

Medical Marijuana and Associated Issues

Presented to the California Chiefs of Police Association

January to March 2010

Captain M. Regan

Criminal activity continues to be closely tied to marijuana. As the business of selling marijuana grows, so does the violent crime that follows its use, 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. Also evident based on recent events is the fact that violence following the use of marijuana is also a factor. As stated in the past, Dispensaries are also targeted for violent take over style robberies based upon the availability of larges quantities of drugs and cash.

Apparent pot thief dies in Nevada County getaway chase

By Andy Furillo Monday, January 4, 2010

Two would-be pot robbers descended on Tobacco Road to rip off another kind of smoke Saturday, but they wound up fleeing for their lives – and one of them not successfully, Nevada County authorities said. In the latest case of its type in the hamlet of North San Juan, two suspects wearing ski masks, fake police uniforms and declaring themselves members of a drug task force burst into a ranch house on Tobacco Road with their guns drawn. They handcuffed four people who were inside the residence, authorities said. Sheriff Keith Royal said the gunmen stole cell phones, a camera and computer equipment, but they appear to have targeted a large stash of packaged marijuana – a couple of pounds of it at a minimum. "It's so remote, there is a large contingency of individuals who like to grow marijuana in that area," Royal said. "There's no doubt in my mind that this is why that home invasion robbery took place." Saturday's incident, which was called in on 911 at 10:08 a.m., resulted in the death of one of the men who engaged in the rip-off, Royal said. The unidentified thief and his partner threw two plastic bags of their skunky loot into a Ford F250 pickup registered to an Elk Grove address and then took off southbound from North San Juan on Highway 49, according to the sheriff. Back at Tobacco Road, however, one of the men cuffed up at the wrists with a plastic zip tie was able to free himself. He jumped into his own pickup and gave chase, Royal said. ***The sheriff said the pursuer tried to ram his truck into the rear of the getaway vehicle and may have tapped it a couple of times. In return, one or both of the suspected marijuana robbers fired several rounds from their weapons at the truck on their tail, according to Royal. About six miles from Tobacco Road, the driver of the suspects' truck lost control and slammed into a tree on Highway 49 near Sauer Lane. Royal said the driver died at the scene.*** Authorities flew the dead man's partner to Sutter Roseville Medical Center for emergency care. The injuries, however, did not require his admission to the hospital, and sheriff's deputies took him into custody. The passenger is expected to be booked on homicide and robbery charges, Royal said. The sheriff added that the driver who chased down the robbers is likely to be charged, too, with assault with a deadly weapon. Authorities found one handgun and a shotgun in or near the Ford pickup and another handgun several hundred feet away, the sheriff said....According to Royal, one of the four people on Tobacco Road "said he had medical needs" requiring marijuana. "I think the story wasn't quite truthful," Royal said....."Every year we're seeing one, two, three or four of these events – home invasion robberies for marijuana," Royal said. "We've had some of them with serious injuries." In September, a multiagency task force raided 10 locations in and around North San Juan and filed a federal criminal complaint against three people in what authorities described as a big-league marijuana operation. Besides pulling up hundreds of plants and seizing more than 100 pounds of processed pot ready for

packaging, federal agents filed sworn declarations that the man they identified as the ringleader of the operation, Charles Miller Hilkey Jr., had moved about \$1.7 million through his bank accounts. Sheriff Royal said Saturday that Hilkey, a local contractor who could not be reached for comment, also had about \$200,000 in cash at his Badger Hill Road residence. With all that money and all that dope on what locals in North San Juan call "The Ridge," Royal said it comes as no surprise that his deputies get 911 calls along the lines of the one that came in Saturday. "It's unfortunate, but it's the nature of the beast for these commercial growers," Royal said. "They grow larger quantities of marijuana, people find out, and they think, 'Why worry about growing it? Let's just go rip it off.' ***"And that's what we're seeing, an increasing number of serious violent crimes involving home invasion robberies where marijuana is the target."*** <http://www.sacbee.com/crime/story/2434375.html>

Maine couple found dead in California embankment worked at pot-growing operation, authorities say.

By Associated Press / Mar 09, 2010

CLEARLAKE, Calif. (AP) — Authorities have identified two bodies found in an embankment as a Maine couple who worked at a Northern California marijuana growing operation. Thirty-two-year-old Frank Maddox and his 40-year-old wife, Yvette, disappeared from Lake County in January after agreeing to give their employer a ride to the Sacramento airport. Sheriff's Capt. James Bauman says the employer, Robby Alan Beasley, is a "person of interest" in the case. He was taken into custody Saturday on a no-bail fugitive warrant from Maine for a probation violation related to criminal threats and assault charges.....

<http://www.sunjournal.com/node/810841>

Reno ex-felon pleads guilty this morning to murdering a man to get drug money

By Jaclyn O'Malley • jomalley@rgj.com • January 14, 2010

A Reno ex-felon pleaded guilty this morning to the first-degree murder of a 22-year-old California man he bludgeoned in order to rob him for drug money. Quincy Ray Solomon Julian, 31, who goes by "D" and "Q," also pleaded guilty to attempted robbery with the use of a deadly weapon and grand larceny. He was scheduled a Feb. 16 sentencing, where he faces a life sentence without a chance for parole.....Julian had only introduced himself as "D" to the out-of-state men he had known only a matter of hours. Kellison and his friend Robert Murray had been visiting Reno when they met Julian earlier that day. Later, the men and one of Julian's friends were drinking and smoking marijuana in the motel room that Kellison and Murray rented, police said. Julian and Kellison were left alone when the other men left to look for prostitutes, police said. ***While Julian was high on marijuana, he fatally beat Kellison over the head with Murray's rifle because he wanted to sell the firearm for drug money.*** Murray bought the rifle at a Reno gun show that weekend. Immediately following the beating, Murray appeared at the door. Police said Julian attacked Murray and tried to steal his car keys.....

<http://www.rgj.com/article/20100114/NEWS01/100114032/1003/CARSON/Reno-ex-felon-pleads-guilty-this-morning-to-murdering-a-man-to-get-drug-money>

Jesse John Crow Arrested: Husband Arrested in Wife's Death

By Ryan Thursday, February 18th, 2010

Jesse John Crow, arrested in connection with the death of Ryann Bunnell Crow, had been charged with killing his wife. This is the latest high-profile cause in which the husband arrested in wife's death after her disappearance. Jesse John Crow's wife Ryann has been missing for over two weeks. Authorities have gathered forensic evidence which led to the arrest of Jesse John Crow. Ryann's body has not been found, and Jesse is currently being held in the Monterey County Jail on \$3 million bail.....In executing search warrants related to the case police discovered over 300 marijuana plants in the home. ***One theory police are investigating is whether Ryann knew about the plants and threatened to turn Jesse into the***

police. This is one of many angles police appear to be working on this case. The case will be more difficult to prove without recovering Ryann's body, but the fact that no body has been found will not prevent the case from progressing.....

<http://law.rightpundits.com/?p=1246>

Pentagon shooting suspect's parents are 'devastated,' say an illness prompted his 'terrible decision'

March 5, 2010 | 2:50 pm

The parents of John Patrick Bedell, who was shot to death after pulling a gun on Pentagon police guards, said Friday they are "devastated" by the incident, adding that "his actions were caused by an illness and not a defective character.....Bedell, 36, of Hollister, Calif., had mental health problems and had used marijuana, according to authorities, friends and court records.....Patrick, he said, had suffered from mental illness for at least 15 years. "He probably was mentally ill for that period of time," said Monaco, a retired schoolteacher. "He seemed rather paranoid. He was a heavy marijuana user and tended to self-medicate with marijuana. I don't know if he used other drugs." Nevertheless, Monaco said, Patrick also was a "gentle person.".....The father told San Benito County deputies that he was concerned for his son's safety. He said Bedell had a medical marijuana card, had been detained for mental evaluation before and had no friends or relatives on the East Coast. In 2006, Orange County court records show, Bedell was arrested and charged with cultivating marijuana and resisting arrest. The marijuana charge was later dropped and he pleaded guilty to a misdemeanor of resisting arrest. He served three years' probation, which ended in August, and for which he did Caltrans community service, according to court records. Irvine police arrested Bedell at his apartment on Amherst Aisle after neighbors reported him growing marijuana on a balcony. Seeing the plants, officers obtained a search warrant for his apartment. Four days later, they returned and found 16 marijuana plants, along with an irrigation system, lights and other growing equipment. Bedell was alone in the apartment, according to the police report, and was arrested. He refused to leave under his own power and officers had to carry him to a patrol car. Officers confiscated cards listing his name and a business, One Gram Cannabis, said Irvine police Lt. Henry Boggs.....

<http://latimesblogs.latimes.com/lanow/2010/03/pentagon-shooting-suspects-devastated-say-illness-prompted-his-terrible-decision.html>

Suspects in Lakeport shooting and robbery due in court for preliminary hearings next week

Written by Elizabeth Larson / Friday, 19 February 2010

LAKEPORT – The defendants alleged to have been connected to a brutal October assault case were in court on Friday for preliminary hearings, which were postponed due to the illness of a detective.....***They're being tried on charges in connection with the Oct. 20 attack on 49-year-old Ronald Greiner of Lakeport, who was shot, brutally beaten – suffering numerous broken bones all over his body, including his face – and hogtied with barbed wire, with 10 pounds of marijuana in his home stolen.*** "He would have died had he not been discovered," District Attorney Jon Hopkins told Lake County News on Friday.....The prosecution alleges that Dudney is a member of the Misfits motorcycle gang, and that Wandrey was a membership prospect who took part in the crime to earn his stripes. The violence of the attack, said Hopkins, is a trait connected with the Misfits, which don't have a large presence on the North Coast, based on this investigation.....All are being charged with gang membership or participation, a gang enhancement and witness intimidation, said Hopkins.....The witness Dudney is accused of threatening had moved into a Sonoma County home where he was staying, and Rhoades said the subject had moved into Dudney's room, took his belongings and was getting rid of them, as well as allegedly lying about Dudney's involvement in the case.....

<http://lakeconews.com/content/view/12675/919/>

Man Shot During Robbery at Medical Marijuana Clinic

January 26, 2010

Los Angeles: Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) detectives are investigating the robbery and shooting of an employee at a medical marijuana clinic. On Jan. 8, 2010, at about 2:10 p.m., LAPD Devonshire Division officers were dispatched to the 8900 block of Reseda Boulevard where a 33-year-old medical marijuana clinic employee was robbed of his wallet and shot. Los Angeles Fire Department paramedics also responded to the incident and transported the victim to a local hospital where his condition was listed as stable. Although surveillance video footage of the robbery is available, the suspect still has not been identified and detectives are hoping the release of the footage will assist them in identifying him.....

http://lapdblog.typepad.com/lapd_blog/2010/01/man-shot-during-robbery-at-medical-marijuana-clinic.html

Grandpa, 67, Holds Off Three Marijuana Robbers

By Steve Elliott in News Thursday, Jan. 28 2010

They're not going to get James Tillman's weed. *Tillman, 67, on Sunday shot and wounded one of three burglars who broke into his Sacramento, California home to steal his medical marijuana*, reports Elyce Kirchner of CBS13.com. The other two fled and haven't been seen since. Mr. Tillman was definitely having none of their nonsense. After all, his grandkids were at home. Tillman was in his bedroom when the intruders tried to go all gangster on him, but he wasn't trippin.' "We went back and forth and I shot him," Tillman said. "They just didn't give a damn. They knew we were in here, with the lights on, and with kids." The robbers were after Tillman's marijuana, but he grabbed his guns (a 9mm pistol and a shotgun) and was too quick for them. He shot a 19-year-old suspect in the hand. That suspect has since been arrested. But police say at least three intruders were in Tillman's home, and the other two have yet to be apprehended.

http://www.tokeofthetown.com/2010/01/grandpa_67_holds_off_three_marijuana_robbers.php

Medical marijuana sale ends with robbery and Riverside police chase

Tuesday, March 30, 2010

On March 29, at approximately 11:35 p.m., police received a report of an armed robbery that had just occurred in the 5200 block of Chicago Avenue. *The caller reported that he had agreed to meet with a customer to make a sale of medical marijuana. When the customer arrived he had two others with him. The three men robbed the victim at gunpoint of a large quantity of individual packages of marijuana and left in a Mercury SUV.* They were unaware the victim was following them and calling the police. Officers who responded to the call received periodic updates on the suspect and victims' direction of travel and location. The officers caught up with the vehicles on the 91 Freeway near Van Buren. The suspects refused to pull over when the officers tried to stop them. They fled in their vehicle for several miles before exiting at Magnolia and stopping on Pierce where the officers conducted a high risk traffic stop. All three suspects were arrested. Officers found a handgun on the freeway where they had seen one of the suspects throw it from the vehicle.....

<http://www.instantriverside.com/riverside-ca-news/medical-marijuana-riverside/2010/03/30/>

Santa Rosa Police: Pot Dealers Robbed At Gunpoint

CBS 5 Crime Watch / Mar 20, 2010

SANTA ROSA (BCN) —

Police arrested two men late Thursday on suspicion of robbing more than 5 pounds of marijuana at gunpoint in Spring Lake Park in east Santa Rosa. The two robbery victims went to the park around 8 p.m. to sell the marijuana to three men, Sgt. Steve Fraga said. While the marijuana buyers and sellers were examining the drugs near the trunk of the sellers' vehicle, a man approached and ordered the group

to the ground at gunpoint, Fraga said. The robber took three large bags of processed marijuana from the trunk of the vehicle to a waiting vehicle occupied by another male, Fraga said. The two robbery victims followed the suspects west on Montgomery Drive but lost the vehicle containing the two suspects in traffic, Fraga said.They were booked in the Sonoma County jail for robbery, Fraga said. Police are investigating whether the three marijuana buyers are connected to the two robbers.

<http://cbs5.com/crime/santa.rosa.marijuana.2.1577453.html>

Three people nabbed robbing NoHo marijuana dispensary, police say

Daily News Wire Services / 03/24/2010

NORTH HOLLYWOOD — Three people were in custody this morning after what police said was a robbery of a marijuana dispensary in North Hollywood.Police responded to a report of a robbery in progress while an ambulance crew responded to a reported assault, according to a camera crew at the scene. Around two hours after the initial calls, as many as seven people were handcuffed outside Smokers Stop, a store with smoking implements on display, On Scene reported from Vanowen and Vineland. One person was treated by an ambulance crew for a head injury, according to On Scene. Investigators were still at Vanowen and Vineland at 5 a.m., with three people in custody and described as suspects, the North Hollywood Station duty officer said. She said she did not know whether the suspects tried to take cash or marijuana or both.

http://www.dailynews.com/breakingnews/ci_14747879

Walnut Creek man arrested in robbery of pot seller

By Roman Gokhman / Contra Costa Times / 01/29/2010

SANTA ROSA — Police arrested a Walnut Creek man Thursday on suspicion of robbing another man of three pounds of marijuana at gunpoint two days earlier.The victim told investigators that he met four men to sell them the three pounds of high-grade marijuana for \$11,000. One of the buyers then pulled out a pistol and took the drugs from the seller. The four men drove away in a sport utility vehicle with white rims.

http://www.mercurynews.com/crime-courts/ci_14298006?nclick_check=1

L.A. dispensary employee robbed of cash, cannabis in Thousand Oaks

Written on March 11, 2010 by Bud

An employee of a Los Angeles cannabis club was robbed of a backpack containing some cash and a jar of marijuana Wednesday night as he returned to his home in Thousand Oaks, according to Ventura County authorities. The cannabis club employee was walking to his home from his car after returning from work when an unknown man approached him, hit him in the shoulder with a baseball bat, took his backpack and ran off, said Capt. Mike De Los Santos of the Ventura County Sheriff's Department. The robbery victim, who is in his 20s, did not require medical attention, De Los Santos said. The assailant was described as a man about 19 or 20 years old wearing a hooded sweatshirt, said the captain. The robbery remained under investigation today, De Los Santos said. It was unclear if the crime was random or targeted.

<http://calpotnews.com/medical-marijuana/l-a-dispensary-employee-robbed-of-cash-cannabis-in-thousand-oaks/>

Victim in Woodland Hills home-invasion robbery arrested for growing pot

Robert J. Lopez / March 16, 2010

A man suspected of cultivating marijuana in his Woodland Hills home was arrested Tuesday after officers came to his aid when he had been beaten in a home-invasion robbery.Police found about 70 plants and a sophisticated lighting, ventilation and watering system, said Sgt. Cathy Riggs of the LAPD's Topanga station. The man was attacked about 9:15 p.m. Monday by at least two suspects who

stormed into the home in the 22600 block Mulholland Drive, the LAPD said. The attackers fled with an undisclosed amount of money. Officers who arrived at the home found the growing operation, LAPD Officer Karen Rayner said.

<http://latimesblogs.latimes.com/lanow/2010/03/victim-in-woodland-hills-homeinvasion-robber-arrested-for-growing-pot.html>

Santa Ana Medical Marijuana Grower is Victim and Suspect

By Matt Coker, Thursday, Mar. 11 2010 @ 2:46PM

After responding to an armed robbery Friday, Irvine Police indicated the city may shut down the victimized business: a medical marijuana dispensary. After responding to a robbery in Santa Ana Monday in which the homeowner was beaten by two men, Orange County sheriff's deputies seized items from the victim: medical marijuana and cultivating equipment.....The Sheriff's Department reportedly says the Santa Ana homeowner is now the subject of a narcotics investigation, even though he showed deputies a medical marijuana patient card and explained he was growing for his local collective. Just after 1 a.m. Monday, he heard a side door opening in his home in the 18000 block of Romelle Avenue in unincorporated Santa Ana. Next thing he knew, two men were beating him with an unknown object. They took cultivated cannabis and several electronic items before fleeing. The resident drove himself to the hospital for treatment, then called deputies Amormino said. The resident then drove himself to a local hospital, where he was treated for head injuries. He called deputies to report the robbery after being released. He explained he grew medical marijuana for a collective and delivered the medicine to patients. While uniformed officers came to the home to investigate the robbery, narcotics officers began seizing the remaining plants and pieces of the sophisticated hydroponics growing system.....

