

Medical Marijuana and Associated Issues

California Chiefs of Police Association

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The depth and nature of criminal activity associated with cultivation and sale of marijuana is continuing to grow. This growth appears to parallel the expansion of medical marijuana in our society. While the commercial store front businesses are obvious targets, home invasion robberies resulting in the victimization of those cultivating and possessing marijuana are continuing to escalate to the point of becoming common place in some communities. Dispensaries are also still being targeted based upon the availability of larges quantities of drugs and cash.**

Police remove marijuana from scene of Kerman double murder

30 to 40 marijuana plant removed from home

By Richard Morales / Jul 23, 2009

Kerman Police removed more than 30 marijuana plants from the home of a couple killed in home invasion robbery Wednesday night. It all began that morning at a home at El Mar Lane and 4th Street in Kerman. Ironically, the home was under surveillance by police when 3 men went inside and allegedly shot and killed a couple in their 60s who lived in the home.....***Kerman police say the home where the couple were killed had been under surveillance for weeks, suspected of being a marijuana grow house.*** Police were planning on raiding the home when the suspects entered the house.....

<http://www.ksee24.com/news/local/51469667.html>

Schwarzenegger offers state reward in Paradise homicide

By GREG WELTER - Staff Writer / 08/11/2009

PARADISE — Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger announced a \$50,000 reward today for information leading to the arrest and conviction of suspects in the Dec. 28 slaying of a Paradise man. Eric Jones, 50, was found dead outside his Azalea Lane home following what police have determined was a home-invasion robbery. Jones had what police termed a "substantial" amount of marijuana he was growing for medicinal purposes....

http://www.contracostatimes.com/california/ci_13040514

Third Suspect Arrested in Disappearance of L.A. Designer

KTLA News / August 2, 2009

SANTA CRUZ -- The last of three suspects has been arrested in the disappearance of an Los Angeles fashion designer., who authorities believe is now killed. Santa Cruz police report that Adam Hunt, 29, of Watsonville, surrendered to police and was arrested at 12:40 a.m. Saturday morning. Elias Sorokin, 29, vanished during a business trip to Northern California.....***Detectives believe Sorokin was kidnapped and robbed in the course of a pre-arranged marijuana transaction at a residence in Santa Cruz.*** Police are treating the case as a homicide investigation. Santa Cruz police arrested Stewart Skuba and Kenneth Klamp, each 29-year-old Santa Cruz residents. Skuba is being charged with kidnapping with the intent to commit robbery. Clamp is currently being charged with a parole violation. Hunt is also charged with kidnapping with the intent to commit robbery.....They have announced a \$20,000 no-questions-asked reward for information leading to Sorokin's safe return.

<http://www.ktla.com/news/landing/ktla-elias-sorokin,0,215149.story>

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Sheriff's deputies say Los Osos fatal shooting was robbery gone wrong

July 20, 2009 / Reported By: [Danielle Lerner](#)

San Luis Obispo County Sheriff's Deputies say a botched robbery attempt is to blame for a deadly shooting in Los Osos. The incident happened around 7:30 p.m. Saturday at a home on the 1900 block of 12th Street.***The shooting left one man dead in the street and another injured inside the house. "It appears to be a home invasion robbery in which marijuana was the focus,"*** said Rob Bryn, spokesman for the San Luis Obispo County Sheriff's Department. At this time deputies are not naming any suspects, but Orlauski says her neighbor pulled the trigger.Orlauski and other neighbors, who did not want to talk on camera, say the marijuana grow is legal, but deputies say otherwise. People living in the area also tell KSBY News Saturday night's robbery attempt was not the first. "He knew people were trying to steal from him, and they'd even called him on the phone and taunted him and been like, 'We're going to come back, and we're going to steal more from you,'" said Orlauski.Investigators say the second shooting victim was transferred out of the county to undergo surgery for non-life threatening injuries.

<http://www.ksby.com/Global/story.asp?S=10752214>

Slow going in search for possible bodies

Written by [Nicholas Grube, The Triplicate](#) July 03, 2009 01:05 pm

A tedious excavation is under way in the hills above Hiouchi, as investigators continue their search for the bodies of potential murder victims.Authorities became aware of the possibility that people were buried in Earth People's Park after a ***woman who lived there told a Del Norte County deputy district attorney that she saw a man she was with shoot another man in the face while tied to a tree.***Earth People's Park is a privately owned tract of land surrounded by U.S. Forest Service and Redwood National and State Parks property. It is known as a communal living area, and when authorities arrived Monday they found abandoned tents, empty sleeping bags, a dilapidated, two-story building and about 400 marijuana plants in various stages of growth. According to a search warrant, the woman who purportedly saw the murder said she heard the gunman yelling at the unidentified victim about marijuana before he shot him.

<http://www.triplicate.com/20090703106370/News/Local-News/Authorities-start-digging-near-Hiouchi>

Tehama County Court roundup

DN / 08/10/2009

Michael Rene Martinez will appear in court at 9 a.m. on Oct. 14 in Department 2. Martinez will be facing the charges of attempt: murder with a special allegation, personal and intentional discharge of a firearm causing great bodily injury, kidnapping with special allegation, assault with a semiautomatic firearm, false imprisonment by violence and criminal threats. ***Martinez believed that the victim and perhaps others, stole his marijuana.*** Martinez tricked the victim into getting into his van. Once the victim is in the van, Martinez gets argumentative and combative and demanded the return of his marijuana. The victim denied that he stole or had the defendant's marijuana and demanded to be let out. Martinez refused to stop the van. Martinez fired one shot into the van in victim's direction. Victim again denied any knowledge about the defendant's marijuana. Faced with further hostility from Martinez, the victim attempted to escape through the back window. As the victim was trying to leave the moving van, Martinez fired several more shots, hitting the victim who was later located on the roadside.

http://www.redbluffdailynews.com/news/ci_12997505

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Hopland, California - Murder in Marijuana Garden

By admin • Sep 11th, 2009 • Category: News

.....Mendocino County Sheriff's Deputies responded to a remote area east of Hopland near the Lake/Mendocino county line in regards to a report of an assault and battery. When Deputies arrived they located the victim of the assault laying on the ground in a Marijuana garden. The victim was later pronounced dead by the fire department at the scene. *Our preliminary investigation indicates that the victim was engaged in a argument with other persons over marijuana Cultivation and water usage prior to his death.* The victims name is not being released pending the notification of next of kin. The investigation is in the initial stages and continuing.

<http://blog.drivinglaws.org/2009/09/11/hopland-california-murder-in-marijuana-garden/>

Arraignment of suspect in Glendora shooting is continued

A second arraignment for a 19-year-old La Verne man charged in the shooting death of a 20-year-old Glendora man was continued Tuesday, court officials said. Zachary Emerson Flanders is charged with the murder of Ronson Edgerly, 20, as well as robbery and attempted murder. He has pleaded not guilty. If convicted, Flanders faces a possible death sentence. Flanders is accused of shooting Edgerly during a botched marijuana drug deal in the yard of Edgerly's father's home on April 20.....

http://www.dailybulletin.com/ci_13343621

2 shot in apparent robbery in front of Westside marijuana dispensary

L.A. NOW / September 18, 2009

Southern California: Two people were seriously wounded this evening in a shooting outside a West Los Angeles marijuana dispensary. The shooting occurred about 4:45 p.m. near the corner of Pico and Sawtelle boulevards. Los Angeles Police Officer Cleon Joseph said the shooting may have been an attempted robbery, though details remained unclear.....*Los Angeles police officials have said they've noticed an uptick in crime around pot dispensaries.*

<http://latimesblogs.latimes.com/lanow/2009/09/2-shot-in-apparent-robbery-in-front-of-westside-marijuana-dispensary.html>

Man shot after botched marijuana theft attempt in Concord

By Roman Gokhman / Contra Costa Times / 09/21/2009

CONCORD — A man shot outside a house on Kauri Court was part of a group attempting to steal marijuana from a legal garden, police said Monday. Three residents of the home on the short street heard a security alarm about 4:45 a.m. Sunday and saw a man in their backyard stealing marijuana plants, Concord police Lt. Jim Lardieri said. The residents went outside and were able to overpower the man and then heard other men yelling for them to release him. The residents felt threatened, police said, so they let go of the man, who then got into a waiting pickup truck, which drove away. They told investigators they then heard a gunshot. The residents or neighbors called police, who responded as the truck was leaving and arrested all six people in the vehicle. One had been shot in the lower leg but his injury wasn't serious, police said. He was treated at a hospital. All of the suspects were arrested on suspicion of conspiracy to commit a crime.....A handgun was recovered near the intersection of Joan Avenue and Cape Cod Way. Investigators believe that the man who was injured was shot by someone inside the pickup truck, and the gun was thrown from the vehicle.....

http://www.contracostatimes.com/news/ci_13387127?source=rss

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Attempted murder suspect arraigned

By [Record Searchlight staff](#) / September 28, 2009

WEAVERVILLE — A 30-year-old Trinity Pines man was arraigned today in Superior Court on an attempted murder charge after he allegedly shot another man in the chest with a rifle last week.... Vanleeuwen was arrested Thursday night after he allegedly shot Robert Mason, 27, also of Trinity Pines, officials with the Trinity County Sheriff's Office said today.... Witnesses, who were able to guide sheriff's deputies to the remote residence, later arrested Vanleeuwen on suspicion of attempted murder and he was booked into Trinity County jail without bail. Sheriff's officials said that the area where the shooting occurred is used by medical marijuana growers, but it has not yet been determined if a dispute over marijuana might have played a role in the shooting.

<http://www.redding.com/news/2009/sep/28/attempted-murder-suspect-arraigned/>

BREAKING NEWS: Robbery suspects arrested

Ukiah Daily Journal Staff / 07/16/2009

Mendocino County Sheriff's Office arrested the last two of four men suspected of robbing a Talmage woman of her marijuana at gunpoint in December 2008.... A 45-year-old woman in the home said she led them to a room where she gave them about one and a half pounds of processed marijuana, the Sheriff's Office stated. It was at this time the woman tried to take a gun from the younger suspect who then hit her on her head with a pistol and also hit her in the face. The woman is reported to have sustained cuts to her face....

http://www.ukiahdailyjournal.com/ci_12851300

Medical Marijuana Grown At Residence Causes Concerns Thief Tries To Take Plants At Gunpoint , Man Says

September 29, 2009

OILDALE, Calif. -- An Oildale man says he was confronted at gunpoint on his own property by a thief who wanted his medical marijuana..... "I saw this guy in broad daylight trying to steal my plants in my back yard. I yelled 'hey you,' the guy yelled 'hey you' right back as he pointed a handgun and took at shot at me," said Helton. Helton said he has called law enforcement, who responded quickly but they did not take a report. Helton added that he has called law enforcement many times in the past, but they are not doing enough to stop the problem.....

http://www.turnto23.com/north_river_county/21143496/detail.html

Police arrest two in home invasion robbery

By ERIC LINDBERG — August 4, 2009

Santa Barbara police arrested two people suspected of breaking into a home, assaulting the resident, and stealing cash and marijuana..... "The victim knew one of the subjects from a previous interaction. He let the subjects into his apartment and was immediately assaulted." The 23-year-old victim sustained serious injuries to his face, head and leg, authorities said, while the three suspects made off with 2 ounces of marijuana and \$200.....

<http://www.thedailysound.com/080409homeinvasion>

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Orange County Homeowner Robbed At Gunpoint

Posted On: July 25, 2009 by William Weinberg

A Huntington Beach couple were terrorized Wednesday afternoon when robbers broke in with handguns and stole a shotgun and some marijuana plants. The police are continuing their investigation into the crime. What makes this interesting is what was taken. It may be that the victims become defendants since they would have admitted to possessing a large number of marijuana plants, unless they had a prescription to cultivate it for personal use. Medical marijuana is not legal in all states and can only be prescribed by physicians. The robbers additionally stole a shotgun and a handgun that belonged to the Huntington Beach couple.....

http://www.californiacriminaldefenselawyerblog.com/2009/07/orange_county_homeowner_robbed.html

Four arrested after robbery during pot deal

September 19, 2009, By Dan McMenamin

Police arrested four Redwood City men after a marijuana transaction ended in an armed robbery and traffic accident in the city Wednesday afternoon. At about 1:20 p.m., a 27-year-old man negotiated with Carlos Sanchez Martinez, 36, police said. The 27-year-old, Adalid Sanchez Soto, agreed to sell Martinez 50 pounds of high-grade marijuana for \$70,000, according to police. The two men met at an apartment in unincorporated Redwood City, and when Sanchez delivered the marijuana, he was robbed at gunpoint by Martinez and two other suspects, police said. The suspects tied the victim up and left him in the apartment while they loaded the marijuana into a vehicle and left, according to police. However, shortly afterward the suspects abandoned their vehicle and left the area while leaving the marijuana in the vehicle, police said. The driver of the vehicle that collided with the suspect vehicle was transported to a local hospital with minor injuries.....

http://smdailyjournal.com/article_preview.php?type=lnews&id=116763

Petaluma man jailed in marijuana robbery

By [RANDI ROSSMANN](#) / THE PRESS DEMOCRAT / September 23, 2009

A young Petaluma man was in jail Wednesday, suspected of robbing an acquaintance of medical marijuana after breaking into his home and threatening him, Petaluma police reported. The 23-year-old victim told police he was outside his Berrydale Drive home at about 5:45 p.m. Tuesday when John Ross Moore II, 21, confronted him, according to Sgt. Mark Hunter. Moore demanded the man's marijuana, but was refused and the victim told police he ran into his home and locked the door, Hunter said. But Moore allegedly broke open the door and took about three ounces of drying marijuana and left.....

<http://www.pressdemocrat.com/article/20090923/ARTICLES/909239922?Title=Petaluma-man-jailed-in-marijuana-robbery>

Marijuana dispensary owner robbed at gunpoint

Police seek two men after Saturday night incident in Costa Mesa.

By JON CASSIDY / The Orange County Register / Tuesday, August 25, 2009

COSTA MESA – Police are looking for two men who robbed a South County marijuana dispensary owner at gunpoint over the weekend.....At first, the robbers tried to get inside a safe inside the house, but couldn't, Sgt. Bryan Glass of the Costa Mesa police said. One of the robbers, who had a gun, forced the victim to open the safe. The robbers left the victims tied up, but they managed to get free.....

<http://www.ocregister.com/articles/police-robbers-house-2540693-inside-victims>

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Takeover Armed Robbery at Marijuana Dispensary on 3rd Street

by peter | Sun, 07/19/2009 - 10:11am

Occurred at the Green Easy Marijuana Clinic located at 7948 West 3rd Street on Thursday Evening July 16th at around 10:40 pm. Suspects entered the premises as a customer was leaving and revealed they were carrying hand guns. The suspects took over the location, ransacking it and fled with an undisclosed amount of cash.....

<http://melroseaction.com/bits-and-pieces/2009-07-19/116/takeover-armed-robbery-marijuana-dispensary-3rd-street>

Armed Robbery of Melrose Marijuana Dispensary

by peter | Tue, 07/07/2009 - 11:33pm

On Tuesday, July 7th at around 6:15 pm, 2 suspects carrying guns held up a Medical Marijuana Dispensary called "Cali Meds" located at 6910 Melrose Avenue, just east of La Brea Ave. The suspects demanded money and merchandise.....This is the second violent robbery to occur at a Medicinal Marijuana Dispensary in our area in recent months. The other incident occurred at a location on La Brea near Waring Avenue.

<http://melroseaction.com/bits-and-pieces/2009-07-07/86/armed-robbery-melrose-marijuana-dispensary>

LAPD investigating robberies of two medical marijuana dispensaries

11:01 AM | June 19, 2009 / -- Richard Winton

The Los Angeles Police Department is looking for four people who robbed at gunpoint a West Los Angeles medical marijuana dispensary, the second such incident in L.A. this week. The suspects robbed the dispensary on Cotner Avenue around 11 p.m. Thursday, getting away with pot and \$15,000 cash.....It's unclear whether the case is related to a robbery of a dispensary Wednesday in Reseda. But police are looking for links in both cases.

<http://latimesblogs.latimes.com/lanow/2009/06/lapd-investigating-robberies-of-two-medical-marijuana-dispensaries.html>

Pot shops sprouting — and so are robberies

CRIME: Valley's 100 medical marijuana dispensaries called vulnerable to bandits, burglars.

By Sue Doyle / Staff Writer / 09/17/2009

.....***There have been at least 200 robberies at medical marijuana dispensaries in the Valley in the last two years*** -- or an average of two for each of the Valley's estimated 100 facilities, according to Los Angeles police. They say the nature of the business -- dealing in drugs and cash -- makes them prime targets for thieves. The most recent stickup occurred about 10 p.m. Wednesday, when masked gunmen tied up employees at a Canoga Park clinic and made off with an undisclosed amount of money and marijuana. The disturbing trend exposes the vulnerability of the businesses, where thieves can potentially snag tens of thousands of dollars and pounds of drugs. "It certainly is a phenomenon that has happened with the proliferation of these dispensaries," said LAPD Deputy Chief Michel Moore, the top-ranking officer in the San Fernando Valley. "***They are easy targets.***"***This is an absolute disgrace and a mockery of law. It's not about compassion. These people have turned it into a moneymaking enterprise. They could care less about compassion.***" Zine's concerns echo those voiced by police -- that the dispensaries are simply selling marijuana to anyone rather than distributing it to members with health problems.....Deputy Chief Moore believes some dispensaries haven't reported problems, so the

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number of heists may actually be higher than 200. "On the basis of the information that I have, these locations are an attractive site for suspects to either commit burglary or robbery," Moore said. "They're going to get narcotics, and they're going to get money.....Three gunmen and a woman got away with cash and marijuana in a Wednesday night takeover robbery of a dispensary in the 22300 block of Sherman Way. Authorities are investigating whether any of those robbers may have been involved in a string of heists that began in the West Valley in late May. Suspects in those stickups pistol-whipped employees at one dispensary and shot a man in the back at another.....

http://www.mercurynews.com/california/ci_13362515

Alleged robbers take prescription drugs, marijuana

The Times-Standard / 09/16/2009

Two armed men allegedly broke into a home on West Wabash Avenue in Eureka Monday night and stole dried medical marijuana and prescription drugs. The two suspects wore light-colored handkerchiefs over their faces and each brandished a handgun of unknown make and model. They allegedly threatened the occupants of the home....

http://www.times-standard.com/localnews/ci_13347400

Kidnapping rescue uncovers Eastvale marijuana operation, police say

A Los Angeles kidnapping investigation led police Monday night to a spacious Eastvale home where authorities say they uncovered a sophisticated drug operation. A SWAT team stormed the building, rescued the hostage and arrested the man renting the Delaware River Drive house on suspicion of kidnapping.....A ransom had been demanded, she said. The victim had been shot in the stomach police believe it happened when he was abducted from his Van Nuys home Wednesday.....The LAPD officers noticed an advanced marijuana-growing operation when they entered the 4,200-square-foot house and called Riverside County sheriff's investigators.....The home was equipped with an additional air conditioning unit and illegally tapped into a power supply, authorities said. The marijuana operation had been under way for at least a year and had the capability of producing about \$50,000 worth of marijuana every few months, Riverside County Sheriff's Sgt. Dennis Gutierrez said. Neighbors in the quiet Eastvale neighborhood said they suspected something was amiss. Art Organisto, 46, said that for the past six months he would regularly see rental trucks arrive at the home and see men running brown packages out to them.....

http://www.pe.com/localnews/inland/stories/PE_News_Local_S_web_weed05.30b0dde.html

West Oakland home robbery leads to large marijuana bust

By Sean Maher and Harry Harris / Oakland Tribune / Posted: 08/05/2009

OAKLAND — Police found more than 300 marijuana plants at a West Oakland house this morning after what they believe was an attempted home robbery. ***Officers responding to neighbor calls reporting gunfire inside a home in the 2100 block of West Street shortly after 4 a.m. broke into the home to find that it contained about 350 plants in various stages of growth,*** buds packed into plastic bags, heating lamps and other growing equipment, and at least one bullet hole. Investigators said they think several men broke into the house to steal the marijuana and either shot at the home's resident or were fired upon by him.....Police detained two people leaving the area who were found with marijuana in their car. The investigation continued this morning.

http://www.insidebayarea.com/ci_12997937?source=most_viewed

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Deputies make arrest after finding marijuana

RED BLUFF - A Fortuna man was arrested Saturday after Tehama County sheriff's deputies found marijuana in his car during a traffic stop. Kyle Micah Bailey, 28, was pulled over about 11:50 a.m. Saturday in Red Bluff. During the traffic stop, *Bailey told deputies he had medical marijuana in his car that he was taking to Los Angeles to sell, deputies said. Deputies said they found 3.75 pounds of marijuana, a quarter-pound of hashish and a .22-caliber handgun. Because of the amount of marijuana and Bailey's statement of intent to sell, deputies said they thought he possessed the drugs not for medical use but for illegal sale.....*

<http://www.redding.com/news/2009/aug/11/north-state-in-brief-aug-11-2009/>

WINDOWS SMASHED, MEDICAL MARIJUANA TAKEN, AT YUCCA VALLEY DISPENSARY

The Medical Marijuana dispensary in Yucca Valley was the victim of a burglary early Thursday morning. Security alerts brought Sheriff's deputies to the California Alternative Medical Solution location in the Monterey Business Center shortly after 2:00am. Investigators say three unknown suspects had made entry by using two large rocks to smash a window at the front of the dispensary. Sheriff's reports indicated the suspects took a small amount of marijuana kept inside of unsecured jars at the location.....

