

Medical Marijuana and Associated Issues
Presented to the California Chiefs of Police Association
April to June 2010

Criminal activity continues to be closely tied to marijuana. As the business of selling marijuana grows, so does the violent crime that follows its cultivation and sales. A disturbing and continuing trend is the conduct of home invasion robberies resulting in the victimization of those cultivating and possessing marijuana. Dispensaries are also targeted based upon the availability of large quantities of drugs and cash.

LAPD investigating third shooting at a medical marijuana dispensary

June 30, 2010

Los Angeles police detectives are investigating a robbery at a Northridge marijuana dispensary over the weekend that left an employee in critical condition after he was shot in the face.....The victim was taken to Northridge Hospital Medical Center and was listed in critical condition. The suspects, who were not immediately identified, made off with approximately \$11,000 in cash, police said. The shooting was the third at a medical marijuana dispensary over a three-day period last week. Two people were fatally shot Thursday and a third man was wounded in pot shop robberies in Echo Park and Hollywood. It was at least the second time this year that the Northridge dispensary was targeted. Two suspects are awaiting trial in connection with a shooting that left a 33-year-old clinic employee wounded during an attempt to rob the man of his wallet.....

<http://latimesblogs.latimes.com/lanow/2010/06/lapd-investigating-robberys shooting-at-san-fernando-valley-medical-marijuana-dispensary.html>

2 marijuana dispensary workers killed hours apart; LAPD probes possible links

L.A. NOW / June 25, 2010

Los Angeles Police Department detectives Friday morning were trying to determine whether there was any connection between two robberies hours apart Thursday at two medical marijuana dispensaries that left two employees dead. The first robbery occurred at 4:15 p.m. on Sunset Boulevard in Echo Park. The second at 9:15 p.m. a few miles away on El Centro Avenue in Hollywood.....At the marijuana dispensary in Echo Park, one worker was killed and another was wounded. Officials said the store was ransacked.....

<http://latimesblogs.latimes.com/lanow/2010/06/2-marijuana-dispensary-workers-killed-hours-apart-lapd-probe-possible-links.html>

Medical Marijuana Involved in Shooting Death

By The Bay City News on June 15, 2010

An Oakland man was arrested yesterday and charged in the shooting death of former USF basketball player Hyman Taylor, Jr., 23, who was found dead in the parking lot of Ikea in Emeryville one week ago. Police have charged Cassidy O'Connor, 20, in the shooting, which they believe occurred during an attempted robbery gone awry. Police say Taylor and three others were meeting a medical marijuana dealer in the parking lot and planned to steal the drug. But the dealer was being guarded by an armed man, who hid in bushes near by and fired on the would-be robbers. O'Connor is being

charged with homicide because of his alleged involvement in a crime that led to someone's death, an Alameda prosecutor said. Taylor, of Fort Lauderdale, Fla., was a 6-foot-9-inch, 245-pound center who last played for the USF basketball team in the 2008-09 season. A USF spokesman said that Taylor had been pursuing a degree in sociology but never graduated.

<http://www.baycitizen.org/blogs/pulse-of-the-bay/medical-marijuana-involved-shooting/>

Contra Costa Times, Walnut Creek, Calif., Roman Gokhman column: Concord man's shooting death being investigated

CONCORD, Apr 21, 2010 (Contra Costa Times - McClatchy-Tribune Information Services via COMTEX) -- A 55-year-old man was fatally shot just before midnight Tuesday after answering a knock at his door and arguing with two men, police said..... The victim's son, Anthony Raby, 28, said he believes the men were robbers who were trying to take marijuana or cash. "It was some kind of home invasion robbery that my father tried to stop," he said..... "My dad was a really good person," Raby said. He said he visited his father several times in the house, where the roommates smoked marijuana. One of them had a medical marijuana card, he said. "But it seemed like an OK environment," said Raby, adding that his father did not use drugs. One of the roommates, who did not give his name, declined to speak in detail about the victim or the shooting because he had answered them several times for police already. "Ronnie was a nice guy," the roommate said before driving away. Neighbor Tim Erickson said he has always felt safe on the short street with landscaped yards. "This is normally a very quiet street," Erickson said. "It's certainly a shock for this to happen here." He said he has been comfortable to let his daughter, who is 17, walk on the street by herself at night.

http://www.tradingmarkets.com/news/stock-alert/zzhxy_contra-costa-times-walnut-creek-calif-roman-gokhman-column-concord-man-s-shooting-death-being-i-928554.html

Man arrested for attempted murder over medical marijuana

Posted: June 21, 2010 09:31 PM PDT

Slab, CA June 21 - A fight over medical marijuana lands one man behind bars for attempted murder. Imperial County Sheriff's Deputies say it happened Saturday morning in Slab City, just east of Niland. They say 25 year old Christopher McMurty entered his neighbors trailer and attacked him with a crowbar, and attempted to use a pocket knife on him. The 24 year old victim's mom beat McMurty with a hammer in her son's defense. McMurty was life-flighted to a Palm Springs hospital with head injuries. He was arrested Monday afternoon, and also faces charges of burglary and assault with a deadly weapon.

http://www.kswt.com/Global/story.asp?S=12686455&nav=menu613_1_1

Grass Valley man arrested in connection to 'marijuana transaction gone bad'

By Barbara Barte Osborne / Bee correspondent / April 14, 2010

NEVADA CITY -- A Grass Valley man, Louis Riley James, was arrested Tuesday for investigation of homicide in connection with the death of Kenneth William Painter of Nevada City. James, 35, had been under surveillance as a "person of interest" in the case and was arrested in a traffic stop shortly after he was seen leaving his home, according to a news release from Sheriff Keith Royal. A search of the home resulted in evidence, including a large quantity of marijuana and a handgun, implicating James' involvement in the homicide, as did statements obtained during the investigation, the release said. "Based upon information developed, it appears Mr. Painter's death was the result of a marijuana transaction gone bad," Royal said in the release.....

<http://www.sacbee.com/static/weblogs/crime/archives/2010/04/grass-valley-ma-1.html>

Pot search gone sour turns to murder, police say

By Kim Minugh | Sacramento Bee / Posted on Friday, April 23, 2010

Police announced Thursday the arrests of two young men in connection with the killing last month of a Natomas High School football coach looking to give back to the community that raised him.

Police also shed more light on the circumstances surrounding the March 26 home-invasion robbery during which 26-year-old Salvador Heredia-Arriaga was shot: The suspects likely had been after marijuana or money from its sale when the holdup went wrong. It is another violent crime in which marijuana has been found at the center – and it has law enforcement officers again sounding alarms about what many have argued is among the more harmless drugs to consume. "You have to look at it as a commodity," said Sacramento Police Sgt. Norm Leong. "No matter how legalized it is ... you're still going to have crimes related to marijuana."Detectives believe that Reed and the teen had targeted the apartment on River Plaza Drive in South Natomas because it was known for ongoing marijuana deals, Leong said. Things turned deadly, though, when Heredia-Arriaga showed up to visit friends and startled the suspects, Leong said. He was the only one shot. "The residents were confronted by the armed men and were cooperative right away. There was no surprise there," Leong said. "When Heredia-Arriaga walked in, it was a surprise. It was an element (the suspects) had not planned for." It was the second fatal home-invasion robbery potentially involving marijuana in six months in the city of Sacramento. In October, two men broke into a home on Maccan Court in Meadowview in south Sacramento and killed 24-year-old Michael Thames, leaving a woman and a child untouched. Thames was growing medicinal marijuana in the home, though police are not sure whether that was the motivation for the robbery because no plants were taken. ***But local law enforcement officers say similar but non-fatal home-invasion robberies – where intruders appear to be after pot or cash associated with it – occur with much greater frequency. "Unequivocally, the vast majority (of home invasions) are weed rips," said Sacramento County Sheriff's Sgt. Tim Curran. He said the department's robbery detectives estimated that 50 to 75 percent of home-invasion robberies in the unincorporated county – there were 92 in 2009 – can be traced back to pot. Leong said there have been 30 home invasions in the city so far this year. Six of them involved marijuana, and two others involved unspecified drugs, he said.***

<http://www.mcclatchydc.com/2010/04/23/92760/pot-search-gone-sour-turns-to.html>

Suspect killed in shootout during home-invasion robbery in Antioch

Husband-and-wife homeowners in critical condition

By Matthias Gafni and Paul Bugarino / Contra Costa Times / 06/08/2010

ANTIOCH — A botched home-invasion robbery apparently targeting a marijuana grow early Tuesday left a 15-year-old suspect dead and a husband and wife critically injured after shots were fired, police said. The injured husband, who shot and killed one teenage intruder, managed to hold another 17-year-old at gunpoint until police arrived to the house.Two small children at home at the time of the robbery were uninjured.SWAT officers and search dogs conducted a yard-by-yard search for the missing third suspect, who they believe escaped out the rear window after possibly being wounded. A blood trail was seen near the window, Cantando said, but it was unknown whether the suspect might have received his wounds from a bullet or during the scuffle.Police are investigating whether the homeowners had medical marijuana licenses, and it was unclear how many plants were inside the house, Cantando said. Two bedrooms were set up for

marijuana grows, but only one room had plants, he said.....Residential marijuana grows and accompanying violence are on the rise in Antioch, said police Lt. Leonard Orman. "I think there is more marijuana out there to be stolen and with some of the loosening of laws, more people are growing it and there's more opportunity," he said. "A marijuana grower is seen as an easier mark than someone dealing meth or cocaine." Many thieves believe marijuana growers are less likely to be armed or concerned about security, Orman said. Most of the marijuana operations Antioch police come across are run by medicinal card holders, with small grows that are in the "ballpark" of allotted amounts. But they also come across illegal grows, which often include crudely rigged electrical units that can lead to fires — there have been two marijuana-related structure fires this year in Antioch. With the increase in grows comes an increase in opportunists, the lieutenant said. "It's a lot of money," Orman said, "and a lot of money to lose with these grows."

http://www.contracostatimes.com/ci_15250980?source=most_viewed

Calif. pot robbery suspects held in GJ

By [Paul Shockley](#) / Friday, April 30, 2010

A pair of men suspected of attempted murder and robbing a California man's marijuana were arrested during a traffic stop on Interstate 70 near Grand Junction last week.....An officer wrote in the affidavit that he smelled a strong odor of marijuana in the car, and a search turned up a suitcase holding 3.4 pounds of marijuana and a loaded Glock handgun. Free admitted the suitcase belonged to him, the affidavit said. Free and Miller were wanted on suspicion of attempted murder and robbery April 21 in San Diego, according to a report published by the San Diego Union-Tribune. The newspaper said one of the men met the victim April 20 at a medical marijuana dispensary in San Diego, and the victim invited either Miller or Free to smoke marijuana the next day at his home, according to the newspaper's account. When the victim went to his bedroom to retrieve the drugs, one of the suspects fired a shot, but missed, and a second man then entered the house and demanded cash, according to the Union-Tribune's report. Free and Miller are suspected of stealing cash, marijuana and a cell phone before driving away in a dark sedan, the newspaper said.

http://www.gjsentinel.com/news/articles/calif_pot_robbery_suspects_hel

Operator hurt as armed robbers hit Santa Rosa dispensary

Written on April 3, 2010 / by Bud

Four armed robbers entered a Santa Rosa cannabis club Friday night and stole an undisclosed amount of marijuana, money and other items, the Santa Rosa County Sheriff's Office said.....The operator of the club, on the 3400 block of Santa Rosa Avenue, was treated for injuries and later released. Sheriff's detectives are assisting in the investigation and no other information is available at this time.....

<http://calpotnews.com/medical-marijuana/operator-hurt-as-armed-robbers-hit-santa-rosa-dispensary/>

Robbers take money, pot from Richmond dispensary

By [Katherine Tam](#) / [Contra Costa Times](#) / 05/07/2010

RICHMOND — Robbers stole money and marijuana from a Point Richmond dispensary Thursday night. Someone walked into the Pacific Alternative Health Center on Washington Avenue at 11:30 p.m. and left the front door open, said police Lt. George Garcia. Three men wearing hooded clothing came in afterward and confronted an employee. They took cash and some marijuana. No one was injured, Garcia said.....

http://www.pasadenastarnews.com/california/ci_15041797

Pot Dispensary Robberies Plague Downtown

By Dennis Romero, Thursday, Apr. 22 2010 @ 2:46PM

The robbery of a Skid Row medical marijuana dispensary this week was one of five such crimes downtown in the last 18 months, police told blogdowntown. "I know of 14 clinics just in downtown Los Angeles, and five were robbed in the last 18 months," Lt. Paul Vernon, head of Central Division detectives, told the site. Robbers at City Compassionate Caregivers, 606 E. Fourth St., got away with \$1,200, a laptop, and marijuana estimated to be worth \$7,000, according to the blog. The site notes that under the city's new medical marijuana ordinance, which will outlaw pot shops that exist within 1,000 feet of schools, churches, parks and rehab centers, the dispensary would have to move or shut down. "It's ironic and a bit perplexing that two medical marijuana clinics can operate one block apart in the largest drug recovery area in Southern California," Vernon said.
<http://blogs.laweekly.com/ladaily/city-news/pot-shop-robbed-downtown-la/>

After armed robbery of San Jose pot club, coalition calls for city medical marijuana ordinance

By Sandra Gonzales / 05/21/2010

One day after robbers struck a San Jose cannabis club and held employees and customers at gunpoint, a coalition of collectives called on the City Council to act swiftly in drafting a medical marijuana ordinance. The robbery unfolded at 12:40 p.m. Thursday, when two or three men entered the South Bay Cannamed Patient Association in the 300 block of Commercial Street. During the takeover, the men held five employees and three patients inside at gunpoint, robbing the dispensary of an undetermined amount of marijuana. The gunmen also took money from the victims before driving off, San Jose police said. No one was injured during the robbery, police said.....
http://www.pasadenastarnews.com/california/ci_15139321

Medical marijuana stolen during home-invasion robbery in Watsonville

[By Jennifer Squires](#) / 05/26/2010

WATSONVILLE -- Armed robbers threatened a teenager with a handgun and stole two mature marijuana plants from a home off Ohlone Parkway on Monday afternoon, police reported.....A 19-year-old woman was home alone and in an upstairs bathroom at the time. She told police she heard loud banging downstairs and walked into the hallway. There, a female robber pointed a gun in her face and told her to be quiet, according to Sgt. Saul Gonzalez of Watsonville police. The armed robber was with another woman and two men. They forced the teenager to sit on the floor and close her eyes while they rifled through the house, the victim told officers. The robbers took two marijuana plants that were ready to harvest, as well as computers, video games and other electronics, according to police. The teen's mother, a medical marijuana card holder, grew pot in the backyard, Gonzalez said. The teen was not hurt.
http://www.santacruzsentinel.com/localnews/ci_15163155

Armed robber stole medical marijuana

By DAN JOHNSON / ARGUS-COURIER STAFF / Tuesday, May 11, 2010

Petaluma police are seeking to locate a man who allegedly was armed with a handgun as he stole medicinal marijuana from a resident in a home at Olive and I streets on Monday morning.....The victim, who was not injured, told police that the suspect had a handgun, and that he had stolen his medicinal marijuana, and possibly his cell phone, Cook said. Police found that the cell phone had last been used in the same area, which is near McNear Elementary School, so the school was locked

down at 10:01 a.m.....“The school lockdown ended at 10:15 a.m. because there was nothing to indicate that the suspect was near the school.”.....

<http://www.pressdemocrat.com/article/20100511/COMMUNITY/100519892?Title=Armed-robber-stole-medical-marijuana>

Murrieta – Attempted Robbery at Indoor Marijuana Grow

By Inland Empire / Apr 22nd, 2010

At about 2245 hours on Tuesday night, Murrieta Police received a call of a possible shots fired heard in the 39800 block of Snow Gum Lane. The reporting party said three subjects were seen running down the street being chased by a dog. Investigation revealed the shots came from inside a home in the 39800 block of Snow Gum Lane.....There was an altercation and Anderson was assaulted numerous times by several subjects on the front lawn. Goasson was actually shot at with a gun while inside the house. The subjects quickly left the area prior to the arrival of police. A handgun was found lying on the front lawn and was later determined to be stolen from San Bernardino. A protective sweep of the residence revealed a marijuana cultivation using sophisticate equipment in two bedrooms. In plain view, officers observed items consistent with sales of marijuana. It appeared both Anderson and Goasson were victims of an attempted marijuana rip-off. However, it also appears they are also in the business of selling marijuana. A search warrant was served at the residence, as well as Goasson’s vehicle. The search warrant revealed a total of 79 plants, approximately 3.6 pounds of trimmed marijuana ready for packaged sale and approximately \$4,500.00 in cash.....

<http://www.murrieta.com/wordpress/2010/04/22/murrieta-attempted-robbery-at-indoor-marijuana-grow/>

Fire and shooting both related to marijuana growing operations

[By Sean Maher and Harry Harris / Oakland Tribune / 05/17/2010](#)

OAKLAND — Officials discovered about 700 marijuana plants in two separate indoor growing operations Monday morning at the site of an East Oakland home invasion and a house fire near Allendale Park.....It took longer than usual to put out because firefighters were dealing with flare-ups of hot spots they think were caused by the power system used for the lights and other equipment. Eight car batteries were apparently being used. Nobody was reported injured in the blaze. Officials found about 300 marijuana plants in the lower levels of the house. The estimated street value of the plants would be more than \$100,000.....Several hours earlier, around 3:15 a.m., a 56-year-old resident of the 3900 block of San Leandro Street called police to report he was beaten and shot by two men trying to find his marijuana growing operation. ***The man told police two suspects broke into his house around 2 a.m., tied him up, beat him and shot him in the leg trying to get him to tell them where they could find the key to a former liquor store below his apartment, where a large marijuana grow was located.....***Police found about 400 marijuana plants in various stages of growth in the lower level of the building. Some plants were ready for harvest and could have a street value around \$100,000, police said.

http://www.insidebayarea.com/oaklandtribune/localnews/ci_15102367

Vista, California – Shot fired at Home Invasion Robbery

By [admin](#) • Apr 22nd, 2010

.....Deputies contacted the victim, a 32 year old male who resides at the location. The victim reported that he met a male on April 20, 2010 at the “Cal Med 420 Medical Marijuana Dispensary”

located on Rosecrans in San Diego. The victim invited the male to his home for the purpose of smoking marijuana together. The victim claims to have medical problems necessitating the use of marijuana. When the victim went to his bedroom to get the marijuana, the guest pulled a handgun and fired one shot missing him. The bullet lodged in the wall. The suspect ordered the male to lay on the ground and demanded his marijuana as a second suspect entered the residence from outside demanding "the money". The victim pleaded for his life and gave the suspects his money. He additionally reported a loss of a quantity of marijuana and a bong.....

