

Medical Marijuana and Associated Issues

Presented to the California Chiefs of Police Association

January to March 2009

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

Pittsburg police: Teen shot to death in dispute over \$10 pot purchase

Bay City News Service / 01/05/2009

Police arrested a Pittsburg teenager Sunday night for allegedly gunning down a 32-year-old man because of a dispute over a \$10 marijuana purchase....While they were inside the market, the victim's relative saw someone who had allegedly sold him \$10 worth of marijuana two months earlier. "He apparently felt that he didn't get enough marijuana for the small price he had paid and confronted him.....Police arrested the alleged shooter at about 7:30 p.m. Sunday....The 16-year-old boy was booked into juvenile hall on suspicion of murder and negligent discharge of a firearm.

http://www.mercurynews.com/breakingnews/ci_11376006?nclick_check=1

Police say man killed in drug deal gone bad

The Associated Press / 03/27/2009

LOS ANGELES—A man was shot to death after at least two men posing as police officers robbed him in his apartment in a drug deal gone bad, police said Friday. Brian Caufield, 31, was killed Thursday night in the Sherman Oaks area of Los Angeles. Police said a preliminary investigation revealed Caufield had invited three men inside, possibly to sell them marijuana. Once inside, at least two of them identified themselves as police and attempted to rob Caufield of drugs and cash, police said. Caufield's roommate was handcuffed by one of the men and Caufield was taken into a bedroom by another man. Police said there was a struggle and Caufield was shot. He was pronounced dead at the scene.....

http://www.mercurynews.com/breakingnews/ci_12015516

Teens headed to trial in brutal baseball bat murder

There is enough evidence to order a trial for two teenagers accused in the beating death of an elderly Bakersfield couple, a judge ruled Thursday. A key piece of evidence: An admission by one of the boys that described the grisly crime. Kyle Hoffman, 17, and 16-year-old Luis Palafox face two counts of first degree murder for the brutal killing of Joseph and Dorothy Parrott. If convicted of all counts against them, they could be sentenced to life in prison with no chance for parole. *Detectives say Hoffman told them that he and Palafox had smoked marijuana the night of the murder and decided to burglarize cars and homes.....*

<http://www.kget.com/news/local/story/Teens-headed-to-trial-in-brutal-baseball-bat/2qOUBABX30WwHHHYZU4mrg.csp>

Los Molinos man killed in home invasion robbery

Staff Reports / January 27, 2009 / Oroville Mercury-Register (CA)

LOS MOLINOS — A man was shot and killed at his residence on Wilson Street about 2 a.m. during a robbery in which an unknown number of suspects stole marijuana. The wife of the victim was home during the robbery and is being interviewed by the Tehama County Sheriff's Office. The California Department of Justice has been asked to respond to the scene to process evidence. The name of the victim hasn't been released. No suspects have yet been identified.

http://www.chicoer.com/news/ci_11564474

Paradise death stemmed from robbery

Staff Reports / January 2, 2009 / Oroville Mercury-Register (CA)

PARADISE -- The Sunday night death of a Paradise man has been determined to be a result of a home invasion robbery, Paradise police announced Friday morning. Police say Eric Jones, 50, had a "substantial" medical marijuana grow at his Azalea Lane home, but have yet to determine if that was "the motive for the incident."

<http://nl.newsbank.com/nl-search/we/Archives?>

Marijuana operation probed in slaying near Dinuba

BY DAVID CASTELLON • dcastell@visalia.gannett.com • January 30, 2009

Tulare County sheriff's detectives are trying to determine whether a man fatally shot in a house east of Dinuba Tuesday was involved in a marijuana-growing operation at the home.Deputies confiscated 500 plants with an estimated street value of about \$4,000 each, and about 40 pounds of processed marijuana, apparently packaged for sale, officials said. Alvarez lived in the home, where he was found wounded shortly before midnight. Two people also living in the home, Luis Ceballos Alvarez, 31, and Luz Maria Delgado, whose age was not provided, were arrested on suspicion of cultivating marijuana. Arrested on suspicion of murder was Erick Daniel Gonzalez, 33, of Merced.

<http://www.visaliatimesdelta.com/article/20090130/NEWS01/901300314>

Robbery attempt leads to marijuana discovery in Three Rivers

January 10, 2009

A suspected robbery at an indoor marijuana-growing operation in Three Rivers left one man hospitalized with a bullet wound. The Tulare County Sheriff's Department said Christopher Lindstrom, 22, of Three Rivers was shot Thursday night during an attempted robbery.During the investigation, an indoor marijuana garden was found at the scene.

<http://www.visaliatimesdelta.com/article/20090110/NEWS01/901100329/1002/NEWS01>

Men Sought In Granada Hills Marijuana Clinic Robbery

GRANADA HILLS, Calif. -- Police on Friday searched for six men who took roughly \$10,000 in cash and thousands of dollars worth of marijuana during a takeover robbery at a medical marijuana clinic in Granada Hills.During the heist, one shot was fired, ricocheting off the floor and breaking a window, Kessler said, adding that no one was injured. The six robbers took some \$10,000 in cash and up to four pounds of marijuana before fleeing the scene in a 4-door SUV, possibly a Mercedes, Kessler said. During the investigation police recovered a sawed off double-barrel 12-gauge shotgun from the scene.

<http://cannazine.co.uk/medical-marijuana/medicinal-cannabis/men-sought-in-granada-hills-marijuana-clinic-robbery.html>

LAPD Captures Suspects Wanted for Violent Robbery at Medical Marijuana Clinic

March 06, 2009

Los Angeles: Detectives are asking for the public's help to provide more information about suspects involved in a violent robbery of a medical marijuana clinic. On Feb. 27, 2009, just before midnight, three suspects armed with handguns entered a medical marijuana clinic.....Once inside, one of the suspects placed his gun to the forehead of an employee and forced all occupants to the rear of the business. The suspects then removed several containers of marijuana and other property from the location. On Oct. 1, 2008, at a marijuana clinic just one block from the above mentioned location, a security guard was murdered when he attempted to stop a robbery. Recognizing the high propensity of violence during these types of crimes, detectives from Wilshire Area aggressively investigated these incidents.....

http://lapdblog.typepad.com/lapd_blog/2009/03/lapd-captures-suspects-wanted-for-violent-robbery-at-medical-marijuana-clinic-.html

Fresno man accused of kidnapping, burglary

San Luis Obispo police said Friday that they arrested a Fresno man suspected of kidnapping and burglary. Police said he broke into a San Luis Obispo apartment by mistake while looking for marijuana.....Coleman kicked in the front door of the apartment of an unidentified 19-year-old Cal Poly student by mistake while looking for marijuana, police said. He had a handgun and demanded property from the student. When he realized it was the wrong apartment, he took the student next door at gunpoint, police said. He then kicked in that door and burglarized that apartment, police said.....

<http://www.fresnobee.com/local/story/1245451.html>

Shotgun brandished in home invasion robbery

Sean Garmire/The Times-Standard / 03/07/2009

Police are searching for four suspects allegedly involved in an armed robbery that took place at a D Street house in Eureka on Friday morning.....Authorities learned multiple suspects reportedly kicked their way into the house and confronted a woman inside. They were brandishing a shotgun and demanding marijuana.....He reportedly pointed a shotgun at the resident, demanding she give him marijuana. When the resident took out pepper spray and threatened the alleged aggressors, they fled the house.....

http://www.times-standard.com/localnews/ci_11859953

Sacramento Police seek suspects in pot dispensary robbery

From Stan Oklobdzija: March 18, 2009

Sacramento Police are looking for two men who robbed a marijuana dispensary in Oak Park Tuesday night, police officials said. At about 7:50 p.m., two men entered Green Solutions in the 3300 block of Broadway and held employees at gunpoint, police said. After pistol whipping one of the employees, they made off with money and marijuana.....