<http://www.kcdzfm.com/news/fullstory080709.html#02>

Police: Man arrested with \$1,600 worth of pot

The Lake Forest man said he bought it at a medical marijuana dispensary in the city.

By ERIKA I. RITCHIE / The Orange County Register / Tuesday, September 8, 2009

LAKE FOREST – Police on Monday night arrested a man who said he had recently purchased marijuana at a Lake Forest medical marijuana dispensary. At 11:45 p.m., an Orange County Sheriff deputy pulled over a motorist who rolled through a stop sign near Ridge Route Road and Rockfield Boulevard, driving 30 mph. Upon stopping the vehicle and speaking with the driver, identified as David Dunlap of Lake Forest, the deputy detected a strong smell of marijuana. He found 1 gram of marijuana on Dunlap and an additional 97 grams along with zip lock plastic baggies and a scale inside Dunlap's backpack, said Sheriff's Lt. Don Barnes. *Dunlap told the officer that he had purchased the marijuana from a Lake Forest dispensary. Upon further investigation, the deputy determined that Dunlap also had once been employed by a Lake Forest dispensary. "He had a medical marijuana card but is now selling it on his own,"* said Barnes. "His arrest interrupted several pending sales." Dunlap told the deputy that he only sells to people with medical marijuana cards. "He was clearly operating outside the provisions of the Compassionate Use Act," said Barnes.....

<http://www.ocregister.com/articles/marijuana-dunlap-lake-2555957-forest-deputy>

Medical marijuana patient accused of selling pot

By Stacia Glenn

Posted: 09/15/2009 05:39:47 PM PDT

Authorities on Monday seized \$17,000 worth of marijuana from a Victorville resident who holds a medical marijuana card but is accused of selling it to others. Sheriff's officials declined to identify the suspect because no arrests have been made. They have forwarded the case to the District Attorney's

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Office for review. Deputies served a search warrant at the home in the 14700 block of Arabian Run Lane after receiving numerous telephone calls about drugs being sold there. Confiscated were \$3,000 in cash and a gun. Deputies also said the homeowner was growing marijuana in the master bedroom, where they seized six full-grown marijuana plants and 20 smaller marijuana plants. *Although the suspect was issued a medical marijuana identification card, authorities said he was selling marijuana to people who do not have prescriptions.*

http://www.sbsun.com/breakingnews/ci_13342554

Thefts of marijuana plants on the rise

By [Liz Kellar](#) / Staff Writer / Saturday, September 19, 2009

It's the beginning of harvest season — and that means a seasonal increase in theft of medical marijuana plants. In the last four days alone, three incidents were reported to the Nevada County Sheriff's Office. "It's that time of the year," said sheriff's Capt. Jeff Powell. "Between now and the end of October, the plants are maturing and it's getting time to steal them because the buds are getting big — they have the THC in them. "I think this year, we're seeing quite a few more (thefts)," he continued. "A lot more people are growing medical marijuana nowadays. They're able to get more scrips, so they feel more comfortable." Tuesday night, a man from Rocker Road reported youths stole medical marijuana plants over the weekend. He saw them trying to steal more plants and confronted them. He told a dispatcher he did not want to pursue criminal charges, however, and would look into a restraining order. A woman from Kangaroo Court reported the theft of six marijuana plants while she was home, sometime between midnight and 6 a.m. Tuesday. The homeowner, who wanted to remain anonymous due to security concerns, said the plants belonged to her sister, who has a medical marijuana prescription for fibromyalgia. The woman said the plants were in a fenced and tarped garden, but were visible from the street. "Somebody had been watching," she said. "They cut a hole in the fence." The woman believed her sister scared the culprits off when she got up at 3 a.m. and turned on some lights. They left behind part of the plants, as well as a crowbar and a tire iron. "I'm sure they were anticipating using them on a dog," the woman said of the abandoned tools. The victim said the plants weren't even mature yet and the theft means her sister will have to purchase marijuana from a dispensary, at a cost of approximately \$400 a month. "We're afraid to leave the house," she said. "We're afraid they might come back and try to see if we have any inside. It's kind of scary." Friday at 1 a.m., a man from Orchard Springs Road reported someone broke into his shop and took several marijuana plants. Several of his friends detained a suspect in the parking lot of a nearby store. "They couldn't link that person to the theft, so he was released," Powell said. "The deputy went back to the victim's house to take down his information and found a vehicle with two people in it who admitted to stealing marijuana from someone's garden. They had cutting tools in their possession.".....The victim estimated the loss at about \$10,000, he said. Powell had some advice for county residents growing medical marijuana. "Don't advertise that you're growing," he said. "Keep the information to yourself." And if you hear someone in your garden in the middle of the night, he added, "Don't confront them. That's number one." Powell noted there have been violent incidents in the past, including shootings last year. "We've had none so far this year, knock on wood," he said. "You have a right to defend your property, but you don't know who's out there."

<http://www.theunion.com/article/20090919/NEWS/909189972/1001/NONE&parentprofile=1053>

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Narcotics agents link two to sale of marijuana

By [From staff reports](#) / Saturday, September 12, 2009

Undercover narcotics agents with the Ventura County Sheriff's Department arrested two people on Thursday in connection with the sale of marijuana. Agents said the two, Kim Lurie, 44, of Perris, and Hilton Gurfinkiel, 33, of Woodland Hills, had advertised their marijuana delivery business in county newspapers and on the Internet. Agents said the 805 Delivery service claimed to comply with Proposition 215, which allows for the sale of medical marijuana in California. Agents allege Gurfinkiel and Perris sold marijuana to an undercover operative in violation of Proposition 215.....

<http://www.venturacountystar.com/news/2009/sep/12/narcotics-agents-link-two-to-sale-of-marijuana/>

2 boys caught trying to steal a pot plant

By [Record Searchlight staff](#) / August 8, 2009

Two juveniles were arrested early Friday after trying to steal a marijuana plant from a business in downtown Redding. Officers responded to 215 Patient Resource at 2035 California St. just after midnight and found broken glass at the front door and two boys running from the location. The business had a marijuana plant growing in the window and it appeared the juveniles were trying to break the glass door to steal the pot plant.....One of the juveniles attempted to climb a wrought-iron fence but lost his grip and cut his right forearm before officers caught both boys, Barner said. The injured boy was treated for his cuts at Shasta Regional Medical Center in Redding and released. Both boys were being held at Shasta County Juvenile Hall on suspicion of attempted burglary, resisting an officer and an arrest warrant from a previous offense, Barner said.

<http://www.redding.com/news/2009/aug/08/north-state-in-brief-aug-8-2009/>

Calif. marijuana dispensaries broken into

08/11/09 | [UPI](#) | Press Release

LAKE FOREST, Calif., Aug. 11 (UPI) -- Two Lake Forest, Calif., medical marijuana dispensaries were broken into early Tuesday, the Orange County Sheriff's Department said. The dispensaries -- the Lake Forest Alternative Center and the Health and Wellness Center -- are less than a mile apart and the break-ins both occurred at about 5 a.m., Orange County Register reported Tuesday. Deputies arrived at both locations to discover broken windows, said Lt. Mike Jansen of the sheriff's department. Investigators are checking to see whether valuables or merchandise was taken from the dispensaries.....

<http://www.marijuana.com/drug-war-headline-news/127970-ca-calif-marijuana-dispensaries-broken-into.html>

<http://www.ledger-dispatch.com/news/newsview.asp?c=261095>

Several Law Enforcement agencies conducted large scale raids on outdoor grow locations. Organized crime and criminal drug trafficking organizations are responsible for a number of these grow. Indications are that more illegally cultivated marijuana will be seized this than in any previous year. A majority of these grows take place on public land and involve the destruction of these lands either through fire or chemical contamination of the land as well as the death of the animals that inhabit them. These grow operations also threaten the use of these parks for their intended purpose, use by our residents.

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La Brea Fire believed to be caused by \$90 mil. marijuana operation run by Mexican drug cartel

Reported by: Danielle Lerner, Sarah Spotten / Tuesday, August 18, 2009

The Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Department releases more details on their investigation into the start of the La Brea Fire burning east of Santa Maria. At a press conference Tuesday, sheriff's investigators said they believe the La Brea Fire was started by a cooking fire used by people running an illegal marijuana operation in a remote area of the Los Padres National Forest. A propane stove was found in their camp at the origin of the fire. Sheriff's investigators believe there were five or six people tending the marijuana farm, and that some of them may still be trying to leave the forest on foot. They say an AK-47 assault rifle was found in the camp, so the suspects should be considered armed and dangerous. The marijuana farm found near the origin of the fire contained about 30,000 plants with an estimated street value of about \$90 million. Sheriff Bill Brown said this has been one of the busiest seasons of marijuana eradication in Santa Barbara County's history, with 18 farms eradicated since April 18, 2009 - a total estimated street value of \$675 million.....

<http://www.ksby.com/Global/story.asp?S=10950537>

Investigators seek marijuana growers in Santa Barbara County fire caused by cooking gear

Greg Risling / August 18th, 2009

SANTA BARBARA, Calif. — California investigators are looking for up to six marijuana growers suspected of starting a large wildfire north of Santa Barbara with cooking gear. Investigators found about 30,000 marijuana plants near the origin of the fire in a remote canyon. An assault rifle was recovered at the campsite. U.S. Forest Service Special Agent Russ Arthur said Tuesday that a cooking device at an encampment was responsible for the fire, which has burned more than 137 square miles. Arthur says it's the first time in Santa Barbara County a wildfire has been caused by drug trafficking. He says there are typically three to four small fires each year in California that are started by similar activity. The fire is one of several scorching the state during the past week.

<http://blog.taragana.com/n/investigators-seek-marijuana-growers-in-santa-barbara-county-fire-caused-by-cooking-gear-143074/>

Task force raids marijuana site in Pioneer, catches Bay Area drug dealers

By News release / Thursday, September 24, 2009

On Wednesday, Sept. 16, the Amador County Combined Narcotics Enforcement Team raided an outdoor marijuana growing operation in Pioneer, leading to the arrest of the Troung brothers, and a Mexican national who was allegedly tending to the plants.....ACNETT agents destroyed 520 female marijuana plants. They also seized a 2006 ATV used in the growing operation. Oakland and San Francisco DEA Agents, along with ACCNET team members and state law enforcement, served the federal arrest warrant on Gary Troung at his home in San Leandro. During the arrest, law enforcement discovered an indoor marijuana growing operation that consisted of 44 cloned marijuana cuttings, approximately \$17,000 cash and two ounces of marijuana bud. Troung also had a Walther PPK pistol with 9mm ammunition and items of evidence linking him to the growing site in Amador.....Troung's checking account contained \$11,500 and was frozen pending seizure proceedings. Oakland and San Francisco DEA agents also arrested Vi Troung at his residence in El Cerrito. Much like his brother, Vi was also employing an indoor marijuana growing operation - his consisting of 550 female marijuana plants and approximately 10 pounds of processed marijuana bud.....

<http://www.ledger-dispatch.com/news/newsview.asp?c=261095>

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Ukiah Daily Journal: Bulgarians arrested in massive marijuana raid

Wed, Jul 01 2009 12:43 CET [by Nick Iliev](#) 222 Views [2 Comments](#)

Four Bulgarian citizens have been seized in Covelo, northern California, as part of a massive marijuana bust operation. The officers destroyed more than 2200 marijuana plants and arrested the Bulgarians at Bentley Ridge and Estel Ridge, Covelo..... The gang were arrested on charges "of growing marijuana, possession of marijuana for retail use and possession of a gun during a felony crime, according to the Sheriff's Office," the Ukiah Daily Journal has said. As part of a wider operation encompassing also Russian and American marijuana growers, the authorities seized more than 20 000 marijuana plants, which were subsequently destroyed. The part of the country where the Bulgarians was arrested was apparently notorious for hemp growing and was also known as such by the authorities who bade their time and prepared for the operation. Police authorities have described it as a "large commercial marijuana growing area". According to Sheriff's Lt. Rusty Noe, Bulgarians and Russians have been known to come to this area before in order to grow marijuana.....

http://www.sofiaecho.com/2009/07/01/747351_ukiah-daily-journal-bulgarians-arrested-in-massive-marijuana-raid

Alameda Sheriff's uncover 15,000 marijuana plants in Sunol

[Sophia Kazmi / Valley Times](#) / 07/01/2009

SUNOL — Alameda County Sheriff's deputies uncovered more than 15,000 marijuana plants this week near Sunol..... The area was hard to get to, Miles said, but when deputies and the California Department of Justice made it, they found 15,074 plants in 15 separate plots. The plants were 3- to 6- feet tall in height. There was what appeared to be a recently used campsite at the location, Miles said. Investigators found a gun holster, several rounds of ammunition and also something unusual for such sites — baby bottles. This is the second large-scale grow found in Sunol. Last month, deputies found 22,000 plants near Calaveras Road on San Francisco Water District property.....

http://www.mercurynews.com/breakingnews/ci_12735245

Santa Clara authorities bust pot garden

The Associated Press / 07/02/2009

SAN JOSE, Calif.—Santa Clara County sheriff's deputies have seized more than 6,000 marijuana plants with a street value of \$18 million. The two large gardens that housed the plants were found Wednesday morning in the hills above San Jose. Authorities say 24-year-old Jesus Ochoachacon was tending to plants at the site and arrested. Another suspect apparently fled and is still at large. Sheriff's deputies say the department's marijuana eradication team has destroyed more than 90,000 pot plants with a value of \$270 million since April.

http://www.mercurynews.com/news/ci_12745051?nclick_check=1

Deputies bust Santa Cruz Mountains marijuana garden, but not before growers get part of the crop

[By Jennifer Squires](#) / 07/07/2009

SUMMIT -- Sheriff's deputies and state drug agents ripped out marijuana plants worth more than \$1 million from an illegal garden in a remote area of the Soquel Demonstration Forest on Monday, but not before the growers had harvested about half of the pot and fled. After the law enforcement crew hacked down about 4,700 budding plants, a helicopter hauled out five large nets of green shoots..... Yanez

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estimated the growers got away with marijuana worth \$1 million to \$3 million on the street, probably in the past two weeks. Deputies scouted the marijuana garden and two other sites in late June, which likely spooked the growers and led to the early harvest. The other sites were also cleaned out in advance of the raid. "We had two other gardens, but they already harvested them," Yanez said. Monday, four sheriff's deputies and a crew from the state ran the raid.....Based on the setup, Yanez suspected the garden was the work of a Mexican drug cartel.....The environmental degradation caused by illegal marijuana gardens -- regardless of their size -- is one of the reasons CAMP agents spend three months every summer targeting large grows across the state, according to Jackson. ***"The biggest thing is the destruction of our public lands," he said, listing off the damage gardens cause, including water diversion, animal poaching, the use of illegal pesticides and littering.*** "Those things are as big or bigger than the fact they're growing an illegal drug." Also, the majority of the drug cartels funding marijuana cultivation also are involved in trafficking methamphetamine and cocaine, and the quick cash marijuana can provide finances those other operations, Jackson said. Last year, sheriff's deputies seized more than 29,000 pot plants during the outdoor growing season in Santa Cruz County.....

http://www.mercurynews.com/centralcoast/ci_12767880

Over 12,000 Marijuana Plants Eradicated

POSTED: 2:24 pm PDT July 9, 2009

CALIENTE, Calif. -- Three men and more than 12,000 marijuana plants were seized Wednesday at a remote location in Eastern Kern County. Around 6 a.m., deputies served a search warrant at a remote location on Rankin Ranch. When deputies arrived, they spotted five people. Two of them were immediately taken into custody and three ran, the Kern County Sheriff's Department reported. Of the three who ran, two escaped, but deputies were able to chase down and use a Taser on one of them, the KCSO reported. Deputies seized three pistols from where they originally made contact with suspects. Deputies said they were able to eradicate 12,169 marijuana plants as well as more than 5 pounds of processed marijuana. The KCSO said that the people had set up camp, clear cut the forest areas, planted the marijuana, and were in the process of harvesting it.....

<http://www.turnto23.com/news/20007367/detail.html>

Millions in Pot Seized in California Bust

Story by turnto23.com / July 15th, 2009

WHEELER RIDGE, Calif. -- A large marijuana bust has potentially taken millions in marijuana off the streets. The Sheriff Department's Major Violators Unit served a warrant Friday in a remote area of the southern Kern mountains east of Interstate 5. In conjunction with the Bureau of Land Management, the D.E.A. and HIDTA, deputies seized \$37.6 million worth of marijuana. Deputies located three men who were clipping buds from a plant, but they ran off into the forest before they could be arrested. Deputies then located a campsite, as well as a large pot garden and two smaller ones. In all, they seized about 9,400 plants and ten pounds of processed marijuana. No arrests have been made in connection with the drug bust. The investigation is on-going.

