. Seattle-area authorities shuttered 450 indoor pot farms in two years.*** Then they zeroed in on the supply chain, targeting businesses that provide goods and services needed to grow the illegal weed indoors. Then they went after a mortgage loan company they say financed houses in which the plants were grown. After a 13-month investigation. the Task Force arrested more than a dozen people, seized 15,000 plants and uprooted a suspected pot-growing network. The indictments alleged that the stores had peddled equipment used to manufacture marijuana: soil, pots, fertilizers, pesticides, lights, fans and watering systems as well as specialized items such as electrical diversion equipment and air filters. They also allegedly provided "starter plants. Internal Revenue Services agents also scoured the records of Jet City Mortgage in Kent in connection to possible mortgage fraud related to homes where indoor marijuana crops were found." DEA investigators said one of the garden supply businesses ran newspaper ads showing marijuana leaves and pictures of growing equipment.

Source: <http://www.latimes.com/news/nationworld/nation/la-na-gardeners27apr27,1,6246968.story>

Grow ops sprout in upscale 'burbs

.....Experts say grow ops are being found in virtually every neighborhood in Calgary, with major operations leaving homes in a decaying mess of mould costing tens of thousands of dollars to repair.....We have no idea at this point whether we have 3,000 grow-op houses or 10,000. But, we do know it's a serious problem." "We're talking seasoned criminals," Plecas said. "And that also fits to the whole matter organized crime is into it up to its eyeballs." The profits from growing marijuana are so large that homes prove to be an expendable cost of doing business. "Most of the time they just don't care how beat-up the house becomes," said Vicki Wearmouth, a Calgary public health inspector specializing in grow ops....Often, she finds the exhaust from the furnace and hot water tanks are disconnected so CO2 filters out and spurs the growth of plants. A hole is burrowed through the foundation walls where growers steal electricity and bypass the meter.....If they've been going on for quite some time, there's a significant amount of water damage with the heat," Wearmouth said. That means a substantial and toxic mould problem. The properties must be "remediated" before they are again habitable. That can mean the entire home must be gutted to its bare bones; the drywall removed and the insulation stripped out. Such an extensive process can cost around \$150,000 depending on the size of home, says the executive vice-president of the Calgary Real Estate Board....The concern, Esch said, is when mould has infested the home, but the remediation process isn't adequate.....Esch estimates there are between 25 and 30 former grow-op homes on Calgary's multiple listing service at any one time....High power consumption is an emblem of marijuana grow ops. And a former Calgary police officer who left the service in 2007 has developed a special meter to detect those stealing electricity.....Morrison's meter detects atypical consumption between the primary line and the transformers that feed 80 to 100 homes in a neighborhood. The technology immediately notifies the utility company when a primary line shows a home with excessive consumption. Someone from the utility can then test the particular transformers and find out which residence is the culprit.There's no way the amount of marijuana that we're producing in Canada can be consumed by Canadians. "A vast majority of it is getting shipped down to the States where the profits are so much larger.".....Three years ago, the Surrey fire service began an experiment.....The department obtained power consumption data from BC Hydro on homes that were suspected of growing marijuana. Safety investigations based on high power consumption found nearly 94 per cent of the homes had serious electrical problems -- in almost all cases, they housed a grow op. In 2006, B.C. passed legislation requiring BC Hydro to provide the addresses of residences with unusually high power consumption. The first set of data in Surrey revealed almost 1,000 homes that met the threshold and were the likely abodes of marijuana grow ops.....The solicitor general of Alberta also noted in a recent interview that many grow ops are simply stealing power and bypassing the meters. Fred Lindsay said by this fall the province will have two investigative teams that will act under civil law. If they inspect a home and find something awry, Lindsay said, "they will then have the ability to lock that house down for 90 days."

Source: <http://www.canada.com/calgaryherald/news/story.html?id=713ff76a-e147-4b9d-a669-03782eae1c94>

Medical Marijuana Growers Struggle With Legality

May 6, 2008

SAN FRANCISCO:.....In Sonoma County, the sheriff's department said it is doing everything it can to respect the law, but that home-grow operations are increasing in size and scale beyond what many could imagine. Detective Sgt. Chris Bertoli of Sonoma County handles the narcotics unit. ***"We are seeing a lot more grow operations involving medicinal marijuana, and we are finding that there are a lot of people taking advantage of the medical marijuana recommendations and using those to their advantage to increase their grow operations,"*** Bertoli said. What Bertoli and the grower do agree on, is the violence associated with home grow operations. ***"Every grower -- whether you live in the sticks or in downtown Oakland, Calif. -- wakes up every day with this ghost on their shoulder whispering,***

'Today could be the day your door gets kicked in; two or three guys come in with guns; you're duct-taped to a chair, and everything in your house gets taken,' the grower said. *"In the county of Sonoma and surrounding locations, we have seen an increase in the acts of violent crimes," Bertoli said.....The grower interviewed by NBC11 said that there might be unreported violence because of what the grower called police intimidation. "What happens? Do you call the police? No, you don't call the police," the grower said. "Why? Because you're afraid they're going to take all your lights and all the rest of the medicine;* and you're going to suffer further humiliation and further discrimination from the people who should be protecting you," the grower said.
<http://www.nbc11.com/news/16182999/detail.html>

Victimless Crime Files: Grow Houses Destroying Property Values in Arcata California

