

**Medical Marijuana Dispensaries and Associated Issues**  
**Presented to the California Chiefs of Police Association**  
**September to December 2007**  
**Cmdr. M. Regan**

As we have discussed in the past, the problems associated with Marijuana Dispensaries go far beyond the confines of the physical location. The marijuana sold at dispensaries is most often grown off site. Dispensaries and these off site grows have attracted a well armed and very violent group of criminals seeking to profit from the theft of marijuana and large sums of cash. The under reporting of these crimes as well as a lack of regulation of these businesses no doubt add to the problem. Listed below are excerpts of articles expressing the violence associated with this type of trade. I have saved these articles in their entirety for your review at a later date if you wish to view the full version.

**Robbery Suspect Charged With Murder after Alleged Accomplices Killed by Homeowner**

Thursday, November 15, 2007 / *Associated Press*

LAKEPORT, Calif. — Three young black men break into a white man's home in rural Northern California. The homeowner shoots two of them to death, but it's the surviving black man who is charged with murder..... Prosecutors said homeowner Shannon Edmonds opened fire Dec. 7 after three young men rampaged through the Clearlake house demanding marijuana and brutally beat his stepson. Edmonds' stepson, Dale Lafferty, suffered brain damage from the baseball bat beating he took during the melee. The 19-year-old lives in a rehabilitation center and can no longer feed himself.....

Source: <http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,311894,00.html>

**Two More Arrests Made In North Valley Murder Case**

Nov 9, 2007

.....The arrests were made in connection with the murder of Rosa Avina back on October 24th. *Avina was kidnapped, tied, and forced into the trunk of a vehicle, before being taken to Ballico and burned alive*..... Sheriff's Deputies say that during the time of the arrests, approximately fifty-five pounds of Marijuana and a shotgun was seized..... According to authorities Vasquez is believed to have participated in the planned mock home invasion robbery of Avina's Turlock home..... These latest arrests should put out of business a ruthless Drug Trafficking Organization operating in Merced County, but further illuminates how far these barbarians will go to protect their drugs, and that is Murder," Merced County Sheriff, Mark Pazin said, Currently eleven people have been arrested in connection with the murder investigation.

Source: <http://www.kmph.com/Global/story.asp?S=7339358>

**Nevada County marijuana shootout leaves one dead**

The Associated Press / 10/01/2007

NEVADA CITY, Calif.—A homeowner apparently engaged in a gun battle with two masked men who tried to break into his marijuana garden, killing one of the alleged assailants and ending up seriously wounded himself. Nevada County sheriff's deputies say the Saturday night shootout started when two masked men armed with assault rifles broke into Dusty Beck's home..... Beck fatally shot one of the assailants with a shotgun, the sheriff's department said..... Pot garden robberies are "getting worse and worse every year," Evans said. "I bet tons go unreported."

Source: [http://www.mercurynews.com/news/ci\\_7053341?nclick\\_check=1](http://www.mercurynews.com/news/ci_7053341?nclick_check=1)

### **Armed suspect shot, killed by deputy near marijuana grow**

The Associated Press / Article Launched: 10/04/2007

EUREKA, Calif.—An armed suspect who authorities said threatened officers with a gun near a marijuana plantation was shot to death. . . . Marijuana plantings on private timber and public lands have been an increasing problem. . . . Because harvest time is near, marijuana growers are more willing to defend the plantations in the fall, Nelsen said. "The plants are a lot more valuable now," he said.

Source: [http://www.mercurynews.com/news/ci\\_7084988](http://www.mercurynews.com/news/ci_7084988)

### **Game warden shooting is first in department history**

The Associated Press / 10/09/2007

JARBO GAP, Calif.—A California Department of Fish and Game warden shot and killed a man in a remote area of the Sierra foothills, the first fatal shooting by a state game warden in the agency's history. . . . Ramsey said Pitts moved into a travel trailer on the rural property in April to help tend an illegal marijuana plot that recently had been harvested. . . . Pitts opened fire with a shotgun when the warden returned to the trailer to make the arrest, Ramsey said. The warden shot back, killing Pitts.

Source: [http://www.redbluffdailynews.com/ci\\_7128225?source=most\\_viewed](http://www.redbluffdailynews.com/ci_7128225?source=most_viewed)

### **Shooting Death Linked To Massive Lompoc Marijuana Farm**

11-01-07 at 9:12AM

SANTA BARBARA, Calif. (AP) -- Investigators say the shooting death of a man dumped along a Santa Barbara County highway is linked to a massive 90,000-plant marijuana garden discovered near Lompoc.

Source: <http://www.cbs8.com/stories/story.107672.html>

### **Suspects invade Nevada County home seeking cultivated marijuana**

The Associated Press / 10/15/2007

GRASS VALLEY, Calif.—Investigators are searching for *four people suspected of breaking into a rural Nevada County home in search of cultivated marijuana and beating eight people with crow bars and baseball bats*. . . . "It's harvest season," Evans told The Associated Press on Monday. "Marijuana is worth a lot." . . . Deputies were called to the house shortly after 4 a.m. Sunday and found eight people beaten and bound inside. A 27-year-old victim was taken to a Roseville hospital in critical condition.

Source: [http://www.mercurynews.com/breakingnews/ci\\_7184204?nclick\\_check=1](http://www.mercurynews.com/breakingnews/ci_7184204?nclick_check=1)

### **Home invasion linked to pot**

Bolted baseball bat used in alleged robbery attempt

By Robyn Moormeister / Oct 17, 2007

A 37-year-old man was seriously injured when two men allegedly broke into a house outside Cedar Ridge late Monday night and *attacked two other men with a wooden baseball bat that had long metal bolts driven into the end*. . . . Police found about 22 pot plants at the house. . . . Violent marijuana robberies are happening all over California this harvest season, said Drug Enforcement Administration Special Agent Gordon Taylor in Sacramento. . . . Sheriff's investigators say the recent string of similar attempted robberies are not linked, Smith said. They suspect different attackers are involved in each incident, while the home invasions are not random, but targeted, perhaps by people who know the victims. "This is high risk, high gain to these (intruders)," Smith said. "They're probably going to let you do all the work, then take (the marijuana) after you pick off all the buds."

Source: <http://www.theunion.com/article/20071017/NEWS/110170173>

### **Medical pot users seek help in theft**

By EMILIE RAGUSO / November 16, 2007

A gunman stole 3 pounds of marijuana from the garden of several medical marijuana users at a southwest Modesto home last week. The growers valued the prime buds, which they'd tended from seeds for nine months in a greenhouse full of bell peppers, tomatoes, corn and sunflowers, at \$12,000 to \$16,000.....

Source: <http://www.modbee.com/local/story/122848.html>

### **Medical marijuana stolen in home invasion robbery**

Story Created: Dec 14, 2007 at 2:20 PM CST

Bakersfield Police are investigating a home invasion robbery in Northeast Bakersfield.

Officers say three men showed up at the door of a home in the 7000 block of College Avenue about 8 p.m. Thursday. The men apparently got away with some cash, electronic equipment and some medical marijuana.

Source: <http://www.eyeforyou.com/news/local/12511671.html>

### **2 arrests in pot theft near SRJC**

Ukiah men robbed of 3 pounds of marijuana at gunpoint; suspects found within hour

By [KATY HILLENMEYER](#) / THE PRESS DEMOCRAT

Two men suspected of stealing marijuana at gunpoint were arrested early Monday in Santa Rosa following a robbery in a parking lot in the Santa Rosa Junior College neighborhood, police said. The robbery victims were two Ukiah residents, who told police the marijuana was for medicinal purposes. Three pounds of marijuana were taken in the robbery.....The holdup marked at least the fourth time in two months that police responded to marijuana-related armed robberies in and around Santa Rosa;

**On Dec. 2**, three gunmen forced their way into a Stevenson Street home in Santa Rosa. The victims told police that one man held the occupants, a woman and three teenage girls, while two others searched the residence and found marijuana and cash.....Police found evidence that marijuana had recently been harvested on the property. One resident said the marijuana was used medicinally.