[http://www.officer.com/web/online/Top-News-Stories/Millions-in-Pot-Seized-in-California-Bust/1\\$47550](http://www.officer.com/web/online/Top-News-Stories/Millions-in-Pot-Seized-in-California-Bust/1$47550)

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Deputies find large pot garden, encounter armed suspects

Written by Elizabeth Larson / Thursday, 16 July 2009

LAKE COUNTY – On Tuesday local and federal law enforcement officials eradicated a massive illegal marijuana garden in the Mendocino National Forest, encountering armed suspects in the process. The Lake County Sheriff's SWAT Team and detectives from the US Forest Service seized approximately 130,000 plants and five firearms – including a Tec 9 assault weapon with a makeshift silencer – according to sheriff's Capt. Rob Howe. . . . Howe said this is the third marijuana cultivation operation so far this year in which sheriff's deputies have encountered armed suspects. Howe noted, "We are very grateful these suspects have not pointed their weapons or fired at our personnel." Concerns over dangers about illegal marijuana growing operations on public and private lands led Sheriff Rod Mitchell to post a public safety message late last week on his Web site. The video presentation can be found in its entirety here: http://lakesheriff.com/weed_warning.asp .

The video explains that violence in connection with marijuana growing is increasing. Last September, the county saw the first murder associated with a growing operation. In that case, the body of a Santa Rosa man was found in an illegal grow on Socrates Mine Road, where he had been shot to death, as Lake County News has reported. The sheriff's office reported that 2009 is "already surpassing last year in seizures and violence." While eradicating a grow on Socrates Mine Road in June, deputies encountered two armed suspects who fled and evaded capture, according to the report. In addition to locating firearms and armed growers, deputies have discovered booby traps, such as a rat trap outfitted with a shotgun shell, which they recreated and shot through a human-shaped target. They've also found rat and mouse poison, litter and other environmental concerns in the grows. Nearly all of the illegal grows are discovered and eradicated through the use of helicopters, which the county rents from private companies and pays for through a \$275,000 Drug Enforcement Administration Grant. Tuesday's raid brings this year's total for eradications to more than 285,000 plants and 15 arrests, based on various sheriff's reports. That puts Lake County – which in recent years has led all of California's 58 counties in eradications of illegal marijuana – close to Mendocino County, which so far this year has netted close to **280,000 plants, made close to 60 arrests and seized around 50 firearms at more than 90 sites.**

<http://lakeconews.com/content/view/9542/764/>

Calif. Cops Destroy Over 40,000 Pot Plants

BALCH CAMP, Calif., July 23, 2009

Authorities Raid Illegal Marijuana Growers' Camps in Remotes Areas of Central Valley (CBS/AP)
Sheriff's deputies in Fresno County are continuing a marijuana plant eradication program, raiding several illegal outdoor gardens (including sites erected in state and national parks) and netting tens of thousands of pot plants. . . . A single plant may produce \$4,000 worth of marijuana. A report by the National Drug Intelligence Center says California's Central Valley is one of the most significant cultivation areas for cannabis in the country. In 2008 authorities eradicated more than 5.3 million cannabis plants (both indoor- and outdoor-grown) in the state, according to the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), and about one-quarter of those were in the Central Valley. Data also shows that outdoor cultivation has been on the rise over the past five years in Fresno, Kern, Shasta and Tulare Counties. During a raid near Balch Camp, Calif., Lt. Bob Miller of the Fresno County Sheriff's Department told CBS affiliate KGPE that illegal growers cut down and cleared out trees and hauled in fertilizers, drip lines and other equipment. "Extremely, extremely sophisticated operations," he said.
The eradication of the illegal gardens is not just to keep drugs off the streets but also to prevent

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environmental damage: Highly-toxic chemicals from the growing sites - from pesticides and chemical repellents to rat poison - pollute watersheds, harming fish and wildlife and eventually getting into the water supply. The Fresno Bee reports that at one encampment in the foothills of the eastern part of Fresno County, approximately 10,000 plants were growing in a one-third acre patch. A shelter with kitchen and canned supplies were also found. Forest Service volunteers will help clear out trash from the encampments. Also this week, authorities removed about 3,500 marijuana plants found growing in park land in the Santa Monica Mountains. The National Park Service said Wednesday that trash, pipes, camping equipment, fertilizer and pesticides were also removed Tuesday from three plantations - two located in Malibu Creek State Park and one in the Zuma-Trancas Canyon area. Authorities said it costs up to \$12,000 to clean up an acre of cultivated pot, taking away money that could be spent on other public services. <http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2009/07/23/national/main5182462.shtml?tag=topnews>

Large Marijuana Operation Eradicated North of East Camino Cielo

Authorities seize more than 25,000 plants with a total street value of \$75 million

The Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Department and the U.S. Forest Service on Friday conducted a joint eradication and investigation of a large marijuana operation in an isolated canyon in Los Padres National Forest. The operation, in Blue Canyon north of East Camino Cielo, netted more than 25,000 plants with an estimated street value of \$75 million.....

http://www.noozhawk.com/local_news/article/072409_large_marijuana_grow_eradicated_in_los_padres_canyon/

\$1 billion in marijuana seized in California

The U.S. drug czar says it is a high-intensity drug trafficking area

Suspects have links to Mexican drug cartels, authorities says

At least 330,000 marijuana plants have been seized Operation is expected to continue into November

By Nick Valencia /CNN / Thu July 23, 2009

(CNN) -- Authorities have seized \$1 billion worth of marijuana plants and have arrested 82 Mexican nationals with ties to drug cartels in the first week and half of an effort to eradicate marijuana fields from California's Fresno County, the county sheriff's office said Wednesday. The 82 suspects arrested so far have links to Mexican drug cartels..... Eastern Fresno County, where the seizures have been made, is mountainous and sparsely populated. Growers exploit the area's streams, rivers and lakes to create elaborate drip lines for their plants. A mature plant can be worth \$4,000, said Fresno County Sheriff Margaret Mims. "Fresno County is roughly the size of Connecticut, and the drug traffickers target these areas because they know there is not that significant of a law-enforcement presence," Mims said. "The chances of getting caught are slim." "The bottom line is our public lands are being destroyed by foreign drug trafficking and heavily armed Mexican cartels," George Anderson of the U.S. Department of Justice said Wednesday at a news conference highlighting the seizures. The operation is the largest in Fresno County history and one of the largest in California, Mims said. "What makes this operation unique is the approach: prevention, enforcement, eradication and reclamation," she said. Intelligence gathered for the operation began in February, with community presentations about prevention. The effort is now focused on shutting down the at least 70 marijuana farms identified by local authorities. The operation is expected to continue into November, when colder weather makes marijuana growing more difficult. At least 330,000 marijuana plants have been seized.....

<http://www.cnn.com/2009/WORLD/americas/07/23/us.marijuana.bust/index.html>

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Sheriff's team eradicates marijuana

July 28, 2009

Tulare County Sheriff's Department personnel Monday eradicated 1,369 marijuana plants from a garden on private land in the Eshom Valley area near Badger. The plants had a potential street value of \$5.48 million, according to a department news release. No arrests were reported as a result of the 7 a.m. operation by the Sheriff's Department's Tactical Enforcement Personnel team.

<http://www.visaliatimesdelta.com/article/20090728/NEWS01/907280327>

Raid yields 5,000 marijuana plants near Sonoma

The Associated Press / 07/29/2009

SONOMA, Calif.—Sonoma County authorities have found thousands of marijuana plants in a raid of marijuana gardens in a remote area near Sonoma. Lt. Sandy Geaslin with the Sonoma County Sheriff's Department says agents discovered 5,000 marijuana plants Wednesday morning in several gardens growing in an area surrounded by vineyards and woods. Two people believed to be guarding the gardens were taken into custody. A third person escaped. Authorities estimate the street value of the plants to be around \$15 million.

http://www.mercurynews.com/california/ci_12940584

Marijuana grow found in downtown Folsom

By Don Chaddock, The Telegraph

An eagle-eyed helicopter pilot spotted something odd while flying over downtown Folsom on Thursday - an illegal marijuana growing operation. When Folsom Police officers checked the site on Thursday, they discovered 100 marijuana plants growing near a public bike trail at Sibley Street and Glenn Drive. Pilot Kevin Vinatieri spotted the grow from the air and it's not the first time the CHP officer has uncovered such an operation in that spot. This is the third time in four years a marijuana growing operation has been discovered in the area by Vinatieri, according to the Folsom Police Department. The street value of the plants is estimated at \$76,000. There are no suspects at this time.

<http://edhtelegraph.com/detail/126027.html>

30,000 marijuana plants seized in Humboldt County

Allison White/The Times-Standard / 08/01/2009

Four days of raiding outdoor marijuana gardens had local law enforcement seizing 30,000 plants with the help of the Campaign Against Marijuana Planting. Throughout the week, CAMP teams eradicated 13,000 marijuana plants from Hoopa Valley tribal land and timber company property; 8,200 plants from California State Parks land and timber company property near Pepperwood; 6,200 plants from timber company property near Blocksburg; and 1,000 plants on U.S. Forest Service property near Orleans, according to a Humboldt County Sheriff's Office press release.....

http://www.contracostatimes.com/california/ci_12972924

Authorities find, destroy pot groves in Balch Park

August 03, 2009 12:47 AM

A shooting in a mountainous area above Porterville led authorities to a massive marijuana growing operation that caused extensive damage to public lands. The shooting was reported Saturday by two

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hikers who accidentally walked into a grow site in the area of Balch Park and Rancheria Creek, the Tulare County Sheriff's Department reports. *The hikers said they were confronted by those cultivating the illegal weed, who fired an unknown number shots at them and demanded that they leave the area. One of the hikers was hit in the face with what looks to be shotgun pellets,* authorities report. Deputies from the Porterville substation as well as resident deputies responded to the area and found the hikers. Medical personnel treated the shooting victim and transported him to Sierra View District Hospital, where he was later released. Deputies from specialized units of the Sheriff's Department found a trail leading to the grow site and searched the area. They were not able to find the suspects. They did find four grow sites and ultimately destroyed more than 10,000 marijuana plants. If allowed to mature, authorities said the marijuana would have had a street value of \$40 million. Authorities report extensive damage at the grow sites. Those growing the marijuana used liquid fertilizers and altered natural water courses to water and fertilize the illegal plants. The native vegetation was clear-cut, and the mountainous terrain was terraced to allow for water storage reservoirs. Trash was also found in the area. The grow sites comprised more than 10 acres of public lands. The cost of restoring land damaged by illegal marijuana groves is approximately \$11,000 per acre, the Sheriff's Department reports.....

<http://www.recorderonline.com/news/area-42533-park-marijuana.html>

Major marijuana eradication in Merced County

Tom MacKenzie, Merced County Sheriff's Department / 8/02/2009

About a dozen officers consisting of Merced Sheriff's Deputies and MMHIDTA Agents along with the Sheriff's helicopter, working off a Federal Grant, hit three locations where marijuana grows were spotted. The first location on Arburua Road inside a canyon had an irrigation drip system that went on for miles to bring water to the plants. There were two more locations, one on Wolfsen Road and one on Washington Road that were hit early Saturday morning. In all, 35,500 plants were seized. According to Sergeant Steve Sziraki some of the plants ranged anywhere from four to twelve feet in height. Officers in Merced County seize about 35,000 marijuana plants at three separate locations this weekend. With that many plants in different phases of growth, and at a street value the team eradicated over \$50,000,000 worth of marijuana. The teams came across sophisticated encampments where suspects would stay for days on end to tend to their gardens. They also found approximately 15 to 20 lbs of trimmed "bud" that the suspects had already harvested from the plants.

<http://www.cbs47.tv/news/local/story/Major-marijuana-eradication-in-Merced-County/2pRzEK838UGFI3DecjLiHg.csp>

U.S. Forests Become Toxic Marijuana Plantations

August 02, 2009

Phil Taylor reports for the New York Times that Mexican drug cartels have taken over state and federal park land to cultivate marijuana fields which are destroying the environment: "Mexican drug trafficking organizations have been operating on public lands to cultivate marijuana, with serious consequences for the environment and public safety," said Gil Kerlikowske, chief of the White House's Office of National Drug Control Policy. * * * The drug plantations are as much an environmental menace as they are a public safety threat. Growers in Fresno County used a cocktail of pesticides and fertilizers many times stronger than what is used on residential lawns to cultivate their crop. "This stuff leaches out pretty quickly," said Shane Krogen, executive director of the High Sierra Volunteer Trail Crew in charge of helping clear the land of chemicals and trash so it can begin its slow restoration. While the chemical

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pesticides kill insects and other organisms directly, fertilizer runoff contaminates local waterways and aids in the growth of algae and weeds. The vegetation in turn impedes water flows that are critical to frogs, toads and salamanders in the Kings and San Joaquin rivers, Krogen said. * * * Bankrolled by sophisticated drug cartels, suppliers are sidestepping border patrols to grow in relative obscurity on Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management and National Park Service lands across the West and even into the Southeast. "It's easier to cross the border to grow marijuana on public lands than to grow it in Mexico and smuggle it across," Krogen said. * * * "There is a growing issue of marijuana cultivation on public lands in the U.S., especially in California and Oregon, and it appears they have discovered southwestern Idaho," said BLM special agent in charge Loren Good. Temperate climates on the West Coast have nurtured what has become a booming marijuana market. * * * "It's definitely a trend," said Keith McGrath, a law enforcement officer in BLM's Idaho office who was part of last month's raid in a far-flung desert canyon. "We're seeing a shift to more organized grows and larger grows," McGrath said. "They're being set up and run through the cartels, and it's becoming a big chunk of our work load."

http://bitterqueen.typepad.com/friends_of_ours/2009/08/us-forests-become-toxic-marijuana-plantations.html

Alameda County reporting record marijuana finds

Tuesday, August 4, 2009

Martinez, Calif. (AP) --Sgt. Shawn Peterson says with a discovery Monday of more than 11,000 plants growing in a rural area, deputies have seized about 75,000 marijuana plants for the year. Last year, the Alameda County deputies set the agency's previous record, finding about 30,000 marijuana plants across the county. Peterson says the marijuana gardens deputies are finding are planted by drug trafficking organizations, with much of the harvested marijuana being sold out of state. Officials aren't saying how much more marijuana they expect to find, but note the growing season runs for two more months.

<http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/n/a/2009/08/04/state/n201820D13.DTL&tsp=1>

Deputies Eradicate \$26M In Marijuana

August 4, 2009

LAKE ISABELLA, Calif. -- On Tuesday, Deputies assigned to the Kern County Sheriff's Office Major Violators Unit were assisted by Agents of the Bureau of Land Management and the U.S. Forest Service. Deputies executed a search warrant on BLM property near Erskine Creek, which is approximately seven miles southwest of Lake Isabella. Deputies and Agents located and eradicated approximately 4100 Marijuana plants, the KCSD reported. The grow appeared to have been abandoned and many of the plants were dying or were dead from lack of water. Deputies located a separate Marijuana garden approximately one mile away. They served a separate search warrant for this garden, the KCSD reported. Deputies located and eradicated 2406 Marijuana plants, the KCSD reported. The plants were healthy and appeared to be freshly watered. Deputies followed a water line from the garden. The water line which was partially buried, led to a residential property approximately a half mile away, the KCSD reported. The property had a small residential camper, water tanks, and other storage campers and sheds on it. Deputies obtained and served a search warrant for the property, the KCSD reported. Deputies located several pounds of processed Marijuana, waterline, fertilizer, two Marijuana plants, and six rifles on the property, the KCSD reported. The owner of the property could not be located initially. This investigation is continuing. The estimated value of the seized Marijuana is \$26,000,000.

<http://www.turnto23.com/news/20283427/detail.html>

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Palo Alto raid nets \$60M worth of marijuana

The Associated Press / 08/07/2009

PALO ALTO, Calif.—Law enforcement officers have seized about \$60 million worth of marijuana in a raid that took out two large pot gardens in the Palo Alto hills. The Santa Clara County Sheriff's Department worked with other agencies in Wednesday's bust, which netted about 20,000 marijuana plants. No arrests were made, but the officers also discovered some ammunition, a Taser-type weapon and some evidence of poaching. In June, authorities seized about 5,500 marijuana plants with a street value of \$15 million during a raid of a nearby garden.

http://www.mercurynews.com/breakingnews/ci_13016100

Marijuana-operation raid on U.S. Forest Service land results in arrest

Staff reports • August 9, 2009

Law-enforcement personnel found and destroyed 7,439 marijuana plants worth a potential \$29.8 million during a Friday operation on U.S. Forest Service Land near Badger, the Tulare County Sheriff's Department reported. One arrest was made. Juventino Solis Servantez, whose age was estimated at 42, was booked on suspicion of cultivation of marijuana. The plants were found on five sites along Pierce Valley Road, according to the release. The growers used chemical fertilizers and had altered natural water courses to irrigate the plants, officials said. The mountainous terrain was terraced, causing extensive damage, according to the release. A large amount of trash also was found. Estimated cost to restore the land: \$11,000 per acre.

<http://www.visaliatimesdelta.com/article/20090809/NEWS01/90809007/1002/Marijuana-operation+raid+on+U.S.+Forest+Service+land+results+in+arrest>

Marijuana raid nets 8,444 pot plants

By Record Searchlight staff / August 10, 2009

LAKE SHASTA — More than 8,400 marijuana plants were destroyed today following a raid in the Backbone Creek area of Lake Shasta, a spokesman for the Shasta County Sheriff's Office said. No suspects were arrested in the raid, which saw 8,444 pot plants found and destroyed. The multi-agency pot raid was conducted by the Shasta County Sheriff's Office Marijuana Eradication Team (SMET) with assistance from agents with the state Park Service and the Campaign Against Marijuana Planting.

<http://www.redding.com/news/2009/aug/10/marijuana-raid-nets-8444-pot-plants/>

Surprise raid by law enforcement seizes 23,000 marijuana plants owned by organized crime

Friday, August 07, 2009 By [Scott Thomas Anderson](#)

On Thursday morning, Aug. 6, a fast-moving team of law enforcement officers stormed a camp and marijuana-growing facility hidden in a densely wooded area far above Pioneer. The grow appears to have been owned by a mafia crime syndicate south of the border....As law enforcement officers swept through the woods into the camp, its growers threw down their weapons and quickly fled into the thickest part of the forest. After hours of combing the area, law enforcement found and destroyed more than 23,000 marijuana plants. Their street value is still being calculated. Also recovered were various weapons, chemical fertilizers and other items of physical evidence. The U.S. Forest Service will now try to decide on how to deal with the extreme amount of environmental damage caused by the growing operation - which was located near one of the most pristine areas of the Eldorado National Forest.