<http://blogs.ocweekly.com/navelgazing/a-clockwork-orange/medical-marijuana-grower-santa/>

Robbery Call Leads Police To Pot-growing Operation

Mar 15, 2010

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Los Angeles police say they discovered a marijuana-growing operation in a San Fernando Valley home after responding to a call of a home invasion robbery and beating. Officer Karen Rayner says a man was attacked Monday night by at least two suspects who stormed into the home on Mulholland Drive. Rayner says when officers arrived, they found a pot-growing operation and plants in several of the rooms. She says the attackers fled with an undisclosed amount of money.

<http://cbs5.com/wireapnewsca/Home.invasion.robbery.2.1564241.html>

Man arrested for growing pot after robbery

Friday, March 12, 2010

GARDEN GROVE, Calif. (KABC) -- A 62-year-old man was the victim of a violent home invasion in Garden Grove Wednesday. Officers said Dennis Chailland and two other victims were tied up and blindfolded by robbers inside a home on Magnolia Avenue. Chailland was also pistol whipped during the robbery. The suspects left the scene and are still on the loose. Police Lt. Jeff Nightengale says Chailland was arrested when responding officers found more than 60 marijuana plants growing on the property. He is now facing a series of felony charges.

http://abclocal.go.com/kabc/story?section=news/local/orange_county&id=7328124

People sought in medical marijuana robbery

By Rob Young / Appeal-Democrat February 05, 2010

Yuba County Sheriff Steve Durfor said Friday "several persons of interest" are being sought in a medical marijuana robbery in Olivehurst. A 21-year-old man reported Thursday afternoon that "a couple of armed strangers" came to his residence in the 2000 block of Plumas Arboga Road the previous night an undisclosed amount of pot and an undisclosed amount of cash from him and a friend, Durfor

said. The victims did not require medical attention, he said.....Sheriff's Department spokeswoman Melanie Oakes said detectives will consider whether the victims might have been selling marijuana. "What is a 'reasonable' amount of medical marijuana is an issue which is being actively debated at a variety of different levels in the judicial system, because it is somewhat subjective," Oakes said.
<http://www.appeal-democrat.com/articles/medical-91461-yuba-robbery.html>

Robbers invade indoor grow in Oakland; 1 hurt

January 1, 2010

OAKLAND — A man with more than 100 marijuana plants in his home was attacked there by at least three break-in robbers this morning, police said. Around 2:30 a.m., the 32-year-old victim was alone at his home in the 3200 block of 13th Avenue when three to five suspects kicked in the door and began pistol-whipping him.....Police believe the suspects dragged the man around the house forcing him to show them where cash and processed marijuana were stored. The victim then was forced into a portable dog kennel and locked there. The man's two dogs were not hurt; his roommate arrived home later and called police. Officers responding to the scene found more than 100 marijuana plants and equipment for a full indoor grow, Mosley told the Tribune. Police later found documentation for medical marijuana in the names of the victim and his roommate.

<http://calpotnews.com/cultivation/robbers-invade-indoor-grow-in-oakland-1-hurt/>

Violent crimes up in the county

By Linda Williams/TWN Staff Writer / 01/29/2010

EDITOR'S NOTE: This is Part 1 of a look at crimes, arrests, prosecutions and punishment in Mendocino County. *A sharp increase in robberies and aggravated assaults in 2007 drove violent crime rates in Mendocino County to the highest level seen in the past decade, with 544 total violent crimes reported..... Most in the county law enforcement community attribute the rise to the increasing violence associated with the marijuana trade, and believe only a fraction of the actual violence is reported. The increase in violent crimes within the county bucks the declining trend within California and across the nation. "A lot has to do with the violent home invasion robberies associated with marijuana operations," says Mendocino County Sheriff Tom Allman. "I believe it is linked very directly to greed marijuana growers that have come into our county." While violent crimes in the county are up, reports of property crimes, thefts and larcenies have declined, causing the overall crime rate to decline slightly.....*

http://www.willitsnews.com/ci_14295394

2009 – Crime, loss, election, adaptation – January 7, 2010

By Kevin L. Hoover / Eye Editor / Wednesday, February 10, 2010

ARCATA – It wasn't the best or worst of years. No overwhelming milestones were achieved, nor huge disasters suffered. But 2009 was newsy as usual in Arcata, and here's some of what went down during the decade's second-to-last year:

- January 6 A backpack full of tens of thousands of dollars in cash abandoned at the Veterans Hall Thanksgiving Dinner goes unclaimed, probably because of what police says is evidence of drug connections.
 - March 4 Drug Task Force and Arcata Police take out grow house in Sunny Brae.
 - April 8 Three men are sought in connection with a Bayside Road armed invasion of a grow house,
 - April 15 Attempted McKinleyville home-invasion marijuana robbery results in gunshot wound. Suspects drop victim off at Mad River Community Hospital and flee.
- Hundreds gather for annual 4/20 marijuana celebration in Redwood Park. The next morning, Parks Department workers take out truckloads of trash. Heaps of butane cyclinders from a hashish-making project are also discovered left behind in the woods.

- June 3 Drug Task Force takes out Ariel Way grow house.
 - July 1 Drug Task Force seizes 275 plants and four pounds of marijuana at a Bayside house.
 - July 29 Drug Task Force and APD take out alleged cannabis grow and hashish factory on Charles Avenue. Seizures include 92 plants, 30 pounds of wet leaves, 22 pounds of ground-up marijuana and 13 pounds of hash. The raid is filmed by a production crew and is later featured in the A&E TV special Intervention: Pot City USA.
 - August 26: Longtime Arcata residents Mike and Theresa McLaren give up on grow house-infested Arcata and move to Oregon.
 - September 9 Police Log: Plaza police officer on bicycle patrol rolls up on two men and three pounds of hashish in Tavern Alley. Drug Task Force and APD take out multiple grow houses all around Arcata.
 - September 16 Arcata Police and DTF take out grow houses on Janes Road and Coombs Court.
 - October 7 APD and DTF take out grow house on Beverly Drive, confiscating marijuana, hashish, psilocybin, LSD and two handguns plus ammunition.
 - October 21 Intervention: Pot City USA debuts on A&E Network, with a network TV-style take on Arcata's grow house problem. Reviews are mixed.
 - November 4 APD takes out grow house in Antoinette Court.
 - November 18 County officials study Arcata's medical cannabis policies for possible adoption.
 - December 9 Drug Task Force takes out psychedelic pharmacy across from Pacific Union School. Along with two pit bulls, agents find 279 pot plants, 24 pounds of hanging plants, 2.5 pounds of bud, 80 doses of LSD, 6 vials of LSD, 400 grams of psilocybin mushrooms, two grams of cocaine, three grams of DMT, a gram of ketamine and 250 grams of hash.
 - December 16 DTF and APD raid two more Sunny Brae grow houses, seizing pot, guns.
- <http://alterimpact.com/eye/?p=94>

Men arrested for burglarizing medical marijuana dispensary

Written by Elizabeth Larson / Thursday, 07 January 2010

LAKEPORT – Two men were arrested this week after they allegedly burglarized a local medical marijuana dispensary. Brandon Scott Saulter, 19, and Reginald Bruce Mills, 21, both of Lakeport, were arrested shortly before midnight on Monday, according to Lt. Brad Rasmussen of the Lakeport Police Department. They are alleged to have burglarized Visions of Avatar, a medical marijuana dispensary just outside the city limits, according to Rasmussen. Lakeport Police Officer Jake Steely was on patrol that night and saw the two men in the 2700 block of S. Main near Rotten Robbie's gas station. Rasmussen said Steely made a consensual contact with the two and found them in possession of marijuana. Rasmussen said Steely recognized Mills as being on parole for a burglary charge, and Saulter had a misdemeanor arrest warrant out for him. While doing a parole search of Mills, Steely found not just marijuana but t-shirts from the store and other property alleged to have come from the establishment. Rasmussen said Saulter allegedly was carrying a bag containing marijuana, marijuana pipes, a scale and other paraphernalia. Steely determined they had just burglarized the dispensary and arrested the men for possession of stolen property and burglary tools, said Rasmussen. The Lake County Sheriff's Office added a burglary charge. After arresting the men, Steely contacted the sheriff's office, which sent deputies to investigate the burglary. Capt. James Bauman of the Lake County Sheriff's Office said one of the suspects allegedly told deputies that they went to the dispensary with the intent to burglarize it. He said deputies found that a hole had been pried in the building's tin siding in order to enter it. Smoking pipes and rolling papers were taken, and the suspects allegedly found and pried open a lock box containing an unknown amount of marijuana. Bauman said investigators still aren't sure of exactly what was taken.....

<http://lakeconews.com/content/view/12066/919/>

Threats Against DEA Agents Lead to Arrest of Tule Lake, CA Man

Suspect Arrested with Handgun, Ammunition and Bullet-Proof Vest

March 12, 2010 / Contact: Casey McEnry

MAR 12 -- SACRAMENTO, Calif. —Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) Assistant Special Agent in Charge Gordon Taylor and Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF) Special Agent in Charge Stephen C. Herkins announced today the arrest of a convicted felon who was in possession of a firearm, ammunition and a bullet-proof vest. Micha GODFREY, 37, of Tule Lake, CA, was taken into custody yesterday by U.S. Park Service Rangers at the Lava Beds National Monument, after allegedly waving a firearm in the air. At the time of his arrest, GODFREY was under investigation by the DEA for allegedly threatening to kill DEA agents and their families.On March 5, 2010, the DEA Sacramento Office received information that GODFREY allegedly sent several emails to a “medical” marijuana website in which he threatened to kill DEA agents and their families. GODFREY, who had previous ties to the Sacramento area, was reportedly living in Tule Lake, CA, located approximately 100 miles north of Redding, CA. On March 11, 2010, while DEA agents continued their investigation into the alleged threats, U.S. Park Rangers received a report of a suspicious man, who was later identified as GODFREY, waving a handgun in the air on Medicine Lake Road at the Lava Beds National Monument, approximately 10 miles from Tule Lake. Park Rangers responded to the area and took GODFREY into custody. At the time of his arrest, GODFREY was in possession of a .45 caliber revolver, ammunition and was wearing a bullet-proof vest. Earlier today, DEA, ATF, California Highway Patrol and Tule Lake Police Department Officers served a federal warrant at GODFREY’s residence located in the 500 block of 4th Street in Tule Lake, CA. As a result of that search, officers seized four firearms, thousands of rounds of ammunition, a bullet-proof vest, a laptop computer and marijuana plants.

<http://www.justice.gov/dea/pubs/states/newsrel/2010/sanfran031210.html>

Search warrant nets fraud charge, pot bust for California couple

By IFANews Staff / Posted: January 19, 2010

A California husband and wife were arrested recently during an auto insurance fraud bust at two of their residences that also turned up 131 pounds of suspected marijuana. Vaughn Perkins, 49, and Mary Perkins, 48, were arrested after law enforcement agents searched their properties in Red Bluff, Calif., and Elk Creek, Calif., according to the Corning Observer. Agents found three Harley Davidson motorcycles, one of which was reported stolen and the other two with altered vehicle identification numbers, and a Chevrolet Corvette reported stolen in 2006, according to the Tehama County District Attorney’s Office. Also discovered in the search were three assault rifles banned in California, 131 pounds of processed marijuana, \$5,320 in cash and items used in the sales and cultivation of marijuana. The investigation into the couple was part of an ongoing auto insurance fraud case being investigated by the district attorney’s office with the help of other local agencies, the report said. Vaughn Perkins was charged with suspicion of possession of stolen property, fraudulent insurance claim, conspiracy to commit a crime, possession of a vehicle with an altered vehicle identification number and possession of illegal assault weapon. His wife, Mary Perkins, was charged with suspicion of possession of stolen property and cultivation of marijuana.

<http://ifanews.com/2010/01/19/search-warrant-nets-fraud-charge-pot-bust-for-california-couple/>

Driver blamed in 13 crashes, says he smoked pot first

By [Jose Luis Jiménez](#), UNION-TRIBUNE STAFF WRITER

Thursday, March 25, 2010

ESCONDIDO— *A man who admitted to driving under the influence of marijuana caused at least 13 crashes Thursday afternoon, police said. The spree finally stopped when he hit the last vehicle head-on, disabling the 1998 Nissan Pathfinder he was driving.* The 24-year-old from Temecula began hitting vehicles at about 2:40 p.m. while driving the sport utility vehicle north on Bear Valley Parkway

near Royal Crest Drive, said Escondido police Sergeant Don Shumate. At least seven crashes were reported to police in that area, and the man did not stop for any of them, Shumate said. He made a U-turn, started driving south and spent most of his time on the wrong side of the road, the sergeant said. Many drivers had to swerve to avoid hitting the SUV. The man caused another six wrecks before he stopped after a head-on crash with a vehicle on Via Rancho Parkway near Interstate 15, the sergeant said. At one point, he passed in front of San Pasqual High School. Two people were taken to a hospital to be treated for injuries; they are expected to survive. ***When confronted by officers, the man said he had smoked marijuana and showed them a medical marijuana card that he obtained for treatment of an undisclosed ailment to justify his behavior, Shumate said. The man struck one officer in the face as he resisted being arrested, the sergeant said.*** He left a total of 13 reported crashes in a one-mile stretch. Police believe he may have crashed into more vehicles because of debris officers found on the road, but those crashes have not been reported. The man was booked into County Jail on suspicion of felony hit and run, battery on a peace officer and driving under the influence of marijuana.
<http://www.signonsandiego.com/news/2010/mar/25/driver-blamed-string-crashes-says-he-smoked-pot-fi/>

FBI: Unruly passenger blames medical pot cookies

By JOE MANDAK / The Associated Press / Wednesday, February 3, 2010

PITTSBURGH -- ***A San Francisco man claims he was high on a double dose of medical marijuana cookies when he screamed, dropped his pants and attacked crew members on a cross-country flight, forcing its diversion to Pittsburgh, the FBI said Wednesday.*** Kinman Chan, 30, was charged in a criminal complaint with interfering with the duties of a flight attendant on allegations that he fought with crew members of US Airways Flight 1447 from Philadelphia to Los Angeles on Sunday....Chan told agents who interviewed him in Pittsburgh that he ate marijuana cookies while waiting for his flight to depart in Philadelphia. ***"Chan advised he has a medical marijuana card and he took double his normal dose," the complaint said. Margaret Philbin, a spokeswoman for the U.S. attorney's office in Pittsburgh, said Chan has a legally issued medical marijuana card for a "legitimate" health issue, which she declined to identify.*** The flight was diverted to Pittsburgh International Airport, where Chan was arrested, then jailed until a federal magistrate granted him bond Tuesday, Philbin said. Chan remained jailed Wednesday because Allegheny County officials have also charged him with disorderly conduct, Philbin said.....

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/02/03/AR2010020301612.html>

Two middle school students caught smoking marijuana on school bus

By [Sara Suddes](#) / Feb 11, 2010

Two Ascencion Solarsano Middle School students were arrested Tuesday morning after bringing marijuana onto a school bus. During Tuesday's round of pick-ups, a Gilroy Unified School District bus driver who was filling in for another driver noticed the distinct smell of marijuana wafting through her bus while stopped at a red light. She immediately notified police and school administrators of her suspicions, and they met her bus when it arrived at Gilroy High School - the first school stop of the morning - to search the bus. Administrators found an unspecified amount of marijuana that one student tried hiding under a bus seat, and two male Solarsano students - a sixth grader and an eighth grader - were arrested, administrators said. "Is it unusual? Yes. Does it surprise me? No," Solarsano Principal Sal Tomasello said of marijuana being used at such a young age. "We see it across all grade levels in my experience.".....Police are still investigating the incident and working to confirm what type of drug was recovered, he said. On average, police respond to about five to 10 school incidents per week, he said.
<http://www.gilroydispatch.com/news/263159-two-middle-school-students-caught-smoking-marijuana-on-school-bus>

Medical marijuana-laced fruity treats found at elementary school

Jodi Hernandez of KNTV for NBC News Channel / March 5, 2010

OAKLAND, California -- It looks like a tasty desert. But it's the snack that got some children in a heap of trouble. *A marijuana-laced fruity pebble treat made it's way from one of Oakland's medical marijuana dispensaries to the hands of a Pittsburgh 5th grader who shared it with friends at school. "It's very tragic when any medicine if any type makes it into the hands of children" Steve DeAngelo, who runs Harborside Health Center, a medical marijuana dispensary in Oakland says he's gone to great lengths to package his marijuana snacks in a way that doesn't appeal to children.* DeAngelo says, "I imposed a policy here, out of reach of children, it should not look like it's going to be (for children)" Medical marijuana user Angel Raich believes more can and should be done to keep kids safe. Not only should products not be kid friendly in any way, she says patients need to be more responsible. Raich has developed a special lockbox to keep her stash of medicine secure. "Products that are medical should not be in the hands of children," Raich says. Meantime, DeAngelo's pulling the fruit flavored snacks from his shelves. He says in light of the incident he'll no longer offer them. "I'm going to discontinue the rainbow, if they want me to continue to sell it going to have to bring it in plain rice krispies"

<http://www.woai.com/news/local/story/Medical-marijuana-laced-fruity-treats-found-at/SWpir-XG6ku-UUm5mXYE2g.csp>



Pot in 5th graders Fruity Pebbles treat

Associated Press / Monday, March 1, 2010

Pittsburg, Calif. (AP) Police say a fifth grader brought special Fruity Pebbles treats to school on Monday: they contained marijuana. Police say they were contacted after several fifth graders at Stoneman Elementary School shared nibbles of the sugary treat. A couple of students told school staff, who contacted police and paramedics, said Pittsburg school superintendent Barbara Wilson. *The student who brought the treats to school knew they contained pot, police say. The student had obtained the treats from her adult sister. The older sister told police she received the pot treats from a medical marijuana dispensary.* Pittsburg police are investigating whether the sister had a legitimate card to obtain the pot. Lieut. Brian Addington of the Pittsburg Police Department said the students who tried the treat had ingested minute amounts of pot.