<http://www.sacbee.com/static/weblogs/crime/archives/020791.html>

Mt. Shasta councilwoman arrested in drug bust

The Associated Press / 01/16/2009

YREKA, Calif.—A Mount Shasta city councilwoman is among 33 people arrested in a four-month investigation into drug sales at two area high schools. The Siskiyou County Interagency Task Force says an undercover agent enrolled at different times as a student at Yreka and Mount Shasta high schools to track illegal drug sales.....Howard, a city council member since November, had 34 pounds of processed marijuana in her home, according to the task force. She was arraigned Friday in Siskiyou County Superior Court on charges of conspiracy to sell marijuana and maintaining a residence where marijuana is stored or sold.....

http://www.mercurynews.com/news/ci_11473141

Tracy police find more than \$30,000 worth of pot

By Mike Martinez / Staff Writer / 01/27/2009

TRACY — While checking the home of a man on probation, detectives from the Tracy Police Department's Street Crimes Unit discovered more than four pounds of marijuana, dozens of prescription painkillers and nearly \$1,600 in cash.....He estimated the marijuana had a street value of more than \$30,000.....Juan Tiru provided detectives with a doctor's prescription for medical marijuana but had no other documentation and denied being a caregiver for anyone else. Tiru is free after posting \$40,000 bail.

http://www.mercurynews.com/breakingnews/ci_11567344?nlick_check=1

Mother gives marijuana brownie to child

The Associated Press / 03/05/2009

OROVILLE, Calif.—A Northern California mother has been ordered to complete a parenting class after giving a marijuana-laced brownie to her 5-year-old daughter. Butte County Superior Court Judge Robert Glusman issued the probation order Wednesday after 32-year-old Madeline McChesney of Chico, pleaded no contest to a misdemeanor child endangerment charge. The case had previously resulted in a hung jury. The single mother claimed the brownie belonged to her roommates, who had baked the batch for medical purposes. She said she didn't realize the brownie contained pot. Staff members at the girl's school said she reported feeling sick and was taken to a hospital, where traces of marijuana were detected in her system. Chico is about 90 miles north of Sacramento.

http://www.mercurynews.com/news/ci_11843771

Pot 'cartels' a reality in rural Alameda County

By Aaron Swarts / Correspondent / 02/19/2009

LIVERMORE —Residents of the unincorporated areas around Livermore are working closely with the Alameda County Sheriff's department, starting with a meeting tonight, to regain control of their land through a large scale "neighborhood watch" program. In this case, that "neighborhood" consists of thousands of acres of rural land. "Last year a couple of sheriff's deputies showed up at my house and told me they identified from the air a marijuana farm on my neighbor's property run by a cartel," said area resident Michael McElfresh. "They had pictures of a guy with a scope and high-powered rifle guarding the crop, and I thought, `Wow, shouldn't we be telling all of our neighbors about this?'" That incident led to a community meeting last October....."We need the community's help to find these growing areas," said Sgt. J.D. Nelson of the Alameda County Sheriff's Department. "They are a major concern because the guys running these operations make a

lot of money, so they guard their sites pretty intently." "Often these guys are pretty heavily armed and willing to protect their merchandise."

http://www.contracostatimes.com/news/ci_11743042?source=rss

Despite reports to the contrary, the Drug Enforcement Administration continues to take action against those who are selling marijuana in violation of the spirit of medical use. Despite the assertions made by the media that there is overwhelming support for the legalization of marijuana, cities continue to enact bans on the establishment of dispensaries. However, there appears to be a shift to “delivery services” which add to the complexity of determining if the business is operating within the law.

DEA raids Marina del Rey medical marijuana dispensary

By Larry Altman Staff Writer / 02/03/2009

Federal narcotics agents raided a medical marijuana dispensary in Marina del Rey on Tuesday, but officials were not revealing anything about their investigation.....DEA agents also served search warrants at two medical marijuana dispensaries in the 400 block of Rose Avenue and the 100 block of Lincoln Boulevard, both in Venice, Pullen said.....Marina Caregivers gets positive reviews on the Web site of the Los Angeles Cannabis Clubs. "Very nice people, clean, new offices," Jane B wrote. "This club would be a 5-star if they had a better selection." Two other reviews said: "I was thoroughly impressed by the selection, not just the strains, but the oils, honeys (which I am kicking myself for not getting because I can't find honey anywhere else!) edibles, and clothes too." "The quality of the cannabis is top notch, and the value card (where you earn one dollar for every 10 purchased) is fantastic. I usually get a free gram or eighth about once per month."

http://www.contracostatimes.com/california/ci_11619733?nclick_check=1

Medical marijuana dispensary raided at Tahoe

The Associated Press / 01/24/2009

SOUTH LAKE TAHOE, Calif.—Federal agents have raided a medical marijuana dispensary at South Lake Tahoe. Five agents from the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency were joined by local and federal authorities when they served a search warrant Thursday on Patient to Patient Collective. DEA Special Agent Gordon Taylor says agents seized between five and 10 pounds of processed marijuana and a small amount of U.S. currency from the dispensary.....

http://www.mercurynews.com/breakingnews/ci_11545908?nclick_check=1

New Tahoe collective says it's 'here to stay'

By Adam Jensen / Tahoe Daily Tribune

SOUTH LAKE TAHOE — Although federal agents shut down a purported medical marijuana collective in South Lake Tahoe last week, a second collective opened its doors this month, and operators said they plan to dispense marijuana to qualified California residents. Tahoe Wellness Collective opened in the Bijou Shopping Center on Jan.....Operators of the collective are prepared to legally challenge any enforcement measures should they arise, Bass said. “We’re not going anywhere,” Bass said. “We’re here to stay.”

<http://www.tahoe-dailytribune.com/article/20090126/NEWS/901259985/1007/NONE&parentprofile=1056&title=New%20Tahoe%20collective%20says%20it%27s%20%91here%20to%20stay%20>

DEA raids pot dispensary in SF

Rachel Gordon, Chronicle Staff Writer / Thursday, March 26, 2009

(03-25) 22:05 PDT San Francisco --U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration agents raided Emmalyn's California Cannabis Clinic at 1597 Howard St. in San Francisco's South of Market district mid-afternoon. They hauled out large plastic bins overflowing with marijuana plants and loaded several pickup trucks parked out front with grow lights and related equipment used to farm the plants indoors. The dispensary had been operating with a temporary permit issued by the Department of Public Health. "Based on our investigation, we believe there are not only violations of federal law, but state law as well.....

<http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2009/03/25/BA5B16N9LR.DTL>

Narcotic Task Force makes marijuana arrests

Written by Lake County News Reports / Friday, 30 January 2009

LAKE COUNTY – On Wednesday the Lake County Narcotic Task Force served two search warrants and made three arrests – including two at a local marijuana collective – for illegal marijuana cultivation and distribution.....The task force found 48 pounds of processed marijuana and 80 pounds of unprocessed marijuana in the residence, which was prepared to grow more than 500 marijuana plants.....Task force detectives obtained another search warrant for the marijuana collective, and with the assistance of the Lake County Sheriff's Office, the task force served that search warrant.....*Inside the Alternative Solutions Collective, detectives found a honey oil/hash laboratory and evidence that the collective was operating outside of state of California guidelines.*.....The task force seized 15 pounds of processed marijuana, \$2,129 in cash, two pounds of hashish and dozens of food items containing marijuana.....

<http://lakeconews.com/content/view/7176/764/>

Yellow House Pot Club Owner Sentenced To Prison

Thursday, February 5, 2009 – By Ryan Gierach, West Hollywood

West Hollywood, California (Thursday, February 5, 2009) - Larry Roger Kristich, former owner of the Compassionate Caregivers medical marijuana dispensary, known as the "Yellow House" in West Hollywood, was sentenced this week to five years in prison for operating it and six others scattered across the state. *Altogether, prosecutors charged that Mr. Kristich distributed more than 15,000 pounds of pot through seven dispensaries, known as the McDonald's of medical marijuana at its peak of operation.* He was ordered by U.S. District Judge Manuel L. Real to pay \$500,000 in fines; he had faced up to 40 years in prison. Partners James Carberry and James Ealy were both sentenced to probation for their roles in the operation in April, 2008....."They regularly sold eight ounce and one pound quantities to people who made sometimes daily buys. "There were an average of 235 visits a day to the house. That's drug dealing, not medicine dispensing," she said.

<http://wehonest.com/z/wehonest/archive/page.php?articleID=3132>

Former marijuana dispensary employee sentenced

BY JORGE BARRIENTOS, Californian staff writer / Tuesday, Feb 17 2009

An employee at a local pot dispensary charged with conspiring to distribute scores of pounds of marijuana for several years was sentenced Tuesday in federal court to 30 months in jail. Timothy Doolittle, along with seven others, was arrested in July 2007 at Bakersfield's Natures Medicinal Inc.....*Doolittle worked at Natures for two years where he distributed about 188 pounds of*

marijuana from September 2004 to July 2007, according to the criminal complaint filed in court.....Several pot dispensaries in Bakersfield shut down because of the crackdown.....
<http://www.bakersfield.com/102/story/693609.html>

Civic activists in L.A. have growing appetite to curb medical marijuana clinics

By Scott Gold / January 30, 2009

The little clinic rests along a graceful curve of Eagle Rock Boulevard also occupied by a karate studio, a barber and a smattering of modest houses, one with a basketball hoop. The building, marked only by a metal placard that says "Cornerstone," is unremarkable, by design.....The air is full of Brazilian jazz and the pungent, sugary scent of the only medication dispensed here: marijuana, premium strains of it, dried into meaty buds, stacked up in tall mason jars and sold for \$15 to \$20 a gram.(\$6840 to \$9120 per pound) Officials and neighborhood activists in this corner of Los Angeles were taken aback recently when they discovered that their community was home to nearly a dozen of these medical marijuana dispensaries, all within a 2-mile radius.....They argue that in some cases, the clinics are subject to fewer restrictions than a new liquor store -- even a new drugstore or a yogurt shop.....At City Hall, officials are drafting, finally, a set of guidelines for the facilities. That effort is controversial. Some law enforcement officials believe that abuse is frequent at the clinics and that some clients don't require marijuana, while some City Council members are concerned that the proposed rules threaten the existence of legitimate dispensaries.....Backes is 55. Several years ago, he began suffering from debilitating migraines. He discovered that using pot -- "just a little" -- helped considerably. He opened his dispensary in March 2007. Yes, his mother knows and trusts him to do the right thing, he said. His revenue is less than \$1,000 a day, his profit margin in the low single digits. His stock is refrigerated and stored at 65% humidity. He carries between 200 and 300 active patients, each required to have a doctor's recommendation for marijuana as a treatment.....
<http://www.latimes.com/news/local/la-me-outthere30-2009jan30,0,2484619.story?page=2>

