

Medical Marijuana and Associated Issues

California Chiefs of Police Association

Medical Marijuana Task Force

April to June 2009

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

Fiore charged with murdering accomplice

Thadeus Greenon/The Times-Standard / 05/21/2009

Brian Cole Fiore faces a murder charge for his role last week in an armed marijuana robbery and ensuing high speed chase along State Route 299 that left his accomplice dead of a gunshot wound to the head.....Charges from the DA's office and documents filed with the court shed some light into the events of the May 11 armed robbery, and its violent conclusion. Armed with a handgun and an assault rifle, Fields, 21, of Humboldt County, and Fiore, 19, of Antioch, allegedly robbed six people of 14 pounds of marijuana in McKinleyville before leading law enforcement on a more than 20-mile chase along State Route 299, which saw the two suspects allegedly fire multiple shots at pursuing officers, who reportedly never returned fire.....The criminal complaint also identifies the assault weapon allegedly used in the robbery and ensuing chase as an AK-47, and alleges that Fiore personally used a .45 pistol to fire at law enforcement officers during the chase.....An affidavit for a search warrant filed with Humboldt County Superior Court Tuesday indicates that ***Fields and Fiore had been in contact with the people they allegedly robbed of marijuana prior to the deal, and that the sellers had "checked them out," even tracing one of the suspect's cell phones. Fields and Fiore told the sellers they were purchasing the marijuana for a dispensary, according to the document.*** The document also states that two of the sellers contacted the Humboldt County Sheriff's Office about the case and they allegedly refused to identify the other sellers, according to the document..... http://www.times-standard.com/localnews/ci_12418378

Five arrested in pot-related robberies

Bay City News / Saturday, April 04, 2009

SANTA ROSA, CA -- Santa Rosa police arrested four men and a juvenile this week in connection with four marijuana-related robberies in the city since July. Donald Paul Parker, 30, and Tyrone Termaine Jones, 33, were arrested Thursday at their Santa Rosa residences for two first-degree marijuana-related home invasion robberies.....A marijuana growing operation was found at Parker's residence and two firearms were found at Jones' residence.....Max Julian Foster, 21, was arrested off Santa Rosa Avenue Thursday for robbing a marijuana dealer of one pound of high quality marijuana and a large amount of cash.....The marijuana dealer was able to identify Foster and a juvenile as the suspects, Fraga said. The dealer also identified the juvenile as a suspect in a March 26 marijuana-related home invasion robbery on Range Avenue on March 26. In that robbery, three armed suspects stole several marijuana plants, personal items and the resident's vehicle.....A search of Foster's Bedford Street home uncovered a marijuana growing operation and cocaine and Foster also was arrested for possession of cocaine for purposes of sales.....

http://abclocal.go.com/kgo/story?section=news/local/north_bay&id=6745373

Robbery turns to shootout at pot clinic

Thursday, April 23, 2009

LOS ANGELES (KABC) -- A robbery turned into a dangerous shootout at a medical marijuana clinic in Koreatown. Police said surveillance cameras were rolling as a clerk was forced to open the safe for an armed man. The suspect cleaned out the marijuana supply and left, but then the employee pulled out a gun and went after him down a stairwell. There was a gunfight, but no one got hurt.....

http://abclocal.go.com/kabc/story?section=news/local/los_angeles&id=6776036

Police: Medical Marijuana Club Robberies Connected

[Andrea Menniti](#) / SACRAMENTO (CBS13) / Apr 17, 2009

Three medical marijuana dispensaries have been held up in the area, and police now say the crimes are connected. Green Solutions is one of the three dispensaries that the suspects hit, which quickly turned into a violent situation. "He came in, pointed the gun at his face and told him if he didn't comply they would start shooting them up,".....Police say two men have robbed at least three Sacramento cannabis clubs in the area. Using powerful guns to get what they want, the two have stolen thousands of dollars in cash and pounds of pricey medical marijuana.....

<http://cbs13.com/local/Police.Medical.Marijuana.2.988081.html>

Man robbed of marijuana in Pleasant Hill on 4/20

By Robert Salonga / Contra Costa Times / 04/21/2009

PLEASANT HILL — On a date widely celebrated by marijuana enthusiasts, a man who said he was delivering medical pot to another man was robbed of his stash at gunpoint, police said. The victim was meeting with the other man about 8:10 p.m. Monday in the Kohl's parking lot in the 2300 block of Monument Boulevard to deliver medical marijuana, police said. The intended recipient brandished a handgun and stole the drugs, then got into a brown Jeep Grand Cherokee occupied by three people.....

http://www.mercurynews.com/crime/ci_12191165

Carjacking tied to medical marijuana robbery

By [MARTIN ESPINOZA](#) / THE PRESS DEMOCRAT / Saturday, May 23, 2009

Three men, two from Santa Rosa, were arrested Friday night in connection with a carjacking in Santa Rosa and the burglary of a medical marijuana outlet in Sebastopol. A shotgun was used in both crimes, though no one was injured, police said. The carjacking took place about 11 p.m.....The suspects brandished a shotgun and forced the resident to give up his keys, taking his 2008 Honda and his money, according to police. The suspects ordered the victim to run from the scene as they sped off in the Honda. The following day, Sebastopol police responded to a burglar alarm at Peace and Medicine, a medical marijuana outlet at 6771 Sebastopol Ave.....Police said the suspects in the video matched the suspects in the carjacking and appeared to be driving the carjacking victim's Honda. Also, the suspects were shown with a shotgun that matched the description of the gun used in the carjacking.....

<http://www.pressdemocrat.com/article/20090523/ARTICLES/905239991/1350?Title=Carjacking-tied-to-medical-marijuana-robbery>

Robbers believed to have been after marijuana in San Jacinto break-in

Tuesday, April 21, 2009 / By JOHN ASBURY / The Press-Enterprise

San Jacinto police are searching for three men they believe broke into a home to steal marijuana. The residents of the home told police the men entered the house.....The three men fired one gunshot into the ceiling and then overpowered the residents.....The residents reported the robbery to police, who came to search the home and found about seven marijuana plants growing in the garage, Mike said. They also found several ounces of marijuana in baggies.....

http://www.pe.com/localnews/hemet/stories/PE_News_Local_S_epot22.48a7a55.html

Medical Marijuana Dispensary On WeHo Border Robbed

Monday, April 27, 2009 – By WeHo News Staff, West Hollywood

West Hollywood, California (Monday, April 27, 2009) - Armed robbers hit the Herbal Discount Collective located at 735 North La Brea Avenue just south of Waring Avenue on April

11.....Apparently three male black suspects gained access to the club around 10 pm using handguns, ordering the patrons, employees and the security guard onto the floor. While the suspects attempted to make off with the marijuana, one patron jumped a suspect, allowing the manager to run out the door.....This latest incident, say local activists, makes three armed robberies at three different locations along La Brea Avenue in the past seven months. In October of 2008 several armed men robbed the "La Brea Collective" in the 800 Block of South La Brea Avenue *where one of the suspects shot and killed the store's security guard.....* "The latest incident further underscores Melrose Action's concerns about the over-proliferation of these businesses and the potential for serious crime to be directly linked with their operation. *"Armed robberies of marijuana dispensaries is nothing new, according to an LAPD source, citing privately that "they (armed robberies) are just new to the areas where these establishments have opened up shop and more frequent than any one is reporting."*

<http://wehonest.com/z/wehonest/archive/page.php?articleID=3395>

Robbery suspect caught after dumping motorcycle

By DANIEL LOPEZ /Herald Staff Writer / 05/06/2009

A man wanted in connection with an armed robbery in Santa Barbara has been arrested after a brief high speed chase through Castroville.....The Jeep was linked to a robbery in Santa Barbara in which \$7,000 and some marijuana was stolen..... Willis said deputies later learned Hatton had stolen a white Suzuki motorcycle. Around 11 a.m. Wednesday, a deputy spotted a similar motorcycle at the intersection of Crane and Geil streets. Willis said the man riding the motorcycle, later identified as Hatton, speed off after making eye contact with the deputy.....Hatton was booked at County Jail on suspicion of receiving stolen property, evading police, resisting arrest and a parole violation. Authorities are still searching for second suspect in connection with the robbery in Santa Barbara.

http://www.contracostatimes.com/california/ci_12312585

Extortion plot at Santa Barbara medical marijuana dispensary

Tuesday, April 28, 2009

PRESS RELEASE from the Santa Barbara Police Department

.....The victim told officers he had just escaped from several subjects who had held him captive in a back room of the "Sacred Mountain" medical marijuana dispensary.....*The victim explained that he is part owner of the business and his partner.....accused him of stealing over \$400,000 from the business.* Weighill arranged to have two individuals forcefully hold the victim in a back room of the dispensary and sign over his share of the business. The victim was held at knife point and was threatened with bodily harm. The victim signed a make shift release for his part of the business, was stripped of his keys, cell phone and \$800. *The keys were used by the suspects to gain access into the victim's vehicle where an unknown amount of marijuana was taken.....* Scott Weighill, age 43, who works as security for the business was identified as the suspect who held the door closed and kept watch as the victim was being threatened. He was arrested and booked for conspiracy, extortion, false imprisonment and robbery. Tharon Weighill who coordinated the event was arrested and booked for conspiracy, extortion, false imprisonment and robbery. Other suspects are still outstanding. Paul Garcia, age 36, was also at the business but was not identified as being involved in the crimes being investigated. A records check of Garcia revealed that he was on probation for drug charges and to have a warrant for his arrest.....

<http://www.ksby.com/Global/story.asp?S=10265984>

Masked gunmen rob Los Angeles medical marijuana store of pot, \$15,000 cash

Bureau News / June 19th, 2009

LOS ANGELES — Robbers in ski masks got away with pot and cash in a stickup at a Los Angeles medical marijuana store.three gunmen held up the Gourmet Green Room dispensary shortly before 11 p.m. Thursday. The robbers took about \$15,000 in cash and an undisclosed amount of marijuana and fled in a silver Cadillac driven by a fourth man. Authorities say customers were in the store at the time but nobody was hurt. Investigators are trying to determine if the crime is linked to a similar holdup at a medical marijuana facility in Los Angeles' San Fernando Valley.

<http://blog.taragana.com/n/masked-gunmen-rob-los-angeles-medical-marijuana-store-of-pot-15000-cash-87029/>

Sacramento-area men arrested for raiding Mendocino medical marijuana garden

By Chelsea Phua / Saturday, Sep. 20, 2008

Mendocino County sheriff's deputies arrested eight Sacramento-area men Friday on suspicion of robbing at gunpoint a Laytonville man who grew marijuana in his garden for medical use.***Detectives said the men learned about marijuana growing in Mendocino from reading the High Times, a magazine about marijuana.*** They took six large plants - equivalent to 10 pounds of processed marijuana, said Sheriff Tom Allman. Each pound is valued at \$3,000, he said.The men were apprehended on Highway 101 and booked into the Mendocino County jail.