<http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/n/a/2010/03/01/state/n201731S46.DTL&tsp=1>

2 arrested in Union City pot brownie sickenings

Henry K. Lee, Chronicle Staff Writer / Thursday, January 28, 2010

UNION CITY -- Two teenagers have been arrested in connection with an incident in which five Union City high school students became sick after eating brownies containing marijuana, police said. An 18-year-old Union City man was arrested for alleged possession of marijuana and a 17-year-old student at Conley-Caraballo High School in Union City was arrested on suspicion of possessing marijuana brownies, a pipe and bags of marijuana, apparently for sale, said police Lt. Ben Horner. Their names

were not released. The 18-year-old is not a student, police said. *The arrests came a week after five students at James Logan High School reported feeling ill after eating brownies that contained marijuana. Two of the students went into convulsions and were taken to a hospital, but have since recovered. Despite fears that the brownies were laced with something besides marijuana, police said medical tests detected no other illegal drugs in the hospitalized students.*

<http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2010/01/27/BAUS1BOKO8.DTL&tsp=1>

Pot brownies sicken several in Orange County

March 6, 2010 | 4:06 pm

Several people who ate pot brownies in Huntington Beach on Friday felt so ill that they were sent to the hospital, police said. *About four to five people eating at a restaurant on Main Street near Beach Boulevard complained of difficulty breathing and hallucinations, Huntington Beach police said. They asked paramedics to send them to the hospital. The pot brownies were purchased at a medical marijuana dispensary.* Because those who complained of illness had medical marijuana cards, police did not consider the illnesses to be a criminal issue, said Huntington Beach Police Lt. Craig Bryant. Eating marijuana can produce more unpleasant reactions than inhaling it, according to the National Institutes of Health. A person smoking marijuana can feel the drug's effects in seconds or minutes, allowing the user to stop inhaling when they begin to feel unpleasant side effects. But it can take 30 to 60 minutes for people who ingest marijuana -- in a brownie, for example -- to feel the drug's effects. "These effects add up and last longer, making unpleasant reactions more likely," according to the health institute's website.

<http://latimesblogs.latimes.com/lanow/2010/03/pot-brownies-sicken-several-in-orange-county.html>

18-year-old arrested in marijuana candy case

Source: SBSO / Mar 03, 2010

Santa Ynez Valley-Santa Barbara Sheriff's Deputies have arrested a Santa Ynez High School student for providing marijuana laced cookies to a classmate who ended up in the hospital. On Tuesday afternoon, March 2, 2010 the Sheriff's Department responded to Santa Ynez High School for a report of a student who needed medical attention after ingesting marijuana. That student was taken to SYV Cottage Hospital where the student was evaluated and released. Following an investigation Deputies learned that 18-year old Rodrigo Guzman (DOB 11/28/91) had brought marijuana-laced cookies to school where he shared them with the victim and one other schoolmate during one of their classes.....All three students have been suspended from school. At this time it is now known if the cookies were homemade or from a marijuana dispensary. <http://www.edhat.com/site/tidbit.cfm?id=1400&nid=27749>

Police Chief looking for help cracking down on drugs at Ukiah High School

Police caught 188 students possessing, using or selling marijuana on campus so far this year. That number doesn't include alcohol violations, Dewey said.

01/19/2010

Ukiah police want to use dogs and city reserves to crack down on marijuana and alcohol sales at Ukiah High School. The Ukiah City Council on Wednesday will consider Police Chief Chris Dewey's proposal to use \$20,793 left over after buying five detective vehicles for less than was expected, to create a Police Narcotic Canine Program. "Over the last five years, on average, approximately 113 Ukiah High School students a year have been found to be in possession, under the influence, or have sold marijuana or alcohol on the school campus," Dewey writes to open his memo to the council. *Two students were hospitalized last year after eating marijuana brownies several students were distributing via a campus locker. He said based on a school district administrator's estimate, the high school will lose \$300,000 in average daily attendance (ADA) funding from the expulsions that have resulted from marijuana violations so far this year.* The incidents of transportation and shipping of

bulk marijuana rose between August and December last year, according to Dewey. He cited two Santa Barbara residents allegedly paid for delivering \$110,000 and marijuana packaging materials to a Ukiah address, and "a significant number of cases" where marijuana was shipped from commercial shipping companies. The most recent example was a Dec. 28 incident where four pounds of marijuana was being shipped through the United Parcel Service. Dewey's proposal involves using the left over vehicle money to purchase and train two narcotic officer-canine teams. One team would work during the day to address problems at the school and at commercial shipping companies; the other would work in the evening to reduce transportation of drugs in Ukiah.....
http://www.ukiahdailyjournal.com/ci_14220655?source=rss

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. These safety concerns are compounded by the fact that the indoor growing process has the potential to leave the dwelling, often a rental property, uninhabitable. Several indoor grow investigations have also led to the discovery of utility theft in the form of by passing electrical meters. This not only poses additional risks of electrocution of those who enter the dwelling, it also represents a significant drain upon a valuable resource.

Firefighters discover big indoor pot farm in south Sacramento

By Anna Tong, The Sacramento Bee, Calif. / Feb. 21 2010

Sacramento firefighters responding to a house fire in south Sacramento on Saturday morning discovered a large indoor marijuana growing operation inside. There were more than 200 plants growing and at least 20 pounds of dried marijuana, Sacramento police spokesman Sgt. Norm Leong said.....The tenants had spliced the electric wires and were stealing power before it could be registered on the meter, said SMUD spokesman Bob Burns. Officials said the operation was sizable, but they did not know what the marijuana was being used for. Last year, Sacramento police discovered 18 marijuana-growing operations, Leong said. This year, there have been four busts in the city of Sacramento.....
http://www.fireengineering.com/index/articles/news_display/141548712.html

Calif. homes yield 5,900 pot plants during raid San Francisco police busted four people suspected of growing marijuana

By Justin Berton / The San Francisco Chronicle / January 12, 2010

SAN FRANCISCO — San Francisco police raided three alleged marijuana grow houses, including one where a couple with young children were cultivating hundreds of plants, officers said Monday.....Three children in the house, all under age 8, were turned over to relatives. The couple also own one of the other houses raided Sunday, a residence on nearby Dorchester Way, police said.....In all, officers seized 5,900 marijuana plants, police said. The homes were rigged with illegal wiring schemes to bypass the utility meter, police said....."It's an extraordinary amount," Officer Boaz Mariles said of the haul. "It's clear they weren't growing for medicinal purposes. They were using it as a criminal enterprise, cutting into power lines and creating a dangerous public safety hazard." Police and fire officials have said grow houses in residential neighborhoods represent a fire threat.
<http://www.policeone.com/drug-interdiction-narcotics/articles/1989047-Calif-homes-yield-5-900-pot-plants-during-raid/>

Marijuana raid finds 500 plants, \$82,000 in cash in San Jose

Bay City News Service / 01/09/2010

Police arrested two people and cited one other after finding nearly 500 marijuana plants and \$82,000 in cash in a San Jose home Tuesday, a spokesman said today. Officers received numerous tips about

marijuana cultivation happening in a home in the 1800 block of Mac Duee Way, according to Sgt. Ronnie Lopez. Police executed a search warrant at about 5 p.m. and confiscated the plants and cash, plus a large bag of marijuana, he said.....

http://www.mercurynews.com/breaking-news/ci_14156543

Marijuana Cultivation in Gardena

By Laura Fishman on January 15, 2010

The Gardena police discovered almost 400 mature marijuana plants, 800 seedlings, and two pounds of dried cannabis all in a warehouse.....The Gardena police were able to search the warehouse with a search warrant, after police received an anonymous tip, which led to a three-month investigation. The two Gardena men were booked, once the excessive amount of marijuana was discovered.

<http://losangelescriminallegalblog.com/2010/01/marijuana-cultivation-in-gardena.html>

Rio del Mar marijuana bust also nets cocaine, guns and cash

[By Jennifer Squires - Santa Cruz Sentinel](#) / 01/27/2010

APTOS - An anonymous tip led deputies to a cocaine stash, hundreds of marijuana plants and a suspected drug dealer last week, the Sheriff's Office reported.....Deputies confiscated about 450 plants from gardens set up in several rooms of the Loma Prieta Drive house and a couple of outbuildings, the Sheriff's Office reported. "He had grows everywhere," Yanez said. Porter allegedly had about 10 pounds of marijuana either drying or packaged to sell and approximately \$18,500 cash at his house, according to the Sheriff's Office. During the search for pot, deputies also found almost a pound and a half of cocaine and two shotguns, Yanez said. Detectives believe that Porter, who lived in the house, was selling cocaine and marijuana. He told deputies he was a medicinal user, Yanez said. "He's selling it, so he's outside of state guidelines," Yanez said. "We don't bust people for being out of the county guidelines. ... Generally cases we do that result in arrests are the people who are selling it.".....

http://www.mercurynews.com/breaking-news/ci_14280130?nlick_check=1

Police briefs: Indoor pot operation busted in Prunedale

The Monterey County Herald / Posted: 02/05/2010

An indoor marijuana garden using a hydroponic system was discovered at a home in Prunedale, Monterey County Sheriff's deputies said Thursday.....Deputies said they found 303 marijuana plants growing, and the home's electric meter was bypassed.....Two other indoor marijuana operations have been discovered in Prunedale in the past month. Sheriff's Sgt. Rick Statham said Tuesday's bust was not connected to those drug raids. On Jan. 19, deputies arrested four people and seized about 340 marijuana plants and 35 pounds of processed marijuana from indoor gardens.....

http://www.presstelegram.com/california/ci_14340088

At least 200 marijuana plants found in Oakland Chinatown print shop

[By Kristin Bender / land Tribune](#) / 02/17/2010

OAKLAND -- An Oakland fire marshal doing a routine check of a printing business in Chinatown discovered 200 to 400 marijuana plants Tuesday afternoon, police said. The street value of the plants is estimated at \$75,000 to \$150,000, police said.....Someone associated with the business was on the scene with a medical marijuana grower certificate, and police were trying to determine whether the paperwork was legitimate.....Because Popular Printing is across the street from the Lincoln Square Recreation Center, which offers programs for children, the suspects could face a separate charge or an "enhancement" of other charges, police said. Enhancements often carry more jail time or additional fines. "We are concerned about the safety of the children, especially if this (building) caught fire," said Oakland police Officer Holly Joshi, a police spokeswoman. The plants were discovered about 2 p.m., police said. This is the second time in less than two months that a marijuana grow operation has been

discovered in Chinatown. In late December, a fire at a former fortune cookie factory led to the discovery of at least 1,000 marijuana plants worth about \$500,000, police said. Authorities said the small fire was sparked by an electrical malfunction.....

http://www.mercurynews.com/breaking-news/ci_14412453?nclick_check=1

Local man arrested for marijuana possession

Source: SBPD / Feb 09, 2010

SANTA BARBARA, CA - 2/9/2010.....The incident began at 10:30 p.m. when Sergeant Hunt noticed the driver of a Honda Element pull over and contact a suspected street prostitute on E. Gutierrez Street. Moments later when the vehicle pulled away, Sgt. Johnson stopped it for not having a front license plate. Sgt. Johnson contacted the driver and sole occupant Glen Mowrer III, and smelled a strong odor of burnt marijuana. A police canine arrived to assist and alerted to marijuana in the rear of the vehicle. ***Police then recovered three large bags containing more than 20 pounds of marijuana, including the highly potent flower or 'bud.'*** A narcotics detective assisted and determined that Mowrer was in violation of the Compassionate Use Act and on probation out of Siskiyou County. Pursuant to Court authorized terms, police conducted searches at Mowrer's primary residence and a second residence where he had complete access to the garage. An additional 100 pounds of marijuana was seized. Police also located concentrated hashish, hash-oil, and 23 live marijuana plants.....

<http://www.edhat.com/site/tidbit.cfm?id=1400&nid=26902>

Tenant arrested after Antioch homeowner spots marijuana grow

By Robert Salonga / Contra Costa Times / 02/25/2010

ANTIOCH — Police said they arrested a man on suspicion of illegally growing marijuana after his landlord told them he was growing "strange plants" in the house he was renting. The homeowner called police Tuesday night and told police about her tenant and the plants. Officers found a large marijuana grow in the master bedroom of the home on Niccolite Court with about 200 plants in various stages of growth, police said.....

http://www.mercurynews.com/breaking-news/ci_14469584

Police Bust Illegal Marijuana Operation

Reported by: Marissa Mike / 03/02/2010

Police responding to an attempted rape call in Cathedral City discovered "scores of mature marijuana plants growing inside a sophisticated hydroponic style garden," police reports indicated.....***A 28-year-old woman said she had been sexually assaulted by her ex-boyfriend. Officers arrested 28-year-old Raymond Bowen of Cathedral City for sexual assault, false imprisonment and domestic violence. During the investigation, police said they found dozens of pot plants.***.....The victim did not receive medical care and was not injured. Additional charges may be filed against Bowen at a later time. The woman who reported the attempted rape was not injured and did not require any medical attention, police said. Her identity will not be released, police added.

<http://www.kpsplocal2.com/Content/Top-Stories/story/marijuana/p5E5fbfEH0qqLa7gx776eA.csp>

Odor leads police to 200 pot plants in LA

(AP) – Mar 9, 2010

LOS ANGELES — Los Angeles police say all they needed to find marijuana growing in a Van Nuys warehouse was a sense of smell. Authorities say someone reported an unusual odor at the warehouse on Roscoe Place on Monday. Police and a Fire Department hazardous materials team were called and found more than 200 marijuana plants inside. Detective Robert Holcomb says the odor of pot coming through a window was so strong that arriving officers recognized it immediately. The plants were being grown

hydroponically, without soil. Holcomb says the pot had a street value of about \$100,000. Six weapons also were seized.

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5ixcngF7pbHkfv0sOx3mQ6mN-jowD9EB6E001>

Response hazards at marijuana grow houses Firefighters need to be aware of a range of dangers and be on the lookout for warning signs of such sites

By Michael Lee

As I drove through our fire district recently, I noticed an ever-increasing number of marijuana dispensaries that our state has recently said are legal. It made me begin to wonder what impacts a fire in one of these or the sites of suppliers (home growers) may cause should crews have to respond on a structure fire. Marijuana grow houses are generally trailers, houses or other locations in rural, urban and residential areas that are retrofitted to be used for the purposes of growing marijuana. Growing operations have been discovered in different locations such as houses, attics, basements, apartments, storage units, barns and other locations. Indoor marijuana grow operations are growing rapidly in both urban and rural areas and are regularly found by law enforcement or firefighters during the course of their duties. Responders should be very cautious of any items or locations that arouse curiosity. Fires at such sites can present a range of dangers to firefighters. Here are the main areas you need to be aware of:

Safety: Growers are generally considered to be violent criminals until proven otherwise. As such, they will not only attempt to protect their "crop" but may also store cash and weapons on site. Responders need to also be aware of anti-personnel devices (APD) or "booby traps" used to protect these items from curious individuals, such as police and other competitive growers. First responders should be cautious. If one is found, chances are there will be others.

Fire: Numerous fire hazards may be present on site. These may consist of: exposed live wires, excessive wiring, uncovered breaker boxes, wire bundles, wires exposed to water or in contact with water and a large number of high-intensity light bulbs. Also some growers will utilize several extra exhaust fans which can aggravate the spread of a fire in a residence.

Atmospheric: One of the greatest hazards can be an oxygen deficient atmosphere. Any atmosphere that has an oxygen concentration below 19.5 percent or above 23.5 percent is dangerous. Carbon dioxide is often artificially introduced to the indoor grow area to assist with plant growth. Ozone generators are commonly used to reduce or eliminate the odor of an indoor grow; ozone is a known chemical carcinogen.

Electrical: Grow houses that are operating can use up to 10 times the power of a standard residence. The growers may attempt to "bypass" the normal distribution of power and steal additional power for their operations. Remember that these illegal power taps are not generally accomplished by licensed electricians and are significantly hazardous.

Light ballast used to run high intensity grow lights can maintain a charge for up to 15 minutes after being unplugged. Illegal hydroponic growing may combine two incompatibles: water and electricity.

Environmental: Due to the high humidity, mold is a standard byproduct growing in the same area as the product. Molds present a very unique health threat in that without respiratory protection, exposure can cause allergic reactions, sinus and respiratory distress; even death in the most extreme cases. Grow farmers may utilize large amounts of hazardous materials in the form of fungicides, pesticides, acids, and bases. These hazardous materials are generally stored and disposed of improperly including being poured down drains and sewers.

Structural factors: Homes used for indoor marijuana growing operations can be altered. These alterations are implemented to produce the maximum growing environment for the plants and to disguise the growing location. Walls will be moved to make room and the high levels of humidity that can lead to growth of fungus and molds has the potential to damage insulation, walls and ceilings. Some

grows have been discovered in underground rooms and tunnels — these are considered confined spaces and must be dealt with as confined spaces. OSHA guidelines must be followed and only those properly trained may act as an entrant, attendant, or confined space supervisor. No other persons can make entry into this environment.

Hazmat: Many sites utilize flammable and volatile solvents. These can include acetones, camp fuel and isopropyl alcohol. Clues and warning signs to alert responders: What clues can responding crews utilize to anticipate possible grow houses? What procedures can they take to ensure they are kept safe? The following list of warning signs may help to focus the company officer's attention and create "red flags" in their mind:

Structure: Almost all marijuana growers will utilize rental property — residence and commercial — to avoid damage to their own properties. To make a location suitable for cultivating marijuana, significant changes are made to the location's structure.

Be aware of: Unusual structures or equipment such as large numbers of vents Equipment used in the growing operation (such as large fans, lights, plastic plant containers and other items) being carried into the home. Garbage bags containing used soil and plant material discarded in areas surrounding the house. Accumulations of waste inside or outside

Security: High fences, locked gates, heavy chains and locks visible. Windows are boarded or covered up.

Smell: Indoor marijuana grows will produce a heavy smell of marijuana that can be recognized around the location. Growers have been known to mask the smell with other offensive odors to hide the smell.