**On Nov. 27**, police said, a subject was shot to death after he and two accomplices broke into a Rincon Valley rental home. Police said they found more than 300 pounds of processed marijuana inside the Beech Avenue house and retrieved \$26,000 in cash.

Five tenants were arrested on suspicion of possessing marijuana for sale and related charges.

**On Oct. 24**, Sonoma County sheriff's deputies responded to an armed robbery at a Bellevue Avenue home where investigators said a large quantity of marijuana was growing.

Source: <http://www1.pressdemocrat.com/article/20071211/NEWS/712110358/1033/NEWS01>

### **Hollywood Medical Marijuana Facility Robbed**

Monday, September 18, 2006

Los Angeles: Two men, posing as Los Angeles police officers, robbed the Hollywood Patient Collective on August 27, 2006, netting over \$14,000 in cash and drugs.....They claimed to be LAPD officers and handcuffed the eight persons inside the facility, including the owner, an armed security guard, and an employee. The other persons were patrons, or patients, who were smoking marijuana. "The robbers posed as police officers to convince the security guard to surrender his gun," .....

Source: [http://lapdonline.org/home/video\\_view/33366](http://lapdonline.org/home/video_view/33366)

### **Medical marijuana growers robbed**

From staff reports / October 29, 2007

The Oak View residents who called the Sheriff's Department early this morning to report that a group of men pretending to be Sheriff's deputies had stolen their pot had legal permits for the two marijuana plants that were filched, authorities said.....

Residents told authorities they heard men say they were sheriff's deputies and order everyone in the home to lie to the ground, then someone broke a window and took and two marijuana plants.....

Source: <http://www.venturacountystar.com/news/2007/oct/29/morning-report-pot-robbery-reported-oak-view/>

### **Attempted burglary at a marijuana dispensary in Santa Barbara**

Reported by: [Ryan Quintana](#) / Monday, October 15, 2007

SANTA BARBARA: A 17-year-old boy is arrested by Santa Barbara Police for an attempted burglary at a marijuana dispensary Friday night. Police arrived at SBC Patients Collective on De La Vina Street at 11:00 p.m. and found two juveniles in a vehicle. The 17-year-old was trying to get in the car when an officer saw blood on his hands. Police say he had cut them trying to break in. The other two teens were questioned and released.

Source: <http://www.ksby.com/Global/story.asp?S=7220485>

### **More Juvenile Arrests for Drugs and Drinking**

Sue Pascoe, Staff Writer / October 17, 2007

The Los Angeles Police Department Vice Unit has arrested seven juveniles and one adult this month for alcohol violations and illegal drug use in Pacific Palisades.....The youth told police that they thought it was okay to buy the marijuana because it was sold to them by a person who had a medical marijuana card.

Source: [http://www.palisadespost.com/content/index.cfm?Story\\_ID=3300](http://www.palisadespost.com/content/index.cfm?Story_ID=3300)

### **Police find guns, ammo, pot in big bust**

Wednesday, November 21, 2007

Police raided four separate barns at a property on Petersen Lane on Thursday, breaking up a large marijuana-growing operation and uncovering four AK-47 rifles and hundreds of ammunition rounds during the search. Officers confiscated 460 pot plants at the property...along with hydroponics equipment and the weapons. Information found with the guns lead them to a Kentfield address, where more weapons were found. In total, 33 guns — rifles and handguns — were found at the two locations.....

Source: <http://www.petaluma360.com/article/AC/20071121/NEWS01/71120053/-1/PT07&template=ptart>

With the continued popularity of in door marijuana growing operations comes the increased risk to home owners, neighbors and public safety personnel. In an effort to conceal the grow operation from law enforcement and thieves, growers are moving their operations indoors. This creates a number of hazards. People involved indoor growing operations often manipulate the electrical systems to conceal their electricity usage and avoid paying the considerable cost of the electricity they use. Controlling the climate is an essential part of the indoor growing operation. Often the chemical composition of the air inside the house is modified to enhance plant growth, to the detriment of first responders should they need to enter the grow area. These modifications coupled with growers arming themselves to discourage robberies and the use of booby traps can make responding to a fire or other emergency at a grow operation increasingly hazardous.

### **Pot growing scheme may have sparked Antioch apartment fire**

[By Malaika Fraley / STAFF WRITER](#) / 12/31/2007

ANTIOCH-- Two young Antioch residents were arrested Sunday night after their apartment was set afire by what police suspect was a small marijuana growing operation.

A lamp used to grow marijuana in a closet likely sparked the fire that led firefighters to evacuate the several apartments

Source: [http://www.mercurynews.com/breakingnews/ci\\_7849288](http://www.mercurynews.com/breakingnews/ci_7849288)

### **Marijuana plants tied to house fire**

Tuesday, October 23, 2007 –

Police say a marijuana grow operation inside an Auburn house led to an electrical fire that destroyed most of the home early Sunday. A man and a woman who lived in the house in the 2700 block of Alpine Drive Southeast were arrested on suspicion of growing marijuana, said Auburn Police Commander Willard Lathrop. Police found about 400 plants in various stages of growth. The grow was fueled by an illegal power tap. An electrical short in one of the grow rooms caused the fire, Lathrop said.....

Source: [http://seattletimes.nwsources.com/html/localnews/2003968565\\_dige23m.html](http://seattletimes.nwsources.com/html/localnews/2003968565_dige23m.html)

### **Oakland warehouse fire betrays location of marijuana operation**

[Henry K. Lee, Chronicle Staff Writer](#) / Saturday, November 10, 2007

Federal drug agents are investigating an apparent marijuana-growing operation at a West Oakland building that was uncovered after firefighters put out a three-alarm blaze Friday at an adjacent warehouse, authorities said.....An estimated 300 to 400 marijuana plants were found inside the building, said Special Agent Casey McEnry, DEA spokeswoman in San Francisco.....

Source: <http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?file=/c/a/2007/11/10/BAUJT9IJD.DTL&type=printable>

### **Man arrested after marijuana found in burning home**

The Associated Press / 12/10/2007

LOS ANGELES—A man has been arrested after hundreds of suspected marijuana plants were found growing in a San Fernando Valley home that caught fire.....The fire was reported about 7 a.m. and firefighters managed to confine it to the patio. Upon further inspection, firefighters found what they believed to be dozens of marijuana plants. Police arrived a short time later and confiscated 382 plants.

Source: [http://www.mercurynews.com/breakingnews/ci\\_7681350?nclick\\_check=1](http://www.mercurynews.com/breakingnews/ci_7681350?nclick_check=1)

### **Man faces charges after authorities find pot while fighting fire**

The Associated Press / 10/30/2007

FRESNO, Calif.—A Fresno man faces charges after firefighters find more than 800 marijuana plants growing in a vacant house. Authorities arrested Andy Lieng after firefighters found the pot plants when they responded to a fire at a vacant home owned by Lieng. Deputies later went to a second home owned by Lieng, where they say they found an additional 900 marijuana plants.....Investigators say the vacant home where the fire occurred had been converted into a greenhouse with special lighting fixtures used to grow the plants. The fire was caused by overloaded electrical lines, Fresno fire officials reported.

Source: [http://www.mercurynews.com/breakingnews/ci\\_7322012](http://www.mercurynews.com/breakingnews/ci_7322012)

### **Two senior citizens in Alameda arrested for having 200 marijuana plants**

By Peter Hegarty / MediaNews / 10/09/2007

An elderly couple caught with more than 200 marijuana plants at their Alameda home mounted the pot-growing operation because they needed cash, according to police. Paul Richard Martinetti, 73, and Suzanne Roberts, 68, were taken into custody on Thursday at their residence on Garfield Avenue.....A narcotics officer who asked that his name not be disclosed described it as a "well-organized operation," but not very sophisticated. "He told me that he had run into financial difficulties and that they decided to begin growing marijuana as a way to make cash,".....