<http://blog.drivinglaws.org/2010/04/22/vista-california-shot-fired-at-home-invasion-robbery/>

SF Man Beaten In Home Invasion Robbery

Posted: April 15, 2010

SAN FRANCISCO -- A man was beaten and robbed Wednesday night in an apparent home invasion robbery in the city's Ingleside neighborhood, but later stopped cooperating with investigators when his roommate offered a slightly different story, police said.....A 22-year-old man who lived there said he had just arrived home when he was assaulted and dragged into his living room, according to police. He said one of the intruders pinned his head to the floor with his foot and another hit him in the head with an unknown metal object, possibly a pistol.....The victim told police he recognized one of the men from the neighborhood. The suspects made off with the man's Sony PlayStation 3, his girlfriend's laptop, his wallet and an unknown quantity of marijuana, the man told police. However, at that point, the victim "became extremely vague" and declined to provide further details, police said. ***Police said the victim's roommate separately told them his roommate had actually invited the suspects to his apartment to smoke marijuana.*** Questioned about this by an officer, the victim "became uncooperative and did not want to talk to him any further," police said.

<http://www.foxreno.com/news/23162216/detail.html>

Medical marijuana brownie baker says he was robbed at gunpoint

By Times-Herald staff report / 06/01/2010

A purported seller of medical marijuana had his "baked goods" full of the substance stolen from him.....The seller had set up a sale of the baked goods and at the appointed time and place was approached by a man armed with a handgun who demanded the items, Robinson said. After allegedly robbing him, the seller drove away and told police he thought he heard a gun shot ring out, Robinson said.....

http://www.timesheraldonline.com/news/ci_15203455

Robbery victim loses teeth, medical pot

Thursday, June 10, 2010

A baggie of medical marijuana prompted a street-corner robbery that also cost the victim two of his teeth yesterday in Redlands, police say. The holdup happened at 9:15 p.m. Wednesday at Cypress Avenue and Hibiscus Drive. The 20-year-old victim told police that the assailant drove away in a green Toyota Camry. Arrested for investigation of robbery and mayhem was 19-year-old Gregory Lee Brooks, whom officers found at his home along the 1500 block of Helena Lane, police spokesman Carl Baker said in a written statement.

http://www.pe.com/localnews/inland/stories/PE_News_Local_D_webteeth.2a2fdb.html

Novato man jailed on party robbery claim

[Gary Klien](#) / 06/21/2010

A Novato man was arrested Monday on suspicion of robbing marijuana from another man during a party, police said. . . . The accuser, a 25-year-old Gualala resident, said he was attacked and robbed of medical marijuana after attending a party last week on Hill Road in Novato, said police Lt. Dave Jeffries. The alleged victim reported the incident the next day and said he was an acquaintance of one of the attackers. Markham was arrested Monday afternoon after police found him on Hathaway Drive. Police are trying to identify additional suspects, Jeffries said.

http://www.mercurynews.com/california/ci_15346711

Police: Burglars Tunneled Through Wall into Pot Clinic

KTLA News / April 19, 2010

LAGUNA HILLS -- Three burglars tunneled through a wall into a medical marijuana dispensary in Laguna Hills from an adjoining business, according to authorities. The burglary at 1:30 a.m. Sunday was the second at the dispensary, located in the 23200 block of Peralta Drive, in just two weeks. The men had begun stacking the pot plants near the back door of the dispensary when an alarm rang. Deputies arriving at the scene saw three men running from the dispensary. Authorities used the Orange County Sheriff's Department helicopter to search for the suspects, who were located and arrested a short time later. A fourth man, believed to have been the getaway driver, was also arrested, according to OC sheriff's spokesman Jim Amormino.

<http://www.ktla.com/news/landing/ktla-marijuana-tunnel,0,6463041.story>

Law Enforcement: Shift in drug crimes linked to medical marijuana

Reported by: [Jerry Olenyn](#) / 4/15/2010

There's good news and bad news on the drug front in Butte County. Law enforcement representatives say the two trends are directly-related, specifically because of California's medicinal marijuana laws. The Butte County Interagency Task Force, in its 24th year, was designed to combat methamphetamine. Statistics released Thursday show seizures of meth are heading down. But a trend drug fighters say is directly related to a dramatic increase in processed marijuana seizures. Chico Police Chief Mike Maloney believes medicinal marijuana laws are being exploited. "People are continuing to push the limits, and that there continues to be challenges in interpreting the law." That's something that Butte County District Attorney Mike Ramsey knows first hand. ***"Drug sellers are looking at marijuana as a more profitable and safer venue for their business than it would be for methamphetamine or for cocaine."*** Ramsey says ***medical marijuana laws can provide drug profiteers a ready-made excuse if they're caught processing even large amounts of marijuana. That's why only nine meth labs were seized in the past year compared to 22 the year before.*** Ramsey said "We don't have medicinal use of methamphetamine or medicinal use of cocaine. So they don't have that excuse." ***Crimes associated with marijuana production are also up, including assaults and robberies.....***

<http://www.khsltv.com/content/localnews/story/Law-Enforcement-Shift-in-drug-crimes-linked-to/WgZW794dDk-qCAIDdFmiXA.csp>

Two men suspected of trying to sell marijuana on skid row arrested

Richard Winton / April 12, 2010

Two men were arrested with 60 pounds of marijuana that police believe they were going to sell on skid row hours after the Los Angeles city attorney announced an injunction aimed at curbing so-called commuter drug dealers who travel to the area to sell their goods. . . . "It didn't take the detectives long to realize they had the right car," Vernon said. "There was so much weed in the car,

they could smell it when they approached the driver's window." Detectives seized marijuana valued at least \$24,000 and as much as \$100,000 if sold on the streets in small amounts, Vernon said. "This marijuana was destined for Skid Row," Vernon said. "It is both ironic and tragic that the country's largest recovery area is also the region's biggest drug bazaar." The city attorney's office announced last week that it would seek a criminal injunction specifically targeting 80 named drug dealers who try to do business in the area.

<http://latimesblogs.latimes.com/lanow/2010/04/two-men-suspected-of-trying-to-sell-marijuana-on-skid-row-arrested.html>

2 men arrested in Craigslist pot sales

Santa Barbara County sheriff's detectives say the suspects allegedly used the popular website to pitch high-grade marijuana 'clones' for sale.

By Catherine Saillant / April 2, 2010

Craigslist is convenient for more than just would-be buyers and sellers. In Santa Barbara County, detectives are using the popular website to track down alleged illegal drug sales. On Thursday, the Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Department announced that it had arrested two men on suspicion of pitching high-grade marijuana "clones" for sale. Though ads for medical marijuana collectives abound on the website, most are targeted at consumers who have a doctor's recommendation and an identification card, as required under state laws. The men taken into custody in Santa Barbara County were offering hybrid seedlings that had been engineered to increase potency, sheriff's officials said. "Some people mistakenly think that the Compassionate Use Act allows them to sell marijuana freely," Sugars said. "That's not how the law was written and Craigslist is not a collective." During a search of his Santa Barbara home, investigators found more than 100 marijuana plants, two pounds of processed marijuana and more than \$8,000 in cash, Sugars said. He had another 65 plants and \$1,500 in cash at a second residence in Mendocino County, Sugars said. Authorities said they don't believe the men were working together. But both advertised on Craigslist. A check of the website shows at least two recent ads in the Goleta, Calif., area offering marijuana clones for sale.

http://www.latimes.com/news/local/la-me-pot-clones2-2010apr02_0,5745359.story

Hash, 'honey oil' lab raided on S. State St.

Police arrived at the building about 8:50 p.m. to investigate a reported shooting that day and found an operation set up to make concentrated marijuana, complete with an ice machine stolen from the Discovery Inn, the UPD stated. / 04/16/2010

The Ukiah Police Department on Tuesday shut down a homeless camp where police said concentrated marijuana was being manufactured. Ice from the ice machine taken from the Discovery Inn less than one day before was being used to make "hash," police stated. Police said they also found butane and other devices that indicated concentrated marijuana was produced there. Further investigation of the building was conducted by the Mendocino Major Crimes Task Force. Police said they found marijuana, additional butane and numerous cooking dishes and vials that contained a substance known as "honey oil." "Honey oil" is a concentrated form of marijuana made with butane and high pressure, the UPD stated. This same practice of making honey oil has been known to cause explosions and fires causing serious injuries in Mendocino County, the UPD stated. Police also turned up large garbage cans and barrels of marijuana mixed with ice, another method of making concentrated marijuana, police stated. Edible marijuana, scales, records of sales, and more than 40 pounds of "leaf" and "bud" marijuana were also found at the scene, police said. The

initial report made to police was that people had been arguing and making threats to shoot each other followed what sounded like a gunshot, the UPD stated. Police arrived to investigate and were told by people there that fireworks had been lit off in the building. As police were checking out the building for signs of a gun they found a 38-year-old man with seven shotgun shells. Police checked the man's records and learned he was a convicted felon and was not allowed to possess ammunition.....

http://www.ukiahdailyjournal.com/news/ci_14896171?source=rss

Four high school students hospitalized after eating pot brownies in Hayward

[By Eric Kurhi / Oakland Tribune / 04/22/2010](#)

HAYWARD — Four high school students became sick and were hospitalized Wednesday morning after eating brownies that were laced with marijuana, police said. The campus police officer was investigating a report that a Tennyson High School student was selling drugged brownies when the accused vendor and three students who had either bought or been given a brownie became ill. One of them had passed out in the school parking lot, and medical aid was sought, police said. Three of the youths were taken to St. Rose Hospital by ambulance, one by a parent. "Two of them said it was the first time they had used marijuana," police Lt. Chris Orrey said. All were expected to be released later Wednesday.....A similar incident happened in January at James Logan High School in Union City, where several students were sickened by marijuana brownies and two required hospitalization.....

http://www.mercurynews.com/breaking-news/ci_14930742?nclick_check=1

Suspected sale of marijuana-laced brownies leads to arrest

[By Cathy Locke / April 9, 2010](#)

Auburn police this afternoon arrested a man suspected of conducting a version of an after-school bake sale featuring marijuana-laced brownies. Police went to School Park Reserve at 55 College Lane about 1 p.m. after being advised by Placer High School officials of students possibly smoking marijuana, according to a department news release.....Police said Brazel was selling marijuana in leaf form and mixed in brownies. They said Brazel also appeared to be under the influence of marijuana. He was booked into Placer County Jail.

<http://www.sacbee.com/static/weblogs/crime/archives/2010/04/sale-of-suspect.html>

Identity thieves buy pot with Sen. Saslaw's credit card

[By Rosalind Helderman / May 21, 2010](#)

Senate Majority Leader Dick Saslaw (D-Springfield) said his phone has been ringing off the hook since a report appeared yesterday in California noting that local authorities were alleging Sacramento identity thieves had stolen the senator's credit card number and used it to buy, among other things, medical marijuana.....As for the \$225 in medical marijuana charged to the 70-year old senator's card? "That's California for you," he said. "You can buy pot on a credit card."

http://voices.washingtonpost.com/virginiapolitics/2010/05/identity_theives_buy_pot_with.html

Vegas teen pleads not guilty in CHP officer death

[The Associated Press / 06/29/2010](#)

VICTORVILLE, Calif.—A Las Vegas teenager pleaded not guilty Tuesday to vehicular manslaughter and other felony counts in the weekend death of a California Highway Patrol officer on Interstate 15 in the Mojave Desert.....A status conference is scheduled for July 8. CHP Officer

Justin McGrory and another officer had stopped a car in the Barstow area, about 90 miles northeast of Los Angeles, early Sunday when Garcia's car veered onto the shoulder and struck the 28-year-old officer, said San Bernardino county prosecutors. Deputy District Attorney Jill Gregory said a 12-year-old child was in car, but she could not elaborate on details. ***She also said 68 grams of marijuana were found in Garcia's vehicle. Laboratory tests were being performed to determine if Garcia was under the influence of marijuana or alcohol at the time of the crash,*** Gregory said. McGrory was one of five CHP officers killed in the line of duty in less than two months.....

http://www.mercurynews.com/news/ci_15401286

Deputy's window shot out following marijuana raid

Written by Lake County News reports / Wednesday, 30 June 2010

UKIAH – Mendocino County officials are investigating an incident in which a window of a truck driven by a deputy sheriff was shot out following marijuana raids on Tuesday.....During the raids 22,000 marijuana plants were seized out of five sites in the area. Noe said that in one of the camps a .22-caliber pistol was seized along with evidence that the garden was being tended by Hispanics. After the raids the teams were returning to Ukiah on Orr Springs Road when the lead truck, driven by Deputy James Wells, had the rear window shot out, Noe said. The team secured the area and a search for a suspect or suspects was conducted. Noe said no responsible person was located during the search.....

<http://lakeconews.com/content/view/14744/919/>

Suspect fatally shot in raid of marijuana grow

The Associated Press / 06/30/2010

NAPA, Calif.—Authorities say one person is dead after shots were fired when drug agents raided a marijuana growing operation near Lake Berryessa. Napa County Sheriff's Capt. Tracey Stuart says a suspect was shot by a member of a local and state drug task force team that was investigating the growing operation near the lake around 12:50 p.m. Wednesday. A second suspect has been taken into custody. Authorities have not released any additional details.

http://www.mercurynews.com/breaking-news/ci_15413972

The proliferation of Indoor Grows continues to be a hidden hazard within our communities. Not only are they a target for home invasion robberies, but they also present a significant fire hazard as well as the potential, based upon mold and unsafe alterations to the structure, to leave the dwelling uninhabitable.

\$2 million in marijuana plants siezed, man arrested in Fontana drug bust

Andrew Blankstein / June 25, 2010

Los Angeles County Sheriff's deputies descended on a Fontana home early Friday and arrested a man on suspicion of using the residence to cultivate \$2 million worth of marijuana.....A three-month investigation led investigators to the San Bernardino County residence. The search began Friday morning after a warrant was issued by a Los Angeles County judge. Sheriff's deputies said they discovered evidence of a marijuana-growing operation, including special lighting and hydroponic equipment in the home. They said they also confiscated about 1,800 marijuana plants with an estimated street value of \$2 million.....

<http://latimesblogs.latimes.com/lanow/2010/06/2-million-in-marijuana-plants-siezed-in-fontana-drug-bust-.html>

Neighbors lead police to El Monte pot farm

The Associated Press / 04/13/2010

EL MONTE, Calif.—Neighbor tips led police to a marijuana growing operation inside an El Monte home where more than 700 pot plants in various stages of maturity.....Detective Ralph Batres says the San Marino man had rented the house and the homeowner didn't know it was being used as a marijuana farm. Batres says the confiscated pot is worth millions of dollars, but he didn't have an exact figure. Neighbors had telephone police to report there was suspicious activity at the home. The detective says windows were blacked out and people were coming and going at strange hours of the night.

http://www.mercurynews.com/news/ci_14873976?nclick_check=1

Agents raid indoor pot gardens in Northern Calif.

