

Medical Marijuana Dispensaries and Associated Issues
Presented to the California Chiefs of Police Association
October to December 2008
Cmdr. M. Regan

As discussed in the past, the violence associated with the cultivation, possession, sale and use of marijuana is a continuing trend. Listed below are excerpts of articles illustrating the violence associated with this type of trade. Of interesting note is the article which highlights the use of marijuana as currency in the methamphetamine trade, marijuana grown in Northern California no doubt under the guise of Medical Marijuana. Please keep in mind that these articles represent open source information available via print and web media. These incidents represent only a small percentage of the actual crimes that occur as there is a significant amount of under reporting by those victims who do not want this topic to garner police and media scrutiny. The home invasion robberies are possibly the most alarming trend to include those cases of mistaken identity, when suspects select a victim residence and begin their assault only to find out they have targeted the wrong residence. The raw data in the form of the full articles have been saved in their entirety for review at a later date if desired.

Drugs blamed in Flag City slaying

Defense lawyer says pair were high on meth

By [Scott Smith](#) / Record Staff Writer / October 01, 2008 6:00 AM

STOCKTON - There's no denying David Bernel killed his girlfriend last year at a Flag City gas station.....The videos showed Bernel, 29, as he drew a weapon from his belt and gunned down Jennifer Bushnell, 29, with two shots. He then stood over her, firing twice more before driving away.....At the time of the killing, Bernel and Bushnell were driving Humboldt County marijuana to Southern California and returning north with methamphetamine.....

http://www.recordnet.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20081001/A_NEWS02/810010327/-1/A_NEWS06

Arrest made in double murder

Suspect in fatal Visalia shootings last month spotted near Merced

BY DAVID CASTELLON • dcastell@visalia.gannett.com • January 1, 2009

An intensive search of roads and highways in Northern and Central California resulted in the arrest of a suspect in the fatal December shootings of a man and a woman in a north Visalia neighborhood.....Florez was arrested on suspicion of murder while the men with him, Augustine Serrano, 27, and Alejandro Galvan, 26, both of Visalia, were arrested on suspicion of harboring a fugitive. In addition, all three men were arrested on suspicion of drug crimes. ***Police said they found 7 pounds of marijuana and 7 ounces of hashish in the car.....***Homicide detectives Wednesday would not disclose whether they're looking for other suspects in the double homicide and shooting. Police also declined to assign a motive, saying only that Florez and Madrid knew each other and that it appears Madrid

was the intended target. Florez is a known Norteño gang member and Madrid had been one in the past, Phillips said.

<http://www.visaliatimesdelta.com/article/20090101/NEWS01/901010318/1002>

Two men arrested in killing of marijuana clinic guard

By Tami Abdollah, Los Angeles Times Staff Writer / October 2, 2008

Two men were in custody today in connection with the shooting death of a security guard killed in an apparent robbery attempt at a Miracle Mile medical marijuana clinic.....The men then fled on foot.....

<http://www.latimes.com/news/local/la-me-shooting3-2008oct03,0,1578633.story>

MIRACLE MILE MEETING

Chris H. Sieroty

The recent fatal shooting of a security guard at a medical marijuana facility on La Brea Ave. topped the items discussed at the 25th annual Miracle Mile Residential Association meeting in October at the El Rey Theatre....Two people have been arrested in connection with shooting and robbery of the medical marijuana outlet....*“It’s an all-cash business. They were held up for their cash and stash. That was the target.” LaBonge said if someone wants to open a liquor store, adult businesses or a massage parlor, there are regulations, but there needs to be better regulation of medical marijuana stores.....*Capt. Eric Davis, commander of the LAPD’s Wilshire Division, described the incident as a botched robbery and assured the audience that detectives “were working the case.” Davis reminded the audience that since the passage of Proposition 215 in 1996, each city in California is left to regulate medical marijuana businesses.....“There are about 100 medical marijuana shops in North Hollywood alone.”

<http://www.larchmontchronicle.com/ArchiveDetail.asp?ArchiveID=902>

A link between a murder, a film, a poem and Wall Street

Article Launched: 10/15/2008 02:59:29 AM PDT

Recent reports of another no-surprise, oddball homicide in Mendocino County set me thinking about three cautionary tales linked by the theme of greed.....The discovery of the killing started when neighbors in Laytonville heard gunshots outside a nearby home, called sheriff’s deputies and reported two bodies on the ground. Officers arrived to find, yes, two bodies. As they approached, they realized only one of the two men was dead. The other, apparently the killer, was dead all right -- dead drunk. Of course, he got a free ride in a sheriff’s cruiser to County Jail, where he was booked and locked up, awaiting trial, it is fair to assume. A news account indicated the two men were growing marijuana near their home, and officers found money, pot and growing paraphernalia inside the house.....

http://www.thereporter.com/entertainment/ci_10724836

Cutten man shot in his home dies

Sean Garmire/The Times-Standard / 12/05/2008

A 27-year-old man who was shot several times inside his Cutten home by an unknown assailant Wednesday night, died from his wounds at a Eureka hospital hours after the incident. Investigators continue to seek the gunman, who reportedly forced his way into

the home.....According to Sheriff's Office information, Benson and his girlfriend were inside the residence when they heard a knock at the door. The suspect, a white male, likely in his 20s, wearing a black sweatshirt and black stocking cap, forced his way into the residence armed with a handgun.....According to Sheriff's Office spokeswoman Brenda Godsey, upon entering the residence, investigators found "a large amount of marijuana.".....

http://www.times-standard.com/localnews/ci_11145382

Murder-for-hire trial pushed back

By [JOHN C. OSBORN](#), The Eureka Reporter

Published: Oct 29 2008, 10:57 PM · Updated: Oct 29 2008, 10:59 PM

.....As the story goes, Chad Larsen allegedly tried to find inmates in the Humboldt County jail who would be willing to kill the underage girl in an alleged statutory rape case against him. Officials intercepted the plans and went undercover to collect more evidence and prevent the crime. *Chad Larsen allegedly offered an inmate \$5,000, a used car, a partnership in an outdoor marijuana grow and free rent at this father's Ferndale ranch in exchange for the girl's death.* The plan, relayed to Carlton Wallace, who was an inmate at the time, reportedly involved feeding the girl tainted drugs and disposing of her corpse in a hole covered with cement at his father's ranch.....

<http://eurekareporter.com/article/081029-murder-for-hire-trial-pushed-back>

Man shot in robbery at suspected pot house

Sean Garmire/The Times-Standard / 11/22/2008

An alleged robbery at a suspected indoor pot growing operation in McKinleyville on Friday ended with one man shot, and another man in jail.....At the time Alcutt was contacted, authorities learned an adult male was suffering a single gunshot wound at the Coach Way residence. The shooting victim was transported to a nearby hospital, where he was treated. According to Morey, detectives believe the man was shot with a handgun, but could not say whether that weapon had been found.....The investigation into the robbery continues, the Sheriff's Office said.

http://www.times-standard.com/ci_11049847?source=most_viewed

Robber injured when victims fight back

Bay City News / Tuesday, December 23, 2008

SANTA ROSA, CA -- A man who allegedly attempted an armed robbery at a Santa Rosa apartment complex Monday night is in stable but critical condition today after residents struck him in the head with the butt of his shotgun, according to police.....The suspect, carrying a shotgun, threatened the men and demanded marijuana and cash, police said. However, the suspect was injured when the men hit the suspect on the head with the butt of the gun as they attempted to wrestle the weapon away from the suspect. Officers responded to the apartment and the suspect, who police did not name, was transported to a nearby hospital. He remains in stable but critical condition, police said. An investigation into the attempted robbery is ongoing, and anyone with information is asked to contact Detective Turney at (707) 543-3590.

http://abclocal.go.com/kgo/story?section=news/local/north_bay&id=6571144&rss=rss-kgo-article-6571144

Home Invaded for Medical Marijuana

Reported by: Britt Carlson / 10/17

Medical marijuana appears to be the motive of an early morning home invasion in Anderson. Two men, say three Asian men forced their way into the house, and beat them up. Investigators say the suspects may have been armed with a hand gun and some type of long gun.....The victims tell police the suspects broke in to steal their medical marijuana. Chief Dale Webb of the Anderson Police Department says, "We haven't had more home invasions. However, under Proposition 215 which allows the legal growing of marijuana for medical use, we are getting more complaints from several people where the marijuana has been stolen." One victim was taken to Mercy Medical in Redding with minor injuries, and was treated and released.....

http://www.khsltv.com/content/topstories/story.aspx?content_id=c8d93f98-24de-4ea7-9027-a6c9aba65a7b

Armed robber snatches pot stash

By The Record / October 11, 2008

STOCKTON - One man was arrested on suspicion of armed robbery and two other people might find themselves in trouble for a home marijuana cultivation operation.....a man armed with a shotgun entered their home and grabbed a backpack filled with marijuana, according to a Stockton police report. The robber then ran out of the house and fired the shotgun into the air.....Officers also found several marijuana plants at the East Worth Street address. A case regarding the marijuana cultivation will be forwarded to the San Joaquin County District Attorney's Office, according to the report.

http://www.recordnet.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20081011/A_NEWS/810110314/-1/A_NEWS

Four stopped in alleged armed robbery

Posted: Wednesday, Oct 15th, 2008 / BY: TARMO HANNULA

Four men were stopped at gunpoint Tuesday morning in Watsonville on suspicion of armed robbery after they allegedly stole marijuana plants from a home near Pinto Lake City Park.....The men pulled up to the victim's home in a Nissan sedan and entered the back yard armed with a handgun, a knife, a billy club and a baseball bat, Leonetti said. The four men, all of whom were wearing masks, attempted to steal several marijuana plants that law officials said were being legally grown as medical marijuana. At one point, the resident of the home confronted the suspects. One of the suspects pointed a handgun at the homeowner.....The four men uprooted numerous mature pot plants and dumped them into the Nissan's trunk, Leonetti said. As the suspects were attempting to flee, the victim reportedly tried to get into a vehicle to follow the suspects. One suspect threw a baseball bat at the victim, but missed. As the suspects tried to flee the scene in the Nissan, the victim reportedly stabbed the right front tire with a large sword, puncturing the tire.....They were immediately spotted by Watsonville police and sheriff's deputies. Police pulled the car over and shut down Green Valley Road in both directions.....

http://www.register-pajaronian.com/V2_news_articles.php?heading=0&story_id=5926&page=72

Pot thefts by men in police uniforms spread to Yuba County

By GREG WELTER - Staff Writer / 10/15/2008

OREGON HOUSE — The theft of medical marijuana by two men impersonating law enforcement officers in northeastern Yuba County Sunday is remarkably similar to a pair of robberies recently in Butte County and one in Shasta. . . . In Sunday's incident, five people living in the 9000 block of Sweetwater Trail said two armed men robbed them about 9 p.m., taking four pounds of processed marijuana, two cell phones and 15 mature plants from an outdoor garden. The victims estimated the value of the pot at between \$30,000 and \$40,000. The alleged robbers tied up the victims before ransacking the home. One of the residents resisted and sustained a minor head injury. The marijuana was determined to have been grown legally under Proposition 215. In two similar alleged Butte County robberies, victims said the suspects wore uniforms with insignia which falsely identified them as being from the Butte County Sheriff's Office and the Drug Enforcement Agency. In the Oregon House robbery, Oakes said the men wore uniforms, but had no patches or insignia. She said the suspects made verbal representations and demands of the victims, but didn't show any identification. "Law enforcement is very concerned about these individuals that are carrying out these acts and the potential mistrust that citizens may have when confronted by real law enforcement officers serving search warrants," the Butte County Sheriff's Office stated in a press release.

http://www.chicoer.com/news/ci_10722625

Threat of violence grows as area marijuana gardens bloom

A growing number of violent or potentially violent incidents involving marijuana gardens are occurring in Nevada County and northeastern California. . . . *The fake DEA agents are a sign of an ever-increasing threat of a violent harvest for marijuana growers in the county. The four men are most likely the same people that have hit a reported 10 marijuana gardens now in northeastern California this harvest season, said Royal.*

Last week, Nevada County Sheriff's officers learned of the group at a meeting in Butte County. . . . With drawn weapons, the fake agents entered a property on Purdon Road near Murphy Road with a medical marijuana grow about 8:20 a.m. Monday, Royal said. They forced a resident on the ground and as they were zip-tying his hands, another resident ran inside the home and closed the door. . . . On Oct. 1 this year, two men posing as FBI agents burst into a home on Banner Mountain just outside of Nevada City and stole about two to three and one-half pounds of marijuana from two men who had just trimmed plants and bagged it. On Sept. 5, two people off Dog Bar Road were pistol-whipped by three people who suspected they had stolen their marijuana. On Oct. 14, 2007, five people entered a home in the same area and beat eight people while demanding money and marijuana. A van at the scene had freshly cut marijuana in it when officers arrived. Several days later, two burst into a Cedar Ridge home and beat two men with a crude mace made out of a baseball bat. . . .

<http://www.theunion.com/article/20081022/NEWS/110229975/1054&title=Threat%20of%20violence%20grows%20as%20area%20marijuana%20gardens%20bloom>

Investigators: Fake federal agents invade home

The Associated Press / 10/26/2008

LOOMIS, Calif.—Placer County sheriff's investigators are searching for six men they say posed as federal agents and invaded a Loomis home to steal medical marijuana.

According to the sheriff's department, the men entered the unlocked home Saturday night and ordered the occupants to lie on the floor.....Authorities said the robbers bound the occupants with duct tape and stole between 10 and 20 pounds of marijuana before fleeing in a vehicle.....

http://www.mercurynews.com/news/ci_10822681?nclick_check=1

Alleged DEA Agents Indicted After Pot Thefts

November 7, 2008

BUTTE COUNTY, Calif. -- Five men accused of posing as drug agents were indicted Thursday on various federal charges, including conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute marijuana. The Butte County Sheriff's Office investigated reports of home invasion robberies, kidnappings and assaults by so-called DEA agents who seized medical marijuana. The impersonators targeted homes known to have medical marijuana gardens, the Butte County Sheriff's department said.....

<http://www.my58.com/news/17932977/detail.html>

Five Oroville residents face federal marijuana charges

Staff Reports / 11/08/2008

SACRAMENTO — Five Oroville residents have been indicted on federal charges following a string of drug-related crimes in Butte County.....The charges followed a investigation by the Butte County Sheriff's Office after several individuals reported they had been robbed by people posing as law enforcement officials in the past month. The thefts were all of marijuana, which was being grown by those possessing medical marijuana cards. The suspects allegedly told residents that they were law enforcement officials and were conducting a drug raid. They detained and handcuffed the individuals and stole the marijuana plants in the home.....Drug enforcement agents found over 400 plants spread over three different properties, the majority of which allegedly belonged to Braiser.....

http://www.chicoer.com/publicsafety/ci_10934165

Grass Valley man arrested on charges of impersonating a police officer

By Liz Kellar / Staff Writer

A convicted felon is facing charges of impersonating a police officer after Nevada County Sheriff's deputies found a gun and law enforcement gear at his home.....They also seized more than 2 pounds of marijuana, both packaged and ready to be processed, scales and \$2,000 in cash. It is unclear if Riggie is connected to any of the recent incidents in the county where men posing as law enforcement have stolen medical marijuana, Sheriff Keith Royal said. Those included an Oct. 1 incident where two men posing as FBI agents burst into a home on Banner Mountain just outside of Nevada City and stole about two to three and one-half pounds of marijuana and an Oct. 21 theft attempt in North San Juan when four men wearing DEA jackets, with drawn weapons, entered a property on Purdon Road near Murphy Road with a medical marijuana grow.....