<http://www.sacbee.com/breaking/story/1252486.html>

Growing violence: Marijuana gardens are robbery targets throughout Humboldt County

Sean Garmire/The Times-Standard / Posted: 04/19/2009

A quiet McKinleyville neighborhood was jolted last Sunday night by the echo of three gunshots and the sound of breaking glass, as three suspects in an alleged home invasion robbery frantically drove away from a marijuana grow house. Home-invasion robberies at houses with pot gardens occur with disconcerting regularity in Humboldt County.***Within the past six months, at least three people have been shot during suspected grow house robberies in Humboldt County. "I can't think of a home invasion robbery in the last two years in Humboldt County that hasn't had a drug connection to it," said Eureka Police Chief Garr Nielsen. In every case, "it's almost exclusively marijuana."***After conducting the search warrant at the Barnetts' residence, police found 23 firearms including handguns, rifles and shotguns -- in plain view and hidden in rooms throughout the house. Richard Barnett told an investigating officer that the day before the alleged robbery, a black male who he did not recognize visited his residence, announcing he was from the Oakland Cannabis Club and asking to see his marijuana garden. According to information in the search warrant affidavit, the two men discussed a price for the pot, but the unknown male suddenly said he didn't want it, and left the house. A company called Oakland Cannabis Club does exist; however, a spokesman for the club said it is not a dispensary, but an online medical marijuana directory, and its staff is not involved with trade in medical marijuana.Many Humboldt County officials in law enforcement say they realize only a small fraction of grow-house robberies are ever reported."Many law enforcement officials accept that a large percentage of home-invasion robberies in residences with marijuana grows go unreported by victims who fear prosecution. However, many marijuana grow-house robberies are known to police.

The following is an incomplete list of several recent suspected home-invasion robberies in Humboldt County that involved the theft of marijuana.

1. In early April 2008, police responded to a Garberville residence where occupants reported three men broke into the house with a handgun, demanding money and marijuana, while threatening to kill the residents.

2. In late April 2008, police arrested two men on suspicion of breaking into a Eureka residence on Little Fairfield, where they allegedly assaulted the occupants of the home, before fleeing with electronics, a shotgun and marijuana.
3. In October 2008 in Garberville, police investigated an armed robbery of a residence on Timber Lane. According to reports from the Humboldt County Sheriff's Office, the suspects allegedly entered the house, pointed a shotgun at the residents, who were holding a young baby, and demanded their marijuana. According to HCSO information, the suspects had mistakenly identified the residence as a grow house, and left shortly after learning there was no marijuana inside.
4. During November 2008, police began an investigation into an alleged armed grow-house robbery in McKinleyville. During the alleged robbery, one of the suspects was allegedly shot in the back, with a shotgun, by the resident of the property. The suspect was wounded, but survived the incident.
5. On December 3, 2008, Garrett Ryan Benson was shot and killed inside his home in Cutten.....According to HCSO information, Benson had a large amount of marijuana growing and processed in the residence, which is a likely motive for the murder.
6. In March 2009, Police arrested Waymond Kelly and Michael Johns for allegedly robbing a suspected grow house on D Street in Eureka, armed with a shotgun. According to Eureka Police Department information, after the resident was approached by the suspects, she reportedly took out a can of pepper spray, and both of the suspects fled the house.
7. On April 1, 2009, police in Arcata suspect that five teenagers allegedly attempted to rob a suspected grow house on Bayside Road in Arcata.
8. An alleged robbery of a grow house on April 12, 2009, ended with one man,....shot two times.....Police believe they were attempting to rob a suspected marijuana grow house on Harden Drive in McKinleyville.

http://www.times-standard.com/localnews/ci_12177281

Armed marijuana growers chase campers

By COLBY FRAZIER — April 21, 2009

Two people camping in the backcountry at Aliso Park near New Cuyama stumbled upon an illegal marijuana field last Friday and narrowly averted a brush with the armed men who guarded the plants.....“The campers became fearful and packed up their gear and left the area,” he said. “While the campers were driving down the dirt road, they were approached by a pickup truck traveling the opposite direction.” Sugars said the men in the pickup truck waved for the campers to come back. When they kept driving, he said the truck turned around and chased the campers, coming dangerously close to the campers’ vehicle. Once the campers reached the paved road, Sugars said they were able to distance themselves from the truck and contact law enforcement. Sheriff’s deputies alerted nearby agencies about the men in the pickup truck and a short time later Sugars said a police officer in the city of Taft, near Bakersfield, pulled the truck over. ***Inside the truck, officers found a small arsenal of five high-powered rifles equipped with riflescopes and numerous rounds of ammunition.*** Authorities from the U.S. Forest Service and the Sheriff’s Department raided the marijuana field, where they uprooted 13,300 plants with an estimated street value of \$26.6 million.....

<http://www.thedailysound.com/News/042109MarijuanaBust>

Guns found when man arrested in death of girlfriend's husband

Growing marijuana also discovered at warehouse where detectives located man suspected of helping woman plan murder.

By DENISSE SALAZAR / The Orange County Register / Tuesday, April 28, 2009

ANAHEIM – The boyfriend of a Spokane woman convicted of murdering her husband has been arrested in Anaheim in connection with the killing.....Anaheim detectives arrested Moore at a warehouse.....”While we were there, we observed a substantial number of illegal weapons, including

handguns, assault rifles, silencers, and what appears to be the materials to make silencers," said Anaheim police Sgt. Rick Martinez. Detectives also discovered marijuana being grown, Martinez said.....

<http://www.ocregister.com/articles/anaheim-moore-murder-2380405-arrested-weapons>

Cops and Courts

Santa Cruz 04/29/2009

Deputies are considering adding robbery allegations to drug and weapons charges facing three Salinas men arrested in Felton last week, sheriff's Sgt. Greg Lansdowne said. After a follow-up investigation, deputies believe the men came to the Highway 9 and Graham Hill Road area last Wednesday night to buy marijuana, assaulted the salesman and stole the drugs, Lansdowne said. Deputies were summoned about 9 p.m., by a report of a fight in the street. Deputies spotted the men in a car and pulled them over. They found two loaded guns and about a pound of marijuana, Lansdowne said.....

http://www.santacruzsentinel.com/localnews/ci_12250896

Police: Shotguns, pot plants found in home of Monterey County man arrested Thursday

Bay City News Service / 05/24/2009

Authorities are seeking additional criminal charges against a 48-year-old man arrested Thursday on suspicion of abusing his 70-year-old mother after investigators found loaded weapons and marijuana plants at his home, according to the Monterey County Sheriff's Office.....Fisher was arrested Thursday evening and booked on charges of elder abuse, false imprisonment, criminal threats, brandishing a weapon and possession of a concealed weapon, according to the sheriff's office. After the arrest, a search warrant was served at the home, where sheriff's deputies found two loaded shotguns, a loaded rifle, and 45 marijuana plants. Parts from a demilled Hungarian AMD-65 short barrel AK-type assault rifle were also found in Fisher's workshop along with a parts set for a demilled British Sten MKII submachine gun, according to the sheriff's office.....

http://www.mercurynews.com/breakingnews/ci_12437820?nclick_check=1

Investigation continues into alleged pot robbery

Sean Garmire/The Times-Standard / 05/21/2009

Authorities Wednesday continued the search for two men suspected of robbing marijuana and cash from two people inside a Eureka residence at gunpoint.....According to EPD information, the unidentified suspect has been described as a 25- to 30-year-old, 6-foot, 2-inch black male. The search for the two suspects began Tuesday afternoon following an alleged home invasion robbery that took place on M Street. According to EPD information, the alleged victims reported Watson and another man brandished a handgun before taking a pound of marijuana, cash and a victim's cell phone. According to EPD information, the alleged victims reportedly knew the two suspects and had shared medical marijuana with them in the past.....

http://www.ukiahdailyjournal.com/ci_12418361?IADID=Search-www.ukiahdailyjournal.com-www.ukiahdailyjournal.com

Two charged in Lassen County marijuana garden gun battle

By Dylan Darling

SACRAMENTO - A pair of south San Francisco Bay area men were charged Friday with shooting at law enforcement officers in a gunfight last week near Little Valley that left two Lassen County deputies wounded and a suspected marijuana grower dead. Jose Alfredo Zepeda, 19, of East Palo Alto and Clemente Ferrias Arroyo, 62, of Morgan Hill were charged by the state Office of the Attorney General at a hearing in Sacramento with shooting at law enforcement officers during a drug crime and growing more than 1,000 marijuana plants, said Lauren Horwood.....The garden was on land managed

by the BLM. Herrera-Chavez started shooting at the officers with an AK-47 assault rifle, wounding Sgt. Dave Martin and deputy David Woginrich. In the ensuing gun battle, officers killed Herrera-Chavez. A helicopter flew Martin to Mercy Medical Center in Redding while Woginrich was treated for his minor wound in the field. Both the Lassen deputies are expected to survive their wounds, Horwood said. Officers arrested Zepeda and Arroyo after the gun battle, Horwood said.....

<http://www.redding.com/news/2009/jun/26/two-charged-in-lassen-county-marijuana-garden/>

Castro Valley hit with spate of violent crime

By Jason Sweeney / The Daily Review / 06/28/2009

CASTRO VALLEY — Authorities are attempting to determine if a home invasion robbery and a killing Friday are connected. Investigators said 31-year-old Christopher Bolton was shot in the head and killed at his hydroponics store on Redwood Road. Bolton was found shot through the top of his head about 2:45 p.m. Friday at Alameda County Hydroponics. He died later that evening at Eden Medical Center in Castro Valley. Investigators are searching for two possible suspects in the killing. About 5:15 p.m. Friday, three armed men forced their way into a home in the 18000 block of Reamer Road and tied up the homeowner and his girlfriend, then stole a large amount of marijuana and a television, police said. Two of the gunmen fled in the homeowner's Hummer, while the third is thought to have left in a separate vehicle, Alameda County Sheriff's Sgt. Ray Kelly said. The robbery victim — described as a medical marijuana grower and caregiver — was able to free himself and call 911, Kelly said. Deputies then spotted the stolen Hummer traveling west on Interstate 580, and a pursuit ensued. A pistol was thrown out of the fleeing vehicle near Estudillo Avenue in San Leandro.....The Hummer crashed into and destroyed a Toyota Camry, jumped curbs and then fled down railroad tracks before crashing at 98th Avenue near San Leandro Street, Kelly said. The Hummer was completely wrecked, the sergeant said. The second driver was arrested at the scene of the crash. A loaded shotgun was found in the vehicle.....The victim is recovering from serious wounds at Eden Medical Center. Investigators are searching for two suspects in that shooting, what Kelly called "a possible drug deal gone bad." "We're looking at all three of these things," he said. "It's very uncommon for these types of violent crimes to affect the Castro Valley community."

http://www.insidebayarea.com/crime/ci_12709926

It's from the frying pain into the fire for two Oakland men. They were victims of a home invasion robbery, but, now they're the ones in jail.