The Associated Press / 04/22/2010

SACRAMENTO, Calif.—Drug agents have arrested seven Sacramento residents and seized more than 4,300 marijuana plants growing inside homes in Sacramento and nearby Elk Grove.....agents also seized more than \$82,000 in cash during raids this week. He says the growers bypassed electric meters to steal power so they could run sophisticated operations inside the homes—five in Sacramento and one in its southern suburb. Taylor says the investigations began in November. The operation was separate from the dozens of Central Valley indoor pot gardens discovered in 2007 that were linked to a San Francisco-based cartel. The suspects were charged with conspiracy and growing marijuana. Each made an initial appearance earlier this in federal court in Sacramento.

http://www.mercurynews.com/news/ci_14940180

Six arrested in marijuana cultivation case; 1,000 plants seized across Santa Cruz County

[By Cathy Kelly - Santa Cruz Sentinel](#) / 04/23/2010

SANTA CRUZ - Six county men have been jailed and more than 1,000 marijuana plants seized from three properties during an undercover operation Thursday, sheriff's deputies announced Friday. "With that amount of plants and that many players, this is clearly a sophisticated operation," Sgt. Dan Campos said. "This is an example of many marijuana growing operations in the county. It's a subculture that thrives here.".....They seized more than 1,000 plants, valued at \$180,000 to \$300,000, and \$6,000 cash, he said. Investigators found large commercial gardens at three properties.....Campos, speaking in general terms, said these types of conspiracies are common in larger marijuana "grows," and are money-making operations typically located rural areas off the grid to avoid detection.....

http://www.mercurynews.com/breaking-news/ci_14946097

Authorities say multi-county marijuana growing operation is tied to Eureka man

John Driscoll/The Times-Standard / 04/16/2010

A Eureka man is being sought by police after a three-county drug bust that included the discovery of an elaborate underground pot grow under a \$1 million home in Hayfork, investigators said Thursday.....The search included a 5-acre property owned by Serrano in Hayfork in Trinity County, where agents reportedly found a tunnel accessed through a shed leading to a 200-by-40-foot underground corridor and two rooms used to grow and process marijuana. Humboldt County Drug

Task Force Special Agent Supervisor Jack Nelsen said that the underground structure was built into the side of a hill, made of cement, with trusses and beams. Nelsen said a 4,000-to 5,000-square-foot luxury home -- still under construction -- was built on top of the grow. The operation was powered by diesel generators and public utility service. "Obviously a lot of money was invested in making this underground grow and disguising it," Nelsen said. Some 2,200 pot plants, 100 pounds of processed marijuana and four rifles were seized. Agents also served a search warrant at Serrano's home on the 3300 block of Pigeon Point Road in Eureka on Wednesday. Investigators say they found an indoor growing operation there, consisting of 205 plants. Some 75 pounds of processed pot, scales and packaging material were also reportedly discovered. A closed trailer with a large amount of marijuana was seized. Serrano was not at the site. The investigative team also went to a Shasta Lake City home believed to be associated with Serrano, and reportedly found a vehicle listed on the original search warrant. The occupant of the home did not want to talk with agents, according to the team. The vehicle reportedly contained 1/2-pound of pot and immature clone plants. Agents then procured a search warrant for the residence, and allegedly found a grow operation with 250 plants, 50 pounds of dried marijuana and pay-owe notes.All told, the dried marijuana seized, at \$2,500 per pound, has a street value of \$563,000.

http://www.times-standard.com/localnews/ci_14896387

Oakland police find large marijuana grow inside garage hit by a car

By Harry Harris / Oakland Tribune / 04/29/2010

OAKLAND — A hit-and-run crash this morning led police to a 230-plant marijuana grow inside the garages at a North Oakland duplex. The street value of the plants is estimated to be more than \$100,000. A car sideswiped a parked vehicle in one of the driveways in the 5900 block of Broadway around 7:30 a.m. then smashed into a garage door and drove away. Police who arrived to investigate found 102 plants in the damaged garage and another 128 in an adjacent garage. They also found lighting and ventilation systems in the garages. No one was arrested. The woman who owns the car that was hit lives in one of the units but said neither garage is hers. "I woke up to this," she said.

http://www.mercurynews.com/news/ci_14984060?source=rss&nlick_check=1

Authorities seize 1,300 marijuana plants in raid

The Associated Press / 05/06/2010

SANTA ROSA, Calif.—Sonoma County authorities say they've prevented more than \$1 million worth of marijuana from hitting the streets after raid of a marijuana growing operation in Santa Rosa. Sgt. Chris Bertoli says narcotics detectives confiscated 1,300 plants, 132 pounds of marijuana, two loaded handguns and about \$100,000 in cash during a search of three buildings in an undisclosed location Monday. Investigators estimate the plants would have produced about \$1.3 million worth of marijuana if harvested and eventually sold. They also say they found sales records, scales and packaging materials during the search. Authorities say during the raid, three people were taken into custody on suspicion of cultivating marijuana and other charges.

http://www.mercurynews.com/breaking-news/ci_15033996

25 arrested in Contra Costa County marijuana sting

The Associated Press / Thursday, Apr. 29, 2010

SAN PABLO, Calif. -- More than two dozen people have been arrested in a drug sting in Contra Costa County that netted 1,200 marijuana plants with a street value of \$600,000. The West Contra Costa County Narcotics Task Force said the arrests began on Wednesday morning and ended around

10 p.m. Authorities searched 11 locations in San Pablo, Richmond and North Richmond and also seized 20 pounds of processed marijuana with a value of \$90,000, two firearms and \$65,000 in cash. At least 25 men and women were arrested. Fred Doran, commander of the task force, said the investigation began five months ago after a Richmond resident complained about unusual activity at a neighbor's home. Doran said investigators determined the home was used to grow marijuana and connected the people who were using it to the other locations.

http://www.fresnobee.com/2010/04/29/1914926_25-arrested-in-contra-costa-county.html

Lake County Sheriff's deputies locate marijuana grow house

Staff Report

GRAND ISLAND -- Detectives with the Lake County Sheriff's special investigations unit found about 100 marijuana plants, with a total approximate value of \$100,000, in an indoor marijuana grow operation in Grand Island. Police were called to 37201 Slice Lane shortly after noon on Friday. The sole resident of the home, Craig Sancher, was arrested on May 3 on drug charges in North Carolina. When family members arrived at Sancher's Grand Island home to collect his property, the landlord and owner of the house discovered the grow operation. Detectives obtained a search warrant and seized the marijuana plants and other items connected with indoor marijuana grow operations.

<http://www.dailycommercial.com/050910pot>

Sheriff's deputies bust marijuana house in Ceres

[Tina Tedesco](#) May 5, 2010

CERES, CA --Stanislaus County sheriff's deputies responded to a report of shots fired on Moffett Road in Ceres early Wednesday morning. Upon further investigation, deputies discovered a marijuana grow operation inside a nearby home. When deputies initially responded, they spotted a car leaving the scene. When deputies attempted to stop the car, the driver refused to pull over and led officers on a six-mile long chase. Deputies say the people inside the car were throwing pills out of the window. Investigators say they later recovered those items, including 1,000 to 1,500 pills of the prescription painkillers Percocet and Vicodin. The car finally stopped, and the two occupants were taken into custody. Investigators returned to the original address in the 5300 block Moffett Road and discovered a marijuana grow operation. According to officers on the scene, at least four rooms of the house were dedicated to the marijuana operation. Officers estimate there are 500 plants total.

<http://www.news10.net/news/local/story.aspx?storyid=80819>

Brooktrails clones sold on Craigslist?

By Linda Williams/TWN Staff Writer / 04/07/2010

Santa Barbara Sheriff's Department narcotics detectives cracking down on marijuana clone sales on Craigslist in their area last month arrested two men in Santa Barbara that led to the discovery of a Brooktrails grow house.....According to sheriff's deputies, Schneider was advertising marijuana clones on Craig'slist. In Schneider's El Sueno Road residence in Santa Barbara, deputies found 100 plants, two pounds of bud and \$8,000 in cash. The County of Mendocino Marijuana Eradication Team searched Schneider's Mendocino County Maize Drive residence, and found 65 plants and \$1,500 in cash.....

http://www.willitsnews.com/news/ci_14837364?source=rss

Police: Raid turned up guns, pot, baby alligators

The Associated Press / 04/16/2010 06

SOUTH SAN FRANCISCO, Calif.—Guns and drugs and alligators, oh my! That's how the attorney for a South San Francisco man described the charges against her client, which she said were exaggerated. Nevertheless, prosecutors say 39-year-old Lazaro Leon Jr. pleaded no contest Wednesday in San Mateo County Superior Court to possessing an assault rifle and marijuana with intent to sell, as well as two other gun charges. The case stems from a January raid on Leon's home that police say turned up nearly two dozen guns, 13 marijuana plants, a pound of processed pot and three baby alligators. The alligators were seized and turned over to the Peninsula Humane Society. As for Leon, his defense attorney, Paula Canny, says he's facing a maximum of two years in prison when he is sentenced May 13.

http://www.mercurynews.com/breaking-news/ci_14901120

Tom Stienstra, outdoors writer, 'Great Outdoors' host arrested in pot bust

[C. Johnson](#) / April 3, 2010

WEED, CA (AP) -- A popular California outdoors writer is free on bail after authorities say they found a large marijuana growing operation in his barn in the town of Weed. The Siskiyou County Sheriff's Office said Friday that deputies served a search warrant on Tom Stienstra's home last week and found 60 plants and more than 11 pounds of processed marijuana. . . . Officials said deputies found medical marijuana recommendations for Stienstra, his wife and her son. A message left for Stienstra was not immediately returned.

<http://www.news10.net/news/story.aspx?storyid=78634>

Modesto police find underground marijuana garden

The Associated Press / 04/09/2010

MODESTO, Calif.—Modesto police say they've seized hundreds of marijuana plants after an officer on patrol in a suburban neighborhood noticed a strong smell of marijuana. After obtaining a search warrant for a home and its adjoining property, Modesto police Det. Darren Ruskamp says officers on Friday uncovered an underground tunnel leading from an outdoor shed. Inside the tunnel, officers and members of a narcotics enforcement team say they found two underground growing rooms filled with 255 marijuana plants. Investigators estimate the plants could produce nearly \$300,000 worth of marijuana every three months. Also uncovered during the search was a pound of processed marijuana. . . .

http://www.mercurynews.com/breaking-news/ci_14855984

Marijuana plants discovered in fire-damaged Chula Vista home

Apr 30, 2010

CHULA VISTA, Calif. (CBS 8) - Police Friday are investigating the discovery of supposedly legal marijuana plants after a house fire in the South Bay. . . . Fire crews had the flames knocked down within about 15 minutes. While at the scene, they discovered several cannabis plants and cultivation equipment, Chula Vista Police Department spokesman Bernard Gonzales said. Residents at the home gave police a medical marijuana card and told them they were caregivers, according to Gonzales. . . .

<http://www.cbs8.com/Global/story.asp?S=12407371>

Indoor Pot Grow Sparks Novato House Fire

[CBS 5 CrimeWatch](#) / Jun 7, 2010

NOVATO (BCN) — Sheriff's deputies arrested a 51-year-old man Sunday after a two-alarm fire at his Marin County home revealed he was growing marijuana, according to a Marin County sheriff's sergeant....Firefighters arrived at the scene within minutes and discovered a "very active" fire burning in the basement of the 4,000-square-foot home.....Sheriff's deputies arrested Gauthier after investigators found 50 to 60 marijuana plants and about three pounds of processed marijuana, Boyd said. No injuries were reported, but Nickel said there was "very significant" damage to the home due to the blaze.....Investigators believe the fire was electrical and might have been related to the marijuana grow. It was being investigated as suspicious, Nickel said. Boyd added, "Indoor marijuana grows increase fire danger."

<http://cbs5.com/crime/novato.pot.growing.2.1736978.html>

Two men arrested with more than 200 marijuana plants inside their car

Vacaville Reporter / 05/21/2010

VACAVILLE — Vacaville Police arrested two people Friday morning following the discovery of more than 200 immature marijuana plants inside their vehicle. At about 11:45 p.m. on Thursday, a Vacaville patrol officer spotted two individuals inside a black Honda Accord in the area of Ambassador Place and Rio Grande Drive. After contacting the individuals, police said the officers detected a strong odor of marijuana coming from inside the vehicle and conducted a search of the vehicle and found 225 immature marijuana plants and a clear plastic bag with psilocybin mushrooms. Further investigation revealed that a residence located in the 100 block of Fairview Drive in Vacaville had additional contraband. Detectives from the Vacaville Narcotics Team obtained a search warrant for the residence and located another 100 immature marijuana plants, 10 mature marijuana plants and 1.5 pounds of processed marijuana. Detectives also located a loaded shotgun and packaging material, indicating that the marijuana was not for personal use.....

http://www.mercurynews.com/breaking-news/ci_15135155

The growing of Marijuana on public lands cost tax payers millions of dollars in "clean-up" costs. As enforcement is stepped up, more and more confrontations between armed growers and law enforcement officer are occurring. The danger to unarmed citizens attempting to use public lands has also increased as growers are willing to go to greater lengths to protect their drugs.

Sonoma authorities seize \$21M in marijuana plants

The Associated Press / Thursday, May. 06, 2010

CLOVERDALE, Calif. -- Sonoma County authorities say they have seized more than 10,000 marijuana plants valued at \$21 million.....a hunter alerted authorities to the plants. Investigators found a hillside that had been stripped of its vegetation so marijuana could be planted. A spring was also diverted for irrigation. Bertoli said a campsite close to the grow was vacant. The raid opened the narcotic unit's marijuana eradication season. It was also the county's second pot bust this week. Three people were taken into custody on Monday after authorities confiscated 1,300 plants worth \$1.3 million in Santa Rosa. That raid also turned up two loaded handguns and about \$100,000 in cash.

<http://www.fresnobee.com/2010/05/06/1924165/authorities-seize-1300-marijuana.html?storylink=mirelated>

Nearly 100,000 pot plants found in SoCal forest

The Associated Press / 06/29/2010

SAN BERNARDINO, Calif.—Nearly 100,000 marijuana plants have been uprooted in four pot farms discovered in the San Bernardino National Forest east of Los Angeles. There are no arrests. The marijuana farms were found Thursday and Friday by the sheriff's Marijuana Eradication Team, the U.S. Forest Service and the Campaign Against Marijuana Planting. Some 59,000 plants were growing in a canyon north of Arrowhead Springs and more than 5,000 plants were being cultivated below Crest Park in the Rim Forest and Sky Forest area. Investigators say deputies found another farm with 32,000 plants on a ridge in lower Lytle Creek Canyon. Another 3,000 plants were growing in the Miller Narrows area.

http://www.mercurynews.com/breaking-news/ci_15400285

LA officers ferret out pot plots on public lands

The Associated Press / 06/26/2010

LOS ANGELES—Los Angeles area law officers are cracking down on illicit marijuana plots on public lands. Authorities say a team of officers from several agencies on Friday eradicated more than 19,000 marijuana plants in the Lancaster area and confiscated growing equipment and pesticides. The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department says in a release Saturday that since last month, narcotics detectives have destroyed about 85,000 marijuana plants from public lands with an estimated street value of \$170 million. The department urged people visiting the more remote public areas to be cautious because criminal marijuana farmers sometimes use guards to protect their crops or even booby-traps.....

http://www.mercurynews.com/breaking-news/ci_15384009?nclick_check=1

Pot bust at large Madera Co. garden

By Jim Guy / The Fresno Bee / Wednesday, Apr. 14, 2010

Madera County sheriff's deputies raided a marijuana garden in Ahwahnee and arrested a man they say has connections with Mexican drug cartels. The 30-year-old man was fertilizing some of the estimated 13,000 plants with a backpack spray rig when he was taken into custody Tuesday.....

<http://www.fresnobee.com/2010/04/14/1896348/pot-bust-at-large-madera-co-garden.html?storylink=mirelated>

Pot plants seized in Malibu Creek State Park

The Associated Press / 04/12/2010

MALIBU, Calif.—Authorities say two men have been arrested on suspicion of marijuana possession after hundreds of pot plants and seeds were found in a remote area of Malibu Creek State Park.....Readyhoff says Arturo Molina of Van Nuys and Victor Magana, a Mexican national, were booked on suspicion of marijuana possession, possession of a concealed firearm and destruction of plants and geological features. He says both men fled the scene but park rangers later tracked down the pair. Officers recovered some 900 marijuana plants and 3,000 seeds.

http://www.mercurynews.com/breaking-news/ci_14870327

Grand jury: Illegal pot costs more than you think'

Ukiah Daily Journal Staff / 05/17/2010

The Mendocino County Grand Jury believes the big hidden cost of illegal pot growing in this county is the amount of illegal water use and general environmental degradation illegal pot growers spread. Among a series of its 2009-10 reports issued over the weekend, the grand jury's "Marijuana: It costs

more than you think" report tackles a problem increasingly identified by authorities and citizens as just as serious as the crime illegal pot growing brings to town.....The GJ found that over the past two years there has been an increase in citizen reports/complaints to law enforcement regarding environmental issues related to illegal marijuana farming in the County." Using a law enforcement figure that the 362,000 illegal marijuana plants seized as of October, 2009 was about 10 percent of the total out there, and using what it believes is the "conservative estimate" of one gallon of water per plant per day, the grand jury concluded that illegal consumption of water would be 3.6 million gallons per day, or about 11 acre feet. Meanwhile, local residents were under very serious water cutbacks and rationing. The GJ also had photographs taken during the 2009 growing season showing them water being diverted from creeks for irrigation purposes at illegal marijuana growing sites plus, animal carcasses, human garbage, human waste, herbicides and animal poisons had been recently found at these sites. The report also found that water was "being polluted by highly toxic compounds. These toxins are used as fertilizer and pesticides which are diluted by mixing them with water in dammed areas of the stream bed. Possession and use of many of these chemicals are banned In the United States." The investigation also confirmed that illegal growers clear-cut trees, dam streams, terrace slopes which causes erosion and watershed pollution, and left local authorities to clean it all up.....

http://www.ukiahdailyjournal.com/ci_15101175?source=most_viewed

Investigations continue to reveal the unregulated and disingenuous nature of dispensaries in California. These investigations continue to turn up significant amounts of cash and reveal that the dispensaries are seldom more than locations for the retail sales of marijuana and not the "collective or cooperatives" they claim to be. Several more Cities and Counties have enacted moratoriums or outright bans of these establishments in their communities. Other communities are resorting to litigation in order to enforce existing regulations barring the operation of these businesses. In their place, delivery services have been found to operating throughout the state, challenging communities' ability to locate and regulate them.

Medical marijuana businessman pleads guilty to unlawful sales

By LARRY WELBORN / THE ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER / April 6, 2010

NEWPORT BEACH – An owner and a manager of a medical marijuana business in Lake Forest pleaded guilty Tuesday to unlawful sales of marijuana....and possession of marijuana for sale, and admitted to sentencing enhancements of committing a crime while he was free on bail in a separate case. He was sentenced to three years in state prison, according to a news release from the Orange County District Attorney's Office. As a term of Wick's plea agreement, he is also expected to plead guilty next week to possession of marijuana for sale and possessing more than \$25,000 obtained through illegal drug sales in his other 2009 Orange County case, according to District Attorney spokeswoman Farrah Emami.....*They were accused of selling marijuana to customers with a physician's recommendation but without any relationship to those customers and without requiring or requesting them to participate in collectively or cooperatively cultivating marijuana in violation of state law*, Emami said.