<http://www.theunion.com/article/20081202/NEWS/812029990/1001/NONE&parentprofile=1053&title=Grass%20Valley%20man%20arrested%20on%20charges%20of%20impersonating%20a%20police%20officer>

Lake County marijuana robbery thwarted, officials say

Sonoma County deputies arrest 7 men, seize 7 illegal guns after anonymous tip

By [RANDI ROSSMANN](#) / and L.A. CARTER / December 2, 2008

Seven men with an illegal arsenal of guns apparently had plans for a home-invasion marijuana robbery in Lake County, Sonoma County sheriff's officials said Monday.Deputies spotted the vehicles heading south on Highway 101 in Santa Rosa. The drivers led deputies on a short chase that ended in south Santa Rosa near the Myrtlewood Drive home of two of the men. *In the vehicles, deputies found one loaded pistol, four assault rifles, one loaded shotgun, a short-barreled shotgun with a pistol grip, six loaded assault-rifle magazines and two types of shotgun ammunition, sheriff's officials said.....The investigation indicated the men apparently planned to take marijuana from a residence in the rural county*, Lawrence said. A search of the Myrtlewood Drive home turned up about 5 pounds of marijuana and drug paraphernalia.....All of the men remain in jail without bail on federal immigration holds because they are believed to be in this country illegally, officials said.

[http://www.pressdemocrat.com/article/20081202/NEWS/812020397/1350?Title=Lake County marijuana robbery thwarted officials say](http://www.pressdemocrat.com/article/20081202/NEWS/812020397/1350?Title=Lake%20County%20marijuana%20robbery%20thwarted%20officials%20say)

'Most wanted' Jones Valley man arrested

By [Ryan Sabalow](#) / October 17, 2008

A Jones Valley man listed as one of California's 12 most wanted criminals in connection with a string of burglaries and a home invasion robbery turned himself in Thursday to authorities in San Luis Obispo County.....Biddle is one of five suspects originally arrested in October 2007 in connection with a home-invasion robbery after they allegedly stole plants from a house with a medical marijuana garden in Bella Vista. Collette said Biddle posted \$350,000 bail after the arrest and then fled. Two of the other suspects arrested with him in 2007 have since accepted plea bargains in the case and each was sentenced to 12 years in prison.....

<http://www.redding.com/news/2008/oct/17/most-wanted-jones-valley-man-arrested/>

Medical marijuana facility robbed in Mission Hills

By Tami Abdollah / 2:18 PM PST, November 29, 2008

Police searched today for two men who robbed a medical marijuana facility in Mission Hills, getting away with cash and drugs. Officers responded to reports of gunfire at 10 p.m. Friday at the dispensary in the 1500 block of Sepulveda Boulevard, Los Angeles Police Lt. Darryl Grayson said. The men, believed to be 20 to 25 years old and armed with handguns, "basically took over the place," Grayson said. No one was injured, but the men made off with \$200 to \$300 in cash and an unknown amount of medical marijuana, Grayson said.....

<http://www.latimes.com/news/local/la-me-robbery30-2008nov30,0,7710232.story>

Two arrested, one at-large after Garberville robbery

The Times-Standard / 10/11/2008

Two women are in jail and a third man is at large after authorities were alerted to a home invasion robbery in Garberville.....a man pointed a shotgun at them while they were holding their baby, and demanded their “weed” after they opened their front door.....According to Sheriff's Office information, the suspects had mistakenly entered the wrong residence, and after they were told there was no marijuana, they stole the victims' 2007 Honda Accord and left the area driving both vehicles.....

http://www.times-standard.com/localnews/ci_10696585

Robbery suspect found in closet

Saturday, December 6, 2008

.....Wrede, of Fort Bragg, was wanted in connection with a Nov. 13 robbery in which two armed men forced their way into a Hansen Lane home after dark and forced an occupant to surrender a large amount of marijuana intended for a cannabis club, authorities said.....

http://www.pressdemocrat.com/article/20081206/NEWS/812060389/1016/SPORTS0401?Title=FORT_BRAGG_Robbery_suspect_found_in_closet

Tulare man reports 50 pounds of pot stolen

A Tulare man told sheriff's deputies that about 50 pounds of medical marijuana were stolen from his property on two separate occasions. The victim, Larry Kroon, said the marijuana, worth about \$10,000, was taken from his property on the 22500 block of Munson Road, the Tulare County Sheriff's Department said.

<http://www.fresnobee.com/263/story/913703.html>

Both indoor and outdoor growing operations continue to come to the attention of law enforcement. With the continual yearly rise in seizures, one must assume that the amount of undetected grows continues to increase. Both types of grows represent a danger to law enforcement and the public we serve. Growers continue to arm themselves against robberies and other thefts and continue to be willing to use force against anyone who endangers their growing operation. While the danger to public safety is paramount, we must also consider the significant damage that occurs to public land and the homes that are converted into indoor grows. Both can be damaged beyond repair and present health concerns to wildlife and humans alike.

Illegal marijuana eradications continue to climb locally

Written by Elizabeth Larson / Wednesday, 01 October 2008

LAKE COUNTY – It could end up being another record year for illegal medical marijuana eradications in Lake County. The local seizures of illegally grown plants on public and private lands this year is fast approaching last year's record total.....The Mendocino National Forest itself has been a particular target, with officials estimating that the illegal grows are causing extreme damage to natural resources and wildlife, as well as posing danger to humans who happen across them. So far this year, the amount of processed marijuana and firearms seized, as well as arrests, are down.....*However, this year saw the first reported homicide related to a marijuana grow, as Lake County News*

has reported. A Santa Rosa man's body was found in an illegal pot garden off Highway 175 near Middletown. Initial report indicated he may have been attempting to steal marijuana to settle a debt owed him by one of the growers..... That's despite getting a late start on eradication activities this year, said Garzoli. "Our whole operation hinges on the availability of helicopters," he explained. Garzoli said the helicopters normally used in finding marijuana were put into emergency service when the state was hit by hundreds of wildfires earlier this summer.....Garzoli estimates he'll have firm numbers on the season's eradications by mid-November. Indoor grows could add to a larger end-of-year total.....

<http://lakeconews.com/content/view/5791/764/>

Trespassing case leads to marijuana grow; suspects arrested at scene

Published: Oct 19 2008, 10:17 PM · Updated: Oct 19 2008, 10:17 PM

Two men were jailed Friday and another was cited after a trespassing report led Trinidad police to a residential marijuana-growing operation.....Contact was made with three subjects who appeared to have been attending to a marijuana cultivation inside the garage, the release stated. Approximately 100 plants about 1 foot in height were found inside the garage, according to the TPD. One of the suspects was a registered sex offender from Connecticut and was in violation, as he had not registered with the TPD upon taking up residence in Trinidad. A search warrant was secured and a search of the residence revealed that there were 105 plants, along with an additional 83 seedlings, being grown in a separate room in the garage, the release continued. No suspects on scene were in possession of a valid 215 prescription letter.....Boris Lunin, 26, of Eureka, was cited after he was observed by an officer on the scene attempting to break into the residence through a rear window after the police department secured the residence to obtain a search warrant, the TPD stated.....Evidence obtained during the search warrant revealed that the marijuana plants being grown were intended for sales and not personal use, according to the release.

<http://eureka-reporter.com/article/081019-trespassing-case-leads-to-marijuana-grow>

More than 5,000 plants removed from SB Mountains

By [Stacia Glenn](#) on October 20, 2008

Authorities removed more than 5,000 marijuana plants from the mountains today. Hunters stumbled across the 8 to 10 acre marijuana farm in Onyx Summit.....About 5,300 mature and budding pot plants worth \$18.5 million were discovered, sheriff's officials said. There were signs that people were living on the grow site but no arrests have been made.

<http://www.insidesocal.com/news247/2008/10/marijuana-update-more-than-500.html>

Leggett man arrested in marijuana bust

Ukiah Daily Journal Staff / 11/16/2008 / The Daily Journal

An marijuana eradication operation in northern Mendocino County 30 days ago has yielded the arrest of a 50-year-old Leggett man last week.....All 12 of the gardens looked to have the same design.....Marijuana, guns, and cash was found on Grave's property, the Sheriff's Office stated. A previously convicted felon, Graves could not possess a firearm. *Authorities found 52 pounds of processed marijuana, 65 growing plants, about \$15,000*

cash, 22 firearms and 11 assault weapons. Guns found on Graves property included Uzi's and street sweeper shotguns. Authorities state that one of guns could have been fully automatic. Authorities also found marijuana packaging materials and scales.....
http://www.ukiahdailyjournal.com/ci_10997574

Marijuana seizure operation sweeps through El Dorado, Nevada counties

By [Staff Report](#) / Monday, December 22, 2008

Local, state and federal law enforcement agencies served 10 search warrants and five arrest warrants in El Dorado and Nevada counties last Tuesday to shut down a major marijuana-growing operation in Northern California. *"This illegal operation consisted of thousands of marijuana plants worth millions of dollars and protected by handguns, shotguns and rifles,"*.....In the course of the Dec. 16 crackdown, agents seized approximately 2,100 marijuana plants and 100 pounds of processed marijuana, plus indoor marijuana-growing equipment, such as lights and generators. *Agents also found approximately \$625,000 in U.S. currency and seized two handguns, three rifles and five shotguns.* Several of the weapons seized were loaded.....During the investigation into these properties, agents discovered large indoor marijuana cultivations in El Dorado County. Law enforcement agents detained several individuals.....
<http://www.ledger-dispatch.com/news/newsview.asp?c=251819>

Santa Rosa man arrested on pot, weapons charges

By GREG WELTER - Staff Writer

Article Launched: 10/15/2008 12:00:00 AM PDT

BUTTE CITY — A Santa Rosa man who said he was going back to the Bay Area after helping a friend tend a medical marijuana grow in Berry Creek, was arrested Sunday night by Glenn County sheriff's deputies.....Burns searched the vehicle and found a loaded Browning 9 mm pistol, an open bag containing marijuana, and a glass jar containing pot. Also found in the vehicle were hand tools, a chain saw and Forest Service maps. Davidson alleged he had been helping a friend tend a medical marijuana grow, but had no prescription to cover the pot found in his vehicle.....Jones said Davidson refused to give deputies the name of the person he claimed was growing medical marijuana.....
http://www.contracostatimes.com/california/ci_10722626?nclick_check=1

California: Marijuana Plants Burned

By [SOLOMON MOORE](#) / Published: November 20, 2008

A record number of marijuana plants were uprooted and burned in [California](#) this year, the authorities said. The Campaign Against Marijuana Planting, a local and federal task force, closed out the marijuana growing season by announcing that it had destroyed 2,905,232 plants, a slight increase over last year. The street value of the plants is estimated at \$11.6 billion. Outdoor crops are usually harvested in California in late September or early October. About 143 people were arrested in connection with the plant seizures, the task force said. The largest number of marijuana farms were found in the Central Valley and in Northern California.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/11/20/us/20brfs-MARIJUANAPLA_BRF.html?_r=1&ref=us

Authorities bust Fresno-area marijuana ring

The Associated Press / 12/02/2008 07:17:15 PM PST

FRESNO, Calif.—A federal grand jury has indicted 10 alleged members of a Central Valley-based drug ring on charges that they conspired to distribute marijuana to the Midwest.....The indictment unsealed Tuesday charges eight people with conspiring to distribute marijuana from November 2004 to January 2006. Cobar says the operation's alleged ringleader, Haamid Alie Darcuil, faces conspiracy, aggravated identity theft and corruption-related charges. So do two others who allegedly helped him get the fake driver's license that authorities say he used to pick up drugs near the U.S.-Mexico border.
http://www.mercurynews.com/news/ci_11123296?nclick_check=1

California Breaks Record For Seized Pot Plants

Thursday, November 20, 2008 / Story by [kcra.com](http://www.kcra.com)

SACRAMENTO, Calif.: More than 5 million marijuana plants were seized in California during 2008, breaking the previous record for pot plant seizures in a single year, prosecutors said Wednesday. The total collaborative effort of several law enforcement agencies resulted in 5,249,881 plants seized, officials said. A total of 143 arrests were made in connection with the seizures. "Our forests and public lands cannot and will not be allowed to become safe havens for Mexican drug cartels operating massive marijuana cultivations," U.S. Attorney McGregor Scott said. "These criminal enterprises pose great risk to those simply seeking to enjoy these lands in the manner for which they were intended." It is the second consecutive year that the state has broken a record for marijuana plant seizures. During 2008, 53 people were arrested in connection with growing marijuana plants. The counties with the highest number of eradicated plants included Lake, Tulare, Shasta, Mendocino and Humbolt.

<http://www.officer.com/online/article.jsp?siteSection=1&id=44257>

Sheriff's office makes arrests in marijuana raids

Written by Lake County News Reports / Tuesday, 16 December 2008

LAKE COUNTY –Lt. Dave Garzoli of the Lake County Sheriff's Office said the operations concluded with 13 arrests and the seizure of over 400 marijuana plants, 210 pounds of processed marijuana, 33 firearms and the seizure of more than \$1 million in assets.....The arrests began with that of Travis McKinney, 41, of Bakersfield, arrested during a traffic stop on Westlake Drive on Oct. 30. Garzoli said McKinney was traveling home to Bakersfield after having just picked up approximately 90 pounds of marijuana.....investigators served a search warrant and located approximately 85 plants, 45 pounds of processed marijuana, 2 ounces of hash, two firearms and materials consistent with the sale of marijuana.....Garzoli said the first operation and McKinney's arrest were unrelated to the following raids. The following week, on Nov. 19, a search warrant was served.....The warrant was obtained following observations made by the sheriff's helicopter crew of a large marijuana grow in the yard the residence, Garzoli said. Upon serving the warrant, Garzoli said investigators found that the residence was not occupied as a residence but solely for the cultivation and processing of marijuana for sale. At this location investigators located and seized approximately 121 pounds of

processed marijuana and 95 plants under cultivation.....On Nov. 20, a search warrant was served.....investigators found that the outbuilding was being used for the processing and packaging marijuana for shipment. Garzoli said investigators located and seized approximately five pounds of processed marijuana and 50 plants under cultivation..... information was gathered at this scene indicating that in the months preceding this raid, the grow had produced and the suspects shipped in excess of 300 pounds of processed marijuana.....The next operation took place in the afternoon of Nov. 22.....At this location investigators located and seized approximately 180 marijuana plants being grown inside a mobile home that had been completely converted into an indoor grow, 5 pounds of processed marijuana and packaging materials, a large number of firearms and in excess of \$1 million in cash and bank accounts.....Then, on Dec. 6, Lake County Sheriff's investigators served a search warrant.....The purpose of this warrant was to locate a convicted sex offender.....investigators located approximately 4 pounds of packaged marijuana in his vehicle along with approximately 4.4 grams of Psilocybin ("Magic Mushrooms") mushrooms and a small quantity of hashish.....***The Lake County Sheriff's Office intends to prove in court that these are not medical marijuana cases but instead a complete abuse of the intent of the Compassionate Use Act of 1996,*** said Garzoli. He said the agency is committed to pursuing these drug dealers and any who continue to use the Compassionate Use Act as a means profiting from their criminal enterprise.

<http://lakeconews.com/content/view/6662/764/>

Code enforcement officer arrested for marijuana says deputies disregarded medical cards

Written by Elizabeth Larson / Thursday, 16 October 2008

LUCERNE – A county code enforcement officer arrested over the weekend on several drug-related charges says he was wrongly arrested because he has medical marijuana cards, while sheriff's officials say his arrest was justified due to the amount of marijuana in his possession. Larry Morris Fabisch, 54, of Nice was arrested early Saturday morning and booked into the Lake County Jail on charges of ***possessing more than 28.5 grams of marijuana, planting and cultivation, possession for sale and carrying loaded firearms in public.....Inside the SUV the deputy allegedly found 89 pounds of recently harvested marijuana plants.....Fabisch said he was trying to show the deputy.....his two medical marijuana cards, which he placed on the patrol car's hood.....Bauman said Fabisch was arrested due to the large amount of marijuana in his possession. "He had way more than anyone with a card is allowed to have,"*** said Bauman. According to Fabisch, his medical marijuana recommendation allows him to have 25 plants or five pounds of processed marijuana.....Fabisch challenged his arrest, saying that Proposition 215 – the California Compassionate Use Act of 1996 – does not impose limits on the amount of medical marijuana a patient may have. Attempts to impose such limits, such as SB 420, have been ruled unconstitutional by California courts.....