OAKLAND, CA (KGO) -- Terry McSweeney / 06/29/2009

This robbery took place in Oakland's Diamond District on the 2600 block of Harold Street. When Oakland police went in to help the two men they found 400 marijuana plants. Authorities confiscated all the pot, as well as grow lights. They also found equipment that allowed the house to use huge amounts of electricity, but not have it show up on the meter. "When PG&E came out they confirmed our suspicion that they had come up with a system to divert electricity so it wasn't being recorded,".....According to Oakland police home invasion robberies are on the rise and people are getting killed. ***"There has been a rash of marijuana cultivation in general, and then associated with that, home invasion robberies with the target being the people that are growing the marijuana,"*** said Oakland Police Ofc. Jeryme Stine. "They also end up being homicides sometimes?" asked ABC7's Terry McSweeney. "Yes sir, just this year alone that I can speak of, there has been at least two cases where there has been a homicide; one in West Oakland and one on this end," said Stine.....The robbery suspects got away with money, valuables and drugs. The two robbery victims will face charges for growing the pot as well as stealing electricity.

http://abclocal.go.com/kgo/story?section=news/local/east_bay&id=6889251

Teen to serve community service for fatal crash

By April Charlton/Senior Staff Writer / April 30, 2009

A San Luis Obispo teen who killed a Pismo Beach woman in June 2008 in a head-on collision was sentenced to eight months of community service for the woman's death.....The teen was driving a 2007 Audi RS4 sedan about 60 mph eastbound on Price Canyon Road in heavy traffic when he attempted to pass the vehicles ahead of him. Forster was looking out his left window at oncoming traffic and began drifting across the double yellow lines into the path of an oncoming 2001 Kia, according to police reports. The driver of the Kia swerved and avoided Forster's car but collided with a fourth vehicle.....***The teen was also under the influence of marijuana at the time of the collision, and police found marijuana concealed in a chocolate bar in the Audi.*** Forster was also charged with felony possession of marijuana while driving.....

<http://www.santamariatimes.com/articles/2009/04/30/news/centralcoast/news06.txt>

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

800 Marijuana Plants Found Inside Castroville Home

May 4, 2009

Castroville, Calif.- In the early morning hours of Sunday morning fire crews were dispatched to a house fire.....When they arrived they found a PG&E junction box engulfed in flames. Firefighters along with deputies who were also on scene knocked on a door of the house, when no one answered, fearing there were victims inside they knocked open the door. That's when they found 800 marijuana plants. All three bedrooms of that home had been converted in to an indoor marijuana garden. Com. Mike Richards said the only reason these pot plants were found is because who ever was growing them wired some cables incorrectly, that is how the fire started. ***"Apparently the suspect had side passed the PG&E meter either to get free PG&E and the wiring was so bad that the added current caused the wires to get hot and ignite the house".....***

<http://www.kionrightnow.com/global/story.asp?s=10302746>

Police Bust Major Marijuana Pipeline To South Bay

Posted: 10:45 pm PDT May 21, 2009 Updated: 12:00 am PDT May 22, 2009

SAN JOSE, Calif. -- A major marijuana bust in Mendocino County led state narcotics agents to the South Bay Thursday, triggering a raid in a San Jose neighborhood. Authorities said the marijuana was being grown in Ukiah then transported to a home in San Jose for packaging and sale.....Commander Robert Mecir, who is with a statewide narcotics task force, said four pounds of marijuana were confiscated with a wholesale value of more than \$10,000.....We found packaging material in the form of large freezer lock bags and scales and a large chunk of money over \$35,000," said Mecir. At about the same time Thursday, narcotics agents raided three homes in Ukiah which they said were the source for marijuana being shipped to San Jose. Authorities said no one was living in the houses and they had been rented with the sole purpose of growing marijuana indoors. Agents said they found 1,000 pot plants growing under lights. Mecir said, "The houses they are renting are destroyed because they have to be altered to facilitate that indoor grow, sometimes they have to cut holes in the ceiling to vent out the air." ***Agents said the houses were also bypassing P.G.&E. meters and using more than \$2,000 worth of energy every month.....***

<http://www.ktvu.com/news/19534620/detail.html>

Water pouring from house leads sheriff's team to marijuana plants in the house

By VICTOR A. PATTON / Tuesday, Apr. 07, 2009

Merced County sheriff's deputies found 350 marijuana plants inside a Beachwood home Monday, a growing operation that investigators estimate had a street value of \$875,000.the operation was discovered after a large water leak was reported at the house, causing water to spill from inside the home into the street. Firefighters from Merced County Fire Department responded to the scene, worried that someone might be hurt inside the home. After breaking a window, the firefighters smelled the pungent odor of marijuana and called sheriff's investigators. MacKenzie said the growers had placed a garden hose inside the home to water the marijuana plants. The hose was left on, and the water overflowed, MacKenzie said, causing the spill. **Detective Paul Barile said the growers had rigged the utility meter at the home to prevent anyone from detecting the amount of energy used to power the operation.** Along with the plants, detectives found 19 grow lights, two air purifiers and other equipment. Sheriff's investigators are asking anyone with information about the crime to call (209) 385-7445. Information provided remains confidential, and callers can remain anonymous
<http://www.mercedsunstar.com/local/story/777779.html>

Marijuana grow operation found in Antioch

By Paula King / East County Times / 05/01/2009

Antioch police officers discovered a small marijuana grow operation of 135 plants today. The bust happened off Bluerock Drive on the 2400 block of Cove Light in a foreclosed home that was vacant. A home inspector initially found the marijuana plants that were just starting to grow, according to Antioch police Detective Jimmy Wisecarver.
http://www.mercurynews.com/crime/ci_12274405

2 grow houses busted in San Rafael; 4 arrested

Saturday, May 9, 2009

San Rafael, Calif. (AP) --: Police say two women and two men are under arrest after officers, responding to tips from citizens, found two indoor marijuana gardens.Friday after officers searched her house San Rafael and found 100 marijuana plants. She is being held on suspicion of marijuana cultivation and conspiracy. While searching Sanz's home, detectives received information about a second, related grow house in town. Police say they found another 100 plants and cash at the second house and arrested three more.
<http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/n/a/2009/05/09/state/n150708D28.DTL>

Several Law Enforcement agencies conducted large scale raids on outdoor grow locations. A majority of these grows take place on public land and involve the destruction of these lands and the death of the animals that inhabit them.

Big bust:Upper Lake couple arrested on marijuana sales charges

By Tiffany Revelle -- Record-Bee staff / Updated: 05/14/2009 11:16:35 PM PDT

UPPER LAKE **Authorities confiscated more than \$336,000 in cash, between 40 and 50 pounds of processed marijuana and 110 plants of various sizes Thursday morning at the Hillcrest Drive home of an Upper Lake couple.He said 15 shotguns and handguns were also found on the property,** four or five of which were loaded. "They had a brand-new tractor with a backhoe, two brand-new jet skis, a jet ski trailer, a brand-new car the usual accoutrements that people involved in the controlled substance trade spend their money on.**He said two cars were stopped, one containing more than \$71,000 in cash, the other containing more than 100 pounds of processed marijuana that was packaged in one-pound increments.**

http://www.record-bee.com/ci_12375754

Police seize 285 marijuana plants

LAGUNA BEACH, Calif., May 14 (UPI) -- A man who said he was growing marijuana for medicinal use was charged after police say they found almost 300 plants in his home.....Laguna Beach recently declared a moratorium on dispensaries with officials saying they need time to write regulations.

http://www.upi.com/Top_News/2009/05/14/Police-seize-285-marijuana-plants/UPI-58341242359261/

Marijuana garden found near Hopland

By [RANDI ROSSMANN](#) / THE PRESS DEMOCRAT / Tuesday, May 12, 2009

Mendocino County drug officers found a large marijuana garden growing on government land in the Hopland area and a large amount of garbage and environmental damage to the area. Sheriff's officials Monday reported the find, saying 14,740 seedling marijuana plants were growing in the garden, found on Bureau of Land Management land in the Sheldon Creek area.....They did find garbage in and around the creek at the grow site as well as other environmental concerns including the illegal removal of native vegetation and water diversion from the creek, Smith said.

<http://www.pressdemocrat.com/article/20090512/news/905129995>

Officials uproot Matilija pot operation:

Plants are worth millions; three men in custody

By From staff reports / Saturday, May 23, 2009

Law-enforcement personnel Friday destroyed a \$16 million marijuana crop growing in Matilija Canyon near Ojai, one week after three men were arrested on suspicion of helping to cultivate it, officials said. More than 11,000 marijuana plants were being grown in two locations in the canyon, according to the Ventura County Sheriff's Department.....On Friday, members of the sheriff's narcotics and air units, U.S. Forest Service and the state Department of Fish and Game eradicated both sites, destroying 11,100 plants 6 to 12 inches tall. Officials said that, as is typical with marijuana farms operated by drug trafficking organizations, the landscape had been altered by terracing the hillsides and diverting water supplies to the multiple growing locations. Trash, fertilizer and camping equipment were spread throughout the area, officials said.....

<http://www.venturacountystar.com/news/2009/may/23/16-million-marijuana-haul-near-ojai/>

Local briefs: 16,000 pot plants destroyed in Madera Co.

Published online on Tuesday, May. 26, 2009

Law-enforcement officers removed and destroyed more than 16,000 plants from seven marijuana gardens Tuesday in Madera County. The marijuana would have been worth nearly \$50 million if sold on the streets, the Madera County Sheriff's Department said. The gardens, equipped with drip lines, fertilizer and pesticides, were in O'Neals. No suspects were arrested.

<http://www.fresnobee.com/local/story/1428319.html>

Sheriffs Find an 8.4 Million Dollar Marijuana Garden

May 27, 2009 08:29

SALINAS, Calif- The Monterey County Sheriff's Office narcotics unit along with the Salinas Police Departments narcotics unit eradicated a marijuana garden in the hills west of 1500 River Road.

According to the Sherriff's Office, Alberto Arias Soto, was taken into custody when police searched his house and found one rifle and approximately 2,100 marijuana plants. If allowed to grow to maturity the plants would have an estimated street value of \$8,400,000.00.

http://www.kionrightnow.com/Global/story.asp?S=10430355&nav=menu1591_2

Sheriff's deputies confiscate marijuana plants southeast of Lindsay

June 3, 2009

Tulare County sheriff's deputies said they confiscated more than 3,100 marijuana plants after raiding a suspected illegal pot growing site Tuesday southeast of Lindsay. Member of the Sheriff's Tactical Enforcement Personnel team conducted the raid at 9 a.m. in the area of Lewis Creek, near Road 252 and Avenue 216. According to a sheriff's report, the STEP team members entered the area undetected and apprehended two men who appeared to be working there.....Deputies reported finding loaded guns at the site along with 3,161 marijuana plants. Authorities estimated the plants could have a street value of \$12.6 million had they been allowed to mature.....