<http://www.ocregister.com/news/marijuana-242799-sale-guilty.html>

San Mateo county drug task force nets six arrests, marijuana, meth

By Diana Samuels / Daily News Staff Writer / 06/03/2010

A six-month undercover investigation that began with agents monitoring medical marijuana dispensaries in unincorporated Redwood City led to six arrests, the San Mateo County Narcotics Task Force announced Thursday. During the investigation, agents arranged several "covert buys" of marijuana, methamphetamine and two handguns, said Lt. Marc Alcantara, commander of the task force. They seized more than a pound of processed marijuana, small amounts of methamphetamine and cocaine, the guns and paraphernalia associated with drug sales....."We called the (Blue Heaven) dispensary, inquired about the availability of marijuana, asked if they could deliver to a specific location in San Mateo County and they agreed to do that," Alcantara said. Ultimately, the investigation "led to purchasing methamphetamine and then purchasing guns," he said....Blue Heaven was denied a business license last month by the San Mateo County License Board but its operator said he plans to appeal. Both Redwood City and Mountain View have temporarily banned medical marijuana dispensaries, though Mountain View city officials have indicated they intend to eventually allow dispensaries. At a meeting this week, the Mountain View City Council discussed how to regulate the dispensaries and reduce their potential to add to crime in the city.

http://www.mercurynews.com/peninsula/ci_15223426

Marijuana Dispensary Bust

Jim Bunner / Jun 13, 2010

Santa Barbara - The Santa Barbara Police Department, along with assistance from Santa Barbara County Sheriff's, executed several search warrants in connection with what they claim was an illegally operated marijuana dispensary. That dispensary, "Hortipharm", is located at 3516 State Street. Narcotic detectives say "Hortipharm" was operating outside the limitations of the "Compassionate Use Act", which provides specific limited immunity from laws prohibiting marijuana sales, possession, and cultivation. The investigation also allegedly revealed evidence that the owners were laundering money through "Pizza Guru." The authorization for the search and arrest warrants was approved by the District Attorney's Office and a Santa Barbara Superior Court Judge. In addition to the Hortipharm dispensary, police conducted search warrants at several other locations.....Police also seized a large quantity of marijuana, concentrated marijuana known as hashish, and other marijuana products and paraphernalia. Police have also seized sophisticated equipment used to grow large quantities of marijuana. This investigation is continuing with more arrests expected.

<http://www.keyt.com/news/local/96184399.html>

Vacaville residents arrested in marijuana business case

Published by The Reporter / 06/14/2010

Two Vacaville residents were arrested Thursday for being suspected of a marijuana business conducted out of their home. For three months, Vacaville narcotics detectives have been investigating information about a marijuana dispensary operating within the city limits. Online, according to the Vacaville Police Department, the business was identified as "The Vanjo Group," which was operating from a residence in the 100 block of Kiowa Court in Vacaville. Detectives conducted surveillance on the business and ultimately purchased marijuana from Katherine Caldwell, 50, in an undercover capacity, police said. Narcotics detectives secured a search warrant which was ultimately served at the residence on Thursday. A search of the residence and an associated warehouse in Fairfield located extensive evidence of marijuana sales in violation of current California law.....Narcotics Enforcement detectives are frequently contacting citizens who are unfamiliar with the current state of the law in California with regards to medical marijuana.

Proposition 215, the Compassionate Use Act, does not authorize the sale of marijuana for profit to anyone. The city of Vacaville also has a moratorium on medical marijuana dispensaries currently in effect which prohibits the operation of a marijuana dispensary within the city limits.....

http://www.contracostatimes.com/news/ci_15292781?nclick_check=1

Pot Dispensary Raided Again

Jim Bunner / Jun 28, 2010

Santa Barbara - For the second time, officers from the Santa Barbara Police Department raided a Westside medical marijuana dispensary. Authorities say the owner, 32-year-old Juan Carlos Solis, was arrested again on suspicion of cultivation and possession of marijuana for sale. These are the same charges Solis is facing in connection with a prior raid in February at the Healing Center, which is located at 1437 San Andres Street. According to police, search warrants were served at the Healing Center dispensary and at an apartment that Solis reportedly shared with a fellow employee. That employee was also arrested on similar drug-related charges. Police officials allege the operators of the dispensary are obtaining its marijuana illegally, as well as not operating within the guidelines of the Compassionate Use Act, the state law that regulates medical marijuana use.

<http://www.keyt.com/news/local/97226089.html>

Williams just says no to marijuana

Susan Meeker / Colusa County Sun-Herald / Thursday, Apr 8 2010

The Williams City Council introduced an ordinance Wednesday that will prohibit the establishment of medical marijuana dispensaries in town, and other businesses that potentially violate state and federal law. Cities and counties throughout the state have been scrambling to tighten up regulations after experiencing a rash of business license applications from people wishing to operate marijuana stores, city officials said. "Some of these stores may possibly comply with state law, but many do not, and all violate federal law, which continues to prohibit the cultivation, use, purchase and sale of marijuana for any purpose," said Monica Aguayo, Williams assistant planner.....The proposed ordinance, which already cleared the Williams Planning Commission, will amend the city's municipal code to clarify that no business which is illegal under state or federal law, including medical marijuana dispensaries, may be licensed or operated in Williams and that all land uses that violate either federal or state law will be banned.

<http://www.colusa-sun-herald.com/news/marijuana-4606-state-williams.html>

Supes prohibits medical marijuana

[By Susan Meeker/Tri-County Newspapers](#) / Tuesday, Apr 13 2010,

The Colusa County supervisors said no to medical marijuana Tuesday, after adopting an urgency ordinance that puts a temporary moratorium on the establishment of marijuana dispensaries in the unincorporated areas of the county. The temporary ban takes effect immediately and gives the county 45 days to allow its Medical Marijuana Committee to study the impacts dispensaries would have on the county. The county has scheduled a public hearing for May 18, which could yield an extension of the ban for an additional 10 months in order for the county to address the zoning of marijuana facilities in its General Plan.....Issuing any permit or business license, or any other entitlements providing for the establishment or operation of medical marijuana dispensaries — prior to study and the completion of the General Plan — would pose an immediate threat to the public's health, safety and welfare, county officials said.

<http://www.colusa-sun-herald.com/news/county-4637-marijuana-medical.html>

Placer Board: No Pot Dispensaries In Unincorporated Areas

Care Facilities Can Still Distribute To Patients, County Says / April 6, 2010

PLACER COUNTY, Calif. -- Citing health and safety hazards, the Placer County Board of Supervisors voted Tuesday to ban medical marijuana dispensaries, collectives and cooperatives from establishing in the county's unincorporated areas. "Marijuana dispensaries tend to have detrimental impacts on community health, safety and welfare, including increases in crimes such as illegal drug activity, robberies of people leaving dispensaries, loitering, use of fraudulent identification cards and dispensary burglaries," the board said in a news release. . . . Placer County said it began researching the issue in response to requests for business licenses for medical marijuana dispensaries. The board also decided that the county should keep studying the issue and consider potential refinements to Tuesday's action.

<http://www.kcra.com/news/23072764/detail.html>

Fillmore adopts 45-day moratorium on pot dispensaries

By Mike Harris / Posted April 14, 2010

The Fillmore City Council on Tuesday unanimously adopted an immediate 45-day moratorium on the establishment of medical marijuana dispensaries in the city. The council took the action at the recommendation of City Attorney Ted Schneider, who said the "urgency" measure was necessary because of a number of inquiries from people interested in opening dispensaries in Fillmore. According to the new zoning ordinance, Police Chief Tim Hagel maintains that the establishment of medical marijuana dispensaries will result in an increase in criminal activity in areas surrounding such dispensaries. Schneider said a public hearing on the matter will be held during the 45-day period. Before the moratorium expires, Schneider intends to ask the council to extend it up to an additional 10 months. . . . Camarillo, Moorpark, Oxnard and Simi Valley have adopted similar moratoriums, Schneider said. Those four cities later enacted permanent ordinances prohibiting the dispensaries.

<http://www.vcstar.com/news/2010/apr/14/fillmore-adopts-45-day-moratorium-on-pot/>

Alameda Passes Medical Marijuana Dispensary Ban

ALAMEDA (CBS 5 / AP) — May 8, 2010

City officials in Alameda have voted to ban medical marijuana dispensaries.

The City Council's unanimous decision on Tuesday came as a moratorium on the opening of any new pot club was set to expire. The city currently does not have any medical marijuana clubs, so the law will not affect any existing businesses. A pot club in the city closed last year after officials accused its owner of misleading them about the nature of the business on his business application and said the dispensary was a nuisance. Mayor Beverly Johnson said she did not think pot clubs are what California voters envisioned when they voted to legalize marijuana for medical use in 1996. But supporters of the clubs say they are safe way to purchase the marijuana they need for their medical conditions.

<http://cbs5.com/local/alameda.medical.marijuana.2.1683288.html>

San Ramon approves temporary ban on pot dispensaries

By Sophia Kazmi / Contra Costa Times / 05/12/2010

SAN RAMON — Medical marijuana dispensaries have been snuffed out in San Ramon — at least for 45 days. The City Council on Tuesday night unanimously approved a temporary ban on

dispensaries. City officials had recently received inquiries about its regulations on operating dispensaries, but because it had none on the books, the council decided to impose the temporary ban until it could set a policy.....San Ramon is the last Tri-Valley city to take up the medical marijuana dispensary issue. Danville's Town Council last year extended its moratorium on dispensaries. Dublin, Livermore and Pleasanton have each banned dispensaries.
http://www.mercurynews.com/breaking-news/ci_15069831?nclick_check=1

Calexico Medical Marijuana Dispensaries Will Have to Wait

By Mario Conde 19 May 2010

The Calexico City Council approved a 45 day interim ordinance prohibiting cooperative, collective, or other forms of marijuana dispensaries during the special study period the city will have. City Attorney Jennifer Lyon said in her report that Calexico is taking this ordinance since the Calexico Municipal Code does not make it clear if medical marijuana dispensaries are allowed, and if so, what zones can they operate. Lyon stated that many cities are worried about regulating dispensaries because the law in this area is still unsettled. The City believes that these types of dispensaries attracts negative effects on public health, safety and welfare may occur in Calexico because of the proliferation of these medical marijuana dispensaries and the lack of regulations governing the establishments and operations of these facilities. During this moratorium time, the City of Calexico will deny any permits to all Medical Marijuana Dispensaries that tries to establish themselves in Calexico. "Dispensaries around the State have often attracted burglaries, weapons violations and other crimes.....City Staff believes that that they need to take their time to decide the right way to deal with this issue based on the unique character for the City of Calexico and in order to sufficiently protect the public health of its residents....."

<http://tribwekchron.com/2010/05/calexico-medical-marijuana-dispensaries-will-have-to-wait/>

Sunnyvale City Council temporarily bans medical pot clubs while issue is studied

By John Dugan / 05/26/2010

The Sunnyvale City Council passed a moratorium temporarily prohibiting medical marijuana dispensaries from opening in the city, in the process asking city staff to begin studying the issue immediately to allow for a possible permanent municipal code change in the near future.....The moratorium lasts for 45 days, at which time the council can extend it for another 10 months and 15 days. Multiple council members expressed their desire to see the study completed as soon as possible, and promised to extend the moratorium for far less than the maximum time allowed.

http://www.mercurynews.com/breaking-news/ci_15166304

St. Helena says 'no' to medical pot

By JESSE DUARTE, For the Register / Sunday, May 30, 2010

St. Helena residents will have to go out of town to legally buy their medical marijuana. In the face of strong public opposition, the St. Helena City Council voted 4-1 this week to abandon an ordinance that would have allowed up to two marijuana dispensaries in the industrial and service commercial zoning districts. "I don't think having a dispensary here will enhance St. Helena.....In an e-mail, Planning Commissioner Peter White urged the council to vote against the ordinance. "As a planning commissioner, I was not asked my opinion about whether or not we should have dispensaries but if the council was so moved to have them — what zoning regulations should govern them," he wrote. "In my judgment, the more restrictive the better, and in hindsight a total ban would be the best." About 35 e-mails opposing the ordinance were addressed to the entire council. But individual

council members reported receiving “hundreds” of e-mails for and against the ordinance over the last few weeks. http://napavalleyregister.com/news/local/article_a66cb0cc-6baa-11df-8c01-001cc4c03286.html

Rio Dell passes temporary ban on medical marijuana dispensaries

Donna Tam/The Times-Standard / 05/06/2010

An application to form a medical marijuana collective has prompted Rio Dell to put a hold on dispensaries until some regulations can be set. The Rio Dell City Council approved a 45-day moratorium on the formation of medical marijuana dispensaries Tuesday night, citing a need for the creation of an ordinance. The temporary ban is effective immediately.....Rio Dell follows other cities in Humboldt County which are working on ordinances, including Ferndale and Eureka. The city of Arcata has already completed its ordinance, which is based on land use codes. Councilman Jack Thompson said the moratorium is meant to give the city some time to better understand the law and set guidelines to protect its other businesses. ”We have a very large downtown business area that is very depressed. We don't need to do something that sounds like it may make it more difficult,” he said.

http://www.humboldtbeacon.com/ci_15031512?source=most_viewed

Town bans marijuana dispensaries

By Rebecca Unger / Hi-Desert Star / Saturday, June 19, 2010

YUCCA VALLEY — The Town Council voted four to member Lori Herbel’s one to ban marijuana dispensaries in the town’s boundaries Tuesday. The ordinance comes up for a second reading in August, where approval would turn Yucca Valley’s existing moratorium into a permanent ban, effective in 30 days.....In recent months several cities, including Twentynine Palms, have enacted legislation that limits or bans medical-marijuana dispensaries. Some cited illegal operations, some claimed an increase in crime, while others simply wished to halt unwanted proliferation. One high-profile case going through the appeals court is Qualified Patients Association versus the city of Anaheim. It’s possible that a ruling here could determine whether a city can use zoning ordinances to prohibit dispensaries operating under state law. San Bernardino County supervisors voted Tuesday for a one-year extension to the county’s moratorium on medical-marijuana dispensaries and collectives in unincorporated areas.

<http://www.hidesertstar.com/articles/2010/06/19/news/doc4c1c647e8311e152354907.txt>

SH Council extends its moratorium on medical marijuana dispensaries for additional year

By Nick Diamantides / Staff Writer / June 18th, 2010

No medical marijuana dispensaries will be allowed in Signal Hill until at least June 28, 2011. Last Tuesday, the Signal Hill City Council voted unanimously to extend the city’s moratorium on such facilities for an additional year.....Charney explained that, as a basis for adopting the moratorium, the Council agreed with a staff report that found potential negative effects on the public health, safety and welfare associated with unregulated dispensaries, including: an increase in crimes such as burglary, robbery and loitering; use of marijuana in public in the vicinity of dispensaries; an increase in marijuana DUIs; the illegal resale of marijuana to individuals without physician recommendations; street dealers attempting to sell marijuana to dispensary customers; and an increase of the sale of illegal drugs in the vicinity of dispensaries. The interim moratorium forced the closure of the two dispensaries that had been operating in Signal Hill. Then, on August 18, 2009, the Council extended the moratorium to June 28, 2010. Charney told the Council that, by state law, it

could extend the moratorium for an additional year, but after that time no further extensions were allowed. He recommended the one-year extension of the moratorium. . . . Prior to the expiration of the moratorium, staff will prepare a regulatory strategy to be reviewed by the planning commission and then brought forward to the City Council," Charney said. After a few brief comments agreeing with Charney's analysis and recommendation, Council members unanimously adopted the ordinance extending the moratorium for one more year. The next meeting of the City Council is scheduled for 7pm, July 6 in the Council Chamber of Signal Hill City Hall.
<http://www.signaltribunenewspaper.com/archives/6912>

County orders end to medical marijuana dispensary in Santa Venetia

[Jennifer Upshaw Swartz](#) / 04/02/2010

Proprietors of Marin's newest medical marijuana dispensary are locked in a battle with Marin County officials who have ordered the Santa Venetia outlet to cease operations immediately. A county inspection is scheduled for next week at Tree of Life, a small business that has been operating in recent weeks. . . . Tree of Life is the first dispensary in the unincorporated portion of the county. Other Marin dispensaries include Marin Alliance for Medical Marijuana in Fairfax; Marin Holistic Solutions and Going Green in Corte Madera; and Caregiver Compassion Center in Sausalito. On March 17, county officials ordered the Santa Venetia operation to shut its doors within 15 days and schedule an inspection to prove compliance or face a code enforcement hearing and, if unsuccessful at the hearing, face fines of \$2,500 per day per violation. Pending a ruling against the dispensary, if operations continue there the matter could go to court, county officials said. An inspection will be conducted next week, but the group running the dispensary has no intention of halting operations, said Colleen Doherty, a San Anselmo land use attorney representing the dispensary she described as small, strictly controlled, protected by security cameras and staffed by knowledgeable people who follow state law. "Tree of Life disputes that they are not allowed in Marin County," Doherty said Friday, citing a 1992 ordinance passed by the county Board of Supervisors supporting the concept of medical marijuana use as proof it was OK to do business in the area. "Right now there is no medical dispensary in the north part of the county, so there is nowhere for people to go," she said. "It's badly needed and we have a ordinance in the municipal code that says the Board of Supervisors fully support providing medical marijuana to people who need it. "It's really a zoning dispute," Doherty said. County officials disagree that the 1992 ordinance invites dispensaries to open in unincorporated areas. "It's not a permitted use," said Brian Crawford, county planning director. "We don't have any specific permitted land use for medical marijuana dispensaries. . . . Specific action has not yet been determined, he said. "It's in close proximity to schools - the 7-Eleven store has created some law enforcement issues," he said. "We're not making any value judgments about (medical marijuana). É We just don't think that's an appropriate location." Santa Venetia resident Mary Feller agreed. "I think my concerns are just that this is in the middle of a residential neighborhood," she said, saying she was concerned about the potential for crime and increased traffic in the area. "In my personal view I am a total supporter of medical marijuana. I really want to be clear about that, but it needs to be appropriately sited and I think in the middle of a residential neighborhood is not an appropriate site."

http://www.marinij.com/sanrafael/ci_14810711

Pot club opens in city that outlawed them

The Associated Press / 05/25/2010

GALT, Calif.—A medical marijuana dispensary is open for business in downtown Galt despite a 2009 law banning such businesses in the city. The Galt Health & Wellness Center has been open about a week in a nondescript building near the Galt Post Office. But city officials want to shut it down by week's end. In July 2009, the city passed an ordinance outlawing places where medical marijuana is given or sold to two or more people. City Manager Jason Behrmann says the new club did not have to apply for a business license because it is being run as a nonprofit where marijuana is sold on consignment. An employee says as many as 75 people joined since the collective opened a week ago, with more people signing up every day.

http://www.mercurynews.com/news/ci_15157748

County shuts South Whittier medical marijuana dispensary

By Mike Sprague, Staff Writer / 05/26/2010

SOUTH WHITTIER - Los Angeles County officials have forced a medical marijuana dispensary they say was operating illegally to close. The dispensary, 3P Wellness Center, 11331 La Mirada Blvd., closed Friday because it didn't have the proper county permits and licenses, county officials said. The dispensary was discovered to be operating illegally in late April.....Representatives of the County Departments of Regional Planning and Treasurer and Tax Collector conducted on-site inspections of the dispensary in late April and issued notices of violation to the dispensary operators for not having the proper permits and licenses. The dispensary closed its doors after county counsel contacted both the dispensary operators and the property owners, and told them that civil action may be pursued against them if the dispensary did not cease operations immediately. This is the second medical marijuana business in the area to close in about six months. The Starlight 420 Center, 15640 Leffingwell Road, closed in December 2009 after operating for more than six months. The county went to court and obtained a preliminary injunction against the dispensary.

http://www.whittierdailynews.com/news/ci_15168563

Medical pot clinics in Sacramento County ordered to close

[Dave Marquis](#) April 7, 2010

SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA - While California voters approved the use of medical marijuana in 1996, more local governments are trying to limit the growth of pot dispensaries or shut them down entirely. In a letter to medical marijuana dispensary owners and landlords, Sacramento County warned they are in violation of county zoning laws and must close. The letter, received by most clinics or their landlords in the last few days, orders them to "cease the unpermitted use of the property within 15 days of this letter.".....No one knows exactly how many dispensaries may already be open in Sacramento County, but the letter went out to all those that have been identified. Clinic owners say they will meet on Wednesday to discuss how they will stay open, which could include talk about a legal fight. "We're going to meet with some of the other collective owners and plot and if necessary, go to court," said Himes.