<http://lakeconews.com/content/view/5977/764/>

Mexican marijuana cartels sully US forests, parks

By TRACIE CONE – 1 day ago

PORTERVILLE, Calif. (AP) — *National forests and parks — long popular with Mexican marijuana-growing cartels — have become home to some of the most polluted pockets of wilderness in America because of the toxic chemicals needed to eke lucrative harvests from rocky mountainsides*, federal officials said. . . . authorities say the 1,800-square-mile Sequoia National Forest is the hardest hit. Weed and bug sprays, some long banned in the U.S., have been smuggled to the marijuana farms. Plant growth hormones have been dumped into streams, and the water has then been diverted for miles in PVC pipes. Rat poison has been sprinkled over the landscape to keep animals away from tender plants. And many sites are strewn with the carcasses of deer and bears poached by workers during the five-month growing season that is now ending. "What's going on on public lands is a crisis at every level," said Forest Service agent Ron Pugh. "These are America's most precious resources, and they are being devastated by an unprecedented commercial enterprise conducted by armed foreign nationals. . . . In the meantime, the only cleanup is done by volunteers. . . . Last year, law enforcement agents uprooted nearly five million plants in California, nearly a half million in Kentucky and 276,000 in Washington state as the development of hybrid plants has expanded the range of climates marijuana can tolerate. . . ."The impact goes well beyond the acreage planted. They create huge networks of trail systems, and the chemicals that get into watersheds are potentially very far-reaching — all the way to drinking water for the downstream communities. . . .
http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5jK97BkWoE107d16p_cs4KqyBRTGAD93OFK800

Steve Carson's 'Outdoors' column: Few problems with deer season

By STEVE CARSON-Outdoors Columnist / 10/10/2008

. The DFG's largest concern at this time of year concerns conflicts between medical marijuana growers and wildlife. The growers are in competition with wildlife for dwindling resources including water. Deer are often killed because they like to eat the plants. Castillo related a recent case involved the neighbor of a large cooperative marijuana grow, who was reported to have decimated the local animal population. When a search warrant was obtained, it was found that the individual had the skulls and skins of three mountain lions and numerous deer. . . . *Castillo continued his report about the even more dangerous illegal marijuana grows by drug cartels on public land such as the Oroville Wildlife Area. Armed guards and booby traps are an extreme hazard for wildlife, hunters and wardens.* "We've never had a grasp on how large the problem appears to be, and the law is vague," said Castillo. . . .

http://www.chicoer.com/advertise/ci_10686014?IADID=Search-www.chicoer.com-www.chicoer.com

Sheriffs and rangers work to make open space safe for all

By Kristin Munson / for Saratoga News / 11/14/2008

In the hillsides high above Saratoga, three men guarded a garden of nearly 40,000 marijuana plants, representing more than \$116 million in illegal sales. Tipped off by suspicious neighbors, a team of eradication experts hiked to a remote swath of land nestled between private property and El Sereno Open Space Preserve to seize the pot growing there and arrest the farmers. *During the operation, which took place on July 10, shots were exchanged, leaving one grower dead and scattering the two others into the brush.* While law enforcement officials say it is safe for residents to continue hiking

and enjoying the preserves, the two men remain at large and the incident has left some mountain residents uneasy.....The situation is one that is increasingly played out as more and more Mexican drug groups use their connections in the United States to move operations across the border and into the back yards and outdoor playgrounds of America. Marijuana grows have been discovered in parklands across the country, including Yosemite National Park. In 2008, Santa Clara County law enforcement teams performed 11 raids over five days, eradicating 76,278 pot plants, arresting three suspects and confiscating one weapon, according to statistics provided by Campaign Against Marijuana Planting (CAMP), a coalition of federal, county and local narcotics officers. About \$11.6 billion in illegal marijuana plants were confiscated statewide, making California the No. 1 producer of commercially grown marijuana. The numbers do not reflect those marijuana gardens destroyed during the wildfires earlier this summer..... We had concerns regarding the safety of our rangers with the increasing occurrence of marijuana plantations in remote areas," said open space operations manager David Sanguinetti. "Our rangers focus on the resource protection of the property. We carry defensive equipment, but we do not take an offensive stance." Rangers do not confront potential marijuana growers and contact police authorities if they suspect a preserve has an illegal garden housed on the property.....During harvest season in the late summer, the growers process the marijuana at the campsite, stuff their packs with the plants and leave behind diverted streams and a camp polluted with rubber hoses and fertilizer. "They are basically poisoning the wild lands," said Rich Camps, leader of the South Bay Metro Task Force. "They are limiting the public access to public lands. We are dealing with criminal organizations that are taking over our lands. It's violating some of our national treasures. Marijuana is a commodity that criminal organizations are profiting from at our expense." The phenomenon of growing the drug on public lands has occurred for more than 20 years, he said. What is new is the growing trend of growers bringing weapons to sites. More and more of these groups are going armed to protect their grows from other organizations wanting to steal their profits.....

http://www.mercurynews.com/science/ci_10986714?nclick_check=1

Volunteers Clean Up Marijuana Site

Nov 22, 2008

Gilroy, Calif: Early this morning recruits from the Santa Clara County Sheriff's Department volunteered to clean up trash and other remains. Left behind two years ago from the marijuana garden at Mt. Moadoona County Park in Gilroy. It took a team of thirty, eight hours to clean up the remains of a make shift camp of an old marijuana site. With the shrinking state budget cleaning the aftermath takes a back seat. The trash accumulates after years and years of people living in the mountains, growing crops of marijuana.....The marijuana gardens has taken a toll on Mt. Madonna County Park. Mt. Madonna Park Ranger John Heenan says that the cultivators destroy the beautiful park. "They go in and they clear cut all the tress get rid of all the vegetation from a particular area and since all the vegetation is gone there is no roots in the soil. The soil then becomes loose and then it erodes and gets into the streams, it's a big problem." This year alone in Santa Clara County authorities have eradicated two hundred thousand marijuana plants, worth a half a billion dollars.

<http://www.kcba.com/Global/story.asp?S=9399448>

Marijuana worth \$39m discovered near Oroshi; six arrests made

Staff reports • October 12, 2008

A Southern California link to a major marijuana-growing operation northeast of Oroshi was revealed Friday as six arrests were made by Tulare County Sheriff's Department narcotics officers.....The site, which has already been cleared of some 9,139 illegal marijuana plants, was located on a 30-acre avocado orchard northeast of Oroshi.....Officers discovered a large-scale processing station there, including drying fans, heaters and ventilation equipment to "aid in the drying process," deputies reported. Equipment designed to grow marijuana indoors was also discovered at the Oroshi site. Officials of electricity provider Southern California Edison revealed that power was being diverted illegally to the site. The seized plants' estimated street value was estimated by police to be \$37.3 million. Previously dried marijuana amounting to around 500 pounds valued at \$2 million was also seized and destroyed.....

<http://www.visaliatimesdelta.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20081012/>

NEWS01/81012003

Man arrested for alleged marijuana cultivation and possession

Published: Oct 16 2008,

Humboldt County Sheriff's deputies, working with the U.S. Forest Service, arrested Francisco Aparisio Chavez, 21, of Michoacán, Mexico on Wednesday after seizing marijuana allegedly in the process of being harvested on U.S. Forest Service property, a release from the Sheriff's Office stated.....deputies reportedly found 1,200 growing marijuana plants, 600 drying marijuana plants, and 3,000 marijuana plants that had been harvested. An additional 17 pounds of processed marijuana was also seized. Chavez was allegedly at the site within arm's reach of a loaded pistol-grip, pump-action shotgun, the release stated. Deputies reported finding a loaded assault rifle at the grow site. Chavez was transported to the Humboldt County jail, where he was booked on suspicion of cultivation of marijuana and possession of marijuana. He is not eligible for bail due to an Immigration and Customs Enforcement detainer.

<http://eureka-reporter.com/article/081016-man-arrested-for-alleged-pot-cultivation-and-possession>

Sheriff Says 360,000 Marijuana Plants Seized in 2008

Updated 4:27 PM PST, Mon, Nov 10, 2008

MONTEREY PARK, Calif. -- Authorities seized 360,000 marijuana plants -- which could yield 140 tons of pot -- found on public lands in Los Angeles County this year, Sheriff Lee Baca announced Monday. An additional 550 pounds of processed marijuana also was found at forest sites. The total haul represents a "major increase" over similar seizures last year, according to the sheriff's department, which did not supply figures for 2007. The pot farms are believed to be the work of criminals involved with Mexican drug cartels, according to authorities, who say such cultivation poses a "genuine threat" to hikers, mountain bikers and hunters if they should stumble onto one of these areas. Baca said that 15 firearms were also seized during eradication operations as well as tons of camp trash and chemicals. The pot farms, said Baca, pose significant threats to the environments. Growers haul gallons of herbicides, gasoline and other chemicals into

remote areas where they clear space to grow the marijuana. The result is that much native vegetation has been stripped away. Also, the fertilizers and insecticides make their way into streams, ponds and lakes. The pot farmers also leave mounds of human waste and trash behind.....

<http://www.nbclosangeles.com/news/local/Sheriff-Says-360000-Marijuana-Plants-Seized-in-2008.html>

Marijuana Eradicated Near Stanislaus River Canyon

BJ Hansen / MML News Reporter / Wednesday, October 08, 2008

Sonora, Ca -- 3,090 marijuana plants were eradicated Wednesday from the Paper Cabin Ridge area of the Stanislaus River Canyon.....The total number of marijuana plants eradicated in Tuolumne County since July 1st is 113,113. This year's plant count has already exceeded the 2007 total of 107,739.

<http://www.mymotherlode.com/News/article/kvml/1223508122>

Authorities arrest 2, seek a third man on marijuana charges

By [Constance Dillon](#) / Friday, November 28, 2008

Authorities arrested two men and were looking for a third after they discovered processed and live marijuana plants at two Trinity County properties....Tuesday's search on the two properties turned up 70 pounds of processed marijuana and 364 live plants from a greenhouse and an indoor growing area. Also seized were 13 firearms, including a .233 assault rifle and a Benelli 12- gauge, M-4 Super 90 combat shotgun, more than \$70,000 in cash and an unspecified number of vehicles. The newer model automobiles, off-road vehicles and utility trailers have an estimated value of \$110,000, Knill said. *Authorities believe that the Pickles were involved in exploiting California's medical marijuana act, selling the cultivated marijuana from Trinity County, north to Oregon, Washington and Alaska,* Knill said.

<http://www.redding.com/news/2008/nov/28/authorities-arrest-2-seek-third-man-marijuana-char/>

ADDRESSING ENVIRONMENTAL WOES OF POT GROWS

The Humboldt County Board of Supervisors was in the unenviable position this week of trying to determine how to regulate illicit businesses. At issue is the continuing degradation of rural Humboldt County through marijuana-related diesel spills and the improper disposal of waste oil.....The problem is that outdoor grows have moved indoors -- a situation that requires round-the-clock operation of diesel-powered generators. The primary concern is the potential for diesel spills and fires, but there are also issues of air and noise pollution. "The environmental problems of marijuana cultivation are pretty widespread," Hill said. The presentation was illustrated with several shots of indoor grows, leaking diesel tanks and dumping areas for the waste oil. *Some 70 to 80 percent of rural fires, concerned citizen Robert Sutherland said, are related to grows, a conclusion based upon conversations with rural fire chiefs.....*We've seen some real devastation from some of these operations,"....."Regulating an already illegal operation is pretty interesting," 3rd District Supervisor John Woolley said. Fifth District Supervisor Jill Geist concurred, summarizing the presentation as one seeking the supervisors' assistance in the "greening of an illegal industry." "This is a little uncomfortable for us,"

she said....."It's hard to figure out a regulatory framework in an illegal world," Woolley said. When the discussion was opened to the public, state Department of Fish and Game senior environmental scientist Bill Condon expressed concern about the effect grows have on nearby waterways. That comes in the form of illegally storing and discharging materials near streams and the illegal diversion of water to water the plants.....

<http://www.mapinc.org/drugnews/v08/n1113/a06.html?1184>

PIT BULLS ATTACKING MENDOCINO LIVESTOCK / Sun, 30 Nov 2008

Pit bulls on the loose are wreaking havoc on livestock in rural Mendocino County and the problem seems to be getting worse, animal control officials said.....*Law enforcement and agriculture officials suspect the spike in pit bull attacks on livestock and wildlife is a byproduct of the growth in marijuana production in the county. Marijuana growers are suspected of bringing many pit bulls to the area to guard the large number of pot gardens in the northern part of the county; pit bulls are commonly found along with marijuana gardens at rural residences in the area, officials said.....* Medical marijuana activists say that's just a guess.....It's all too common for people to move to the country with the misconception it's OK for their dogs to run free.....

<http://www.mapinc.org/drugnews/v08/n1078/a05.html?1184>

Medical pot's side effects: Unhappy neighbors cite gunshots, threats as grove of plants tops 8 feet and odors circulate



Unhappy neighbors cite gunshots, threats as grove of plants tops 8 feet and odors circulate

By [DEREK J. MOORE](#) / THE PRESS DEMOCRAT / Monday, October 27, 2008

.....Jeremy Gardea and his family live next door to Alan MacFarlane, who grows medical marijuana at his Santa Rosa home. Gardea objects to the risk of his neighborhood being targeted by criminals, who he directs next door via sign. But after another fall harvest season in which his neighbor's marijuana plants grew well above the 8-foot fence that separates their Hull Street homes, the plumber and father of three's compassion finally went up in smoke. More than a feud between two neighbors, the conflict represents a dramatic showdown over the right of one homeowner under California law to grow marijuana versus the rights of other residents to not have their quality of life or safety threatened by that activity.....Alan MacFarlane's annual marijuana crop creates an unholy stench in the neighborhood off West Third Street near Dutton Avenue, causes noise disturbances related to motion alarms and raises the risk of criminal activity. That risk is underscored by the number of home-invasion robberies tied to marijuana gardens, including one this month in which three robbers wearing clothing to impersonate law enforcement officials burst into a Todd Road home, handcuffed two residents and fled with 30 marijuana plants....."I don't let my 11-year-old out in the back yard, especially during the harvest season, because the smell of the plants fills our house," said Christi Corradi, an art teacher for at-risk youth whose Garden Street back yard abuts MacFarlane's. Her neighbor, Stan Carter, said he filed a sheriff's report in summer 2007 after he and his wife were awakened by the sound of a gunshot and men running past their window. He said they later discovered a trail of marijuana in their back yard leading from MacFarlane's property. "I've got five grandchildren," Carter said. "I can't afford a loose cannon in the neighborhood." About 30 neighbors signed a certified letter given to MacFarlane earlier this month in which they demand that he address the nuisances allegedly created by growing marijuana, including the discharge of firearms, verbal threats, smell of marijuana and the noise of motion sensitive alarms.....

http://www.pressdemocrat.com/article/20081027/NEWS/810270310/-1/WEATHER?Title=Medical_pot_s_side_effects

Indoor grows present their own specific set of issues. The theft of electricity, fires resulting from improper modifications to the residence as well as the potential for the grow to render the residence as uninhabitable.