Alameda revokes medical marijuana dispensary's license

By Michele Ellson / 01/22/2009

The city of Alameda has issued an order revoking the Purple Elephant medical marijuana dispensary's business license. But the dispensary has appealed the decision and remains open.....the city's interim finance director and the person responsible for making the decision, said in a letter to the dispensary's owner that he failed to disclose the true nature of his business on his license application as required by city codes. She also said he failed to get the required zoning clearance for the dispensary from the city's Planning and Building Department. "The business license application you submitted did not set forth the true and complete facts, and therefore the document you received purporting to be a business license is invalid," Gallant wrote.
http://www.mercurynews.com/alamedacounty/ci_11530191?nclick_check=1

Oakley says nope to dope dispensaries

Dave Roberts/ Published 01/02/2009 - 12:30 a.m. PDT

.....The council at its Dec. 9 meeting unanimously agreed to ban medical marijuana dispensaries in Oakley, based on problems the pot clubs have caused in other cities.....Oakley's ordinance follows a similar ban enacted in Brentwood, Contra Costa County and numerous cities throughout California. "We continue to hear stories of the various problems that occur with these businesses, including crime, blight," said Barratt-Green.....Police Chief Chris Thorsen, in a written report to the council last year before it adopted a temporary ban, came down strongly against the dispensaries.

He cited numerous problems, including increased loitering and smoking of marijuana around dispensaries, robberies of dispensary customers and the dispensaries themselves, increased incidents of people driving while stoned, sales of marijuana to people without a doctor's certificate, reselling of marijuana, sales of other drugs in or near the dispensary and increased property crime in the area. For two years Thorsen supervised the sheriff's gangs and drugs task force, which often encountered people who had cannabis club cards who were either in possession of marijuana for their own use or were selling it on street corners. "When asked about their ailments, many were unable to provide any more detail than a 'bad back' or 'chronic pain,'" *Thorsen states in his report. "These contacts have led me to believe that these subjects have obtained a cannabis club card strictly for the purpose of insulating themselves from prosecution. "It is my belief that the secondary impacts associated with marijuana dispensaries are real.* Based upon our current staffing levels, it would be nearly impossible for the Oakley Police Department to effectively mitigate or monitor increased criminal activity or negative impacts to the quality of life our citizens enjoy."

<http://www.brentwoodpress.com/article.cfm?articleID=21144>

Chron Don S Medical Marijuana Delivery Service

by The Editor on February 2, 2009

We are a non profit organization. \$50 CAP ON ALL 8THS!!! \$325 CAP ON ALL OUNCES!!! \$175 HALF OUNCES!!! FREE GIFT FOR ALL PATIENTS NO MINIMUM!!! NO DELIVERY CHARGE - TIP'S TO INSURE PROPER SERVICE.

<http://davesnothereman.com/18295/chron-don-s-medical-marijuana-delivery-service/>

PACIFIC SUPPORT SERVICES

Have you or anyone you know experienced an illness which you believe Medical Marijuana could provide relief? Anxiety - Arthritis - AIDS - Chronic Pain - Chronic Nausea - Cancer Glaucoma - Insomnia - Migraines - Sports Injuries - Auto Accidents Yes, in the state of California, it is legal to own, grow and smoke Medical Marijuana as long as you do it properly. Qualifying is simple and our experienced physicians are more than happy to help you. Please bring your documentation you have with you - old prescription bottles, medical bills, test results, etc. Discrete - Simple - Professional - Legal

420 MAGAZINE MEMBERS GET HUGE DISCOUNTS!

New Patients \$150 (Regular \$175)

Renewals \$85 (Regular \$175)

If you do not qualify for a recommendation, your visit is FREE

<http://davesnothereman.com/18295/chron-don-s-medical-marijuana-delivery-service/>

Medical marijuana makes its way to the beach cities

by Julie Sharp / Thursday, March 26, 2009

Obtaining marijuana for medical purposes in California and now in the beach cities is just a phone call away despite bans on medical marijuana dispensaries by local cities. It turns out pot delivery services for those who attain a "recommendation" from a physician have been around for a while and new establishments, known as collectives, are popping up with delivery services to Redondo, Hermosa and Manhattan Beach, as well as other South Bay cities.....Delivery services such as [www .Bakedery.com](http://www.Bakedery.com), based in Santa Monica, advertises to the South Bay clientele, with a "free gift for new patient" enticement printed in its newspaper ad, and the South Bay 420 Collective advertises on the Internet with delivery also to the beach cities.....Drivers carrying the medical herb tread on

murky ground. They are registered caregivers according to staff at the Bakedery, and they deliver to one patient at a time so as not to violate legal quantities.....

http://www.tbrnews.com/articles/2009/03/28/manhattan_beach_news/news01.txt

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

Santa Ana marijuana-growing operation uncovered by fire

7:53 AM | March 27, 2009

A fire at a commercial building in Santa Ana has helped uncover a marijuana-growing operation. Santa Ana firefighters dispatched to a single-story structure fire coming from a corner suite in the 18-unit building, said Santa Ana Fire Capt. Ben Gonzales. It took 35 firefighters 15 minutes to douse the flames.

<http://latimesblogs.latimes.com/lanow/2009/03/fire-uncovers-m.html>

Marijuana operation blamed for house fire

2:00 a.m. March 30, 2009

MIRA MESA — A fire sparked by a marijuana-growing operation caused serious damage to a home yesterday morning.....As firefighters entered the home, they discovered a large number of marijuana plants, police said. A total of 333 plants were found inside two rooms, and a third room contained trays of marijuana plants, police said. The home sustained damage estimated at \$150,000, authorities said. The fire might have been sparked by pot-growing equipment, police said. —J.L.J.

<http://www3.signonsandiego.com/stories/2009/mar/30/marijuana-operation-blamed-house-fire/>

San Lorenzo house fire caused by marijuana growing operation

By Jason Sweeney / The Daily Review / 03/23/2009

SAN LORENZO — A residential fire Friday on Via Sonata was caused by the homeowner overloading his electrical outlets while conducting a marijuana growing operation in his home, according to authorities.....Fernando Ramos, 27, came out of his burning home with his pregnant wife and 2-year-old child, and told firefighters and deputies that he had a legal marijuana growing operation inside. He said he had a cannabis card and a grower's permit.....But Ramos was stealing electricity from PG&E for lamps used to grow the plants, which he sold to two cannabis clubs in Oakland.....***Deputies then found 285 mature and immature burned marijuana plants in the home and arrested Ramos in connection with his marijuana operation and on suspicion of stealing electricity***, Nelson said. "He was well above the limit of personal use," Nelson said. "Common sense would tell you if you are stealing electricity, then you know it's not a legal activity.".....

http://www.insidebayarea.com/crime/ci_11978816

Fairfield, California - House fire leads to discovery of large scale marijuana grow

By [admin](#) • Feb 17th, 2009 • Category: [News](#)

Fairfield, California (Monday, February 16, 2009) On February 12, 2009, at approximately 10:00 PM, the Fairfield Fire Department responded to a residential fire.....Firefighters entered the home and discovered a large scale indoor marijuana growing operation.....The search yielded approximately 500 marijuana plants in various stages of development and nearly six pounds of

processed marijuana.....All five bedrooms of the two story home were dedicated to the growing operation. Detectives are actively investigating this crime. No arrests have been made yet.
<http://blog.drivinglaws.org/2009/02/17/fairfield-california-house-fire-leads-to-discovery-of-large-scale-marijuana-grow/>

Gang officers find marijuana house

By The Record / January 08, 2009

STOCKTON - Gang enforcement officers serving a Ventura County warrant at a north Stockton home Tuesday stumbled upon an indoor marijuana operation.....Officers contacted detectives, who requested a search warrant, according to the report. They found the indoor growing operation and seized 133 marijuana plants, a half-pound of dried marijuana, \$5,200 in cash, two handguns, a shotgun, an assault rifle and four M-1,000 explosive devices, according to the report.....
http://www.recordnet.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20090108/A_NEWS02/901080322