Condensation: Grow house humidity levels may be up to 100 percent, which would cause large amounts of precipitation on specific windows.

Lights: High intensity lamps are used in the indoor growing operation. High intensity light can be seen around doors or windows, which may be covered. Houses may appear much brighter than surrounding houses.

Covered windows: Windows may be covered in black plastic, heavy curtains or drapes that will be closed tight and pressed against the windows. This is to reduce the ability of light to escape and to prevent natural light from disrupting the artificial light cycles.

Open windows: Windows cracked open in winter months in various rooms of the house could be signs that they are being used to cool the house and grow room due to excess heat from high intensity lighting.

Excess air conditioning units: Multiple air conditioning units in a house far too small for the area the air conditioners can efficiently cool are signs that the interior is being cooled secondary to the excess heat from the high intensity lighting. Next month, we will focus on the response guidelines your department can follow when dealing with fires in grow houses.

<http://www.firerescue1.com/fire-attack/articles/780478-Response-hazards-at-marijuana-grow-houses/>

The growing of Marijuana on public lands has been proven to be associated with foreign drug trafficking organizations and costs tax payers millions of dollars in "clean-up" costs. 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.

AP IMPACT: Drug gangs taking over US public lands

By Alicia Caldwell and Manuel Valdes –

Associated Press Writers Monday, Mar. 01, 2010

SEQUOIA NATIONAL FOREST, Calif. -- Not far from Yosemite's waterfalls and in the middle of California's redwood forests, Mexican drug gangs are quietly commandeering U.S. public land to grow millions of marijuana plants and using smuggled immigrants to cultivate them. Pot has been grown on public lands for decades, but Mexican traffickers have taken it to a whole new level: using armed guards

and trip wires to safeguard sprawling plots that in some cases contain tens of thousands of plants offering a potential yield of more than 30 tons of pot a year. "Just like the Mexicans took over the methamphetamine trade, they've gone to mega, monster gardens," said Brent Wood, a supervisor for the California Department of Justice's Bureau of Narcotics Enforcement. . . . The Sequoia National Forest in central California is covered in a patchwork of pot fields, most of which are hidden along mountain creeks and streams, far from hiking trails. It's the same situation in the nearby Yosemite, Sequoia and Redwood national parks. Even if they had the manpower to police the vast wilderness, authorities say terrain and weather conditions often keep them from finding the farms, except accidentally. Many of the plots are encircled with crude explosives and are patrolled by guards armed with AK-47s who survey the perimeter from the ground and from perches high in the trees. The farms are growing in sophistication and are increasingly cultivated by illegal immigrants, many of whom have been brought to the U.S. from Michoacan. Growers once slept among their plants, but many of them now have campsites up to a mile away equipped with separate living and cooking areas. "It's amazing how they have changed the way they do business," Wood said. "It's their domain." Drug gangs have also imported marijuana experts and unskilled labor to help find the best land or build irrigation systems, Wood said. Moyses Mesa Barajas had just arrived in eastern Washington state from the Mexican state of Michoacan when he was approached to work in a pot field. He was taken almost immediately to a massive crop hidden in the Wenatchee National Forest, where he managed the watering of the plants. He was arrested in 2008 in a raid and sentenced to more than six years in federal prison. Several other men wearing camouflage fled before police could stop them. "I thought it would be easy," he told the AP in a jailhouse interview. "I didn't think it would be a big crime." Stewart said recruiters look for people who still have family in Mexico, so they can use them as leverage to keep the farmers working - and to keep them quiet. . . . Washington State Patrol Lt. Richard Wiley said hired hands either do not know who the boss is or are too frightened to give details. "They are fearful of what may happen to them if they were to snitch on these coyote people," Wiley said of the recruiters and smugglers who bring marijuana farmers into the U.S. "That's organized crime of a different fashion. There's nothing to gain from (talking), but there's a lot to lose."

<http://www.ledger-enquirer.com/2010/03/01/1034363/ap-impact-drug-gangs-taking-over.html>

DEA Marijuana Seizures Nearly Double

By Ryan J. Reilly | March 1, 2010

The total amount of marijuana seized by the Drug Enforcement Administration nearly doubled from 1,539 metric tons in fiscal 2008 to 2,980 metric tons in last year. The numbers were disclosed as part of the DEA's budget request for fiscal 2011. A spokesman for the DEA declined to elaborate on the reason for such a dramatic rise in seizures of marijuana. "Several factors play into this number and in any given year the amount of drugs seized by DEA can fluctuate," said spokesman David Ausiello. . . .

<http://www.mainjustice.com/2010/03/01/dea-marijuana-seizures-nearly-double/>

Federal, State and Local Officials continue to struggle with the large numbers of dispensaries throughout the state. Cities and Counties are also fighting on-going legal battles with dispensaries that open or continue to operate in violation of land use and licensing violations. Many Cities and Counties are enacting or establishing moratoriums or enacting bans on the establishment of dispensaries within their jurisdictions. Due to publicity generated by Proposition 19, a number of Medical Marijuana Business are being exposed for what they are, huge cash machines generating millions of dollars in profit while running "non-profit collectives or cooperatives.

Santa Barbara Detectives Shut Down Marijuana Dispensary

Officials say Humanity, on Bond Avenue, operated illegally; six employees are arrested

By Paul McCaffrey | Published on 01.11.2010

For the past few months, the Santa Barbara Police Department has received information that the marijuana dispensary Humanity, at 715 Bond Ave., was operating in violation of the Compassionate Use Act. Information sources included complaints and public comments made at city marijuana ordinance hearings. Narcotic detectives initiated a thorough investigation and made undercover purchases by an individual who presented a counterfeit medical marijuana recommendation. ID was never checked, and the medical marijuana recommendation never verified. Authorized search and arrest warrants were issued for the business, six employees and their residences. . . . Police recovered 63 pounds of marijuana buried in the backyard of the Santa Ynez address. They seized \$12,000 in cash, 281 doses of unprescribed anabolic steroids and 150 growing marijuana plants. In addition to this case, detectives investigated an assault with a deadly weapon case involving two current dispensary employees against a former employee. The employees were charged with assault with a deadly weapon and false imprisonment. . . . In addition to the seizure of cash assets, detectives gained court authorization to freeze \$25,000 in bank assets. Other financial documents and transaction records are being examined to determine if the source was illegal profiteering from Humanity.

http://www.noozhawk.com/local_news/article/011110_santa_barbara_detectives_shut_down_marijuana_dispensary/

EXCLUSIVE: Doctor accused of running a medical marijuana mill

BY KAREN VELIE / January 10, 2010 9:31 pm

Former co-workers are accusing Dr. Atsuko Rees, a physician at HealthWorks in San Luis Obispo until July 2009, of writing medical marijuana recommendations for almost anyone who asked, while not claiming the bulk of payments for the visits as income. The allegations come as medical officials across the country are asking if a small number of doctors are responsible for authorizing the vast majority of medical marijuana cards — possibly abusing a law meant to help patients with chronic health problems. These few doctors, many known for spending five to ten minutes with patients before diagnosing them with a chronic illness, are said to be practicing sub-standard medical care as they rake in between \$150 to \$250 for each diagnosis. HealthWorks employees allege that Dr. Rees, a former co-owner of HealthWorks who now practices at Rees Family Medical on Higuera Street in San Luis Obispo, would see as many as 60 to 70 patients on so-called “Marijuana Fridays” when she practiced at HealthWorks. . . . Even though Dr. Rees saw patients of all ages at HealthWorks, the bulk of her marijuana card clients fell between the ages of 15 and 25, with a large number visiting the clinic on, or within days of, their 18th birthday. Medical marijuana patients under age 18 must have a parent present when seeing a doctor or visiting a dispensary, according to California law. Nevertheless, Dr. Rees gave a medical marijuana recommendation to a 15-year-old Nipomo boy who walked into the clinic complaining of headaches. He provided a note from his mother that said he could seek medical care without an accompanying parent. ***Dr. Rees started writing cannabis recommendations in 2007 and since then has written more than 30,000 medical marijuana approvals for everything from sleeping problems to anxiety.*** Cynthia Scott, a former business partner of Dr. Rees at HealthWorks, said that shortly after Dr. Rees began advertising for patients seeking medical marijuana, they began seeing scores of cannabis-seeking patients. Scott said many patients would come to the counter requesting to see the “marijuana doctor.” Scott also said that when the partners began battling over the clinic’s growing reputation as a marijuana prescription mill, Dr. Rees told Scott not to worry because she was “keeping it all off the books.”

<http://calcoastnews.com/2010/01/exclusive-doctor-accused-of-running-a-medical-marijuana-mill/>

Chico Cannabis club owner arrested for selling pot

The Associated Press / 01/17/2010

CHICO, Calif.—The owner of a Butte County medical pot club has been arrested on suspicion of illegally selling marijuana. The Chico Police Department says 62-year-old Joel Kelly Castle was arrested Friday night for allegedly trading two ounces of marijuana for an item posted for sale on the Web site Craigslist. Police say they received a complaint from a Chico Craigslist user who said Castle had offered to trade marijuana for the item. Police officers posed as the seller and arranged to meet with Castle, who is the founder of the Chico Cannabis Club. He was arrested at a motel where police reportedly found more than five pounds of marijuana and a loaded semiautomatic firearm.
http://www.mercurynews.com/breaking-news/ci_14211692

Pot clinic ignores orders

MedMar Patient Care Collective continues operations, despite cease-and-desist orders served by code enforcement.

By Brianna Bailey / Saturday, March 6, 2010

Despite city orders to abide Costa Mesa's ban on medical marijuana, at least one pot dispensary told to close remained open for business Friday. City code enforcement officers escorted by police served three dispensaries with cease-and-desist orders Thursday, instructing them to close immediately for operating outside the boundaries of their business licenses.....Many of the medical marijuana dispensaries in the city have business licenses to operate as alternative health or vitamin shops, said Costa Mesa Police Capt. Les Gogerty, adding that if the businesses continue to dole out medical marijuana, they will be subject to fines and legal action. "They say they're going to be an alternative medical center, or therapeutic massage or medicinal herbs and so forth," Gogerty said. "They have bottles of legal herbal vitamins and massagers, but you also have marijuana." ***Police have recently noted more motorists being arrested for driving under the influence of marijuana, and businesses next to pot dispensaries have complained to the city about increased foot traffic and the smell of pot, Police Chief Chris Shawkey said.*** The city will continue to shut down a growing number of pot dispensaries that have sprouted up in Costa Mesa over the past several months, he said. "They are in violation of a city ordinance, and we intend to continue to investigate and inspect them," Shawkey said. "If we find they are in violation of a city ordinance, we will take whatever action is appropriate.".....
<http://www.dailypilot.com/articles/2010/03/07/publicsafety/dpt-marijuanadispenaries030610.txt>

4 arrested in raid at OC marijuana dispensary

The Associated Press / 02/05/2010

COSTA MESA, Calif.—Police in Costa Mesa have raided a medical marijuana dispensary and arrested four people for allegedly selling or having pot. The suspects were arrested Thursday at the West Coast Wellness. They include three men booked on suspicion of illegally selling marijuana and an 18-year-old woman arrested for drug possession. Costa Mesa is among cities that ban marijuana dispensaries, while Los Angeles recently passed an ordinance limiting the number of dispensaries to 70. California voters passed a law in 1996 that legalized marijuana use for medical reasons but the initiative didn't say anything about distribution. The Obama administration announced last year that people complying with state marijuana laws would not face federal arrest. But they are subject to local laws.
http://www.mercurynews.com/breaking-news/ci_14341749?nclink_check=1

Warrant issued for owner of marijuana dispensary

Wednesday, February 3, 2010

Fresno, Calif. (AP) --The operator of Fresno marijuana dispensary is a wanted man after authorities say he missed a court appearance. A judge on Wednesday issued an arrest warrant for Rick Morse, the owner of Medmar Clinic, after he failed to appear for his arraignment on a contempt-of-court charge. In

issuing the warrant, Fresno County Superior Court Judge Donald Franson Jr. said once Morse is taken into custody he would be held without bail. The judge ruled last month that marijuana dispensaries could not operate in Fresno because they violate city zoning laws. City officials say Morse had continued to operate the dispensary despite the order. Morse had not hired an attorney, and was expected to represent himself for the arraignment.

<http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/n/a/2010/02/03/state/n173817S65.DTL&type=health>

Vacaville Man Arrested For Illegal Marijuana Club

Feb 13, 2010

VACAVILLE (BCN) — Four people were arrested in Vacaville on Thursday for operating what appeared to be an illegal marijuana dispensary, police said.The business was found to be a marijuana dispensary operating without a business license, according to police.Officers searched Treat's home in the 2000 block of Daybreak Court and found 100 Vicodin pills and a set of brass knuckles. He was booked for possession of Vicodin and possession of a dangerous weapon. Vacaville currently has a moratorium on medical marijuana dispensaries prohibiting their operation within the city limits.

<http://cbs5.com/local/illegal.marijuana.dispensary.2.1492863.html>

Federal agents raid Culver City marijuana dispensary

Amina Khan / February 18, 2010

Federal agents and L.A. police officers raided a Culver City medical marijuana dispensary Thursday. Culver City police also participated in the raid. Witnesses reported seeing several officers and cars congregating about 10 a.m. around Organica Collective at 13456 Washington Blvd., said officials with the Drug Enforcement Administration. At least three people were detained against a graffiti-covered storage truck, a witness said. DEA spokeswoman Sarah Pullen confirmed the agency was serving warrants at the collective, which has been raided in the past. She could not confirm whether any arrests had been made.

<http://latimesblogs.latimes.com/lanow/2010/02/federal-agents-raid-marina-del-rey-marijuana-dispensary.html>

Comment: I am not surprised. I was partners with the owner, Jeff, for about 6 months when he first opened, and warned him repeatedly that his business practices would result in DEA raids. Luckily I had left him well before any assault weapons were pointed in my face. He held quite a number of parties in the rest of the warehouse where Ecstasy and other drugs were readily available. The dispensary was not secure. Receipts were not kept. AND the dispensary room borders Culver City, which is not dispensary-friendly. The whole compound is one large hippie flophouse. It's too bad that Jeff doesn't learn or plan better. He has a fighting spirit which I admire, but he just leaves too many loose ends. Posted by: Ed McCann | February 18, 2010 at 01:36 PM

Arrests made in marijuana investigation

updated: Feb 18, 2010, 1:41 PM

Source: SBSO

Santa Barbara-Santa Barbara County Sheriff Narcotics Detectives have made several arrests following a combined investigation with the Santa Barbara Police Department into suspected illegal marijuana cultivators and marijuana traffickers operating through collectives (Dispensaries) within the cities of Santa Barbara, Goleta and the unincorporated areas of Santa Barbara County (Summerland).During the search, over 50 active marijuana plants were located and approximately 5 pounds of processed marijuana packaged for sales. Additional items of evidence indicative to marijuana sales including edible marijuana products, scales, price sheets/boards, packaging materials and pay owe sheets were also located.While detectives were serving the search warrant, Paul REINAUER (4-13-58) arrived at the collective from northern California with over 2 lbs of processed marijuana and hashish for sales. A short

time later, Curtis ROBERTSON (5-19-62) arrived at the collective from southern Ventura County with approximately 1 lb of marijuana for sales. Both suspects were arrested at the scene and booked into SBCJ.....At the service of the search warrant in Goleta, two employees were contacted onsite, Jacob ROSNER (9-8-89) and Jason JONES (1-18-72). Detectives found over 80 marijuana plants in a sophisticated indoor grow operation and 15 lbs of processed marijuana. Additional items of evidence indicative to marijuana sales including edible marijuana products, scales, price sheets/boards, packaging materials and pay owe sheets were also located. Additional financial investigation into the collective is also underway and an unknown amount of currency will be seized pursuant to State Asset Forfeiture laws.....

<http://www.edhat.com/site/tidbit.cfm?id=1400&nid=27196>



Owner of LA pot club charged with money laundering

The Associated Press / 02/22/2010

LOS ANGELES—The owner of a Los Angeles medical marijuana dispensary has pleaded not guilty to money laundering and other charges stemming from his arrest last week. Jeffrey Joseph was charged with 24 counts Monday and was being held on \$520,000 bail. He is scheduled to return to court March 4. If convicted, he faces up to 20 years in prison. Joseph's attorney, Eric Shevin, said his client was being unfairly targeted. *Joseph ran Organica, a pot clinic that prosecutors say brought in an average of \$400,000 a month. Authorities say people associated with Organica passed out flyers advertising the dispensary near a high school last year and some students apparently purchased marijuana from the outlet.....*

http://www.mercurynews.com/news/ci_14448551

Authorities urge parents to watch out for marijuana 'candy'

By DAILY SOUND STAFF — Feb. 26, 2010

The fallout from a string of raids on medical marijuana dispensaries last week continued yesterday when Santa Barbara County Sheriff officials issued a news release urging parents to “be aware that some candy may do more than cause cavities.” The news release contained pictures of edible marijuana products that investigators seized during the raids, which took place on Feb. 17 and involved the Miramar Collective at 2173 Ortega Hill Rd. and the Santa Barbara Care Center at 5814 Gaviota St. Among items seized were lollipops, candy bars, cookies, brownies and truffles. “Due to the packaging of the cannabis-laced items, they are particularly hard to discern from everyday sweets that do not contain marijuana or other drugs,” the news release said. According to the news release, sheriff’s deputies, sometime prior to the recent raids, seized similar products after a student became ill after consuming a marijuana-laced lollipop, the news release noted. “Witness statements and other investigations indicated that quantities of marijuana-laced edibles had been obtained from one or more dispensaries by a person with a marijuana identity card who then distributed the candy to high school aged students who did not have a doctor’s recommendation to use marijuana,” the news release said. <http://www.thedailysound.com/News/022610WeedEdibles>

L.A. dispensary case stirs probe of toxic buds

March 1, 2010

A poignant issue lurks in the pot club saga in Los Angeles' Eagle Rock neighborhood: whether unhealthy levels of insecticides are winding up in some medical weed. First the back story: Los Angeles City Attorney Carman Trutanich is trying to close the Hemp Factory V dispensary. He argues it is a retail sales operation - not a legal "collective" distributing amongst patient members. On Jan. 29, Los Angeles County Superior Court Judge James C. Chalfant granted an injunction stopping dispensary operations, invigorating a legal fight over whether medical pot transactions may constitute illegal sales. Now the rest of the story: ***Authorities say laboratory tests on marijuana varieties undercover officers bought at Hemp Factory V reveal levels of an insecticide, Bifenthrin, registering 170 times "tolerable" guidelines that the Environmental Protection Agency sets for human food or animal feed. They claim the cannabis also contains traces of insecticides banned in the United States, stirring law enforcement speculation that some dispensaries may be selling pot smuggled across the border or grown illicitly.*** In court documents, authorities said Hemp Factory V employees "claim that they did not grow the marijuana, do not know the conditions in which it is grown" and were unable to label their products for pesticides. But legal papers also reported that dispensary president Gevork Berberyan and six other patients grew pot for the operation. Regardless of the circumstances, the insecticide discovery may send tremors through medical marijuana country. Most dispensaries boast of offering pure, healthy organic medicine grown directly or purchased from certified patient cultivators. Assistant Los Angeles City Attorney Asha Greenberg said the Hemp Factory investigation brings a consumer warning - pot buyer beware: "You may have no idea what it's been treated with."