ARCATA, CALIF:....Collenberg found her charred and sooty rental filled with grow lights and 3-foot-high marijuana plants. Seeds were germinating in the spa. Water from the growing operation had soaked through the carpeting and sub-flooring. Air vents had been cut into the new roof. A fan had fallen over, causing the fire.....*Law enforcement officials estimate that as many as 1,000 of the 7,500 homes in this Humboldt County community are being used to cultivate marijuana, slashing into the housing stock, spreading building-safety problems and sowing neighborhood discord.....*The experience of Arcata, a bastion of cannabis culture, reveals the unintended consequences of the 1996 Compassionate Use Act.....*"If the average citizen . . . could see what I see, they probably would vote against it now,"* Police Chief Randy Mendosa said of Proposition 215. *"We are seeing large-scale grow operations where greedy people are taking huge amounts of affordable housing and are using entire houses to grow marijuana. The going rate is \$3,000 a pound [wholesale], and they are selling it and making a huge amount of money."....."People who clearly are in it for profit see it as a loophole and have flooded into these areas from across California and the U.S.,"* said Kent Shaw, assistant chief of the state Bureau of Narcotics Enforcement. *"What comes along with it is criminal elements who want to come and steal marijuana,"* sometimes through home invasion robberies.....
<http://www.red-alerts.com/victimless-crime-files/victimless-crime-files-grow-houses-destroying-property-values-in-arcata-california/>

Pot growers head indoors

FORECLOSED HOMES BEING SNATCHED UP

By Robert Salonga / Bay Area News Group / 06/15/2008

The frequency of marijuana-growing operations broken up this year in east Contra Costa County reveals two long-building story lines, authorities say. *First, the profitability and feasibility of illegal pot cultivation has been generally immune to swings in the economy, with growers exhibiting enough ingenuity to exploit both good and bad housing markets. The second is that as grow operations have made their way from rural areas to the suburbs, fed-up residents have become a key law enforcement resource in finding them. The movement of grow operations to upscale housing developments had its genesis in part from the passage of Proposition 215 in 1996,* which.....law enforcement officials argue, it normalized marijuana use in California. *"The old lady with glaucoma is not your average marijuana grower,"* said Antioch police Lt. Leonard Orman.....*"With 100 plants, that's \$900,000 a year, tax-free,"* said Norm Wielsch, commander of the state-run Central Contra Costa County Narcotics Enforcement Team.....Homes for rent were also viable targets for these schemes. *These homes took on even more value when Proposition 215 opened the floodgates for profit-driven growers operating under the guise of medical marijuana cultivation,* said Michael Chapman, assistant special agent for the Drug Enforcement Agency's San Francisco field division.
http://www.mercurynews.com/news/ci_9593409

Dispensary raids and convictions handed down during this quarter,

Judge Sentences Former Manager Of Medical Marijuana Dispensary

James John Carberry Receives 5 Years Probation

POSTED: April 30, 2008

LOS ANGELES -- The former manager of a West Hollywood medical marijuana dispensary that sold millions of dollars worth of the drug and related products was sentenced Wednesday to five years probation.....In his plea agreement, Carberry admitted managing the "*Yellow House*" in a bungalow located on North La Brea Avenue. Prosecutors said the Yellow House sold more than \$1.7 million in marijuana and THC products in March 2005 alone.....*Marijuana and marijuana plants also were sold to minors at the store, according to prosecutors.* Carberry was a business associate of Larry Roger Kristich, who owned the Yellow House and six other medical marijuana dispensaries in California.....Kristich pleaded guilty in January to money laundering charges and faces up to 40 years in federal prison at his sentencing hearing, which is scheduled for October.....

Source: <http://www.knbc.com/health/16091817/detail.html>

Modesto medical-marijuana operators convicted in federal case

[Henry K. Lee, Chronicle Staff Writer](#) / Friday, May 16, 2008

FRESNO -- Two Modesto men are facing mandatory 20-year prison sentences after being convicted of running a medical-marijuana operation that federal prosecutors labeled a criminal enterprise, authorities said today.....*The collective filed papers with Modesto stating that it earned more than \$4.5 million while operating in the Central Valley city from 2004 to 2006, investigators said. But the evidence at trial showed that the defendants actually generated more than \$9 million in sales.....*

<http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2008/05/16/BAAE10NR95.DTL>

Feds raid Peninsula's only marijuana club

May 29, 2008 by [Tamara Barak Aparton](#), The Examiner

SAN MATEO ([Map](#), [News](#)) -

Federal agents smashed the front door to the Peninsula's only cannabis club Wednesday morning, seizing marijuana and shutting down the downtown dispensary.....And while law enforcement officials remained tight-lipped Wednesday, medical marijuana advocates said the operation was part of a trio of early morning raids of Holistic Solutions dispensaries in San Mateo, Clearlake and Richmond, according to Rebecca Saltzman, chief of staff for Americans for Safe Access.....Kevin Reed, owner of San Francisco medical cannabis collective The Green Cross, said *Holistic Solutions owner Ken Estes runs about six medical marijuana facilities in California.*

http://www.examiner.com/a-1413681~Feds_raid_Peninsula_s_only_marijuana_club.html

Federal agents seize medical marijuana at Clearlake dispensary

Written by Elizabeth Larson / Friday, 30 May 2008

CLEARLAKE – Federal officials conducted raids on several medical marijuana dispensaries around Northern California on Wednesday, including one in Clearlake. Ken Estes' Holistic Solutions on Olympic Drive was the site of an enforcement action by Drug Enforcement Administration agents, accompanied by the Lake County Narcotic Task Force. *The Clearlake dispensary, along with other dispensaries Estes manages in San Mateo and Richmond, as well as the homes of his managers and grow sites in Oakland, San Leandro and Humboldt County, were targeted,* according to a statement from California's chapter of the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws (NORML).....

<http://lakeconews.com/content/view/4377/764/>

The trend of Cities opting to ban or considering banning dispensaries continued this quarter.

Colton joins other cities with marijuana dispensary ban

Joe Nelson, Staff Writer / 04/02/2008

COLTON - The City Council has unanimously approved an ordinance prohibiting the establishment and operation of medical-marijuana dispensaries....."We have this conflict between these two laws," Martinez said. "Rather than deal with those types of issues ... it might be appropriate just to consider an outright prohibition.".....

http://www.dailybulletin.com/search/ci_8790567?IADID=Search-www.dailybulletin.com-www.dailybulletin.com

No marijuana dispensary in Templeton: Supervisors are unanimous against the center; Ovitt says 'the community is not accepting it'

By AnnMarie Cornejo / Wed, Apr. 09, 2008

County supervisors Tuesday barred a medical marijuana dispensary planned for Templeton, saying it was too close to a playground and did not fit with the character of the community....."The biggest part of this whole thing is that the community is not accepting it," said Supervisor Harry Ovitt, whose district includes Templeton. He added that the lack of oversight of marijuana dispensaries contributed to his vote against the one proposed for Templeton.