Fire reveals illegal marijuana operation

By Dana Yates

Police discovered an illegal marijuana growing operation in Millbrae yesterday after a fire broke out.....Millbrae Firefighters discovered pot plants throughout the home and called police. "The cause of the fire was electrical that came from illegal wiring.....Often, police are tipped off to illegal pot farms when firefighters respond to electrical fires. Growers avoid detection by stealing electricity straight from power poles and install electrical converters inside the house to help power numerous lamps.....However, more and more illegal growers are moving indoors — ruining rental properties, stealing electricity and producing more plants, Alcantara said. The growers commonly rent a house with no intention of anyone living there. They convert rooms to grow marijuana, often assigning different rooms to different parts of the operation — seedlings, mature plants, drying and packaging. Someone using a false name rents the homes, mostly in north county cities like South San Francisco and Daly City. Once

inside, the criminals often ruin the home by cutting holes in the ceilings for ventilation. In one case, a four-foot vent system was cut into the ceiling and through a second floor to the roof, Alcantara said

http://www.smdailyjournal.com/article_preview.php?id=100934

Wiring Sets Fire To Medical Pot Operation

Man Could Face Charges Because Lighting Not Up To Code

December 5, 2008

SACRAMENTO, Calif. -- A registered medical marijuana grow operation went up in smoke this morning after faulty electrical wiring touched off a fire. A Sacramento man is now facing potential charges not because of the plants, but for the way he was growing them.....Resident Stephan Dorman is registered to grow medicinal marijuana, but fire officials said he had illegally added lighting that was not up to electrical code. Those lights are what caused the fire, officials said.....Several families were displaced by the fire, along with Dorman. The damages are estimated at more than \$100,000.....

<http://www.my58.com/news/18213486/detail.html>

Carlsbad firefighters find pot under indoor blaze

The Associated Press / 10/20/2008

CARLSBAD, Calif.—Firefighters who put out a Carlsbad house fire say they found an indoor pot farm after the flames were out. Police Sgt. Greg White says firefighters found Sunday that equipment from the farm had sparked the fire and called police, who seized about 40 plants and arrested a 33-year-old resident of the home on suspicion of possessing and growing marijuana. A neighbor had called 911 when they had seen smoke coming from a window and a resident refused to open the door when they knocked. Fire officials say the resident had tried to put out the fire, which was confined to one bedroom.

http://www.mercurynews.com/breakingnews/ci_10766562?nclink_check=1

Police report finding 124 marijuana plants in apartment

By VICTOR A. PATTON / Sunday, Oct. 12, 2008

Merced police say they are seeking the arrest of a 29-year-old man after officers reported finding 124 marijuana plants growing in a one-bedroom apartment. There were also three small children living in the midst of the “sophisticated” indoor pot operation, police said.....Deliman said the officers arrived at the house and served a search warrant, smelling the plants’ pungent odor before even entering the residence. Police were at the home responding to an anonymous tip.....Deliman said the couples’ children, two girls ages 2 and 5 and a 3-year-old boy, were also inside. After searching the residence, Deliman said officers found 3 pounds of processed marijuana in addition to the plants, which were producing buds and ranged in height from 3 to 5 feet tall. The 124 plants were grown in the apartment’s single bedroom by using a variety of equipment such as grow lights, ballasts and an irrigation system. Deliman said the total value of the equipment was about \$10,000. The children slept on a single mattress with their parents in the apartment’s main room, police said. Investigators also found marijuana seeds in apartment’s bathroom. “These kids were living in that atmosphere.....

<http://www.mercedsunstar.com/167/story/495529.html>

Pot-growing operation discovered in home raid

CHULA VISTA: Narcotics enforcement officers seized hundreds of marijuana plants that were being grown inside a home, authorities announced this week. A search warrant was served Friday.....and 931 marijuana plants, many with their roots still attached, were found, Chula Vista police said. The entire first floor of the house was being used as an area to grow the plants, police said. A 36-year-old San Diego man was arrested while leaving the house. He faces marijuana cultivation charges. Police estimate the street value of the marijuana at \$450,000. –A.M.

<http://www.signonsandiego.com/news/metro/20081030-9999-1m30pubsafe.html>

Sheriff's detectives arrest Live Oak man for marijuana sales, seize loaded guns, almost \$100,000

By Jennifer Squires - Sentinel staff writer / 10/30/2008

LIVE OAK -- Sheriff's detectives arrested a 23-year-old man suspected of selling marijuana on Tuesday afternoon and seized loaded guns and almost \$100,000 of suspected drug sales profits.....There they reported finding two loaded handguns on a living room table, a loaded handgun on the kitchen counter and a loaded shotgun in a bedroom closet. They also found a bulletproof vest, a pair of handcuffs, scales, packaging material, approximately 3 pounds of marijuana packaged to sell in the house.....There was also \$29,592 cash in the house.....Wednesday, detectives seized another \$70,000 from Anderson bank accounts. Detectives suspect that the money was drug proceeds from selling marijuana. Carney said the investigation is ongoing.

http://www.mercurynews.com/centralcoast/ci_10855511

Drug and child endangerment arrest in Guadalupe

Reported by: [Emily Kiefer](#) / Monday, December 22, 2008

A 41-year-old Guadalupe man is facing drug and child endangerment charges after sheriff's detectives search his home. Investigators arrested Jesse DeLeon on Thursday. They said they found one ounce of meth and other drug items along with an indoor marijuana grow. The grow seemed to be covered under medical marijuana guidelines, but the odor was so strong that detectives removed a pair of 2-year-old children from the home as a precaution. DeLeon is being held at the Santa Maria Jail without bail.

<http://www.ksby.com/Global/story.asp?S=9569360>

Family arrested on marijuana charges

By ZACK CINEK The Daily Journal / 11/22/2008

Three family members were booked into jail Wednesday for suspected marijuana violations at their home in the Willits area. A total of four people were arrested for what was allegedly an indoor growing operation....High Pacific Gas and Electric use and neighborhood complaints caused the Mendocino Major Crimes Task Force to serve a search warrant, Commander Bob Nishiyama said. Grows in the home occupied a garage, basement and bedroom. Law enforcement found an estimated \$1,500 in cash, three guns and about 20 pounds of processed marijuana.....The family came from Florida, Nishiyama said, and had been growing marijuana in Brooktrails for about a year-and-a-half. The marijuana they sold was going for about \$2,800 a pound. Signs of an outdoor

grow were also found. Children ages 16 and 17 were also in the home the day of the raid.....

http://www.ukiahdailyjournal.com/ci_11049091

Pot clubs, seized plants, new president -- marijuana's future is hazy

By Sam Stanton / Sunday, Dec. 07, 2008

Off the coast of Baja California, a Coast Guard cutter seized 137 bales of marijuana two weeks ago as they were being dumped by the crew of a speed boat. In San Francisco there are more registered pot clubs than middle schools, police stations or Taco Bells, according to the federal government. And in Sacramento, state and federal officials recently announced the eradication of 2.9 million marijuana plants being grown around California. They said it was a record haul. So, against that backdrop, how sharply does law enforcement focus on arresting marijuana users? "We don't," said Sacramento County Sheriff John McGinness. For years, personal marijuana use hasn't been a priority for local law enforcement. Authorities say someone caught with a joint may face a penalty equal to a traffic citation.....The White House Office of National Drug Control Policy has worked to ridicule the growth of medical marijuana in California, noting in a recent press release that there are 24 registered pot clubs in San Francisco but only 14 middle schools, 14 police stations and 18 Taco Bell franchises. Authorities say medical marijuana is often the excuse from those caught using the drug.....

<http://www.sacbee.com/capitolandcalifornia/story/1454724.html>

Marijuana grows fingered for equipment thefts

Fortuna police report rash of grow gear thefts

Sean Garmire/The Times-Standard / 12/30/2008

A number of unsolved construction equipment thefts have taken place around the Fortuna area, and authorities believe it is likely that equipment will be used to cultivate marijuana. The stolen equipment includes diesel generators, compact loaders and fertilizers.....I think there's a nexus here to marijuana growing," Kitna said. "We take (reports of) generator thefts once in a while, but we've had a rash in the last two weeks." Early Monday morning detectives received a report that a high-end generator had been stolen from a construction site along Hilltop Drive. It was the second such theft of a generator -- which cost more than \$10,000 -- this month. FPD detective Aaron Starcher said another generator was taken from a Fortuna construction site in early December.....Also this month, Kitna said, a Fortuna hydroponics store was burglarized and fertilizer was found missing. On Dec. 17, two Caterpillar brand compact loaders were stolen from a tractor dealer in Fortuna. Both have an approximate retail value of \$100,000 and weigh an estimated 10,000 pounds. Kitna said he suspects those tractors will be used to prepare a site for the cultivation of marijuana. "I don't think there's a big black market for those," he said. Mark Peterson, a deputy sheriff with the Drug Enforcement Unit, said during the course of raiding marijuana growing operations, agents routinely find stolen generators and other equipment. Peterson said during one raid in Deweyville this winter, authorities discovered three stolen generators were being used to power the growing operation. In another recent raid near Dinsmore, one stolen generator was seized from the site. Every year, Peterson estimated, his agency locates about 20 generators -- 25 percent of which have been reported stolen. Kitna said in light of the theft epidemic, he encourages

anyone who owns equipment that could be used for a marijuana growing operation to take extra precautions to safeguard their property. "It's a big hit for a normal guy trying to make a living," he said.

http://www.times-standard.com/ci_11334834?source=most_emailed

Police seize 1,500 pounds of Marijuana worth \$3 million

By FONTANA HERALD NEWS The Fontana Police Department seized 1,500 pounds of marijuana, which had a street value of more than \$3 million, while serving a search warrant on Dec. 29.....Police, with the help of a police canine which is trained to find illicit drugs, located a secret hiding compartment on a 53-foot trailer which was parked on the property. The marijuana, which came from Mexico, was wrapped in plastic "bricks" which varied in size and weight, police said. Police arrested one suspect, who was a native of Mexico. The investigation is ongoing.

<http://www.fontanaheraldnews.com/articles/2009/01/01/news/03newspolice.txt>

Raids net assault weapons, 20 pounds of marijuana

By [Liz Kellar](#) / Staff Writer

Investigators allegedly found this illegally modified AR-15 assault rifle, shotgun and 20 pounds of marijuana buds inside a storage unit being rented.....A tip that a Peardale-area man was dealing drugs out of his home resulted in law enforcement discovering a large stash of marijuana and guns, including an illegally modified assault rifle, the county sheriff said Wednesday.....They found a truck running in the driveway and Sanders in the process of leaving the house, Royal said. Sanders was found to have prescription drugs without a prescription, and a briefcase in the bedroom was found to contain three recommendations for medical marijuana, only one of which was in Sanders' name, Royal said. Inside the house, investigators found a 12-gauge shotgun, six boxes of 12-gauge shotgun rounds and a magazine for an AR-15 rifle, Royal said. The searchers also discovered a trap door to the basement, where they found evidence of a prior indoor marijuana-growing operation, including marijuana leaves and other items on the floor.....Inside the storage space, they found a 20-gauge shotgun, a .22-caliber revolver and a Colt AR-15 that had been modified illegally, Royal said. They also found 20 pounds of marijuana buds with an approximate value of \$60,000, as well as scales and other sales paraphernalia.....

<http://www.theunion.com/article/20090101/NEWS/812319992/1001/NONE&parentprofile=1053&title=Raids%20net%20assault%20weapons,%2020%20pounds%20of%20marijuana>

10-lbs. of marijuana seized following fireworks explosion

Ukiah Daily Journal Staff / 11/20/2008

A man injured by a malfunction of a fireworks mortar had 10 pounds of marijuana seized when deputies responded to his fireworks explosion near Laytonville.....the Sheriff's Office received a call about an explosion. When deputies arrived, they found Anderson bleeding from an injury to his hand.....During the investigation, marijuana was also found. According to the Sheriff's Office, 12 pounds of marijuana was found at the North Road residence. Anderson showed law enforcement he had a medical recommendation

for marijuana. Of the 12 pounds, 10 was seized, leaving Anderson with the remainder of the marijuana.

http://www.ukiahdailyjournal.com/ci_11029914

350 marijuana plants seized; Albion man arrested

Ukiah Daily Journal Staff / 11/22/2008 / The Daily Journal

In a coastal case that began in August, Mendocino County sheriff's deputies on Wednesday seized more than 350 marijuana plants.Deputies obtained a search warrant.and three days later, 58 marijuana plants were seized by deputies at that location. In the ensuing investigation, law enforcement came to believe the Navarro Ridge grow belonged to Reynolds. Deputies then came to a location in the 1400 block of D Road, Albion, to serve a search warrant Wednesday. There deputies allegedly found 366 marijuana plants, 12.5 pounds of processed marijuana and .6 grams of cocaine. Reynolds was booked into Mendocino County Jail with a \$25,000 bail.

http://www.ukiahdailyjournal.com/ci_11049092

EPD makes marijuana possession arrest during traffic stop

The Times-Standard / 10/20/2008

A man was arrested for possession of marijuana for sale during a traffic stop after an officer smelled the marijuana odor coming from inside his car, the Eureka Police Department said in a statement released Sunday. Kim David Johnson, 48, of McKinleyville, was arrested Saturday, after EPD Officer Pam Wilcox saw him arguing with his female passenger as they were traveling eastbound on Fifth Street near H Street. During a search of Johnson's red Ford Ranger pickup truck, Wilcox found about 10 pounds of dried marijuana and a digital gram scale. Johnson was transported to the Humboldt County Correctional Facility where he was booked for transportation and possession of marijuana for sale. Ironically, Johnson stated he and his passenger were arguing about the marijuana when stopped by Wilcox

http://www.times-standard.com/localnews/ci_10766357

Fresno Police Make Major Drug Bust In Central Fresno

Nov 14, 2008

Fresno Police say they've busted a major drug operation in Central Fresno.When officers arrived to look into the call they were told the homeowner was not there.Once inside, they found over 150 bags of marijuana stored in a shower stall. "They were stacked high to the ceiling," Dyer said. The drugs have a street value of \$1 million, \$300,000 wholesale value. Dyer says the homeowner, 38-year-old Ferrel Granda, ran the operation and used his residence as a distribution point.The drugs in question were believed to have grown in a nearby National Forest. Dyer would not elaborate further on the location. More arrests could follow. ***Dyer added that marijuana-related arrests are on the rise. He says medicinal marijuana-related laws have contributed to the spike.***

http://www.kmph.com/Global/story.asp?S=9350921&nav=menu612_1

The abuse of medical marijuana legislation continues as Dispensaries related crimes come to the attention of law enforcement.

Modesto men sentenced in medical pot case

The Associated Press / 11/21/2008

FRESNO, Calif.—Two men who ran a medical marijuana dispensary in Modesto are headed to prison after being convicted of running a criminal enterprise. A federal judge in Fresno on Friday sentenced 28-year-old Luke Scarmazzo to nearly 22 years and 28-year-old Ricardo Montes to 20 years for manufacturing marijuana and possessing it with intent to distribute. **Drug Enforcement Administration officials say records at the clinic, called the California Healthcare Collective, showed the pair made more than \$4.5 million in marijuana sales from October 2004 to June 2006.** Two jurors said last month they wanted the men to get a new trial after voting for conviction, then learning later that the punishment was so steep.

http://www.mercurynews.com/breakingnews/ci_11045949?nclick_check=1

Ex-owner of pot dispensaries to be sentenced

Daily News Wire Services / 12/01/2008

The former owner of a chain of nonprofit medical marijuana dispensaries is scheduled to be sentenced today.....Larry R. Kristich faces a maximum punishment of 20 years in federal prison and \$95 million in fines.....*He pleaded guilty in February to knowingly operating the Yellow House Dispensary, a marijuana shop housed in a bungalow on La Brea Avenue in West Hollywood. His chain also had dispensaries in San Francisco, San Diego, Ukiah, Oakland, San Leandro and Bakersfield, according to prosecutors.*

The indictment alleged a conspiracy to distribute marijuana, money laundering and other crimes. California's Compassionate Use Act, Proposition 215, allows the sale on a nonprofit basis of marijuana for medical use. But it is trumped by federal law, which treats marijuana as a narcotic lacking therapeutic value. While scores of marijuana dispensaries remain in operation, federal officials have targeted operators suspected of such crimes as selling to minors and turning their establishments into profit centers. A U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency statement announcing the indictment last year said *sales of marijuana and THC-laced products at Kristich's stores totaled more than \$95 million and that Kristich used profits from marijuana sales to purchase expensive automobiles and real estate in Costa Rica. In one month alone, it said, more than \$1.7 million of marijuana products were sold at Yellow House, the dispensary in West Hollywood.....*

http://www.contracostatimes.com/california/ci_11112295

DEA raids medical-marijuana dispensary in Laguna Beach

By SALVADOR HERNANDEZ / The Orange County Register / October 8, 2008

LAGUNA BEACH Agents with the Drug Enforcement Administration raided a marijuana dispensary Tuesday, seized an unknown amount of marijuana and took into custody two people who were later released, authorities said. With the assistance of detectives from the Laguna Beach Police Department, DEA agents served the search warrant at 2007 South Coast Highway, taking into custody marijuana plants and several edible products believed to contain marijuana, said Special Agent Sarah Pullen of the DEA.....