<http://www.news10.net/news/local/story.aspx?storyid=78866&catid=2>

Hayward orders marijuana dispensary to shut down

By [Kristofer Noceda](#) / [The Oakland Tribune](#) / 06/12/2010

HAYWARD — A downtown medical marijuana dispensary has until 1:15 p.m. today to shut down or face legal action from the city. The city attorney's office on Friday handed the 24-hour notice to the Purple Elephant Cooperative because the city does not permit medical marijuana dispensaries.....If the Purple Elephant Cooperative is still in business after the 24-hour deadline,

Lawson said, the city has a number of strategies to get the business out. "We have court orders and potential criminal enforcement immediately available," he said. Earlier this year, another collective, the Green Light, opened briefly in January but shut down after it was served with a similar order, Lawson said. http://www.insidebayarea.com/dailyreview/localnews/ci_15280179

Preliminary injunction bars Venice-area dispensary from selling medical marijuana

The judge again sides with prosecutors' arguments that California law does not permit the sale of pot. His ruling says the Organica store was not operating as a true, nonprofit collective.

By John Hoeffel / April 14, 2010

In a second ruling against a medical marijuana dispensary, a Los Angeles County Superior Court judge issued a preliminary injunction Tuesday that bars a popular Venice-area outlet from selling or distributing the drug at its sprawling store on Washington Boulevard. The decision by Judge James C. Chalfant could embolden city prosecutors to seek more court orders to close dispensaries as they try to find the most efficient way to reduce the number in Los Angeles. *As he did in a previous case, Chalfant concluded that the state's medical marijuana laws do not allow collectives to sell cannabis. Chalfant's decisions are preliminary orders and both cases are slated to go to trial. But his rulings against Hemp Factory V in Eagle Rock and Organica, which straddles the Los Angeles-Culver City line, could eventually force the courts to settle the issue, which has become increasingly contentious as prosecutors in Southern California step up efforts to halt such sales. Most, if not all, collectives sell marijuana to their members for set prices.* In the hearing, Chalfant strongly reiterated his view that the state's laws were intended to allow medical marijuana patients and caregivers to form collectives to grow pot together and share the harvest, but not to sell it like a product in a retail store.....Organica, which registered with the city in 2007, was targeted by federal and local narcotics agents and has been raided three times. *In two searches, about 290 pounds of marijuana were seized. Records show the dispensary had \$5.3 million in sales in a 13-month period. The judge compared it to a Costco, which requires membership but no collective labor. He also dismissed Joseph's claim that he lives a modest lifestyle as "weak," noting that the California Highway Patrol found more than \$92,000 in his car.* And he said Joseph provided no evidence that Organica was nonprofit, as state law requires. "If I was making money, I wouldn't be broke now," said Joseph, who also faces a criminal trial on two dozen felony drug charges. Chalfant appeared offended by some aspects of the case, concluding in his written decision that Joseph was "simply a drug dealer." He noted that the collective members were accused of handing out fliers to high school students. "I personally think that is outrageous," Chalfant said. Joseph has repeatedly denied the charge, saying that the successful dispensary didn't need to recruit members. Chalfant pointed out that the collective's records showed 257 of its 1,772 members were 21 or younger. "How many of the children who are members of Organica are seriously ill?" he asked Joseph's lawyer. Welch replied: "Your Honor, I know 16-year-olds who have died of cancer.".....
http://www.latimes.com/news/local/la-me-medical-marijuana14-2010apr14_0,2268544.story

Court tells marijuana dispensary in Windsor to close its doors

[Sherrie Peif](#) / Thursday, April 29, 2010

Weld District Court Judge James Hartmann has ordered a medical marijuana dispensary in Windsor to cease operating. MediGrow owner Lazarus Pino has been operating his dispensary in violation of a moratorium against new dispensaries in Windsor since Jan. 17. The town has been fining Pino up to \$300 per day since. Violation of the court order could result in more fines and jail time.....Last week, the Board of Adjustment and Appeals in Windsor upheld a condemnation notice issued by the

Windsor planning department. In his ruling, Hartmann said Pino's claim that he was not afforded equal protection was flawed and without merit. "The defendant made a conscious choice to open his doors for business without first having obtained a letter of compliance from the town," Hartmann wrote. Hartmann also said that while he realizes Pino has invested a lot of time and money into MediGrow, it was at his own risk. Pino will return to in Windsor Municipal Court in May to fight the constitutionality of the moratorium.

<http://www.greeleytribune.com/article/20100429/NEWS/100429637/1002&parentprofile=1001>

City sues medical marijuana group

Published: April 23, 2010

MOUNTAIN VIEW, Calif., April 23 (UPI) -- A California community is suing a medical marijuana collective for opening in defiance of a city ban on pot dispensaries, officials said. Buddy's Cannabis Patient Collective opened April 10 in Mountain View, Calif., the San Jose Mercury News reported Thursday. The Mountain View City Council voted in February to ban such dispensaries, saying it would eventually allow such medical marijuana clubs but needed time to consider regulations, the newspaper said. Attorney Matt Lucero and a nephew opened Buddy's despite the prohibition, claiming Mountain View's ordinance is illegal. Lucero said he was not willing to wait while the city developed its regulations. "There's not one city in this county that has a lawful ordinance allowing for medical marijuana collectives and cooperatives to operate," Lucero said. "I'm not willing to wait any longer." Mountain View officials told Lucero they intend to sue and seek a preliminary court injunction, the News reported.

http://www.upi.com/Top_News/US/2010/04/23/City-sues-medical-marijuana-group/UPI-36501272069514/

After city threatens lawsuit, marijuana dispensary owner sues Mountain View

By Diana Samuels / Daily News Staff Writer / 04/27/2010

The proprietor of a new Mountain View medical marijuana dispensary has struck the first blow in a legal showdown with the city. Matt Lucero, a lawyer who opened Buddy's Cannabis Collective with his nephew Jessie on April 10, said he filed a lawsuit Friday in Santa Clara County Superior Court against Mountain View and acting city attorney Jannie Quinn. The suit seeks unspecified monetary damages from the city and Quinn, as well as a court order declaring that Mountain View's ban on medical marijuana dispensaries is illegal, Lucero said. He also is asking the court to intervene by preventing the city from shutting down his collective inside a warehouse on the 2600 block of Bayshore Parkway. Council members passed an ordinance in February that bans medical marijuana dispensaries, saying they want to eventually allow them but need more time to craft regulations. The Luceros opened Buddy's despite the ban, and the city council voted in closed session on April 20 to take legal action to close it. So Lucero responded by suing to "defend our position and initiate it on our end," he said. "Part of it is pre-emptive, part of it is to show the resolve of the medical marijuana community," Lucero said.....

http://www.mercurynews.com/breaking-news/ci_14971688?nclick_check=1

Federal judge upholds ban on marijuana dispensaries in 2 Orange County cities

May 3, 2010

A federal judge on Monday threw out a lawsuit by four Orange County medical marijuana users who contended citywide bans on pot dispensaries in Lake Forest and Costa Mesa violated the Americans with Disabilities Act. U.S. District Judge Andrew Guilford rejected the argument that laws

prohibiting pot dispensaries in the two cities conflicted with the disabilities act or with the plaintiffs' access to public services. Guilford initially sided with the cities last month, citing federal law that prohibits the sale of marijuana, but then later agreed to listen to arguments made by the patients, Marla James, Wayne Washington, James Armantrout and Charles Daniel DeJong. The plaintiffs, each of them Orange County residents, argued that they use marijuana to treat various medical ailments. After his review, the judge ruled with the cities' position that access to marijuana is not covered by the disabilities act. "Because marijuana cannot be prescribed under the ADA, the court finds no likelihood of success on the merits," Guilford wrote in his ruling.

<http://latimesblogs.latimes.com/lanow/2010/05/federal-judge-upholds-ban-on-marijuana-dispensaries-by-orange-county-cities.html>

Judge denies temporary restraining order to halt closure of 4 medical marijuana shops on May 26, 2010

Four medical marijuana dispensaries lost their bid Wednesday for a temporary court order to stop Los Angeles from shutting them down when its ordinance takes effect on June 7. The decision could discourage other dispensaries from seeking similar orders to block immediate enforcement. If the dispensaries had won, city officials feared they could face scores of such orders, hampering their plans to close hundreds of dispensaries. "Based on the arguments we heard today, the floodgates have been closed," said Jane Usher, a special assistant city attorney. Los Angeles County Superior Court Judge David P. Yaffe denied the motions for restraining orders despite persistent entreaties from David Welch, the attorney for the dispensaries, who argued that the operators faced irreparable harm if the city imposed daily fines or arrested and jailed them. "The temporary restraining order is denied, again, and for the last time," Yaffe said. The dispensaries are among 44 that filed two lawsuits challenging the city's ordinance, which allows only dispensaries that registered by Nov. 13, 2007, to continue to operate.....

<http://latimesblogs.latimes.com/lanow/2010/05/medical-marijuana-shops-must-close-by-june-7-after-judge-denies-temporary-restraining-order.html>

Fresno Authorities target Medical Marijuana

Friday, May 14, 2010

FRESNO, Calif. (KFSN) -- Fresno County Sheriff's Deputies arrested Rick Morse Friday when a judge found him in violation of a court order, and now the city is going after another dispensary. Two months ago, a judge ordered the Med-Mar owner to close his marijuana dispensary and serve 100 hours of community service. He did neither.Friday, the judge sentenced Morse to 15 days in jail, but again, just hours later, Morse's son Brandon opened the doors for patients. "Everyone's going to say 'Why don't you just wait? Why don't you just wait?'" Brandon Morse said. "I don't have any more time to wait." City attorneys are now trying to get a court order to send in police to physically close the dispensary. But their focus isn't only on Med-Mar. The city's next target, the Healthy Living Collective. Even though the sign here clearly states it's 'Members Only' and city attorneys admit they do not sell marijuana here, the city is still trying to shut this place down. Patients like Diana Kirby share marijuana with each other at the Healthy Living Collective. No money is exchanged. But a new lawsuit from the city claims the collective is an unauthorized dispensary in violation of the same laws as Med-Mar.....

<http://abclocal.go.com/kfsn/story?section=news/local&id=7443001>

Operator of Fresno marijuana dispensary jailed

The Associated Press / 05/14/2010

FRESNO, Calif.—The operator of a Fresno medical-marijuana dispensary is behind bars after a judge ruled that he violated a court order not to sell marijuana. During a court appearance Friday morning, Rick Morse told Fresno County Superior Court Judge Donald Franson that he was still selling the drug out of his Medmar Clinic. With the admission, Morse was handcuffed and ordered to spend 15 days in jail. Because Morse is being held without bail, Judge Franson says he will serve all 15 days. Morse was also ordered to pay a \$1,000 fine. During the hearing, the judge also approved a request by Fresno's deputy city attorney to file a motion to shut down the dispensary. http://www.mercurynews.com/news/ci_15089593?nclick_check=1

Pot-shop owner freed due to jail crowding

By Robert Rodriguez and Pablo Lopez / The Fresno Bee / Saturday, May. 15, 2010

Overcrowding in Fresno County Jail prompted the release of the owner of a Fresno medical-marijuana clinic whom a judge had ordered to spend 15 days behind bars. Superior Court Judge Donald Franson Jr. ruled Friday that Rick Morse, 48, had violated a court order that prohibits him from selling the drug at his Medmar Clinic in the Tower District. He sentenced Morse to 15 days in Fresno County Jail. But jail officials said Saturday that Morse was released Friday afternoon because of overcrowding. Police Chief Jerry Dyer said Saturday that it was frustrating to see Morse "thumb his nose" at the justice system "I can't speak for the judge, but I would imagine he is also a little frustrated since he put him in jail," Dyer said.

<http://www.fresnobee.com/2010/05/15/1934430/defiant-fresno-pot-shop-owner.html>

Pot dispensary owner, son cited for battery

By Pablo Lopez / The Fresno Bee / Monday, May. 17, 2010

Three days after being released early from jail, the owner of a Fresno medical-marijuana dispensary and his son were cited on suspicion of battery Monday when they tried to handcuff a deputy city attorney and place him under citizen's arrest. Rick Morse and his son, Brandon, tried to arrest Michael Flores outside the civil courthouse Monday morning, but sheriff's bailiffs quickly broke up the confrontation. They cited the Morses on misdemeanors and released them, but seized their handcuffs as evidence. Afterward, Morse said he had a right to make a citizen's arrest, accusing Flores of violating his rights and conspiring to kill him. Hours after the attack, however, City Attorney James Sanchez said he was "very disappointed in the sheriff" for releasing Rick Morse early from jail. A judge Friday had ordered Morse to spend 15 days in custody for violating a court order. But about eight hours after being booked, Morse was sent home because of jail overcrowding, sheriff's officials said. . . . Morse got in trouble in March when Franson found him guilty of violating a court order that prohibits him from selling marijuana. At that time, Franson warned Morse he would go to jail if he continued to sell marijuana and didn't complete 100 hours of community service with the SPCA. When Franson learned Morse failed to complete his community service and that Medmar still was selling marijuana, he ordered Morse to spend 15 days in jail and pay a \$1,000 fine. But before Morse left in handcuffs, he told Franson the court order was invalid because the city ordinance was unconstitutional. He also said he was too busy to do community service because "an agent of the city of Fresno" was trying to kill him, and had been terrorizing his family since January.

<http://www.fresnobee.com/2010/05/17/1936512/pot-dispensary-owner-son-cited.html?storylink=mirelated>

Fresno police board up medical-marijuana clinic

The Associated Press / 05/21/2010

FRESNO, Calif.—Fresno police have boarded up a medical-marijuana dispensary that's been the subject of an ongoing legal battle with the city. When officers went to the Medmar Clinic with a search warrant Friday morning they found the business closed. Fresno police Capt. Dennis Bridges says the clinic appeared to have been cleared out. Police served the warrant after a Fresno County judge ruled Thursday that police could use force to shut down the dispensary. Judge Donald Franson Jr. also ordered the owner of the clinic, Rick Morse, to return to jail and finish a 15-day sentence for violating a court order that prohibits him from selling the drug. The 48-year-old Morse was initially jailed May 14, but was released within hours because of jail overcrowding.

http://www.mercurynews.com/breaking-news/ci_15137404?nclick_check=1

Fresno pot-shop owner ordered to jail -- again

By Paula Lloyd and Jim Guy / The Fresno Bee / May. 25, 2010

The owner of a Tower District medical-marijuana clinic is the subject of an escalating battle between a sheriff and a judge who both say they have the legal right to decide whether he stays in jail. Fresno County Superior Court Judge Donald R. Franson on Tuesday sent Rick Morse -- who has been jailed and released twice so far -- back to jail a third time with a warning to the sheriff that Morse must stay behind bars until his 15-day sentence is up.....Outside the courtroom, assistant city attorney Michael Flores said the city only recently learned that Medmar's lease includes two addresses: 210 E. Olive Ave., which police searched and boarded up Friday, and the storefront next door, at 212 E. Olive Ave., which police did not search.

<http://www.fresnobee.com/2010/05/25/1945971/fresno-pot-shop-owner-out-of-jail.html>

City in Riverside County tries to put brakes on mobile pot shop

Norco officials seek an injunction against the Lakeview Collective-on-Wheels, a dispensary that was operating out of an RV parked at a clinic where patients can get medical marijuana prescriptions.