<http://www.sacbee.com/static/weblogs/weed-wars/>

Owner of PB medical marijuana dispensary pleads guilty

By Neal Putnam / January 9, 2010

The owner of a Pacific Beach medical marijuana dispensary has become the first operator out of the 14 raided last year to plead guilty to federal charges involving manufacturing marijuana plants and using his business for illegal drugs and money laundering.....Nunes also faces a criminal forfeiture procedure that would allow the government to keep the cash discovered at the two dispensaries, a warehouse and at his home. Agents found \$38,915 in cash at the Pacific Beach site, and \$29,777 in cash at his condominium, according to court records. Nunes has agreed to forfeit a total of \$71,336 in drug proceeds. According to the U.S. Attorney’s office, Green Kross Collective sold approximately \$16,000

worth of marijuana and marijuana products in a two-day period. At the site, agents found marijuana inside cookies, brownies, lollipops and even sodas. There were 25 plants found at the Pacific Beach site while agents found 89 plants at the downtown location.

<http://www.sdn.com/sandiego/2010-01-09/politics-city-county-government/owner-of-pb-medical-marijuana-dispensary-pleads-guilty>

Kingsburg extends rule against medical marijuana dispensaries

By Jenny McGill / January 6, 2010

The Kingsburg City Council extended an emergency ordinance to keep medical marijuana dispensaries out of the city for now. In November, Kingsburg City Manager Don Pauley said the city had received a request from someone wanting to apply for a business license to open a medical marijuana dispensary in Kingsburg. The city passed an emergency ordinance then to keep that from happening. Pauley said that currently the city has been working on preparing an ordinance about the establishment of medical marijuana dispensaries and medical marijuana cooperatives in Kingsburg. That ordinance will be presented to the city council and planning commission so it can be voted on later. But until that happens, Kingsburg had no regulations about medical marijuana dispensaries or cooperatives in the city before the emergency ordinance was passed. The rule gives the city time to make its own rules and regulations concerning the establishment or non-establishment of medical marijuana shops. The emergency ordinance was in place for 45 days. The city council held a public hearing Dec. 16 and unanimously approved extending the ordinance for 10 months and 15 days. The ordinance can be extended after that for one year.....

<http://www.kingsburgrecorder.com/articles/2010/01/06/news/doc4b44d8df59e8c770091017.txt>

Canyon Lake extends medical marijuana dispensary ban

By GENE GHIOTTO / The Press-Enterprise / Wednesday, January 6, 2010

Canyon Lake council members voted unanimously Wednesday to extend the city's temporary ban on medical marijuana dispensaries for at least another year. The council extended the prohibition so city staff can continue gathering information for an ordinance to deal with the issue, city officials said. "We need to see what's working and what's not working," City Manager Lori Moss told the council before the vote. Extension of the ordinance does not prohibit the cultivation of marijuana for medicinal purposes, its possession and the use of medical marijuana as allowed by state law. Current city zoning ordinances do not address the establishment of dispensaries, including where they might be located. The original 45-day urgency ordinance was adopted March 4 and subsequently extended by more than 10 months.....

http://www.pe.com/localnews/inland/stories/PE_News_Local_W_scanyon07.46c39c1.html

Whittier City Council extends marijuana moratorium

Posted: 01/13/2010

The City Council on Tuesday night voted unanimously to extend a moratorium on any new medical marijuana dispensaries for 10 months and 15 days. More time is needed to study the issue, stated Jeff Collier, director of community development, in the staff report. Staff has been evaluating the city's zoning maps to determine a reasonable distance between dispensaries, looking at regulatory standards adopted by other communities and looking at the possibility of placing a cap, Collier stated. The council in December approved the first moratorium because of fears that more such businesses would flood into the city.....

http://www.whittierdailynews.com/news/ci_14181809

Hollister Passed Medical Marijuana Ban

Jan 20, 2010 4:19 PM PST

Hollister, CALIF-- Hollister city council passed a ban on medical marijuana dispensaries Tuesday night. Mayor Victor Gomez said there was nothing in any current ordinance that banned medical marijuana dispensaries. So the city changed the municipal code banning them. Monterey also passed a 45-day moratorium on pot dispensaries at a meeting Tuesday night. Pacific Grove is supposed to talk about a similar ban on Wednesday.

<http://www.kionrightnow.com/Global/story.asp?S=11854753>

Orland extends pot dispensary ban

By Rick Longley/Tri-County Newspapers / Thursday, Jan 21 2010

Orland's ban on medical marijuana dispensaries, collectives and cooperatives will remain in force through Dec. 6. The City Council this week unanimously approved extending the ban while the courts review laws enacted by other cities like Anaheim. State legislators also are looking at legalizing recreational marijuana, and that could impact the laws in the future, city attorney Tom Andrews said. In December, the council opted to keep the ban going another 45 days, but declined to pass a proposed ordinance on the issue, Andrews reported. Discussion came up in the fall after a nonprofit medicinal marijuana corporation applied for a business license in downtown Orland. Andrews quickly developed an interim moratorium on such operations, citing health and safety concerns. He added the city had been in the process of developing a marijuana ordinance, but the application came up before it was finished.....

<http://www.orland-press-register.com/news/orland-4812-ban-dispensary.html>

Merced County Supervisors Ban Medical Marijuana Dispensaries

Merced County officials passed an ordinance this week permanently banning medical marijuana dispensaries across the unincorporated county. The Board of Supervisors voted unanimously Tuesday to support the ordinance, which mirrors ordinances adopted by the cities of Modesto, Ceres, Merced, Patterson, Atwater and Los Banos. Many other cities have moratoriums on dispensaries. Though there are no marijuana dispensaries in Merced County, officials said during the board meeting that dispensaries have been troublesome in other communities. Besides attracting crime, they can lower property values, disrupt nearby businesses and increase illegal drug use and demands on police, county planning officials said. Law enforcement officials spoke in support of the ban. Chris Gallagher, chief of the Los Banos Police Department, said robberies and violent crimes occurred regularly at dispensaries in the city of Arcata in Humboldt County, where he previously served as chief of police. "In my experience ... these dispensaries have been extremely disruptive," he said. Merced Police Chief Russ Thomas and Atwater Police Chief Richard Hawthorne also spoke in support of the ordinance.....

<http://www.420magazine.com/forums/international-cannabis-news/110963-merced-county-supervisors-ban-medical-marijuana-dispensaries.html>

Mariposa County Board of Supervisors Prohibits Medical Marijuana Dispensaries in the County

January 29th, 2010 · [No Comments](#)

At the January 26, 2010 Board of Supervisors meeting the Board on a 5-0 vote approved a forty five day ordinance that will prohibit Medical Marijuana Dispensaries in the county. This forty five day ordinance will also be used to define what is a medical marijuana dispensary. There are no dispensaries currently operating in the county although there have been several inquiries. The Board can extend this ordinance by holding another public meeting within the forty five days. The County in the agenda item wrote that without sufficient regulations, standards, procedures and thresholds which are enforceable pursuant to an adopted ordinance, there are potentially detrimental effects to the health, safety and welfare of the community. The county will use this time to study the necessary ordinances and regulations to regulate

the establishment of medical marijuana dispensaries in the county by determining appropriate zones and/or requiring conditional use permits. Supervisor Janet Bibby noted that the Board is just wanting to eliminate the dispensaries not the use. She also said she is getting calls about people wanting to relocate to Mariposa and open a dispensary.....

<http://goldrushcam.com/wordpress/?p=225>

Council approves medical marijuana store ban

BY: Paula McCambridge and Heather Young / Friday, Mar 26th, 2010

The Atascadero city council voted unanimously in support of staff's recommendation to prohibit a medical marijuana facility but with some flexibility for caregivers to transport the prescribed drug to patients in their care. City Attorney Brian Pierik made the recommendation to staff saying there were two reasons to prohibit such a facility: one was because it violated federal law, and the other was because medical marijuana facilities reportedly result in "negative secondary effects.".....Discussion included concern from patients that they would not have access to doctor-prescribed marijuana. Toni Green spoke about her son, Matthew Green, who is calmed by prescribed marijuana use, according to his mother.

http://www.atascaderonews.com/v2_news_articles.php?heading=0&page=72&story_id=2663

Millbrae bans medical marijuana dispensaries

By Joshua Melvin / San Mateo County Times / 02/10/2010

MILLBRAE — The city's elected leaders have made Millbrae the first in San Mateo County to ban medical marijuana dispensaries. By unanimous vote, the City Council approved an ordinance Tuesday night that prohibits the facilities from setting up in Millbrae but allows clinics and hospices to dispense medical marijuana to their patients. In doing so, the council went one step further than city councils in South San Francisco, San Bruno and Redwood City, which have enacted temporary bans on pot collectives. "It has no place in our city at this time," Millbrae Mayor Paul Seto said Wednesday.....

http://www.insidebayarea.com/sanmateocountytimes/localnews/ci_14376974

Placerville imposes moratorium on medical marijuana dispensaries

By Cathy Locke / Thursday, Feb. 11, 2010

Placerville city officials have declared a 45-day moratorium on the establishment and operation of medical marijuana dispensaries so the city can update ordinances governing such operations. John Driscoll, city manager and attorney, said a recent California Supreme Court decision eliminating restrictions on the amount of marijuana a qualified patient can possess has created an impossible situation for police attempting to enforce operating requirements and restrictions for dispensaries. He suggested Placerville might want to follow the lead of more than 100 California cities that have banned such operations. The City Council voted 4-0 Tuesday to impose the moratorium.....The council refused to renew the permit for Mountain Meds last April because of what city officials characterized as shoddy bookkeeping that raised questions about the business' legitimacy.....

<http://www.sacbee.com/ourregion/story/2528708.html>

Commission says 'no' to medical marijuana

BY: Paula McCambridge / Posted: Friday, Feb 19th, 2010

The Atascadero Planning Commission voted 7-0 at a public hearing Tuesday in support of a staff recommendation to create a city ordinance to ban medical marijuana facilities within the city limits. The planning commission's vote will soon go to the Atascadero City Council where a final decision will be made on the issue. The issue of allowing medical marijuana in Atascadero came before the city council in October 2009, at which time the council referred the matter to the planning commission for a public hearing. City Attorney Brian Pierik presented the staff report to the commission and said there were key

reasons staff recommended that medical marijuana facilities be banned from Atascadero. One, they remain in violation of federal law, he said, though he later added that the federal government has the option of respecting state law but is not bound by it.

http://www.atascaderonews.com/v2_news_articles.php?heading=0&page=72&story_id=2555

Mountain View to ban medical marijuana — for now

By Diana Samuels / Daily News Staff Writer / 02/24/2010

No medical marijuana dispensaries will be allowed in Mountain View, at least not until April 18 of next year. At their meeting Tuesday night, Mountain View City Council members voted to ban pot clubs for now, but they made it clear they intend to eventually allow them after city officials develop some restrictions. "There is an interest in making this available — medical marijuana — for those that need it, absolutely," Council Member Laura Macias said. "We just want to make it safe and affordable." The council cast its 4-2 vote to introduce an ordinance banning dispensaries at a packed, sometimes standing-room-only meeting that also included a discussion of proposed city budget cuts. Council Member Mike Kasperzak was absent. Like other local cities including Los Altos, San Carlos and Redwood City, Mountain View officials decided to take up the issue of medical marijuana because there has been more interest in opening dispensaries since federal authorities announced they would stop prosecutions in states where medical marijuana is legal, such as California.....

http://www.mercurynews.com/breaking-news/ci_14466857

Landlord serves eviction notice to Hollister pot shop

By Adam Breen / Feb 24, 2010

The landlord of the downtown Hollister medical marijuana dispensary recently served Purple Cross Rx with a three-day eviction notice that was ignored and this week filed an "unlawful detainer" action in court in an effort to force the shop to move. "I was very clear in the lease with regards to if I get any scrutiny from the city and if you [Purple Cross] can't defend yourself, then I'm going to take action to get you out," said Greg Dolan.....Dolan said he has been in touch with Mayor Victor Gomez because the city has not backed off its claim that Purple Cross Rx is violating city zoning codes by operating a business that runs counter to federal law. "He's been in communication with me and I think he's being very cooperative," said Gomez. "After some thought, he felt [leasing to Purple Cross] probably wasn't the best decision. Because we see he's making an effort to be in compliance with city rules, we're watching the situation very carefully....."

<http://www.gilroydispatch.com/news/263460-landlord-serves-eviction-notice-to-hollister-pot-shop>

San Jose Orders 6 Pot Clubs To Close

March 13,2010

SAN JOSE, Calif. -- The city of San Jose told six medical marijuana clubs Friday that they need to close and find some place else to operate....."The current policy right now with the city of San Jose is that they are illegal in nature as far as land-use issues go," said code inspector Margaret Lafferty. "This is really what code enforcement is focusing on. We're dealing strictly with land use." San Jose city officials estimate as many as 30 medical marijuana clubs are operating in the city, but letters were sent only to the ones they received complaints about.....Should the clubs ignore the cease and desist orders, their landlords could face penalties and fines up to \$2,500 each day. The city council is expected to hold a public hearing on the matter on March 30th.

<http://www.ktvu.com/bartshooting/22829477/detail.html>

Walnut Creek marijuana collective prepares for closure

By Doug Jastrow / Contra Costa Times / 03/20/2010

WALNUT CREEK — Outside a nondescript office building just off Interstate 680, several customers hoping to obtain medical marijuana from the 3C Medical Cannabis Collective were met at the front door and told the collective was closed for the day. The organization had locked its doors early because it had run out of marijuana, according to Brian Hyman, its executive director. Hyman said his depleted stock was in anticipation of the collective's last day of business Monday. The collective was found to be in violation of the city's zoning laws and ordered by a Superior Court judge last month to close by Tuesday or face contempt-of-court charges. Hyman said he plans to comply with the judge's ruling. "It's difficult to sit there and tell people there's nothing I can do," Hyman said. "It's a shame." The city of Walnut Creek has been trying to shut down the collective since it first opened in August. City leaders issued a \$500 fine for every day the collective remained in business. The bill now stands at around \$60,000, although Hyman plans to fight the penalties. But it was the judge's preliminary injunction last month that ultimately forced Hyman to begin shuttering the collective. Hyman said he has spent months trying to work out a compromise with the city, but to no avail.....Hyman said the vast legal bills he has compiled over the past few months — around \$50,000 worth — have led him to the brink of bankruptcy. But the thought of shutting his doors and just walking away never occurred to him. "We're going to continue to fight," he said, "because we know people want us."

http://www.mercurynews.com/breaking-news/ci_14719392?ncllick_check=1

Medical Marijuana Dispensary Ordered Closed

Monterey Business Doesn't Meet Zoning Requirements, City Says

January 12, 2010

MONTEREY, Calif. -- The city of Monterey is ordering the newly opened medical marijuana dispensary on Lighthouse Avenue to close immediately. In a letter to the dispensary's operators, the city said that "unfortunately, the information you provided on your application and to the Planning Division was not complete. The city learned through your recent interviews with the media that your business is actually operating as a medical marijuana dispensary. You withheld this critical piece of information from the city." The city in its letter said My Caregiver, Inc., had listed the nature of its business as "Healthcare Cooperative/Individual & Family Services" on its business application. The letter goes on to explain that the My Caregiver Inc. marijuana dispensary does not fall within any classification in Monterey's city zoning ordinances and that the owner of the property where the dispensary is located will be fined \$2,500 per day until it closes. "If we see a violation we're going to enforce the law," said City Manager Fred Meurer. The business has 10 days to notify the city about whether it intends to appeal. In separate interviews with Action News 8, the owner of the property has also said he did not know the operators of My Caregiver Inc. were operating a marijuana dispensary. Both Meurer and the landlord renting the property to My Caregiver, Inc. said dispensary operators lied about being a health-related internet café with no mention of "medical marijuana." "Somebody didn't tell the truth. They opened a business that isn't allowed so we're going to close that business," said Meurer. "Realistically, we didn't leave it out. We covered it under herbal remedies which are what marijuana is," said Jhonrico Carrnshimbam, with My Caregiver Inc. The dispensary said it has not violated any city codes. "There is a gray area for businesses like this and any other types that may retail any goods they may not necessarily list," Carrnshimbam said. The debate transcends violation of laws, going into city values and perception of what these storefronts really are. My Caregiver Inc. said it's there as a non-profit, seeking to help local patients in need of safe access. "The only place in Monterey County, the county needs it. We have signed petitions from the area, we followed due process," Carrnshimbam said. City manager Meurer said he has his doubts. "If anybody believes this is not about somebody making a lot of money they're very, very naive. This is about money and it is about big money," Meurer said.