<http://ledger-dispatch.com/news/newsview.asp?c=259626>

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Task force hits drug cartel, largest bust in Amador history

By [Scott Thomas Anderson](#) / Friday, August 14, 2009

They could hear rain falling through the trees. Crouched with their guns drawn, the SWAT members remained absolutely still until the helicopter roared overhead. Suddenly there was an explosion of movement and a running blur of camouflaged shadows as officers stormed a large marijuana plantation owned by the Mexican mob. When the confusion died, law enforcement began seizing and destroying more than 23,000 marijuana plants which, combined with another 25,600 plants found later, equaled the largest plantation in Amador County's history.....Officers also began to calculate the plantation's devastating impact on the terrain, which was located near one of the most pristine areas of the Eldorado National Forest. Various sections of trees had been clear-cut. An entire section of the mountainside had been terraced away and riddled with makeshift watering systems. Thousands of plastic nursery cups were piled high in the vegetation. Closer to the encampment, which looks to have housed five people, the growers ripped gaping holes in the soil and filled them with trash, fertilizer and other toxic chemicals.....Due to the extreme violence of these cartels - which has included the murder of Mexican law enforcement personnel, jury members, eyewitnesses and reporters - the White House has classified them as "terrorists." The immediate danger to California citizens from the cartels has grown in the last decade. In 2000, a father and his 8-year-old son were both shot after stumbling onto a marijuana plantation in El Dorado County during a hunting trip. Though wounded, they survived the encounter. In February 2008, a Santa Rosa man was murdered by cartel growers after entering a plantation in the southern part of Lake County. June 2009 saw growers in Lassen County open fire on law enforcement, wounding two sheriff's deputies and leading to one grower being killed in the exchange. "There have been plenty of shootings related to these operations now," Long said. "There's no doubt they can be violent.".....

<http://www.ledger-dispatch.com/news/newsview.asp?c=259800&topStory=1>

Officers eradicate 5,027 pot plants

BURNEY - More than 5,000 marijuana plants were destroyed Friday after law enforcement officials raided a pot-growing operation on Hatchet Mountain near here, a spokesman with the Shasta County Sheriff's Office said. The raid was conducted by the Shasta County Sheriff's Office Marijuana Eradication Team with the assistance of state Department of Justice agents. Some 5,027 marijuana plants were found and destroyed. To date, about 494,000 marijuana plants have been destroyed in Shasta County and 37 arrests have been made this season. The operation is being funded through the Drug Enforcement Administration and the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area programs.

<http://www.redding.com/news/2009/aug/15/north-state-in-brief-aug-15-2009/>

Yosemite National Park--marijuana garden destroyed

August 22, 10:28 AM · [National Parks Travel Examiner](#) · Marilyn Crain

One more marijuana garden has been removed from Yosemite. Marijuana farmers have become a real threat to the park. Their determination to continue this lucrative destructive activity requires constant vigilance by the park service in an effort to protect natural resources and visitors to Yosemite. The National Park Service (NPS) announced, "Yosemite National Park Rangers and National Park Service Agents, with assistance from Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks, eradicated 4,735 marijuana plants valued at nearly \$19 million from within the park yesterday [August 20, 2009.] Marijuana cultivation is the most significant illegal and destructive activity occurring within national parks. For

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national parks, it is not a question of public policy or legalization, it is about the intentional misuse of our most treasured natural resources. The growing activity results in degradation to the landscape that includes tree and vegetation clearing, use of various chemicals and fertilizers that pollute the land and contribute to food chain contamination, and construction of ditches and crude dams to divert streams and other water sources with irrigation equipment. Human waste and garbage left behind after a completed harvest is a danger to wildlife, such as bears." Two suspects were seen in the area, but fled before the operation. No arrests were made.

<http://www.examiner.com/x-4661-National-Parks-Travel-Examiner~y2009m8d22-Yosemite-National-Parkmarijuana-garden-destroyed>

Topic: DRUGS - on Sunday, 23. August 2009

Record marijuana grow pulled up by the roots in Siskiyou County

Police are yanking out more than 200,000 marijuana plants from the Low Gap area just a few miles south of the Oregon state line in Siskiyou County's largest-ever bust and nearly a new record for the state. The Siskiyou County Sheriff's Office said this morning that it has seized 204,933 pot plants from 13 grow sites on national forestland in the Seiad Creek/Low Gap area of Siskiyou County north the small town of Seiad Valley off of Highway 96 northwest of Yreka.

<http://sh1.antville.org/stories/1925700/>

CAMP continues marijuana grow raids in Humboldt

The Times-Standard / 08/29/2009

The Campaign Against Marijuana Planting eradicated 74,100 marijuana plants during its second week of operations in Humboldt County. Teams were active in outdoor marijuana gardens throughout the county. Personnel from CAMP, the Humboldt County Sheriff's Office, the U.S. Marshals Service and the U.S. Forest Service made up the teams, according to a Sheriff's Office press release. More than 36,000 plants from U.S. Forest Service property near Waterman Ridge were pulled Monday above Willow Creek. On Tuesday, 2,000 plants were eradicated from timber company property near Shively. In the Redwood Valley area, 17,000 plants were found on timber company property and private property. CAMP ended its week Thursday by eradicating 18,600 plants from Hoopa Valley tribal land near Supply Creek, according to the press release. Handgun ammunition was also found at the Hoopa grow site. Evidence at the grow sites indicates they were operated by drug trafficking organizations, authorities said. To date, CAMP teams in Humboldt County have eradicated 102,500 marijuana plants and statewide have eradicated more than three million plants. CAMP operations are planned in the county throughout the summer.

http://www.times-standard.com/ci_13229888?source=most_emailed

Three raids net 6,000 pot plants, one grower

By Staff Reports / 08/29/2009

The Butte County Sheriff's Office Friday reported raiding three illegal marijuana grows this week, seizing about 6,000 plants and arresting one grower. A second man, apparently unaware of a pot garden on his property, was arrested as a felon in possession of guns and ammunition. The raid Monday was in the vicinity of Highway 70 and Four Trees Road near Pulga. No one was found at the garden, but a camp and kitchen area appeared to have been recently used. Much of the marijuana had already been harvested, but 1,430 plants were destroyed. A loaded .22-caliber semiautomatic pistol was also found.

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Tuesday a search warrant was served at the Feather Falls area travel trailer of Ira Geist, 57. Geist was found with multiple loaded firearms, which as a felon he is not allowed. It appeared that Geist had no knowledge of the illegal marijuana grow nearby. As investigators entered the garden, four men fled into the surrounding brush. Many of the marijuana plots had already been harvested and recently replanted. Investigators eradicated 2,779 marijuana plants. The state Department of Fish and Game assisted on this raid. Then Thursday the sheriff's Marijuana Unit and Fish and Game raided a garden in the Milsap Bar area of the Plumas National Forest. Investigators found notes that at least 58 pounds of marijuana had been harvested from this garden prior to this raid. Investigators eradicated 1,831 marijuana plants close to being ready for harvest.

http://www.chicoer.com/news/ci_13229750

Marijuana bust in Forest Ranch

The Gridley Herald / Thu Aug 20, 2009

Gridley, Calif. - On August 18, the Butte County Sheriff's Marijuana Unit along with Sheriff's Deputies raided two marijuana gardens. The first garden was in the Forest Ranch area off of Garland Road. Deputies entered the marijuana garden area and waited for the suspect(s) to come tend the marijuana plants. Deputies eradicated 1,902 marijuana plants from that marijuana garden. The estimated street value would have been \$7,608,000. Salcedo and Bejinez were booked into the Butte County Jail on charges of Cultivation of Marijuana and Sales of Marijuana with a bail of \$100,000. In total 5,478 marijuana plants were eradicated and three suspects were arrested. Anyone with information about suspicious activity regarding illegal marijuana activity is encouraged to contact the Butte County Sheriff's Marijuana Unit at 538-7389. You can remain anonymous.

<http://www.gridleyherald.com/news/x1528804961/Marijuana-bust-in-Forest-Ranch>

Campaign Against Marijuana Planting (CAMP)

As of August 26th, CAMP has eradicated 3,534,400 marijuana plants throughout California. With more than a month remaining in the CAMP season, the total seizure amount should near 4 million plants. CAMP's previous annual seizure record was set last year with 2.9 million marijuana plants eradicated. In addition to the eradication efforts, the Bureau of Narcotic Enforcement's Marijuana Investigation Teams are continuing to conduct successful investigations of Mexican Drug Trafficking Organizations that are responsible for huge marijuana growing and distribution networks. One recent investigation in the Sacramento Valley derailed a poly-drug group that was growing marijuana in Northern California and shipping the harvest across the United States as far as the East Coast.

BUREAU OF NARCOTIC ENFORCEMENT

DOJ AT A GLANCE - SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2009

39,115 plants were pulled from the Rainbow Ridge area, but four suspects elude capture

By [Anita Burke](#) / Mail Tribune 09/12/2009

Siskiyou County authorities pulled 39,115 marijuana plants from the Rainbow Ridge area near Lake Siskiyou on Thursday, but four suspected growers spotted in the woods escaped arrest, the Siskiyou County Sheriff's Department reported on Friday. Eight gardens were found scattered throughout the brush and timber in a roughly one-square-mile area that was steep and inaccessible, officials said. Brim Aviation of Ashland flew deputies from Lake Siskiyou to the growing operations. A law-enforcement team that included deputies and representatives of the U.S. Forest Service and California Department of Fish and Game saw at least four suspects fleeing the area dressed in woodland-type camouflage

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clothing. One of those suspects was seen carrying a gun, the sheriff's department news release said. Late in the afternoon a Mount Shasta police officer saw two men dressed in camouflage clothing, which he described as extremely dirty, walking along a road just west of the city of Mount Shasta near Interstate 5, the release said. When the officer turned around to contact the two men, they ran into the woods. Officers from Mount Shasta police, California Highway Patrol, the U.S. Forest Service and the sheriff's department searched the area but couldn't find the two men. The highway patrol brought a helicopter from Redding to search from the air. In the news release, Sgt. Mike Gilley, who heads the Siskiyou County Sheriff's Department Marijuana Eradication Unit, reminded people that the start of hunting season coincides with Northern California's peak marijuana harvest season, a dangerous time when marijuana growers have the most to lose. Sophisticated marijuana gardens on public lands, could pose a threat to hunters, hikers or anyone who accidentally walks into a site, he said. Gilley advised people to be aware of their surroundings and to avoid areas where they see suspicious activity such as gardening supplies, hoses or PVC pipe, camouflage netting, or isolated camps in the woods. Anyone who finds evidence of a marijuana patch should immediately leave the area and contact law enforcement.

<http://www.mailtribune.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20090912/NEWS/909120316#STS=fzlqwp5k.22g2>

Sheriff's Department seizes 2,500 marijuana plants along Highway 150

Agents have hauled off more than 111,000 marijuana plants this year

Thursday, September 17, 2009

VENTURA COUNTY — Agents with the Ventura County Sheriff's Department destroyed another marijuana plantation on Wednesday, removing some 2,500 plants from an area along Highway 150 near the Santa Barbara County line. A record amount of marijuana has been seized in the Los Padres National Forest this year, according to sheriff's officials. Agents have hauled off more than 111,000 marijuana plants this year, nearly twice the haul in 2008, when 58,000 plants were removed.

Investigators said marijuana growers are becoming more brazen in their operations. At the same time, law enforcement agents have adopted new tactics in finding and seizing marijuana plantations.

Investigators said many of the plantations are run by Mexican drug cartels.

<http://www.venturacountystar.com/news/2009/sep/17/sheriffs-department-seizes-2500-marijuana-plants/>

10,000 Marijuana Plants Destroyed By Monterey County Narcotics Unit

Published by [Scott Castruita](#) on September 17, 2009

State and local authorities on Friday destroyed a marijuana plantation containing several thousand plants in Monterey County, according to the sheriff's office. Officers from a sheriff's narcotics unit and the California Department of Justice eradicated a marijuana grow found in the Partington Ridge area of the Los Padres National Forest at around 8 a.m., the Monterey County Sheriff's Office reported

Approximately 10,000 marijuana plants with a potential street value of \$40 million were eradicated, according to the sheriff's office. No suspects were found in the garden at the time of the operation. The case remains under investigation. Anyone with information regarding marijuana grow operations is encouraged to contact the Monterey County Sheriff's Office at (831) 755-3772

<http://fugitive.com/archives/11700>

Mountain marijuana grows getting bigger and bigger

BY STEVE E. SWENSON, Californian staff writer | Last Updated Friday, Sep 18 2009

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Marijuana plants seized in Kern County

2004 -- 21,283, 2005 -- 63,070, 2006 -- 44,706, 2007 -- 147,584, 2008 -- 159,376, 2009 -- 169,059

The hills of Kern County have been alive with the sound of marijuana cultivation. The air space above the hills has also been alive with the sound of helicopters looking for the green leafy plants. That has led to a record seizure of plants this year, Kern County sheriff's officials have said. And the season won't be over until later next month. At least some of the gardens removed this year have been financed by Mexico drug interests, sheriff's spokesman Michael Whorf said. Plant seizures have increased from about 21,000 plants in 2004 to about 169,000 plants this year, reported Sgt. Mike Bonsness of the sheriff's major violator unit. The value of this year's haul has been pegged at \$676 million. That's at the rate of \$4,000 a plant, which is what deputies believe is the wholesale price of a pound of marijuana. The number of plants seized more than tripled in 2007 from the year before. They increased even more in the last two years. Deputies aren't sure if that means more people are growing the plants in Kern County, or they are just catching more, Whorf said. They are catching more because they are getting more grant money to finance the time and effort into looking, he said. He said he didn't know how much grant money is used for these projects. While Kern County is finding more marijuana plants, it's significantly behind the leading marijuana growing counties in the state. Lake County found about 500,000 plants in 2007 and 2008. Tulare and Shasta counties seized nearly 400,000 plants, while Mendocino and Humboldt uprooted well over 200,000 in one or both of the last two years. Such seizures are part of a state CAMP (Campaign Against Marijuana Planting) operation that began in 1983. Those who operate the gardens typically tap into spring water to irrigate their crop. They are generally well armed and guard the plants, although they have planned escape routes if needed, officers say. So far this year, Kern County authorities have arrested 25 suspects and seized 25 firearms.

<http://www.bakersfield.com/news/local/x746310431/Mountain-marijuana-grows-getting-bigger-and-bigger>

Mendocino County officials arrest 38 in pot raids

The Associated Press / 09/28/2009

UKIAH, Calif.—Mendocino County authorities say they've arrested 38 people and seized thousands of marijuana plants in a series of raids on marijuana gardens. Mendocino County Sheriff Tom Allman says law enforcement officials found more than 53,000 marijuana plants, 30 pounds of hashish and more than \$25,000 in cash last week in searches near the communities of Laytonville and Covelo. Allman says some of the raids were prompted after law officials conducting an air search for marijuana gardens spotted water pipes illegally diverting water from the Eel River. Nine county, state and federal agencies participated in the operations.

http://www.mercurynews.com/california/ci_13441063?nclink_check=1

Marijuana Eradication Season Drawing To A Close

Bill Johnson, MML News Director / September 28, 2009

Sonora, CA -- The close of the 2009 record setting marijuana eradication season for the Tuolumne Narcotics Team (TNT) is right around the corner. Late last week the team pulled 6,703 plants in three locations throughout the county running the yearly total to 200,400 as compared to only 107,000 last year which was also a record setting year. At a conservative estimate of \$2,000 a plant that equates to \$400,800,000 the Mexican Drug Trafficking Cartel has lost this year in Tuolumne County. TNT Sgt. Craig Davis says the illegal Mexican nationals who man the grows rarely return to a site that has been

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eradicated. Davis adds that he will go to great lengths to avoid any kind of a confrontation with the illegals in the grows. He comments, "A plant is simply not worth the life of one of my men." This year three Mexican nationals were arrested and bound over to the INS. Davis adds that they will probably serve a short prison term, be deported and possibly return in a month's time to start all over again. "While they are in prison we feed and cloth them and meet all their essential needs. When they're deported they return home, turn right around and return to the U.S. in a very short period of time to start the cycle all over again. They really know the system." Asked if he thinks TNT is making a difference, he states, "Yes I do. If we were not in existence all that marijuana would be sold on the streets and the profits would be used to finance the Cartel's super methamphetamine labs in Mexico. I don't know what kind of a budget they have but anybody has to be hurting a little bit if they lose as much as they have lost in our county this year."

<http://www.mymotherlode.com/news/local/548485/Marijuana-Eradication-Season-Drawing-To-A-Close.html>

FOLLOW-UP: 10 lbs. marijuana, 24 plants at Redwood Valley fire scene

Ukiah Daily Journal Staff

Updated: 09/30/2009 12:00:41 AM PDT

A 27-year-old Washington man arrested on suspicion of arson Monday is alleged to have had 10 pounds of processed marijuana and 24 mature marijuana plants on a Scenic Drive property in Redwood Valley. John G. Caputo, of Spokane, was booked into Mendocino County Jail on suspicion of unlawfully causing a fire, growing marijuana and possession of marijuana for sale, the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office stated. According to the Sheriff's Office, deputies were advised that marijuana was on the property and that California State Prison inmates were helping to fight a 15-acre fire. Cal Fire called for sheriff's deputies about 1:30 p.m. Monday at the scene of a vegetation fire in the 18000 block of Scenic Drive. Caputo was burning trash near the residence when he lost control of the fire. According the MCSO, Caputo was at the property to tend marijuana plants but said that he did not live there. Caputo's bail was set at \$30,000.

http://www.ukiahdailyjournal.com/ci_13451087

Indoor grows have continued to increase in popularity. Public Safety agencies continue to respond to fires started by poorly wired grow systems. Many of the cited cases involve bypassing electrical meters and the theft of electricity

L.A. officers, firefighters discover 1,000 pot plants after fire

Associated Press / July 13, 2009

LOS ANGELES — Police hauled bags of marijuana out of a fire-gutted warehouse Thursday after firefighters discovered a full-blown pot farm inside, authorities said. About 1,000 plants with a street value of \$1 million were found after firefighters doused the blaze, police officer Tenesha Dobine said. It was unclear how much marijuana might have been destroyed in the fire, she said. The immature, 4- to 6-inch-high plants were grown in an elaborate hydroponic setup and investigators were trying to determine whether electrical equipment used in the operation may have sparked the fire, police and fire officials said. "They had lights and an air conditioning system for the plants and a whole water circulation system," Los Angeles fire Capt. Henry Amaran told KCAL-TV. No arrests were

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immediately made.....It took 75 firefighters about 40 minutes to douse the blaze. The roof collapsed and the 100-by-150-foot building was gutted but no firefighters were injured.....