Bargain store yields huge indoor marijuana garden

By BARBARA ARRIGONI - Staff Writer / 01/08/2009

WILLOWS -- Authorities Thursday were searching for the proprietor of a bargain store in Willows where hundreds of marijuana plants were discovered growing in the basement. The elaborate indoor garden was found Wednesday afternoon in the 99 Cents with Value store on West Sycamore Street, in the heart of downtown Willows.....He said the setup inside the basement was very sophisticated and expensive. Agents and officers discovered 1,297 pot plants in various growth stages, and sophisticated lighting and watering equipment. The estimated street value of the plants, if they had reached maturity, is about \$1.3 million, Parks said. The cultivation equipment is valued at about \$60,000. The growers also may have illegally obtained power. Parks said a PG&E technician called to the scene found the electric service meter had been bypassed.....
http://www.orovillemr.com/news/ci_11412015

Man arrested for growing marijuana

Friday, January 09, 2009 / Bay City News

FAIRFIELD, CA -- A Vallejo man is scheduled to be arraigned in Solano County Superior Court this afternoon for allegedly growing 156 marijuana plants at two homes he owns in and near Vallejo.Narcotics officers also found evidence of sales, processed marijuana weighing 4 pounds 5 ounces, several firearms including two 9mm semi-automatic pistols, a .44-caliber semi-automatic pistol and a 9mm semi-automatic rifle, Toynbee said. The estimated street value of the plants is about \$780,000 and the value of the processed marijuana is valued at \$21,750.....
http://abclocal.go.com/kgo/story?section=news/local/north_bay&id=6595576

Valley task force arrests nine in marijuana 'grow house' raids

Wednesday, Jan. 14, 2009 / By Jim Guy / The Fresno Bee

A drug task force took nine people into custody, served 13 warrants and seized hundreds of marijuana plants Wednesday in raids focusing on marijuana "grow houses" in the Central Valley.....The raids grew out of the seizure of 200 plants from a home on the 6200 block of North Marks Avenue in November 2007, she said. Along with 700 marijuana plants, officers on Wednesday also confiscated 65 pounds of processed marijuana, a pound of hashish and \$20,000 in cash.....The houses suffered extensive environmental damage, such as growth of mold, because growers sought to replicate the humid, tropical conditions in which marijuana plants thrive. Mims

said that those who operate grow houses threaten otherwise safe neighborhoods. "They have large amounts of cash," she said. "Criminals know where they live and they are armed."

<http://www.fresnobee.com/local/story/1130816.html>

Two face arraignment in medical marijuana case

By [Raul Hernandez](#) / February 3, 2009

Two men will be arraigned Feb. 27 after a judge ruled there is sufficient evidence to hold them to answer for felony charges of cultivating marijuana in Ventura.....The two men — Breze Meyer, 28 and Eric Lee Jeffrey, 24, — were arrested on Feb. 24, 2008 after officers found 77 marijuana plants growing inside the house they were renting.....

<http://venturacountystar.com/news/2009/feb/04/two-face-arraignment-in-medical-marijuana-case/>

Deputies seize 1,100 marijuana plants from 2 Vallejo homes

By JESSICA A. YORK/Times-Herald staff writer / 02/05/2009

Solano County Sheriff's Department deputies scored major pot busts Tuesday and Wednesday, uncovering neighboring indoor operations in Vallejo with a combined estimated value of \$2.7 million to \$3.2 million. These are the fifth and sixth indoor marijuana-growing operations the department has uncovered in Vallejo in the past month.....Sheriffs deputies were removing some 1,100 high-potency marijuana plants and thousands of dollars of hydroponics, lighting, watering and distribution equipment from the homes....Castro-Flores' entire two-story home, including an attic, had been converted into a nursery for the narcotic plants, except for a small bathroom and a bedroom, deputies found.....Deputies were investigating a link to the second home, which shared a backyard with Castro-Flores' home and contained the bulk -- about 800 -- of the plants, as well as 6-7 pounds of processed and ready-to-sell marijuana.....Plants in both homes were grown using the same system.....Based on a review of the homes' Pacific Gas and Electric meters, suspects were apparently bypassing the meters, as their significant energy draws were not registering.....http://www.mercurynews.com/breakingnews/ci_11634830?nclick_check=1

Arcata resident sentenced for marijuana grow

The Times-Standard / 02/06/2009

On Wednesday, a Humboldt County Superior Court judge sentenced 38-year-old Arcata resident Jeremy Bensen to 270 days in jail for the cultivation of marijuana and providing false information to commit a fraud.....Humboldt County Drug Task Force agents found two properties under Bensen's name that were drawing abnormally high amounts of electricity, leading them to serve search warrants at both properties. On Dec. 18, 2007.....agents reportedly found 89 marijuana plants with processed marijuana, a scale and \$1,640 in cash. During one nine-month period, that property drew between 3,800 and 6,000 kilowatt hours, the District Attorney's Office reported. At another property agents reportedly located 228 plants, processed marijuana and \$3,600 in cash. During a six month period, agents learned the Eureka property drew between 5,700 and 7,800 kilowatt hours of electricity. An additional 40-acre property in the Pilot Rock area of Southern Humboldt was searched, yielding around 100 growing marijuana plants. Agents located bank records showing \$101,590 had been deposited in cash during 2006, and \$157,170 was deposited over the following year. A number of those deposits, the office reported, were structured in a way to avoid reporting large cash deposits.....

http://www.times-standard.com/localnews/ci_11643051

Investigation into Report of Prowler Leads to Pot Bust in Fairfield

Created by Kimberlee Sakamoto on 2/12/2009

FAIRFIELD (KRON) – Fairfield police say an investigation into reports of a prowler yielded several arrests and the discovery of an extensive indoor marijuana farm.....After entering the home, officers realized that the residence had been fashioned to accommodate an extensive marijuana growing operation. Police say nearly the entire home was converted to working grow rooms. Fairfield narcotics detectives confiscated 15 pounds of unprocessed marijuana, while police seized 154 grams of processed buds, Vicodin painkillers, smoking paraphernalia and a .22-caliber rifle with ammunition.....

<http://www.kron.com/News/ArticleView/tabid/298/smid/1126/ArticleID/429/reftab/36/t/Investigation-into-Report-of-Prowler-Leads-to-Pot-Bust-in-Fairfield/Default.aspx>

Police raid nets marijuana, pirated movie DVDs

By Harry Harris / Oakland Tribune / 03/07/2009

OAKLAND — A fast spinning power meter and a strong odor led to the seizure by police of more than \$30,000 worth of marijuana and 960 pirated movie DVDs from an East Oakland four-plex, authorities said Saturday.....While looking for possible drug stash sites, the officers were at the apartment complex and first noticed the PG&E meter was "spinning a mile a minute" an indication of excessive use of electricity that is common in marijuana grow operations, Crawford said. The windows of the upstairs units were covered but the officers smelled a strong marijuana odor coming from inside.....Crawford said the two apartments contained 300 marijuana plants in various stages of growth and 10 pounds of packaged product. He said there were lighting and ventilation systems inside the apartments for the growing. Besides the pirated DVDs, police found equipment that could make as many as 20 DVDs at a time,Crawford said power to the two apartments was shut off by PG&E because of the potential fire hazard caused by overloaded circuits.....

http://www.contracostatimes.com/news/ci_11860879?source=rss

Sebastopol man arrested for two marijuana grow operations

Bay City News Service / 03/15/2009

A 52-year-old Sebastopol man was arrested and two large marijuana grow operations were discovered Thursday.....Detectives found three separate grow rooms on the property and seized 199 plants, 26 pounds of processed marijuana, another half pound of concentrated cannabis, and more than \$25,000 in cash, according to the sheriff's department. During the search, information was discovered that led detectives to a second home in Mendocino County. The home.....Willits, was discovered to be containing another grow operation containing 250 plants, about 25 pounds of processed marijuana, and a firearm, according to the sheriff's department. Detectives also found a large generator at the Mendocino County home with oil and gas cans scattered around the area that posed a potential contaminant to a nearby stream. The Department of Fish & Game is being contacted to evaluate any potential hazard.....

http://www.mercurynews.com/breakingnews/ci_11919173?nclick_check=1

Santa Rosa Man Arrested For Pills, Marijuana

CBS 5 CrimeWatch / Mar 14, 2009

SANTA ROSA (BCN) — A 24-year-old Santa Rosa man was arrested Thursday after an investigation into forged prescriptions for narcotic pills led to the discovery of an elaborate indoor marijuana grow operation.....A search warrant was obtained for the home and vehicle, and during

the ensuing search detectives found the grow operation with more than 200 plants in various stages of growth, along with about 500 narcotic pills, a large amount of cash and a loaded firearm.....
<http://cbs5.com/crime/Marijuana.Prescription.Santa.2.959147.html>

Fraud investigation results in four arrests

Arroyo Grande: Three Arroyo Grande residents and a Nipomo man have been arrested on various charges following a monthlong investigation into fraudulent use of credit cards stolen in a residential burglary in Grover Beach. As a result of the investigation, a search warrant was served Sunday morning.....During the search, allegedly stolen property was seized along with items purchased from stores in Arroyo Grande and Pismo Beach with the stolen credit cards, police said. A marijuana cultivation operation also was found at the residence, according to police.....