<http://www.ocregister.com/articles/marijuana-laguna-beach-2184874-search-local>

Federal Agents Raid East Bay Pot Club

October 8, 2008

SAN LORENZO-- -- Federal drug agents Wednesday raided an East-Bay medical marijuana dispensary. The Drug Enforcement Agency seized items from the "We Are Hemp" cannabis club in San Lorenzo.....The agents made no arrests during the Wednesday raid and wouldn't give any details about the raid other than to say the investigation is "ongoing."

<http://www.ktvu.com/news/17668179/detail.html>

No more medical marijuana on the Central Coast

Kylie Mendonca

Several medical marijuana dispensaries in Santa Barbara closed their doors Sept. 19 in response to pressure by the federal Drug Enforcement Administration. Dispensaries are allowed in certain circumstances under California law to provide marijuana to patients with a doctor's recommendation, but the federal government considers them to be in conflict with federal laws restricting drug trafficking. According to a DEA representative, several letters were sent out to property owners in late July informing them of ongoing illegal activity on their properties—specifically, the selling of marijuana. They further threatened to seize the properties if the dispensaries were not closed by Sept. 19.....

<http://www.newtimeslo.com/news/1119/no-more-medical-marijuana-on-the-central-coast/>

S.F. leads way on patient-friendly pot clubs

[C.W. Nevius, Chronicle Columnist](#) / Tuesday, October 14, 2008

(10-13) 19:34 PDT.....Quietly, with little fanfare, San Francisco is on the way to becoming a model for medical marijuana clubs done the right way. Exploitive, profit-hungry drug clubs are being forced out and community-based, patient-friendly ones are becoming the norm. Neighbors have shut down dispensaries in school zones, and patient services have been increased....."We went through 10 years of an unregulated cannabis environment," said Kevin Reed, president of Green Cross dispensary, which delivers medical marijuana to patients. "Now they are going to try something completely different, and to see it run correctly is a wonderful thing.".....When it became clear that some unscrupulous dealers were in to make a quick buck, legitimate pot club operators spoke up against them.....**Reed said that three to four years ago, the city had 42 clubs. Now it is down to 25**, and he thinks more will close soon, in part because of how hard it is to get a final operating permit. Dispensaries have until January to meet requirements to get a permit, which requires, among other things, that the clubs get separate approval from a number of city agencies and do background checks of employees.....God knows, the city has made plenty of mistakes along the way. At one point a pot club was housed in the ground floor of a Care Not Cash hotel that housed many recovering addicts. Those are the kind of missteps that had to be corrected. But Gochenaur thinks we're almost there. "We've come a long, huge way from 2005 when neighbors were lining the halls of City Hall to say they were concerned," she said. There are still some neighborhood complaints, but today local pot clubs are surprisingly dull and uncontroversial places. If you had predicted that three years ago, critics would have likely had just one question.

<http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2008/10/14/BAS313G9VL.DTL>

Garden Grove bans medical marijuana dispensaries

The Associated Press / 10/15/2008

GARDEN GROVE, Calif.—Medical marijuana dispensaries won't be allowed in the northern Orange County city of Garden Grove. The City Council voted 4-1 Tuesday night to ban the pot stores. The ordinance takes effect in 30 days. Councilman Mark Rosen cast the lone dissenting vote, saying the ban is "mired in mid-20th-century thinking." He noted the Unit-D dispensary, which has a conditional-use permit, has been operating for seven months without problems.....

http://www.mercurynews.com/breakingnews/ci_10725835

Gardena bans medical marijuana dispensaries

10/30/2008

The Gardena City Council this week established a ban on medical marijuana dispensaries, approved changes in rent mediation rules, and authorized an entertainment permit for a karaoke restaurant. The council voted 4-0 on Tuesday to prohibit medical marijuana dispensaries in the city. A 2006 moratorium on the businesses expires next month.....

http://www.dailybreeze.com/ci_10848755

Seal Beach bans the sale of medical marijuana

The Associated Press / 11/11/2008

SEAL BEACH, Calif.—Seal Beach has voted to ban medical marijuana stores, although state law permits the sale of pot to people with a doctor's prescription. The City Council passed the ban Monday night. Eight other cities in Orange County also have moratoriums or bans on pot stores. Another city, Laguna Woods, recently passed a law permitting the dispensaries.....

http://www.mercurynews.com/news/ci_10957643?nlick_check=1

Oakley bans medical marijuana sales

by Jonathan Lockett / EAST COUNTY TIMES / 12/10/2008

OAKLEY — There is officially no place in east Contra Costa County for medical marijuana to be sold legally. Tuesday night, Oakley joined Pittsburg, Antioch and Brentwood in permanently prohibiting medical marijuana dispensaries after more than a year long moratorium on the businesses. The city council voted unanimously without deliberation or opposition from the public. City attorney Alison Barratt-Green said banning the establishments would avoid negative impacts on the city such as an increase in crime, and use of marijuana by minors and those without medical need.....

http://www.mercurynews.com/breakingnews/ci_11184035?nlick_check=1

Medical marijuana dispensary appeals business license revocation

Written by Elizabeth Larson / Thursday, 11 December 2008

CLEARLAKE – The operator of a local medical marijuana dispensary plans to appeal the revocation of her business license to the Clearlake City Council at its Thursday night meeting.....Byrd said 35 percent of her clients are terminally ill cancer patients. But since she opened city officials have alleged that Byrd got her license surreptitiously, without listing on her business license application her intention to sell medical

marijuana.....The council decided that existing medical dispensaries – such as D&M Compassion Center – would be allowed to continue operating, but new dispensaries wouldn't be permitted.....Byrd opened the fourth week of October, and a few weeks later Dave Moses addressed the City Council during the public comment period of its Nov. 13 meeting. He accused the city of being unfair in not granting him a business license for a medical marijuana dispensary he wanted to open.....***Moses – whose brother Ken Estes had his Holistic Solutions dispensary raided in May by local and federal authorities.....***About the time Moses lodged his protest with the council, Vivrette had prepared a letter to Byrd about the city's plans to revoke her license to operate, McClain told Lake County News. McClain said his department verified that Byrd was selling medical marijuana and warned her about it. Byrd said McClain and a lieutenant came to visit her a few days before her opening. Byrd said she was completely upfront with city staff when she applied for her business license earlier this year. “The city knew exactly what my intentions were because I never lied to anybody.”.....Byrd said all the city would have had to do was say “no” and she wouldn't have moved forward with opening. “I've done nothing but be completely, utterly and brutally honest with everybody,” she said.....

<http://lakeconews.com/content/view/6604/764/>

Feds say S.F. has more pot clubs than Starbucks, but it might not add up

John Coté, Erin Allday, Wyatt Buchanan, Marisa Lagos / November 18, 2008

There are more medical marijuana dispensaries in San Francisco than Starbucks Coffee shops.....The feds contend there are 98 marijuana dispensaries in San Francisco, compared with 71 Starbucks. They even provide a Google map of the supposed locations of both. This allegedly official map has some pot clubs in highly unlikely places, like the top of Nob Hill. San Francisco's Department of Public Health, which issues permits for medical marijuana dispensaries, is befuddled by the federal data. "I don't know how they got that," Senior Health Inspector Larry Kessler said. The city agency lists 24 pot clubs in the city. But the feds aren't backing down.....Yet when asked for their pot club list, Lemaitre provided only 74 entries for marijuana dispensaries - not 98.....Not all of the 74 hold up, either.....Lemaitre said it's difficult to get precise data on "the illegal drug business." Bottom line: The feds' data listed fewer than 71 actual marijuana dispensaries in San Francisco, meaning, yes, there are more Starbucks.

<http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2008/11/18/BAM21469EK.DTL>

Medical pot collective moves into Sausalito - and county might see at least two more

[Richard Halstead](#) / 12/15/2008

Down an alley in the back of an aging commercial building on Gate 5 Road in Sausalito, members of the county's newest marijuana collective, Gate Five Caregivers, come to pick up their "medicine.".....The first thing visitors do when they enter Gate Five Caregivers is sign an agreement stating that a licensed California physician has found them qualified to use marijuana and that they agree to be part of the Gate Five collective. ***Then they're ushered into the back room where they select their "medicine" and make their "donations," which range from \$25 to \$50 for an eighth of an ounce of pot. "It's donations, and we refer to everything as medicine, not pot,"..... The range of choices would humble Baskin Robbins. There is Train Wreck Haze, Purple Afgo, Organic***

Granddaddy, Super Plat Kush, New York City Deisle, Chunky Monkey, Swazi, Romulan and Purple Dream, to name a few. The Gate Five collective occupies the same space where last December the Marin County Major Crimes Task Force and Sausalito police confiscated \$1 million worth of marijuana plants and processed pot. Four men, three of them Marin residents, were booked into Marin County Jail on suspicion of cultivation of marijuana and possession for sale. Scott called that a "coincidence." But Sausalito Councilman Mike Kelly said he doesn't buy that; he said the Gate Five collective is illegal because it violates a city ordinance prohibiting dispensaries passed by the council in 2007. Sausalito adopted its ban after a group calling itself Capitol Compassionate Care Co-op of Fort Bragg sought to open a medical marijuana cooperative there in 2005. "The question is, how do we enforce that ordinance....."

<http://www.sierrasun.com/article/20081230/NEWS/812309997/1066&ParentProfile=1051&title=Not%20all%20high%20on%20South%20Shore%20pot%20dispensary>

FAMILY NIXES MCKINLEYVILLE CANNABIS COLLECTIVE SITING

McKINLEYVILLE -- A county permit application for a medical marijuana collective in McKinleyville has generated immediate opposition and the most influential opponent is the owner of the property for which the growing facility is slated. Stephen Gasparas has submitted a permit application to the county for The Rose Center, a proposed medical marijuana collective at 1551 Nursery Way in McKinleyville. Allowed under Proposition 215, the state's medical marijuana law, a collective is a members-only group cultivation site for people with cannabis prescriptions. ***Gasparas' application states that his collective would not be open to the public and would not dispense marijuana. Gasparas is proposing to use a 5,475 square foot building for cultivation and he projects a \$200,000-per-month income stream.....***

<http://www.mapinc.org/drugnews/v08/n1140/a09.html?1184>

Weedmaps.com 424 Dispensaries listed

If you're a medical marijuana patient in CA, you'll for sure want to check out this great new resource: WeedMaps.com From the site: "WeedMaps.com is a place where medical marijuana patients can connect with other patients in their area, to freely discuss and review local cannabis co-operatives and dispensaries. Anyone can register and moderation is minimal! Cannabis dispensary owners can also list their services for free. Creating a new listing takes about three minutes!"

http://legalmarijuanadispenary.com/index.php?option=com_jreviews&Itemid=117&url=Los-Angeles-Dispensaries/California-Medical-Marijuana-Dispensary-Directory-s6_m117/page:2/limit:10/

Rather than grope another day for a passable excuse to visit Amsterdam, I took my lunch hour to interrogate one of the jailbaiters who holler at sandy locals and lumbering Midwestern tourists about the benefits of medical marijuana outside of Venice's beachfront Medical Kush Club. With prescribed pot quasi-legal in California for 12 years under Prop 215, I needed to know how close to the golden ring of a legal ganja prescription I could get. Ditching thoughts of \$50-\$80 dollar baggies of unmarked produce from the back of some bearded weirdo's van, I imagined delicately sniffing rows

of Banana Kush, AK-47, Bubblegum, Pineapple Express, Snow Cap, Cotton Candy, and Purple Voodoo in a Wonka-esque daydream of psychoactive flowers peeking from glass jars.....How does a person get verified?" I whispered above some rockhead's radio and the crash of a decent wave. "Just go upstairs and see the doctor," she chirped. Say what?! Could it be that simple? Though my dates will argue, I'm not technically sick. Could not having AIDS or cancer suddenly be a detriment to my quality of life? Encouraged by the baked betty, I squeezed up the stairs into the dingiest waiting room I've ever seen, my unlucky trips to Jamaican emergency rooms notwithstanding. Three couched stoners, younger and clearly higher than I, stared into space until beckoned by the good doc, a laid-back, bi-racial 30-something not hiding the Hawaiian shirt under his white coat. A cutie taking calls traded me a clipboard of forms and agreements in exchange for my driver's license, then took a snapshot of my mug. A lifetime of sleep deprivation made me feel honest enough while listing insomnia and depression as my dire conditions requiring massive bong loads. Prior to the doctor's compassionate face-to-face interview, I'd checked enough boxes on my papers that I never really had to mention my condition specifically to him, being painlessly guided towards the accord that weed is, indeed, the cure for what ails me. Placing a stethoscope to my back for a few lame wheezes, the rules were then dispensed: Don't sell, give, or share medicine; and be advised that police might trip over ounces and concentrates. Back at reception, I received a plastic card bearing a grainy image of what is most likely myself, plus a paper prescription for a \$140 fee, which seemed to make up for my deficit of prior medical records. My next stop was a mere five giddy paces away at a co-op sharing a wall with my new doctor's office. Sativa strains were listed for energy and depression, while Indicas were promoted for relaxation, pain, and passing out 15 minutes into The Daily Show. I drooled over \$25 grams of freshly picked batches of Jason King OG Kush and White Widow; pricier than street costs, a prevalent theme in LA's Westside co-ops. Sweet and sticky, with deep complex notes of fruit and pine, this was perfectly manicured, genetically superior herb in neat plastic prescription bottles. Offered a lounge to "medicate," I kicked back and watched the surf roll in, smiling through my stupor that, in roughly 20 minutes, I was legally buying and burning top-grade natural narcotics. Minutes later, Zelda's supply of mini-donuts was dust. Los Angeles' medical marijuana co-ops pepper its most famous boulevards, spanning from pristine alternative pharmacies to what could be mistaken for back-alley baby dumps. An informed staff at Hollywood's [Apothecary420](#) serves free drinks and food in a spotless atmosphere that rivals the town's best spas. I dallied over the Volcano in their vaporizer lounge before business partners hosted me for a trippy flick at Cinespace. Downtown's Grass Roots Exchange (213-622-0415) has weekly Monday Night Football parties, movie nights, an X-Box lounge, pool table, and smoke room. Various co-ops offer potential porn stars as budtendresses or are curated by Rastafarian ministers. At grimier spots, the owners look like they might rob you before the MS-13 lurking outside get the chance. Perhaps sweetest for newly inducted patients is the shops' competitive nature and the bounty of bighearted gifts that brings. Venice's [Farmacy](#) gives 25% off for registering, then there's \$35 1/8ths of newly harvested Garlic and Jr. Sour Diesel, with a cookie and free watermelon lollipop that had us buzzing harder than the martinis at [the Brig's](#) Wednesday-night Sapphic slam "Bubble Lounge." Downtown Discount Caregivers (213-925-8962), where I perused an aromatic ounce of Grape Ape for \$300 before

nodding my head off at [Echoplex](#), tossed me a giant brownie gratis to help with a smoke-free family Turkey Day, in addition to a blunt splitter, flavored cigars, and lighter. The gorgeous heina at Reseda's Happycation (818-757-3574), one of many vendors bumping her 1/8ths of Chocolate Thai (\$40) and Bubbleberry (\$50) up to four grams, also pointed us to Nippon Ramen for killer Japanese noodles after throwing us a free gram of El Nino with a wink. Discount coupons pop up frequently, and free chronic grams, glass pipes, and lighters are practically hurled at co-op virgins. Most co-ops carry over 30 strains of excellent cannabis and take the responsibility of providing low-cost quality medicine quite seriously. Strong OG Kush dominates the spotlight, with beloved Headbands, Purples, Diesels, Wrecks, and Skunks pouring from seemingly every strip mall. The San Fernando Valley is currently the reigning green-light district, with a variety of stores offering the finest obtainable herb capped at \$55 per 1/8th. I commonly leave these co-ops with fiery 1/8ths for \$40-\$50.....I chased a bowl of Kief with a bottle of Cannabis Cola, nailing me to the couch for hours. I gobbled weed-laced blueberry strudel, red velvet cupcakes, peanut butter cups, topical oils, cough drops, and pondered THC-laden throat sprays, breath strips, and pre-made Cannabutter for cooking. Premature plants and imported seeds offer a challenge for my crappy Encino apartment, and I'm honestly scared to try Earwax, a tiny pool of costly amber sap that a shady acquaintance compares to freebasing. Moon rocks and Romulan Cornflakes, on the other hand, merely look like crack. *In other words, just when you thought Southern Californians couldn't possibly get more stoned. The Prop 215 culture, comprised mostly of agreeable patients, doctors, and suppliers, treats medical marijuana reverently,.....*

<http://www.blackbookmag.com/article/going-legal-buying-prescription-smoke-in-la/5486>

During this quarter, several studies were posted which point to the negative medical and mental impacts of marijuana usage. Also include are posts from on-line chat rooms devoted to marijuana usage which give us a glimpse of the depth of issues related to marijuana usage. Despite the claims of marijuana proponents that marijuana is not addictive, there are centers dedicated to combating dependency issues amongst marijuana users which indicates marijuana is very much so addictive.