<http://www.policeone.com/drug-interdiction-narcotics/articles/1855271-L-A-officers-firefighters-discover-1-000-pot-plants-after-fire/>

SF: UPDATE: FOUR-ALARM FIRE STILL BURNING IN BAYVIEW DISTRICT, MARIJUANA GROW FOUND

SAN FRANCISCO (BCN) / Sun, 30 Aug 2009

A four-alarm fire continues to burn this afternoon in an industrial area of San Francisco's Bayview District and authorities are investigating a possible marijuana grow operation in a building damaged by the blaze, police Sgt. Wilfred Williams said. The fire was reported at about 10:50 a.m. at 1526 Wallace Ave., and has spread to at least two other buildings in the 1500 block of the street, according to Williams. Marijuana was found growing in one of the buildings, and Williams said the Police Department's narcotics unit is investigating whether it is an illegal grow operation.....

[http://cbs5.com/localwire/22.0.html?type=bcn&item=FOUR-ALARM-FIRE-\(UPDATE-ON-BCN57\)-16-36](http://cbs5.com/localwire/22.0.html?type=bcn&item=FOUR-ALARM-FIRE-(UPDATE-ON-BCN57)-16-36)

Hundreds Of Marijuana Plants Seized From SF Home

July 28, 2009

SAN FRANCISCO -- One man was arrested Tuesday after San Francisco police discovered a large marijuana growing operation in a Sunset District home, police Sgt. Wilfred Williams said. He said officers went to the home in the 2200 block of 20th Avenue shortly after 2 p.m. and confiscated 346 mature marijuana plants as well as growing equipment.....Police said there's something about the Sunset district that seems to be attracting marijuana growers. In the past five months, officers have discovered 20 marijuana growing operations in and around the Sunset and Ingleside neighborhoods, according to police.....People are learning the process and finding out how to grow marijuana," said SFPD Sgt. Mark Im. "It's become more of a problem." Police said they made busts at four other Sunset District homes on Sunday alone, seizing more than 900 plants. On Monday, another bust yielded in excess of 1,100 marijuana plants at a warehouse in the Bayview District. Growers usually keep a low profile, covering their windows and often bypassing PG&E meters to avoid suspiciously high utility bills. "The houses are being rented so these renters are trying to keep low key," said Sgt. Im. In past incidents, electrical rewiring has created dangerous conditions at the homes used by growers. "They are tapping into power lines, [which could create] potential fires," explained Sgt. Im. "There's also the potential for violent crimes. We've seized guns in the past.....The Sunset may currently be a popular place to grow pot in San Francisco, however police said they will keep up the pressure to shut down any growing operations as soon as they learn of their existence.

<http://www.ktvu.com/news/20209090/detail.html>

KCSO Seize Rifle, \$241K In Marijuana, 2 Arrested

September 4, 2009

RIDGECREST, Calif. -- On Friday around 10 a.m., Kern County Sheriff's deputies assigned to the Sheriff's Ridgecrest Substation were dispatched to 1131 N. Alford Street, Ridgecrest, for a report of subjects cultivating marijuana. Deputies said they went to the residence and conducted a probation search. Deputies seized a loaded M1 Carbine .30 caliber rifle, and numerous marijuana plants. Deputies

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said they located marijuana, chemicals used for cultivating marijuana, and other equipment related to the cultivation of marijuana throughout the residence in the living room, dining room, kitchen and child's room. The street value of the marijuana seized was estimated at \$241,000, deputies said.....
<http://www.turnto23.com/mountain/20732195/detail.html>

Six from Petaluma arrested; guns, pot, \$800,000 in cash seized

By [RANDI ROSSMANN](#) / THE PRESS DEMOCRAT / August 31, 2009

The case of a suspected Petaluma marijuana trafficking ring, allegedly headed by a risk-taking BASE jumper found with \$750,000 cash at his Petaluma home, goes to court Monday afternoon.....The suspected marijuana traffickers were discovered Friday after a traffic stop in Marin County by a CHP officer in Marin County. Twenty pounds of marijuana found in Badenhop's car led Marin County Major Crimes Task Force officers north to Petaluma. After a day of searching five homes and one business, officers had six in custody and discovered \$800,000 in cash, more than 60 pounds of processed marijuana, three indoor gardens with 420 plants, hundreds of vials of hash and hash oil and five handguns.....

<http://www.pressdemocrat.com/article/20090830/ARTICLES/908309989/1061/SPORTS0906?Title=6-from-Petaluma-arrested-guns-pot-800-000-in-cash-seized>

Riverside police looking for marijuana growers

6:38 PM | August 10, 2009

Authorities in Riverside are seeking the public's help today after officers discovered 250 marijuana plants in what was described as a sophisticated indoor growing operation on a quiet residential street. The marijuana, estimated to be worth \$750,000, was found by officers who served a search warrant Saturday on a home in the 19000 block of Marco Road in Riverside, the Riverside County Sheriff's Department said. The residence was empty. It was outfitted with powerful growing lights and timers, authorities said. "It would be good for the community to get these [growers] off the street," said Deputy Herlinda Valenzuela, a department spokeswoman.

<http://latimesblogs.latimes.com/lanow/2009/08/riverside-police-looking-for-marijuana-growers.html>

Clovis Parents, Teen Arrested For Marijuana Charges

Sep 29, 2009 04:13 PM PDT

A Clovis family is behind bars; facing charges of cultivating and possessing marijuana. The arrests were part of a recent crackdown by Clovis Police to take drug dealers out of the city's Skate Park. An undercover investigation led police to serve a warrant on the family's home west of Sierra and Freeway 168, where officers discovered a hydroponic growing system, 75 plants and several pounds of high grade marijuana. Along with the drugs, officers found 13 long guns and 10 handguns, some of which were loaded. The findings led police to arrest the occupants of the home, identified as 40-year-olds Audra and Carter Compolongo along with their 15-year-old son. They face charges of illegal cultivation of marijuana, possession of marijuana for sale, and sales of marijuana. Additional counts for the parents include furnishing marijuana to a minor, employing a minor to prepare marijuana for sale, maintaining a drug house, possession of dangerous fireworks, contributing to the delinquency of a minor, child endangerment and neglect, and being armed in the commission of a felony. ***Police believe that the family had been selling marijuana to dispensaries in the south valley, which is illegal.*** It was the undercover investigation by narcotics officers which led them to the Compolongo's, after an officer was

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able to purchase marijuana from the 15-year-old son of the couple at the Skate Park.....Officers say the investigation revealed that those arrested were supplying dealers at the Skate Park. Three of the adults arrested have medical marijuana cards.

<http://www.kmph.com/Global/story.asp?S=11227201>

Two GV men arrested for growing marijuana

By [Liz Kellar](#) / Staff writer

On Wednesday, the Nevada County Narcotics Task Force executed a search warrant in the 20000 block of Buck Ridge Road in Grass Valley after a month-long investigation. Once on scene, detectives found three people at the residence and discovered that the house was being rented by Hans Estes, 33, of Grass Valley. Detectives also located a large shop on the property that had been converted into a sophisticated indoor marijuana growing operation. The operation consisted of 528 female marijuana plants in various stages of growth. Estes allegedly admitted to deputies that he moved to the Nevada County area to grow the marijuana under two doctor recommendations for medicinal marijuana. Estes also allegedly admitted that he was selling the marijuana in the Bay Area at different co-operatives for \$3,400 to \$4,000 a pound.....Smethers said the Narcotics Task Force is seeing larger operations than in the past and added that the plants they have been destroying could potentially yield 4 to 6 pounds of marijuana per plant.....

<http://www.theunion.com/article/20090925/NEWS/909249970/1007/NONE&parentprofile=1053>

Contra Costa County drug agents, police bust two residential marijuana growing operations

By Robert Salonga / Contra Costa Times / 09/11/2009

CONTRA COSTA COUNTY — County drug agents broke up two residential marijuana growing operations in the past week, seizing nearly 2,000 plants worth more than \$1 million. A raid on a Richmond home Thursday followed a traffic stop by the California Highway Patrol on Interstate 80 near Pinole the day before. The driver, Kwong Wing Cheng, 50, of El Cerrito consented to a car search, and CHP officers found about 100 immature marijuana plants and a paper bag filled with \$27,330 in assorted bills. Cheng, who did not have a medical marijuana card, was arrested, police said.....CCCNET agents and Richmond police served the warrant Thursday and arrested a man, identified as Yon Tao Jiang, 22, who was caught running out the back door. Agents found the entire four-bedroom residence and garage housed a sophisticated indoor marijuana grow, containing about 1,300 maturing plants worth about \$820,000. PG&E determined that the power meter had been bypassed, allowing illegally obtained electricity to power the equipment. ***In Pittsburg, an anonymous tip led county drug agents and police to a marijuana home grow that was stealing so much electricity it could have powered an entire city block***, Wielsch said. After a two-week investigation, drug agents and Pittsburg police.....found the four-bedroom home, its garage and an attached shed had been converted into a marijuana grow housing 580 medium-sized plants worth about \$480,000. PG&E determined that the home, like the one in Richmond, was powered illegally after the growers bypassed the power meter. When all of the grow lights were activated, Wielsch said the electricity could power a city block. http://www.contracostatimes.com/news/ci_13318837?nlick_check=1

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Police bust illegal marijuana grow, make arrests

Written by Lake County News Reports / Wednesday, 23 September 2009

CLEARLAKE – Late last week Clearlake Police officers shut down an illegal marijuana grow, found marijuana worth an estimated \$600,000 and made several arrests.....McClain said Officer Regan Stuller arrived on scene first, and as he approached the residence to conduct a compliance check he was overwhelmed by the distinct odor of fresh marijuana emitting from the residence and property.....During the sweep of the house and property, officers discovered that the house and surrounding property was being used for an illegal commercial marijuana growing operation.....A search warrant was obtained for the residence and surrounding property. As a result, McClain said officers seized 200 pounds of fresh high grade growing and drying marijuana with an estimated street value of \$600,000. In addition, he said police seized two firearms, one of which is believed to have been stolen from the state of Nevada. He said it also was discovered that the suspects allegedly were stealing power to operate the indoor marijuana grow

<http://lakeconews.com/content/view/10465/764/>

400 marijuana plants discovered in narcotics bust

Reported by: Kelly Bush / Friday, July 3, 2009

The Santa Barbara County Sheriff's narcotics detectives conducted a month long investigation. They discovered more than 400 marijuana plants and five pounds of processed marijuana with a street value of \$20,000,.....4 grams of cocaine, with a street value of \$400, a usable amount of psilocybin, several ecstasy pills and approximately \$18,000.00 in cash. Evidence located at the residence showed that all three suspects were illegally cultivating and selling the marijuana outside the scope of Proposition 215. During the month long operation FORD sold marijuana openly in the presence of an undercover officer. Additionally, ***FORD and SHAPIRO were shipping pounds of the processed marijuana to the East Coast, including New York and New Jersey.*** The total value of the marijuana plants seized during the investigation was estimated at \$800,000.....

<http://www.ksby.com/Global/story.asp?S=10642734>

Four arrested in connection with McCloud marijuana growing operation

By Siskiyou County Sheriff's Office

Daily News / Fri Jul 17, 2009,

McCloud, Calif. - Four men were booked into the Siskiyou County Jail in connection with an indoor marijuana cultivation operation at a residence in McCloud....All four suspects are charged with cultivation of marijuana, possession of marijuana/hashish for sale and renting a building for the purpose of unlawfully manufacturing any controlled substance. The charges against the four men stem from July 6, when a search warrant was served at the home by agents.....During a search of the house, 175 marijuana plants and over 61 pounds of processed marijuana were confiscated from inside. A 60 KW diesel generator was being used inside the house to power the 41 grow lights and ballasts and numerous fans and blowers used in the indoor cultivation operation, Gravenkamp said. The McCloud man who owns the house said he had rented the house to the suspects about a year and a half ago. The men have been released from custody with an August court date.

<http://www.siskiyoudaily.com/news/x863182916/Four-arrested-in-connection-with-McCloud-marijuana-growing-operation>

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Fortuna police arrest two for marijuana grow

The Times-Standard / Posted: 07/04/2009

The Fortuna Police Department arrested two men Thursday after conducting search warrant at a residence on the 900 block of Park Heights Court, according to a press release. The search resulted in the *discovery of a marijuana grow, 112 suspected tablets of Ecstasy, psilocybin mushrooms, a marijuana hash laboratory, an AR-15 assault rifle, suspected child pornography and several items believed to be associated with the sexual exploitation of a child.* Daniel Jason Rivera Hendrix, 31, was arrested on suspicion of drug-related violations with prior conviction, as well as possession of child pornography. Brandon Garrett Thompson, 24, was arrested on suspicion of drug-related violations with a prior conviction.

http://www.willitsnews.com/ci_12753033?source=most_email

During this quarter medical studies or analysis of medical studies were published which discussed the physical impacts associated with the use of marijuana. Discussed was marijuana's effect on the body's lungs, cells, mental capacity as well as marijuana's usefulness as a deterrent to pain.

Smoking marijuana has toxic effects on cells

6. August 2009 02:20

In a finding that challenges the increasingly popular belief that smoking marijuana is less harmful to health than smoking tobacco, researchers in Canada are reporting that smoking marijuana, like smoking tobacco, has toxic effects on cells. Their study is scheduled for the Aug. 17 issue of ACS' Chemical Research in Toxicology, a monthly journal. Rebecca Maertens and colleagues note that people often view marijuana as a "natural" product and less harmful than tobacco. As public attitudes toward marijuana change and legal restrictions ease in some countries, use of marijuana is increasing. Scientists know that marijuana smoke has adverse effects on the lungs. However, there is little knowledge about marijuana's potential to cause lung cancer due to the difficulty in identifying and studying people who have smoked only marijuana. The new study begins to address that question by comparing marijuana smoke vs. tobacco smoke in terms of toxicity to cells and to DNA. Scientists exposed cultured animal cells and bacteria to condensed smoke samples from both marijuana and tobacco. There were distinct differences in the degree and type of toxicity elicited by marijuana and cigarette smoke. Marijuana smoke caused significantly more damage to cells and DNA than tobacco smoke, the researchers note. However, tobacco smoke caused chromosome damage while marijuana did not.

<http://www.news-medical.net/news/20090806/Smoking-marijuana-has-toxic-effects-on-cells.aspx>

Marijuana ingredients make acute pain worse

Charlotte Health and Happiness Examiner / Kathleen Blanchard RN / August 13,

University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston researchers have been exploring pain. Questions about why some pain persists, while other types of pain can vanish quickly, led the scientist to explore the endocannabinoid system in the human body and how the pain response works. Endocannabinoids in the human body are closely related to compounds found in marijuana – cannabinoids. The researchers explain how systems in the spinal cord balance signals that reach the brain. Study authors Professor Volker Neugebauer, and colleagues say, "Excitatory systems act like a car's accelerator, and inhibitory ones act like the brakes. What we found is that in the spinal cord endocannabinoids can disable the

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brakes." The researchers used the spinal cords of mice to determine the inhibitory effect of endocannabinoids on pain. They found that after applying a biochemical that mimics an endocannabinoid to nerve cells, there was a response to pain. When they studied the spinal cord of mice that lacked receptors for endocannabinoids, they found the pain response was blocked. "The next step was to make the leap from spinal slices to test whether this really had anything to do with pain," Neugebauer said. The researchers induced pain akin to an intense toothache in anesthetized rats, using capsaicin, found in hot peppers. They were able to measure signals racing up the spinal cords of the mice. The mice became more sensitive to pain. Blocking endocannabinoids made the pain response disappear.....Persistent pain is notoriously difficult to treat, and this study offers insight into new mechanisms and possibly a new target in the spinal cord." Endocannabinoids and cannabinoids in marijuana are biochemically similar. "If you had a toothache, you probably wouldn't want to treat it with marijuana, because you could actually make it worse. Now, for more pathological conditions like neuropathic pain, where the problem is a dysfunction within the nerves themselves and a subsequent disturbance throughout the nervous system that's not confined to the pain system, marijuana may be beneficial. There are studies that seem to show that. But our model shows cannabinoids over-activating the pain system, and it just doesn't seem like a good idea to further increase this effect", says Neugebauer. The study challenges the notion that marijuana could relieve acute pain, and shows that endocannabinoids, closely related to marijuana ingredients, might actually make pain worse. <http://www.examiner.com/x-14041-Charlotte-Health-and-Happiness-Examiner~y2009m8d13-Marijuana-ingredients-make-acute-pain-worse>

Growing Evidence Of Marijuana Smoke's Potential Dangers

Science Daily (Aug. 5, 2009) — In a finding that challenges the increasingly popular belief that smoking marijuana is less harmful to health than smoking tobacco, researchers in Canada are reporting that smoking marijuana, like smoking tobacco, has toxic effects on cells. Rebecca Maertens and colleagues note that people often view marijuana as a "natural" product and less harmful than tobacco. As public attitudes toward marijuana change and legal restrictions ease in some countries, use of marijuana is increasing. Scientists know that marijuana smoke has adverse effects on the lungs. However, there is little knowledge about marijuana's potential to cause lung cancer due to the difficulty in identifying and studying people who have smoked only marijuana. The new study begins to address that question by comparing marijuana smoke vs. tobacco smoke in terms of toxicity to cells and to DNA. Scientists exposed cultured animal cells and bacteria to condensed smoke samples from both marijuana and tobacco. There were distinct differences in the degree and type of toxicity elicited by marijuana and cigarette smoke. Marijuana smoke caused significantly more damage to cells and DNA than tobacco smoke, the researchers note. However, tobacco smoke caused chromosome damage while marijuana did not.

<http://www.leanbulk.com/forum/ask-dr-houser/8616-growing-evidence-marijuana-smokes-potential-dangers.html>

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Cannabis smokers have a seven-fold schizophrenia risk

KEVIN FRAYER/CP Harper government devotes funds to studying the link between marijuana use and mental illness

THE CANADIAN PRESS / Aug 19, 2009 10:55 AM

WINNIPEG – The Harper government is putting up \$550,000 to gather research on marijuana use and mental illness. The Schizophrenia Society of Canada will use the money to further research the links between cannabis and early psychosis as well as develop promotional materials warning youth about the dangers of smoking pot. The money is part of Ottawa's \$30 million national anti-drug strategy announced in 2007. Chris Summerville, CEO of the Schizophrenia Society, said the public doesn't realize that cannabis users have a seven-fold increase in risk of developing schizophrenia. He pointed to recent research out of Victoria, B.C., linking pot smoking and mental illness. As part of the society's research, some 30 youths who have experienced psychosis will be trained to gather information about the reasons their peers use cannabis. The results will be used to develop educational materials aimed at decreasing the use of illicit drugs among young people. Winnipeg Conservative MP Joy Smith said Tuesday that while the public regards marijuana as a soft drug, there may be very serious consequences for young pot smokers who have a predisposition to mental illness. "Science has shown that cannabis may actually trigger the onset of psychosis and may also intensify the symptoms for those who already have a psychotic illness," Smith said in announcing the grant. "It has been suggested that up to 80 per cent of youth who have had a psychotic episode were using cannabis. And that's pretty shocking," said Smith, who was filling in for Health Minister Leona Aglukkaq at news conference.