Source: [http://www.mercurynews.com/breakingnews/ci\\_7127039?nclick\\_check=1](http://www.mercurynews.com/breakingnews/ci_7127039?nclick_check=1)



### **Calif. police, DEA bust pair of pot operations**

By Angela Woodall and Harry Harris / Inside the Bay Area

OAKLAND, Calif. — Raids conducted by Oakland police netted nearly 7,000 marijuana plants and two suspects in little over 24 hours....."It was unbelievable," Whitman said. "The entire house upstairs and downstairs was laden with plants, including the bathrooms and kitchen. Literally there was no place inside for anyone to live.....The entire house was devoted to marijuana-growing, Whitman said, adding that neighbors reported seeing people at the house only about once monthly..... Agents estimated the value of the plants at \$3.5 million. No arrests were made and the investigation is continuing, McEnry said. Agents seized a Mercedes Benz parked in the driveway and are still trying to determine the identity of the homeowner. Federal agents were on their way Tuesday night to Oakland for a second time in as many days when police at 7:50 p.m. seized about 2,000 marijuana plants from a West Oakland indoor pot farm.....

Source: <http://www.policeone.com/federal/articles/1363611/>

### **33 pounds of marijuana found at Tahoe home**

Nevada Appeal News Service / November 3, 2007

..... Inside the home, drug agents seized 33.5 pounds of marijuana, said Jeff Catchings, task force commander for the South Lake El Dorado Narcotics Enforcement Team. Agents also discovered a small marijuana-growing operation inside the home, Catchings added.....The Hallens each had county-issued medical marijuana cards that allow growing up to 10 marijuana plants for medicinal purposes, Catchings said. But there was evidence of sales for the processed marijuana, which resulted in the felony charges.

Source: <http://www.nevadaappeal.com/article/20071103/NEWS/111030139>

### **Deputies sniff out marijuana operation**

Nov 20, 2007

.....The Kern County Sheriff's Department tells Eyewitness News deputies responded to a separate call on Kearney Ave. and while there, they smelled a strong odor of marijuana. The deputies followed the smell coming from a nearby building. After obtaining a search warrant, investigators discovered around 700 plants of marijuana with a street value estimated at \$1,750,000. The building had artificial sun lights, a water system and ventilation to grow the pot indoors. This is one of the largest pot busts deputies have found indoors.

Source: <http://www.eyecoutforyou.com/home/11674741.html>

### **San Jose Man Convicted of Cultivating Over 1000 Marijuana Plants and Possessing 30 Firearms**

Posted on Tuesday, November 20, 2007

LAWFUEL - The Legal Newswire - SAN JOSE – United States Attorney Scott N. Schools announced that Kevin Dugan was convicted by a federal jury of manufacturing marijuana, possession of marijuana with the intent to distribute, maintaining a place for the purpose of manufacturing and distributing marijuana, and being an unlawful user or addict in possession of firearms.

Source: <http://lawfuel.com/show-release.asp?ID=16178>

### **Valley's pot gardens move to the indoors**

By James Guy / The Fresno Bee / 12/09/07 23:06:02

The value of dope: Inside two new tract houses in northwest and southeast Fresno, authorities found millions of dollars in potent marijuana -- and indications that a new way of growing it is catching on in the central San Joaquin Valley. A look at the value of marijuana found in each home.

Location: 2482 S. Villa Ave.

Found: 862 marijuana plants

Value: \$3 million

Location: 5307 W. Donner Ave.

Found: 973 marijuana plants

Value: \$3.8 million

.....Indoor marijuana farms allow organized criminal groups to grow powerful new strains of the drug faster, more profitably and with less risk than an outdoor garden. "You can harvest a crop every three months, and after a year, walk away with \$1.5 million," said Robert Pennal of the state's Bureau of Narcotic Enforcement.....The marijuana grown in the southwest Fresno home at 2482 S. Villa Ave. was found -- like many of the indoor farms are -- by firefighters. Someone had bypassed the home's electricity meter to steal power. This is done so utility companies don't grow suspicious when a home uses thousands of dollars of power a month, according to Pennal. But as in the Villa home, it's often a shoddy wiring job that sparks an electrical fire.

Source: <http://www.fresnobee.com/263/story/254974.html>

### **Crash, traffic stop lead to wide-reaching Bay Area marijuana bust**

Bay City News Service / 12/13/2007

California Highway Patrol officers unearthed a wide-reaching Bay Area marijuana operation after responding to two separate traffic incidents in Vacaville, it was announced Wednesday. The investigation to date has yielded over 800 marijuana plants worth \$2 million from homes in Vacaville, Walnut Creek, Lafayette and Martinez, CHP officers said.....The investigation is ongoing.

Source: [http://www.mercurynews.com/breakingnews/ci\\_7710084?nclick\\_check=1](http://www.mercurynews.com/breakingnews/ci_7710084?nclick_check=1)

### **Three arrested for indoor marijuana-grow operations**

12/12/2007

.....Agents located two sophisticated indoor marijuana cultivation sites at the properties near Wool Mountain, according to a news release. A total of 612 plants were seized from a camouflaged structure in a creek bed. An additional 1,687 plants were seized from a two-story barn with four grow rooms.....Also discovered was an underground 1,000-gallon diesel tank that was leaking from a faulty valve, the release stated. HCDTF contacted Humboldt County Environmental Health, which responded to document the environmental impacts.....Agents located seven rifles, three handguns and paperwork with notations consistent with the sales of multiple pounds of marijuana bud, according to the release.

Source: <http://www.eureka-reporter.com/ArticleDisplay.aspx?ArticleID=31673>

### **Detectives bust marijuana grow houses in Aptos, Santa Cruz**

Jennifer Squires / Sentinel staff writer

.....The investigation, which started 18 months ago, has led to a total of six raids at five addresses -- including the houses searched Thursday -- Carney said. Detectives have confiscated almost 2,000 plants, worth \$2.4 million to \$3.6 million on the street.....The same group of people bought all the houses in 2005 and allegedly set up the grows, according to detectives. Investigators think the owners were using the marijuana grows to pay the mortgages on the homes. "It appears they've been financing the houses with the cultivation and sales of marijuana," Carney said.

Source: <http://www.santacruzsentinel.com/story.php?storySection=Local&sid=51603>

### **Marijuana operations uncovered in Fairfield**

Article Launched: 12/16/2007 07:42:49 AM PST

Fairfield Police officers uncovered a sophisticated marijuana growing system Thursday while executing a search warrant on Bellamy Court.....Police reportedly found a marijuana cultivation system in the home, including high-intensity lighting equipment, fans, a portable air conditioning unit, power converters and timers. Officers also allegedly recovered a half-pound of processed marijuana and 70 marijuana plants.

Source: [http://www.thereporter.com/news/ci\\_7737688](http://www.thereporter.com/news/ci_7737688)

## **Marijuana Mansions**

By [STEVEN KURUTZ](#) / Published: December 9, 2007

Marijuana growers have long faced a dilemma. If they grow pot outdoors, weather conditions are unpredictable, and plants can be spotted from the air or accidentally discovered. . . . According to Lt. Greg Garland of the sheriff's department in San Bernardino County, where more than 50 pot houses have been raided this year, the growers favor newer communities in outlying suburbs because they get more space for the money, and residents pay scant attention to their neighbors.

Source:

[http://www.nytimes.com/2007/12/09/magazine/09marijuana.html?\\_r=1&ref=magazine&oref=slogin](http://www.nytimes.com/2007/12/09/magazine/09marijuana.html?_r=1&ref=magazine&oref=slogin)

## **Warehouse pot growing operation found in Santa Cruz County**

The Associated Press / 12/31/2007

SOQUEL, Calif.—A marijuana growing operation has been uncovered in a Soquel warehouse. . . . While the 377 plants wasn't a huge haul, Sgt. Steve Carney says it was the largest warehouse operation he can recall, noting there was room to grow 3,000 plants at a time.

Source: [http://www.mercurynews.com/breakingnews/ci\\_7849059?nclick\\_check=1](http://www.mercurynews.com/breakingnews/ci_7849059?nclick_check=1)

While there has been a significant increase in indoor grows, there appears to have been no real decrease in outdoor growing operations. It has been opined that outdoor growers were moving to indoor grow operations as the indoor grows were less susceptible to theft and seizure by law enforcement. However, both growing styles appear to be on the rise. It is expected that seizures of marijuana grown outdoors will continue the previous year's upward trend.