<http://www.visaliatimesdelta.com/article/20090603/NEWS01/906030316/1002/Sheriff+s+deputies+confiscate+marijuana+plants+southeast+of+Lindsay>

Marijuana Bust Racks Up Over 2,000 Plants

Total Investigation Removes 10,000 Plants / June 2, 2009

At 6 a.m. Tuesday, the KCSO Major Narcotics Violator Unit supported by the KCSO Air Unit and members of the Tri County HIDTA team executed a search warrant in Olive Garden Canyon. This Canyon is located approximately five miles southwest of the intersection of highway 58 and highway 223. KCSO said deputies' located two men inside a tent within a marijuana grow at the location. The grow consisted of 2,022 marijuana plants, the KCSO reported.....The Kern County Sheriff's Office locates and seizes about 25 marijuana grow a year in our local mountains. Not only is there the concern for the local wildlife and environment, but also there is a concern for the safety of our local citizens hiking in our mountains.

<http://www.turnto23.com/news/19636966/detail.html>

3 arrests made at 2 pot gardens

Shasta County drug agents were busy Wednesday after they conducted two separate pot garden raids in the Igo-Ono area of Shasta County that saw three men arrested and more than 4,500 marijuana plants destroyed. Shasta County sheriff's Sgt. Steve Solus said 210,000 pot plants have been destroyed this year in Shasta County, noting that Lake County, which has the second highest number of marijuana plants eradicated in the state this year, has so far destroyed 16,000 plants.

<http://www.redding.com/news/2009/jun/04/north-state-in-brief-june-4-2010/>

Marijuana plants destroyed in raid

By [Record Searchlight staff](#) / Wednesday, June 10, 2009

Thousands of marijuana plants were found and destroyed Tuesday during a pot raid in the Round Mountain area of Shasta County. The raid, which was in the Little Hatchet Creek region, resulted in the discovery of 13,525 marijuana plants, said Sgt. Steve Solus of the Shasta County Sheriff's Office. A shirtless man was seen running from the scene.....More than 220,000 marijuana plants have been destroyed this season in Shasta County.

<http://www.redding.com/news/2009/jun/10/north-state-in-brief-june-10-2009/>

Alameda Sheriff's deputies find 22,000 pot plants on government property

Sean Maher / Oakland Tribune / 06/15/2009

SUNOL — Sheriff's deputies discovered more than 22,000 marijuana plants growing on land owned by the San Francisco Water District last week, in what officials called the largest marijuana bust in the history of the Alameda County Sheriff's Office. In the Calaveras Road area east of Sunol, where water runoff feeds into the Calaveras Reservoir, deputies found 24 interlinked gardens, three camp sites and three kitchens, Sgt. Shawn Peterson said. A pair of nearby creeks had been tapped with water lines to feed into the gardens, he added. Deputies also discovered two men who appeared to be in their late 20s

wearing woodland camouflage clothing and working in the gardens, Peterson said. The two men fled and deputies chased. Both men escaped through heavy brush and deep ravines, but the deputies recovered a semiautomatic handgun one of the men discarded as he ran.
http://www.contracostatimes.com/crime/ci_12590391?nclick_check=1

Sheriff's officials seize nearly 3,000 marijuana plants

Written by Lake County News Reports / Tuesday, 16 June 2009

SOUTH LAKE COUNTY – A recent Lake County Sheriff's Office investigation led to the seizure of nearly 3,000 marijuana plants last week and a Maryland man's arrest.....Bauman said that, upon their entry to the approximate 40-acre property, detectives located and detained Hardy near two of five grow sites which were being irrigated by a 50,000 gallon water bladder. Hardy told detectives he had been hired about one month prior to caretake the property but he would not identify who hired him, said Bauman. *Detectives found several medicinal marijuana recommendations during the search of the property, two of which belonged to Hardy, Bauman reported. Two firearms were also located in a shed near a tent where Hardy was apparently residing. A total of 1,749 marijuana plants were seized from the property and Hardy was arrested.....* The second search warrant for the Double Eagle Ranch property was served at about 1 p.m. on Friday, June 11, Bauman said. Detectives found and eradicated approximately 1,213 marijuana plants, said Bauman. However, the property was unoccupied and no arrests were made. *He said 17 medicinal marijuana recommendations were posted throughout the property; however, 16 of the recommendations were for individuals residing outside of the county.* Bauman said that case is pending further investigation into the identity of the property owner and those responsible for the marijuana grows.

<http://lakeconews.com/content/view/9139/764/>

Almost 1,000 marijuana plants seized in North County pot busts

By Debbi Baker, Union-Tribune Staff Writer / June 17, 2009

FALLBROOK — Almost 1,000 marijuana plants were confiscated after sheriff's deputies discovered two separate pot-growing operations in different areas of North County.....Three young men were arrested after 324 pot plants were found Tuesday in a greenhouse at a property on Calle Roxanne Roaddeputies responding to an anonymous call confiscated about 600 plants that were found in a remote area off De Luz Road near the Riverside County line. No arrests were made, Brust said. Deputies discovered the first pot-growing scheme after authorities were tipped off about suspicious activity on the property, Brust said. They surveilled the area from the air and saw what looked like a greenhouse on an unfenced and undeveloped parcel of the several-acre property with several people around it, Brust said. Deputies later surrounded the building, which had both water and power running to it, and found the marijuana plants, which were in various stages of growth. "It appears they planned on being there for a while based on the construction of the greenhouse and the sophistication of the grow,"

<http://www3.signonsandiego.com/stories/2009/jun/17/bn17potbust-fallbrook/?northcounty&zIndex=118255>

Major marijuana bust in Palo Alto

PALO ALTO -- One of the largest drug raids in Palo Alto history took place on Friday. Palo alto's SWAT team and the Santa Clara County Sheriff's Marijuana Eradication Team seized more than 5,500 marijuana plants after discovering them in a hilly area with heavy brush. Two men reportedly fled the scene of the raid in the foothills above Page Mill Road and have not been apprehended. The men were heard yelling when officers arrived. The SWAT team also recovered two air rifles and a loaded shotgun at the farm. The street value of the plants was estimated at \$15 million.

<http://kliv.com/Major-marijuana-bust-in-Palo-Alto/4640727>

Marijuana plants found near community center

DIAMOND BAR

Police discovered at least 1,000 marijuana plants Wednesday morning growing in Sycamore Canyon near the Diamond Bar Community Center, officials said. The canyon was so steep, officers used nets and helicopters to airlift the almost-mature plants from the canyon, said Lt. Phil Abner of the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department. Two people were arrested on suspicion of cultivating the plants, but their names were not available. A tent and propane tanks were found near the plants, and investigators believed people were living at the site. Deputies also found an irrigation system, and they noted the plants were less than 300 feet from nearby houses.

http://www.dailybulletin.com/ci_12682436

Sheriff: \$61.2M In Marijuana Eradicated Over 15,000 Plants Eradicated

June 29, 2009

HAVILAH, Calif. -- On Monday around 6 a.m., deputies from the Kern County Sheriff's Office Major Violators Unit and Special Operations Group, with assistance of officers from the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA), Campaign Against Marijuana Planting (C.A.M.P.), and the Department of Fish and Game located five marijuana grows on Federal land in a remote area south of Havilah. Due to the rough terrain and remoteness of the area, the officers were transported into the area by helicopter and the plants were carried out by helicopter to the command post, the KCSO reported. No suspects were located during the operation. Officers said they located three camp sites within the grows containing fertilizers and other materials used to maintain the marijuana. The camps were dismantled, and the items were removed from the area. Approximately 15,310 mature marijuana plants with an estimated street value of \$61,240,000 were eradicated from the area., according to the KCSO.

<http://www.turnto23.com/news/19896113/detail.html>

Enforcement actions against dispensaries occurred during this quarter. However, that they still occur affirms the belief that these businesses are still operating outside the confines of the medical marijuana statutes. Communities continue to take steps to remove or ban these storefront enterprises.

Pomona marijuana dispensary shut down by police

Jannise Johnson, Staff Writer / 05/01/2009

POMONA - Pomona police shut down a medical marijuana dispensary Thursday just seven days after it opened when officers received a complaint about the facility. Police say the facility in the 100 block of West Arrow Highway was operating without a business license. Pomona police Sgt. Eddie Vazquez said detectives will examine the state medical marijuana law along with the city's local laws to see if the dispensary is in violation of either. As of Friday, the facility had only been cited for operating without a license....Officers did not make any arrests and did not issue any citations, she explained.

http://www.dailybulletin.com/ci_12276053

Deputies raid marijuana dispensary and arrest three

THE BAKERSFIELD CALIFORNIAN | Casey Christie / Wednesday, May 06 2009

Kern County Sheriff Department and DEA agents served a search warrant at Green Cross Compassionate Care Givers medical marijuana cooperative Wednesday afternoon at Bernard and Inyo streets in east Bakersfield. Just a week or so after word spread that local marijuana dispensaries are starting to reopen in Bakersfield the local sheriff's office has raided one and arrested three men. Kern County deputies and officials with the DEA served a search warrant Wednesday at the Green Cross Compassionate Co-Op at 309 Bernard Street in east Bakersfield. They arrested three men, Albert Juarez, 40; Adam Romero Valenzuela, 27; and Brandon Neal Luck, 24. All three were booked on

charges of selling and possessing marijuana as well as conspiracy. Deputies said they also found two pounds of "high grade" marijuana and two loaded handguns.....

<http://www.bakersfield.com/news/local/x443329047/Deputies-raid-marijuana-co-op-and-arrest-three>

Sheriff's Deputies Bust Oildale Medicinal Marijuana Co-op

A Medicinal Marijuana Co-op is Busted by Sheriff / June 3, 2009

OILDALE, Calif. -- Another medical marijuana co-operative was busted Wednesday afternoon by the Kern County Sheriff's Department, this time in Oildale. Deputies in the Major Violator Unit served a search warrant at the California Compassionate Cooperative in Oildale. No one was arrested, but deputies seized four pounds of marijuana from a safe and 299 individually labeled pill bottles that had between one gram and a quarter ounce of marijuana inside, totaling 14 grams. More than \$2,000 in cash was seized, as were business records and several computers. It's now up to the District Attorney's Office to press charges. Previously the Sheriff's Department raided the Green Cross Co-operative in East Bakersfield, that happened in early May.