<http://www.timespressrecorder.com/articles/2009/03/17/news/fivecities/news24.txt>

Sheriff's team: Men had marijuana, guns

Friday, Mar. 27, 2009

Three men were arrested Wednesday on suspicion of marijuana possession after Merced County Sheriff's Department deputies reported finding seeds and plants in a residence.....After obtaining a search warrant for the residence, the team sent in a sheriff's dog named Charlie, MacKenzie said.

After Charlie conducted a search of the house, cars and trailer on the property, deputies found 2 pounds of marijuana, 2 pounds of marijuana seeds, four handguns, several rifles and shotguns.....

<http://www.mercedsunstar.com/168/story/759131.html>

Police find marijuana plants, guns in home near park

BY SABRA STAFFORD / 3/28/2009

For the second time in as many weeks, the Narcotics Enforcement Team at the Turlock Police Department has uncovered a marijuana growing operation inside a Turlock residence. This time the raid.....resulted in the seizure of 142 marijuana plants in various stages of growth. The street value of the plants was estimated at \$500,000 according to the Turlock Police Department. The narcotics team, along with the gang unit, served a search warrant at the home around noon on Wednesday. Officers found two rooms in the house that had been converted into hidden indoor growing rooms. Both rooms had hidden entrances and were used solely for cultivating marijuana, said Turlock Police.....This is the second major drug bust the Narcotics Enforcement Team has made since forming late last year. On March 20, they uncovered approximately 400 marijuana plants with a street value between \$1 million to \$1.5 million.....

<http://www.turlockjournal.com/main.asp?SectionID=19&SubSectionID=6&ArticleID=3999>

A growing problem: Drug agents see more elaborate marijuana operations

By [Austin L. Miller](#) / Staff writer / Published: January 12, 2009

Growing and harvesting marijuana is big business.

By the numbers

2007

13 grow houses dismantled

16 arrests

1,270 marijuana plants confiscated

2008

33 grow houses dismantled

37 arrests

2,729 marijuana plants confiscated

The 2,729 marijuana plants found last year in various sections of the county were grown inside and contained a high quality of tetra hydro cannabinol or THC, which is a psychoactive substance. On

average, high-end marijuana sells for \$4,000 to \$6,000 a pound, compared to marijuana grown outside under less than ideal conditions, which typically fetches \$500 to \$800 a pound. An average indoor grow house containing 250 plants can produce about 250 pounds of marijuana a year, generating \$1 million at \$4,000 a pound. By growing marijuana indoors, dealers can enhance the THC level through the use of special lighting, fans, air conditioning units and unlimited use of electricity, typically gotten by diverting power from the meter to another source. Starting a grow house operation is estimated to be as low as \$25,000 and as high as \$90,000.....

<http://www.ocala.com/article/20090112/articles/901121001>

Agents seize nearly \$100,000 in marijuana

By Rob Parsons/Staff Writer / Friday, Mar 20 2009, 7:33 pm

A Chico man is out on bail today after he was arrested Wednesday in Hamilton City with nearly \$100,000 in marijuana plants and related growing equipment.....The Glenn County Interagency Narcotics Task Force on Wednesday served a search warrant.....Agents seized 88 marijuana plants in different stages of development, 3 ounces of processed marijuana and 1.2 grams of rock cocaine. Agents also confiscated multiple grow lights and ballasts.....

http://www.orland-press-register.com/news/county_3268___article.html/bail_marijuana.html

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

Pot growth hurting wilderness

Toxic water, mounds of waste foul public lands where cartels run plantations

By **GLEND A ANDERSON** / THE PRESS DEMOCRAT / Published: January 4, 2009 m.

Long after illegal marijuana gardens cultivated on public lands have been cleared, the trash, toxic chemicals and other environmental damage remain. "They've terraced, they've filled garbage pits, they've contaminated the ground with various chemicals," some of which have been banned in the United States.....,"I don't think people realize how much damage they do," Sharpe said. "They" are believed to be mostly Mexican nationals working for drug cartels back home. The hired laborers live in makeshift camps on public lands during the outdoor marijuana growing season. When they leave, or are chased off by the law, left behind are mini-landfills, toxic pools of water, animal carcasses and miles of drip irrigation pipe. Of the 2.9 million pot plants seized during the state's 2008 Campaign Against Marijuana Production, 70 percent were on public land. The figures do not include year-around pot seizures by other federal, state and local law organizations. Local officials also have been dealing with toxic messes left on private property.....The U.S. Forest Service does not receive money specifically for pot garden cleanups, but the California division set aside \$350,000 of its budget to clean up 30 sites in California, said Ron Pugh, special agent in charge of law enforcement in California....."This is a systematic occupation of armed foreign nationals conducting criminal activities on our public lands for profit. They're creating resource damage and creating a huge public risk," he said.

http://www.pressdemocrat.com/article/20090104/NEWS/901040370/1350?Title=Pot_growth_hurtin_g_wilderness

Officials clean up, remove illegal marijuana garden

By Kristofer Noceda / The Daily Review / 01/24/2009

CASTRO VALLEY — Empty bottles of pesticide could be seen along a tributary to the Palomares Creek. Patrick Foy, a warden for the California Department Fish and Game, picked one up and shook his head in disgust. "After a big rain like we've just experienced, these things can run into the creek and kill lots of the aquatic organisms here, including fish," he said. Foy was part of a team that on Friday was called to clean up an illegal marijuana garden site that had been left abandoned since last summer, when law enforcement agencies raided the operation and uprooted about 250 marijuana plants.....Statewide efforts are being funded by a \$250,000 grant from the California Integrated Waste Management Board, which pulled special funds from waste hauler disposals and recycling fees for the grant. Officials have targeted 1,100 sites throughout the state that still need to be cleaned up. "It is money well spent," said Andrew Hughan, a spokesman for the waste management board. "I believe we are keeping the environment healthy with this work."

http://www.insidebayarea.com/dailyreview/localnews/ci_11540265

Pot growers thrive in Northern California

Cash crop now accounts for two-thirds of Mendocino County economy

By Trish Regan / Anchor CNBC / Thurs., Jan. 22, 2009

MENDOCINO COUNTY, Calif. - Two hours from San Francisco, Northern California's Mendocino County is a world away from the urban bustle. At first glance, it's a picture postcard of the far West. But beneath its beauty lies a controversial, profitable and increasingly violent criminal enterprise. The marijuana trade is an exploding underground industry. Marijuana is being grown in homes, backyards, even in our national parks.....Marijuana is the major cash crop here. A county-commissioned study reports pot accounts for up to two-thirds of the local economy. "I don't think there's anything more important in this economy. To take this out would be a major blow," said Morrison. Though reliable numbers are hard to come by, marijuana growers in Mendocino County generate an estimated \$1 billion a year. That makes the area home to a sizable chunk of a national market for marijuana believed to be in the tens of billions of dollars. Mendocino local Eric Sligh took CNBC on a tour of one backyard garden. "These marijuana plants in Mendocino County can sometimes reach 14, 15, 20 feet," he said. A plant that yields about two pounds would be worth about \$5,000, said Sligh; his crop of 20 plants is potentially worth \$100,000. Sligh's expertise in marijuana led him to publish *Grow*, a magazine that represents just how far the marijuana business has come.....growers like Sligh say marijuana has become more like any legitimate agricultural commodity like grapes, wheat, even coffee. "There's a very developed system of brokering marijuana that exists all throughout California; it's just like a commodities broker on Wall Street," he said. "They're getting it for the lowest price they can get it, and they're bringing in the buyer and trying to get the buyer to pay the highest price they can. So, the margin in between is where they make their money." ***The economics of this drug are simple and attractive. It costs an estimated \$400 to grow a pound of pot. One pound sells for \$2,500 to a middle man. It then yields \$6,000 on the street. With low start-up and overhead costs, marijuana is the most profitable drug of all, according to local law enforcement officials.*** With that kind of profit margin, marijuana is increasingly filling the gap left by other failing industries like lumber and fishing.....

<http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/28354324/>

Marijuana garden found in LA County park

The Associated Press / 03/27/2009 09:59:28 AM PDT

LOS ANGELES—Some 11,000 marijuana plants have been found growing in an acre-plus pot garden in the Peter F. Schabarum County Regional Park wilderness east of Los Angeles.....County police Lt. Jeremy Kitabjian says three men dropped pellet rifles and fled when they saw officers. They have eluded capture. The plants have been uprooted and hauled away.
http://www.mercurynews.com/news/ci_12011029?nclick_check=1

Four medical studies were publicized this quarter. Each expressed the serious effects the use of marijuana causes, especially in younger users.