## **Marijuana Cultivation Sites Eradicated in Merced River Drainage**

Author: National Park Service / Published on Oct 4, 2007, 08:47

On the 26th and 27th of September 2007, approximately 30 law enforcement officers from the Mariposa County Sheriff's Office, the US Forest Service, the California Bureau of Narcotics Enforcement (CAMP), and Yosemite National Park raided four illegal marijuana cultivation sites. . . . A total of 14,536 plants valued at over 43 million dollars were seized.

Source: [http://www.yubanet.com/artman/publish/printer\\_67087.shtml](http://www.yubanet.com/artman/publish/printer_67087.shtml)

## **3000 Plants and 10 lbs of Processed Marijuana Eradicated at Sheep Ranch Road and San Antonio Creek**

Posted by: Kim Hamilton on 10/22/2007 03:58 PM

. . . . the Calaveras County Sheriff's Office received a call from an anonymous person, who stated that both he and his son had been the victim of an assault with a deadly weapon. The caller explained that he had been hunting in an area near Sheep Ranch, and after hiking in an area, he turned on his flashlight, and was immediately fired upon from at least one firearm. . . . Deputies and members of the Calaveras County Narcotic Enforcement Unit removed over 3000 marijuana plants, and seized over 10 pounds of processed marijuana from the garden. . . . The garden appeared to have been tended to workers who lived within a primitive camp in the garden, and was likely grown for a Mexican drug trafficking organization.

Source: [http://thepinetree.net/index.php?module=announce&ANN\\_user\\_op=view&ANN\\_id=4203](http://thepinetree.net/index.php?module=announce&ANN_user_op=view&ANN_id=4203)

## **Authorities arrest 19 in three-day marijuana bust**

The Associated Press / 11/08/2007

LOS ANGELES—A Los Angeles County sheriff's spokesman says 19 people have been arrested and 300,000 plants uprooted in a three-day sting targeting marijuana cultivation.



..... Whitmore says of the crops: "These grows not only use chemicals that can pollute streams. They create mounds of human waste and thousands of pounds of camp trash."

Source: [http://www.mercurynews.com/breakingnews/ci\\_7406380?nclick\\_check=1](http://www.mercurynews.com/breakingnews/ci_7406380?nclick_check=1)

### **California tops marijuana eradication record**

Submitted by Bill Weinberg / 11/23/2007

.....Nearly three million pot plants destroyed California not only leads the nation in pot production, but also in plant eradication. With the outdoor harvest over, the state's Department of Justice announced on Nov. 13 that 2.9 million cannabis plants were destroyed this year. That's an increase of 1.2 million plants since last year and a total increase of 1.8 million plants since 2005. The seizures were conducted by CAMP - Campaign Against Marijuana Planting - a task force of local, state and federal agencies.

**California Attorney General [Jerry Brown](#) stated:** *"When you're out there hiking in the country, the rural area of California, you don't expect to be confronted with some illegal person pointing an AK-47 at you."* He claimed that medical marijuana was not taken in any of the 472 raids. "This is one way of alleviating people's pain," the AG said. "Although I can tell you, having watched one of these marijuana clinics outside the Oakland police station, the people going in look rather young and vigorous on their way to pick up their material." Ironically, Brown signed California's decriminalization bill into law when he was governor in 1975 and has admitted to using marijuana.

#### **CAMP's pot-plant seizures year-by-year:**

2000 - 345,207	2004 - 621,315
2001 - 313,776	2005 - 1,134,692
2002 - 354,202	2006 - 1,675,681
2003 - 466,054	2007 - 2,905,021

Source: <http://www.wv4report.com/node/4694>

### **Latest Western States Information Network Intelligence bulletin states**

2006 Record high seizures with 2007's expected to be even higher

Mexican Drug Trafficking Organizations employing Mexican nationals to grow crops on California wild lands. The growers are heavily armed, utilizing two way radios to communicate and are establishing elaborate escape plans.

The THC level obtained from these outdoor grows has risen from 2-3% to a current level of 8-12% a capability not seen from Mexican marijuana producers before. WSIN estimates that 90% of California's indoor marijuana gardens are attributed to Caucasian DTO's in and around Humboldt, Mendocino and Trinity Counties. It is believed that this group is expanding to conduct operations in Sonora and Lake Counties as well. WSIN states that "It is suspected by Law Enforcement authorities that marijuana production will increase among Mexican DTOs and criminal groups due to large profits." WSIN reports that "Law enforcement officials are saying that the increase of indoor marijuana grows can be directly associated with an increase in homicides and robberies in California. People are being killed and homes are being robbed because marijuana plants produce huge profits."

Source: WSIN October Intel report

This last quarter was also a busy one for searches and closures of store front dispensaries. With the large number of dispensaries in California and the apparent "booming" business they are doing one has to suspect that the record numbers of indoor and outdoor grows are increasing to keep pace with demand from the dispensaries. When information is released on seizures from the raids on marijuana dispensaries, we see significant amounts of marijuana and cash seized as well as a significant amount of assets either in real-estate or together property pointing to fact that dispensaries are very lucrative cash businesses.

### **Feds raid downtown L.A. medical marijuana dispensary**

By Stuart Silverstein, Los Angeles Times Staff Writer / October 12, 2007

Federal agents seized marijuana and cash Thursday night from a medical marijuana dispensary in the loft district near Little Tokyo, officials said.

Source: <http://www.latimes.com/features/health/medicine/la-me-pot12oct12,1,7267901.story?coll=la-health-medicine&ctrack=3&cset=true>

### **Feds raid Hayward medical marijuana pot club**

The Associated Press / 10/30/2007

HAYWARD, Calif.—Federal authorities raided a medical marijuana dispensary they say was on *pace to net more than \$50 million in sales this year*. Drug Enforcement Administration agents arrested the outfit's two owners and seized hundreds of pounds of pot.....Agents also seized \$200,000 in cash, two late model Mercedes Benz automobiles and a home in Lafayette.

Source: [http://www.mercurynews.com/news/ci\\_7323256?nclick\\_check=1](http://www.mercurynews.com/news/ci_7323256?nclick_check=1)

### **Police: Men bought medical marijuana with plans to sell it on the streets**

Posted on Tue, Nov. 13, 2007

Morro Bay police today announced they arrested two Stockton men Friday on suspicion of buying medical marijuana from dispensaries around the state in order to sell it for profit on the street.....officers discovered the 2.3 pounds of pot, which appeared packaged for sale, in some duffel bags....*Investigators believe the two were driving to different medical marijuana dispensaries and buying the maximum amount of the drug allowed at each establishment. Police believe the men then intended to sell the drug on the street for profit.* Police also reported seizing a digital scale and more than \$1,000 in the investigation.

Both men were taken to County Jail on charges of possession for sale of 2.3 pounds of marijuana and transportation of a large amount of marijuana.....

Source: <http://www.sanluisobispo.com/breakingnews/story/191927.html>

### **Raid on Area Medical Marijuana Club Leaves City in Middle.**

By Kurt Helin, Editor November 29, 2007

....Last week, federal Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) officials raided the Long Beach Cannabis Club, which is located downtown (near a new condominium project and the City Place center). Agents seized 33 kilos of marijuana, about \$10,000 cash and arrested the proprietor, Samuel Matthew Fata. Since the raid, the club has remained closed. Source: <http://www.gazettes.com/marijuana11292007.html>

### **3 Accused of Illegally Selling Medical Marijuana**

INDIO, Calif. (CBS) —

....Riverside County Sheriff's Department investigator Robert Garcia testified at the start of the hearing Tuesday that Hochanadel was operating a \$1.6 million business for profit. ....Marijuana and financial records were seized at CannaHelp, 73359 El Paseo, last December during the raid conducted by the Riverside County Sheriff's Department, which alleged the dispensary was a for-profit business....