<http://www.sanluisobispo.com/183/story/327400.html>

Rancho Cucamonga council joins several others in region

Wendy Leung, Staff Writer / 04/17/2008

RANCHO CUCAMONGA - The City Council said no to medical-marijuana dispensaries Wednesday, joining Fontana, Ontario and other neighboring cities in banning such operations outright. "I don't see anything good that comes out of (marijuana) myself," said Councilman Rex Gutierrez. "I don't think we need the establishments here."

http://www.dailybulletin.com/ci_8966748

Marijuana dispensary ban permanently extended

By Sascha Bush / April 23, 2008

.....The Planning Commission held a public hearing in nearly empty chambers April 17, and with zero members of the public offering input, made quick work of staff's recommendation to transform a two-year moratorium on the establishment of medical marijuana dispensaries within the city to a permanent prohibition via an amended zoning code.

http://www.tbrnews.com/articles/2008/04/24/redondo_beach_news/news12.txt

Cotati rejects marijuana dispensary

By PAUL PAYNE / THE PRESS DEMOCRAT / Wednesday, April 30, 2008

Dona Frank's plan to open a medical marijuana dispensary in Cotati has gone up in smoke. The City Council unanimously rejected the Santa Rosa pot purveyor's bid for a license to operate on East Cotati Avenue, saying the building she had chosen did not meet parking requirements.

http://www.pressdemocrat.com/EarlyEdition/article_view.cfm?recordID=9216&publishdate=04/30/2008

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City officials plan to ban the sale of medical marijuana

By Julie Sharp / April 30, 2008

The Manhattan Beach Planning Commission recently made an official recommendation to ban medical marijuana retail establishments within the city.....City Attorney Robert Wadden referred to a recent legal case in Anaheim where the city's dispensary ban was successfully upheld in court. He stated that this spurred citywide bans of the dispensaries over the last year. "More and more cities have a ban, that seems to be the trend now," said Wadden.

http://www.tbrnews.com/articles/2008/05/01/manhattan_beach_news/news01.txt

Pot clinics banned in Claremont

City council flip-flops on medical marijuana issue

Will Bigham, Staff Writer / 06/25/2008

CLAREMONT - An ordinance banning medical-marijuana dispensaries from operating in the city was passed by the City Council this week. The law does not limit the ability of medical-marijuana users to cultivate and use the drug in the city. Nor does it disallow medical-marijuana users from setting up "collectives" to share and distribute the drug if such an operation conforms with state law, said City Attorney Sonia Carvalho. http://www.dailybulletin.com/ci_9694623

Chino bans marijuana dispensaries

Neil Nisperos, Staff Writer

05/06/2008

CHINO - City council members on Tuesday unanimously approved to ban medical marijuana dispensaries from opening and operating in the city. Council members say they won't allow any business in town that would be illegal under federal law and that the presence of one would mar the city's reputation as a good place to raise a family.

http://www.dailybulletin.com/ci_9172727

Arroyo Grande moves to ban medical marijuana dispensaries

By Mike Hodgson/Associate Editor

Medical marijuana distribution centers in Arroyo Grande will be permanently banned if an ordinance introduced Tuesday receives final approval by the City Council. Council members voted 5-0 to approve the introduction of an ordinance prohibiting medical marijuana dispensaries that would make the city's current temporary ban permanent.....*Annibali also cited a number of cities that have experienced problems with dispensaries, including Morro Bay and Palm Desert, where marijuana was sold "illegally" to undercover officers; Claremont, where a dispensary was burglarized and plants were stolen; and Santa Cruz, where dispensary owners shut down their operation because of "behavioral problems" in the neighborhood.*

Source: <http://www.timespressrecorder.com/articles/2008/05/16/news/news02.txt>

Camarillo puts moratorium on medical marijuana dispensaries

Council's vote follows suit with neighboring cities

By Eliav Appelbaum eliav@theacorn.com / June 20, 2008

Without discussing the issue, the Camarillo City Council, during last Wednesday's regular meeting, unanimously adopted a 45-day moratorium on building or operating medical marijuana clubs. In the past few months the city has received several inquiries about the potential establishment of medical marijuana dispensaries, or cannabis clubs, on Ventura Boulevard in Old Town.

http://www.thecamarilloacorn.com/news/2008/0620/health_and_wellness/018.html

There were some interesting Legislative activity and Legal decisions that occurred during this quarter.

Medical Marijuana Bill Clears Key Committee in California

Wednesday, May 7, 2008

Last week, the California Assembly Committee on Public Safety approved AB 2743, authored by Assembly Member Lori Saldaña (D – San Diego). *The bill would make it the policy of state and local law enforcement agencies not to cooperate with the DEA or other federal law enforcement agencies in their attacks on sick and dying medical marijuana patients and their providers.*Drug Policy Alliance will continue to work with Marijuana Policy Project, Americans for Safe Access, the ACLU, and public defenders to support this legislation as it progresses.

Source: <http://www.drugpolicy.org/news/050708mmj.cfm>

California Medical Marijuana Employment Rights Bill Advances

An ASA-sponsored bill that would establish employment rights for medical marijuana patients in California advanced through the state Assembly last month.The new employment rights bill prohibits discrimination against patients but leaves intact existing state law prohibiting medical marijuana consumption at the workplace and protects employers from liability by allowing exceptions for jobs where physical safety could be a concern..... *The legislation that would reverse the Ross decision has moved quickly because Assembly member Leno and ASA were prepared for an adverse ruling by the court, having begun drafting the bill last year.* In addition to Assembly member Leno, the bill's co-authors are Patty Berg (D-Eureka), Loni Hancock (D-Berkeley) and Lori Saldaña (D-San Diego). More about the bill can be seen at www.AmericansForSafeAccess.org/AB2279.