<http://www.ksbw.com/health/22219671/detail.html>

Judge orders Eagle Rock dispensary to stop selling medical marijuana

John Hoeffel at Los Angeles County Superior Court / January 29, 2010

A Los Angeles County Superior Court judge issued a preliminary injunction today ordering an Eagle Rock dispensary to stop selling medical marijuana, a decision that city prosecutors believe is the first to find that state law does not give collectives the right to sell the drug. Judge James C. Chalfant's decision applies only to Hemp Factory V, a small outlet on Colorado Boulevard near the Glendale border, but could have enormous ramifications. *Hundreds of collectives in Los Angeles and throughout the state operate in the same way, selling marijuana to anyone who shows up with a doctor's recommendation and signs a form to become a member. Although the state's courts have ruled repeatedly on medical marijuana issues, they have never directly addressed whether this widespread practice is legal.*

Chalfant concluded that state law does not authorize collectives to sell marijuana, but only to grow it and recoup reasonable costs. "A retail store that sells marijuana to its members simply does not satisfy the requirement of a collective to cultivate marijuana," he wrote in his decision.....

<http://latimesblogs.latimes.com/lanow/2010/01/judge-orders-eagle-rock-dispensary-to-stop-selling-medical-marijuana.html>

Monterey Medical Pot Dispensary Faces Lawsuit

City Sues Mycaregiver Medical Marijuana Cooperative

February 10, 2010

MONTEREY, Calif. -- The city of Monterey said it has exhausted all other options and is now hoping a judge will be able to shut the doors on the Mycaregiver Medical Marijuana Cooperative. The city filed an injunction against the clinic on Monday calling it a public nuisance. The papers were served to one of its directors early Wednesday. "It's kind of rude to basically call a group of 500 patients who haven't caused any disturbances in the neighborhood, a nuisance," said cooperative director Jhonrico Carrnshimba. City attorney Deborah Mall maintains after the clinic ignored city law, including a cease and desist order, there was no choice but to go to court....On Feb. 16, the City Council will decide whether to extend the moratorium to a full year. The city attorney said the moratorium will apply to Mycaregiver because its application was invalid.

<http://www.ksbw.com/news/22529968/detail.html>

L.A.-Based Medical Marijuana Company Bought For \$15 Million

By Dennis Romero, Tuesday, Mar. 2 2010 @ 12:41PM

Even as a city ordinance cracking down on medical marijuana dispensaries looms, a strange announcement was made today: A company called International Merchant Advisors has agreed in principal to purchase a Los Angeles-based medical-marijuana concern called Organic Science, Inc. for \$15 million in restricted common stock. Organic Science, which has an office at 11664 National Blvd. in Mar Vista, claims to be at the "forefront of medical marijuana research and development, medicinal marijuana growing, sales and distribution." The company also claims to be operating in 15 states where medical marijuana is legal, and to run an unknown number of medical marijuana "stores" and "clinics." Whoa. If this was 20 years ago Pablo Escobar would have been in on the deal. Today, it's guys in suits and women in power-Manolos. International Merchant Advisors CEO Mel Roseman, perhaps alluding to the city of L.A.'s crackdown, states, "There are very few opportunities to acquire existing operations which actually will bring current income in the medical marijuana space." Organic Science's website states that " ... we're passionate about ethically sourcing the finest medicinal marijuana, growing it with great care, and improving the lives of people who use it for health reasons. We care deeply about all of this; our work is never done." We're sure the fruit of this labor is sweet (and sticky).

<http://blogs.laweekly.com/ladaily/city-news/pot-shops-big-business/>

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.” The sense of legal uncertainty is created by the maze of laws surrounding medical marijuana. California voters approved it, but it remains a federal crime. 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>

Medical marijuana, meet e-commerce

By Geoff Williams, contributing writer / January 12, 2010

(CNMoney.com) -- Entrepreneur John Lee thinks the pot business is ready for its own Amazon.com. The numbers back him up. Marijuana is California's biggest cash crop, generating sales estimated at \$14 billion a year. Thanks to the state's increasingly liberal medical marijuana laws, more of that money than ever before is being spent legally. Which leaves sellers with new challenges: Taxes. Invoices. Supply chain management. Regulatory compliance. Enter PlainView Systems, a four-month-old Sonoma startup that aims to bring sophisticated business management tools to an industry that has only recently begun operating like one. "It's a business where everyone is very, very paranoid," Lee says. PlainView's "compassionate care marketplace" is a business-to-business exchange for licensed providers of medical marijuana and their patients. Participants can band together to form growing collectives -- a legal requirement for those that want to sell pot -- and cut deals with other members to buy and sell their inventory. The system also helps users sellers keep their records in order, generating invoices, sales reports and tax paperwork. Evan, who asked that his last name not be used, is one of the site's early clients. Now 23, he's been growing cannabis and supplying it to a dispensary since he was 18 -- when it became legal for him to do so, he is very careful to say. He uses PlainView to invoice his buyers and order seeds and fertilizer for his crop. "I'm just a small-time grower," Evan says. "Anytime I have extra, I can sell it to [a dispensary] for \$2,000 to \$4,000." Actually, even the word "selling" is a legal no-no with the dispensary that Evan works with. "They're 'reimbursing you for your time,' that's how they like you to say it," he says. That semantic footsie is a sign of how California is approaching its controversial crawl toward de facto pot legalization: By burying it in red tape. Local municipalities have drawn up a thicket of regulations specifying how, and how much, cannabis each individual merchant can grow, transport and sell. For Lee, that blizzard of bureaucracy is a business opportunity. It means sellers will need help keeping their paperwork straight. "Just in the state of California alone, according to my calculations, medical cannabis is a \$200 million market," Lee estimates. "As that market grows, we want to have a small but significant part of." But the formerly underground industry isn't exactly scrambling to shape up and fly straight. Four California dispensaries didn't return calls and e-mails seeking comment on PlainView Systems' business model. "A lot of them are still on the edge of the law and may not want the publicity," theorizes Andy Cookston.....Every step creates more potential clients for PlainView. Lee still gets the jokes from friends -- "So, you're a pot dealer now?" "Not exactly," he responds. "I don't touch any of the material. I'm not part of the transaction." But if all goes as planned, he intends to be part of a multi-million dollar solution.

http://money.cnn.com/2010/01/12/smallbusiness/plainview_marijuana_marketplace/

iGrow: Walmart of weed opens in Oakland

Matthai Kuruvila, Chronicle Staff Writer / Thursday, January 28, 2010

Call it the Walmart of weed. In a 15,000-square-foot warehouse just down the road from the Oakland Airport, an entrepreneur is opening a one-stop shop for medicinal marijuana cultivation that's believed to be the largest in the state. ***Don't know the first thing about growing pot? The folks at iGrow have a doctor on site to get you a cannabis card and sell you all the necessary equipment for indoor, hydroponic cultivation - from pumps, nutrients and tubing to lights and fans.*** Don't know how to set it up? For a fee, on-site technicians will show you how to build it in your home and even maintain it weekly. "A lot of people don't know much about growing pot," said Dhar Mann, 25, the owner, who stood in front of an array of Ikea-like displays, showing different rooms of cannabis cultivation systems. "Since there are no full-service resources like us, they take risks, like electrical fires." This is hardly a fringe business. When iGrow opens today, at least three City Council members will attend. So will most of the leaders of the cannabis industry in Oakland, a city long at the vanguard of medicinal marijuana. Today's opening also comes on a key day for proponents of a statewide ballot measure to allow recreational marijuana. They plan to turn in about twice as many signatures as needed to qualify the

measure for the November ballot. The supporters of that measure are being led by Richard Lee, owner of Oaksterdam University, an Oakland-based business that trains people for work in the cannabis industry. The medicinal marijuana world is still unsettled. Cities from Los Angeles to Berkeley are grappling with how to permit and regulate medical marijuana dispensaries. Oakland, where voters last summer agreed to have the city to tax and regulate "cannabis businesses," has allowed only four licensed dispensaries. Though iGrow provides all the supplies and know-how for cannabis cultivation, they don't sell the seedlings - only dispensaries can. And even some of the vendors tread a delicate line. Gabriel Goodhart, the owner of Easy Feed Systems based in West Oakland, was setting up one of the system displays at iGrow on Wednesday. His company has an explicit policy of not setting up any system where marijuana is visible when they show up - or even mentioning the word "marijuana." "Liability is shifting," said Goodhart, a libertarian who is a registered Republican. "A small business like ours can't take the risk." But, he believes, the issue is a moral one. "It's not fair to medical patients to put them in a gray area where they have to be involved in criminal activity to stay healthy," he said. "That's like not having health insurance." The cost of creating your own cultivation system or relying solely on a dispensary is vast. At a dispensary, a patient might spend \$120 a week for a quarter-ounce of marijuana. However, it might cost \$1,000 to set up an eight-plant system, said Zeta Ceti, one of iGrow's "indoor growing technicians." **But in the course of a year, they might only use half of their harvest and be able to sell the remaining 3 pounds for \$12,000 to a dispensary.**

<http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2010/01/27/BA4T1BOGCV.DTL>

Walnut Creek construction firm eager to build canna-business

Written on February 8, 2010 at 11:46 AM by Bud

Medical marijuana superstore? Check. Pot legalization ballot? Check. Custom-made grow room? Check. At least since January. That is when the owners of Good Green Builders became what may be the first construction company in California, and the nation, aimed at the medical cannabis industry. (Angela Woodall's article in the Oakland Tribune appears here sans hyperlink to the story's subject.) Good Green Builders will make hydroponic grow rooms for the cultivation of nonsmokeable crops, from orchids to tomatoes. But William McKenzie, Brian Mitchell and Brett McCormick decided the time was right to piggyback on the profit potential of medical marijuana.The trio's office is in Walnut Creek but their target market is Oakland, the industry's Bay Area epicenter even though the number of outlets is small compared with many other cities. Good Green Builders "could be a million-dollar business in the next year. There are an infinite number of customers out there," said McKenzie, a licensed contractor with a background in agriculture business who also runs a Bay Area painting company.Before January, the trio had already built about 30 grow rooms, from a \$6,000 job converting a basement into a grow room with two lights to the \$30,000 conversion of a three-car garage in the Oakland hills that involved lights, reservoirs, pumps, timers exhaust fans, tables and carbon scrubbers to take the odor out of the room."It takes someone who knows what they're doing," he said. "There are so many mistakes that can be made on the electrical side. Any fool can just run a couple of wires."

<http://calpotnews.com/cultivation/walnut-creek-construction-firm-eager-to-build-canna-business/>

During this quarter, a study was published which indicated an increase in use of marijuana by teens. This importance of this increase is magnified by the findings of a recent medical study which asserts that the use of marijuana by adolescents causes irreversible effects on the brain and that those effects were more profound than previously thought. At the same time, mental health professionals are speaking out about the affects of marijuana usage on their younger patients.

Alcohol and marijuana use among teens is on the rise, ending a decade-long decline, a study being released Tuesday found.

(CBS/AP) / March 2, 2010

"I'm a little worried that we may be seeing the leading edge of a trend here," said Sean Clarkin, director of strategy at The Partnership for a Drug-Free America, which was releasing the study. "Historically, you do see the increase in recreational drugs before you see increases in some of the harder drugs." The annual survey found the number of teens in grades 9 through 12 who reported drinking alcohol in the last month rose 11 percent last year, with 39 percent — about 6.5 million teens — reporting alcohol use. That's up from 35 percent, or about 5.8 million teens, in 2008. For pot, 25 percent of teens reported smoking marijuana in the last month, up from 19 percent. CBSNews.com Special Report: Marijuana Nation: Until last year, those measures for pot and alcohol use had been on a steady decline since 1998, when use hovered around 50 percent of teens for alcohol and 27 percent for pot. The study also found use of the party drug Ecstasy on the rise. Six percent of teens surveyed said they used Ecstasy in the past month, compared with 4 percent in 2008. Meanwhile, a separate study in Australia found a possible link between long-term marijuana use and increased risk of hallucinations, delusions and other psychoses among young people. According to the findings, published Monday in the journal Archives of General Psychiatry, those who reported smoking marijuana for six or more years were twice as likely to develop a psychosis, such as schizophrenia, and four times as likely to get high scores in clinical tests of delusion. If parents suspect their teen is using, they need to act quickly, Clarkin said. Monitor them more closely, talk with them about drugs, set rules and consult outside help, like a counselor, doctor, clergy or other resource, he said. The researchers asked teens how they felt about doing drugs or friends who did them. The study found a higher percentage of teens than in the previous year agreed that being high feels good; more teens reported having friends who usually get high at parties; and fewer teens said they wouldn't want to hang around kids who smoked pot. Stacy Laskin, now 21 and a senior in college, said marijuana was everywhere during her high school years. Laskin said she tried pot and drank alcohol in high school, but didn't make it a habit like other kids she knew. "The behavior I saw people go through — and to see how far people can fall — really turned me away more than anything else," Laskin said in an interview with The Associated Press. Her close friend from high school died in 2008 from a heroin overdose. Laskin, a psychology major at Salisbury University in Maryland, was so torn by her friend Jeremy's death that she decided to help others and is working on her second internship at a drug treatment center. "Just seeing the negative impact made me want to get involved," she said.

Other findings:

- Teen abuse of prescription drugs and over-the-counter cough medicine remained stable from 2008 to 2009. About 1 in 7 teens reported abusing a prescription pain reliever in the past year; and about 8 percent of the teens questioned reported over-the-counter cough medicine abuse in the past year.
- Teen steroid and heroin use remained low at 5 percent for lifetime use.

The Partnership's "attitude tracking" study was sponsored by MetLife Foundation. Researchers surveyed 3,287 teens in grades 9 through 12. Data were collected from questionnaires that teens filled out anonymously from March to June 2009. The study has a margin of error of plus or minus 2.3 percentage points. The New York-based Partnership is a nonprofit group working to reduce the use of illicit drugs.

<http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2010/03/02/health/main6258459.shtml>

Marijuana and Psychosis: New Evidence

Reported March 4, 2010

(Ivanhoe Newswire) -- New insight into the link between marijuana use and psychosis shows the younger one starts using, the higher the likelihood of losing touch with reality. New research out of the University of Queensland in Australia shows compared to people who had never used cannabis, young adults who started using cannabis six or seven years before the study were twice as likely to develop a non-affective psychosis like schizophrenia and four times as likely to have high scores on a test

measuring delusion. In addition, the study found the longer the span of time since a person first used cannabis, the higher their risk of psychosis-related problems. The relationship between cannabis use and psychotic problems was shown to be persistent among sibling pairs, "reducing the likelihood that the association was due to unmeasured shared genetic and/or environmental influences," study authors wrote. Researchers caution that the relationship between psychosis and cannabis is a complex one, since individuals who experience hallucinations and thus are at higher risk for psychosis are more likely to use cannabis longer and more frequently.

Source: Archives of General Psychiatry, posted online March 1, 2010
http://www.ivanhoe.com/channels/p_channelstory.cfm?storyid=23723

Marijuana Use and a Chance of Increased Psychosis

Health and Wellness by Linda Evans / February 28th, 2010

Marijuana Use and a Chance of Increased Psychosis. A study that was released on Saturday indicates a link between increased psychosis risk and pot usage. Cannabis has long been a recreational drug of choice, and there are many advocates who have been pushing for medical marijuana laws. On the other hand, the popular drug has many enemies that lobby strongly to keep the use of marijuana illegal. It's important to note that pot is illegal in the United States. Even if a state allows medical marijuana use, the Federal laws indicate that such usage is illegal. Researchers have been studying the effects of marijuana use on the brain. They recently completed a study of 3,100 young adults averaging 20 years in age. Of the group, 14% admitted to smoking pot for five years or more, 16% admitted to using marijuana for four to five years, and 18% admitted use of the drug for 3 years or less. Out of the group, 65 had been diagnosed with mental illnesses such as schizophrenia, and 233 have had at least one instance of hallucinations. The results of the study are interesting. It was noted that "Compared with those who had never used cannabis, young adults who had six or more years since first use of cannabis were twice as likely to develop a non-affective psychosis and were four times as likely to have high scores on the Peters et al Delusions Inventory." So, using marijuana causes mental illness? It's not that simple. On the other hand, the study indicated that "those individuals who were vulnerable to psychosis were more likely to commence cannabis use, which could then subsequently contribute to an increased risk of conversion to a non-affective psychotic disorder." This means that the marijuana-psychosis link falls within the proverbial question "which came first- the chicken or the egg." Researchers noted that more research was needed to draw conclusions over whether or not cannabis usage causes mental illness. If a link from marijuana use to mental illness can be proven – that is, if researchers can conclude successfully that pot usage increases the risk of developing mental illness – you can expect some pretty strong arguments against medical marijuana use legislation.

<http://cnmnewsnetwork.com/11344/marijuana-use-and-a-chance-of-increased-psychosis/>

Psychiatrists want controls on medical marijuana

Susan Kimball, Reporter /02/02/2010

AUGUSTA, Maine (NEWS CENTER) -- Members of the Maine Association of Psychiatric Physicians are asking lawmakers to put strict controls in place in regard to children under Maine's new medical marijuana law. Dr. James Maier, of the PIER Program at Maine Medical Center, says the Association is asking that specialists review all cases involving children and that medical marijuana be given only to children with a terminal illness. Maier says that new research shows there are great risks posed by marijuana to the developing brains of children. Those risks include addiction and psychosis. "If we can reduce that risk in those vulnerable children by not throwing the door wide open for kids using so called medical marijuana for a lot of indications that are questionable we'll probably save a lot of harm. California is now trying to put the brakes on because they've opened Pandora's box by making so called medical marijuana so widely available," says Maier.

<http://www.wcsh6.com/news/local/story.aspx?storyid=114062&catid=2>

Doctor Says Medical Marijuana Laws Hurt Teens

February 10, 2010

Colorado is one of more than a dozen states to legalize medical marijuana. Denver psychiatrist Christian Thurstone argues that the state's relaxed laws have made the drug widely available — and irresistible — to too many adolescents

NEAL CONAN, host:

And now the dark side of medical marijuana laws. Pot is legal in more than a dozen states if you have permission from a doctor. Federal law continues to ban marijuana as a controlled substance. But last year the Obama administration announced it would not prosecute users who comply with state laws. Those laws vary from state to state. But in Colorado patients with one of several conditions, cancer or AIDS, for example, can legally smoke pot.