By Patrick J. McDonnell, Los Angeles Times / April 27, 2010

Riverside County businessman Stewart Hauptman's latest venture gives new meaning to the term "recreational drugs": selling medical marijuana from a souped-up RV parked outside a Norco clinic. He refurbished the motor home, installing display cases, several seats and other amenities. *The Lakeview Collective-on-Wheels operated from a lot outside a clinic where people were being evaluated for medical marijuana use. "That way, when patients come out of the clinic, they are able to get the medicine right away," said Hauptman, a videographer-turned-cannabis-entrepreneur.* But the city of 27,000, which bans the distribution of marijuana, went to court last week seeking an injunction to shut down Hauptman's business, which has been cited several times since it opened in October. "We'll take whatever proper legal action is needed to get them to cease," said John Harper, an attorney representing the city. Hauptman and his wife, Helen, said they are being persecuted for trying to provide a humanitarian service. Most of their clients are elderly, many confined to wheelchairs and using walkers, they said. "These are not young kids who go out and get stoned; this is not about that," Hauptman said. "These are older people, some dying from cancer." But Norco officials say the couple's portrayal of their clientele does not match police observations. "We've seen people, generally speaking, between the ages of 18 and 25 who appear to be in good health lined up outside there to buy marijuana," Harper said.....A hearing on whether to permanently shut down the Hauptmans' business is scheduled for June 1 in Riverside County Superior Court. The Hauptmans said their business is legal — and essential. It features marijuana-laced brownies, cookies, pretzels and other items that cost about \$10 a serving. Marijuana sells for

about \$450 an ounce. (**\$7,200.00 per pound**) But official pressure has forced the mobile cannabis store to shut down for now, the couple said. The Hauptmans are now delivering marijuana to clients' homes, but not with the RV. "We're using a truck," Helen Hauptman said.

<http://www.latimes.com/news/local/la-me-mobile-marijuana27-20100427,0,4041411.story>

Pot wheels: Mobile marijuana dispensary rolls out in Southern California city

Associated Press / 06/14/2010

RIVERSIDE — A rolling marijuana dispensary has found a new parking spot after officials in the Southern California community of Norco chased it out of town. Stewart Hauptman had provided medical pot from his motor home for about seven months until he was cited by police for violating a city ban on marijuana dispensaries. Hauptman's Lakeview Collective-on-Wheels had been selling \$10 pot cookies and other items outside a clinic. But Hauptman says he couldn't afford to fight the city zoning laws. Hauptman says he hasn't had any problems since he moved his dispensary out of Norco to an unincorporated area of Riverside County this month. A 1996 voter initiative legalized marijuana for medical use in California, but court battles are being fought about whether cities can ban distribution.

http://www.mercurynews.com/breaking-news/ci_15294002

Ventura County police raid alleged marijuana-delivery service

Catherine Saillant / June 15, 2010

Fabian and Amanda Citraro touted their home-run business as "Ventura County's #1 Medical Marijuana Service!" in newspaper and Internet ads. But "Mary Jane's Bud," operated out of four locations in Thousand Oaks, hasn't taken any orders since the couple's arrest on charges that they were running an illegal medical marijuana collective. Fabian Citraro, 32, and his wife, Amanda Citraro, 30, also face a charge of child endangerment after detectives found marijuana edibles in the refrigerator of their tidy two-story home.....They were growing marijuana in two warehouses located in a business complex in the 3400 block of Old Conejo Road, Thomas said. A third location a block away was used as a central dispatch center where they filled orders and sent drivers to deliver marijuana to customer's doorsteps, police said.....Ventura County and its 10 cities have taken a hard stance on all marijuana sales, and there are no legally operating storefront shops. Medical marijuana users must travel to Santa Barbara and Los Angeles to buy the drug at shops, or order from delivery services.

<http://latimesblogs.latimes.com/lanow/2010/06/familyrun-medical-pot-delivery-busted-by-ventura-county-cops.html>

SAN DIEGO'S NEWEST TOP SHELF MOBILE MEDICAL MARIJUANA DISPENSARY

April 27, 2010

THE KUSH FACTORY , SAN DIEGO'S NEWEST MOBILE MEDICAL MARIJUANA DISPENSARY IS NOW OPEN!!! WE DELIVER SINGLE GRAMS!! MIX & MATCH !! Specials : 2 grams for \$35, Half 1/8th \$30 We offer Fast, Friendly, FREE delivery to a location of your choice. Whether you prefer to meet quickly on your lunch break, or view our high grade strains in the comfort and privacy of your own home, You can count on us to always be professional and discreet.....FREE GOURMET 10X EDIBLE FOR ALL PATIENTS WITH EVERY ORDER

Menu (Updated 4/26)

GRAM 1/8 1/4

KING LOUIE XIII \$ 20 \$60 \$115

SKYWALKER \$20 \$60 \$115
COTTON CANDY BUBBA \$20 \$60 \$115
NYC DIESEL \$20 \$50 \$100
SOUR HOG \$20 \$50 \$100

****OUNCE SPECIAL****

SOUR HOG \$165 (1/2 oz) \$320

The Kush Factory is a not for profit mutual benefit corporation in full and strict compliance with the California Attorney General's guidelines, California Proposition 215 and the California Senate Bill 420.

<http://budtrader.com/san-diegos-newest-top-shelf-mobile-medical-marijuana-dispensary/>

How to get medical marijuana delivered

May 2, 2010 by Our Weed Editor

More and more patients are turning to having medical marijuana delivered and for those that have not taken advantage of this or are wondering how to have medical marijuana delivered that is why Ourweed.com was invented. As long as you qualify to purchase medical marijuana and have your current, up to date doctors recommendation you qualify for having medical marijuana delivered to your home. Just a few things to do first.

How to get medical marijuana delivered:

- How to find a medical marijuana delivery service – First option, and possibly the most effective is going to be simply search your town name in the search bar to the right, and call a local dispensary. Many dispensaries offer or work closely with medical marijuana delivery services.
- Have your doctors recommendation ready, as a first time customer the medical marijuana delivery service will require this.
- Be in an appropriate environment to have medical marijuana delivered, many delivery services will not deliver to public places and for what should be obvious reasons. The more appropriate place to have medical marijuana delivered is your home.
- Have cash ready, few medical marijuana delivery services offer other payment options.

Its really that easy, so search your town or area find a delivery service and take advantage of their wonderful service... and be sure to come back and leave a review about the clinic and which ever strain you ended up going with. Hope we helped you out!

<http://ourweed.com/how-to-get-medical-marijuana-delivered/>

Green Crack Medical Marijuana Strain Review

May 3, 2010 by [Our Weed Editor](#)

Green Crack is another one of my personal favorites. This strain has gained huge popularity over the last couple of years with growers and patients a like. Green Crack is a great "Day Time" med, in the sense that you can consume a fair amount of this medical marijuana and still be able to go about your day as usual, there is none of that couch lock feeling that can hurt down the productivity of a work day, or a day in which you have something you need to do. Green Crack is a grade A sativa, and an incredibly popular one at that. Because of the immense popularity of this strain and the ease of growth, Green Crack is one of the most affordable high quality meds on the market today. The average eighth of Green Crack costs between \$30 and \$45 , much more often falling closer to \$30... I have even once seen an ad on craigslist for an ounce of Green Crack for as low as \$125, which is simply an amazing deal for the quality of medication that this strain is. Green Crack, along with a few choice Kush strains are possibly the most widely available clones and great plants to grow for

personal consumption, a very easy clone to bring to maturity. Green Crack is a moderate to high yielding strain, and grows well indoors and outdoors. Not the longest lasting buzz, but a very effective day time smoke. Great tasting, no other real way to explain it... Green Crack is a very smooth smoking medication.

<http://ourweed.com/green-crack-medical-marijuana-strain-review/>

Medical marijuana delivery services fill gap in San Mateo County demand

By Joshua Melvin / San Mateo County Times / 06/02/2010

A phone rings in an office with no sign in a San Jose industrial park, and a caller places an order for delivery. But it's not your ordinary delivery service — the caller wants pot, not pizza. A driver for the Green Access collective then loads packages of marijuana bearing names of strains like Bubble Berry and Grapefruit and heads out, often to San Mateo County, to make a delivery in what is an increasingly common way for medical marijuana to change hands. But whether it's legal or safe depends on whom you ask. One thing many experts do agree on is that demand for delivery service is going to grow as people discover it.....several dispensaries have tried to open in San Mateo County in the past year and failed. So delivery services are stepping in to fill the void, experts said, setting up a clash with law enforcement. That's because many cities in San Mateo County are trying to regulate medical marijuana dispensaries or keep them out altogether. San Mateo County's lone dispensary faces closure after being denied a license. And most Peninsula cities, including Redwood City and South San Francisco, have enacted temporary bans while they consider the issue. Only San Mateo, San Carlos and the unincorporated areas of San Mateo County have ordinances that allow them. While cities and dispensaries battle over whether they can operate on the Peninsula, the number of delivery services is quietly building. About 14 services offer to bring medical marijuana to homes in the South Bay and the Peninsula.....Whether delivery services are legal is another question. As far as police, city officials and prosecutors from Santa Clara and San Mateo counties are concerned, delivering marijuana, even if it is medical, is illegal in most cases. The Santa Clara County District Attorney's Office says there is just one exception. If a caregiver is responsible for a medical marijuana user too sick to pick up cannabis, the caregiver can transport the marijuana. All other instances would be governed by state drug laws, which make it a crime to transport marijuana.....In fact, the San Mateo County Sheriff's Office sent a letter to Green Access in February warning that "the distribution of marijuana is illegal, subject only to the narrow state law exception for collective cultivation of marijuana." Fallah's attorney, Scot Candell, sent a letter in response, and no action has been taken since. Candell said cities can prohibit dispensaries from setting up in their jurisdiction using zoning rules, but they can't stop a delivery service from driving into their towns. "They don't have the authority to say what is traveled on their streets and brought to somebody," he added. Hermes said a delivery service is essentially a mobile medical marijuana collective, and collectives are allowed under California law.....

http://www.mercurynews.com/peninsula/ci_15215184?nclick_check=1

Medical Marijuana food truck hits Lakers' victory parade in Los Angeles, hands out weed lollipops

BY Meena Hartenstein / DAILY NEWS STAFF WRITER / Monday, June 21st 2010

A food truck at the Lakers' parade Monday had some fans cheering it was high time. The truck, which boasted the phrase 'Weed World Candies.com', touted marijuana lollipops along the parade route, the Los Angeles Times reported. This seems to be the first reported sighting of the truck, and no website exists yet at that address. The Times reported that the truck was run by Bilal

Muhammad, who said he had recently been forced to close his store in West Hollywood and had taken his show on the road. "It's been working out very well," he told the LA Times, before driving away at the sight of police. In addition to orange and blue marijuana lollipops, the truck carried a variety of marijuana, included brands like OG Kush and Grand Daddy Perp, the Times reported. Interested customers had to present a prescription card verifying that they were allowed to purchase marijuana, and then were given a lollipop for free. In the past, companies like Chronic Candy stirred up controversy by selling marijuana-flavored lollipops, which were endorsed by Snoop Dogg and Paris Hilton, according to a 2006 NPR report. But those lollipops didn't require a prescription - they didn't contain THC, the chemical that causes marijuana users to feel a high.

http://www.nydailynews.com/news/2010/06/21/2010-06-21_medical_marijuana_food_truck_hits_lakers_victory_parade_in_los_angeles_hands_out.html

California sprouts marijuana 'green rush'

By Lisa Leff, Marcus Wohlsen, Associated Press Writers / Jul 19, 2009

SAN FRANCISCO — A drug deal plays out, California-style: A conservatively dressed courier drives a company-leased Smart Car to an apartment on a weekday afternoon. Erick Alvaro hands over a white paper bag to his 58-year-old customer, who inspects the bag to ensure that everything he ordered over the phone is there. An eighth-ounce of organic marijuana buds for treating his seasonal allergies? Check. An eighth of a different pot strain for insomnia? Check. THC-infused lozenges and tea bags? Check and check, with a free herb-laced cookie thrown in as a thank-you gift. It's a \$102 credit card transaction carried out with the practiced efficiency of a home-delivered pizza — and with just about as much legal scrutiny. More and more, having premium pot delivered to your door in California is not a crime. It is a legitimate business. The plant's prominence does not come without costs, say some critics. Marijuana plantations in remote forests cause severe environmental damage. Authorities link the drug to violent crime in otherwise quiet small towns. Still, the sheer scale of the overall pot economy has some lawmakers pushing for broader legalization as a way to shore up the finances of a state that has teetered on the edge of bankruptcy. Sparky Rose sits in the federal prison in Lompoc, serving a 37-month term. Law enforcement officials insist he is one of many sellers who have used the medical marijuana law as a guise for old-time drug dealing. Rose does not disagree, although he would like to think he helped some legitimate pot patients in the process. ***A one-time Web designer, he started out in 2001 making \$15 an hour working the counter at an Oakland pot club. Four years later, he was overseeing a dispensary chain with stores in seven cities, 283 employees and sales reaching \$5 million a month. Rose says he was making \$500,000 a year before his 2006 arrest, a sum he considers fair given the chain's volume and the risk he assumed as the company's public face. "While I was still in the business, a lot people would ask me, 'I'm thinking about starting a club, what advice do you have?'" he says. "And I'd say, 'The biggest warning is sooner or later, you will start to think it's legal.'"***

Even people accustomed to buying marijuana over the counter are impressed when they visit the Farmacy, a dispensary-cum-New Age apothecary with three locations in Los Angeles. Decorated in soft beige and staffed by workers in lab coats, the Venice store sells organic toiletries, essential oils and incense along with 25 types of pot stored in glass jars. During a two-hour span, the dozen or so customers who made a purchase all bought pot products and paid the 9.25 percent state sales tax on top of their purchases. The clubs, which are not supposed to turn a profit, call their transactions "donations." California's pot dispensaries now have more in common with a corner grocery than a speakeasy. ***They advertise freely, offering discount coupons and daily specials. Justin Hartfield,***

a 25-year-old Web designer and business student, founded WeedMaps.com, where pot clubs and doctors who write medi-pot recommendations list their services and users post reviews. Hartfield says the year-old site brought in \$20,000 this month, an amount he expects to double in August. Like just about everyone else connected to the cannabis trade, Hartfield has a letter from a doctor that entitles him to buy medical marijuana. But he sees no point in pretending he is treating anything more than his taste for smoking weed. "It is a joke. It's a legal way for me to get what I used to get on the street," he said.....

http://www.sunjournal.com/node/37642?quicktabs_2=0

GreenGro Technologies Signs First Three Dispensaries to Management Cultivation Agreements

BUENA PARK, CA, Apr 16, 2010 (MARKETWIRE via COMTEX) -- GreenGro Technologies, Inc. (PINKSHEETS: GRNH), a medical marijuana provider holding company, announced today that it has entered into agreements with 3 local dispensaries to manage the cultivation of medical cannabis on behalf of their patients. First year revenues are projected to exceed \$1 million. Under the agreements, GreenGro will staff and manage 3 separate collectives. The Company has agreed to provide equipment, funding and technical expertise in exchange for a fixed management fee. As a result of these new agreements, GreenGro will provide the California Non-Profit Collectives the opportunity to develop proprietary medical strains as well as enabling patients to purchase medical marijuana below current market pricing....."Under current arrangements, dispensaries have been purchasing cannabis from a large number of vendors and growers throughout the state. By entering into grow agreements, we are enabling these dispensaries to not only fully comply with SB 420 (which encourages access to medical marijuana through 'collective, cooperative cultivation projects'), but more importantly, to fall within Federal guidelines and to provide patients with the highest quality medicine at substantially lower prices by growing their own products.....

http://www.marketwatch.com/story/greengro-technologies-signs-first-three-dispensaries-to-management-cultivation-agreements-2010-04-16?reflink=MW_news_stmp

Medical Marijuana Dispensaries Going Corporate

April 26, 2010

The New York Times: Medical marijuana dispensaries are going corporate as "more and more states allow medical use of the drug." As "California considers outright legalization, marijuana's supporters are pushing hard to burnish the image of pot by franchising dispensaries and building brands; establishing consulting, lobbying and law firms; setting up trade shows and a seminar circuit; and constructing a range of other marijuana-related businesses." Many supporters favor outright legalization of the drug. In California, "dispensaries already employ all manner of business gimmicks to survive in an increasingly competitive market" including advertisements in the trade magazine for everything from daily specials, free samples and home delivery to — since it is California — free parking. "There are also new schools and seminars that can be used as credit for required continuing education classes for doctors and lawyers." But federal authorities continue to oppose decriminalization, and though 14 states allow medical marijuana, raids on dispensaries are still common (McKinley, 4/23).