Source: <http://cbs2.com/local/Palm.Desert.medical.2.602989.html>

### **Feds go after wildly successful medical pot sellers**

[Phillip Matier, Andrew Ross](#) / Monday, November 5, 2007

....According to the indictment, when the brothers opened their Compassionate Collective of Alameda County in 2004, they took in \$74,000. In 2005, sales rose to \$1.3 million. In 2006, sales hit \$21 million. And in the first six months of this year, the brothers took in a whopping \$26.3 million. "They were clearly out of control".....*Two years ago, on Super Bowl Sunday, a team of armed hoods busted into the dispensary, tied everyone up and robbed the place of about \$50,000.*

*Four months later, a masked gunman fired four shots into a dispensary worker's car as he pulled into the parking lot. The worker hit the gas and plowed through a fence to make his getaway. In July of this year, one of the club's customers was ambushed and killed at a nearby gas station and his pot taken. And this past February, the brothers themselves were involved in a shootout at a Fremont hotel.* "These girls lured them to a party through MySpace," Rosenthal said. "Six guys showed up heavily armed and the bullets started flying." Both brothers were wounded, and both have had to undergo repeated operations.....According to a federal indictment, these are the year-by-year sales at Winslow and Abraham Norton's Compassionate Collective, a medical marijuana dispensary outside Hayward: 2004 \$74,000, 2005\$1.3 million, 2006 \$21 million, 2007 \$26.3 million\*\* Sales for first six months of the year.  
Source: <http://sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2007/11/05/BA90T4PQP.DTL>

During this quarter, several cities have either banned dispensaries in their jurisdiction or have begun the process to do so.

### **Another City Says No to Marijuana Dispensaries**

Story Created: Oct 17, 2007 at 6:20 PM PDT

Moorpark is about to join the growing list of local cities saying 'no' to medical marijuana dispensaries.

Just Monday night the city of Goleta voted to stop medical marijuana dispensaries....

Tonight Moorpark City Council is expected to ban dispensaries within its city limit, becoming the third city in Ventura County to do so.....Several other Ventura County cities have already banned medical marijuana dispensaries; Oxnard and Simi Valley.

Source: <http://www.keyt.com/news/local/10620492.html>

### **Rush on to regulate medical pot**

By HARRISON SHEPPARD MediaNews / Monterey County Herald (California) / August 20, 2007  
SACRAMENTO More than a decade after California voters passed legalized medical marijuana, an explosion of dispensaries and patients has cities and counties scrambling to regulate the operations. In Los Angeles where the number of dispensaries soared from just a handful to more than 200 in the last two years stunned city officials recently passed a moratorium on new clinics until they can develop guidelines. Hundreds of other cities up and down California have no regulations at all on medical marijuana dispensaries, including at least 28 where clinics or delivery services are operating, according to a Daily News analysis. Law enforcement officials state that a lack of local oversight could allow dispensaries to open near schools or parks, with no way for authorities to remedy the situation. "I think they could easily be surprised," Modesto Police Chief Roy Wasden, who chairs a statewide task force on medical marijuana. "They're not prepared for the issues that will surround dispensaries opening up." According to Americans for Safe Access, a medical marijuana advocacy group, 26 cities and eight counties in California have ordinances allowing and regulating dispensaries. An additional 55 cities and two counties have enacted bans (which some advocates maintain are illegal), and 75 cities and six counties have imposed temporary moratoria. The remainder of the state's 478 incorporated cities and 58 counties have yet to specifically address the issue. Throughout California, there are at least 400 known medical marijuana dispensaries and likely hundreds more that are unpublicized.....Pro-legalization groups estimate there are 150,000 to 200,000 medical-marijuana users in California up from about 30,000 just five years ago. Law enforcement agencies remain concerned about the potential for unregulated dispensaries, with their stashes of drugs and cash, to attract crime to neighborhoods. And some of the facilities, they say, are simply profit-making enterprises that sell at stiff prices to healthy youths and the seriously ill alike. The Los Angeles Police Department has reported an increase in crime near some of facilities, and has received complaints about activities such one dispensary handing out flyers for free marijuana samples to students at Grant High School in Valley Glen.....

Source: <http://www.innovations.harvard.edu/news/54621.html?p=1>

### **Hemet wants to keep out medical-marijuana dispensaries**

10:00 PM PDT on Tuesday, October 23, 2007

By HERBERT ATIENZA / The Press-Enterprise

HEMET - Alarmed by recent queries about the possibility of opening medical-marijuana dispensaries, City Hall is rushing an ordinance that would ban such types of establishments inside the city limits.....Hemet is one of at least seven Inland cities to discuss some kind of ordinance banning medical-marijuana dispensaries in the past year. Norco, Fontana and Redlands are also on that list.....Moreno Valley: City Council approved a moratorium in February 2007 prohibiting new marijuana dispensaries pending the city's study on potential impacts. Murrieta and Temecula: Dispensaries are prohibited within all zoning districts. Los Angeles: City Council approved a one-year moratorium in July prohibiting new dispensaries.

San Marcos: Dispensaries are prohibited within all zoning districts.

Source: [http://www.pe.com/localnews/inland/stories/PE\\_News\\_Local\\_D\\_medical24.37ad2a0.html](http://www.pe.com/localnews/inland/stories/PE_News_Local_D_medical24.37ad2a0.html)

### **Marijuana dispensary to close**

By Mike Sprague, Staff Writer

WHITTIER - There will be no more medical marijuana dispensed from the city's only clinic after Dec. 31, the planning commission ruled Monday night. Additionally, the Whittier Collective, 12450-A Washington Blvd., has reached agreement with its landlord, the Phelan Family Trust - owners of the Washington-Whittier Medical Center - to vacate the site by that date. The dispensary had applied to extend its conditional use permit until Oct. 31, 2008, but that became moot after the landlord sought to evict the clinic.....

Source: [http://www.whittierdailynews.com/news/ci\\_7380653](http://www.whittierdailynews.com/news/ci_7380653)

### **HB bans medical marijuana dispensaries**

BY CINDY CARCAMO / THE ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER / November 19, 2007

HUNTINGTON BEACH Medical marijuana dispensaries are no longer legally allowed in Surf City after council members voted Monday to adopt an ordinance that essentially bans them from opening. Surf City joined the increasing number of cities in Southern California that prohibit medical marijuana dispensaries.....

Source: <http://www.ocregister.com/news/marijuana-medical-dispensaries-1926029-voted-council>

### **Marijuana dispensary turned down**

By Sandy Mazza

County regional planning commissioners Wednesday turned down a permit application that would have allowed a medical marijuana dispensary near Los Angeles International Airport. The decision came after Del Aire residents complained that the store would contribute to the area's seedy atmosphere and be too close to a child-care facility.....

Del Aire Neighborhood Association President John Koppelman said..... "It costs \$150 to get a doctor's recommendation for marijuana," Koppelman said. "That's all it takes. You don't have to be sick. If you live in the motel and sell dope, you could go next door and get the dope. If you have a dope house, you're going to get dope activity." Lawrence Epstein, chief executive officer of the collective that wants to operate the dispensary, applied for a conditional-use permit to open it. Epstein helped establish the Marina Caregivers dispensary in Marina del Rey in 2005, and said it has grown to more than 100 customers a day.

Source: <http://www.dailybreeze.com/news/articles/12196106.html>

## **Merced County supervisors ban medicinal marijuana dispensaries**

By CORINNE REILLY / MERCED SUN-STAR / December 21, 2007

MERCED -- Merced County officials passed an ordinance this week permanently banning medical marijuana dispensaries across the unincorporated county. The Board of Supervisors voted unanimously Tuesday to support the ordinance, which mirrors ordinances adopted by the cities of Modesto, Ceres, Merced, Patterson, Atwater and Los Banos. Many other cities have moratoriums on dispensaries.....Besides attracting crime, they can lower property values, disrupt nearby businesses and increase illegal drug use and demands on police, county planning officials said.....

Source: <http://www.modbee.com/local/story/158805.html>

## **Marijuana Dispensaries Banned in Brentwood**

Posted by Sarin Kodchian on Dec 23, 2007

BRENTWOOD—Tuesday night, the Brentwood City Council unanimously approved a permanent ban on medical marijuana dispensaries in the city. Police Capt. Brian Strock and Brentwood Planning Manager Heidi Klein made a presentation on the ordinance before the voting.....What the year long investigation proved was an increase in crime and illegal marijuana use and possession.