Judge rules against sheriff

Local woman who uses medical marijuana can renew her concealed weapon permit

By [Sanne Specht](#) / Mail Tribune / May 28, 2008

*A medical marijuana user is entitled to carry a concealed handgun, a local judge ruled. Jackson County Circuit Court Judge Mark Schiveley ordered Sheriff Mike Winters on Tuesday to grant renewal of a concealed handgun license.....*Willis' request for renewal of an expired concealed handgun license was denied in May 2007 by Sgt. Bob Grantham, acting on behalf of Winters. The stated reason for the denial was Willis' response to an application question regarding marijuana use.....Winters' conclusion that federal firearms law pre-empts Oregon law is not applicable in this instance, the judge said. "(Oregon) CHL statutes do not purport to overrule, or in any other way address, who may lawfully possess a weapon under federal law. Thus, the state and federal statutes are not in clear and direct conflict, and pre-emption therefore does not apply," Schiveley wrote.

<http://www.mailtribune.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080528/NEWS/805280321>

Taking a pot shot County appeals concealed handgun versus medical marijuana decision

Tuesday, June 10, 2008

Washington County's Board of Commissioners Tuesday approved filing an appeal of a circuit court judge's ruling that federal firearms laws do not supersede Oregon's medical marijuana law when it comes to obtaining a state Concealed Handgun License.....The commissioners agreed with Gordon's opinion that it is necessary to obtain a binding legal opinion on the issue from the Oregon Court of Appeals. *County counsel also wants answers to questions about whether issuing permits could subject the sheriff and the county to federal prosecution or civil liability.*

<http://www.oregonlive.com/news/argus/index.ssf?/base/news/1213125645142840.xml&coll=6>

Oregon Court of Appeals protects medical marijuana

By [WILLIAM McCALL](#)

The Associated Press / Wednesday, June 11, 2008

PORTLAND — *The Oregon Court of Appeals has ruled that an employer must make a reasonable accommodation for medical marijuana use for a disability*..... Supporters of restrictions on medical marijuana use, including state Rep. Mike Schaufler, D-Happy Valley, have said they are trying to ensure public safety. But medical marijuana activist John Sajo says that during legislative hearings last year, nobody was able to identify a single case where a medical marijuana patient had caused a workplace accident or problem. *He also said the vast majority of medical marijuana patients are too ill to work.* http://seattletimes.nwsourc.com/html/localnews/2004471694_webmarijuana11.html

Judge throws out civil rights case against city, county

Written by Elizabeth Larson / June 16, 2008

CLEARLAKE – A federal court judge has dismissed a civil rights action brought against the county and the city of Clearlake by the families of two men shot to death in Clearlake in 2005..... It names Edmonds and his girlfriend, Lori Tyler, the city of Clearlake and the county of Lake, as well as 100 unnamed defendants or “Does” believed to have been employees of the Clearlake Police Department and Lake County Sheriff’s Office at the time. *The suit alleged that local officials were responsible for Williams’ and Foster’s death because they allowed Edmonds and Tyler “unlawfully to sell recreational drugs, to possess firearms, to use minors in unlawful sale of recreational drugs, and for failing to protect persons such as Christian and Rashad.”* *They also allege that Edmonds and Tyler were targets “in several, earlier robbery attempts” designed to steal their cache of marijuana and other drugs – which the suit suggests included methamphetamine and that they failed to take steps to deter the robbery attempts, and local officials “failed to force the couple to stop illegal activities.”* "It's essentially a wrongful death case..... Robinson said he believes there was a relationship between the city and Edmonds, and he said he has evidence to support that belief.....

<http://lakeconews.com/content/view/4589/764/>

Medical Studies were published which express the dangers associated with the use of marijuana and how those dangers have grown with the increased potency experienced over the past decade.

Marijuana Linked to Heart Disease and Depression

By Matthew Shulman / Posted May 14, 2008

Chronic marijuana use may affect the heart's health as well as the brain's. A [study](#) published yesterday in the journal Molecular Psychiatry found that chronic marijuana users—those who smoke on average nearly every day—may up their risk of both [heart attack](#) and [stroke](#). That finding comes on the heels of a government report that [linked pot use to psychiatric problems](#), including depression. Compared with non-users of the drug, heavy marijuana smokers in the new study had significantly higher levels of a specific protein in their blood known to increase triglycerides, which are fatty molecules linked to vascular and [coronary disease](#) risk..... Long-term and chronic marijuana abuse has been associated with adverse effects on the heart, too, says lead author Jean Lud Cadet, a molecular neuropsychiatrist at the National Institutes of Health, but scientists are only beginning to understand how the drug impacts the cardio- and cerebrovascular systems.....

<http://health.usnews.com/articles/health/2008/05/14/marijuana-linked-to-heart-disease-and-depression.html>

Marijuana Use May Shrink the Brain

Smoking Pot Could Have Lasting Effects on the Brain

By [Jennifer Warner](#) / WebMD Health News / Reviewed by [Louise Chang, MD](#)

June 2, 2008 -- Long-term [marijuana](#) use may actually shrink certain parts of the brain and have lasting effects on [mental health](#). A new study shows heavy marijuana use over several years was associated with structural differences in at least two different regions of the brain, the hippocampus and amygdala.The study also suggests that long-term marijuana users were more likely to report [symptoms](#) associated with mental disorders, although the strength of their symptoms didn't meet the criteria for diagnosis of mental illness.***The results showed men who smoked pot regularly had significantly lower brain tissue volumes in the hippocampus and amygdala areas, as well as more symptoms of mental disorders.*** Researchers say marijuana users also performed significantly worse on the verbal learning test, but these differences did not correlate with brain volumes in either group. "There is ongoing controversy concerning the long-term effects of cannabis on the brain," write the researchers. "Although modest use may not lead to significant neurotoxic effects, these results suggest that heavy daily use might indeed be toxic to human brain tissue."