<http://www.kaiserhealthnews.org/Daily-Reports/2010/April/26/Medical-Marijuana.aspx>

Some Medical Marijuana Millionaires Are Turning to Philanthropy

By SCOTT JAMES / Published: January 1, 2010

The popularity of pot clubs in the Bay Area has led to a burgeoning crop of medical marijuana millionaires. Call them the ganja riche. Like many of their nouveaux predecessors, they are trying to figure out what to do with their cash. Some are giving to charity, but you will not see any fanfare or buildings named in their honor. Medicinal marijuana remains a legal gray area, and nothing — even philanthropy — is simple when it comes to the proceeds. Oakland’s medical marijuana headquarters, Oaksterdam University, could not even sponsor a local food bank. “They refused our sponsorship because of other money they get from the federal government,” said Richard Lee, founder of Oaksterdam. While marijuana money and munchies might sound like the perfect fit, the food bank worried that such a partnership would have put the federal dollars it receives in jeopardy. “We appreciated the offer from Oaksterdam and gave it due consideration,” said Brian Higgins, the food bank’s spokesman. “In the end, it was not worth the risk....Eric H. Holder Jr., the attorney general, has ended the Bush administration’s frequent raids on medical marijuana distributors, but dispensary operators know political winds can change. They avoid creating paper trails that might come back to haunt them. This has led to a delicate dance with financial matters, like filing taxes. Marijuana clubs and dispensaries have employees who receive W-2 forms. When it comes to filing tax forms identifying their business, it looks better if a shop is linked to a cafe or some other benign operation. Dennis Peron, co-author of the Proposition 215 referendum that legalized medical marijuana, said that those in the business know their activities are being monitored. “Giving away money to deserving people isn’t money laundering,” Mr. Peron said. But if the political pendulum in Washington swings to the right, a new Justice Department might not see it that way. ***Neither Mr. Lee nor Mr. Peron claims to be a millionaire. But according to insiders who asked not to be identified for fear of being singled out by the authorities, medical marijuana can be a remarkably lucrative business, especially in the San Francisco region, where zoning laws severely restrict the number of marijuana clubs.*** There are an estimated 1,000 in Los Angeles — more dispensaries than public schools, in fact — but only about 50 in the Bay Area. Less competition means that medicinal marijuana is, for some, an especially enriching shade of green. Those profiting from marijuana found a friend in Tim Patriarca, executive director of Maitri in San Francisco, the last hospice in California that cares solely for people dying from AIDS. Mr. Patriarca is a true believer in the power of cannabis, seeing first hand the comfort it gives to the terminally ill in their final days. He has also seen how those donating marijuana to the hospice for compassionate care were suddenly becoming rich. “It’s new wealth, quick wealth, and a great deal of it,” he said. “They were making money with no tradition of giving.” Many of the newly minted marijuana millionaires, he said, came from hardscrabble lives, with little understanding of philanthropy. So he did The Ask. The ganja riche gave, and the idea grew. It started small with \$100 here and there. Then donations increased to \$1,000 and \$5,000. Now some clubs give as much as \$20,000 in a year. The money is helping to offset the loss of more than \$60,000 in state aid that Maitri received until it was eliminated during budget cuts last June. Mr. Patriarca sees a perfect circle in operation. After all, this marijuana is supposed to be for treating illness, and now some of those profits end up directly helping the sick. But the decision to accept the clubs’ donations was not made casually. “I knew it could be touchy,” Mr. Patriarca said. “I had to go to my board and ask, ‘Do we take this money?’” Now there is a push to put a referendum to legalize marijuana on the state ballot in 2010. . Even if that happens, however, federal laws are unlikely to change. The legal status of the medical marijuana millionaires and their cash will remain as gray and transitory as a cloud from a bong wafting down Haight Street.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/01/01/us/01sfmetro.html?partner=rssnyt&emc=rss>

Cannabis Medical Solutions Announces Delivery of First Stock Dividend Payments to Shareholders With Completion Date of June 4th, 2010

Company Announces Plans to Launch First Pilot Program of Medical Marijuana Payment Card to Dispensaries This Month

LOS ANGELES, Jun 3, 2010 (GlobeNewswire via COMTEX) -- Cannabis Medical Solutions Inc. (<http://www.cannabismedsolutions.com>) /quotes/comstock/11k!cmsi (CMSI 0.03, -0.02, -36.12%) , a leading company specializing in both brick-and-mortar and online merchant payment solutions and financial security products for medical marijuana dispensaries and high-risk merchant accounts, today announced that the Company has begun distribution of the stock dividend to most shareholders as of June 2nd, with the due bill (final date of distribution) for the dividend shares to all shareholders being on or about June 4, 2010. The Company also announced that it will begin the first pilot program for its medical marijuana prepaid card to dispensaries later this month. "CMSI has quickly become the leader in financial transactions to the medical marijuana sector by providing merchant services, secure financial transaction software, and now our closed loop system for medical payments as an alternative to cash only and credit card transactions. As more and more states vote to allow the legal use of medical marijuana by patients in their cities through medical dispensaries, it has always been our goal to provide a closed loop banking system as an alternative to cash only and standard credit card transactions. The CMSI medipayments system will provide patients with live transaction data, reload capabilities, and the operators of dispensaries administrative functions to take payments by patients, pay licensing fees, taxes, and bonus reward patients for loyalty. Our Medipayments card will be the first of its kind, creating a full scale banking alternative and payment network specifically for the medical marijuana industry meeting all requirements set forth by the participating regions," stated B. Michael Friedman, CEO of CMSI.

http://www.marketwatch.com/story/cannabis-medical-solutions-announces-delivery-of-first-stock-dividend-payments-to-shareholders-with-completion-date-of-june-4th-2010-2010-06-03?reflink=MW_news_stmp

SF Chronicle To Launch Marijuana Advertising Section Today

By Chris Roberts, Thursday, Jun. 17 2010

Pot is big money, so big that the phrase "marijuana industry" is a legitimate mainstream term. It's no surprise, then, that mainstream media would want a piece of the cannabis cookie. The San Francisco Chronicle already runs newspaper ads from cannabis dispensaries, but will dive headlong into the pot trade beginning today with the debut of a new ad section dedicated to marijuana-related businesses and the lucrative ad trade therein, The Snitch has learned. The section is called Herbal Cure Corner, according to a sales pitch from an ad rep obtained by The Snitch. Today is the day Herbal Cure Corner is scheduled to go live online as well as in the newspaper. Beyond that, not much is known until we see the damn thing. Though The Snitch must note that the Chronicle has at least for a day succeeded in getting us to buy the paper. Calls to one of the ad reps who contacted city dispensaries hawking ads for the section were not immediately returned. That the Hearst-owned Chronicle would get into the weed business raises the cackles of cannabis and hemp activists; numerous theories lay some of the blame for the nation's anti-marijuana laws at the feet of newspaper magnate William Randolph Hearst (who, in all fairness, owned the San Francisco Examiner at the time). The new section was news to Steve Proctor, the Chron's managing editor. "This wasn't an editorial initiative," he wrote via e-mail. But as those of us who work in media will ask: Are they ever?

http://blogs.sfweekly.com/thesnitch/2010/06/sf_chronicle_to_launch_weed_ad.php

During this quarter medical studies were published which confirmed what many already suspected; that marijuana is a gateway drug and that marijuana by teens worsens the potential for mental illness. Another item of note was that the marijuana used in these studies often lacks the potency of the marijuana available through dispensaries

New Research Indicates Marijuana Really Can Be a Gateway Drug for Teens

Research & News — By Drug Addiction on April 30, 2010

Marijuana is widely used by teenagers as a recreational drug. The effects of using marijuana during the teen years have been debated, with some calling marijuana a “gateway drug” that leads to the use of more potent illegal drugs. Some parents consider using marijuana as a normal part of teenage life, while other parents believe marijuana is a warning sign of more trouble to come. There is a new warning for parents who have a teenager that uses marijuana. A recent study has found that even light cannabis use can lead to problems in the future. The study was led by researcher Louisa Degenhardt from the National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre at the University of NSW. The study recruited 2,000 school children in Australia. The children were tracked over a decade. The results of the study indicate that children who used cannabis occasionally at the age of 13 and 14 were at a higher risk for using ecstasy, cocaine or amphetamines at the age of 24. Even those who used marijuana lightly were also at risk for addiction. The study showed that the individuals who used cannabis lightly at age 13 or 14 became addicted as adults at a rate of one in 10. In addition, the study revealed that a third of teens who used marijuana lightly were taking harder drugs in their twenties, compared with only 11 percent for those who had not used marijuana during their teen years. The study also highlighted a link between light marijuana use and alcohol. The research indicated that 15 percent of individuals who used marijuana lightly in teen years were addicted to alcohol early in adulthood. Only 9 percent of those who had not used marijuana were addicted to alcohol in early adulthood. The results of the study suggest a warning for teenagers who have used marijuana only as a recreational drug on occasion. Prior research has shown that regular use of the drug was harmful, but that light use may be of little concern. This study highlights the need for education about even the light use of marijuana. “What it definitely says is that early onset occasional cannabis use is a marker for being more likely to be engaging in a whole range of drug use behaviors in young adulthood,” said Degenhardt. The findings of this study suggest that parents take heed of warnings that cannabis use in teen years may cause problems later in early adulthood, even if the use of marijuana is occasional and light.

<http://www.drugaddictiontreatment.com/addiction-news/new-research-indicates-marijuana-really-can-be-a-gateway-drug-for-teens/>

Marijuana Worsens Schizophrenia

By Jessica Ward Jones, MD, MPH Associate News Editor

Reviewed by John M. Grohol, Psy.D. on June 19, 2010

Marijuana usage appears to worsen the symptoms of schizophrenia. New research shows that when individuals diagnosed with schizophrenia use marijuana, they experience an increased ‘high,’ but symptoms of psychosis can worsen within a matter of hours. Schizophrenia is a mental illness in which patients experience symptoms such as delusions, (a mistaken belief) hallucinations, sometimes a flattened affect, (where the individual shows little emotion) and disorganized behavior. Up to 1% percent of the population is diagnosed with schizophrenia. There is no known single

cause, but genetics, as well as chemical and structural changes in the brain, may contribute to the development of the illness. Treatment includes medications and therapy. Dr. Cecile Henquet, an expert in both the study of marijuana use and psychosis, of Maastricht University Medical Center in the Netherlands, and a team of researchers, compared a group of 42 schizophrenics who were daily marijuana users with 38 individuals without mental illness. The study participants were asked what they were doing and how they felt twelve times a day for six days. Immediately after using marijuana, the schizophrenic patients experienced an improved mood and feeling of well being that was significantly increased compared to the healthy study subjects. However, several hours later, compared to the healthy individuals, the schizophrenic patients had more hallucinations, increased vulnerability to psychosis, decreased mood, and an overall worsening of disease symptoms. It is suspected that the chemical compound responsible for the worsened symptoms is delta-9 tetrahydrocannabinol, commonly known as THC. Prior research has shown that marijuana use by people at risk for mental illness can trigger hallucinations, delusions, and psychotic symptoms. Schizophrenic users of marijuana don't respond as well to medications, and have decreased memory function. In 2005, Dr. Henquet's team published a paper in the British Medical Journal, in which 2437 individuals between the ages of 14 and 24 were followed for 4 years. The purpose of the study was to determine whether the individuals who had risk factors for psychosis were more likely to experience psychotic symptoms from marijuana use. Although marijuana use may produce psychosis in healthy individuals, persons already at risk did in fact have more psychotic symptoms after drug use. Additional research by Henquet showed that both genetic and environmental factors play a role in this predisposition. Many researchers have postulated that schizophrenic patients have high rates of marijuana usage as a result of 'self medication' of symptoms such as depressed mood, disordered thinking, hallucinations and delusions. Henquet's latest findings confirm this theory by showing that patients with schizophrenia do experience an immediate improvement in mood that is more pronounced than in healthy individuals. Thus marijuana use provides a strong immediate gratification. Unfortunately, symptoms such as decreased mood appear within hours, prompting patients to use more marijuana, leading to a vicious cycle of abuse. Henquet's findings shed light upon this cycle of abuse and may give therapists insight into the reasons why schizophrenic patients have high rates of marijuana use. New therapeutic interventions may include not only counseling patients to consider the negative consequences of drug use, but also acknowledging the positive effects. Patients can then fully appreciate the costs of marijuana use. Dr Henquet's results are published in the June issue of the British Journal of Psychiatry. <http://psychcentral.com/news/2010/06/19/marijuana-worsens-schizophrenia/14786.html>

Marijuana used in research lacks potency of dispensary brands

May 17, 2010

Dr. Barth Wilsey, a UC Davis clinical researcher, used a supply of government-produced marijuana cigarettes when he conducted an important study showing benefits of cannabis in reducing neuropathic pain. Wilsey, spotlighted in Sunday's Sacramento Bee California Forum story, Research offers contrasting views of marijuana, conducted clinical trials on 38 patients. His research revealed that patients smoking marijuana cigarettes with 3.5 percent tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), the psychoactive substance in cannabis, got the same pain relief as those whose smoked pot with 7 percent THC but had reduced cognitive impairment. Wilsey is now conducting additional research to see if medical pot users can still obtain pain relief at even lower doses. Yet as they branch out into other studies, marijuana researchers may need to consider that government pot - cultivated for research at the University of Mississippi - is decidedly less potent than what is sold in many

California medical marijuana dispensaries. For example, some of the more popular meds at Harborside Health Center, are triple the potency of what Wilsey used in his study. Harborside, which tests its product for THC, sells an OG Kush strain that tops out at 24 percent THC with a lower potency level of eight percent. Its Mango OG tops out at 22 percent with a low potency of about 14 percent - well above the highest-potency smoke in the clinical trials. Wilsey's work was part of nearly a decade of state-funded studies conducted by the Center for Medicinal Cannabis Research at UC San Diego. Wilsey said considerable more medical cannabis research is needed - ideally with hundreds of patient subjects, not just a few dozen. And judging by what is on the shelf at Harborside and elsewhere, future studies may need to consider what is on the market.

<http://www.sacbee.com/static/weblogs/weed-wars/2010/05/marijuana-used-in-research-lacks-the-potency-of-dispensary-pot.html>

The Long-Term Effects of Marijuana

[Le Bach Pham](#) / May 23, 2010

Lack of scientific data leaves much of marijuana's effects unknown. However, there is some speculation as to the long-term effects of marijuana. Much of marijuana's effects remain unknown, due to lack of research data. Most marijuana research that has been conducted focuses on effects on the respiratory system, cardiovascular system, immune system, and reproductive system.

Researchers have yet to find any long-lasting effects. However, with additional research this may change in the future.

Effects on the Respiratory System: Smoking cannabis seems to affect lung functioning, according to limited amounts of controlled research available. However, airway obstruction reverses after smoking. Although there is not enough research to ascertain long-term effects on the lungs, it is notable that marijuana cigarettes contain more tar than tobacco cigarettes. Also, cannabis tar contains greater amounts of cancerous agents than tobacco tar. This suggests marijuana may also cause lung cancer, however there is not enough research to make this conclusion. One difficulty in specifying effects of marijuana is that cannabis smokers frequently also smoke cigarettes, therefore making it difficult to scientifically separate the effects of the two drugs, according to Stephen A. Maisto in his book *Drug Use and Abuse*, Fifth Edition, published in 2008.

Cardiovascular Effects: The majority of marijuana effects are cardiovascular. After about an hour after smoking some may experience injection of the conjunctiva, also known as bloodshot eyes. This effect is a result of vasodilatation and is generally dose-related. Some users may also experience increased heart and pulse rates. Blood pressure also elevates slightly. There does not appear to be any permanent damage to the cardiovascular system, according to Maisto.

Effects on the Immune System: Marijuana's effects on the immune system are acute and short-term. Cannabis can act as an immunosuppressant and decrease resistance to some viruses and bacteria. Although early studies were contradictory and unclear, recent research suggests cannabis poses no significant long-term threat to the immune system, says Maisto.

Effects on the Reproductive System: There does seem to be significant effects on the reproductive system. Chronic marijuana use may cause decreases in sperm and sperm motility among men. Women may produce non-ovulatory menstrual cycles; meaning menstruation is not preceded by release of an ovum. Children born to mothers who smoke marijuana during pregnancy are at greater risk of developing certain forms of childhood cancer, states Maisto's book. Marijuana also increases risk of premature birth, shorter body length, and lower birth rate.

<http://nutrition.suite101.com/article.cfm/the-long-term-effects-of-marijuana>

apartment illegally. Officers later searched Lake's home, where they discovered the missing marijuana plants, as well as Collins' keys and prescription medications. At that point, prosecutors say Lake admitted that Collins had been killed. He told investigators that he and Nixon had discussed killing Collins in order to steal his marijuana plants and money.....

http://missoulia.com/news/local/article_0cc00c74-4e65-11df-948d-001cc4c03286.html

Argument over marijuana leads to torture, arrest

By Kristina Davis, UNION-TRIBUNE STAFF WRITER / Tuesday, June 8, 2010

SAN DIEGO — A San Diego County man was arrested in Washington state after he admitted to police that he tied up and tortured a man over an argument about marijuana, according to court documents.....Lacey police received a 911 call from the victim reporting that he'd been tied up and beaten for several hours in a home invasion before he was able to escape, the documents state. Arriving officers found the victim at a neighbor's house with several bleeding cuts as well as abrasions and swelling to his face and neck. When police knocked on the victim's home, Cowen answered the door. *Cowen told police that he and two girlfriends went to the victim's house to "party," and his friends said the victim was planning to rob Cowen of marijuana he'd brought up from California.* Cowen confronted the victim and told police he "lost control." He forced the man into a kitchen chair, using phone cords and hoses to tie him up, and then began "beating and cutting him with a knife," according to the documents. Cowen said he planned to release him in the morning once he "could work out with him so he would not call the cops." Officers found a knife believed to have been used in the attack stuffed between couch cushions. Cowen was jailed on \$50,000 bail.

<http://www.signonsandiego.com/news/2010/jun/08/argument-over-marijuana-leads-torture-arrest/>

Medical marijuana beatdown: Accused men due in court

By PERRY BACKUS Ravalli Republic | Posted: Wednesday, May 26, 2010

HAMILTON - Under the state's Medical Marijuana Act, Tracy Moser was allowed to process up to 1 3/4 pounds of marijuana for medical use. *When law enforcement searched his business and residence after his arrest earlier this month for allegedly beating a man he thought had stolen from his medical marijuana dispensary business, they found 9 pounds of the dried drug, 5.2 pounds of marijuana-laced assorted candies, baked goods, tinctures, lotions and concentrated capsules and more than \$48,000 in cash, according to court records filed Tuesday.....* The men allegedly thought Miller had broken into the John Stone Foundation medical marijuana dispensary in Stevensville.....an affidavit this week that outlined the county's case, which began after a Ravalli County deputy was dispatched to the South Burnt Fork Road in Stevensville after a resident called to say a man bleeding from a head wound had shown up at his home.....In a subsequent interview, Miller allegedly admitted he had been selling marijuana he received from a man named Jesse Shoup since he'd arrived in Ravalli County two months ago.....

http://missoulia.com/news/state-and-regional/article_64def60e-68dc-11df-87c7-001cc4c03286.html

Robbers shock medical pot growers with stun gun

Associated Press / 03/24/10

COLORADO SPRINGS, COLO. — Colorado Springs police say medical marijuana growers were beat up in an early-morning robbery at their home. Police say three people wearing orange masks beat up the home's residents, shocked them with a stun gun and stole their marijuana plants around 5 a.m. Wednesday. Police say the homeowners had a growers' permit for the marijuana.