Smoking Pot Doubles Risk of Fatal Accident

Larger Doses Can Triple the Risk, Study Finds

By [Buddy T](#), About.com / December 5, 2005

Driving after smoking even a small amount of marijuana almost doubles the risk of a fatal highway accident, according to an extensive study of 10,748 drivers involved in fatal crashes between 2001 and 2003. A study by the French National Institute for Transport and Safety Research published in the British Medical Journal found that seven percent of drivers involved in a fatal highway crash used marijuana. The researchers estimated that at least 2.5 percent of the 10,748 fatal crashes studied were directly caused by the use of marijuana. The researchers concluded that the risk of being responsible for a fatal crash increased as the blood concentration of THC, the active ingredient in marijuana, increased. *Even small amounts of marijuana could double the chance of a driver suffering an accident, researchers said, and larger doses could more than triple*

the risk. The number of highway deaths contributed the smoking pot were significant, even though they were dwarfed by the number caused by drinking alcohol. Of the drivers involved in fatal accidents, 21.4 percent tested positive for alcohol consumption. Alcohol was estimated to be responsible for 28.6 percent of all fatal highway accidents. The French research found that 2.9 percent of drivers involved in fatal crashes tested positive for both marijuana and alcohol....."Research like this proves just how dangerous it is to take drugs, and then get behind the wheel of a car," Roger Vincent, of the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents, [told the BBC](#). "It is totally irresponsible, as taking drugs such as cannabis does affect your reactions."

http://alcoholism.about.com/od/pot/a/pot_driving.htm

Major Depressive Disorder, Suicidal Ideation, and Suicide Attempt in Twins Discordant for Cannabis Dependence and Early-Onset Cannabis Use

Background: Previous research has reported both a moderate degree of comorbidity between cannabis dependence and major depressive disorder (MDD) and that early-onset cannabis use is associated with increased risks for MDD. **Objective** To examine whether associations between both lifetime cannabis dependence and early cannabis use and measures of MDD, suicidal ideation, and suicide attempt persist after controlling for genetic and/or shared environmental influences.....

Participants: Two hundred seventy-seven same-sex twin pairs discordant for cannabis dependence and 311 pairs discordant for early-onset cannabis use (before age 17 years). **Main Outcome Measures** Self-report measures of DSM-IV–defined lifetime MDD, suicidal ideation, and suicide attempt.

Results: Individuals who were cannabis dependent had odds of suicidal ideation and suicide attempt that were 2.5 to 2.9 times higher than those of their non–cannabis-dependent co-twin. Additionally, cannabis dependence was associated with elevated risks of MDD in dizygotic but not in monozygotic twins. Those who initiated cannabis use before age 17 years had elevated rates of subsequent suicide attempt (odds ratio, 3.5 [95% confidence interval, 1.4-8.6]) but not of MDD or suicidal ideation. Early MDD and suicidal ideation were significantly associated with subsequent risks of cannabis dependence in discordant dizygotic pairs but not in discordant monozygotic pairs.

Conclusions: Comorbidity between cannabis dependence and MDD likely arises through shared genetic and environmental vulnerabilities predisposing to both outcomes. In contrast, associations between cannabis dependence and suicidal behaviors cannot be entirely explained by common predisposing genetic and/or shared environmental predispositions. Previously reported associations between early-onset cannabis use and subsequent MDD likely reflect shared genetic and environmental vulnerabilities, although it remains possible that early-onset cannabis use may predispose to suicide attempt.

Author Affiliations: Queensland Institute of Medical Research, Brisbane, Queensland, Australia (Drs Lynskey and Martin and Ms Statham); Missouri Alcoholism Research Center and Department of Psychiatry, Washington University School of Medicine, St Louis, Mo (Drs Lynskey, Glowinski, Todorov, Bucholz, Madden, Nelson, and Heath).

<http://archpsyc.ama-assn.org/cgi/content/abstract/61/10/1026>

Marijuana addiction treatment

Submitted by andybeak on Wed, 08/10/2008

.....There are many people who have developed marijuana addiction and yet remain firmly convinced of this dangerous drug's positive impact on their life. Marijuana is an addictive substance, despite what some people think. Marijuana addiction treatment is required to help people who have become addicted to this drug. They will not likely be able to stop smoking without the help of a professional marijuana addiction treatment program. Marijuana addiction treatment Most marijuana users start smoking when they are in their teens. ***Marijuana usage is particularly widespread amongst university students and high-schoolers. Research has shown that people who smoke marijuana are much more likely to also use other drugs and drink alcohol. In this sense marijuana is sometimes described as a "gateway" drug but we need to remember that even just by itself marijuana addiction is fatal, incurable, and progressive.*** We mustn't lose track of the fact that marijuana addiction is bad enough by itself. Marijuana abuse is dangerous because it can lead to developing marijuana addiction. Because marijuana addiction gets worse and worse if it is left untreated it is very important to avoid any delay in getting the victim into marijuana addiction treatment.....On the flip side of tolerance there is dependence. Because the body has adjusted itself to be able to cope with marijuana it also becomes dependent on marijuana. If you take the drug away the body will crave for it and feel very uncomfortable. Undergoing detox in a marijuana addiction treatment center under proper medical supervision will help you to manage these uncomfortable symptoms and be able to get free of the dependence you have developed on this drug. If you are suffering from marijuana addiction then you should not delay in seeking treatment. <http://drug-rehab.co.za/content/marijuana-addiction-treatment>

Education News: Marijuana Abuse and Marijuana Addiction - What Are The Facts?

Drug Rehab Warns of Marijuana Abuse / Atlanta, GA 10/13/2008 05:13 PM GMT (FINDITT)

.....Chronic use can be associated with chronic coughing, wheezing and acute chest illnesses. Scientists at the University of California and scientists in England at the University of Birmingham have discovered that marijuana can cause respiratory problems and even marked deterioration in lung function after a number of years of use. The study in Birmingham concludes that these findings “may have serious long-term implication for what is currently regarded as a relatively ‘harmless’ recreational habit.” [Marijuana users](#) are likely to be low academic performers. Marijuana can cause problems with concentration and thinking. One study found that college students who used marijuana regularly had impaired attention and memory skills 24 hours after using the drug. Their poor academic performance and later frequent absenteeism from work, puts users low on the list of those “most likely to succeed”.....Marijuana can cause increased anxiety, panic attacks, depression and even thoughts of suicide. ***Users have impairment in sensory and time perception and aren't safe drivers. 15 % of shock-trauma patients involved in car accidents had been smoking marijuana according to one report.*** Smoking marijuana may increase the likelihood of developing cancer of the head or neck. A study comparing 173 cancer patients and 176 healthy individuals. Workers who smoke marijuana are more likely than their coworkers to have problems on the job. Several studies associate

workers' marijuana smoking with increased absences, tardiness, accidents, workers' compensation claims, and job turnover. Four out of every ten persons, age 12 and older, have tried marijuana at least once in their lifetime and one of every ten reported using it within the last month (at the time of survey). Chances are, your child has tried it.....

<http://www.transworldnews.com/NewsStory.aspx?id=64519&cat=15>

Marijuana Withdrawal Symptoms - What Marijuana Detox is Like

November 2, 2008

Are you trying to quit and going through Marijuana withdrawal? You are not alone. Many heavy weed smokers go through some form of withdrawal when they haven't smoked recently. This page describes the physical and psychological symptoms of withdrawal from marijuana.....Most people who experience marijuana withdrawal symptoms get them between the second and tenth day of quitting weed. Symptoms can last for up to a month in some people. The most intense withdrawal period will be the first week to ten days after you quit smoking marijuana.....The most common symptom of withdrawal is a low grade anxiety. Although not severe, this feeling is not easily remedied by through distraction or just thinking happy thoughts. In my opinion, the anxiety felt when detoxing from weed is a combination of fear of being sober, and desire to return to a stoned state of mind. It's almost like your mind is saying "Things aren't normal, I don't like this new state". As you become accustomed to not smoking and the new state of mind, the anxiety will fade.....The best cure for Marijuana Withdrawal Symptoms is time and patience. Having a plan to get through the withdrawal and avoid relapse is also one the keys in learning [how to quit smoking marijuana](#). One thing that really helped me get through the withdrawal and cravings was the [Cannabis Coach Easy Quit Audio series](#) by Gary Evans. It guided me through first couple of weeks and gave me exercises to remove some of the stress from quitting.

<http://www.marijuana-addict.com/2008/11/quitting-marijuana/withdrawal/marijuana-withdrawal-symptoms/>

How to Overcome Marijuana Addiction

By eHow Health Editor

Over 15 percent of individuals who enter drug rehabilitation programs report addiction to marijuana. Marijuana addicts often withdraw from social groups, neglect work and family responsibilities, become depressed and center their lives around getting and using the drug. If marijuana use is destroying your mental and physical [health](#), it's time to get help.....

http://www.ehow.com/how_2083594_overcome-marijuana-addiction.html

Four San Jose students taken to hospital after eating marijuana-laced brownies

[By Sandra Gonzales / Mercury News / 12/05/2008](#)

Four Oak Grove High School students were taken to the hospital on Friday after eating marijuana-laced brownies, San Jose police said. A 15-year-old boy brought the brownies to school and gave them to the students, who subsequently became sick.....Nunez said the boy was arrested and taken to Santa Clara County Juvenile Hall. The incident occurred about noon. Although the students were taken to hospitals, their condition was

not considered serious, Nunez said. Nunez said he is concerned about this situation and that this was the first such incident he had heard of reported at the school.....

http://www.mercurynews.com/ci_11151565?source=most_email

German Study: Marijuana Users at Risk for Personality Disorders

Marijuana smokers tend to be more at risk for psychological problems

German researchers are warning that using marijuana can have serious psychological side effects. Men who use cannabis risk becoming antisocial while women often become depressed and insecure. Cannabis users between 17 and 30 years are at greater risk of developing multiple types of personality disorders than non-smokers in the same age group, a German study found. Cannabis also affects women differently than men, the study published in the German psychiatric journal *Fortschritte der Neurologie Psychiatrie* found. Researchers at the Protestant Bethanien Clinic in Greifswald discovered that young men tended to become anti-social or develop borderline personality disorders while women who smoked cannabis often become depressed and insecure. Of the 99 cannabis users examined, 90 percent later developed an antisocial personality disorder. Symptoms included disregard for social norms, reduced or non-existent empathy for other people and an inability to change behavior despite negative experiences. One third of the participants in the study had three or more personality disorders. However, the study could not determine whether using cannabis was responsible for any initial change in their personalities.

<http://www.dw-world.de/dw/article/0,,3894768,00.html>

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<http://iecannabisconsultants.com/>

URL: <http://www.mapinc.org/drugnews/v08/n1113/a06.html>

Is it safe to smoke marijuana while pregnant?

December 26, 2008

My friend is 5 months pregnant, a month behind me, and she smokes marijuana daily. She does not even look pregnant cuz she is so skinny. i, however, look ready to pop. she says she can't stop smoking pot cuz it's the only thing that brings her relief from the pregnancy probs..insomnia, irritability, nausea, and stuff. Is this going to hurt her baby? I have smoked only a few times myself but stopped, because i felt guilty. I did not want to continue taking the chance of hurting my baby. Thank you for your help everyone! I will tell my friend immediately to check out your answers. Maybe it will give her a reality check. They already confirmed my fears, but luckily I only used it 3 times before I knew I was pregnant, unlike her million. Plus she also smokes ciggarettes so I'm worried for her baby. Yes. If she is actually smoking it on a daily basis like you say, the baby will almost surely be born with some sort of affects. Low birth rate and brain damage are quite

common in cases like this; but, so are learning disabilities, asthma, degenerative disease and mental retardation, among others. How sad it is that she had to be so selfish!

<http://www.insomniareliefine.com/is-it-safe-to-smoke-marijuana-whle-pregnant/>

Resolved Question: Would my symptoms justify a medical marijuana recommendation?

Posted on November 23rd, 2008

I have mild to moderate insomnia, occasional anxiety attacks under stress, and mild ADD, as observed by a school-hired therapist (high school), but I am currently only 17 years of age. My mother is considering helping me obtain a medical marijuana license, but I was just wondering if given my symptoms and age, and my legal guardian's approval, if I can get a recommendation from a physician specializing in medical marijuana prescription.

<http://www.naturalsolutionsblog.com/resolved-question-would-my-symptoms-justify-a-medical-marijuana-recommendation/>

Welcome to WeedTRACKER.com!

Welcome to WeedTRACKER! The largest Medical Marijuana website online. We have everything the Medical Marijuana patient needs to be more educated about whats available at the California Co-Ops. We have the largest patient medicine reviews site with over 1000 products reviewed from over 350 Co-Ops from Los Angeles to Arcata. WeedTRACKER.com is not a public website. Membership at WeedTRACKER is only available to qualified individuals. Some parts of the site are available for public read-only use, but the majority of the site is membership only. Individuals who wish to join WeedTRACKER.com must be legal Medical Marijuana Patients as defined by their states guidelines, you must be 18 years of age or older at the time of registration, and must you agree to the terms and conditions of WeedTRACKER.com membership (you will be asked to formally agree to these rules when you create your account).

Examination of events outside California, indicate that we are not alone in battling these problems caused by marijuana growing operations, sales and usage. These articles also indicate that marijuana grown in California, often under the guise of medical purpose, finds it way across the United States.