<http://www.thestar.com/article/682905>

Official and scientific facts on medical marijuana

September 9, 8:46 AM · [Portland Drug Policy Examiner](#) · John English

Drug legalization proponents often quote (only) partial statements of the Institute Of Medicine's (IOM) report on medical marijuana, . . . as if that document supports their position. It does not. Read the statements below, and you will see for yourself. Also, please note, the following medical associations agree that marijuana has no documented medical value and do not accept smoked marijuana as medicine:

- * The American Medical Association
- * The British Medical Association
- * The American Cancer Society
- * The American Academy of Pediatrics
- * The National Multiple Sclerosis Society

What the IOM found was:

* ... they cautioned that the active compounds in marijuana may have medicinal potential and therefore should be researched further. However the study concluded that "there is little future in smoked marijuana as a medically approved medication. [1] "For some ailments ... potential therapeutic value of cannabinoid drugs, primarily THC, for pain relief, control of nausea and vomiting, and appetite stimulation." [2] (11) They added: "the effects of cannabinoids on the symptoms studied are generally modest, and in most cases there are more effective medications." [3] In concluding, they stated that, at best, there is only anecdotal information on the medical benefits of smoked marijuana for some ailments, such as muscle 'spasticity'. For other ailments, such as epilepsy and glaucoma, the study found NO evidence of medical value and did not endorse further research. [4] Also, note the number of and

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significance of “ailments” that were added onto each state’s qualification to use marijuana. They also explained that “smoked marijuana ... is a THC crude delivery system that also delivers harmful substances.” Also, that “plants contain a variable mixture of biologically active compounds and cannot be expected to provide a precisely defined drug effect.” The principal investigators explicitly stated that using smoked marijuana in clinical trials “should not be designed to develop it as a licensed drug, but should be a stepping stone to the development of new, safe delivery systems of cannabinoids. [5] Thus, even those scientists and researchers who believe that certain active ingredients in marijuana may have potential medicinal value openly discount the notion that smoked marijuana is or can become “medicine.” Also, note that as of May 8th, 2006, DEA had registered every one of the 163 researchers who requested to use marijuana in studies and who met Department of Health and Human Services standards. [6].....The Center for Medicinal Cannabis Research (CMCR) conducts studies "to ascertain the general medical safety and efficacy of cannabis and cannabis products and examine alternative forms of cannabis administration. [7] They Center for Medicinal Cannabis Research (CMCR) has 11 on-going studies involving marijuana and the efficacy of cannabis and related compounds as they relate to medical conditions such as HIV, cancer pain, MS, and nausea. [8] Still, however, the clear weight of the evidence is that smoked marijuana is harmful and other drugs already FDA-approved (Marinol, for example – a synthetic THC) has been proven to be safer and more effective than smoked marijuana. As stated previously: In the states where legalization has been proposed and then passed as a ballot measure / referendum, drug users presented the need for this medicine on the basis that it was needed for the terminally and seriously ill. Then, after the fact, legalization proponents added nearly every malady imaginable. Another fact that gives real insight into this situation is that a survey in California revealed that the medical marijuana cardholders had been smoking for an average of 17 years before they applied for their cards. Legalization of marijuana, no matter how it begins, will come at the expense of our children and public safety. It will create dependency and treatment issues, and open the door to use of other drugs, impaired health, delinquent behavior, and drugged drivers.

Footnotes:

- 1) Institute of Medicine. "[Marijuana and Medicine: Assessing the Science Base.](#)" (1999). Summary. (12 April 2005).
 - 2) Id.
 - 3) [Institute of Medicine. "Marijuana and Medicine: Assessing the Science Base."](#) (1999). Executive Summary. (11 January 2006).
 - 4) [Institute of Medicine. "Marijuana and Medicine: Assessing the Science Base."](#) (1999). Summary. (11 January 2006).
 - 5) [Institute of Medicine. "Marijuana and Medicine: Assessing the Science Base."](#) (1999). Summary. (11 January 2006).
 - 6) Benson, John A., Jr. and Watson, Stanley J., Jr. "Strike a Balance in the Marijuana Debate." The Standard-Times. 13 April 1999.
 - 7) DEA, Office of Diversion Control. 8 May 2006.
 - 8) "[CMCR Mission Statement.](#)" [Center for Medicinal Cannabis Research.](#) (3 February 2005).
 - 9) DEA, Office of Diversion Control. 6 January 2006.
- (Information quoted here is from: The DEA Position on Marijuana)
<http://www.examiner.com/x-11932-Portland-Drug-Policy-Examiner~y2009m9d9-Official-and-scientific-facts-on-medical-marijuana?cid=examiner-email>

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CDC: L.A. teachers ill from pot brownies

Associated Press / 09/03/2009

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Federal health officials say five preschool teachers in Los Angeles were sickened earlier this year after eating marijuana-laced brownies bought from a street vendor. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said Thursday that police investigated the April incident, which occurred at an unidentified school. A preschool teacher, who did not eat the snack but gave it her adult son, bought the brownies from a sidewalk vendor and shared them with her colleagues. Five teachers ate one brownie each. The CDC says a sixth teacher took a bite and spit it out after complaining of an "unusual taste." The teachers recovered within hours. A brownie sample tested by Los Angeles police found traces of marijuana. The teacher who bought the brownies was not charged. Police have not found the street vendor.

http://www.mercurynews.com/breaking-news/ci_13263358?nclink_check=1

Several enforcement actions against dispensaries occurred during this quarter. However, that they still occur affirms the belief that these business are still operating outside the confines of the medical marijuana statutes. Communities also continue to take steps to remove or ban these store front enterprises.

South Tahoe plans crack down on marijuana providers

By Adam Jensen / Sun News Service / 07/05/2010

SOUTH LAKE TAHOE, Calif. — South Lake Tahoe city attorneys Jacqueline Mittelstadt and Patrick Enright have signaled police will begin enforcement against three medical marijuana providers who have opened in South Lake Tahoe over the past year. "Possession of amounts of marijuana in excess of the allowable state law amounts is a violation of both state and federal law," the attorneys wrote in a memorandum to the City Council dated July 7. "(South Lake Tahoe police) will soon commence pursuit of such illegal conduct.".....The city attorneys refer to the Police Officer's Association White Paper in contending that most storefront dispensaries fail to meet the requirements of California law. But Cody Bass, a spokesman for Tahoe Wellness Collective, said the medical marijuana provider is operating in accordance with California law. He questioned whether the city could legally bust the collective. "South Lake Tahoe Police Department has to follow the state constitution," Bass said. "I'm personally not too worried about it." Tahoe Wellness Collective became the second medical marijuana provider in South Lake Tahoe when it opened in January in the Bijou Shopping Center, and has more than 700 patients, Bass says. If police did raid the collective, Tahoe Wellness Collective would reopen "within 20 minutes," Bass said Friday.....

<http://www.sierrasun.com/article/20090705/NEWS/907059997/1066&ParentProfile=1051>

Task force raids pot dispensaries, arrests owner

The Associated Press / 08/13/2009

LOS ANGELES—A task force of federal and local authorities raided two medical marijuana dispensaries and arrested the owner but gave no immediate explanation of how state law may have been violated. Jeffrey Joseph, 40, was arrested Wednesday for investigation of possessing more than 50 pounds of marijuana for sale, authorities said. Searches of his Topanga Canyon home and dispensaries in Marina del Rey and Culver City produced *452 live marijuana plants, more than 100 pounds of*

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hashish and \$103,000 in cash, said Jose Martinez, a spokesman for the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration.....The raids were conducted under a state search warrant issued for the Los Angeles Police Department, said Sandi Gibbons, a spokeswoman for the county district attorney's office.....
http://www.mercurynews.com/news/ci_13054717?nclick_check=1

One subject arrested for sales of marijuana

Source: SBPD

SANTA BARBARA, CA - 8/20/2009 - For the last year the Santa Barbara Police Department narcotic detectives have been receiving numerous complaints about marijuana being sold from a trailer at the Flamingo Trailer Park, 1210 Cacique Street. The citizens who complained were concerned that the occupants of the trailer, space 49, were using the trailer as a marijuana dispensary. The occupants advertised their business on the internet. After several weeks of surveillance and numerous complaints, the Santa Barbara Police Department Narcotic Detectives conducted undercover operations in the area.....The inside of the trailer was set up like a store, which sold marijuana, marijuana edibles, and other marijuana paraphernalia. Approximately 2-3 ounces of marijuana, 40 marijuana plants, one thousand dollars and other evidence were seized. While on scene, two individuals arrived at the location wanting to purchase marijuana. Detectives spoke to both individuals and determined that neither of them had a medical marijuana recommendation. The investigation led detectives to believe that a majority of the individuals who purchased marijuana at this location did not have or present a medical marijuana card or recommendation.....

<http://www.edhat.com/site/tidbit.cfm?id=1400&nid=21759>

3 arrested in medical marijuana raid

Thursday, August 20, 2009

ECHO PARK, Calif. (KABC) -- For the third time in a week, the Los Angeles Police Department has raided a medical marijuana facility. Police arrested three people during the raid Thursday night at the Royal Temple of Zion in Echo Park. Authorities say the facility has not applied for a hardship permit like all the other medical marijuana dispensaries, so selling the marijuana is illegal. About two pounds of marijuana were seized. The raid came after nearby residents told police illegal drugs were being sold at the location. Those associated with the temple say it is a Rastafarian ministry, and it has the legal right to sell marijuana to the sick. "This is a church run medical marijuana club providing medical marijuana for sick people, but we do it as a church," said Pastor Craig Rubin. "We don't just provide marijuana, we provide for their safety, their security....."

http://abclocal.go.com/kabc/story?section=news/local/los_angeles&id=6975964

DA says raid targeted illegal marijuana sales

By [Angelica Martinez](#) / Union-Tribune Staff Writer / September 10, 2009

.....More than two dozen people operating marijuana dispensaries were arrested in countywide raids that also shut down 14 storefronts, authorities announced Thursday morning. District Attorney Bonnie Dumanis said the search warrants served at dispensaries and some homes Wednesday "has nothing to do with legitimate medical marijuana patients or their caregivers." She said the 14 storefronts targeted were "so-called medical marijuana businesses that appear to be run by drug dealers." Officials declined to give details about the backgrounds of those arrested, but San Diego Police Chief William Lansdowne said some of those in custody have prior drug arrests. Authorities said they are still tallying the amount

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of marijuana and money seized in the operation. At least \$70,000 of cash was seized and six guns were taken into custody, officials said. Lansdowne said Wednesday's search and seizures culminated a five-month investigation that started with residents' complaints of the dispensaries. Neighbors cited noise, vandalism and other crimes associated with storefronts, Dumanis said. "There are now 60 storefronts operating and doing this under the guise of helping people who are sick," she said. In an area of Pacific Beach, for instance, Dumanis said five such dispensaries are within blocks of each other.....

<http://www3.signonsandiego.com/stories/2009/sep/10/bn10pot124442/>

Narcotics agents link two to sale of marijuana

By From staff reports / Saturday, September 12, 2009

Undercover narcotics agents with the Ventura County Sheriff's Department arrested two people on Thursday in connection with the sale of marijuana. Agents said the two, Kim Lurie, 44, of Perris, and Hilton Gurfinkiel, 33, of Woodland Hills, had advertised their marijuana delivery business in county newspapers and on the Internet. Agents said the 805 Delivery service claimed to comply with Proposition 215, which allows for the sale of medical marijuana in California. Agents allege Gurfinkiel and Perris sold marijuana to an undercover operative in violation of Proposition 215.....

<http://www.venturacountystar.com/news/2009/sep/12/narcotics-agents-link-two-to-sale-of-marijuana/>

City puts brake on medical pot clubs

Legal options eyed during 45-day ban

By [Angela Lau](#) / Union-Tribune Staff Writer / July 10, 2009

Purpose: To give city officials time to research whether Escondido should ban medical marijuana dispensaries or allow them to open and regulate them. Why: The city has received an application from a resident to operate a medical marijuana delivery center, but Escondido laws do not specify how to deal with medical marijuana requests. The medical marijuana controversy that has affected many communities has arrived in Escondido..... This month, the county began issuing identification cards. At the same time, it started drafting legislation to ban dispensaries. San Marcos, Vista and Temecula already have banned medical marijuana dispensaries. In Oceanside, the City Council imposed a moratorium on dispensaries in May after a doctor expressed interest in opening one.

<http://www3.signonsandiego.com/stories/2009/jul/10/1mc10pot214018-city-puts-brake-medical-pot-clubs/?northcounty&zIndex=129644>

West Sac puts moratorium on opening of medical pot outlets

By Gina Kim / Tuesday, July 14, 2009

West Sacramento joined dozens of other cities in California late Wednesday, temporarily halting the opening of medicinal pot distributors until it can decide whether to inhale. The City Council voted in favor of a 45-day moratorium at its meeting, giving administrators time to research the public safety, zoning and legal issues surrounding medical marijuana businesses, said city planner Steve Rikala. Although there aren't any dispensaries operating in West Sacramento, city leaders decided to look at the issue after receiving several inquiries in the past month about how to open them. "There are a lot of issues around dispensaries that require us to do some learning about the implications, consequence, rapidly evolving state of the law and also, what sort of approaches to regulation make the most sense," said Mayor Christopher Cabaldon. "Since it's an area we haven't been engaged in before, there are questions we need time to examine and assess." Dispensaries have been proliferating since U.S.

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Attorney General Eric Holder said in March that the Justice Department would not prosecute those operating under laws in California and the dozen other states that allow the drug for medical use.....The Sacramento City Council is considering a similar moratorium while it decides how to handle the estimated 30 dispensaries operating within city limits. About half of those opened in the past six months.

<http://www.sacbee.com/273/story/2014915.html>

Medical Marijuana Store Closes

Contributor: [Kelli Saam](#) / 7/10

Yuba County's first medical marijuana store closed just days after it opened. The store was located on North Beale Road in Linda. Yuba County officials say the owner apparently was not following state laws regarding medical marijuana dispensaries. State law requires the operators of medical marijuana stores be part of a cooperative and involved in the cultivation of the marijuana. After talking with Yuba County officials last week, the owner of the store in Linda decided to close.

<http://www.khsltv.com/content/topstories/story/Medical-Marijuana-Store-Closes/A4dS10fToECbV1zwTVfzXA.csp>

Rosemead says no to marijuana and adult stores

By Rebecca Kimitch, Staff Writer

Posted: 07/03/2009 07:07:58 AM PDT

ROSEMEAD - Rosemead doesn't have any marijuana dispensaries, strip clubs or sex shops, and city officials want to keep it that way. The city council unanimously adopted this week temporary bans on new medical marijuana dispensaries and adult stores in the city. Purveyors of both types of businesses have lately shown a lot of interest in the city, according to Brian Saeki, community development director for the city. And because Rosemead doesn't have any ordinance to regulate marijuana dispensaries, and its rules for adult businesses are outdated, officials determined moratoriums were necessary while laws are updated, Saeki said. Though the bans are not permanent, Councilmember's Sandra Armenta and Steven Ly both said they would prefer neither type of business open in Rosemead.....Approximately 100 cities and counties in California have adopted outright bans of medical marijuana dispensaries, while some three dozen have adopted laws allowing them to operate, according to Kris Hermes, spokesman for Americans for Safe Access, a medical marijuana advocacy group.....

http://www.sgvtribune.com/news/ci_12748335

Anderson OKs moratorium on medical marijuana outlets

By George L. Winship, Anderson Valley Post / July 22, 2009

ANDERSON - City Council members here Tuesday night approved a 90-day moratorium on medical marijuana dispensaries, saying they needed more time to study the issue. The council's 5-0 vote on the urgency ordinance came two days after Anderson resident Gina Munday opened The Green Heart, a medical marijuana collective and dispensary. It's the city's first such business, which Munday opened sooner than planned to beat the proposed moratorium. "I know the Mundays have opened their business and I don't know what we can do about that," Mayor Butch Schaefer said. City Attorney Michael Fitzpatrick said the moratorium will give the city time to research medical marijuana dispensaries, collectives and cooperatives.....

<http://www.redding.com/news/2009/jul/22/anderson-oks-moratorium-on-medical-marijuana/>

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Medical marijuana hits roadblock

Council wary of allowing dispensaries in the area

By Michele Clock / Union-Tribune Staff Writer / July 25, 2009

SANTEE — Medical marijuana dispensaries won't be coming to Santee – at least not in the near future. The Santee City Council voted this week to place a 45-day ban on business licenses and permits for medical marijuana dispensaries in the city, in response to what officials described as an emerging interest in opening the facilities. “If it helps somebody then so be it, but I don't want to be played for the fool that somebody's opening up a drugstore,” Santee Councilman Jack Dale said at a meeting Wednesday night, before casting one of four council votes in favor of a moratorium. . . . The city recently denied an application from a potential operator, and has received additional inquiries. A temporary moratorium will give the city time to “properly evaluate any potential impacts of the use” and consider whether regulations are appropriate, according to a city staff report. . . .

<http://www3.signonsandiego.com/stories/2009/jul/25/1ez25santpot193553-medical-marijuana-hits-roadbloc/>

Chula Vista Adopts Moratorium for Medical Marijuana

Reported by: [Courtney Dwyer](#)

25-year-old Daniel Green and 26-year-old Dustin Vogel are both medical marijuana patients. Their plan is to open CV Cooperative, which would distribute medical marijuana. . . . At Tuesday's city council meeting, the council voted in favor of a moratorium that allows officials to decide whether or not a dispensary is appropriate in certain areas of the city; a decision supported by those concerned with marijuana falling into the wrong hands. But the city council stresses that the moratorium does not put a ban on medical marijuana dispensaries, which for Green and Vogel, keeps their business hopes alive.

"Hopefully they can make the same decision the voters of California have and the patients of Chula Vista can have safe local access."

<http://www.sandiego6.com/news/local/story/Chula-Vista-Adopts-Moratorium-for-Medical/QU2SJwT2NU-yZjzdVn1qJg.cspX>

City approves moratorium on marijuana dispensaries

By Janine Zúñiga / Union-Tribune Staff Writer / July 24, 2009

NATIONAL CITY — National City has placed a 45-day moratorium on medical marijuana dispensaries while it studies the potential effect on the community. The City Council unanimously approved an ordinance Tuesday that prohibits any new business that sells or provides medical marijuana from opening in National City. The city's Planning Commission will begin looking into measures to prohibit or regulate the dispensaries. . . .

<http://www3.signonsandiego.com/stories/2009/jul/24/city-approves-moratorium-marijuana-dispensaries/?metro&zIndex=137598>

Santa Cruz passes 6 month medical marijuana moratorium

July 28, 9:16 PM / (AP Photo/Jeff Chiu)

Sometime around 6 pm today the Santa Cruz City Council passed a 6-month moratorium on medical marijuana dispensaries and production houses. The city currently has 2 dispensaries, WAMM and no licensed grow houses. In order to open a production house one must first have a dispensary operating in the city. . . .