<http://www.turnto23.com/news/19653025/detail.html>

City to consider zoning regulations on where medical marijuana can grow

By JENN KLEIN - Staff Writer / 05/13/2009

CHICO -- Safety concerns over medical marijuana plants growing in residential areas could result in zoning regulations on where in town pot plants can grow. Faced with concerns from a Chico woman two doors down from a home growing medical marijuana, city councilors on the council's Internal Affairs subcommittee directed staff to look into making changes in the city's Municipal Code that could restrict growing to areas zoned for light industrial use. However, because the city's Planning Department is currently immersed in the process of updating the city's General Plan, any zoning change recommendations will come as time allows. In the meantime, the Police Department and code enforcement staff will put together a list of recommendations and guidelines for medical marijuana growers on ways they can avoid annoying their neighbors and stay safer from anyone seeking to steal the plants. A mother of three in northwest Chico asked the council to consider a public nuisance ordinance preventing those with medical pot prescriptions from growing the plants outdoors. Such an ordinance is currently in place in Gridley. Instead, those with medical marijuana prescriptions would cultivate the plants indoors. The mother said last summer the marijuana plants were so large they could be seen from her family's backyard, and the smell was so intense, it prevented them from enjoying their backyard until late fall. But City Councilors Andy Holcombe, Tom Nickell and Scott Gruendl and acting police chief Capt. Mike Maloney said moving the plants indoors would swap one problem for another. Holcombe said the lamps needed to grow the plants indoors could increase the possibility of home invasions. Maloney said the police don't want to do anything that will create an opportunity for violent crime to increase. "Exchanging one set of rules for a different set of rules could potentially create a different set of issues," Maloney said. The trio had considered the possibility of allowing marijuana dispensaries in Chico, but Holcombe said guidelines already exist on dispensaries and the council has no need to act. Assistant City Manager John Rucker said there is no legal way for someone to purchase marijuana from a dispensary unless they are involved in cultivation. The dispensary has to be set up similar to a private not-for-profit organization. Set-ups similar to a pharmacy are illegal, he said.

http://www.chicoer.com/news/ci_12356318

Oceanside council won't allow marijuana dispensaries

By [Lola Sherman](#) Union-Tribune Staff Writer / May 14, 2009

OCEANSIDE – The City Council Wednesday night approved an urgency ordinance, effective immediately, forbidding the establishment of medical marijuana dispensaries in the city....City Attorney John Mullen said the urgency was precipitated by a visit he had from a doctor wanting to open a medical-marijuana dispensary. Use of the plant for medicinal purposes is legal in California. But it is illegal under federal law, and federal agents have raided medical-marijuana dispensaries in San Diego. Juliana von Hacht, associate planner for Oceanside, recommended the ban, saying that to do otherwise “may cause a proliferation of marijuana dispensaries.” ***Von Hacht said other cities – she cited Rocklin, Roseville, Oakland, Hayward and Fairfax – have found that crime increases around dispensaries. They've brought, burglaries, robberies, loitering and traffic, she said.*** An urgency ordinance is good for 45 days, but then, von Hacht said, “I will come back to you and request an extension to 10 months and 15 days.” Councilwoman Esther Sanchez was absent.

<http://www3.signonsandiego.com/stories/2009/may/14/bn13oside00955/>

Goleta Council Votes to Prohibit Medical Marijuana Dispensaries

Faced with approaching expiration of current moratorium, city opts for ban

By Sonia Fernandez, Noozhawk Staff Writer | Published on 06.03.2009

While decrying the insufficiency of the facts at hand to do so, the Goleta City Council Tuesday evening voted unanimously for an ordinance prohibiting medical marijuana dispensaries. The council voted with the intent that ensuing discussions would eventually result in regulation of the distribution of medical marijuana, rather than prohibition. But facing the upcoming expiration of a 22-month-old city moratorium on the establishment of such dispensaries, and what appeared to be the members' lack of preparation about how to best dispense medical marijuana, the council backed the prohibition, although the vote may be temporary. “There’s too much to discuss, there’s too much for the public to discuss,” Goleta Mayor Roger Aceves said.....For the most part, the council argued against the ordinance as it was initially presented, disagreeing with ***the staff report based on a white paper from the Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Department, which concludes that the presence of marijuana dispensaries led to an increase of crime in the area.*** “I suppose we could go on quite a rampage,” surmised Councilman Michael Bennett, noting that other establishments – liquor stores, gun shops – might also trigger an increase in crime.....The current moratorium has been in effect for 22 months. (Staff) never had any intentions of regulating. They waited until the last minute to put the city council in a position where time was an issue, and it’s just not fair.” The ordinance comes before the council again June 16 for a second reading.

http://www.noozhawk.com/local_news/article/060209_goleta_council_votes_to_prohibit_medical_marijuana_dispensaries/

Gilroy police reject medical marijuana dispensary

Posted: Friday, 19 June 2009 10:01AM

GILROY -- Police in Gilroy are rejecting a new storefront medical marijuana dispensary, saying it violates state law. Gilroy's police chief argues that state law requires marijuana dispensaries to act like nonprofit cooperatives, not businesses. She argues that because the dispensary would turn a profit, it's illegal under state law. The dispensary's organizers are vowing to fight the decision, saying they're following the model set by similar dispensaries in Santa Cruz and Redwood City.

<http://kliv.com/Gilroy-police-reject-medical-marijuana-dispensary/4637621>

Tehama County Medical Marijuana Proposal

June 23

Tehama County is considering tightening restrictions on medicinal marijuana. Supervisor Bob Williams proposed a new ordinance at the County Board of Supervisors meeting Tuesday. The current law allows a qualified patient or caregiver six mature plants and 12 immature plants. It also lets patients grow their plants together... producing larger gardens. Williams says smaller gardens are less attractive to criminals. Under the new ordinance no more than 25 plants can be grown in any one spot. The proposal also says a garden can't be within a thousand feet of a school, church, park or child care facility. ***“The concern within the community is that if we have large marijuana gardens located in a place where children are present, that it could potentially have a child harmed,” says Williams. In addition growers would have to secure their gardens, register them with county health services and they would have to notify property owners if they rent. For now the proposal has been tabled until July 14th***
<http://www.khsltv.com/content/localnews/story/Tehama-County-Medical-Marijuana-Proposal/SwZR30XFxkGBQmuDAv1fDg.csp>

County to issue medical marijuana ID cards, but add land-use limit

By Jeff McDonald, Union-Tribune Staff Writer

4:37 p.m. June 23, 2009

San Diego County will issue identification cards for medical marijuana patients, but also directed its top attorney on Tuesday to write a law banning dispensaries in unincorporated areas. “Our concerns here have to do with not wanting to increase criminal activities in the unincorporated areas,”

Supervisor Pam Slater-Price said. Supervisor Bill Horn agreed, saying, “This is an important step toward protecting our community from illegal drugs. We need to put a stop to this and give law enforcement a way to investigate this.”.....The lack of local guidelines has led to repeated raids of storefront dispensaries, which District Attorney Bonnie Dumanis and others say are not permitted by the state law. Yesterday, medical pot patients urged supervisors to work with them to develop standards governing how patients who are unable to grow marijuana can access the drug. “Nobody wants teenagers running around getting high,” said Donna Lambert, a medical-pot collective organizer who was charged with illegal drug sales after she sold marijuana to an undercover officer. “Right now marijuana is more accessible than alcohol because alcohol is regulated.”

<http://www3.signonsandiego.com/stories/2009/jun/23/bn23pot-id-cards/?metro&zIndex=121508>

Santa Cruz passes 45-day moratorium on marijuana dispensaries

June 23, 9:39 PM

The Santa Cruz city council passed unanimously by voice vote this afternoon an emergency 45-day moratorium on medical marijuana dispensaries, though mayor Cynthia Matthews said "motion approved" so quickly after calling for a voice vote of those "opposed" that it was impossible to tell if anyone was opposed. It is expected this will be followed by a 10 month 15 day moratorium even though members of the council have stated this is not their intent.....

<http://www.examiner.com/x-14883-Santa-Cruz-County-Drug-Policy-Examiner~y2009m6d23-Santa-Cruz-passes-45-day-moratorium-on-marijuana-dispensaries>

Pot dispensary owner sentenced to a year and a day in prison

11:47 AM | June 11, 2009

The owner of a Morro Bay pot dispensary who emerged as a key figure in the national debate over medical marijuana was sentenced to one year and one day in prison today by a federal judge in Los Angeles. Charles Lynch, 47, dressed in a dark suit, sat with his hands clasped and stared straight ahead as the sentence was imposed by U.S. District Court Judge George H. Wu. Lynch declined the opportunity to address the court moments earlier.....Prosecutors, meanwhile, portrayed Lynch as a

common drug dealer who profited from his enterprise and hauled around a backpack stuffed with cash. They said he sold more than \$2 million worth of the drug. They also said he repeatedly sold to people under 21 — considered minors under federal law — and that much of his clientele consisted of seemingly healthy young repeat customers.

<http://latimesblogs.latimes.com/lanow/2009/06/charles-lynch.html>

During this quarter several studies were published which discussed the negative mental and physical impacts associated when the use of marijuana. Those effects include increased risk of a schizophrenia diagnosis or of reporting symptoms of psychosis, cancer and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease.

Men who smoke pot more likely to be in road accidents

By Robert Preidt, HealthDay

Marijuana use and reckless driving are interconnected, say Canadian researchers. "We observed that dangerous driving behaviors are interrelated. *Individuals scoring high on impulsivity or sensation-seeking scales demonstrated an elevated risk of driving under the influence of cannabis,*" study senior author Jacques Bergeron, a professor in the department of psychology at the Universite de Montreal, said in a school news release. "To our knowledge, this is the first study to investigate the association between driving under the influence of cannabis and a wide range of dangerous driving behaviors." Bergeron and colleagues asked 83 men, aged 17 to 49, about their driving history and observed them in driving simulators. Men were chosen for the study because they more often engage in dangerous driving and driving under the influence of marijuana, the researchers explained. *They found that 35% of the participants had been involved in one or more road crashes with material damage in the previous three years. Thirty percent admitted to using marijuana, and 80% of those said they drove under the influence of marijuana at least once in the previous year.*

http://www.usatoday.com/news/health/2009-04-11-marijuana-driving_N.htm

Tobacco and marijuana increase risk of respiratory symptoms and COPD

Monday, 13-Apr-2009 / Medical Research News

Smoking both tobacco and marijuana increases the risk of respiratory symptoms and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), found a study in [CMAJ](#) Smoking only marijuana, however, was not associated with increased risks..... While tobacco smoking was associated with increased risk, smokers who reported using both tobacco and marijuana were 2.5 times more likely than nonsmokers to have respiratory symptoms and almost 3 times more likely to have COPD as defined by spirometric testing. "We were able to detect a significant synergistic effect between marijuana smoking and tobacco smoking," write Dr. Wan Tan of the University of British Columbia and St. Paul's Hospital and coauthors. "This effect suggests that smoking marijuana (at least in relatively low doses) may act as a primer, or sensitizer, in the airways to amplify the adverse effects of tobacco on respiratory health.....