Medicinal marijuana crimes on the rise

Sheriff tests law on keeping site locations confidential

By Stover E. Harger Iii

.....Another recent OMMP related area crime involved a group of masked suspects, two of whom were carrying guns, who burst into the home, demanding money and marijuana. The occupants of the house were then assaulted by the assailants. Thompson said in most cases the home invasions or robberies at OMMP grower homes were committed by acquaintances and many of the properties were themselves operating outside the growing guidelines of the act. Specific statistics on OMMP related crimes are not available, Thompson said. However, a map (viewable at www.co.washington.or.us/sheriff/media/photos/medmj5.jpg) posted on the sheriff's office web site shows the general locations of 26 homes in Washington County where OMMP patients, caregivers or growers where

drug arrests or warrants were made in the last year. The map refers to two sites in the rural Gaston area and three sites outside of Banks. The highest concentration of sites is in Aloha, an unincorporated urbanized area between Hillsboro and Beaverton. As of July Oregon has 19,646 medical marijuana patients..... http://www.forestgrovenewstimes.com/news/story.php?story_id=122464754791775600

Six teens charged in robberies

One man died in crimes prosecutors say were related to marijuana
ADAM LYNN; / October 18th, 2008

Pierce County prosecutors charged six teenagers Friday in a pair of marijuana-related robberies that left one man dead and two others wounded.....Prosecutors contend in charging documents that members of the group decided on two separate occasions to rob people they knew to peddle marijuana. They also contend Otto opened fire in each case without provocation. Joshua Thomas Gatbunton, 20, died in one of the robberies Sept. 3 after being shot when he answered the door to his apartment in Tacoma's South End, the documents state. His roommate also was shot and survived. A third man suffered gunshot wounds when some of the teens robbed him Aug. 26 near Larchmont Elementary School, the charging documents state.....

<http://www.thenewstribune.com/news/local/story/511856.html>

Car of interest sought; officers warned to 'use extreme caution'

From KTVZ.COM news sources / Oct 5, 2008

Police were on the lookout Monday for a 20-year-old Bend man accused of pulling a gun and robbing a northeast Bend residence of medical marijuana.....Bend police Lt. Bend Gregory said Monday that Cheak knew the victims, a 23-year-old man and 21-year-old woman, and arrived at the location with four other males, then took an undisclosed amount of medical marijuana being legally grown at the residence.....

<http://www.ktvz.com/Global/story.asp?S=9127883>

Firefighters find dead man, marijuana in Yelm-area home

THE OLYMPIAN | • Published October 13, 2008

The Thurston County Sheriff's Office found 21 marijuana plants growing inside a home on Lawrence Lake Road in Yelm Saturday, after a man there reported that his friend had a medical emergency. The reporting party, Craig Marx, 39, is a registered Level 3 sex offender. Marx fled after firefighters arrived around 2 p.m. and found evidence of the marijuana grow.....The sheriff's office is trying to locate Marx to find out what he knew about the marijuana and to determine whether he is correctly registered as a sex offender at a valid Washington address, Chamberlain said. Investigators are concerned that Marx gave emergency medical personnel a Yakima address, but he is a registered sex offender out of Klickitat County, Chamberlain said.

<http://www.theolympian.com/377/story/618809.html>

Biologists who find pot garden held at gunpoint

By LAWRENCE MOWER / REVIEW-JOURNAL Oct. 10, 2008

Three Bureau of Land Management biologists were held at gunpoint by members of a Mexican drug cartel after stumbling upon a marijuana garden in a remote area of

Northern Nevada on Tuesday.....The next morning, law enforcement from the Humboldt County Sheriff's Office, the Nevada Department of Public Safety, the BLM and the Winnemucca Police Department returned to the area, but it had been abandoned. Officials believe five or six people from a Mexican drug cartel had been harvesting the site. None have been arrested, Worley said. Nearly 800 marijuana plants and 150 pounds of processed buds were found and will be destroyed. The operation was far smaller than two other sites found in Esmeralda County this year.....Marijuana discoveries have been on the rise in the Sierra Nevada, officials believe. "It's something that's going on everywhere," Worley said.

http://www.lvrj.com/news/breaking_news/30813804.html

10 suspected gang members arrested

[By Kirk Mitchell / The Denver Post / 10/21/2008](#)

Federal and state agents Tuesday arrested 10 of 11 suspected Colorado members of the Mongols motorcycle gang whom they sought as part of a six-state dragnet in which members were indicted for racketeering. Arrest warrants were issued for 110 gang members nationwide on murder, assault, gun and drug charges.In other indictments, authorities charged three more gang members who live in Colorado: Thomas Hernandez, felon in possession; Steven Gonzales, possession of more than 100 marijuana plants; and Victor Muniz, possession of methamphetamine with intent to distribute.....

http://www.denverpost.com/news/ci_10779326

Legal marijuana grow op target of home invasion

[By JOE MATYAS / Tue, October 21, 2008](#)

Firearms and a legal marijuana grow operation were the likely targets in a home invasion robbery in an upscale river valley neighbourhood in northeast London, neighbours say. Police released few details about the robbery in which six men burst into a home on Cobblestone Road near Highbury Avenue and Kilally Road just before midnight Sunday. The people inside the home were tied up, police said. They were able to free themselves and call police after the intruders left. "It wasn't a random event," London police Const. Amy Phillipso said yesterday. A neighbour said the home is believed to be the site of a legal marijuana grow operation.....About a dozen rifles were removed," a neighbour said. The man openly smokes the plant in his backyard and grows marijuana in his basement, a neighbour said. "You can see bright lights shining out of the basement at night." The residence also has two security cameras, he said. Neighbours have seen "30 plants, some as high as 10 feet, on the deck of the house and a dozen guys smoking on the deck," said a Cobblestone resident. "There always seem to be a lot of cars at the house....."

<http://lfpres.ca/newsstand/News/Local/2008/10/21/7150336-sun.html>

Cash, Pot Seized In Home Invasion Arrest

[November 21, 2008](#)

BEAVERTON, Ore. -- A search warrant served at a Washington County home Wednesday resulted in an arrest for a man's role in a violent robbery, sheriff's deputies said. Detectives said they searched the Farmington Road home in connection with a robbery that occurred at a different home in Banks on Aug. 13. In that robbery, four people were

tied up and attacked, according to the sheriff's office. Deputies said the robbery victims were targeted for drugs and money and that the house was a licensed Oregon Medical Marijuana Program growing site.....While he's a medical marijuana card holder, deputies said, he was found to have 37 more plants and four more pounds of marijuana than what he was authorized. In addition to marijuana, detectives seized two guns, a stolen motorcycle and more than \$5,000 in cash.....

<http://www.kptv.com/news/18032830/detail.html>

Man injured during home invasion robbery

Friday, October 10, 2008 / The Hillsboro Argus

A man received minor injuries after struggling with two men who broke into his Rock Creek apartment Tuesday. According to Washington County Sheriff's Office reports, two black males covering their faces with red bandanas robbed the man at gunpoint after breaking into his apartment, 18860 Rock Creek Circle. The victim told deputies he heard a knock on his door and looked through the peephole. He did not see anyone, so he thought kids were playing a prank. He opened the door in hopes of catching the kids, and was immediately met by a man pointing a rifle and demanding marijuana. A struggle over the gun ensued, but another suspect came from behind the victim and subdued him. The suspects ransacked the apartment looking for marijuana, and eventually left with some other items. The victim told the suspects he did not have any marijuana, and did not know why they thought he would.....

<http://www.oregonlive.com/news/argus/index.ssf?/base/news/122366462883640.xml&coll=6>

Medical marijuana gardens worry Clackamas County

Monday, October 20, 2008

PORTLAND (AP) — An increase in medical marijuana gardens in Clackamas County is being welcomed by patients and advocates, while neighbors are alarmed and police are confused about how to handle it. From January through July, the number of medical marijuana cardholders in the suburban Portland county jumped 23 percent, from 1,207 to 1,481, according to the Department of Human Services Oregon Medical Marijuana Program. Statewide, officials have seen a similar 23 percent increase, from 15,927 to 19,646. Even though the figures suggest more people getting the help they need, they raise concerns about more people abusing legal loopholes, more criminals preying on legal growers, and more problems for police officers and courts.....From 2006 to 2007, the number of plants police seized jumped from 77 to 1,013 plants growing indoors, according to program figures. During that same period, the number of outdoor plants seized jumped from 178 to 494, according to Chris Gibson, director of Oregon's High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area program.....

<http://www.theworldlink.com/articles/2008/10/20/news/doc48fcb8bb5d1ce817663765.txt>

Boy, 13, takes medical marijuana to school

Associated Press - October 26, 2008

ASHLAND, Ore. (AP) - A 13-year-old Ashland boy has been cited and suspended after he took some of his father's medical marijuana to his middle school. Police said the boy apparently took the drug from his father's bedroom and stashed it in a friend's locker at

school overnight, when a janitor recognized the odor coming from the locker.....Walsh said parents with medical marijuana should lock it up around the house.

<http://www.ktvz.com/Global/story.asp?S=9240002>

Washington-based group supplies most of money for pro-medical marijuana campaign

By [Amy Lane](#)

The ballot campaign to allow physician-approved use of marijuana for medical reasons has received more than \$1.76 million in contributions, while opponents have raised \$125,500, according state campaign finance reports. As Crain's Detroit Business has reported, the majority of the financial backing for the Michigan Coalition for Compassionate Care, which seeks passage of Proposal 1, comes from the Washington, D.C.-based Marijuana Policy Project, a national marijuana policy reform organization. The Policy Project gave more than \$1.74 million in direct and in-kind contributions to the campaign. The coalition also has received scores of small contributions from individuals. The largest contributor to Citizens Protecting Michigan's Kids, the group opposing Proposal 1, is the Michigan Health & Hospital Association. The association gave \$100,000 in early October, shortly after the opposition group announced its formation. Save Our Society From Drugs, a St. Petersburg, Fla.-based organization that opposes medical marijuana legalization efforts, contributed \$15,000. Another large contribution, \$10,000, came from west Michigan businessman Dick DeVos, president of the Windquest Group Inc. and former Republican gubernatorial candidate.....

<http://www.craigslist.com/article/20081027/FREE/810270283/-1>

Teen faces adult trial in medical marijuana theft

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS / October 30, 2008

MEDFORD, Ore. -- A Central Point teenager faces trial as an adult on robbery and burglary charges after medical marijuana was taken from a woman at knifepoint. Ethan Taylor Sartin was charged with breaking through a sliding-glass door early Sunday and entering a residence in Medford, where a 54-year-old woman was threatened with a knife and robbed of an ounce or two of medical marijuana.....The Jackson County district attorney's office said the crime was serious enough to ask that Sartin be tried as an adult.

http://seattlepi.nwsourc.com/local/385660_teenpot31.html

DEA task force breaks up two pot-growing operations

By [PAUL SHUKOVSKY](#) / P-I REPORTER / Wednesday, October 15, 2008

A DEA task force brought members of an extended family before a federal magistrate Tuesday to face charges of growing thousands of marijuana plants inside houses in Kent, Federal Way, Seattle and Des Moines.....The task force raided 11 locations Sept. 10 and seized more than 5,000 pot plants, more than \$70,000 in cash and two guns, said Brown. A fully automatic AK-47 assault rifle was found at a house at 29914 26th Ave. S., which is close to an elementary school. Seventeen members of the Duong family were initially arrested.....A federal grand jury indicted nine family members on a single count of conspiracy to manufacture marijuana. It carries a mandatory minimum sentence of 10 years imprisonment and up to life in a federal prison, as well as a \$4 million fine.....Seven people have been named in a complaint on charges including conspiracy to

manufacture and distribute marijuana.....Both prosecutors cited the large, organized nature of the marijuana growing operations and the presence of firearms as reasons for the cases being taken to federal court. Asked about the increasing prevalence of marijuana growing operations in Western Washington, Swaminathan said: "The border is tighter now post- 9/11. It's harder to get things in. It's easier to grow here than to take the risk and bring it across (the border)....."

http://seattlepi.nwsourc.com/local/383279_marijuana15.html

Medical Marijuana: Montana Supreme Court Okays Use By Probationers, Parolees

The Montana Supreme Court ruled Wednesday that courts there cannot order medical marijuana patients to refrain from using their medicine as a condition of probation or parole. The ruling came in the case of [State v. Nelson](#), in which Timothy Nelson was convicted of growing marijuana and as a condition of his probation, was barred from using medical marijuana. Nelson was not certified under Montana's medical marijuana law when arrested, but obtained that certification before sentencing.....Justice Patricia Cotter wrote in the majority opinion. The court also found that "when a qualifying patient uses medical marijuana in accordance with the (Medical Marijuana Act), he is receiving lawful medical treatment. In this context, medical marijuana is most properly viewed as a prescription drug." The court also rejected the state's argument that limiting probationers to prescribed medications was appropriate. "The District Court ignored the clear intent of the voters of Montana, that a qualifying patient with a valid registry identification card be lawfully entitled to grow and consume marijuana in legal amounts,"

<http://stopthedrugwar.org/chronicle/558/>

[montana medical marijuana supreme court parolee probationer](#)

More Than 1,300 Marijuana Plants Seized From Home

Marijuana Growing Operation Busted In Larimer County / October 31, 2008

LARIMER COUNTY, Colo. -- More arrests are expected after a Larimer County man is arrested in connection with a large marijuana-growing operation. Investigators with the Larimer County Sheriff's Office and the Drug Enforcement Administration arrested Eloy Ignacio Garrido on Wednesday. *Agents seized 1,307 marijuana plants and 47 pounds of marijuana with a street value estimate of \$1.15 million. Investigators believe a large portion of the marijuana was being sent to California.* Garrido was booked on three counts of marijuana offense, a class four felony, and one count of special offender, a class two felony.

<http://www.thedenverchannel.com/news/17861418/detail.html>

CRIME: Oregon police seek suspect in attack on medical marijuana provider

By Paula Horton, Herald staff writer / Bobby Lee Ruston

PENDLETON Oregon law enforcement officers are searching for a Pendleton man wanted in connection with an attempted burglary and reported assault of a medical marijuana provider.....Ruston and Sanchez are suspected of going to the Long Creek residence of David Verstoppen, 53, a medical marijuana provider, to steal marijuana Friday night. Verstoppen saw the two masked men and initially thought they were pulling a Halloween prank, until one suspect displayed a gun and said he was willing to

use it, police said. A shot was fired from the gun during a scuffle, OSP said. No one was hurt. Verstoppen was then reportedly hit by the second suspect before they ran off.....

<http://www.tri-cityherald.com/945/story/370311.html>

Medical Marijuana's Link to Crime

11/10/2008 – Bend / by Matt McDonald

Medical marijuana, it's been legal in Oregon since voters approved it ten years ago this month. But it's been surrounded by controversy and in central Oregon, it's often been surrounded by crime. "What we typically see is that someone will break-in, an associate, and take the medical marijuana based on the resale value on the street and the availability to sell that immediately and make a profit," said Detective Sergeant Mike Espinoza with the Deschutes County Sheriff's Office....."What we also see is that some of the people that are now growing marijuana are also arming themselves for their own protection," said Espinoza. Detective Sergeant Mike Espinoza warns the escalation could lead to more violent crimes. But there's another criminal side to the medical marijuana story, what happens when someone who legally grows the drug decides to sell it or share it with a friend. Lieutenant John Gautney leads the Central Oregon Drug Enforcement Team. "If you have a card and you take the marijuana and you go out and sell it, it's the same as not having the card then its looked at as delivery of, unlawful delivery of marijuana," said Gautney. Joshua Zukoski a twenty six year old Bend man appeared in court Monday afternoon, facing charges after allegedly selling his medical marijuana in burns for \$280 an ounce. *It's a frustrating position for law enforcement, especially when the only oversight for cardholders, a once a year renewal application.*

<http://kohd.com/news/local/62439>

Oregon medical marijuana growers face threat of violent armed robbery.

BY [JAMES PITKIN](#) | November 12th, 2008

.....Ten years after Oregon voters legalized medical weed, the state's growing number of legal growers have now become targets for violent crime. With pot selling for about \$4,000 a pound on the black market, cops and pot advocates say growers are increasingly victimized by armed thugs looking to steal their crops. At least 25 growers around the state have been victims of violent heists in the past five years, says *Paul Stanford, head of THC Foundation, a chain of nonprofit medical marijuana clinics*. They include big-city growers, suburbanites and rural residents like Verstoppen. Stanford's own garden in outer East Portland has twice been hit by burglars who absconded with plants in the night. Now he pays \$400 a week for guards. Washington County has seen two violent attacks on rural marijuana grows in the past 13 months. Most recently, three men and a woman were watching movies at a home in Banks on Aug. 13 when five to seven masked invaders burst in, two of them with guns. They tied up the victims, demanded money and marijuana being grown legally for patients, and brutally beat the three men when they didn't receive all they believed was in the house. They got away with an undisclosed amount of cash and freshly harvested marijuana, and have not been caught.