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<http://www.examiner.com/x-14883-Santa-Cruz-County-Drug-Policy-Examiner~y2009m7d28-Santa-Cruz-passes-6-month-medical-marijuana-moratorium>

Loma Linda halts pot dispensaries

By DARRELL R. SANTSCHI / The Press-Enterprise / Thursday, July 30, 2009

The Loma Linda City Council has banned medical marijuana dispensaries for at least 45 days while the city looks at potential zoning regulations and the outcome of a court case challenging Anaheim's pot-dispensary ban. Mayor Stan Brauer, who proposed the ban, told fellow council members this week that he is not taking a stand for or against medical marijuana use or the dispensaries. He said he wants the city to have time to consider where in Loma Linda such facilities should be allowed.

http://www.pe.com/localnews/inland/stories/PE_News_Local_N_npot31.492f859.html

County puts the clamp on pot shops

By [Dave Moller](#) / Senior Staff Writer

Don't look for a medical marijuana dispensary to open in Nevada County outside of its cities soon. The Nevada County Board of Supervisors unanimously approved an emergency, 45-day moratorium on medical pot shops Tuesday. Supervisors then gave the job of crafting an ordinance regulating dispensaries to three county departments that already strongly oppose them. "I don't oppose medical marijuana, but I vehemently oppose outright retail sales of marijuana," said District Attorney Cliff Newell, who also suggested a "long-term moratorium" be considered. Newell led the charge along with Sheriff Keith Royal and Planning Director Jody Stewart. The move means legal pot shops can't be opened in the county areas outside the cities of Truckee, Grass Valley and Nevada City at least until Sept. 26. Grass Valley is under a one-year moratorium for dispensaries. Nevada City council members will deal with their 45-day moratorium when it lapses tonight.....

<http://www.theunion.com/article/20090812/NEWS/908119982/1001/NONE&parentprofile=1053>

Controversy Over Medical Marijuana Dispensary In Corning

Reported by: [Cindy Nixon](#) / 8/11

Since last Friday, Ken Prather has been running this medical marijuana dispensary called Tehama Herbal Collective or THC in Corning. Prather had been operating without a business license, but once he was told he needed to get one, the city denied that license. Corning Planning Director John Stoufer says even though California allows it, such dispensaries violate federal law. That's why Tuesday night the Corning City Council unanimously adopted an interim ordinance that would prohibit the dispensary from serving residents for up to 45 days. But Prather says he knows he's not breaking any laws and under the direction of his attorney he plans to continue to operate, business license or no business license.

http://www.khsltv.com/content/topstories/story/Controversy-Over-Medical-Marijuana-Dispensary-In/QTWQ_fjtq0KjZ_r6zpnfA.csp

San Diego bans medicinal marijuana

San Diego City Hall Examiner / Logan Broyles / August 12, 2010

The fight over the use of medicinal marijuana in San Diego has taken another turn. The San Diego County Board of Supervisors has voted to temporarily shut down every establishment that distributes the product. A 45-day moratorium has been placed on these businesses while the county creates new laws

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regarding dispensaries. The measure passed with all five votes, making San Diego county part of a regional trend. Two other cities in North County, Oceanside and Escondido, have passed similar measures. The primary concern of lawmakers is that they aren't allowed to regulate these businesses and their methods.

<http://www.examiner.com/x-18691-San-Diego-City-Hall-Examiner~y2009m8d12-San-Diego-bans-medicinal-marijuana>

Council OKs moratorium on pot dispensaries

Regulations requested before 45-day ban lifted

By Janine Zúñiga / Union-Tribune Staff Writer / August 22, 2009

Imperial Beach has imposed a moratorium on medical marijuana dispensaries and upheld a decision that prevents one from setting up shop on Palm Avenue. However, City Council members made it clear at a meeting Wednesday that if they decide to or are required by law to allow dispensaries, they want to be prepared with regulations. "This is an incredibly complex issue," said Councilwoman Diane Rose. "It could be a regulatory nightmare.....Councilwoman Patricia McCoy said she had many questions if the city permits marijuana dispensaries, including who are caregivers, how patients are screened and how much marijuana patients can receive. She said she feels sorry for law enforcement officials and is troubled that even those with "minor injuries" may buy medical marijuana legally.

<http://www3.signonsandiego.com/stories/2009/aug/22/1sz22ibpot221257-council-oks-moratorium-pot-dispen/?metro&zIndex=153607>

City Council enacts moratorium on marijuana dispensaries

By JESSICA CEJNAR, staff writer / August 18, 2009

BARSTOW o The medical marijuana issue came before the Barstow City Council on Monday in the form of a 45-day moratorium on the establishment of dispensaries within city limits. Councilmembers voted unanimously in favor of the moratorium, which would be used as a fact-finding mission to analyze the impacts a dispensary would have on the adjacent community. This information would be used to help the Council decide whether or not they support dispensaries operating within the city.....After the meeting, Gomez said he agreed to meet with the people who spoke in support of dispensaries, but also said he'd be willing to listen to those who oppose it. Gomez said he'll be talking with cities that have dispensaries in their neighborhoods as well as businesses that are adjacent to them.

<http://www.desertdispatch.com/news/marijuana-6723-barstow-moratorium.html>

Walnut Creek passes emergency moratorium on medical marijuana dispensaries

By Elisabeth Nardi / Contra Costa Times / 08/19/2009

Walnut Creek leaders voted in emergency session Tuesday to ban pot clubs in an effort to delay a proposal for a medical marijuana dispensary. The 45-day moratorium will put on hold efforts to put a "boutique-style" pot club at 1291 Oakland Blvd., just a few blocks from the BART station and downtown. Lafayette and Orinda have imposed moratoriums, while the county's unincorporated areas and Pleasant Hill and Concord prohibit dispensaries.....Supporters of the drug's medical use have been buoyed recently by comments from U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder that those abiding by state law will not be raided.

http://www.contracostatimes.com/ci_13151195

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Walnut Creek trying to shut down medical marijuana collective

By Elisabeth Nardi / Contra Costa Times / 08/31/2009

As a medical marijuana debate swirls in Walnut Creek, leaders of the city's first dispensary — apparently operating for the past few months — refuse to shut down even as the city fines it hundreds of dollars. The C3 Collective, a nonprofit private medical marijuana collective based in Walnut Creek, can be fined \$500 per day for violating the city's zoning code, according to city officials. The violation: The collective, which the city would consider a pharmacy, is in an area zoned for office and residential, said City Attorney Paul Valle-Riestra. The city's code enforcement officer checks to see if C3 is still open. The city has cited the business three times. The fines started at \$100, then went to \$250 and have peaked at \$500 per citation. C3 is appealing the violations.....Both police and the city's code enforcement officer continue to monitor the collective, Valle-Riestra said. The city could seek an injunction to stop the dispensary operation, but has not done so. The collective has not applied for a zoning change, said Valle-Riestra. The violations are not related to the 45-day moratorium the City Council passed Aug. 18 banning medical marijuana dispensaries in the city.....

http://www.mercurynews.com/breakingnews/ci_13240609?nclick_check=1

Walnut Creek sues to shut down medical marijuana dispensary

By Elisabeth Nardi / Contra Costa Times / 09/17/2009

Walnut Creek sued Tuesday in Contra Costa County Superior Court to shut down the C3 Collective — the city's first medical marijuana dispensary. City leaders assert that the dispensary at 1291 Oakland Blvd., which opened in August, is operating illegally, violating Walnut Creek's zoning laws. Meanwhile, leaders of another collective said Tuesday they plan to open a dispensary in Walnut Creek. Larry Flick of Greenleaf said he plans to open a wellness center that would dispense medical marijuana and offer massage, yoga and counseling. He said he operates other centers and plans to work with the city to get a Walnut Creek center open. These latest developments follow the City Council's go-ahead Tuesday night directing city staff to study allowing or permanently prohibiting medical marijuana dispensaries in Walnut Creek. This rather procedural action drew a crowd, mainly of medical marijuana users, who pleaded with the council to allow dispensaries. City Attorney Paul Valle-Riestra said the city currently prohibits such dispensaries. In August, the City Council passed a 45-day moratorium on dispensaries after learning that C3 was operating. Shortly thereafter, staff found a zoning law that prohibits any use that violates federal law. Marijuana is illegal federally, for all purposes, so a moratorium is not even necessary, Valle-Riestra said. The city has been fining C3, a nonprofit private collective, as much as \$500 a day to get it to close. The lawsuit was the next step, Valle-Riestra said. "Clearly the citation process wasn't persuasive," he said.....

http://www.insidebayarea.com/green/ci_13351312

Medical marijuana ban extended

City Council wants 10 more months to weigh options

By Tanya Sierra / Union-Tribune Staff Writer / September 3, 2009

CHULA VISTA — The moratorium on medical marijuana dispensaries that was set to expire tomorrow has been extended for 10 months while city officials monitor a related appellate court case, study information they have gathered and decide how or whether to regulate pot collectives. The City Council voted 4-0 to extend the temporary ban, knowing it may not take that long to figure out a process.....

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<http://www3.signonsandiego.com/stories/2009/sep/03/medical-marijuana-ban-extended/?metro&zIndex=159637>

Shasta Lake OKs moratorium on medical marijuana dispensaries

By [Record Searchlight staff](#) / September 2, 2009

SHASTA LAKE - A 45-day moratorium on the establishment of medical marijuana dispensaries here was unanimously approved Tuesday night by the Shasta Lake City Council. Their emergency action came after two such operations, one which opened its doors Monday afternoon, were approved at the staff level earlier this month.....

<http://www.redding.com/news/2009/sep/02/shasta-lake-oks-moratorium-medical-marijuana-dispe/>

City extends its ban on pot dispensaries

September 5, 2009

NATIONAL CITY: The National City Council has agreed to extend an urgency ordinance that prohibits any medical marijuana dispensaries from opening while it studies the potential effect on the community. Council members unanimously voted at a meeting Tuesday to extend the ordinance for 10 months and 15 days. The ordinance prevents any business that sells or provides medical marijuana from opening in National City.....

<http://www3.signonsandiego.com/stories/2009/sep/05/city-extends-its-ban-pot-dispensaries/?metro&zIndex=160998>

Council adopts medical marijuana moratorium

BY: Paula McCambridge / Friday, Sep 11th, 2009

The Atascadero City Council passed a motion 5-0 to create a 45-day temporary moratorium before anyone can establish or operate a medical marijuana facility in the city. City attorney Brian Pierik recommended the moratorium to the council saying that it would allow a research-and-discussion period to investigate any potential facility's legitimacy. "It is recommended that the council adopt the urgency ordinance," he said. "It would prevent the approval of a medical marijuana facility within the city for 45 days. At the end of 45 days, the matter would be returned to you for a decision as to whether to extend the moratorium.....

http://www.atascaderonews.com/V2_news_articles.php?heading=0&page=72&story_id=2137

Supes extend medical marijuana ban

Critics say pot dispensaries should be permanently banned

EDWARD SIFUENTES - esifuentes@nctimes.com | Wednesday, September 16, 2009

Sheriff's deputies and federal narcotics agents raid a Vista marijuana dispensary last week at 1050 South Santa Fe Avenue. (File photo by John Koester - For the North County Times) The Board of Supervisors voted unanimously Wednesday to extend the county's medical marijuana dispensary moratorium an additional 10 months while administrators develop an ordinance to regulate pot providers. The vote comes a week after authorities conducted a countywide operation to shut down more than a dozen medical marijuana establishments that officials said were operating illegally. The supervisors implemented the temporary ban last month, but county officials said they need more time to develop the ordinance. The moratorium, unless it is extended again, would end in August 2010.

http://www.nctimes.com/news/local/sdcounty/article_205625f7-ff12-55f8-9688-2e9cebf5ba.html

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Supervisors OK 45-day moratorium on new medical marijuana dispensaries

Written by Elizabeth Larson / Thursday, 17 September 2009

LAKEPORT – A unanimous Board of Supervisors vote Tuesday put into effect a 45-day moratorium on the opening of new medical marijuana dispensaries, which officials said is meant to offer county staff time to complete a draft zoning amendment to deal with the establishments. Supervisors Rob Brown and Jim Comstock worked with County Counsel Anita Grant and Community Development Director Rick Coel to draft the six-page urgency ordinance. Grant noted during the meeting, “The point here is to buy you a little breathing room to ensure that you address everyone's rights under the law.” Brown said the proposal was in response to an “explosion” of collective and dispensary openings that started this spring after the board began discussing the fact that the county's zoning ordinance doesn't specifically allow for them. That had led to notices of violation on six such establishments, which the board agreed to stay. He said the board wasn't going to discuss the merits of medical marijuana or Proposition 215, the Compassionate Use Act of 1996, which allow medical use of the drug in the state. Brown said his intention was for the temporary moratorium only to affect those dispensaries and collectives which had opened after the Notices of Violation were issued in April. “Anybody who's planning on putting one in right now or is in the process of putting one in shouldn't be allowed to put it in,” said Brown. Supervisor Jeff Smith pointed to news reports about other areas dealing with similar issues. That same day, the boards of supervisors for Shasta and Tehama counties considered similar urgency ordinances to place temporary moratoriums on collective and dispensaries, with Shasta voting one down and Tehama approving their version. Rushing asked if anyone can explain why the issue is coming up so frequently. “Because there's a lot of money to be made in it,” said Brown. Smith said it's also harvest time, but he believed many jurisdictions want to get ahead of what is happening with such marijuana sales outlets. Before opening public comment, Board Chair Denise Rushing set some ground rules for the large number of people in the chambers. “I'm going to need to cut you off if you talk about the medical benefits of marijuana,” she said. “We've had plenty of that already. That's not what this is about.” She said a committee to deal with the zoning issues hasn't been formed, and that the effort is taking place all in the public eye. Lower Lake attorney Ron Green presented several suggestions to alter the resolution which he and retired District 1 Supervisors Ed Robey drafted. He said they were meant to clarify the moratorium's language. He wanted the document's third paragraph changed to note that the Lake County Zoning Ordinance does not “presently explicitly allow” dispensaries and collectives. “The reason for that is that the zoning ordinance may in fact allow for medical marijuana dispensaries under the category of similar uses that are permitted in each zoning class,” Green said. He said dispensaries are most similar to pharmacies and drug stores, as well as liquor stores. “Where does the Lake County Zoning Ordinance presently allow it anywhere?” asked Brown. Green said he interpreted some of the commercial zoning language to allow for similar uses. Comstock said he wanted to hear from Grant and Coel on Green's points. “Whether this would be similar to a pharmacy, I disagree with that type of interpretation,” said Coel, noting that a pharmacy has a licensed pharmacist and retail facility. “It's just a different setup than a storefront collective or dispensary.” Rushing said she was concerned because she didn't intend for them to discuss the zoning ordinance, just the moratorium. Grant recommended they leave that language alone, since it could potentially limit future discussions on that point. Green also suggested that the language about which dispensaries would be affected was ambiguous. He said it should be made clear that, from this point forward, no new dispensaries or collectives should open. During the discussion Grant clarified that the draft ordinance was meant to keep in force a stay of

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enforcement against the six establishments that had received notices of violation. “The board is perfectly able to freeze it as of today,” she said, but they should set operations standards in case people try to argue about when they really opened. Brown said it was better to leave the language the way it was so that those outlets that had received the notices could still operate. Of the ones that have opened since the spring notices went out, Brown said, “They acted at their own risk, and they're not allowed. Until we get this ordinance figured out, they're not allowed.” Green said some of them may not have understood that they were opening at their own risk. Supervisor Anthony Farrington said all dispensaries should comply with state law, and if they do they should be allowed to operate. An additional suggestion by Green and Robey was meant to address those concerns, he said. He also suggested having collectives and dispensaries show proof of operation. Of the nine community members who spoke, seven were for the moratorium and two against. Middletown resident Fletcher Thornton said he wanted to see the temporary moratorium go into effect so rules could be established. He said there's a new dispensary on Main Street in Middletown, 150 feet from a school. “Don't tell me it's not allowed, because it's there,” he said, adding he'll ask the Middletown Area Town Hall to make suggestions to the board about how to zone dispensaries. Ronda Mottlow said she didn't support the moratorium, which she said was just another way to deny access to medical patients in need. Considering the county's rural nature, Mottlow said concentrating the establishments in the cities is a disservice to the people who need the drug. Dave Moses, managing partner of all Alternative Solutions dispensaries from here to Los Angeles County, also opposed the temporary moratorium. He said a community committee needs to be established in Lake County, as has been done in other areas, to draft rules. He accused Brown of benefiting from marijuana-related arrests from his bail bonds business, and also referred to the problems Brown has had on his property with illegal marijuana growers. After Moses left the microphone, Brown defended himself, saying no one growing marijuana on his property was involved with medical marijuana, and his private business is irrelevant to the discussion. Moses started making comments from the back of the room as Brown was speaking. “If you wanna say something come up here and say it. Don't pop off from the back,” Brown replied. Rushing told Moses he had to stop yelling from the back. When he didn't stop, she used her gavel for the first time this year. Other community members who are part of collectives said they favored the temporary measure. Diane Barkey of New Day Herbal Center in Clearlake Oaks said they sometimes give medical marijuana away free to those who need it. “We're here for the patient,” she said. Saying she supported the moratorium, Barkey added, “Most of us are in it for the right reasons, and I know we are.” Frank Molina, who owns a dispensary in Nice, echoed Barkey's sentiments. He said he's seeing a proliferation of collectives and dispensaries, and suggested it may be appropriate to set a limit for each area. Walter Zuercher, speaking on behalf of the Clear Lake Riviera Community Association, said they strongly support the ordinance. Dispensaries and collectives belong in places with good police protection, he said. Anita McKee, an area resident, said a dispensary recently reopened in a residential area in the Clear Lake Riviera. During its previous opening the area suffered crime issues, she said. The board unanimously accepted the urgency measure with Green's revisions, minus the addition of the word “explicitly” to the third paragraph. Rushing suggested they needed to agendaize a future discussion about forming a community committee to discuss zoning matters connected to dispensaries and collectives.

<http://lakeconews.com/content/view/10359/764/>

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Council extends marijuana moratorium

By JESSICA CEJNAR, staff writer / September 22, 2009 3:11 PM

BARSTOW • Medical marijuana dispensaries will not be allowed within Barstow city limits for another 10 months and 15 days, due to an ordinance passed by the City Council on Monday. Councilmembers voted unanimously to extend a moratorium on medical marijuana dispensaries after Associate City Planner Michael Massimini told members that city staff needed more time to wade through the documentation on the issue.....

<http://www.desertdispatch.com/news/barstow-6945-council-extends.html>

Madera Co. bans pot dispensaries

By Pablo Lopez / The Fresno Bee / Tuesday, Sep. 22, 2009

Madera County supervisors voted unanimously Tuesday to approve an ordinance that bans medical marijuana dispensaries in the county. Supervisors said dispensaries can increase crime, including drug-dealing, robbery and loitering, which impairs the health, safety and welfare of the community.....An explosion of medical marijuana dispensaries across the state has left cities and counties scrambling to figure out how to handle them. Fresno, for example, has sued nine such dispensaries in an attempt to shut them down.