<http://www.sfexaminer.com/local/west/robbers-shock-medical-pot-growers-with-stun-gun-89052842.html>

Firebombings in Montana's Medical Marijuana Stores

May 11, 2010

In the meeting scheduled to be attended by the City Council, Montana, on Monday night, the council is expected to take up the issue of regulating medical marijuana. The recent fire bombings at the city's medical marijuana stores in the last two days have only intensified the issue of regulating medical marijuana.....In the recent incidents, "Not in our town" was painted on the businesses as reported by the police. Big Sky Patient Care was the first to be impacted early on Sunday morning said Police Sgt Kevin Iffland. On Monday it was the turn of Montana Therapeutics. In both cases rocks were thrown through the front door and then a Molotov cocktail followed. Fortunately in both the cases the fire was put out quickly and without much damage.....Evidences of firebombing that has been found by the investigators are being looked at carefully. ***They are also working closely with the business which has a surveillance video. The business is however reluctant to hand over the tape on account of security concerns.*** The firebombings have also prompted the police to increase the vigil in the areas where medical marijuana stores are located.

<http://www.timesnewsline.com/news/Firebomb-in-Montanas-Medical-Marijuana-Store-1273597726/>

Authorities: Million dollar pot business busted

Birkett says investigators seized 'thousands of pounds' of marijuana

By Art Barnum, Tribune Reporter / May 21, 2010

Local law enforcement officials, conducting a yearlong investigation dubbed "Operation Chicago Haze," have arrested a dozen people alleged to be members of one of the region's largest marijuana-selling rings.....the investigation resulted in the confiscation of "thousands of pounds of high-grade marijuana, as well as cash, guns and vehicles.....confiscated almost \$1 million in cash that was to be used to buy more marijuana to bring into the area for sale and distribution. ***Two of the defendants were arrested recently with "bags full of cash" amounting to \$571,000, said Tatarelis. The cash is thought to have been destined for California to pay for the purchase of more marijuana.*** Two other defendants with \$320,000 in cash were in a truck headed for California when they were stopped by Nebraska police.....

<http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/local/ct-met-0523-dupage-pot-20100521,0,5027794.story>

Woman Busted With 506 Pounds Of Pot On Jet

Feds: Lisette Lee Stuffed Drug Into 13 Suitcases / Jun 16, 2010

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) - ***A California woman traveling with a bodyguard on a private jet was arrested at an Ohio airport with 506 pounds of marijuana stashed in 13 suitcases, federal authorities said.....*** Lee told investigators that she chartered the plane from Van Nuys, Calif., to Columbus to visit a boyfriend and transport equipment to a horse farm. She said it was her fourth such trip. She said a friend paid her \$60,000 to take more than a dozen suitcases from Los Angeles to an unattended hotel room in Columbus, stay for a few days and then bring back fewer pieces of luggage, authorities said. Lee later told investigators that she and her entourage knew the horse story was phony and that they were likely involved with "weapons and money laundering or something," authorities wrote in court papers.....

<http://wcbstv.com/watercooler/pot.private.jet.2.1755510.html>

MEG agents seize 233 pounds of pot

[Thomas Geyer](#) / The Quad-City Times / Saturday, June 19, 2010

A Davenport man is facing drug charges after agents with the Quad-City Metropolitan Enforcement Group found more than 200 pounds of marijuana wrapped in plastic and stored in a gun case in an apartment, officials said. . . . Endress said of what led authorities to knock on Reistroffer's door.

"While talking to him they could smell the cannabis and realized they needed to get a search warrant. You can't hide the odor of 233 pounds of marijuana." . . . Endress was surprised that MEG agents seized so much of the low-grade marijuana. ***"Nowadays we seize mostly the California medical marijuana, which has a street value in the Quad-Cities of \$5,000 per pound," he said. With the California dispensaries of medical marijuana getting less attention from federal authorities, he said, "California is supplying the Quad-Cities with most of the marijuana these days." California medical marijuana sells for a higher price because it is of higher quality and has a much higher THC, or tetrahydrocannabinol, content. . . .***

http://qctimes.com/news/local/crime-and-courts/article_b7676470-7bfa-11df-bb4c-001cc4c002e0.html

Speeding stop nets marijuana

By Mark Young / The North Platte Telegraph / Tuesday, April 6, 2010

A Nebraska State Patrol trooper out of Troop D, headquartered in North Platte, conducted a traffic stop on the afternoon of April 3, which led to the arrest of two California residents after discovering more than 24 pounds of marijuana in their vehicle. . . . The canine alerted to the odor of marijuana from the trunk of the vehicle and a subsequent search led to the seizure of 24.2 pounds of marijuana, which was sealed in two large vacuum-sealed bags inside of a large duffle bag in the trunk. The trooper also discovered a small amount of methamphetamine. . . .

<http://www.nptelegraph.com/articles/2010/04/06/news/60006007.txt>

Medical marijuana facing a backlash

Cops say proliferation of pot shops leads to robberies, DUIs

By MATT VOLZ / Fri., May 21, 2010

HELENA, Mont. - The vandals struck in the middle of the night, hurling Molotov cocktails through the windows of two medical marijuana businesses and spray-painting "NOT IN OUR TOWN" just before the Billings City Council was supposed to take up a ban on any new pot shops. Montana and other states that have legalized medical marijuana are seeing a backlash, with public anger rising and politicians passing laws to slow the proliferation of pot shops and bring order to what has become a wide-open, Wild West sort of industry. They are looking to avoid what happened in California, which allowed the pot industry to grow so out of control that at one point Los Angeles had more medical marijuana shops than Starbucks — about 1,000 by one count. "Yeah, it's out of control — and it needs control, if not extinction," Montana Sen. Jim Shockley said Friday. "There's no control over distribution. There's no control over who's growing it. There's no control in dosage." Medical marijuana has been around for more than five years in Montana, but the boom came this past year. The number of registered users in Montana, a state with a population of just under 1 million, has gone from 2,923 last June to about 15,000 today. The number of registered suppliers has increased from 919 to about 5,000. ***The number of DUI arrests involving marijuana has skyrocketed, as have traffic fatalities where marijuana was found in the system of one of the drivers, Montana narcotics chief Mark Long told a legislative committee last month.***

http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/37282436/ns/us_news-life/from/ET

Washington, Foristell join list banning fake marijuana

By Associated Press / April 7, 2010

WASHINGTON, Mo. (AP) — The eastern Missouri towns of Washington and Foristell have passed laws making it illegal to possess or sell products containing the so-called synthetic marijuana. St. Charles city and county have also banned the product marketed under names such as "K2," "Spice" and "Summit." State lawmakers are considering a statewide ban. The Washington Missourian reported that a few weeks ago, police investigated after a woman was hospitalized after smoking some of the product and taking a drug.

<http://www.fox2now.com/news/sns-ap-mo--syntheticmarijuana,0,4719997.story>

Campuses scramble to deal with medical marijuana

By [Dan Boniface](#) / April 29, 2010

DENVER (EdNews) - Across the street from the University of Colorado's flagship campus in Boulder you'll find Dr. Reefer, a small storefront bedecked in neon and an easily identifiable marijuana leaf. Inside, the air is heavy with the pungent aroma of marijuana. "Bud tendress" Lauren Townsend, 21, explains to a visitor how some student customers buy cannabis-infused sodas or brownies so they can discreetly ingest the drug in the campus library while they study. She demonstrates how to hold the soda bottle so any reference to marijuana is obscured. Or, clients can buy the more typical form of marijuana to be smoked in the privacy of their own homes. ***Within 500 feet there are three other medical marijuana dispensaries also targeting students, the maximum allowable in Boulder in that amount of space. Other college towns in Colorado are experiencing a similar phenomenon, leaving campus officials scrambling to come up with policies on the budding use of medical marijuana by students - and, in some cases, staff.*** It's no easy task considering ambiguities in the state's ever-changing medical marijuana laws, threats of lawsuits by pro-pot advocates or cities attempting to set limits of their own.....

<http://www.9news.com/news/article.aspx?storyid=137838&catid=339>

Georgia bans K2 synthetic marijuana

Ewa Kochanska / Atlanta Political Buzz Examiner / May 25, 2010

Governor Sonny Perdue announced on Monday that he has signed a bill to outlaw the use and sales of synthetic marijuana (K2) in Georgia. H.B. 1309 places the drug on Schedule I controlled substances list right along Heroin and above Cocaine, Ritalin and Opium which are all on Schedule II list.....K2, also known as "fake weed," "Spice," "Genie," or "Zohai," is a legally sold herb coated with a synthetic chemical that mimics similar "high" to marijuana's when smoked. The "Genie" is usually marketed as a spice or an incense, and is easily accessible online, in some convenience stores and spiritual and herbal shops. It can cost as much as \$35 per ounce. "Clemson University organic chemist John W. Huffman created the K2 compound in the mid-1990s to mimic the effects of cannabis on the brain.....***This past February, a poison center in Missouri notified centers nationwide about K2 after they had an influx of patients with serious health problems resulting from the use of the drug. "At first we had about a dozen cases, but then it really blossomed. By the first week of April, we had 40 cases,..... nationwide, there have been 352 reported cases of K2 poisoning in 35 states.*** According to USA Today, several cities and a dozen states have either banned the substance or are considering doing so. Kansas banned the drug March 10. Kentucky followed April 13. Alabama's ban takes effect July 1. Legislatures in Missouri and Tennessee have passed bans that will take effect unless vetoed by their governors. Illinois, Louisiana, Michigan, New

Jersey and New York are considering bills to outlaw the drug. The substance has been outlawed in Europe for a while now.

<http://www.examiner.com/x-6571-Atlanta-Political-Buzz-Examiner~y2010m5d25-Georgia-bans-K2-synthetic-marijuana>

Educators see rise in student drug use, blame medical marijuana

By [AMIE THOMPSON](#) / Tribune Staff Writer / May 30, 2010

In April, an aide brought a student to C.M. Russell High School Principal Dick Kloppel's office. It was 8:15 a.m. and the student smelled of marijuana. The aide suspected that the student was high. The girl told Kloppel she drove her boyfriend to school and that he was smoking his medical marijuana in the car. He is a Montana "green-card" holder, meaning he can legally possess and smoke marijuana to alleviate pain. Kloppel then inspected the student's car. "You could smell the marijuana from outside the car. It was almost blue in the car," he said. Through the smoke, Kloppel spotted a baby seat in the back. The principal believed that the couple's 4-month-old baby likely had been riding in the car. "Looking at her (the student), there was no way she wasn't high. But she said she wasn't using it, and there was nothing in her possession," Kloppel said. With no admission of guilt, there was nothing the administration could do but send her back to class. This instance is not isolated. More Great Falls teenagers are smoking marijuana than counselors and administrators have ever seen before. Kloppel and Fred Anderson, principal at Great Falls High School, say that is because of the growing use of medical marijuana in the community. "I strongly believe it is directly attributable to the increased availability of the drug through caregivers and cardholders," Kloppel said. Counselors say students have taken a more casual approach to marijuana in the past year. They keep hearing students tell them it is medicinal and helps calm them down and relieve stress. With no way for officials to test students for marijuana besides taking them to the hospital for a blood test, students — with or without a green card — go unpunished for using the drug. "Right now, we don't have a policy," Kloppel said in a recent interview. "This has become an epidemic," CMR counselor Earlene Ostberg said. "Some of these kids were going to go to college and now are just going to get a job." ***In a February 2009 survey among the city's high-schoolers, 48 percent reported that they have used marijuana, and 5 percent reported using it 10 to 19 times in the last 30 days. The number of students who said they experimented with marijuana was up nearly 10 percent from the 2007 Youth Risk Behavior Survey.*** The latest national statistics conducted by the CDC show 38.1 percent of teens had used marijuana at least once in their lifetime, according to the 2007 survey. "But our data doesn't reflect how much it's increased since they started opening up the marijuana stores," said Mikie Messman, Chemical Awareness/Responsive Education program coordinator for the school district. Kloppel and Anderson say there is no question that the use is higher than last year. "It's worse than the early '70s," Kloppel said. What is different is that marijuana use this year seems to be across all groups and cliques at the high schools. "It really does not have boundaries — even athletes," Anderson said. "There used to be a group you could ID, but now it doesn't have boundaries." Authorities used to be able to pinpoint the distribution points, but "now if you can get it anywhere, where do you go?" There are no avenues of control, he added. "There are a lot of kids that don't (use marijuana), but there are a lot more kids that do that didn't use to," Kloppel said.Montana's medical marijuana law states that it is not appropriate for the workplace, but there is no mention of school. Kloppel worries about the implications: What if the student with a green card smokes marijuana at lunch and shop class is next? What if the student will be using a saw? What about driver's education, he wonders. For those growing numbers of students smoking illegally, the same concerns hold true, since it is hard to prove a student is under the influence of the

drug. Even when the administration can add consequences for those students smoking marijuana, it is of little concern to the students involved. "All the detention that worked with people that are pretty rational tends not to work with marijuana," "I asked a group of students how difficult it was to get pot and how many cardholders they knew of. They then added that when the cardholders get their pot, they would invite people over and party for several days," she said. "The use of marijuana in Great Falls is crazy," CMR senior Jessica Kohlhepp said. She smells it before school, at lunch and even in the classrooms. "I see it all the time. I smell it all the time," she said. Kohlhepp stopped smoking marijuana her sophomore year after she ended up in the emergency room. She had smoked a joint that was laced with either meth or angel dust. While it didn't cost Kohlhepp her life, the incident did cost her the trust and respect of her family and friends. "I'm a well-put-together person, so my parents didn't even suspect," she said. Now she has her life back on track. She graduates today and will move to Billings to start cosmetology school next month. "If I could talk to a kid before they tried it, I would say don't try it. It will mess up your life. You can't trust your dealers — even if they are your friends," she said. Messman, who has served as a school representative for the Juvenile Drug Court program since its inception in January 2006, said the statistics show kids are choosing marijuana over alcohol and other drugs. "From that (starting) date until May 1, 2010, we've had 53 kids participate in Juvenile Drug Court. Of those 53, 51 named marijuana as their drug of choice," Messman said. "These are kids who have committed crimes and drugs or alcohol have been a major contributor to their criminal behavior." Kloppel and Anderson said kids believe that using marijuana while driving will not result in a DUI, like it would if they were drinking alcohol. One of the scariest things Messman is noticing is that kids are trying marijuana even before they are in high school. "These kids are starting very, very young — "12, 13 years old," Messman said. Make that 4 months old, Kloppel pointed out, if you consider the baby in the back of the student's car he searched.

<http://www.greatfalls Tribune.com/article/20100530/NEWS01/5300301>

Doctor fined for role in marijuana clinic

By RICHARD HANNERS Whitefish Pilot / Wednesday, June 2, 2010

The Montana Board of Medical Examiners says a Whitefish physician's past work with medical marijuana patients "amounts to unprofessional conduct" and has ordered her to pay a \$2,000 fine. The board also ordered Dr. Patricia Cole to abide by a number of conditions for 12 months. She 'specifically is prohibited from serving as the consulting physician for third parties or caregivers in mass conference-like settings akin to that which gave rise to this action." ***According to the board's May 21 order, Cole saw 151 patients seeking state medical marijuana cards over a 14 1/2-hour period during an October 2009 medical marijuana conference in Great Falls. The board collected charts for 20 of these patients from their medical marijuana provider and submitted them to a peer review. The peer reviewer concluded that Cole breached her statutory obligations to comply with "generally accepted standards of practice" and the state's Medical Marijuana Act, including: Documentation was lacking whether she personally took comprehensive past or present medical histories, performed physical examinations, or performed medical marijuana risk-benefit analysis.....*** The board also unanimously adopted a position paper on mass screenings by medical marijuana providers, where large groups of people are charged \$100 to \$150 for a doctor's recommendation to smoke marijuana. The board pointed out on May 21 that it "takes no position on the general suitability of marijuana in the treatment of medical disorders," but that it "does have an obligation to protect the public by ensuring that physicians provide medical services via a bona fide physician-patient relationship that meet the generally accepted standards of care." The board said it

was concerned about reports that physicians were certifying patients for medical marijuana "in a mass screening format" and through online consultations. Whether for student athletes or medical marijuana, mass screenings and group evaluations "inherently tend towards inadequate standards of care," the board said. Physicians found to be practicing below the acceptable standard of care would be subject to disciplinary action for unprofessional conduct, the board warned.

http://www.flatheadnewsgroup.com/articles/2010/06/03/whitefishpilot/news/news_8724499387_01.txt

Talkers | Pot not to blame for bear mauling, judge rules

Blame pot? Not! / June 5, 2010

HELENA, Mont. | A Montana judge said it's not a worker's fault he got mauled by a grizzly bear at a tourist attraction, even if he smoked marijuana before trying to feed the animal. Brock Hopkins acknowledged smoking pot before arriving to work at Great Bear Adventures on Nov. 2, 2007. When he entered the bear's pen, he was attacked and had to be hospitalized. The owner of the attraction near Glacier National Park said that Hopkins was a volunteer and that his use of marijuana caused the accident. But Judge James Jeremiah Shea of the Montana Workers' Compensation Court ruled that Hopkins is eligible for benefits. Shea said Hopkins was paid and therefore was an employee. The judge also concluded Hopkins' use of marijuana was not the main cause of the attack.

<http://www.kansascity.com/2010/06/05/1995831/talkers-pot-not-to-blame-for-bear.html#ixzz0qJ83YHuR>