The detailed search included over 14 months of consultations, surveys, and detailed research on the negative effects in connection to dispensaries. Armed robberies, violence, illegal sales and consumption are among the most prevalent negative effects reported.....

Source: <http://www.canyon->

[news.com/artman2/publish/Local\\_News\\_10/Marijuana\\_Dispensaries\\_Banned\\_in\\_Brentwood.php](http://www.canyon-news.com/artman2/publish/Local_News_10/Marijuana_Dispensaries_Banned_in_Brentwood.php)

The media has begun to investigate the marijuana dispensary system. Articles delving into the process of obtaining a marijuana recommendation as well as the concept of medical marijuana has been the focus of a few investigative reports.

## **The Debate On California's Pot Shops**

Reporter: AP / Dec 31, 2007 / (CBS)

This segment was originally broadcast on Sept. 23, 2007. It was updated on Dec. 30, 2007. Eleven years ago, California became the first of a dozen states in the nation to legalize medical marijuana.....Well, how is the California state law working? As correspondent Morley Safer reports, the answer involves another statute: the law of unintended consequences.....it's clear there are legions of people buying medical marijuana for the sole purpose of getting high. For both them and the truly ill in California, it's become an easy matter: just drop by your little pot shop around the corner. ....There are hundreds of such stores in the state, and as many as 400 in southern California alone. The people who run them are members of the state's latest entrepreneurial class, calling themselves "caregivers." The feds call them something else. Case in point is a young man of many faces named Luke Scarmazzo.....in his case, business was good: in the town of Modesto, population 200,000, he sold \$4.5 million worth of medical marijuana in two years. And he was paid a good salary, too. "I took home \$13,000 a month," he says. "I was working a lot of hours.".....And even one of the key proponents of medical marijuana says things have gotten out of hand. "It's just ridiculous the amount of money that's going through these cannabis clubs. It's absolutely ridiculous," says Scott Imler, a minister in the United Methodist Church who has long been active in promoting medical marijuana.....Imler has second thoughts. "The purpose of proposition 215 was not to create a new industry. It was to protect legitimate patients from criminal prosecution," Imler says. The aim back then, reflected in television spots, was for a highly regulated system in which licensed pharmacies would dispense medical marijuana to the seriously ill.....A decade later, if you've got a note from a doctor, you can buy medical pot for just about any imaginable condition. ***"Let me just ask you plain and simple. Is there this proliferation because people are simply using, quote, unquote, medical marijuana, to get high?"***



*Safer asks. "I think there's a lot of that. And I think you know, a lot of what we have now is basically pot dealers in storefronts," Imler says.....*Television station KCBS went to a Los Angeles clinic, where the waiting room was full of young people, joking about what they'd tell the doctor their ailment was. The doctor, James Eisenberg, saw four healthy people sent by KCBS. He rejected a 17-year-old for being underage. But after getting a brief consultation and paying \$175, the other three got their papers. One complained of dry skin, another of hair loss, and the third said high heels hurt her feet....."There's bound to be abuse in the system. You know, our pharmacies are abused by people who want to abuse prescription drugs. And so it's reasonable to assume that our medical cannabis facilities are abused as well. What we really need right now are regulations that address those issues," Duncan says. Cities around the state have been tightening the rules.....Kevin Reed was forced to shut down his San Francisco dispensary because of complaints from neighbors. So he simply went into the delivery business.....His couriers fan out across the city, delivering their wares. In theory, all the medical marijuana sold in California is grown by the patients themselves. "We're a collective. And what that means is our members grow it, they bring excess medicine here and we provide it back to the other members. That way we have no entanglement with the illicit market," Don Duncan explains. But skeptics say it doesn't always work that way, and that old fashioned pot dealers can easily get a compliant doctor to make them patients and caregivers too. "Most of these cannabis centers are buying their marijuana off the black market. They're dumping millions of dollars into the criminal black market," Imler says....."What you're suggesting is that the traditional black market or part of the traditional black market is now legal?" Safer asks. "Yeah. That's essentially what's happened," Imler agrees.

Source: <http://www.wibw.com/home/headlines/12938067.html>

### **'Pot docs' issuing 'Get Out of Jail Free' cards**

By Linda Williams /TWN Staff Writer / 12/26/2007

....An estimated 95 percent of patients visiting "pot docs" are already significant pot users seeking approval for their drug use, and a small group of physicians are willing to fulfill their request....Because there is no monitoring of these recommendations and with no requirement to get a state or county marijuana card, there is no way to know how many recommendations have actually been issued.....**By 2005, 15 pot docs had issued an estimated 50,000 marijuana recommendations. About 1,500 other physicians, primarily AIDS and cancer specialists, issued the remaining 50,000 recommendations.....**The CMA has sanctioned several doctors but was handcuffed by a 2004 California court ruling restricting its investigations to patients who file a complaint and authorize the release of their medical records. Without a complaint from a pot patient, the CMA has limited ability to review cases. This ruling has led to an explosion of marijuana prescription clinics springing up across California. These new groups of pot docs advertise in the media and on the internet....One Bay Area reporter said her feet hurt when wearing high heels and got a recommendation. An undercover police officer in San Diego requested a marijuana recommendation for his dog, while the pot doc refused to provide one, he did give the officer a caregiver authorization to obtain marijuana for the dog. One reporter received a marijuana recommendation because he had dry skin, another for hair loss. Those not wishing to visit a pot doc can be designated as a "caregiver" for someone who has. **With most recommendations valid for one year and typical fees of \$150 each, these pot docs seem to have found a \$45 million a year business opportunity.** Should the remaining regular or recreational pot users decide to get their own Get Out of Jail Free cards, the recommendations could generate as much as \$255 million annually and essentially legalize all marijuana use in California.....

Source: [http://www.willitsnews.com/ci\\_7812620](http://www.willitsnews.com/ci_7812620)

## **I-Team Investigation: Who Is Doc 420?**

Availability Of Medical Marijuana Questioned / [By Dan Noyes](#)

SAN FRANCISCO, Nov. 1, 2007 (KGO) -.....One young doctor from Hollywood is making a very good living at it with patients up and down the coast.....Six months ago, she started calling herself Doc 420 -- 420 is the street slang for smoking marijuana. "That's just kind of a bit of a fluke, just kind of happened that that phone number was available and the Web site was available. So, I became Doc 420," says Patel. Yes, she has a toll-free number, a Doc 420 Web site and a MySpace page with a picture. Dan Noyes: "What did you hope to accomplish with this image?" Sona Patel: "Well, you know what, it was just something that a marketing team had come up with for me." Doc 420 says the high heels and hot pants have paid off, attracting many new patients.....So, we wanted to find out, is Doc 420 following state law when she prescribes marijuana?.....I-Team Producer #1: "Is it hard to like get a card?" Doc 420: "No, it's really easy." I-Team Producer #1: "What do you do?" Doc 420: "Well, I do an evaluation which is free." Dr. Patel explained if they passed the evaluation, her recommendation would cost \$100. That would allow them to buy pot from a dispensary. She could see our two producers right away. I-Team Producer #1: "What if you don't have a condition?" Doc 420: "Well, most likely, people are using it for something whether you... really realize it or not, if it's helping you sleep or calming your stress or there are so many different reasons that still qualify you. You may not even realize it." I-Team Producer #2: "It could be something like just I can't sleep or whatever?" Doc 420: "Yeah, exactly, and I have a lot of people like that, too." Our producers went to the ATM, returned with cash, and after a few minutes emerged with a three-month recommendation for medical marijuana..... Kimberly Kirchmeyer says at least six doctors have lost their licenses recently for similar failures and medical board investigators are now looking into Doc 420.....Supervisor Mirkarimi: "Clearly, I think the motivation is about profiteering and that's where it degrades the law and I abhor this kind of conduct."....Dr. Patel says she sees 20 to 30 patients a day, and that she works seven days a week at her various offices. It's clearly a lucrative career. For more on this story, read my [blog on Doc 420](#) with all the links for this story, in which I explore what the pot clubs are doing to the Lower Haight and tell you how the expression 420 came about.