<http://www.fresnobee.com/updates/story/1647660.html>

Fresno tries to stamp out pot dispensaries

Medical marijuana businesses crop up around town, with federal and state law at odds.

By Russell Clemings / The Fresno Bee / Saturday, Sep. 05, 2009

All of a sudden, medical marijuana has become a thriving business in Fresno -- in storefronts around town and in Superior Court. In recent months, at least nine dispensaries have taken root in the aftermath of a change in federal drug policy. Now city officials are asking a judge to shut them all down under a city zoning rule that the businesses say is impossible to comply with.....Simpson ordered the attorneys for all nine businesses to submit their arguments a week before the Sept. 17 hearing. But he sent clear signals Wednesday that he was leaning toward granting the city's request for an injunction, based on a recent appellate ruling in another medical marijuana case in Riverside County. "The conclusion looks virtually inescapable at this point that the operation of a medical marijuana dispensary in violation of the zoning ordinance is something that this court would be required to enjoin," the judge said. Whether he will change that view after hearing what the defense has to say remains to be seen. But their attorneys are confident that the law is on their side. "Ultimately, this will be decided in favor of the patients," Clark said. "We will get this sorted out."

<http://www.fresnobee.com/local/story/1627325.html?storylink=mirelated>

Pot shop ban extended in Corning

Council wants more time to study medical marijuana issues

Julie R. Johnson / Corning Observer / Thursday, Sep 24 2009,

Corning has given itself an additional 10 months and 15 days to decide what to do about zoning and regulations for medical marijuana dispensaries within the city limits. The extension came on a 4-1 vote after the council held a public hearing on Tuesday. Councilwoman Becky Hill was the opposing vote. The initial 45-day interim urgency ordinance banning medicinal marijuana dispensaries was approved Aug. 11, the extension will take the ordinance to Aug. 9, 2010.....The Tehama County Board of

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Supervisors passed a 45-day interim urgency ordinance banning medicinal marijuana, collectives and cooperatives within county jurisdiction on Sept. 15.

<http://www.corning-observer.com/news/marijuana-5979-dispensaries-council.html>

No Marijuana Dispensary in Claremont, Court Rules

By Kenneth Ofgang, Staff Writer /Thursday, September 24, 2009

California's medical marijuana law does not require cities to approve zoning for dispensaries, the Court of Appeal for this district has ruled. Div. Two, in an Aug. 27 decision certified Tuesday for publication, affirmed Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Dan T. Oki's injunction barring Darrell Kruse and Claremont All Natural Nutrition Aids Buyers Information Service, or CANNABIS, from operating a dispensary anywhere in the city of Claremont.....

<http://www.metnews.com/articles/2009/clar092409.htm>

Yucaipa bans medical marijuana dispensaries

By NOELLE KIELY / Staff Reporter / Thursday, September 24, 2009

Yucaipa city council adopted an ordinance prohibiting the establishment of medical marijuana dispensaries in the city of Yucaipa. The permanent ordinance came after the temporary ban expired. The ordinance, which will go into effect 30 days from the Sept. 14 meeting, received a 3 to 0 vote with no council discussion and Mayor Pro-tem Allan Drusys and Tom Masner absent.....

<http://www.newsmirror.net/articles/2009/09/25/news/doc4aba83260eb9f308706027.txt>

Madera County votes to ban medi-pot dispensaries

Wednesday, September 23, 2009

Madera, Calif. (AP) --Madera County supervisors have voted unanimously in favor of banning medical marijuana dispensaries in the county, including three already in operation. The supervisors voted Tuesday to approve the ordinance, arguing that the dispensaries become magnets for crime, such as robbery, loitering and illicit drug dealing.....

<http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/n/a/2009/09/23/state/n115143D82.DTL&type=politics>

San Bernardino bans medical marijuana dispensaries

By CHRIS RICHARD / The Press-Enterprise / Tuesday, September 22, 2009

San Bernardino became the latest Inland city to ban medical marijuana dispensaries late Monday. City Council members voted unanimously, with Dennis Baxter and Rikke Van Johnson absent, in favor of a ban, Deputy City Clerk Linda Sutherland said.....Several Inland cities, most recently Yucaipa on Sept. 14, have outlawed dispensaries. San Bernardino had imposed a temporary moratorium in March 2007 and extended it twice, most recently in February 2008, a staff report shows. The report notes that California's decriminalization conflicts with federal law. Studies by other cities show dispensaries contribute to increases in noise, traffic, burglaries and robberies, the report state.....

http://www.pe.com/localnews/inland/stories/PE_News_Local_N_nban23.48273d2.html

Rialto City Council seeks medical marijuana ban

[Josh Dulaney, Staff Writer](#) / 09/29/2009 08:01:01 PM PDT

RIALTO - Medical marijuana facilities may be banned from the city. The City Council in a 4-0 vote last week introduced an amendment to the municipal code prohibiting medical marijuana dispensaries

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and cooperatives. "All those provisions are all just primarily saying that we're establishing the sections of the code that would prohibit medical marijuana dispensaries in commercial and industrial areas throughout the city," said Michael Story, development services director, in a report to the council.
http://www.contracostatimes.com/california/ci_13446903?nclick_check=1

Other States are beginning to experience some of the same problems we in California have experienced for a number of years. The violence associated with the wholesale sale and growth of marijuana continues to follow the popularization of marijuana usage.

Colo. medical marijuana users surge in number

Charlie Brennan KDVR Reporter / July 1, 2009

DENVER - Colorado saw a record number of people register with the state as users of medical marijuana, which many attribute to the Obama administration's statement earlier this year that it did not intend to continue with federal raids on some marijuana dispensaries. Even though states have approved the use of medical marijuana, it does not change the fact that pot use remains prohibited by federal law. In May, 1,230 Coloradans were approved as "patients" who could obtain marijuana from a designated caregiver, providing they have a documentation of a diagnosis from a physician who is recommending marijuana for a debilitating medical condition. The May figure represents a significant surge from the 1,022 new patients in April, and is more than double the number for March, which was 602. The total number of patients who currently possess valid registry cards is 7,630. The average age of all patients is 24, and 72 percent of approved applicants are male. Those numbers are in-line with a similarly strong surge in the number of storefront clinics that dispense the drug, for complaints ranging from the effects of cancer to a category simply labeled "severe pain." Although the state does not license - nor does it keep track of - medical marijuana clinics, it is estimated that there are now at least 35 in the Denver metro area, where a year ago there were roughly a half dozen. "Amendment 20 and the laws and regulations that were put in place to support amendment 20, do not refer to dispensaries or clinics at all," Hyman said. "They are not mentioned whatsoever, and we have no relation with those entities."
http://www.kdvr.com/news/kdvr-medical-marijuana-070109_0_7162888.story

Lab says marijuana use up in Hawaii workplace

Pacific Business News (Honolulu) / Friday, July 10, 2009

Marijuana use in the second quarter was up 8 percent, to the highest level since 2004, according to statistics from Diagnostic Laboratory Services. Marijuana use was up from 2.3 percent in the first quarter to 2.7 percent in the second quarter of 2009, with 270 employees testing positive of the approximately 10,000 tested. "The positive rate for marijuana has increased during the recession to the highest level (2.7%) since Diagnostic Laboratory Services began keeping these statistics in 2004."

- Crystal methamphetamine: 0.6 percent, or about 60 employees, tested positive.
- Cocaine: 0.2 percent, or about 20 employees, tested positive.
- Opiates or prescription drugs: 0.2 percent or about 20 employees, tested positive.
- Marijuana: 2.7 percent, or about 270, employees tested positive.

<http://www.bizjournals.com/pacific/stories/2009/07/06/daily45.html>

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Driver Survey Finds Less Drinking, More Drugs

By Tara Parker-Pope / July 13, 2009

Random roadside checks show that the percentage of people driving under the influence of alcohol appears to be declining, but many weekend drivers test positive for drug use. The findings come from the latest roadside survey by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration based on breath, saliva, blood samples and questionnaires taken from randomly selected drivers in 300 locations around the United States. In 1973, 7.5 percent of drivers had a blood alcohol concentration of .08 or higher. (A level of .08 is above the legal limit in all 50 states.) In the latest survey, the percentage of people driving above the legal alcohol limit had fallen to 2.2 percent. For the first time, the roadside survey also used screening methods to detect marijuana, cocaine and prescription drugs. The survey found that 16.3 percent of nighttime weekend drivers tested positive for drugs. Nearly 9 percent had used marijuana, whereas nearly 4 percent tested positive for cocaine and a similar number had used prescription drugs. The drug tests only indicate the presence of the drug in the body and don't indicate when the drugs were used or whether the driver was impaired. The survey data showed that men were more likely to be impaired by alcohol than women. Drivers were most likely to be legally drunk between 1 a.m. and 3 a.m., compared with daytime or evening hours. The vehicles most likely to be operated by drunk drivers were motorcycles and pick-up trucks. The survey data were collected in 2007 from roadside locations throughout the country. Drivers were selected at random and waved off the road to a survey location by police officers, but the drivers were approached by interviewers who were not police officers. The drivers were assured that the survey was voluntary and anonymous. Of the 11,000 randomly selected drivers, about 90 percent agreed to give breath samples and 70 percent agreed to give saliva samples, said Jeff Michael, associate administrator for research and program development at the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. The interviewers used extra incentives to encourage participation in the survey. Drivers were given \$10 for saliva samples and \$50 for blood samples. When a driver refused to take part in any of the testing, they were then offered \$100 as an added inducement. Only a few hundred drivers refused to take part in the survey. While that may suggest those drivers were impaired by alcohol or drugs, the numbers were small enough that they were unlikely to have a large effect on the data. In addition, because the same methods were used during each survey, the results are a useful indicator of driving impairment trends from year to year.....

<http://well.blogs.nytimes.com/2009/07/13/driver-survey-finds-less-drinking-more-drugs/?hp>

Colorado's top doctor backs medical marijuana restrictions, says program 'out of control'

Colleen Slevin / July 20th, 2009

DENVER — Colorado's chief medical officer said Monday the state's medical marijuana program will "continue to grow out of control" unless more restrictive rules are adopted. Dr. Ned Calonge testified before the state health board in support of proposed new rules that would limit marijuana providers to five patients each.....Calonge, chief medical officer for the state health department, said those rules are creating confusion and the program is susceptible to fraud. He said large-scale marijuana growers busted by police are claiming to be medical marijuana suppliers. ***Calonge also said one doctor recommended that 200 people get medical marijuana cards in one day.*** The cards allow patients to grow their own marijuana or get it from a designated caregiver. Opponents say the limits would make it harder for patients to get medical marijuana.....

<http://blog.taragana.com/n/colorados-top-doctor-backs-medical-marijuana-restrictions-says-program-out-of-control-115136/>

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New Mexico's medical marijuana industry is about to bloom

By: Dave Maass 07/22/2009

Want to break into the marijuana business? You too can learn how to grow it, cook it, distribute it and, best of all, it's 100 percent legal. If Canntechs were to advertise on late-night television, that might be the pitch. As early as next month, the new company plans to offer training courses on New Mexico's medical cannabis laws and its emerging marijuana industry. The basic-level class—which includes cultivation, cooking and New Mexico-specific legal issues—will cost \$324.75 plus tax, according to the curriculum posted online at canntechs.com. In late December, the New Mexico Department of Health passed a series of rules that allow nonprofits to apply for licenses to grow and distribute pot to card-carrying medical cannabis patients. Canntechs is a for-profit company and won't be handling marijuana directly. Instead, Canntechs will serve as an all-purpose consulting and education firm, which will train the workers to fill jobs in growhouses and dispensaries, help patients register for the state program and help nonprofits craft their license applications.....

[http://sfreporter.com/stories/cannabizness/4790/Complete Coverage: Marijuana Nation](http://sfreporter.com/stories/cannabizness/4790/Complete%20Coverage:%20Marijuana%20Nation)

Trooper stops mobile pot crop

By Roseann Moring / WORLD-HERALD STAFF WRITER / Thursday July 30, 2009

A state trooper making a traffic stop on Interstate 80 on Thursday discovered a mobile marijuana-growing operation — complete with fluorescent lights — in the car's trunk. ***Trooper Greg Goltz said he noticed several canning jars that contained a total of 18 packets labeled as California medical marijuana, including brands such as Maui Wauai, Sour High, and Cheese,*** complete with a picture of a chunk of cheese. When Goltz searched the trunk of David Herman's car, he found 13 plants in two rubber totes with ice, a working fan, a digital thermometer and fluorescent lights. Wires that ran to the front of the car brought battery power to the contraption. ***Authorities also found business cards from California medicinal marijuana sellers and receipts for ice from California and Utah.*** Goltz, a 21-year patrol veteran, had never seen such a garden in the back of a car. "I guess you can do anything," he said. "It's just (that) somebody actually did it on this one." Goltz said such medicinal marijuana can be sold for \$7,000 to \$10,000 per pound in areas where the drug is illegal.....

<http://www.omaha.com/article/20090730/NEWS01/707319951>

Bank-fraud probe includes car dealer, pot dispensary

By John Ingold / The Denver Post / 08/14/2009

Law enforcement raided Cannamed, a medical-marijuana dispensary in Denver. Bail set for 3 in Russian scheme that bilked banks of \$80 million. Federal authorities arrested four people and served multiple search warrants in the Denver area this morning as part of a large bank-fraud investigation. Details are still sketchy, with more information expected this afternoon after court appearances by those arrested. Jeff Dorschner, a spokesman for the U.S. Attorney's Office in Colorado, said the case centers on a bank-fraud investigation but that during searches today, agents from the Federal Bureau of Investigation found possible connections to a medical-marijuana business. "During the course of that investigation, search warrants were executed, and it happened that one of the locations turned out to be a medical-marijuana dispensary," Dorschner said. "That was not the target of the investigation." 9News reported that federal authorities raided Maaliki Motors on Havana Street in Aurora and told the dealership's

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owner that they were interested in records of customers who purchased cars but failed to make payments on the loans. Updates on this story will be provided throughout the day here and at www.9news.com.

http://www.denverpost.com/ci_13088294

Mexico Legalizes Drug Possession

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS / Published: August 21, 2009

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Mexico enacted a controversial law on Thursday decriminalizing possession of small amounts of marijuana, cocaine, heroin and other drugs while encouraging government-financed treatment for drug dependency free of charge. The law sets out maximum “personal use” amounts for drugs, also including LSD and methamphetamine. People detained with those quantities will no longer face criminal prosecution; the law goes into effect on Friday. Anyone caught with drug amounts under the personal-use limit will be encouraged to seek treatment, and for those caught a third time treatment is mandatory — although no penalties for noncompliance are specified. Mexican authorities said the change only recognized the longstanding practice here of not prosecuting people caught with small amounts of drugs. The maximum amount of marijuana considered to be for “personal use” under the new law is 5 grams — the equivalent of about four marijuana cigarettes. Other limits are half a gram of cocaine, 50 milligrams of heroin, 40 milligrams for methamphetamine and 0.015 milligrams of LSD. President Felipe Calderón waited months before approving the law.

http://www.nytimes.com/2009/08/21/world/americas/21mexico.html?_r=1

15 doctors behind most pot referrals in Colorado

Aug 30,

DENVER (Map, News) - Statistics from the Colorado health department show two doctors are responsible for referring more than a third of the patients on the state's medical-marijuana registry. The Denver Post reports that of the roughly 10,000 medical-marijuana patients on the registry, 75 percent received their recommendations from one of 15 doctors. State health department director Jim Martin says it's a cause for concern. Colorado Attorney General John Suthers suggests that the state Board of Medical Examiners investigate the doctors recommending medical marijuana the most often to see if everything is proper. Cannabis advocates counter that the clustering of referrals is understandable, given that many doctors specialize in a particular area.

http://www.examiner.com/a-2193054~15_doctors_behind_most_pot_referrals_in_Colorado.html

2 days, 2 busts: OSP intercepts 168 pounds of marijuana in Southern Oregon

FROM OSP / September 01, 2009

MEDFORD, Ore. -- Two recent traffic stops 2 days apart by Oregon State Police troopers in southern Oregon on Interstate 5 netted nearly 170 pounds of marijuana and four arrests. The first incident led to arrest of two California residents and the second involved two Washington residents. In the first incident, at 1:55 PM Saturday an OSP trooper stopped a 2005 Dodge Caravan displaying California license plates northbound on I-5 near milepost 16 for a traffic violation. The trooper searched the vehicle and found approximately 106 pounds of marijuana with an estimated value in excess of \$300,000. OSP Drug Enforcement Section detectives assisted with the follow up investigation.

<http://www.ktv1.com/articles/marijuana-1191819-oregon-osp.html>

Medical Marijuana and Associated Issues

California Chiefs of Police Association

Medical Marijuana Task Force

July to September 2009

Man admits causing fatal crash while under influence of marijuana

By GREG TUTTLE Of the Gazette Staff | Posted: Monday, August 31, 2009

Matthew Murray Kewitt admits that he was under the influence of marijuana when he caused a crash that resulted in the death of a child and pleaded guilty to vehicular homicide and negligent vehicular assault for the March 7, 2008 wreck near the intersection of Central Avenue and Florine Lane. A 24-year-old man admitted Monday that he was under the influence of marijuana when he caused a crash that resulted in the death of a child. Kewitt was driving a pickup truck at 7 a.m. when he suddenly turned across oncoming traffic and struck a car driven by 19-year-old Alyssa Kline, who was seventh months pregnant. Kline was seriously injured, and her baby was delivered by emergency Cesarean section. The child, Ryeli Kline-Embry, died nine days after the crash. During his court appearance, Kewitt answered questions from his attorney, Michael Moses, about the crash. Kewitt acknowledged that he had ingested marijuana the night before and into early morning, admitting that the marijuana diminished his ability to drive safely. Kewitt also said he failed to clear frost from the entire windshield of his truck, limiting his vision as he drove. As part of a plea agreement, prosecutors will recommend that Kewitt receive a sentence for vehicular homicide of 15 years with the state Department of Corrections with 10 years suspended and a \$10,000 fine. The agreement calls for a suspended 10-year prison sentence for the negligent-vehicular-assault charge, and Kewitt will be ordered to pay restitution. . . .

http://billingsgazette.com/news/local/crime-and-courts/article_017205c0-9650-11de-9f0d-001cc4c002e0.html

Michigan Man Gets 5 Years For Flying With 300 Pounds Of Marijuana

Posted: 5:51 PM Sep 2, 2009

A Michigan man will spend five years behind bars for flying into Salina with almost 300 pounds of marijuana on his plane. A Michigan man will spend five years behind bars for flying into Salina with almost 300 pounds of marijuana on his plane. According to the U.S. Attorney's Office, Aaron Hartwell stopped in Salina for fuel while en route to Michigan. The Saline County Sheriff's Office searched the plan and discovered the marijuana, following a tip from authorities in California. Two more men arrested in connection with the flight still await sentencing while a third has received 51 months.

<http://www.wibw.com/localnews/headlines/56751732.html>

** Each of the listed articles are available in their entirety upon request