Dr. Christian Thurstone is a psychiatrist in Denver who specializes in adolescent substance abuse. He argues that the medical marijuana laws are a mess and says that kids messed up on marijuana come in to his office every day. Dr. Christian Thurstone, medical director of the adolescent substance abuse program at Denver Health, joins us now from a studio at member station KUVU in Denver. Thanks very much for coming in today.

Dr. CHRISTIAN THURSTONE (Adolescent Substance Abuse Program, Denver Health): Thank you for having me.

CONAN: And you wrote that the way the law works in Colorado, it's just a backdoor to legalize marijuana.

Dr. THURSTONE: Yes, I did. That seems to be what I'm seeing.

CONAN: And how does that work?

Dr. THURSTONE: Well, so I'm the medical director of an adolescent substance abuse program, and we noticed in 2009 at the beginning of the year that we were not very busy, and at the end of the year we ended up having probably tripled our referrals to the adolescent substance abuse treatment program. And 95 percent of our referrals are for marijuana. And we started seeing teenagers talk to us about how they would get marijuana from their relatives and from their friends. And then they started talking to us about how they could get medical grade marijuana on the streets and how the potency seemed to be increasing. And then we started seeing patients and adolescents come in to see us and talk to us about how marijuana was their medicine and it would help them with their anger and their other problems that they would have, such as stress and anxiety. And then we started having patients show up with their medical marijuana license. And that's when one of the students that I work with said, you know, Dr. Thurstone, you really need to do something about this. You can't just keep complaining to us about it. You have to actually do something now. And so that's when I wrote the piece that I did for the Denver Post.

CONAN: And you argued in that piece that essentially for the \$300 referral by any doctor, well, for any number of conditions, almost anybody can get a marijuana prescription.

Dr. THURSTONE: Yes. So, for example, I have a number of patients now who have their medical marijuana license. And the way they have described the process to me is as follows - that they can go into a medical marijuana doctor, and it's easy to find a list of those doctors online or in the newspaper. And then they have about a 15-minute visit, they pay about \$300, and they complain - I had some patients complain of depression, some of anxiety, some of attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder or ADHD, and the doctor asks them, well, does marijuana help with that? And my patients say yes, it does help with that. And then they came out with their medical marijuana recommendation.

And in no case did any of the providing physicians call me or insist on a psychiatric consultation, and the doctors also do not have an ongoing relationship with my patients. So...

CONAN: So this is a prescription mill, is what you're talking about.

Dr. THURSTONE: It's a prescription mill. And we know that here in Denver that these physicians can practice within a medical marijuana dispensary, so you can go directly to the dispensary. It's really one-stop shopping. You go to the dispensary, you meet with the physician briefly, and then you can go over to the dispensary and get your medical marijuana, and then out you go.

CONAN: One-stop shopping. And there are a lot of people who are going to say, well, come on, it's just marijuana. It's just pot. Come on, get serious.

Dr. THURSTONE: Yeah. So I do hear that all the time. I hear, well, marijuana is not as bad as alcohol or not as bad as tobacco. And I think - I'm not - you know, I don't know how to compare the substances. But I do know that for adolescents, marijuana can be very harmful. We know that about one in six adolescents who tries marijuana as an adolescent then goes on to develop what we call a cannabis use disorder. We know that marijuana use in adolescence is associated with accidents, risky sexual behaviors that can lead to sexually transmitted diseases such as HIV. We know that adolescents who use marijuana are more likely to drop out of school, more likely to get pregnant. It's associated with a whole host of problems. We also know that in adolescence you have a developing brain.

CONAN: Mm-hmm.

Dr. THURSTONE: We know that the brain is really developing quickly during adolescent years, and so, using a toxic substance during those years can be quite damaging and produce possibly permanent deficits in memory, as well as how the brain is ends up being structured.

CONAN: Well, one of the problems with statements like that is there's the lack of research. We simple don't know a lot of the answers to some of the questions that you just raised. But nevertheless, those problems, at least, some of them do exist. I was interested that some of your patients said to you, Doctor, how can marijuana be bad for me, it's medicine?

Dr. THURSTONE: Yeah. Exactly. So I go to schools and do some prevention programs, frequently. And then I also I see my patients in the program, and I hear all the time, Doctor, marijuana is a medicine, how can it be bad for me? And, well, so we're also seeing - that's another interesting thing. We're seeing a big shift in attitudes here that adolescents have about marijuana.

CONAN: Oh, and by the way, you said, they started to really - accelerating in 2009. Colorado has had the medical marijuana law for a number of years.

Dr. THURSTONE: Correct. Exactly. So have we've had it since 2000. But then I think, you know, it's my understanding that the Obama administration saying that they will not prosecute people who get their medical marijuana in states where that have medical marijuana laws, really opened the door for opened a floodgate for us to have all these dispensaries and all these people with licenses.

CONAN: Mm-hmm.

Dr. THURSTONE: So for example, we know that in Colorado now, there are about 60,000 people, according to The Denver Post, who have medical marijuana licenses. And we have over 400 dispensaries of medical marijuana in Denver alone now. Which means that we have more dispensaries than we have Starbucks. We have more dispensaries than we have liquor stores. We have more dispensaries than we have schools. And so in 2009 we really saw the floodgates open up.

CONAN: Let's get some callers in on our conversation. We're talking with Dr. Christian Thurstone, a board certified child, adolescent, and addiction psychiatrist in Denver, Colorado.....

Dr. THURSTONE: Yes, so we know that from prevention science, we know that teens are most likely to use things that are A, available and B, for which there is low perceived harmfulness. So as medical marijuana becomes more and more available, you'll see teenagers using it more and more, and were already seeing abuse and diversion(ph) of that. And you'll see the perceived harmfulness. So, how harmful they think it is to use marijuana regularly, that's going down. And I - my own personal opinion is I would attribute some of that to the fact that its viewed as a medicine now, and that that will lead to increased use among teenagers.

CONAN: Lets go to Dawn(ph). Dawn with us from Pontiac, Michigan.

<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=123570215>

Marijuana not a good choice as medicine

By Dr. Terry Gaff / Sunday, 21 March 2010

In my work as an emergency physician and as a county coroner, I frequently order tests to determine whether a person has illicit drugs in their blood or urine. While I am not naïve enough to think that all people will turn out to be clean and sober, I am amazed at how many people have a positive test for cannabinoids, which are the active ingredients in marijuana (*Cannabis sativa*). I recognize that there are some legitimate medical uses for cannabinoids. However, the people with the positive tests are generally not suffering from nausea, vomiting, pain, loss of appetite, asthma, glaucoma, nor spasticity. They have been consuming marijuana for other reasons. Although 14 states in the U.S. (Alaska, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Maine, Michigan, Montana, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, Oregon, Rhode Island, Vermont and Washington) now permit, or soon will permit, some medical use of marijuana, Indiana still does not recognize it for legal medical use. In some states, by prescription, licensed facilities dispense marijuana grown in controlled settings. In others, limited self-cultivation (grow your own) is permitted for medical use. Nationally, the marijuana plant itself is a Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) schedule I controlled substance (high abuse potential with no legitimate medical use). However, it may be both eaten and smoked to relieve nausea, vomiting and pain and to treat many other ailments as noted above. It appears to be fairly effective, depending on the dose, for some of these disorders. But there are no really good studies large enough and standardized enough to be convincing. On the other hand, two cannabinoid-like drugs, dronabinol (Marinol) and nabilone (Cesamet), have been FDA-approved since 1985. Both of these drugs are effective for prevention and treatment of nausea and vomiting due to mild or moderate side effects of anticancer drugs. However, they are less effective with the more severe side effects of drugs such as cisplatin, where other available drugs such as ondansetron (Zofran, and others) and aprepitant (Emend) appear to be more effective and better tolerated. There is even a drug to spray in the mouth called Nabiximols (Sativex), which is a liquid extract containing constituents of marijuana. This is approved in Canada for treatment of central nervous system pain in multiple sclerosis (MS). It is also in phase III trials in the U.S. for treatment of uncontrollable cancer pain. A small study in healthy young adults of the effects of active chemicals from marijuana on sleep found no significant effect on the ability to fall asleep, length of time sleeping, or the quality of sleep. Subjects who took only one of the components called tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) reported difficulty with memory the next morning. Although death from acute overdose of marijuana alone has not been reported, there are many possible side effects. Dry mouth, drowsiness, low blood pressure when sitting or standing, difficulty standing or walking, and dizziness do occur frequently with medical use of both natural marijuana and synthetic products. Anxiety, rapid heartbeat, agitation and confusion are also common, especially in older patients, and driving may be impaired. In 2008, an article was published in a prestigious British medical journal, *The Lancet*, which indicated that individuals who used marijuana on a weekly or daily basis had up to three times more risk for developing psychosis later in life compared to non-users. The authors carefully looked at dozens of previous studies and found the evidence to be strong enough to advise everyone, particularly young people, that the use of marijuana does potentially have some health risks, especially if they are using it on a regular basis. Although an individual's lifetime risk of developing a serious psychotic illness is only about two or three percent, the use of medical marijuana may increase that risk. Since there are other drugs available to treat the problems for which medical marijuana is suggested, I see no need to add it to my prescribing choices if it becomes legal in Indiana. However, I note that Michigan is among the 14 states listed above. If someone shows up in the ER with a prescription bag of marijuana, I am not sure what I will do about it. http://www.fwdailynews.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=7180:Marijuana-not-a-good-choice-as-medicine&catid=100:terry-gaff&Itemid=136

Marijuana ineffective as an Alzheimer's treatment: UBC-Vancouver Coastal Health research

Public release date: 8-Feb-2010

The benefits of marijuana in tempering or reversing the effects of Alzheimer's disease have been challenged in a new study by researchers at the University of British Columbia and Vancouver Coastal Health Research Institute. The findings, published in the current issue of the journal *Current Alzheimer Research*, could lower expectations about the benefits of medical marijuana in combating various cognitive diseases and help redirect future research to more promising therapeutics. Previous studies using animal models showed that HU210, a synthetic form of the compounds found in marijuana, reduced the toxicity of plaques and promoted the growth of new neurons. Those studies used rats carrying amyloid protein, the toxin that forms plaques in the brains of Alzheimer's victims. The new study, led by Dr. Weihong Song, Canada Research Chair in Alzheimer's Disease and a professor of psychiatry in the UBC Faculty of Medicine, was the first to test those findings using mice carrying human genetic mutations that cause Alzheimer's disease – widely considered to be a more accurate model for the disease in humans. "As scientists, we begin every study hoping to be able to confirm beneficial effects of potential therapies, and we hoped to confirm this for the use of medical marijuana in treating Alzheimer's disease," says Song, a member of the Brain Research Centre at UBC and VCH Research Institute and Director of Townsend Family Laboratories at UBC. "But we didn't see any benefit at all. Instead, our study pointed to some detrimental effects." Over a period of several weeks, some of the Alzheimer's-afflicted mice were given varying doses of HU210 – also known as cannabinoids – which is 100 to 800 times more potent than the marijuana compounds. Their memory was then tested. The mice treated with HU210 did no better than untreated mice, with those given low doses of HU210 performing the worst. The researchers also found that HU210-treated mice had just as much plaque formation and the same density of neurons as the control group. The group given higher doses actually had fewer brain cells. "Our study shows that HU210 has no biological or behavioural effect on the established Alzheimer's disease model," says Song, the Jack Brown and Family Professor and Chair in Alzheimer's Disease. "More studies should be done before we place much hope in marijuana's benefits for Alzheimer's patients." Alzheimer's disease is a neurodegenerative disorder characterized by progressive cognitive deterioration and is the most common form of dementia. The Alzheimer Society of Canada estimates that the disease affects close to 300,000 Canadians and accounts for two-thirds of all cases of dementia. Approximately \$5.5 billion per year is spent caring for persons with Alzheimer's and related dementias in Canada. By 2031, about 750,000 Canadians will suffer from Alzheimer's and related dementias. The Alzheimer's Association in the U.S. estimates there are approximately 500,000 Americans younger than 65 with Alzheimer's or other dementia. The research was supported by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research, the Jack Brown and Family Alzheimer's Research Foundation, the Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research and a donation from the David Townsend Family. Townsend Family Laboratories was established at The University of British Columbia with a donation of \$7.5 million from the David Townsend Family. The research centre is dedicated to integrating the basic and clinical research for finding the underlying mechanism and novel diagnostic biomarkers for Alzheimer's Disease and developing interventions to prevent and treat this devastating disease. The UBC Faculty of Medicine provides innovative programs in the health and life sciences, teaching students at the undergraduate, graduate and postgraduate levels, and generates more than \$200 million in research funding each year. In 2007/08, out of the total UBC research endeavour, 53 per cent, or \$247 million, came from academic and clinical teams in the Faculty of Medicine. For more information, visit www.med.ubc.ca. The Brain Research Centre comprises more than 200 investigators with multidisciplinary expertise in neuroscience research ranging from the test tube, to the bedside, to industrial spin-offs. The centre is a partnership of UBC and VCH Research Institute. For more information, visit www.brain.ubc.ca. Vancouver Coastal Health Research Institute (VCHRI) is the research body of Vancouver Coastal Health Authority, which includes BC's largest academic and teaching health sciences centres: VGH, UBC Hospital, and GF Strong Rehabilitation Centre. In

academic partnership with the University of British Columbia, VCHRI brings innovation and discovery to patient care, advancing healthier lives in healthy communities across British Columbia, Canada, and beyond. www.vchri.ca.

http://www.eurekalert.org/pub_releases/2010-02/uobc-mia020410.php

An examination of events occurring in other states provides us an opportunity to look at the depth of the problem. Not only are other states experiencing some of the same drug related issues, but also residents of California are being arrested across the nation with marijuana grown in California, no doubt under the guise of “compassionate use”.

Man charged with murder, robbery in connection to medical marijuana transaction

Written by: Jeffrey Wolf / 01/07/2010

DENVER - Prosecutors have formally charged a man with first-degree murder after investigators say he shot and killed a man after a medical marijuana transaction. Investigators say around 12:30 a.m. on Tuesday, 26-year-old Peter Bellar shot Douglas Singleton while trying to rob him at a his home in the 2600 block of Leyden Street. Bellar was also wounded by gunfire and was treated and released. In addition to the murder charge, Bellar is also charged with aggravated robbery. Bellar will be in court on Monday to be formally advised of the charges.

<http://www.medicinalcolorado.org/node/770>

Fire chiefs say some legal marijuana grow-ops are a safety hazard

By Terri Theodore (CP) – 01/07/2010

VANCOUVER, B.C. — Medical marijuana may be legal, but the way some approved Canadian growers are producing their pot is not, say fire chiefs in the country's two most prolific weed-producing provinces. More than 3,400 production licences have been issued to grow medical marijuana across Canada, two-thirds of them in Ontario and British Columbia. Fire chiefs associations in those provinces say Health Canada's secretive permit process and refusal to bring in better regulations for growers put lives and health at risk. "There's no instruction manual on how to build a grow op. So they give you this licence to produce, you know 100 plants or 75 plants, but they don't tell you how to do it safely," said Jim Jessop, the Niagara Fall's assistant fire chief who speaks for the Ontario Association of Fire Chiefs on the issue. Jessop said he's walked into Health Canada-approved grow operations where the wiring was bad, volatile chemicals were improperly stored and, in one instance, a powerful hydroponic light ballast was starting to char the floor. "I've actually had to remove children from one of them. It was so unsafe," he said. Health Canada has refused to give locations of the grow operations to fire or police officials, citing privacy concerns. When the federal agency issues a licence, the grower must abide by all applicable federal, provincial, territorial and municipal legislation, such as building codes and electrical hook-ups. The issue of safety isn't probed on the Health Canada application, although a grower must give a detailed account on the form of security measures and how they will protect their crop from loss or theft. Len Garis, chief of the Surrey, B.C., fire department, said his firefighters have stumbled upon nine legal grow ops in the city through the same process used to shut down illegal operations - either the home was using three times the normal limit of power or police have been tipped to a potential grow site. "Four of the nine we disconnected anyway because they had no permit, the electrical systems were altered and (their system was) so shoddy that they weren't safe, so we shut them down," said Garis, who is also the spokesman for the Fire Chiefs Association of British Columbia on the issue of marijuana grow operations. Both the Ontario and B.C. associations say they've lobbied Health Canada asking for help in improving safety. "We sent a number of briefs to Health Canada, asking them to just do one simple thing, as a condition of permit, make sure that zoning, electrical safety, fire safety is all taken into consideration with these locations, prior to issuing the permit," Garis said. David

Thomas, with Health Canada, said their inspectors have the authority to conduct inspections for compliance. "To conduct these inspections, Health Canada inspectors must have the occupant's consent to enter the dwelling-place or a warrant issued by a Justice ..." Thomas said in an email response to questions. The associations argue allowing the legal operations to be inspected would be safer for the grower and those around them. Jessop said he has met with federal government ministers and staff to explain the problem and ask for help. "They've acknowledged that there's no process in place to teach people how to wire these buildings properly, how to vent them properly, how to make sure they're fire safe," Jessop said. Trevor Bain, with Ontario's Office of the Fire Marshal, said Health Canada has said keeping the locations secret will prevent legal grow operations from being raided by criminals trying to steal their marijuana. "I can understand the need to protect them in that sense," Bain said. "But at the same time what about the first responder, what about the neighbour? Shouldn't we have a system in place that protects everyone?" Garis said Surrey firefighters have been called out to fires only to find themselves attempting to fight flames while they stumble through a maze of electrical wires in a smoke-filled grow-op. He said some crew members have been shocked by faulty wiring. Those issued grow permits are either growing for themselves or for someone who needs medical marijuana to relieve the symptoms of their illness. Jessop believes a license to grow should be treated like any other license, such as a hair salon, which would need approval before it's allowed to start operation. "The federal government should not issue these licenses to produce marijuana until the local authorities have inspected the set up to make sure it complies with all municipal and provincial bylaws." Thomas said Health Canada is trying to find a balance between helping seriously ill people and providing adequate regulatory control. "The department is working with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, as well as the Canadian Association of Fire Chiefs to determine how best to address the risks that may be posed by licenses grow operations."