Source: [http://abclocal.go.com/kgo/story?section=i\\_team&id=5738428](http://abclocal.go.com/kgo/story?section=i_team&id=5738428)

**King Bong**, Paul Stanford is Oregon's "Drug Czar." Now he's under attack.

BY [JAMES PITKIN](#) // [December 12th, 2007]

Paul Stanford should be at the top of his game. *After more than two decades growing, toking and agitating to legalize cannabis, the 47-year-old Portlander is now running the largest chain of medical-marijuana clinics in the nation.* Stanford spends half his time jetting between home and Honolulu, Los Angeles, Denver and Seattle, visiting his clinics that have helped thousands gain medical-marijuana permits. His nonprofit, The Hemp & Cannabis (ahem, THC) Foundation, is on track to rake in \$2 million this year.....Of the 14,831 patients currently registered in the Oregon Medical Marijuana Program, Stanford estimates more than half, 8,000, gained their license to burn with the help of his clinic. *"The goal of my life has been to end the adult prohibition from marijuana," Stanford says.....* the Internal Revenue Service, which WW has learned is investigating Stanford for allegedly running his nonprofit as a personal slush fund. "This is a million-dollar organization that's being run like a lemonade stand," says Victoria Cox, spokeswoman for the state Department of Justice.....With offices in five states, Stanford has more locations than any other medical-marijuana clinic in the country, opening in 2000. He's helped 24,000 people get permits, 18,000 of them in Oregon....In an interoffice memo obtained by WW, DOJ investigative auditor Douglas Pearson noted the following concerns about Stanford's foundation: The THCF board consists only of Stanford, his mother, and Tim Herman, Stanford's friend and handyman. They meet once a year. The nonprofit has no internal financial controls, with Stanford overseeing all income and disbursements. In 2006, Stanford received \$100,000 to cover "personal expenses." (Stanford told WW he pays himself only \$30,000 a year). Stanford pays no federal income tax for his employees and appears to have "serious and repeated violations of IRS regulations."

Source: <http://wwweek.com/editorial/3405/10114/>

### **D.A. Recommendation: Ban Medical Marijuana**

Proponents of medical marijuana were dealt a major blow Tuesday when District Attorney Ed Jagels recommended banning it across the county. State law says it's okay to smoke marijuana if your doctor recommends it. But federal law says it's illegal no matter what. It's that conflict that prompted the County Board of Supervisors to ask Jagels to look into the issue. His report came as a disappointment to the hundreds, if not thousands, of medical marijuana users in Kern County. Jagels recommended repealing the ordinance that gives the sheriff's department authority to issue licenses to sell medical marijuana. He also recommended enacting an ordinance that would prohibit any actions that are illegal under federal law, which would include smoking marijuana, even for medical reasons. ***"The storefront marijuana dispensary that half the state seems to think is legal in the state is, in fact, illegal,"*** said Jagels....."I'd be reduced to the streets," said Chris Helton, who started using marijuana 4 years ago to relieve severe headaches caused by a head injury he suffered working on an oil rig. "I could try to grow my own, but I haven't been successful. I've been ripped off."

Source: <http://www.eyeforyou.com/news/local/10402842.html>

### **Proposal takes aim at liberal pot rules**

By MIKE GENIELLA / THE PRESS DEMOCRAT / Nov 30, 2007

UKIAH ..... "It's become a big hoax. The criminal element that so-called medical marijuana has attracted to our neighborhoods is scary," said Dennis Smart, a 31-year resident of a rural area south of Ukiah. Now in a backlash to the county's national reputation as a haven for bogus medical marijuana growers, a proposed local ballot initiative seeks to sharply limit soaring pot production.....this past marijuana harvest season, gunshots growers fired to scare off potential intruders or marauding wildlife in their gardens marred the neighborhood peace.

"We'd have to go inside to protect ourselves," he said....."I believe that a lot of people who supported medical marijuana 11 years ago have changed their minds based on what's going on today," Rickel said.

Source: <http://www1.pressdemocrat.com>

As we have watched the store front distribution of marijuana increase, it appears that cottage industries are forming around them. Not only have we seen a rise in "marijuana delivery" services, but now attorneys who advertise specifically to defend those arrested for cultivating, transporting or selling marijuana and a health care provider dedicated to providing medical insurance to marijuana users.

### **BUSTED FOR MARIJUANA?**

Posted On: December 18, 2007 by [Wallin & Klarich](#)

The law firm of Wallin & Klarich has been defending those charged with [possession of marijuana](#) for over 27 years. Whether it be cultivating, transporting or selling marijuana, our law firm has been successful in defending against these charges. ***The new medical marijuana laws allow flexibility and some "wiggle room" in the way these cases get prosecuted.*** The staff attorneys at Wallin & Klarich are familiar with the laws of medical marijuana use and care giving (11362.5 Health and Safety Code to 11362.9 Health and Safety Code). If you or a loved one is arrested for marijuana, you need to call a [drug crime defense lawyer](#) at the law firm of Wallin & Klarich and see how we can help you win your case.

Source: [http://www.southerncaliforniadefenseblog.com/2007/12/busted\\_for\\_marijuana.html](http://www.southerncaliforniadefenseblog.com/2007/12/busted_for_marijuana.html)

[December 18, 2007 11:00 AM Eastern Time](#) 

## **California Healthcare Provider, The HealthCare Solution, Finds Backdoor to Insure Marijuana-Users**

WOODLAND HILLS, Calif.--([BUSINESS WIRE](#))--The HealthCare Solution (THCS), a California-based health insurance brokerage, has launched an effective program that gets marijuana-users instant approval for California health insurance. Due to strict underwriting guidelines set by California's major health insurance institutions, marijuana-users run-the-risk of losing their health, jobs and relationships by being denied health insurance. However, a Los Angeles Healthcare provider, <http://www.thconline.com>, has found a legal backdoor to get these ineligible applicants the healthcare they need. On December 11th, 2007, The Healthcare Solution released a new program called California Health PLUS, aimed at supplying medical insurance to marijuana-users.

Source:

[http://www.businesswire.com/portal/site/google/index.jsp?ndmViewId=news\\_view&newsId=20071218005636&newsLang=en](http://www.businesswire.com/portal/site/google/index.jsp?ndmViewId=news_view&newsId=20071218005636&newsLang=en)

Marijuana and other drugs manufactured in California are finding there way into other states as well;

## **Drug Bust Nets Marijuana, Cocaine on Interstate 80**

Article Last Updated: 11/10/2007 04:05:55 PM MST

Its marijuana harvest time in northern California, and Utah's interstates are flowing with millions of dollars in drugs and cash. Drug traffickers will go to great lengths to hide drugs and cash to ensure police don't find their stashes, said Utah Highway Patrol Lt. Steve Winward. In a span of three days, UHP officers arrested 19 people and confiscated more than \$2 million in drugs in Summit County.....Sixteen of those stops netted 213 pounds of marijuana, 55 pounds of cocaine and about \$11,000 in cash, according to UHP. Source: [http://www.sltrib.com/news/ci\\_7427729](http://www.sltrib.com/news/ci_7427729)

## **Prescription For Marijuana Doesn't Fly In Utah**

[The Salt Lake Tribune](#) / 10/27 6:08 pm

ST GEORGE - Two men.....were stopped for speeding by a Washington County Sheriff's deputy on Oct. 18. After learning that Greenfield had an outstanding arrest warrant, the vehicle was searched. Inside the vehicle, officials found several different types of marijuana and glass smoking pipes. ***Each man then produced a physician's prescription for cannabis, which they obtained in California -- where it is legal to smoke the drug for medicinal purposes, according to a 1996 law.*** However, authorities say that doesn't matter in Utah.....