<http://www.news-medical.net/?id=48270>

Marijuana passed through breast milk

NEW YORK, May 15 (UPI) -- Marijuana-smoking mothers who breastfeed pass the drug to their babies through the milk, U.S. health experts said. "There is a higher concentration of marijuana in breast milk than in the mother's bloodstream so these babies are getting a fair amount of marijuana," said Sarah Kabalka, a registered nurse who specializes in addiction. Marijuana, which is nearly three times stronger than it was two decades ago, also can result in gynecomastia, or enlarged breasts, and lower sperm motility, Dr. David Sack, an addiction psychiatrist at Promises Treatment Centers told the New York Daily News in a story published Friday. Regular users of marijuana, those who smoke it several times a week, also have a higher rate of depression, and marijuana can lead to addiction if the user is

genetically predisposed to becoming an addict, Kabalka said. When you "start smoking pot, there is no way to know when the switch is flipped and you become an addict," she said. "Since the pot is stronger, that means you become more high and stay high longer."

http://www.upi.com/Health_News/2009/05/15/Marijuana-passed-through-breast-milk/UPI-47271242399935/

Debunking the myths about marijuana: Experts share the facts about today's stronger pot

BY [Rosemary Black](#) / DAILY NEWS STAFF WRITER / Thursday, May 14th 2009

Read more: <http://www.nydailynews.com/lifestyle/health/2009/05/15/2009-05->

"Not your parent's weed" is one way to describe today's super pot, which scientists say is more potent than ever before. When the [University of Mississippi](#)'s *Potency Monitoring Project tested samples of marijuana, it turns out that the levels of THC contained within the weed have increased dramatically. The average THC concentration was under 4 percent in 1983 and 10.1 percent last year. So with today's marijuana nearly three times stronger than it was two decades ago*, experts say it's a good time to debunk popular myths about what many consider to be a non-addictive drug.

MYTH: You can't get addicted to pot. Truth: Though often portrayed as a gateway drug, marijuana is in and of itself an addictive drug, says registered nurse [Sarah Kabalka](#), who specializes in addiction and works with kids who are addicted to drugs. "If you're genetically predisposed to becoming an addict and you start smoking pot, there is no way to know when the switch is flipped and you become an addict," she says. "Since the pot is stronger, that means you become more high and stay high longer....."

MYTH: Smoking marijuana doesn't result in any withdrawal symptoms. Truth: Pot users regularly develop both dependence and withdrawal symptoms.....The withdrawal symptoms typically start within 24 hours and peak within 7 to 10 days, he says. "Pot stays in the body for a long time and can be excreted for up to four or five weeks, which is very long compared to other drugs," he says. "That's one of the problems when you are using marijuana. People don't recognize the effect of the drug and don't appreciate how much it is altering their personality."

MYTH: Pot's not really harmful. Truth: Studies show that regular users (people smoking several times a week) have twice the rate of schizophrenia and other disorders, says Dr. Sack. Marijuana use also increases the number of manic episodes in those with bipolar disorder, and may increase the risk for depression, he says. Marijuana also has persistent effects on one's cognition, so that even when a person is not acutely intoxicated, they may have difficulties with concentration, attention and recall, and they may be more irritable, hostile and increasingly alienated.....

MYTH: It's okay to drive after smoking pot. Truth: Besides impeding short term memory, marijuana, which is a hallucinogenic drug, interferes with hand-eye coordination and impedes the ability not just to operate a motor vehicle, but any other type of machinery.....

<http://www.nydailynews.com/lifestyle/health/2009/05/15/2009-05->

[15_debunking_the_myths_about_marijuana_experts_share_the_facts_about_todays_stronge.html](#)

cannabis use a contributory cause of psychosis?

Degenhardt L, Hall W.

National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre, University of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia.

OBJECTIVE: To assess whether cannabis use in adolescence and young adulthood is a contributory cause of schizophreniform psychosis in that it may precipitate psychosis in vulnerable individuals.

METHOD: We reviewed longitudinal studies of adolescents and young adults that examined the relations between self-reported cannabis use and the risk of diagnosis with a psychosis or of reporting psychotic symptoms. We also reviewed studies that controlled for potential confounders, such as other forms of drug use and personal characteristics that predict an increased risk of psychosis. We assessed evidence for the biological plausibility of a contributory causal relation.

RESULTS: *Evidence from 6 longitudinal studies in 5 countries shows that regular cannabis use predicts an increased risk of a schizophrenia diagnosis or of reporting symptoms of psychosis.* These relations persisted after controlling for confounding variables, such as personal characteristics and other drug use. The relation did not seem to be a result of cannabis use to self-medicate symptoms of psychosis. A contributory causal relation is biologically plausible because psychotic disorders involve disturbances in the dopamine neurotransmitter systems with which the cannabinoid system interacts, as demonstrated by animal studies and one human provocation study.

CONCLUSION: *It is most plausible that cannabis use precipitates schizophrenia in individuals who are vulnerable because of a personal or family history of schizophrenia.*

PMID: 17007222 [PubMed - indexed for MEDLINE]

[http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/17007222?ordinalpos=1&itool=EntrezSystem2.PEntrez.Pubmed.Pubmed_ResultsPanel.Pubmed_DiscoveryPanel.Pubmed_Discovery_RA&linkpos=1&log\\$=relatedreviews&logdbfrom=pubmed](http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/17007222?ordinalpos=1&itool=EntrezSystem2.PEntrez.Pubmed.Pubmed_ResultsPanel.Pubmed_DiscoveryPanel.Pubmed_Discovery_RA&linkpos=1&log$=relatedreviews&logdbfrom=pubmed)

'Cannabis alters human DNA' - new study

Research at University of Leicester highlights cancer risk from cannabis smoke

Issued on 16 June 2009

A new study published by University of Leicester researchers has found "convincing evidence" that cannabis smoke damages DNA in ways that could potentially increase the risk of cancer development in humans. Using a newly developed highly sensitive liquid chromatography-tandem mass spectrometry method, the University of Leicester scientists found clear indication that cannabis smoke damages DNA, under laboratory conditions. They have now published the findings in the journal *Chemical Research in Toxicology*. Writing in the journal *Chemical Research in Toxicology*, the scientists describe the development of a mass spectrometry method that provides a clear indication that cannabis smoke damages DNA, under laboratory conditions. The authors added: "It is well known that toxic substances in tobacco smoke can damage DNA and increase the risk of lung and other cancers. Scientists were unsure though whether cannabis smoke would have the same effect. ***Our research has focused on the toxicity of acetaldehyde, which is present in both tobacco and cannabis.***" *The researchers add that the ability of cannabis smoke to damage DNA has significant human health implications especially as users tend to inhale more deeply than cigarette smokers, which increases respiratory burden.* "The smoking of 3-4 cannabis cigarettes a day is associated with the same degree of damage to bronchial mucus membranes as 20 or more tobacco cigarettes a day," the team adds. "These results provide evidence for the DNA damaging potential of cannabis smoke," the researchers conclude, "implying that the consumption of cannabis cigarettes may be detrimental to human health with the possibility to initiate cancer development." The study was funded by the European Union Network of Excellence ECNIS, the Medical Research Council and Cancer Research UK.

<http://www2.le.ac.uk/ebulletin/news/press-releases/2000-2009/2009/06/nparticle.2009-06-16.1983469252>

The Impact of Marijuana on a Teen's Life

June 18, 2009

Marijuana is considered as one of the most commonly used illicit drug by teens. According to a report released by US government in May 2008, around 35% of the 2 million depressed teens used an illicit drug (including marijuana) in 2007. Another 18% of teens who were not suffering with any depression also have used an illicit drug, adding up to the number of drug abused teens. Marijuana abuse has a tremendous impact on a teen's life. *Marijuana has a tremendous impact on educational and extra-curricular activities of a teen. Its short-term affects include deficiency of memory and learning abilities, distorted perceptions, and declined problem-solving skills, low coordination, increased*

depression, anxiety, and suicidal tendencies. Long-term marijuana abuse can result in schizophrenia or other forms of psychosis.

Marijuana abuse affects on Health: Marijuana smoking has almost the same potential of causing cancer as tobacco smoking. Smoking of marijuana increases heart rate and blood pressure. The abused are likely to suffer from coughing and wheezing. The higher the abuse the greater are the chances of marijuana-smokers to suffer from lung infections and diseases like pneumonia. THC in marijuana can damage immunity system in a human being.....

<http://www.articleslot.com/the-impact-of-marijuana-on-a-teen%E2%80%99s-life/>

Marijuana smoke is a carcinogen, California board rules

By April Dembosky / Mercury News / 06/19/2009

Joints and baggies sold at California's medical marijuana dispensaries will soon carry a new warning label. Next to tags like "Purple Haze" and "White Widow" will be the advisory: Contents may cause cancer when smoked. On Friday, California added marijuana smoke to its official list of known carcinogens, joining the ranks of arsenic, asbestos and DDT. Pot brownies, lollipops and other non-inhalables are not affected by the new ruling. ***Scientists found the pungent smoke shares many of the same harmful properties as tobacco smoke, warranting its inclusion on the Proposition 65 warning list. The law requires the state to publish a list of chemicals known to cause cancer or reproductive toxicity, and businesses and government agencies must post warnings when they use such chemicals or sell products containing them.***Though marijuana smoke was added to the list Friday, the labeling requirements won't go into effect until June 19, 2010. Only medical marijuana dispensaries with 10 employees or more are required to post a warning either in their shop or on the products themselves. Violations of the law carry a fine up to \$2,500 a violation per day. The panel of scientists at the state Office of Environmental Health Hazards Assessment reviewed an extensive body of research finding links between marijuana smoke and cancer, particularly head and neck cancers..... ***"In years to come, kids won't be smoking blunts or bongos, they're going to be vaporizing," he said, remembering a young man who recently asked to take his photo with him. "He wore a T-shirt that said 'Got Vape?' "*** http://www.mercurynews.com/politics/ci_12644670?nclick_check=1

There are a number of companies that are openly profiting from the growth and sale of marijuana. From the publicly traded Medical Marijuana Inc., schools such as Oaksterdam University and the Cannabis Career Institute to an internet trade and sales site called "BudTrader.com".

Marijuana clinics could spur niche industry

Helping patients get approved may be lucrative

Christina Rogers / The Detroit News / Wednesday, April 1, 2009

Southfield -- A new medical clinic here specializes in helping patients qualify with the state to treat their health problems with medical marijuana.....Use will be well-regulated: The new law could seed another line of business: a caregiver, a person designated to help the ill cultivate or obtain medical marijuana, Forrester said. ***"Caregivers are going to be an industry here in Michigan, as well," he said, noting the association's Web site, www.michiganmedicalmarijuana.org, will make space available to caregivers who want to advertise their services.....***

<http://www.detnews.com/article/20090401/BIZ/904010363/1001/Marijuana+clinics+could+spur+niche+industry>

“Medical Marijuana, Inc.” Now Trading Over-the-Counter

April 7, 2009 at 10:44 am

How many times have you asked yourself: How can I invest in the legalized marijuana industry? If the answer is “one or more,” then say hello to “Medical Marijuana, Inc.” Medical Marijuana Inc., formerly known as Club Vivonet, announced that it is the first public company to enter the legalized, medical marijuana business, according to 24/7 Wall Street.24/7 Wall Street reports that on Friday, the company filed a patent application for an invention that it says “potentially satisfies various governmental and the medical marijuana dispensaries’ needs for tax collection in the medical marijuana industry.” *It claims to be “positioned to take advantage of opportunities as they appear in the emerging legal medical marijuana industry through an enhanced payment gateway introducing verifiable levels of enhanced security.” Bruce Perlowin, the company’s new Chairman and CEO, has a website on which he describes himself as the “King of Pot.”*

<http://www.securitiesdocket.com/2009/04/07/medical-marijuana-inc-now-trading-over-the-counter/>

Friday — 10 April 2009

by MMMA SiteScribe

A recent Detroit News story about clinic's spurring a niche industry in the state, seems to be just the tip of the iceberg. Caregiver groups, hydroponic retailers, vaporizer sales, and the opening of TrainToGrow.com, a business that provides hands-on cultivation training, are increasing signs that medical marijuana is already creating hundreds of new jobs in Michigan.