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/canadianpress/article/ALeqM5ifCEkHj9xIQdXGuczT0fcT9G5YSg>

Ashland schools begin dealing with medical marijuana

Administrators are working on guidelines for card-holding kids

By Hannah Guzik / for the Mail Tribune / January 14, 2010

ASHLAND — A handful of students at Ashland High School hold medical marijuana cards, presenting a challenge to school administrators who now must deal with pot as both an illegal drug and a legal medicine. School officials are working to create guidelines for teens who hold medical marijuana cards, Principal Jeff Schlecht said. "This is all just kind of starting to happen," Schlecht said. "It does place us in an awkward position." Students are prohibited from being under the influence of drugs on campus and from bringing pot to school, Schlecht said.Several Ashland High School students interviewed by the Daily Tidings said they knew of about a half-dozen students with cards, and they suspected there are others they don't know of. "I'm sure there are," said senior Wesley Davis, 17. ***"I've known about this for four years." Some of the students obtain cards for legitimate health reasons, but others appear to be trying to "work the system," Davis said. "Some of them have it for medical reasons, but others are just trying to get free weed and sell it, turn it around," he said. The students also said they know some card holders — and noncard-holding students — who come to school under the influence of marijuana.*** "The teachers don't know," said senior Austin Dykstra, 18. "The students can smell it, but it usually doesn't bother them." Teachers or school administrators who notice that a student is under the influence are required to send the student to the office, Schlecht said. If the student has a marijuana card, administrators work with the student's parents, physician and teachers to create guidelines. The goal is to avoid students being high in class, Schlecht said. "You can't be under the influence and be successful in many high school classes, like biochem or algebra II," he said.Oregon law is not clear about what rights the school or the student would have in such instances, he said. "This is really the first year we're dealing with this," he said, "but this is going to be an issue for high schools."

<http://www.mailtribune.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20100114/NEWS/1140329>

Medical marijuana business

Associated Press - January 16, 2010 2:34 PM ET

BOULDER, Colo. (AP) - Medical marijuana dispensaries have cropped up so fast in Boulder that city officials say they may be reaching the saturation point. The city in November passed emergency rules requiring new shops to stay at least 500 feet away from areas with three or more dispensaries, and 500 feet away from schools and day-care centers. Marijuana businesses are also banned from residential areas, leaving little room for new dispensaries in Boulder's business corridors. *A recent city memo notes the city's 82 marijuana businesses are heavily concentrated near the University of Colorado, Boulder Valley Regional Center and downtown Boulder.* The city has also noted an increase in new dispensaries in industrial areas.

<http://www.krdo.com/Global/story.asp?S=11833848>

Wyoming Troopers Seizing Marijuana on Interstate

By: Chad Franzen Posted at: 01/23/2010

CHEYENNE, Wyo. (AP) - Wyoming Highway Patrol troopers have confiscated nearly 100 pounds of marijuana worth about \$265,000 in just more than a week from motorists traveling along Interstate 80. Patrol Sgt. Steve Townsend says the harvesting season for pot growers is from early October through December, and that most of the pot is then transported east. He says normally the agency has its biggest seizures in October but record snowfall and cold weather delayed trafficking that month. *He says most of the marijuana is grown in California and Washington state and passes through Wyoming on Interstate 80.* Townsend says troopers confiscated 936 pounds of marijuana in 2008 and 750 pounds in 2007 off the interstates.

<http://www.chadrad.com/newsstory.cfm?story=17013>

Three "Big Fish" Caught in Drug Investigation

By Hailey Higgins, Local News 8 Reporter / Jan 29, 2010

BONNEVILLE COUNTY – After a month-long investigation, Idaho Falls police said they caught a "big fish" drug team with the help of three agencies. Darrin Hogg Sr., 43, Iesha Swan, 27, and Matthew Pydle, 22, face serious drug charges after the police team executed two search warrants Wednesday and Thursday. Each of the three suspects face counts of drug trafficking and delivery of a controlled substance charges. Hogg and Swan also are charged with manufacturing a controlled substance. Hogg and Swan were arrested at 304 Swan Valley Highway, Ririe, Wednesday. Pydle was arrested at his Idaho Falls home, 272 W. 20th St., in Idaho Falls the following day. Idaho Falls police, Idaho State Police and the Bonneville County Sheriff's Office investigated the suspects for the past month. In the searches, police found more than two pounds of marijuana, \$3,000 and five firearms. *Police believe the drugs, worth about \$2,400, came out of California and were being sold here.* Hogg is the brother of Roosevelt Hogg, Sr., one of three suspects accused of robbing The Cash Store in Idaho Falls December.

<http://www.localnews8.com/Global/story.asp?S=11903288>

2 California men arrested in Ariz. on drug charges

The Associated Press /. 02/01/2010

FLAGSTAFF, Ariz.—Arizona authorities say two California men have been arrested on drug possession and transportation charges. An Arizona Department of Public Safety officer pulled over the driver of a pickup truck for speeding Sunday on Interstate 40 near Williams. The officer smelled the odor of burnt marijuana and the two men admitted they had been smoking it and had medical marijuana licenses. But the officer determined the licenses were valid only in California. During a search of luggage in the back of the men's vehicle, the officer found the meth in a spare tire in the bed of the truck. The drug had an

estimated street value of \$40,000. The DPS says 39-year-old Ignacio M. Mojica and 34-year-old Ronald E. Ford II, both of Marysville, Calif., were booked into the Coconino County Jail.

http://www.mercurynews.com/news/ci_14312054?nclick_check=1

Colo. Senate Panel Votes to Tighten Regulation of Medical Marijuana

News Summary / February 3, 2010

The Colorado Senate Health and Human Services Committee voted 6-1 in favor of a bill that would require medical-marijuana patients to have a "bona-fide relationship" with a doctor in order to be able to use the drug for medical reasons, the Colorado Statesman reported Jan. 29. ***Doctors would be required to conduct physical exams of medical-marijuana patients and provide follow-up treatment. Ned Calogne, of the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment said that five doctors in the state account for half of all medical-marijuana recommendations, including one doctor who issued 700 recommendations in one month.*** The bill, which supporters said would bring needed oversight to the state's medical-marijuana law, was strongly opposed by medical-marijuana advocates who said the rules would be costly and burdensome to patients, some of whom are indigent or disabled.

<http://www.jointogether.org/news/headlines/inthenews/2010/colo-senate-panel-votes-to.html>

Couple arrested in Flagstaff after marijuana bust

The Associated Press / Feb. 11, 2010, 5:20PM

FLAGSTAFF, Ariz. — Authorities say a husband and wife have been arrested in Flagstaff after 110 pounds of high-grade marijuana was found in their recreational vehicle. An Arizona Department of Public Safety officer stopped the RV's driver late Wednesday night for making an improper lane change on Interstate 40. A search of the vehicle turned up hydroponically-grown marijuana in the cargo panels that had an estimated street value of more than \$800,000. ***DPS investigators believe the marijuana originated from the Grass Valley area of Northern California and was headed to Dallas...***

<http://www.chron.com/dispatch/story.mpl/ap/tx/6863038.html>

UN watchdog takes aim at Canada's medical marijuana program

By Steven Edwards, Canwest News Service February 24, 2010

UNITED NATIONS — Justice Minister Robert Nicholson said Wednesday the government's medical marijuana regulations are under review after the UN's drugs watchdog warned Canada needs to tighten up the system. The Vienna-based International Narcotics Control Board said Canada is operating outside international treaty rules aimed at minimizing the risk criminals will get hold of cannabis grown under the program. "The whole question of medical marijuana is being looked at by the minister of health with respect to the options that she has," said Nicholson, whose ministry serves as the umbrella agency for the government's anti-drug efforts. "There has been litigation on this that has called for new regulations in this area." The warning in the INCB's annual report accompanies praise for the government's National Anti-Drug Strategy, which the board said it notes "with appreciation." Nicholson said he took heart from that, adding it "plays very well" into the government's efforts to push through a crime bill containing tougher drugs-offences sentencing provisions that has been held up in the Senate. Public Safety Minister Vic Toews also argued the report "provides further proof that Canada is recognized internationally as a leader in crime prevention." Canada increased the number of cannabis cultivation licences a person can hold last year after court decisions stated patients' earlier access had been too restricted. Currently, Health Canada has issued almost 4,900 permits allowing people to possess medical marijuana they get from more than 1,100 licensed growers, some of whom are growing it for their own use. "Canada continues to be one of the few countries in the world that allows cannabis to be prescribed by doctors to patients with certain serious illnesses," said the INCB report. But the 1961 Single Convention on Narcotics, which Canada has signed, says the government must be the sole distributor of the otherwise illegal substance, which patients use as a pain reliever. The opportunity for

misuse of the system is reflected in an RCMP review identifying 40 cases in which licensed growers were also trafficking marijuana for profit. The same review found violations in a total of 70 cases.....
<http://www.vancouver.sun.com/health/watchdog+takes+Canada+medical+marijuana+program/2608747/story.html>

Georgia Officials Say \$1.6 Million Seized in Drug Raids Across Country

Associated Press / Monday, March 01, 2010

ATLANTA — The Georgia Bureau of Investigation says a multi-agency squad has seized more than \$1.6 million in a joint narcotics investigation that spanned the country. The bureau tells WSB-TV in a story Saturday that agents arrested 12 suspects in Georgia and Louisiana in connection with the trafficking of marijuana. Agents said they seized about 100 pounds of marijuana with a street value of \$500,000, 10 vehicles, about \$1 million in real estate, 50 firearms, about \$120,000 cash, and about \$20,000 in drug assets. The arrests were made on Feb. 17. *Agents determined that the marijuana was grown in Mendocino, Calif., and then transported to Douglasville through New Orleans.* They said mid-level dealers then distributed the marijuana into Atlanta and the surrounding areas. More arrests and seizures are anticipated in the investigation.

<http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,587602,00.html>

Traffic stop nets 60 lbs of marijuana

Telegraph staff reports / Wednesday, March 3, 2010

LEXINGTON - *A traffic stop for speeding on Interstate 80 west of Lexington led to the seizure of 60 pounds of marijuana and the arrest of two California residents.* Just before 3 p.m., on Monday a trooper with the Nebraska State Patrol Troop D Headquarters-North Platte stopped an eastbound 2006 Chevy Uplander mini-van for speeding on I-80 near mile marker 229. Upon contacting the driver the trooper smelled the odor of marijuana. A probable cause search led to the seizure of 60 pounds of marijuana. The marijuana was concealed in two duffle bags in the backseat and cargo areas of the mini-van.....

<http://www.nptelegraph.com/articles/2010/03/03/news/60005727.txt>

Nebraska patrol arrests California man in pot case

By The Associated Press / Wednesday, March 3, 2010 at 10:59 a.m

GILTNER, Neb. — State authorities say a California man was arrested after 24 pounds of marijuana was found in his car after a traffic stop in south-central Nebraska.....He was identified as 61-year-old Jimmie Manerchia of Sacramento.

<http://www.signonsandiego.com/news/2010/mar/03/nebraska-patrol-arrests-california-man-in-pot-case/>

Violence Prompts Debate Over Medical Marijuana

By WILLIAM YARDLEY / Published: March 16, 2010

SEATTLE — A shooting and a beating death linked to medical marijuana have prompted new calls by law enforcement officials and marijuana advocates for Washington State to change how it regulates the drug and protects those who grow and use it. *In the past week, a man in Orting, Wash., near Tacoma, died after he reportedly was beaten while confronting people trying to steal marijuana plants from his property. On Monday, a prominent medical-marijuana activist shot an armed man who is accused of breaking into his home in a suburban area near Seattle where he grows and distributes marijuana plants. On Tuesday, the police arrested five people on robbery charges in connection with the shooting incident.* One of those arrested is in critical condition after being shot by Steve Sarich, who runs a group called CannaCare out of his house. Mr. Sarich suffered minor wounds from a shotgun blast fired by the intruder he shot. The crimes are the most violent that advocates and law enforcement officials said they could recall involving medical marijuana in Washington. In both cases, they said, the

victims appear to have been chosen because they were known to have relatively large amounts of marijuana in their homes. They say the crimes underscore conflicts in state policy that have become evident since Washington legalized medical marijuana in 1998. "Any person making medical marijuana is going to be a target because they have a valuable commodity,".....Though the recent violence has drawn new attention to the issue, robberies have become more common in Washington over the years. Marijuana advocates complain that robberies are underreported because law enforcement officials focus more on confiscating marijuana from the growers than on arresting the thieves. The authorities, in turn, have noted that some growers are exceeding limits on how much of the drug they can possess, and say the circumstances of some robberies are murky.....In an interview, Ms. Kohl-Welles said she and another lawmaker would introduce legislation next year to protect access to medical marijuana and protect those who grow it.....

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/03/17/us/17marijuana.html>

1,000 Coloradans applying for medical marijuana cards per day

The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment says it's seeing a drastic increase in the number of people applying for medical marijuana licenses and its struggling to keep up with all the paperwork.

Reporter: KKCO / Mar 25, 2010

GRAND JUNCTION, Colo. (KKCO) - The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment says it's seeing a drastic increase in the number of people applying for medical marijuana licenses and its struggling to keep up with all the paperwork. The department says it receives around 1,000 patient applications for medical marijuana licenses a day. That's up from August of 2009 when it only saw around 270 a day. Mark Salley, the communications director for the department, says of the 1,000 applications sent in, only 500 are actually complete and filled out correctly. The other 200 are incomplete and sent back to the patient and 300 are usually changes and updates to current patients cards.....Salley estimates that if there was no backlog, numbers would show that around 63,000 Coloradans have medical marijuana licenses. That's up from September of last year when there were about 17,500 people registered. If a patient is waiting for their application to be processed by the Colorado Department of Public Health Environment they can still get medical marijuana. The patient just needs a notarized copy of the application they sent in and a copy of authorization from their caregiver. Severe pain and muscles spasms are the most common reasons patients are applying for the cards.

<http://www.nbc11news.com/localnews/headlines/89184357.html>

Kid swipes dad's medical marijuana, sells it at middle school

By Michael Roberts, Friday, Mar. 26 2010

American kids are born capitalists -- capable of understanding that they can make some folding green from another kind of green just lying around the house. Example? A teen in Carbondale was busted for bringing some of his dad's medical marijuana to middle school and selling it to students.....As medical marijuana becomes more prevalent in Colorado, so do incidents involving MMJ and children. Earlier this month, we told you about two happenings that occurred within days of each other: an eleven-year-old who shot himself in the foot while guarding his parents' grow and a baby who had to be hospitalized after ingesting some of his folks' marijuana edibles.....

http://blogs.westword.com/latestword/2010/03/kid_swipes_dads_medical_mariju.php

Postal Service pot seizures up over 400 pct. since 2007: report

Stephen C. Webster / Wednesday, March 17, 2010

The United States Postal Inspection Service has been pretty busy lately. That's because shipments of marijuana being seized in the mail have dramatically escalated in recent years, up over 400 percent since

2007, according to a new report. There is no better way to ship drugs right now,” said San Diego Police Chief William Lansdowne, speaking to ABC News. ABC’s report blames an “increase in demand” for marijuana for the spike, along with better detection methods. The network also carried a photo essay detailing various smuggling techniques. The announcement would seem to evoke a quote by reporter Peter Guither, who runs Drug War Rant: Those massive drug seizures you read about in the paper affect traffickers much the same way a DVD shoplifter affects WalMart — an annoyance, but part of the normal cost of doing business. Some states pushing back against ‘legal’ pot: Even as the marijuana-by-courier trade appears to be escalating, another trend is developing in communities nation-wide: the consumption of legal herbs with a synthetic cannabinoid additive, essentially as a marijuana replacement that is undetectable by drug tests and, for now, completely permitted by law. One mixture causing particular ire, known as “K2”, was recently banned in two Missouri counties and the entire state of Kansas, according to The Marshfield Mail. It is still largely available in smoke shops. The Mail noted that Missouri politicians were told the herbal blend can cause “seizures, vomiting, agitation and other dangers.” A bill has been introduced that would ban “K2” across all of Missouri. A similar effort is underway in Nebraska, but legislators are unlikely to vote on the “K2” ban until their next session, according to Omaha.com. Amid Missouri’s debate over “K2”, an amendment that would have legalized medical marijuana was introduced and immediately voted down, The Missourian noted. A similar blend of legal herbs called “Spice Gold” has been riling European politicians for its unlisted chemical content: a compound called JWH-018, which is said to have a stronger but shorter-lived psychoactive effect than THC, the active ingredient in marijuana. Thus far, Germany, Austria and France have banned it, and the U.K. was beginning to take up the issue. “Spice Gold” is also distributed in the U.S. Without the chemical additive, “Spice Gold” is simply chopped up baybean, blue lotus, dwarf skullcap, Indian warrior, lions tail, maconha brava, marshmallow, pink lotus, red clover, rose, Siberian motherwort, vanilla and honey. Other shipments of “Spice Gold” that have been seized by U.S. authorities were found to contain HU-210, a Schedule 1 controlled substance with a significantly more powerful psychoactive effect than THC, even more so than JWH-018. Unlike every other drug of abuse except marijuana, HU-210 has been found to promote “neurogenesis” — regrowth of brain cells — in the embryonic and adult hippocampus, according to the Journal of Clinical Investigation. Its potential medical properties are currently being studied. The so-called “Trojan Horse” properties of the “legal” marijuana were first uncovered in Dec. 2008 by THC Pharma, a German laboratory, according to The Guardian.

<http://www.prisonplanet.com/postal-service-pot-seizures-up-over-400-pct-since-2007-report.html>