<http://wweek.com/editorial/3453/11822/>

Man Indicted For Running 3-State Pot Ring

November 16, 2008

OAKLAND COUNTY, Mich. -- A 31-year-old man was indicted on charges of conspiracy to deliver marijuana after police said he hired local residents to drive moving trucks full of pot around the country. *Police said Martin Marasevic paid young suburbanites \$30,000 a month to drive large trucks to California and Arizona to pick up large quantities of marijuana.* Marasevic would buy truckloads, sometimes \$100,000 worth of pot, in California and Arizona and transport it back to Michigan to sell -- making over \$80,000 in profit, said police.....

<http://www.clickondetroit.com/news/17982708/detail.html>

Pot growers hid behind medical law, police say.

By [Gary Kubota](#) / Nov 15, 2008

WAILUKU » *Maui County police said seven Maui residents arrested this week were part of a marijuana drug-trafficking ring that used Hawaii's medical marijuana laws as a front for their operation.* But the alleged leader of the ring said he is innocent and that the arrests were in retaliation for him filing a lawsuit against Maui Police Chief Tom Phillips and his department on Oct. 31, asking for the return of seized marijuana and money. "I poked a shark in the eye," said Brian Murphy, director of the Paia-based Patients Without Time. In announcing the arrests this week, police said law enforcement officers seized 335 marijuana plants along with 2,300 grams of processed marijuana, 4,830 grams of unprocessed marijuana, 32 grams of hashish, 100 marijuana-laced candies, a vehicle, \$14,085 in cash and drug paraphernalia associated with marijuana growing and distribution. Murphy said the marijuana and money were seized by police last December and January. He said the money had been collected from more than 300 qualified members to be used to purchase medical marijuana and that the marijuana seized was intended for them. "We don't make a profit from the pot," he said. Murphy said he complained to police about a robbery of his home last November that left him pistol-whipped and requiring medical treatment. But instead of investigating and finding the robbers, police investigated him, he said.....Police have alleged that Murphy's group abused the medical marijuana laws to make a profit and helped people to get high.....

http://www.starbulletin.com/news/20081115_pot_growers_hid_behind_medical_law_police_say.html?page=2&c=y

Hawaii medical pot users up 87 percent

But, despite protections under state law, access to drug remains an issue

By [Christie Wilson](#) / Advertiser Maui Bureau / Monday, November 24, 2008

The number of medical marijuana patients in Hawai'i has grown 87 percent in the past two years, with the biggest gains on Maui and the Big Island. According to the state Department of Public Safety, 4,200 patients were registered state-wide as of June 30, with 444 more signing up since then. One reason for the increase is that more doctors have been certifying patients for the program, according to Keith Kamita, head of the department's Narcotics Enforcement Division. Still, a relatively few physicians account for most of the state's medical marijuana patients, he said. One Big Island doctor, for example, accounts for about half of the total certified patients statewide. "The ones that utilize the program, they have a lot of patients ... this is their primary means of making money," he said. "Most are general practitioners. (Oncologists and other specialists) don't utilize the program because there are better drugs available and marijuana has other

problems." In fiscal year 2008, patients statewide visited 85 on-island physicians to obtain a qualifying diagnosis for medical marijuana use, compared with 62 physicians in fiscal 2006, according to DPS.....

State Rep. Joe Bertram III, D-11th (Makena, Wailea, Kihei), calls the medical marijuana law "a cruel joke" because it legalizes medical use of marijuana but fails to provide patients safe, easy access to it. Bertram has held a medical marijuana permit since 2005.However, Kamita favors tinkering with the criteria for "debilitating" medical conditions, which he said are "a little too loose," particularly when it comes to cases of severe pain and similar conditions that are difficult to support with medical evidence. *He noted that "severe pain" is cited as the debilitating condition for two-thirds of registered medical marijuana patients. As of last month, only 50 were using marijuana for cancer, 64 for HIV/AIDS, and 12 for wasting syndrome, he said. ".....*

<http://www.honoluluadvertiser.com/article/20081124/NEWS01/811240355/1001/LOCALNEWSFRONT>

The Barrio Azteca Trial and the Prison Gang-Cartel Interface

November 22nd, 2008 By: Michael van der Galien / This is a guest post by Fred Burton and Ben West.

.....Mexico's cartels are in the business of selling drugs like marijuana, cocaine and heroin in the United States. Large amounts of narcotics flow north while large amounts of cash and weapons flow south. Managing these transactions requires that the cartels have a physical presence in the United States, something a cartel alliance with a U.S. gang can provide. Of course, BA is not the only prison gang operating in the United States with ties to Mexico. Prison gangs can also be called street gangs — they recruit both in prisons and on the street. Within the United States, there are at least nine well-established prison gangs with connections to Mexican drug cartels; Hermanos de Pistoleros Latinos, the Mexican Mafia and the Texas Syndicate are just a few such groups. Prison gangs like BA are very territorial and usually cover only a specific region, so one Mexican cartel might work with three to four prison or street gangs in the United States. Like BA, most of the U.S. gangs allied with Mexican cartels largely are composed of Mexican immigrants or Mexican-Americans. Nevertheless, white supremacist groups, mixed-race motorcycle gangs and African-American street gangs also have formed extensive alliances with Mexican cartels. Certainly, not all U.S. gangs the Mexican cartels have allied with are the same. But examining how BA operates offers insights into how other gangs — like the Latin Kings, the Texas Syndicate, the Sureños, outlaw motorcycle gangs, and [transnational street gangs like MS-13](#) — operate in alliance with the cartels.....Prison gangs are endemic to prison systems, where safety for inmates comes in numbers.

.....Ultimately, just because BA or any other street gang working with Mexican cartels is weakened does not mean that the need to enforce cartel rules and supply chains disappears. This could put Mexican drug-trafficking organizations on a collision course with U.S. law enforcement if they feel they must step in themselves to take up the slack. As their enforcers stateside face more legal pressure, the cartels' response therefore bears watching.

<http://www.poligazette.com/2008/11/22/the-barrio-azteca-trial-and-the-prison-gang-cartel-interface/>

ARKANSAS — A Little Rock man has been sentenced to prison for fatally shooting a stylist who was taking too long to braid his hair. Thirty-year-old Kerry Rendall Wilson was sentenced Friday to 24 years for second-degree murder. He will be eligible for parole in six years. *Wilson's lawyer, Bill James, says his client was high on marijuana dipped in formaldehyde when 39-year-old Henrietta Jones was killed* in November 2007.

James says one of the woman's sons killed her.

<http://www.star-telegram.com/238/story/1054397.html>

House of Lords endorses tougher pot penalties

By RAPHAEL G. SATTER

LONDON (AP) — The House of Lords on Tuesday backed a plan to toughen Britain's penalties for possessing marijuana, as a group of senior scientists warned that such a move would confuse people about the dangers of more potent drugs.....The change would reverse the relaxation of British cannabis laws in 2004 and ignore the recommendations of the government's drug advisory council.....The Home Office has said it wants to send a message to marijuana users that possessing the drug is a serious crime. It said the evidence about the risks of marijuana use was more uncertain now than it had been in the past.

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5jwu2GSJcfYekmc0ys9vVP6PNPbUgD94M9DV80>

Two on trial for killing man over marijuana

Nov 27, 2008 02:11 PM / Bob Mitchell / Staff Reporter

A social gathering where friends watched a Toronto Raptors game and made Jamaican meat patties turned deadly when a Mississauga man was shot to death in a drug rip-off, jurors heard today.....Slate told jurors that they will hear evidence from numerous people in the small one-bedroom apartment how they feared for their lives after two men, arriving to purchase two pounds of marijuana, suddenly pointed firearms at them in the frantic and frenzied moments before Johnson was shot near the closet at the apartment's entrance.....

<http://www.thestar.com/GTA/Crime/article/544715>

Boston Police Bust Alleged Drug Ring

JESSICA VAN SACK and JESSICA FARGEN / Courtesy of [The Boston Herald](#) / December 11, 2008

.....a California couple was busted by federal drug agents Monday after a truckload of pot worth between \$2 million and \$6 million was allegedly delivered to them at a Milford hotel as part of a cross-country drug deal. Authorities say that Antonio and Sandra Medina, 33, who appeared in U.S. District Court in Boston yesterday, planned to distribute the marijuana, but the scheme was thwarted with a traffic stop in Ohio. The couple is in federal custody pending a probable cause detention hearing.

[http://www.officer.com/web/online/Top-News-Stories/Boston-Police-Bust-Alleged-Drug-Ring/1\\$44550](http://www.officer.com/web/online/Top-News-Stories/Boston-Police-Bust-Alleged-Drug-Ring/1$44550)

US OR: Pot Growers Lure Home Invaders

Pubdate: Fri, 21 Dec 2007

POT GROWERS LURE HOME INVADERS

Medical Marijuana Sites, Especially, Become Targets For Gunmen Seeking Cash

One October evening, just five months after buying a \$400,000 home on a sleepy block in one of the better neighborhoods in Portland, a couple had some visitors. Two men, one brandishing a gun, forced their way in the front door, used duct tape to tie up the couple and a friend. One of the men claimed he was looking for the dealer who hooked his sister on drugs. *Eventually, the men left the house, in the 4600 block of Southeast Madison Street, when the residents convinced them they had the wrong address. On Dec. 5, their horrifying ordeal was demystified when Portland police officers searched the next-door neighbor's house, finding a sophisticated grow operation and 352 marijuana plants.* A medical-marijuana cardholder, Timothy Surprenant, 35, was arrested, cited and released a few hours later -- having told them that the grow was for "personal use." Police, however, suspect Surprenant's crop and cash were the real targets of the home invasion. *Although exact figures are impossible to come by, police say the number of home invasions reported in Portland are on the rise, and are increasingly related to marijuana -- especially medical marijuana.....*In Portland, a couple of home invasions are reported each month, and "more often than not" a medical marijuana cardholder is involved, Sgt. Dave Hendrie says.....In Clackamas County on Oct. 4, two members of a group of would-be home invaders were shot by marijuana growers.....In August, police pulled over three men in a car in Southwest Portland who were believed to be casing a house. The men admitted that they were headed out to a marijuana grow; they carried a real-looking BB pistol and gloves. "Where there's a lot of dope, there's a lot of cash," said one of them, 27-year-old Nathan Baxter, according to a police report. He added that the group felt the robbery could score 18 to 20 pounds of marijuana, each one worth \$2,200.....

<http://www.mapinc.org/drugnews/v07/n1482/a07.html?204>

Man shot after armed robbery at hotel

By Ashley Tusan Joyner - ajoyner@macon.com

A man was shot following an armed robbery Thursday at the Travelodge Hotel, 5000 Harrison Road, according to a news release from the Bibb County Sheriff's Office. A 36-year-old man was in a rear stairwell about 5 p.m. when a gunman approached him and demanded his duffle bag, according to the release. A fight over the bag ensued, and the gunman shot the man in the right arm, authorities said. *The attacker made off with the man's bag, which contained clothing, a watch, a passport, cash and his California driver's license, according to the release.....*Evidence recovered at the scene and statements from witnesses suggested drug activity might have been a factor in the robbery, according to authorities. Marijuana and other drug paraphernalia were recovered at the scene, according to the release.....

<http://www.macon.com/198/story/562753.html>

California Man Faces Federal Drug Charges

Authorities Say They Seized Plane, Drugs On Saturday / October 23, 2008

MADISON, Wis. -- A California man was indicted Thursday on federal charges of possession of 50 kilograms of marijuana. Federal investigators said Trevor Ryan, of

Ukiah, Calif., was flying to Madison in a plane with marijuana on board. Authorities said Ryan was arrested Saturday in Mineral Point. If convicted, Ryan could face up to 20 years in prison.

<http://www.channel3000.com/news/17791728/detail.html>

Oregon man given 5 years for marijuana cartel role

The Associated Press / 12/9/2008

BEND, Ore. (AP) A Bend man has been sentenced to five years in federal prison for his role in a \$20 million multistate marijuana ring. Harold Carl Ballenger was also ordered to forfeit \$1 million in proceeds from the drug sales. The 58-year-old Ballenger pleaded guilty last year to transporting pot, up to 200 pounds at a time, from Bend to drug dealers through Idaho into Ohio. Federal prosecutors say a group of Roseburg High School students, including Ballenger, began growing marijuana on public and private land in Douglas County and developed an operation that smuggled millions of dollars of drugs across the United States.....

<http://www.oregonlive.com/newsflash/regional/index.ssf?/base/news-28/1228862986277340.xml&storylist=orlocal>

Utah cops seize 285 lbs of pot in traffic stops

By Ben Winslow / Deseret Morning News

NORTH SNYDERVILLE BASIN:.....Utah Highway Patrol troopers were making simple traffic stops like this all weekend long as part of a crackdown on drug trafficking along the I-80 corridor, a major pipeline to get drugs from California and Mexico to states east of Utah. *From Thursday through Sunday, a special squad of the UHP made 320 traffic stops. Of those, 14 resulted in major drug busts and the seizure of more than 285 pounds of marijuana being trafficked from northern California* to places like Colorado, Kansas, Virginia, New Hampshire and New York. "The harvest of marijuana in northern California wrapped up and a lot of that was on its way to destination cities," Simmons said Sunday. "This is high grade marijuana. It's going to sell anywhere from \$3,000 to \$5,000 a pound depending on the destination." Troopers also seized \$7,800 in cash headed back to California and a handgun belonging to a convicted felon.....

<http://www.policeone.com/drug-interdiction-narcotics/articles/1757627-Utah-cops-seize-285-lbs-of-pot-in-traffic-stops/>

Sting snares group of men: Undercover effort leads to 12 arrest warrants

By Donna Fielder / Staff Writer / Friday, December 19, 2008

A group of men who thought they were buying the services of a dirty cop for up to \$2 million are in Denton County Jail in lieu of a total \$44 million bail on charges including money laundering, bribery and engaging in organized criminal activity.....At one meeting the men told Spears they wanted him to meet some Albanians from Chicago who were involved in a high-level marijuana smuggling operation. *They wanted Spears to help hide 160 pounds of marijuana and assist with the transportation of half a million dollars to California to pay for it.* On other occasions the men talked about Spears helping with up to 50 kilos of cocaine, according to the documents. They told him they planned to move between 30 and 50 kilos of cocaine every 10 days and that he could make as much as \$2 million in three months by helping them. The documents stated that

on another occasion one of the men offered Spears \$30,000 to arrange the murder of a man who was “giving him a hard time.....

http://www.dentonrc.com/sharedcontent/dws/drc/localnews/stories/DRC_sting_1219.786d1b08.html?npc

Man busted with pound of medical marijuana during traffic stop

02:45 PM Mountain Standard Time on Monday, December 29, 2008

The following news release was sent by the Yavapai County Sheriff’s Office:

SELIGMAN - On December 24, 2008, at approximately 1:30 P.M., Yavapai County Sheriff’s Office K9 “Elliott” and his partner stopped a yellow Mitsubishi Lancer for speeding on the I40 west of Seligman.....The deputy searched the vehicle and found a pound of marijuana in a duffle bag laying the rear seat. The marijuana was packaged in 4 vacuum heat sealed plastic bags. During a discussion about the contraband, Wolf admitted buying the marijuana in this particular quantity for \$2,000 dollars noting that the purchase of equivalent marijuana in ounces could have amounted to \$6,400 dollars. ***Wolf explained he has a contact in California that supplies medical marijuana to state licensed facilities who was willing to sell to him directly.*** As a result of the investigation, Wolf was arrested for 2 felony counts including Transportation for Sales and Possession of Sales of Marijuana.....

<http://www.azfamily.com/news/local/stories/YavapaiCounty-local-news-122908-lb.-pot-bust.1bc991ed.html>