<http://www.webmd.com/brain/news/20080602/marijuana-use-may-shrink-the-brain>

US report says Marijuana strength increasing

By Aislinn Simpson / 06/12//2008

Marijuana strength has increased to its highest levels in more than 30 years, according to a report by scientists.They found that the average amount of THC was 9.6 per cent in 2007, compared with 8.75 per cent the previous year and just under four per cent in 1983, the study by the University of Mississippi's Potency Monitoring Project found.The US Government believes the increase in potency is down to sophisticated growing techniques used by drug traffickers.Dr Mitch Earleywine, who teaches psychology at the State University of New York in Albany and is an adviser for marijuana advocacy groups, insisted that marijuana users had simply adjusted to the level of potency and smoked accordingly. He said: "Stronger cannabis leads to less inhaled smoke."

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/2117875/US-report-says-Marijuana-strength-increasing.html>

Pot May Ease Nerve Pain, Study Shows

Patients Report Less Neuropathic Pain After Smoking Marijuana Cigarettes

June 26, 2008

WebMD) New research on "medical marijuana" shows that smoking pot may ease nerve pain at the expense of certain mental skills. Researchers at the University of California, Davis report that news in the June edition of The Journal of Pain...***Participants also took tests of mental skills including memory and coordination before and after each smoking session. Their scores, many of which were low to begin with, showed the steepest decline after smoking the high-dose THC cigarette, followed by the low-dose THC cigarette.*** Researcher Barth Wilsey, MD, and colleagues aren't recommending medical marijuana for everyone with nerve pain. ***They urge "caution in the prescribing of medical marijuana for neuropathic pain," especially in light of the mental impact, and also in young patients, as pot use in adolescence "increases the risk of later schizophrenia -like psychoses, especially in genetically susceptible individuals."***

<http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2008/06/26/health/webmd/main4212204.shtml>

The complete lack of regulation in the recommendation process is an area of frustration that is demonstrated by reporters time and time again. During this quarter three more stories were published which demonstrate the ease with which the reporters were able to obtain marijuana recommendations for doctors for arthritis and anxiety. Also included is a posting from a Marijuana website where a prospective marijuana user asks for advice on obtaining a recommendation based on attention deficit disorder. Journalists continue to publish report after report on the ease with which recommendations are obtained for conditions other than the serious life threatening illnesses advocates would have us believe this program was intended.

What it's like to buy medical marijuana

Sandy Banks: / April 26, 2008

The advertising flier left no doubt about its pitch: a giant marijuana leaf with a phone number that ended GOT KUSH. A friend's teenage daughter brought it home from last weekend's Earth Day celebration on the Santa Monica Pier..... "Have you or anyone else experienced an illness [for] which you believe marijuana could provide relief?" the flier read. "If you don't qualify for a recommendation, your visit is free."I gave the polite, tattooed man behind the counter my driver's license, credit card and a coupon giving me a \$25 discount on the \$175 exam. Fifteen minutes later, I was greeted by the doctor,.....He looked over my medical forms and asked about the arthritis I'd noted. I told him the truth. Some days my fingers are so stiff it hurts to grip a doorknob or a steering wheel. I'd tried prescription drugs in the past, but stopped because of the side effects. The doctor inspected my swollen fingers, gently squeezing the tender joints. He checked my pulse and blood pressure, then took a stethoscope and listened to my lungs. His 10-minute exam was about as thorough as the one I'd received last year from the hand specialist at the orthopedic center, who sent me home with Celebrex. This new doctor told me marijuana could help.....

<http://www.latimes.com/news/local/la-me-banks26apr26,1,6463884.column?page=2>

This bud's for you, and you, and you too

How I got my hands on some marijuana -- the legal (and easy) way.

May 9, 2008

Sometimes I can't believe how Californian California is.....I made an appointment at a medical office recommended by Shirley Halperin, the coauthor of the new book, "Pot Culture: The A-Z to Stoner Language & Life.".....As I sat in the tiny waiting room, filling out my medical history and getting nervous, Halperin assured me that no one she knows had been rejected, which seemed convincing because the only people sitting near me were two healthy looking guys in their 20s. When I got called in, I entered a doctor's office different from any I'd ever been in. It contained only a tiny desk, two chairs, a small TV and two cans of Glade. Also, the doctor wore a Hawaiian shirt. He took my blood pressure and asked what I was suffering from. "Anxiety," I said. And then "occasional insomnia." And even though he seemed to be moving on, I blurted something about headaches.....He'd give me a recommendation for medical marijuana for six months, he said, and would extend it to one year if I saw a therapist. ***The whole thing took about four minutes. I paid the receptionist \$80 -- cash only -- and she gave me a filled-out form that states I am under medical care and supervision for the treatment of a "medical problem."***.....The dispensary was like a really nice coffee shop, ...I settled on a gram of Sugar Kush,..... I got to spin a wheel to determine my free gift medicine, which was a pot-infused lollipop. I also bought a vegan chocolate-chip cookie medicine and a chocolate bar medicine, and deeply considered the gelato medicine. Wondering if I had an unusually easy time, I called High Times magazine's 2006 Stoner of the Year, Doug Benson....In fact, Benson buys all his pot from a dispensary now. Even with the sales tax, he pays the same price and, he said, gets more consistent quality than he did from a dealer.....***I always wondered what would happen if marijuana were legalized for anyone over 18. It seems it already has been, and nothing happened.***

Source: http://www.latimes.com/news/opinion/la-oe-stein9-2008may09_0,5901693.column