TrainToGrow.com is a seminar-style training session that includes both lecture and hands-on participation for attendees. Instructors educate participants about Michigan's Medical Marijuana Program including the program's guidelines and requirements. This class is designed for people with little or no indoor cultivation experience. A hydroponic garden will also be part of the presentation. Instructors will demonstrate how to design and build your own custom hydroponic system. They will also discuss the operation and maintenance your system will require to produce consistent quality and yield. Attendees will be able to see exactly what supplies it takes to engineer a system, and talk with instructors about modifying systems to meet their needs. The first training session will be held on Monday, April 27, 2009 at 6:00 p.m. Class will be held in the Costick Activity Center located at 28600 Eleven Mile Rd. in Farmington Hills. The fee is \$100 and you are encouraged to preregister online at TrainToGrow.com. Walk-ins will be available on a limited basis and payment for all classes may be made at the door.

<http://www.michiganmedicalmarijuana.org/node/2827>

Another Legal Medical Marijuana Company Now Public (GFON, CVIV)

Posted: April 14, 2009 at 6:10 pm

Cannabis Science, Inc. (OTCBB: GFON), or Gulf Onshore, Inc. (GFON), is yet another public stock company which is going after the field of legalized medical marijuana.*This new company’s description says that it is at the forefront of medical marijuana research and development*, and the company works with world authorities on phytocannabinoid science targeting critical illnesses, and adheres to scientific methodologies to develop, produce, and commercialize phytocannabinoid-based pharmaceutical products.In short, you can probably expect to hear more about this company in the form of headlines and news stories. When we ran the piece about Medical Marijuana, Inc. (OTC: CVIV), we noted, “If you ever thought that cannabis, pot, weed, or hemp were not going to be applied to a public company, it looks like that has changed.”Sometimes the real news is almost more unbelievable than the made-up news. Whether or not these companies take off is something we won’t speculate on. As we have noted before, there have been stranger things yet.

<http://247wallst.com/2009/04/14/another-legal-medical-marijuana-company-now-public-gfon-cviv/>

Medical Marijuana Stock Doubles After Changing Name

(Bloomberg) -- A debit-card company that changed its name to Medical Marijuana Inc. more than doubled on its first day of trading on the over-the-counter stock market.The company, trading under the ticker MJNA, will also split its shares 10-for-1, the statement said.The last quarterly report from Club Vivonet, spun off by Medical Marijuana this month, showed revenue of \$250,262 for the quarter ended Sept. 30, according to filings posted on the Web site for Pink Sheets OTC Market Inc. The report listed its accountant as At Ease Accounting & Tax Services in Cape Coral, Florida. The Dec. 31 filing said Club Vivonet had 12.5 million shares outstanding, with 5.6 million owned by its chief executive officer, Donald Steinberg, and vice president, Roberta Steinberg. A Boulder, Colorado, company called New Compendium Corp. owned 3.4 million shares.***Perlwin, 57, said he spent nine years in prison for smuggling marijuana, which has been outlawed by the U.S. government since 1937.*** Shares of Marina Del Rey, California-based Medical Marijuana quadrupled since March 31, when it first announced the name change. The stock didn't trade for most of February. Almost 500,000 shares changed hands yesterday, about eight times last week's average, according to data compiled by Bloomberg.

<http://www.420magazine.com/forums/international-cannabis-news/93580-medical-marijuana-stock-doubles-after-changing-name.html>

Welcome to Cannabis Career Institute.

At C.C.I. we are helping people find a new career in America's most exciting new industry. Learn what it takes to own and operate a legal medical marijuana dispensary business and enjoy all the benefits of the medical cannabis industry. ***Get ready to position yourself to capitalize on today's newest and fastest growing market, that will change the way people think about medical cannabis. Cannabis Career Institute is committed to your success, we are with you every step of the way.*** After completing the course, if you are looking for a job in a medical marijuana dispensary, we will help you with job placement, or help you with the necessary paper work and connect you with the people who are in the medical marijuana industry to help you jump start your new dispensary or delivery business, we are here to ensure your success in your new career.

http://www.ehow.com/how_4921491_start-cannabis-collective.html

Fresno 420 Delivery

Caregiver Authorization

President, CEO. Ana Grimes

LA 420 Delivery

City: LA, Long Beach, Pasadena, Tulare, Visalia and Fresno

Phone Number: Website orders only

Hours of Operation: 24/7

Website URL: <http://google.com/site/fresno420delivery/>

E-mail: info@bizmancenter.info

Delivery Service: Yes

President, CEO. George Grimes

Want: OG Kush Top Shelf Meds (Pure cuts only Larry, Tahoe, SFV)

\$4000-4800

Description: I am looking for someone who can provide a supply of REAL OG KUSH. I need any of the pure cuts listed in the subject such as Larry, SFV, Tahoe, etc. If you know what I'm talking about, then your the person I need to talk to. I am looking for a large quantity (up to 5 lb) if someone can provide it. I am a legal patient who can provide all recommendation information. I am willing to pay top dollar on these quality meds if they can be up to the standard that I am looking for. Anyone who has

visited clubs in social knows what quality of OG I need. I am looking for clean business only and would love to be able to meet in a safe environment such as a dispensary if possible. I am willing to meet somewhere in the Inland Empire, Orange County, SFV Valley, or anywhere south of the valley. If anyone can help me out, they will be given a generous donation back. Thanks in advance. P.S. If possible please provide pics.

Stats: 44 total views, 10 so far today

<http://budtrader.com/?p=1492>

OUTDOOR PINEAPPLE KUSH

\$200 OZ. 750 QP

Description: mmj p.215 cannabis (outdoor pineapple kush) Medicinal Marijuana donation runs 750 per QP 200 per oz. 120 per 1/2. It's organic and has decent smell. This is per prop 215..patients must have card and valid paperwork

EMAIL ME WITH YOUR # I WILL CALL ASAP!

Stats: 238 total views, 3 so far today

<http://budtrader.com/?p=1178>

Clinical Grade Marijuana Deliveries

Non Profit Discreet Medical Marijuana Deliveries / Medical Grade Marijuana Prescriptions

- In-Stock Product / Platinum Bubba Kush / 350oz

Please have the following information

- Your current MMJ prescription ID Card and Approval Letter, Your current California ID or DL, Must be 18 years of age or older

BLOCKED CALLS will not be answered / Call or Text (951) 241-9404

*We thrive to bring you discreet and professional delivery services for Medical Grade Marijuana to your Home or Office.[/description]

Stats: 15 total views, 1 so far today

<http://budtrader.com/?p=291>

Highclass Medical Grade Cannabis Bubba Kush and Purple Dookie

\$1 Ounce \$250 Q.P. \$950 Full LB \$3200

Description: We have some really good grade medical cannabis. Rated a 9 out of 10. Bubba Kush ,and our other strain which is really popular, Purple Dookie rope . .Were also offering package deals until the end of June. . All medical verification is required before purchase. Support Prop 215!

Stats: 75 total views, 31 so far today

Posted By: Joseph

Berkeley Right by Cal / 6/2/2009 @ 8:47pm

<http://budtrader.com/?p=1499>

Washington grower with A LOT of excess every harvest

\$3500 lb

Description: i am a washinton state medical marijuana patient and we are allowed to grow 15 plants here and i have quite a bit of left overs every harvest and i was told i could join a collective and legally sell to them. if there is anyone who could confirm that i would really appreciate it as well as anyone interested in purchasing from me. i grow very high grade marijuana. thanks in advance for any help.

Stats: 197 total views, 3 so far today

<http://budtrader.com/?p=1269>

“I need Vendors ASAP”

Description: I really need a vendor who could supply me Medical cannabis by the P. I could provide dispensary number. I need it asap as i am low on inventory. thanks.

Stats: 162 total views, 2 so far today

One Response to “I need Vendors ASAP”

[May 23, 2009 at 10:28 pm](#)

Send me ur # I might be able to help u. I will have some og purp in about 1.5 month.

<http://budtrader.com/?p=1177>

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

Seattle man pleads guilty to slaying in marijuana grow house

By [Sharon Pian Chan](#) / Seattle Times staff reporter / published April 8, 2009

A Seattle man has pleaded guilty to the 2007 slaying of another man at a marijuana grow house near Covington.....Tri Vo, 25, pleaded guilty to one count of first-degree murder and one count of first-degree assault in connection with the slaying of Duc Nguyen. In exchange for the guilty pleas, a drug charge against Vo was dismissed. Prosecutors are recommending a 35-year sentence. In September 2007, Vo turned himself in to Seattle police saying he had shot his friend. But police let him go because they could not find any reports of an unsolved shooting..... While police were talking to him, King County sheriff's deputies found a wounded woman near the 18400 block of Southeast 286th Street, who led them to Nguyen's body. The woman had been strangled, shot and pistol-whipped, authorities said.

Investigators found Nguyen's body at a house with a booby-trapped marijuana-growing operation. Sheriff's deputies say the shooting occurred after Vo and Nguyen got into an argument about the drug operation. Vo is scheduled to be sentenced on May 1

http://seattletimes.nwsourc.com/html/localnews/2009008436_webtrivo08m.html

Women beaten for not paying for medical marijuana

Tim Rzewuski / Published: April 18, 2009

WOONSOCKET, R.I.— A handicapped woman who is permitted to possess medical marijuana was allegedly beaten by her supplier. Woonsocket Police tell NBC 10 News that Vanessa A. Armstrong, 22, of Diamond Hill Road, allegedly beat a 22-year-old neighbor for failing to pay for her supply of medical marijuana. Police say Armstrong was arrested Thursday night and charged with one count of assaulted after the victim called police to alert them of the assault. According to police Armstrong also made the victim sign a note to pay the delinquent bill. Armstrong will be in court on a later date.

http://www.turnto10.com/jar/news/local/article/women_beaten_for_not_paying_for_medical_marijuana/12580/

Billings man gets 5 years in marijuana case

BILLINGS, Mont.: Saul Nuno pleaded guilty to conspiracy to distribute marijuana and possession with intent to distribute. On Wednesday, Chief U.S. District Judge Richard Cebull sentenced 31-year-old Nuno to a minimum mandatory five years, which was about the middle of the guideline range. ***Assistant U.S. Attorney Jim Seykora said Nuno and others brought more than 1,300 pounds of marijuana from California to Billings.*** Some of the marijuana was smuggled in the undercarriages of cars that crossed into the country at Tijuana. Co-defendants Steven B. Nava Jr., and Winder Werner of Tennessee, also pleaded guilty. Seykora said the three worked together to repackage, store and distribute the marijuana, some of which was sold to undercover agents. Nava and Werner are awaiting sentencing.