Heavy marijuana use "damages teens" brains"

Washington, Feb 03 (ANI): A new study has revealed that teens and young adults who are heavy users of marijuana are more likely than non-users to have disrupted brain development. In the study, researchers found abnormalities in areas of the brain that interconnect brain regions involved in memory, attention, decision-making, language and executive functioning skills. The findings hold significance because adolescence is a crucial period for brain development and maturation. "Studies of normal brain development reveal critical areas of the brain that develop during late adolescence, and our study shows that heavy cannabis use is associated with damage in those brain regions," said study leader Manzar Ashtari, Ph.D., director of the Diffusion Image Analysis and Brain Morphometry Laboratory in the Radiology Department of The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia.The study appeared early last month in the Journal of Psychiatric Research.
<http://hamaraphotos.com/health/brain/heavy-marijuana-use-damages-teens-brains.html>

Study shows marijuana use dangerous for those with heart disease

By Peggy Kraus, Disease Prevention Examiner / February 8,
The young adults of the 1970s have now reached their fifties and sixties, and the likelihood that the marijuana-loving segment of this population develop heart disease is great. Along with other poor health habits, such as making poor food choices, cigarette smoking, inactivity, and being overweight or obese, using marijuana adds to the morbidity and mortality of this group. A 2002 review of the effects of marijuana on the cardiovascular system reports the following: The use of marijuana by "most young, healthy users" is directly related to "occasional myocardial infarction, stroke, and other adverse cardiovascular events." "Marijuana smoking by people with cardiovascular disease poses health risks because of the consequences of the resulting increased cardiac work, increased catecholamine levels, carboxyhemoglobin, and postural hypotension." In other words, if you are young and healthy and you choose to use marijuana, you stand a chance of having a heart attack, stroke, or other cardiovascular problem.....
<http://www.examiner.com/x-672-Disease-Prevention-Examiner~y2009m2d8-Study-shows-marijuana-use-dangerous-for-those-with-heart-disease>

Marijuana use and testicular cancer

4:54 PM, February 9, 2009

Young men who began using marijuana as adolescents or who smoked pot at least once a week were twice as likely as those who never used the drug to develop testicular cancer, according to researchers at Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center in Seattle. The association was strongest with nonseminoma, an aggressive, fast-growing subtype of testicular cancer that typically strikes men between ages 20 and 35. "It's not just that you develop testicular cancer, but you develop a

worse type of testicular cancer," said Dr. Glen Justice, director of the cancer center at Orange Coast Memorial Medical Center in Fountain Valley, who was not involved with the study.....The study published online today in the journal Cancer was the first to look at marijuana, its authors said. Researchers interviewed 371 men aged 18 to 44 who had been diagnosed with testicular cancer. They interviewed an additional 979 men of the same age group and from the same three Washington counties who did not have cancer. The researchers found a 70% higher risk of testicular cancer in those who were using pot at the time of diagnosis, with an even higher risk associated with younger age at first use and frequency of use.....

http://latimesblogs.latimes.com/booster_shots/2009/02/marijuana-use-a.html

New Severe Vomiting Syndrome Linked to Chronic Pot Use

Monday, March 23, 2009 **FOX NEWS** / Reuters

There's mounting evidence that a new syndrome is directly related to chronic abuse of marijuana. The severe vomiting sickness, called "cannabinoid hyperemesis," was first recognized in Australia in 2004. U.S. researchers have uncovered a new case involving a 22-year-old man from Omaha, Neb, according to a study published in the March issue of the World Journal of Gastroenterology. The latest findings were presented by Dr. Siva Sontineni and colleagues from the Creighton University Medical Center in Omaha, Neb. Symptoms include nausea, stomach pain and severe vomiting. Sufferers report the only way to get some relief is from taking a hot bath or shower. "Doctors and health care workers currently under recognize the syndrome leading to delayed diagnosis and expensive diagnostic investigations," Sontineni wrote in the report. "Increasing consistent use of marijuana among United States populations, particularly young people, over several years will see a steady rise in the number of cases diagnosed each year." In the Nebraska case, the man had been [smoking](#) heavy doses of marijuana daily for six years. This eventually led to bouts of vomiting lasting 2-3 hours daily, and it was worse after meals.....

<http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,510193,00.html>

The "legitimate" business of selling Marijuana has spawned a number of other enterprises. These businesses support those who engage in the sale of marijuana from defending them in criminal cases, those who teach them how to cultivate marijuana and open a dispensary to two publicly traded companies that offer retail sales services for dispensaries. Advocates for marijuana use and those attempting to start legitimate businesses in support of marijuana sales are working to support the legalization of marijuana for all purposes.

America's Criminal Defense Group defeats prosecution on 500 pounds of marijuana in Nebraska

Monday, January 12, 2009

The attorneys at America's Criminal Defense group and senior attorney Anthony Partipilo secure six month jail sentence for client facing charges of possession with intent to deliver 500 pounds of marijuana. Client was arrested on the Interstate I-80 in Nebraska while traveling through the state. Through the tireless efforts and aggressive representation by America's Criminal Defense Group the prosecution was left with no other choice but to offer a plea of 6 months county jail time of which the client was given credit for the 3 months he spent in jail on the arrest and was released with time served. The client resides in California. Anyone charged with transportation of marijuana is encouraged to contact the attorneys at America's Criminal Defense Group

www.americascriminaldefense.com and senior case manager Todd A. Terry (non-attorney) before talking to law enforcement.

Visit www.AmericasCriminalDefense.com for more information about America's Criminal Defense Group.

<http://criminalattorneyblog.blogspot.com/2009/01/americas-criminal-defense-group-defeats.html>

420attorney on Marijuana and recent events in the law, Brought to you by The Kroger Law Group

Recent events in the California Marijuana legal world. If you or a loved one is currently being investigated or has been charged with a crime, call the 420attorney/Kroger Law Group at 323-655-5700 for a consultation. The Kroger Law Group limits its practice to Criminal Defense. We handle all types of Criminal cases in both Federal and State court.

<http://420attorney.blogspot.com/2009/01/undercover-agents-smoke-and-take-drugs.html>

CNBC 'Marijuana Inc.' lifts the lid on weed business

Thursday, January 22nd 2009 / Trish Regan's show on CNBC is no puff piece.

MARIJUANA, INC.: INSIDE AMERICA'S POT INDUSTRY Thursday night at 9, CNBC

....For better or worse, pot has become a major player in American agriculture, and Regan matter-of-factly notes that what corn is to Iowa, marijuana is to a fertile triangle just outside San Francisco. Fittingly for a CNBC production, Regan focuses more on the economics than the sociology of marijuana, and the numbers make her point eloquently. *It costs about \$400 to grow a pound of marijuana. The grower sells it to a wholesaler for about \$2,500. It's then broken down in smaller quantities that can bring in about \$6,000. You see the incentive here.* One of the growers interviewed by Regan values his plants at about \$5,000 apiece. He has 20 of them, which makes him a small grower, but still adds up to more than small change.The main response of the marijuana police, local and federal, is frustration that they can do so little about an enterprise that some officials figure may in some way involve up to 60% of county residents. Without marijuana farming, Regan's sources all agree, the county's economy would implode. "Marijuana Inc." adds up to a solid special with a well-supported and inescapable conclusion: The commerce is unlikely to change and the law has only a slim chance of doing more than containing the most violence-prone offenders. When it comes to marijuana, a whole lot of people voted some time ago to just say yes.

[http://www.nydailynews.com/entertainment/tv/2009/01/22/2009-01-](http://www.nydailynews.com/entertainment/tv/2009/01/22/2009-01-22_cncb_marijuana_inc_lifts_the_lid_on_weed.html)

[22_cncb_marijuana_inc_lifts_the_lid_on_weed.html](http://www.nydailynews.com/entertainment/tv/2009/01/22/2009-01-22_cncb_marijuana_inc_lifts_the_lid_on_weed.html)

Oaksterdam University

January 23rd, 2009

OAKLAND — You know you're in a different kind of college when a teaching assistant sets five marijuana plants down in the middle of a lab and no one blinks a bloodshot eye. Welcome to Oaksterdam University, a new trade school where higher education takes on a whole new meaning. The school prepares people for jobs in California's thriving medical marijuana industry. For \$200 and the cost of two required textbooks, students learn how to cultivate and cook with cannabis, study which strains of pot are best for certain ailments, and are instructed in the legalities of a business that is against the law in the eyes of the federal government.So far, 60 students have completed the two-day weekend course, which is sold out through May.Oaksterdam U draws its name from the jokey nickname for a section of Oakland where some of California's earliest medical marijuana dispensaries took root. The nickname in turn was inspired by the city of Amsterdam, in Holland,

where pot use is tolerated. At one point, the Oaksterdam neighborhood had at least 15 clubs and coffee shops selling pot.....Despite periodic raids by federal drug agents and the threat of prosecution, clubs and cooperatives where customers can buy the drug have proliferated; California has 300 to 400, according to advocacy groups. Entry-level workers are paid a little more than minimum wage, while "bud tenders," can make over \$50,000 a year, and owners and top managers more than \$100,000, Lee said.....