High times for medicinal marijuana

In California, marijuana is supposed to be prescribed only to people suffering from life-threatening conditions but David Willis finds the reality is quite different.Soon, the doctor appeared - a softly-spoken Vietnamese man. *He wore a white lab coat and scrubs and led me into a spartan room where he proceeded to take my pulse and blood pressure before asking precisely how long I had been anxious. "Several years," I told him. "Do you suffer panic attacks?" "Not really." The doctor wrote panic attacks in his notebook. We spent a few minutes shooting the breeze about Asian cuisine and he signed a prescription for medicinal marijuana, valid for a year. And that was it. Done and dusted in less than 10 minutes*.....It was a short drive from the doctor's office and recently voted dispensary of the year by one of the pot smokers' magazines (the most famous of which is, incidentally, called High Times).....My prescription did not place a limit on the amount of marijuana I could buy a day and I asked the man with the trippy smile behind the counter what he recommended for anxiety. He pointed me in the direction of one called Purple Kush. "How much should I take?" The naivety of the question seemed to catch my moon-faced pot sommelier off guard. "I guess start with two or three puffs and see how you go...".....*Getting on for 250,000 Californians are said to carry prescriptions for medicinal marijuana, and who knows how many of them - like me - suffer from little more than the occasional bout of self-doubt.*

http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/programmes/from_our_own_correspondent/7439610.stm

Posts about Medical Marijuana

Question

Hi, I'm about to end college and I'm in a rut at work...I feel like I'm going nowhere... I go days where I don't sleep for 24-48 hours straight or I sleep maybe five hours a night when I can catch some ZZs...I also feel when I smoke I can pay attention to things better and get more motivated...Well here go my questions:

- 1.) Can you get medical marijuana for ADD?
- 2.) Do most doctors on the calNORML site do evaluations if you don't have medical records and is it even possible to get a prescription without prior medical records? (I don't have insurance so I don't go to a doctor regularly.)
- 3.) Should I be embarrassed to talk about any of this when I make an appointment?
- 4.) I live with my mom and she doesn't approve of marijuana, even for medical use... how can I sneak this around her or at least try to talk some sense into her?

Answer 1

What's up Laura, I'm in SoCal too - Downtown LA. I got my prescription about a week ago and it was the easiest thing I've ever done. I'm pretty sure that for no previous medical records you can easily say that you have ADD or insomnia. *I would recommend Sona Patel at doc420.com. She works off of Melrose and she'll make your appointment last 10 minutes as long as you tell her that you've tried prescription pills for your ailment and you are unwilling to take them again (so get your story straight before you get there)*. So that answers number one and number two. You won't even need to bring insurance or records up so number three isn't a problem. And let's see... don't even try and talk sense into your mom, you just need to get your system down. When I was smoking out of a bong I used fans, odor removers, sploofs, etc. Now that I'm smoking out of a vaporizer though, there's pretty much no odor and it's totally inconspicuous. If you really wanna step your game up, try a vape.

Answer 2

Yes, it is possible to get "legal" without medical records. Cheaper clinics are best. Yes, you can get it for ADD. Several guys on this board have. Don't be embarrassed- you are seeking help for a medical condition. You are merely choosing a safe, time-tested herbal remedy over "chemical wonders" that are basically "speed". *You need to call the places and find out what their prices are. The cheaper the rate,*

the less "picky" the doctors are. Places like Medi-Cann have a very high approval rate . For ADD, your school records might even do! I work in Special Ed as an aide and I know any child with ADD has it documented 10 ways from Sunday! You still friendly with any of your old counselors/teachers?

News from around the country;

These days, higher education has a different meaning

Students learn skills to work in medical marijuana dispensaries

[By Brandon Lowrey, Staff Writer / 06/25/2008](#)

....."It's kind of like the Wild West," Gvozdenovic said, alluding to the confusion and conflict surrounding California state law allowing the sale of medical marijuana and the federal government's refusal to acknowledge it. "To me, the issue is we need better training for folks." ***The trade school, which will be holding classes this weekend in Los Angeles, boasts about 500 graduates since it was founded in Oakland in November.*** Classes began in Los Angeles earlier this year. Students pay \$250 for the weekend course and classes are scheduled through August.....There's a lot to memorize in the world of weed. For one, marijuana comes in hundreds of varieties. So would a cancer patient benefit most from some Panama Red or Purple Haze? Would some Bubba Kush smooth away that anxiety problem? And then there's the problem of deciding whether to smoke it, eat it or drink it. A good budtender would know, Gvozdenovic said. "It's very similar to a bartender, but for bud," he said. ***It's like "a bartender, psychologist and doctor."***.....At the end of the class, graduates receive a degree that proves them competitive candidates for careers at dispensaries, though it isn't required. Alumni, Oaksterdam claims, can make from \$50,000 to \$100,000 a year as a budtender at a medical-marijuana dispensary. ***Marijuana activists across the nation see Oaksterdam University as a historic step toward legitimacy for their movement.*** "

http://www.dailynews.com/news/ci_9695127

Bricks Of Marijuana From California Found In South Georgia

May 19, 2008 / Reporter: Caroline Blair

During a routine traffic stop Sunday, Decatur County Sheriff's deputies say they smelled a strong odor of marijuana pouring from a red Saturn. Sanders informed the officers that there was a book-bag inside the trunk containing several bricks of marijuana. ***Sanders admitted that he brought the drugs on a bus all the way from California.*** Andre Sanders is being charged with felony possession of marijuana with intent to distribute

<http://www.wctv.tv/news/headlines/19080434.html>

State police seize 150 pounds of marijuana

State police seized 150 pounds of marijuana after stopping a vehicle on Interstate 20 in Webster Parish on Thursday night for following too close. Troopers detected a strong odor of marijuana after coming in contact with the driver, ***who gave conflicting stories about his travels to California.....***

<http://www.shreveporttimes.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080607/NEWS03/806070324/1062>

Jeffco Sheriff's Deputies Catch Man Mailing Drugs Home

Jefferson County sheriff's deputies say they caught a man mailing drugs to his home in Graysville.....***Investigators say he would fly to California, package up the marijuana then mail it home to Jefferson County.*** Deputies seized \$22,000 worth of the drug. Holifield is in jail on 300 thousand dollars bond.