Source: [http://www.kutv.com/news/local/story.aspx?content\\_id=6d73b427-3885-4927-bd68-bfa9ae695861](http://www.kutv.com/news/local/story.aspx?content_id=6d73b427-3885-4927-bd68-bfa9ae695861)

## **California Men Charged in Marijuana Bust**

Nov 27, 2007 06:46 PM PST

The two men charged with transporting more than a half ton of marijuana in a semi-truck could face up to 15 years in prison. 54-year-old Marco Corzo and 37-year-old Gurmit Singh, both of California, have been charged with possession of marijuana with intent to deliver.....According to the criminal complaint, Singh claimed he was transporting fresh tomatoes from San Diego to New York City.....A drug dog detected marijuana in cardboard boxes in the semi, where authorities found more than 1,000 pounds of the drug. Both men are being held on \$100,000 dollars cash bond. They could also face federal charges.

Source: <http://wkb.com/Global/story.asp?S=7416774>

As we have seen in years past, trends in California are closely tied to those in neighboring countries and states;

### **Report: Marijuana production still blossoming in Canada**

[www.chinaview.cn](http://www.chinaview.cn) 2007-12-18 04:26:20

OTTAWA, Dec. 17 (Xinhua) -- Marijuana production continues to flourish in Canada, fueled by the involvement of organized crime, according to report released Monday....

***Canadian marijuana growers sell their products in the United States to finance other illegal activities, including purchasing cocaine and guns, according to the report.*** In some new developments, some organizations that once specialized in a single drug have begun to branch out into various substances, the report noted.

Source: [http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2007-12/18/content\\_7269378.htm](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2007-12/18/content_7269378.htm)

### **Authorities Seize Nearly 9 Tons Of Marijuana**

POSTED: November 11, 2007

SAN DIEGO -- Authorities seized a truckload of marijuana worth more than \$67 million at the Calexico port of entry. U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers said the truck driver was supposed to be hauling a shipment of flat-screen televisions. Authorities said a narcotics dog detected the drugs. When agents opened the trailer, several large packages of pot fell out, authorities said. There were more than 1,000 packages of marijuana totaling more than 17,700 pounds. ***The accused smuggler is a 25-year-old Mexican and registered participant in the FAST program. FAST is an agreement between Mexico, Canada and the United States to expedite trade. "Low-risk" drivers must submit an application and agree to a security profile.***

Source: <http://www.nbcsandiego.com/news/14565676/detail.html>

### **Pot growing operation booby-trapped, police say**

October 14, 2007

CANAAN, Maine --A 43-year-old man faces marijuana trafficking and cultivation charges after police raided a suspected pot growing operation that was booby-trapped with electric wires, spikes and razor blades. Lt. Carl Gottardi of the Somerset County Sheriff's Department said police found a dangerous situation when they got to the home of Lauriston Cochran, who also faces a charge of reckless conduct. Police found spikes had been positioned in the floorboards and razor blades were set in the windows. Wires were arranged so that anyone entering the growing area would trip and fall into the spikes and razor blades, Gottardi said Friday. The detective said barbed wire was also placed by doorways, and other wires were hooked up to electric sockets so that anyone coming in contact with them would be shocked....

Source:

[http://www.boston.com/news/local/maine/articles/2007/10/14/pot\\_growing\\_operation\\_booby\\_trapped\\_police\\_say?mode=PF](http://www.boston.com/news/local/maine/articles/2007/10/14/pot_growing_operation_booby_trapped_police_say?mode=PF)

### **A SMOKESCREEN FOR CRIMINALS**

PORTLAND OREGONIAN

.....The Oregon Medical Marijuana Act was sold to voters nine years ago with the ***prediction that about 500 people a year would apply to get relief from debilitating conditions such as cancer, glaucoma, HIV and multiple sclerosis. Today, the program has swelled to 14,831 patients, with 1,700 filing new or renewal applications each month,*** including a few diagnosed with common afflictions such as asthma, back pain and menstrual cramps.....

Source: <http://www.oregonlive.com/printer/printer.ssf?/base/news/1192850735191080.xml&coll=7>



### **Salem Police Arrest Several for Marijuana Violations**

Salem-News.com / Oct-24-2007 17:39

This incident involved a legal medical marijuana patient, but his status as a medical patient is separate from the crimes he and the others are alleged to have committed. (SALEM, Ore.) - Salem Police have arrested four people for selling marijuana to minors from a residence. Police Lt. Dave Okada says they were selling marijuana to minors. *"Mr. Freeman was out of compliance with the Oregon Medical Marijuana Program due to the fact that he was selling and providing Marijuana to non Medical Marijuana card holders,"* Okada added. All three of the adults and one of the juveniles were arrested on narcotics related charges and one of the adults was arrested on a weapons offense. Two semi-automatic pistols were located in the house as well as one revolver.....

Source: [http://www.salem-news.com/articles/october242007/pot\\_bust\\_102307.php](http://www.salem-news.com/articles/october242007/pot_bust_102307.php)

### **Oregon seizures of marijuana plants double in 2007**

The Associated Press / By JOSEPH B. FRAZIER 11/3/2007,

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) — It's autumn and the crops are in, but for the state's marijuana growers, more of what may be Oregon's most lucrative harvest didn't make it to market.

The Oregon Department of Justice says a record 245,000 plants were pulled up this year, more than double the 120,000 a year before....."If something shows up in Northern California it's not too long before you see it in Oregon," said Jackson County Sheriff Mike Winters. "The (Mexican) cartels are growing it, and if they plant 100 gardens and 50 get taken off, they still make a lot of money.".....

Source: <http://www.oregonlive.com/newsflash/regional/index.ssf?base/news-21/119413074168890.xml&storylist=orlocal&thispage=4>

### **Alberta man badly burned in marijuana oil lab fire**

Charges pending after marijuana oil lab blows up near Lloydminster

Mon, November 19, 2007

BLACKFOOT, Alta. — RCMP say a man was badly burned when a house in east-central Alberta went up in flames after an explosion in a marijuana oil lab....The man, along with a girl, were sent to hospital in Lloydminster for treatment before he was transferred to a hospital in Edmonton. Police say...investigators discovered more than 150 marijuana plants and equipment used in grow operations. They also say charges are pending.

Source: <http://www.edmontonsun.com/News/Alberta/2007/11/19/4668740.html>

### **Large marijuana grow busted after thieves break into wrong house to steal pot**

By Daniel Savickas LocalNewsDaily.com, Dec 5, 2007

Officers from the Portland's Southeast Precinct Neighborhood Enhancement Team stumbled across a large indoor marijuana growing operation with more than 350 plants while investigating a home invasion robbery where would-be burglars targeted the wrong house. *"This was a dope rip," said Sgt. Larry Graham of the Neighborhood Enhancement Team street crimes unit. "They were trying to steal this guy's dope, but they got the wrong house.".....*

Source: [http://www.portlandtribune.com/news/story.php?story\\_id=119690272924839100](http://www.portlandtribune.com/news/story.php?story_id=119690272924839100)

### **Marijuana Farms in Seattle Operated by Vietnamese Americans**

[International Examiner](#), News Report, Diem Ly, Posted: Dec 12, 2007

An outbreak of marijuana farms are in Seattle — run by Vietnamese Americans.....The Seattle Police Department said Vietnamese marijuana growing organizations purchase homes throughout the Puget Sound and construct elaborate indoor cultivation factories on the premises. Investigators are just now pulling open the curtains on a secretive world. Many of which end deadly.

Source:

[http://news.newamericamedia.org/news/view\\_article.html?article\\_id=33243c4357ab3c94c801247b780cee2e&from=rss](http://news.newamericamedia.org/news/view_article.html?article_id=33243c4357ab3c94c801247b780cee2e&from=rss)

### **\$373,000 and 127 pounds of marijuana seized at Sumas WA**

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS / Last updated December 19, 2007 3:05 p.m. PT

SUMAS, Wash. -- U.S. Customs and Border Protection reports its officers at the port of entry at Sumas seized \$373,000 and 127 pounds of marijuana concealed in a false roof compartment of a Canadian truck.....The federal agency says the *money and marijuana were aboard a truck-trailer carrying a shipment of aluminum railing components bound for California.....*

Source: [http://seattlepi.nwsourc.com/local/6420ap\\_wa\\_border\\_seizure.html](http://seattlepi.nwsourc.com/local/6420ap_wa_border_seizure.html)