<http://hotnewstoday.net/oaksterdam-university.html>

Pasadena class teaches how to legally dispense marijuana

By Robert S. Hong and Alfred Lee, Staff Writers / 03/01/2009

PASADENA - On a recent rainy morning, Liz McDuffie was lecturing about a dozen students inside a classroom at her Medical Cannabis Caregivers Directory on Mentor Avenue. She went over the maze of legal issues surrounding the use and sale of medical marijuana, discussed the process involved in becoming a "primary care provider," and she spelled out the risks of operating a medical marijuana dispensing business. "This is a new industry that's going to turn California around, and you're it," she told her students.....For the past two years, McDuffie has operated the MCCDirectory office inside a nondescript building on Mentor, with half of her business spot dedicated to a clothing store called Ritz Resale, which is operated by her daughter. The MCCDirectory has two stated purposes - to provide a searchable directory of physicians and caregivers who prescribe and sell medical marijuana, and to provide training for individuals interested in providing medical marijuana services.....For a \$130 class fee, students..... can learn about everything marijuana related - from handling encounters with law-enforcement officials to producing cannabis-infused edibles and ointments. "We're just learning about the laws and how to protect yourself," said Szamzit. "It's important knowing what's legal," Lehman said. McDuffie moves back and forth through the aisles of her classroom, touching her students' on their shoulders and looking them in the eye to get her points across. She hands out several forms during the five-hour class, some of which describe how to obtain a Department of Health Services Cannabis Card, and others with lists of regulations pertaining to marijuana dispensaries.....The key to the industry's legitimization, she believes, is in regulation and compliance. She preaches on everything from proper labeling - even doing demonstrations of new software that helps label containers of marijuana - to a medical marijuana certification program, Clean Green, that she was instrumental in founding. "It's so that people know that their cannabis is organic and safe," McDuffie said of Clean Green. Run by Chris Van Hook, a licensed USDA organic certifier based in Northern California, Clean Green independently certifies that medical marijuana, according to its Web site, complies "with national and international guidelines for organic and sustainable farming." Van Hook said he modeled the program, still in its infant stages, after the USDA's requirements.....McDuffie has also been involved in politics, founding a pro-environment political action committee in 2006 called the Coalition for a Safe and Clean Environment with fellow marijuana activist Philip Lujan. The PAC has donated \$17,425 to area politicians.....But in McDuffie's view, the war against medical marijuana is now all but over - and medical pot has won. "Please - it's here," said McDuffie. "The question is, how do we gracefully make an entrance into the business community?"

http://www.pasadenastarnews.com/news/ci_11813775

OCTOBER 15TH, 2008 @ 8PM: CHRIS CONRAD & MIKKI NORRIS

TOPIC: Keeping out of legal trouble: Tales of a court-qualified cannabis expert. with Chris Conrad AND Mikki Norris

This is our time. This is our moment. The cannabis reform movement: Making change that we can believe in. Keeping out of legal trouble: Tales of a court-qualified cannabis expert. with Chris Conrad “The purpose of the expert’s testimony is to enlarge the vision and understanding of the triers of facts and to enable them to perform their functions intelligently.....Making change that we can believe in. with Mikki Norris Chris Conrad and Mikki Norris have spent their lives involved in cannabis horticulture, education, writing, and activism since they met at a political rally in the early eighties. Since then, the two have been recognized by High Times as “Living Legends of Pot.” Arguably, Chris Conrad’s most important work is accomplished within the legal system, helping an intelligently functioning jury “grow” out of the unforgiving soil that is the criminal justice system. By providing proper as opposed to misinformation during trials concerning yields and dosages, Chris is often able to counter exaggerated government data, but it is by promoting awareness of the harsh reality of conspiracy laws and mandatory minimum sentences that Chris and Mikki are together helping to create an intelligently functioning citizenry from which juries will be pulled in the future.

Medical Marijuana: A Growth Industry In Colorado

Westword / March 03, 2009

Behind a locked, unmarked door in a Colorado Springs strip mall, the state's largest marijuana dispensary is open for business. The operation's aromatic showroom is packed floor to ceiling with pot and anything and everything related to it. "Welcome to Cannabis Therapeutics. Intended for prescribed medical use only!" announces a large sign on the wall. Glass cases display Baggie upon Baggie of pot — 35 varieties in all. Those looking for cheap medicine can go for the \$250-an-ounce, bargain-basement Holland's Hope or upgrade to \$300-an-ounce Thunderstruck or \$400-an-ounce Purple Haze. Big spenders can opt for top-shelf meds such as a crop of Chocolate Chunk priced at \$500 an ounce.....This arrangement has proved lucrative: Lee, 44, says his dispensary earns about \$105,000 a month, \$75,000 of which he says goes back out the door for more monthly product.... <http://thinkoutsidethecage2.blogspot.com/2009/03/medical-marijuana-growth-industry-in.html>

New Web Site To Find Medical Marijuana Near You Launched

Posted on 2009 March 21 by bbvm

A new Web site has been launched, which helps people locate medical marijuana. WeedMaps.com maps out where you can find marijuana and marijuana groups near you.....Although it may sound illegal but the site purports to only track medical marijuana. WeedMaps.com is a Web site “where medical marijuana patients can connect with other patients in their area, to freely discuss and review local cannabis co-operatives and dispensaries,” according to Weedmaps.com. The site promotes that “anyone can register and moderation is minimal.” Weedmaps.com offers maps of the locations of dispensaries, listings for the dispensaries, and more. <http://bbvm.wordpress.com/2009/03/21/new-web-site-to-find-medical-marijuana-near-you-launched/>

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

Court: No new trial for Calif. convicted killer

WASHINGTON (AP) — A unanimous Supreme Court says a convicted killer whose lawyer convinced him not to pursue an insanity defense does not deserve a new trial.....Mirzayance was convicted of fatally shooting and stabbing his 19-year-old cousin.....He told police that he killed her

because she had "pissed him off" and he had smoked marijuana. A urine test, however, showed no marijuana in his system. A jury convicted Mirzayance of first-degree murder, although his lawyer had sought lesser charges.....

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5iRu6APJt1IENkntwrFzfqah7d7CQD974F1J82>

Police: Elementary Student May Have Traded Sex For Drugs

Marijuana Found At Discovery Elementary In Palm Bay

WESH.com / Jan. 11, 2009

PALM BAY, Fla. - Police said on Friday that a girl at a Palm Bay elementary school traded sex for drugs. Palm Bay police said they want to know where the elementary school student got the marijuana she brought to school.....At Discovery Elementary School, students told a resource officer that a sixth-grade boy had marijuana. Police said they found him with the marijuana on the way home. Martinez said that boy had gotten it from a female student. An investigation led to a sixth-grade girl, and now police are investigating rumors that she got it in South Florida in exchange for sex.....

<http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/28586736/>

Authorities intercept marijuana shipment

Advocate Florida parishes bureau

Published: Jan 13, 2009 - Page: 5B - UPDATED: 12:05 a.m.

HAMMOND — Narcotics agents with the Tangipahoa Parish Sheriff's Office and Hammond Police intercepted an apparent long-distance marijuana package sent by private delivery service, leading to the arrest of a Hammond man, deputies said Monday.....The package contained approximately 1.3 pounds of marijuana.....***Derek Hammond accepted the package from an undercover agent delivering it after Hammond asked the agent whether the package was from California.*** The agent said it was, deputies said. Hammond later told agents the package was his and "Donald Robinson" was a fictitious name.....

<http://www.theadvocate.com/news/suburban/37485624.html>

Ten arrests made in alleged Santa Cruz-Texas pot operation

By Jennifer Squires - Sentinel Staff Writer / 01/16/2009

SANTA CRUZ - Sheriff's deputies investigating an interstate drug ring arrested 10 people during raids at 11 homes.....All are suspected of growing or selling marijuana re-sold at exorbitant prices in Texas.....The large drug operation was apparently funneled through Robert David Scott, 39, of Aptos, who once a week sold 5 pounds of pot at \$4,000 a pound to a Texas man. Carney said the unidentified Texan flew to Santa Cruz weekly to pick up his marijuana order, then shipped it through a private service to Denton.....During the raids, deputies confiscated more than \$14,000 cash, 9 pounds of pot packaged to sell, nearly 1,300 marijuana plants and indoor marijuana growing equipment worth tens of thousands of dollars.....Nearly everyone arrested Thursday claimed to be medicinal marijuana users and had medical recommendations.....Deputies are still searching for other assets from the drug sales, although he speculated much of the money may have been spent. One alleged grower used it to pay for graduate school, he said. The Sheriff's Office reported seeing an increase in interstate pot sales in the past couple of years. ***"The interesting thing is it seems like in the past year we're dealing with agencies calling us from Texas and all over the U.S. telling us people are shipping marijuana from California," Carney said. Sheriff's Office drug detectives***

have found more indoor grow houses recently, many of which are operated to augment someone's income. "Honestly there are probably so many grow houses in the community," Carney said. "I looked at our stats from this year and last year, our indoor grow stats have just gone kind of crazy....."

http://www.mercurynews.com/centralcoast/ci_11473549?nclick_check=1

Troopers Seize Pot, Continue 'Controlled' Delivery

TheOmahaChannel.com / Thurs., Jan. 22, 2009

OMAHA, Neb. - State troopers found 152 pounds of marijuana during a traffic stop on Interstate 80 Wednesday morning, and then continued with a "controlled" delivery.....***They arrested a California couple who allegedly tried to take possession the drugs.*** Eliodoro Cabrera Jr., 29, and Cynthia Hinojosa, 24, both of California, were charged with conspiracy to distribute marijuana.....