<http://www.myfoxal.com/myfox/pages/News/Detail?contentId=6391536&version=3&locale=EN-US&layoutCode=TSTY&pageId=3.2.1>

Falls teen pleads guilty to manslaughter

By Thomas J. Prohaska - News Niagara Bureau / 06/10/08

LOCKPORT -- Murder defendant Clyde A. Anderson, after months of resisting a plea deal, took one today as his trial was about to begin. However, Anderson did not give up the names of his two accomplices in the slaying. *"I just went over to rob [McClain]," he said. The informant had said the goal of the crime was to steal marijuana from McClain. Anderson had a background in dealing that drug, as he served a one-year sentence in 2006-07 for accepting a 10-pound shipment of marijuana from California.*

<http://www.buffalonews.com/258/story/366974.html>

Owner of house where firefighters died pleads not guilty to marijuana charge

Associated Press - April 25, 2008

CINCINNATI (AP) - The owner of a suburban Cincinnati home where two firefighters died early this month has pleaded not guilty to a charge of cultivation of marijuana. Authorities say they found five marijuana plants in Cones' basement. But prosecutors say the alleged marijuana growing operation had nothing to do with the fire that destroyed the two-story home. They say the fire started in an apparent electrical short in a small fan in a cedar closet where orchids were being grown.

Source: <http://www.wtol.com/Global/story.asp?S=8229764&nav=5Uag>

Big-time pot growers use Seattle-area homes

By [Jonathan Martin](#) / Seattle Times staff reporter Wednesday, April 23, 2008

Narcotics investigators say large-scale indoor marijuana grow operations, such as this one found in the Kent area last year, cost about \$30,000 to set up but can yield \$1.5 million a year in profit. In place of a family, the home's primary "occupants" were 658 marijuana plants. In a good year, the harvest would be substantial enough to pay off the mortgage on the \$500,000 house and buy another home. Since 2005, federal and state agents have raided more than 100 large-scale grow houses in the Seattle area, yielding a bumper crop of more than 41,000 plants, according to the White House drug czar's office. Police last month found the biggest yet, a 1,500-plant grow that consumed most of a 3,800-square-foot house. *And Everett police were investigating a double homicide Monday in which two bodies were found in a home with more than 400 marijuana plants.* As the investigation gained traction, a police source described how Kent Distributor would provide on credit the \$20,000 to \$30,000 worth of equipment needed to set up a grow, to be repaid after the first harvest. the DEA did document that at least \$5.1 million flowed through the bank accounts of Kent Distributor and its owners since 2003, most of it cash. Canadian drug investigators have followed the money into the mortgage industry, where unscrupulous brokers falsified loans for pot growers. *Local law enforcement says a small number of real-estate agents and brokers were involved with many of the King County grow houses busted.*

http://seattletimes.nwsources.com/html/localnews/2003775260_kingcountybud05m.html

'Matriarch of marijuana' sentenced to 41 months in prison

By [Mike Carter](#) / Seattle Times staff reporter Friday, June 13, 2008

The 61-year-old co-owner of a garden supply store that provided one-stop shopping for home pot-growing enterprises was sentenced today to 41 months in prison. Le My Nguyen, who has been called a "matriarch of marijuana growers" in Western Washington, operated Kent Garden Supplies, which sold everything from prefabricated electrical boards used to bypass power meters to industrial-strength air scrubbers that remove the pungent, telltale odor of large-scale pot-growing operations. She admitted to moving more than \$2.5 million in drug money had been laundered through the garden shop.

http://seattletimes.nwsources.com/html/nationworld/2004476017_webmatriarch13m.html

Florida Drug Raids Yield 135 Arrests and 9,000 Marijuana Plants Seized

Associated Press / May 01, 2008

MIAMI — Authorities say at least 135 people have been arrested during raids across Florida of suspected marijuana grow houses. Officials say 150 houses with indoor marijuana operations were raided Wednesday.....about 9,250 plants were seized, worth more than \$41 million. Authorities say there's an epidemic of indoor marijuana cultivation in Florida run by organized crime groups.....

Source: <http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,353737,00.html>

Marijuana plant seizures doubled in Washington in 2007

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

YAKIMA, Wash. -- Seizures of marijuana plants in Washington more than doubled to 296,611 last year, and the Office of National Drug Control Policy ranks the state second only to California in outdoor pot farming. Washington ranked third in indoor pot production with California first in that category as well, authorities said during the annual spring conference of the Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs this week. The scope of pot seizures in Washington is about at the level of California seven to 10 years ago, Drug Enforcement Administration Agent Matt Duran said. Last year 3 million plants were seized in California, more than 10 times as many as in Washington. "It's kind of the prediction for our future," Duran said. "It's going to get worse before it gets better." "It's spreading through the United States."

http://seattlepi.nwsourc.com/local/6420ap_wa_pot_seizures.html

Fingerprint Software Integrated with Medical Marijuana Dispensary

Send2Press Newswire / May 24, 2008

ATLANTA, Ga., May 21 (SEND2PRESS NEWSWIRE) — M2SYS Technology, an award-winning fingerprint biometrics research and development firm, announced today that it has finalized an agreement with IMCL (Innovative Marijuana Caregiver Logistics), a leading provider of inventory and patient management solutions to the medical marijuana dispensary industry.....According to Jess Jessop, CEO of IMCL, "Our customers are in a sector of the healthcare industry where there has to be zero tolerance for identity fraud. We recognized that CA-MMPR, our patient management application, had to incorporate web-based fingerprint biometrics to give our clients the level of identity protection and patient ease-of-use they require.....