<http://www.kxmc.com/News/368899.asp>

Medical user claims pot switcheroo

Published: May 28, 2009 at 3:25 PM

BREMERTON, Wash., May 28 (UPI) -- Police in Washington state said a medical marijuana user told authorities that her bag of legal pot was switched with a bag of weaker weed at a party. ***The Bremerton woman said she took her "stronger" medical marijuana to the party Friday to "maintain control of it" and at some point during the gathering a man told her she had dropped her bag of cannabis and handed it back to her,*** the Kitsap Sun of Bremerton reported Thursday. However, the woman said she brewed a pot of marijuana-laced tea the next morning and noticed the drug was not as potent as it had been. The woman told police she used some of the marijuana and threw the rest away. She gave the empty bag to police.

http://www.upi.com/Odd_News/2009/05/28/Medical-user-claims-pot-switcheroo/UPI-7475124353872/

Police say Harvard killing was 'drug rip', Student tied to suspect barred from graduating

By [John R. Ellement and Eric Moskowitz](#) / Globe Staff / May 23, 2009

CAMBRIDGE - ***A plot to rob a marijuana dealer inside a Harvard residence hall Monday went badly awry and ended with the shooting death of a 21-year-old Cambridge man,*** authorities said yesterday, as details began to emerge about two female Harvard students who knew both the victim and his alleged assailants. Middlesex District Attorney Gerard T. Leone Jr. said the botched "drug rip" that cost the life of the suspected dealer, Justin Cosby, centered on a pound of marijuana and \$1,000 in cash that Jabrai Jordan Copney of New York and two others allegedly came to Cambridge to steal.....Harvard officials said the shooting would prompt them to revisit school drug and safety policies. There "are important lessons to learn from this sad episode," Evelyn M. Hammonds, dean of Harvard College, wrote in a letter posted on the school's website. "I intend to work with student leaders and others to address the nature and risks of illicit drug use on campus . . . and to examine the adequacy of existing policies relating to student life.".....

http://www.boston.com/news/local/massachusetts/articles/2009/05/23/police_say_harvard_killing_was_drug_rip/?page=2

Thieves steal tubs of pot from medical marijuana store, get caught

Kim Posey KDVR Reporter / June 16, 2009

BOULDER, Colo. - The New Options Wellness Center in Boulder, which supplies medical marijuana to licensed patients, was robbed Tuesday afternoon, but the crooks didn't get very far. Boulder Police say two men walked into the center and said they were customers. When the female manager asked to see their registration cards, the men allegedly robbed the place. "They stole money out of the till. They stole at least two 20 gallon tubs of marijuan...medical marijuana...and also we believe some of the surveillance equipment from inside the store," said Sarah Huntley with the Boulder Police Department. Huntley said the men did not show a weapon. Neighbors in the business park heard the clerk's screams for help. "She was crying and asking for help, saying she'd been robbed," said Kelli Lafollette. Initially, the robbers took off running, but then got into a black Cadillac Escalade. Witnesses were able to give police a license plate number and the SUV was pulled over on the Boulder Turnpike moments later. Four people were taken into custody for questioning. Officers sought warrant to search the vehicle.

http://www.kdvr.com/news/kdvr-medical-marijuana-061609_0_80404.story

2 arrested after 6 pounds of marijuana found in car

by Phillip Swarts, The Oregonian / April 06, 2009

Two California men have been arrested in Tualatin after officers discovered more than six pounds of marijuana in their car. Eric Kooyers and Kevin Huff, both 37 and of Willits, Calif., were charged with possession and distribution of a controlled substance and booked into the Washington County Jail. A Tualatin police officer responded to a call from a Shell gas station on Southwest Nyberg Street about 10

Saturday night in regard to a report the two suspects were trying to sell marijuana from their car. The officer smelled marijuana and saw the drug in the car, officials said. He contacted a Hillsboro officer who responded with a drug-sniffing dog. Six pounds, four ounces of marijuana packaged for delivery was discovered, officials said

http://www.oregonlive.com/washingtoncounty/index.ssf/2009/04/2_men_arrested_after_6_pounds.html

Medical marijuana requests climb sky high

Dispensary owners report 50 to 300 percent rise since Obama took office

4/15/09|[MSNBC](#) by Brian Alexander - MSNBC.com Contributor

The number of ailing people turning to medical marijuana to ease their symptoms has spiked this year, say dispensary owners in some of the 13 states where it's legal. Requests have jumped anywhere from 50 to 300 percent, they say, since President Barack Obama took office and signaled that he won't use federal marijuana laws to override state laws as the Bush administration did.....***"I have had a 300 percent rise at my business," reported the owner of Colorado's Boulder County Caregivers, a marijuana dispensary. (She asked not to be named since she also works in local government.)*** Her numbers are rising despite obstacles that remain in the path of those seeking access. For example, many doctors are reluctant to authorize their patients to use marijuana either because its efficacy has not been proven in rigorous trials, shown to be superior to other drugs, or because they themselves fear risking their own federal license to prescribe medications like opiate pain killers if they are seen to be defying federal drug law. "I have legitimate cancer patients who cannot get a doctor to sign," the Boulder dispensary owner said.....***"I have 12 doctors working with us right now," said Paul Stanford, director of The Hemp and Cannabis Foundation, based in Portland, Ore. THCF has started clinics in eight states, often by bringing along one of its own paid doctors who happens to be licensed in that state.*** Stanford claimed his clinics are booming, too, with about 50 percent more calls and patient certifications than before the new administration took office.....

<http://www.marijuana.com/drug-war-headline-news/118951-usa-medical-marijuana-requests-climb-sky-high.html>

Student caps speech with pot smoke

By STACEY MULICK News Tribune / June 3, 2009, 5:22PM

TACOMA, Wash. — The teachers wanted persuasive. And they got it. At the end of his speech Tuesday urging legalization of marijuana, a 17-year-old Peninsula High School student pulled out a joint, lit it and smoked away. Then he ate the remains. For that he got a quick escort to the school office and then a ride to Remann Hall juvenile jail. The stunt was celebrated among some of the teen's peers but was frowned on to say the least by law enforcement officers and district administrators. "We believe in freedom of speech and encourage it, but illegal activities are absolutely not going to be tolerated in our district," schools Superintendent Terry Bouck said.....One student present for the teen's speech said it was eloquent, well argued and sincerely moved many students. "The student was making a statement towards (what he felt as) the arbitrary taboo our society places on marijuana use," the 17-year-old junior stated in a comment on The News Tribune's Web site.....

<http://www.chron.com/disp/story.mpl/bizarre/6456687.html>

Medical marijuana rules used to hide grow-ops

ctvbc.ca / Sun Jun. 07 2009

An exemption from Health Canada to grow medicinal marijuana is opening the door for criminals to hide illegal grow-ops, according to experts. Darryl Plecas, a criminologist with B.C.'s University of the Fraser Valley, says police are finding more "sanctioned" grow operations across the province -- operations where the proprietor has legal permission from the government to cultivate marijuana for medicinal purposes. "Health Canada has been wrestling with this problem," he said. Plecas, who used

to sit on Canada's medicinal marijuana advisory board, says the government agency does not have enough inspectors to monitor the situation. "In effect, it amounts to virtually no enforcement," he said. ***It is this lack of checks and balances surrounding medicinal grow-ops that is attracting organized crime. "This new situation where people can grow legitimately and criminals will seize on that to say I will hide under that umbrella -- and if there are no inspections that will be the biggest reason why we have a problem,"*** Plecas said. Once someone has a permit to grow from Health Canada it is very difficult for police to investigate because of privacy concerns. "That is something that can be abused by the criminal element to skirt detection," he said. Plecas believes the problem could be solved if Health Canada stopped allowing people to grow pot at home. "None of these hazards would be in place if we had marijuana for medical purposes grown in a commercial manner," he said. But as it stands right now, some medicinal grow operations are becoming part of B.C.'s biggest illegal industry. Organized crime groups are using an exemption from Health Canada to grow medical marijuana as a way to hide illegal grow-ops, according to experts. June 7, 2009.

http://www.ctvbc.ctv.ca/servlet/an/local/CTVNews/20090607/bc_medicinal_marijuana_grow_ops_090607/20090607/?hub=BritishColumbiaHome

Washington State: Medical marijuana dispensaries open

Posted by newsdeskinternational / Written by Janet / 06/25/2009

Medical marijuana can now be dispensed in Washington, legally, so dispensaries are opening in Spokane to provide it. ***Regardless of whether such stores are what Washington voters and legislators envisioned when they allowed medical marijuana, it may only be a matter of time before the businesses are commonplace:.....***The Health Department determined that a medically authorized person could possess a 60-day supply, or 1 1/2 pounds of marijuana or 15 plants. Donn Moyer, a Health Department spokesman, said that enforcement of the laws is left to local, state and federal police..... ***Stevens said the next move for medical marijuana will be a push to force insurers — including the government's Medicare and Medicaid programs to pay much like they do for prescription drug coverage.....***

<http://newsdeskinternational.wordpress.com/2009/06/25/washington-state-medical-marijuana-dispensaries-open/>

Medical marijuana clinic opens in Grants Pass

June 26, 2009

The Hemp and Cannabis Foundation in Portland has opened a permanent medical marijuana clinic in Grants Pass. The clinic, at 558 N.E. F St., No. 1, in Colonial Plaza, is the first permanent medical marijuana clinic in Oregon outside Portland.....The Hemp and Cannabis Foundation's mission is to help patients with qualifying medical conditions obtain a permit to grow and use marijuana to treat their symptoms, Rode said. Another goal is to educate people about the medicinal, social and industrial uses for cannabis to increase hemp cultivation. Rode said medical marijuana treats a wide range of symptoms such as nausea in cancer or AIDS patients, as well as the chronic pain people suffer from medical conditions or as a result of a serious accident. ***Rode said the Hemp and Cannabis Foundation already runs permanent clinics in Bellevue, Wash., Riverside, Calif., Denver and Detroit.*** He expects to open additional permanent clinics in Bend, Eugene and Spokane, Wash., in coming months. The foundation also holds a traveling clinic in Brookings every few months.

<http://www.mailtribune.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20090626/NEWS07/904070339/-1/NEWSMAP>

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