<http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/28796382/>

Drug bust yields 162 pounds of marijuana

Arrest» Street value of confiscated pot estimated at \$600,000

By Melinda Rogers / The Salt Lake Tribune / 01/24/2009

A Utah Highway Patrol trooper is being credited for catching a woman transporting 162 pounds of marijuana through Salt Lake County on Saturday evening.....The trooper and tank discovered five or six large duffle bags full of pot in the back of her charcoal gray Toyota Tundra. The street value of the drugs is estimated at \$600,000.....Before the trooper searched her vehicle and found the drugs she told him that she was from California and was driving to visit friends in Minnesota, he said.

http://www.sltrib.com/news/ci_11548843

Stop Medical Fraud Marijuana in New Jersey!

S.119 seeks to legalize marijuana for so-called medical reasons. Proponents of such legislation prey on the sick and dying to promote their agenda of smoking pot. Proponents of S119 want you to believe that "medical" marijuana will only be smoked by those who have extreme serious medical conditions. THIS IS UNTRUE. This is who is really smoking marijuana under the guise of medicine in states that has already passed such legislation:

Oregon

Voters in the state of Oregon approved a "medical" marijuana act in 1998. The program is run as a state registry program within Oregon's Department of Health. ***As of January 1, 2009, the Oregon Medical Marijuana Program has 20,842 individuals that legally hold "medical" marijuana ID cards and of those, 88% are treating "severe pain" rather than the more serious conditions such as cancer (3.4%), glaucoma (1.6%), and HIV+/AIDS (1.9%). Another 2,204 applications for ID cards are pending.***

Source: Oregon.gov, Oregon Medical Marijuana Program (OMMP)

<http://oregon.gov/DHS/ph/ommp/index.shtml>

Rhode Island

The Edward O. Hawkins and Thomas C. Slater Medical Marijuana Act was enacted on January 3, 2006. As of December 30, 2008, 561 individuals are participating in the program. ***Of those 561 participants, 63.71% are treating what the department labels as chronic disease or condition (chronic pain, severe nausea and severe persistent muscle spasms) rather than the more serious***

conditions such as cancer (11.95%), glaucoma (1.69%), HIV+/AIDS (4.50%), and Hepatitis C (9.7%).

Source: Rhode Island Department of Health <http://www.health.ri.gov/hsr/mmp/>

Colorado

Voter in the state of Colorado passed a “medical” marijuana amendment in 2000. The program is as a registry program within Colorado’s Department of Health and Environment. As of December 31, 2008, the Marijuana Registry Program has **4,819 individual that legally hold registry ID cards and of those 87% are treating “severe pain” and 21% are treating “muscle spasms rather than the more serious conditions such as cancer (4%), glaucoma (2%), and HIV+/AIDS (2%).**

Source: Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, Medical Marijuana Registry Update. <http://www.cdphe.state.co.us/hs/Medicalmarijuana/marijuanaupdate.html>

HAWAII

Of the 4,560 patients registered for medical marijuana use in the state in December, 68 percent, or 3,102, received physicians' certifications to use marijuana for the "debilitating medical condition" of severe pain. ***That was followed by 1,167 certifications for multiple conditions, 70 for persistent muscle spasms, 61 for HIV or AIDS, 55 for cancer, 48 for severe nausea, 25 for seizures and 14 for wasting syndrome.***

Source: Article in the Maui News titled Careful what you ask for, dated 2/9/09. link: <http://www.mauinews.com/page/content.detail/id/514619.html>

For proponents of S119 to insist that it is the seriously ill that they are seeking to protect is not only laughable but also offensive to those who have worked hard to see marijuana use by our youth drop. “Medical” marijuana impacts youth. It is a step towards legalization of marijuana. Too often it is an excuse for recreational use.

www.SAMforNewjersy.org

Pals pack alleged stabber's hearing

By Nelson Daranciang / Feb 10, 2009

Benjamin Davis apparently smoked some marijuana that had been spiked with LSD before he allegedly stabbed two hikers at Koko Head Crater on Feb. 1, says a friend.....The two hikers who were stabbed at the top of Koko Crater Trail identified Davis as their attacker.....Tanaka said the only clothing Davis was wearing when he attacked him was boxer shorts. Police later found Davis in a tree wearing one shoe but otherwise nude.....Iwamoto suffered multiple stab wounds to his head, chest, abdomen and both hands. He said Iwamoto had stab wounds or cuts to the left temporal artery and left jugular vein and two collapsed lungs. He also suffered skull and neck fractures.....

http://www.starbulletin.com/news/20090210_Pals_pack_alleged_stabbers_hearing.html

3 arrested, \$1 million in pot seized in bust outside W Hotel in Dallas

By DONNA FIELDER / Denton Record-Chronicle / Sunday, February 15, 2009

Denton County sheriff's narcotics investigators last week seized \$1 million in top-grade marijuana and arrested three people in connection with the bust outside Dallas' exclusive W

Hotel.....Dimitriy Goncharuk, 30, originally from Russia but now of Hollywood, Calif., remained at the Denton County Jail in lieu of \$2 million bail Saturday.....Ashley Bowerman, 28, of Colorado and Jody Bogumil, 29, of Grass Valley, Calif., were each released on \$50,000 bail.....The key

opened storage units that held duffel bags containing 200 pounds of "hydro" marijuana. "This is the highest-grade marijuana," Sheriff's Capt. Jeff Wawro said. Such marijuana brings \$5,000 to \$6,000 a pound.....Davis said the two women were college students recruited to drive the Winnebago to Dallas and were to be paid \$15,000 each for the trip. It's the latest ploy to try to get drug runs past law enforcement officers, he said.

http://www.dallasnews.com/sharedcontent/dws/news/localnews/crime/stories/DN-potbust_15met.ART.Central.Edition1.4c50fcb.html

Medical Pot Traded for Cash Near Dutch Bros, Handgun in Another Deal

February 16, 2009 - 9:34 AM

The Grants Pass Department of Public Safety made three juvenile arrests in an apparent theft of medical marijuana that immediately ended up being sold on the street illegally.....In one case the drug was traded for a handgun.....It was determined that medical marijuana had been stolen from a residence.....Through further investigation, it was determined that one of the suspects sold some of the marijuana for \$30 while another traded some of the stolen marijuana for a .22 caliber pistol, which was

recovered.....http://www.ktvb.com/news/medical_1188996___article.html/dutch_bros.html

Truck headed to Westborough contained \$2.1M in marijuana

By Benjamin Paulin, Globe Staff / February 21, 2009

A truck heading to Massachusetts that was stopped by police in Arizona contained 1,400 pounds of marijuana, a haul worth \$2.1 million on the street, authorities said.....***The truck was headed from Rancho Cucamonga, Calif. to Westborough,***.....The vehicle, owned by M & G Enterprises in East Hartford, Conn., contained frozen food products along with boxes loaded with marijuana.....

http://www.boston.com/news/local/breaking_news/2009/02/truck_headed_to.html

Warren County Drug Task Force Rounds Up Marijuana Traffickers

Posted: 4:12 PM Mar 6, 2009

"Operation California Connection" began at 8 Friday morning, Friday March 6th and picked up 8 of the 9 individuals wanted here in Warren County....."This is a drug trafficking organization actually consisting of 11 people, 2 other people in California, that were trafficking some in the neighborhood of 200 pounds a month of marijuana....."A lot of it was being transported in rental cars we determined that during the investigation. They would make periodic trips to California to pick up the marijuana and return here with it," Loving explains.....During the final stages of the investigation, Task Force officers received 7 warrants and seized 12 pounds of marijuana, nearly \$75,000 dollars in cash, 4 vehicles, 2 guns and marijuana-selling paraphernalia.....The California officials were also working Friday morning to locate and arrest the two traffickers located in Turlock, California. All 11 individuals are charged with "Engaging in Organized Crime- Criminal Syndicate" which is a "Class B" felony and carries a punishment of 10 to 20 years in prison.

<http://www.wbko.com/news/headlines/40864462.html>

Calif. man sentenced for flying marijuana to Wis.

Associated Press / March 11, 2009

MADISON, Wis. - A failed script writer has been sentenced to more than five years in federal prison for flying \$500,000 worth of marijuana to Wisconsin on his private plane.....Ryan was arrested Oct. 18 after landing at a remote airport in southwestern Wisconsin with 157 pounds of marijuana. He

told Crabb he grew and sold marijuana to raise money for a movie project. Federal prosecutors say he was motivated by greed.....

<http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/chi-ap-wi-potpilot-sentence,0,6464191.story>