<http://www.infowars.com/?p=2330>

Arrests made in major drug-smuggling ring. \$3.5 million, cocaine and marijuana seized

By [PAUL SHUKOVSKY](#) / P-I REPORTER

Federal prosecutors in Seattle accused two Canadian men Friday of being in charge of distribution for a Hells Angels drug-smuggling ring that moved tons of marijuana and more than a thousand pounds of cocaine across the border.... They were arrested outside Bob's Burger and Brew in Ferndale, where they met with an undercover ICE agent who had convinced them that he had bribed a border guard into allowing 349 pounds of "B.C. Bud" slip past security checkpoints, said Assistant U.S. Attorney Adam Cornell. Agents kept the load of pot under close watch and moved in after following it to a warehouse in Bellingham.....*Agents have so far seized 1,300 pounds of cocaine, 7,000 pounds of marijuana and about \$3.5 million in cash.....* Cornell said 38 people so far have been charged.

http://seattlepi.nwsourc.com/local/366142_coke07.html

Settlement between medical marijuana user, restaurant owner ends human rights battle

By Tim Whitnell / News / May 14, 2008

Steve Gibson says he will be back at Gator Ted's sometime later this year puffing his medical marijuana outside the local restaurant....***Gibson and Kindos had been locked in a battle before the Ontario Human Rights Commission (OHRC) for nearly three years.....Kindos could not be reached for comment by the Post's deadline, but the Toronto Star reported that he abandoned the tribunal hearing because he can't afford the \$60,000 in legal fees his lawyer said it would likely cost to defend himself.*****"My original remedy was to be able to go to the local pub at Gator's and socialize with my companions of 11 years without getting verbally abused for having to take my (pot) medication where I am legally allowed,"** he said. Gibson's original complaint was that Kindos told him to step back much farther away from his restaurant's front door than regular cigarette smokers if he was going to light a joint.....

Source: <http://www.burlingtonpost.com/news/article/176021>

Turn back effort to disguise an illegal drug as medicine

5/12/2008 7:10:40 AM / By Bob Bushman

The organizations that represent Minnesota's police chiefs, sheriffs, county attorneys, police officers and narcotics investigators are united in opposition to legislation that would authorize the use of marijuana for medical purposesIt isn't a great leap in logic to expect that large quantities of marijuana, grown and dispensed with little regulation, inspection or control will easily find their way out onto our streets and into the illegal drug markets of our communities. This legislation is about disguising a dangerous drug as medicine, not about treating illness. ***Well-financed drug legalization activists from out of state are hiding behind the suffering of some of our most ill and emotionally fragile citizens to further their own agenda of drug legalization.*** If they are successful here, they will just pick up and go on to the next target, leaving us to deal with the problems....***We are out in front telling you that this legislation is bad public policy. If you don't believe us, then just ask our colleagues in California or Oregon about the problems "medical marijuana" has caused for them. They will be glad to tell you.***

http://www.postbulletin.com/newsmanager/templates/localnews_story.asp?z=12&a=342127

Barbara Kay on the new marijuana: Not your mother's reefer

May 22, 2008,

.....In 1997, the liberal U.K. newspaper The Independent launched a campaign to decriminalize marijuana.....In March, 2007, ***The Lancet, Britain's leading medical journal, declared cannabis to be more dangerous and addictive than LSD and Ecstasy.*** About the same time, Professor Colin Blakemore, chief of the Medical Research Council (and in 1997, the moral authority behind The Independent's liberalization campaign) unequivocally reversed his cannabis-friendliness: "The link between cannabis and psychosis is quite clear now; it wasn't 10 years ago." As a result, The Independent last year offered its readership a fulsome apology: "If only we had known then what we can reveal today..." ***Psychiatry professor Robin Murray of London's Institute of Psychiatry estimates that cannabis usage is causally linked to a full 10% of the U. K.'s 250,000 bipolar patients:***we may see more people getting ill as a consequence.".....In order to better understand this sea change in experts' opinions and how it applies to Canada, I spoke with Ontario-based addiction counsellor and treatment/prevention specialist Don Smyth. As in Britain, Smyth explained, kids here are smoking a hybrid Middle-Eastern/Asian variety of cannabis that is far more intense and addictive than past varieties.....***Smyth says, grimly concluding, "I am absolutely haunted by the irreparable harms this so-called innocuous drug has brought to the lives of [young users]."***.....

<http://network.nationalpost.com/np/blogs/fullcomment/archive/2008/05/22/barbara-kay-on-the-new-marijuana-not-your-mother-s-reefer.aspx>

Decriminalizing marijuana use one step at a time

By [Brian Tschiegg](#) / Staff Writer

Recently, legislation was introduced to the House of Representatives that would completely legalize the possession, use, and not-for-profit transfer of marijuana. The bill, known as the “Act to Remove Federal Penalties for Personal Use of Marijuana” or H.R. 5843, was introduced by Representative Barney Frank (D – MA) and is co-sponsored by Representative Ron Paul (R – TX). This bill is the first decriminalization bill introduced in 24 years....***Besides Representatives Barry Frank and Ron Paul, there were two other major organizations that helped write the bill. The National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws (NORML) had a large hand in the formation of bill,*** working closely with Rep. Frank.....Basically, the bill would make the Controlled Substance Act null and void in certain states because of their medical marijuana laws.....

http://www.retrieverweekly.com/?module=displaystory&story_id=3439&format=html

Legitimizing Marijuana

By DAN MITCHELL / Published: May 31, 2008

.....Medical marijuana is legal in California, but federal law still bans sales. Amid the uncertainty that this creates — including the occasional raid by federal agents — ***a full-fledged industry has blossomed, taking in about \$2 billion a year and generating \$100 million in state sales taxes, CNBC reported.*** Setting up a clinic “can cost as much as a hundred grand,” Ms. Wells reports. The equipment, the cuttings from which plants are grown and office space all tend to be expensive. And from there, the costs only grow, mostly in the form of legal fees. Many clinics keep lawyers on retainer. Nonetheless, “this is the business model of the future,” says JoAnna La Force of Farmacy, an herbal remedy shop in Southern California. Ms. LaForce says her business is close to breaking even....A slew of ancillary businesses has grown up around medical marijuana. ***Bill Britt, identified on the Web site as a patient, has found a new career as an expert witness in cases brought against dispensaries and patients, earning \$250 to \$350 a case. He gained his expert knowledge by attending Oaksterdam University, a trade school in Oakland, Calif. At Oaksterdam (oaksterdamuniversity.com).....***

http://www.nytimes.com/2008/05/31/technology/31online.html?_r=1&ref=technology&oref=slogin