

Medical Marijuana and Associated Issues

Presented to the California Chiefs of Police Association

October to December 2009

Captain M. Regan

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

Police: Woman torched over pot dispute

By Jim Guy / The Fresno Bee / Published online on Thursday, Oct. 22, 2009

A Fresno man who police say set a housemate on fire because of a dispute over marijuana plants was booked Tuesday on suspicion of attempted murder and arson. Jerry Mayberry, 37, is accused of dousing a 40-year-old woman with an accelerant and setting her on fire Oct. 6 at a house on the 1000 block of Klette Avenue. There were about 100 marijuana plants in the southwest Fresno home, police said. The woman had third-degree burns on more than 40% of her body.....Mayberry was also burned in the fire, receiving second- and third-degree burns on more than 15% of his body. The house was destroyed. Mayberry also was booked on charges of torture, mayhem and domestic violence.

<http://www.fresnobee.com/local/crime/story/1681512.html?storylink=mirelated>

Charred human remains found in Kings Co. barn

The Associated Press / 11/19/2009

LEMOORE, Calif.—A Kings County man has been arrested on suspicion of killing a person whose charred remains were found inside a burned down barn that apparently was used to grow marijuana. Sheriff's officials say 28-year-old Nathaniel Caetano was taken into custody in connection with the marijuana operation and parole violations after crews responded to the barn fire Wednesday morning near the town of Lemoore.....Thayer says the remains are believed to be those of Caetano's father, 49-year-old Leonard Caetano. Authorities are still working to confirm the identity. Thayer says investigators are still determining a possible motive for the killing.

http://www.mercurynews.com/news/ci_13826393?nclick_check=1

Busted Trafficking Ring, Deputies Search For Murder Victim In Santa Barbara Foothills

Santa Barbara, CA-- 17 people under arrest, over 300 pounds of marijuana confiscated but investigators say, there's more. Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Department believe a missing Fresno man, is buried in the mountains, off West Camino Cielo Road. *Following a six month investigation, after narcotic detectives uncovered and destroyed a marijuana grown near West Camino Cielo, investigators learned a man working the illegal grow may have been murdered.....* In a press release, Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Department says they believe those working the illegal grow, were planning on setting a brush fire to destroy the grow campsite and Villa's possible homicide.....One of the men investigators are looking for is believed to head a Mexican National Drug Trafficking organization.....

<http://www.keyt.com/news/local/69899767.html>

Briton faces murder charge in US

Tuesday, 3 November 2009

A British medical marijuana grower is to appear before a US court charged with murdering a 67-year-old man. Andrew Sharkey, 36, is accused of strangling Michael Van Tillman in a garage which housed

his legal marijuana business in Guerneville, California.....He faces charges of murder in the first degree and abuse of an elder.....A second man, American Garry Allen Scott, 56, has been charged with being an accessory to the crime.

http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk_news/8341488.stm

Happy Camp man arrested on murder charge

By Ron Brown / October 12, 2009

HAPPY CAMP, Calif. - A Happy Camp man is in the Jackson County jail on a murder charge out of Siskiyou County. 46-year-old Scott Matthew Calestini is accused of stabbing 48-year old John Alexander of Salinas last Wednesday....."He invited Mr. Alexander, the victim, into his house. There was a discussion on some marijuana issues. They got into a fight. The fight concluded and Mr. Calestini grabbed a knife and stabbed our victim.....He says the fight was over drugs.....

<http://kdrv.com/news/local/144692>

Orinda man shot while guarding medicinal marijuana

The Associated Press / 10/19/2009

OAKLAND, Calif.—A 43-year-old Orinda man is hospitalized after police say he was shot while guarding an outdoor medicinal marijuana crop in an Oakland backyard. ***Police say the man was shot four times when he tried to stop four men from taking the plants Sunday morning.*** He was listed in serious but stable condition with gunshot wounds to his stomach, thigh, shin and arm.....the man was guarding the plants for a friend who had a medical marijuana license to grow the plants.....

http://www.mercurynews.com/california/ci_13596362?ncllick_check=1

Suspect in alleged home invasion and shooting arrested Wednesday

Written by Elizabeth Larson / Wednesday, 21 October 2009

LAKE COUNTY – A man with an extensive criminal history has been arrested for an alleged home invasion and shooting of a Lakeport man that occurred early Wednesday morning.....Dudney is charged for a Tuesday morning attack on 49-year-old ***Ronald Greiner, who was found hogtied, shot and beaten outside of his S. Main Street home,..... Greiner told authorities that some time during the previous night at least two people broke into his home to assault him and steal his marijuana.....***Bauman said Greiner was so badly hurt that he was barely able to talk, but he nonetheless managed to provide a possible identity to at least one of his assailants before being transported from the scene.....

<http://lakeconews.com/content/view/10886/764/>

Man accused of murder enters plea

By Denise Rockenstein-- Staff report / 12/04/2009

CLEARLAKE Michael Gil Truscott, 30, of Clearlake pleaded not guilty Friday to allegations of murder related to the September shooting death of a Clearlake man..... Truscott is charged with the shooting death of Anthony Cruz, 30, who died of a single gunshot wound to his chest on Sept. 4. According to Cruz's girlfriend, Kelly Clasen, who witnessed the incident, Cruz was shot in the early morning hours of Sept. 4 when he attempted to confront trespassers on his property. Clasen said that Cruz stuck his head out a bedroom window to yell at the trespassers, who were allegedly attempting to steal his medical marijuana, when he was shot. Clasen maintains the belief that theft of the medical marijuana was not the primary motive because the plants were immature and those targeted were less accessible than those left undisturbed. "I don't think they were there for the weed at all," she said. "They were there to kill Anthony."

http://www.record-bee.com/ci_13931837

Armed Robbers Hit Medical Marijuana Outlet In Wrigley

Take Pot, Shoot Clerk In Scuffle w/ Customer

(November 18, 2009) -- The clerk at a Wrigley area medical marijuana outlet was shot, and the operation was robbed of its marijuana in an armed robbery.two armed suspects entered the operation in the 2600 block of Magnolia Ave. ***One of the suspects allegedly pointed a handgun at the employee and threatened him while the other suspect proceeded to gather the marijuana on hand. PIO Pratt says that during the robbery, there was a scuffle between one of the suspects and a customer and the store employee was shot in the lower body...***and transported by LBFD to a local hospital with a non-life threatening injury.....

<http://www.lbreport.com/news/nov09/211wrimj.htm>

2 shot in apparent robbery in front of Westside marijuana dispensary

September 18, 2009

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

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

Patient Pistol-Whipped During Marijuana Robbery

By GENE CUBBISON and ERIC S. PAGE / Wed, Nov 25, 2009

A woman buying medical marijuana got between some gunman and their target Wednesday morning. Four masked men -- at least two of whom were armed -- followed some patients inside the Best Meds non-profit medical marijuana collective in the 6150 block of University Avenue in the Rolando neighborhood at about 10 on Wednesday, according to police. There was a scuffle during the robbery, and a woman was pistol-whipped in the back of the head, authorities said. ***The four men fled in a Chevy Equinox, but soon some Best Meds employees gave chase in a pickup, investigators said. A short time later, the pickup caught up to the Chevy and cut it off, forcing the car to slam into the pickup's bed.*** Both front air bags deployed in the Chevy, effectively trapping the men in the front seats. The two other men fled on foot, but one of them was quickly captured by police. The other suspect is still at large, police, said. Police recovered one weapon during their investigation, and the pickup's driver recovered a black duffel bag with jars of marijuana inside, and the marijuana was returned to the collective.

<http://www.nbcsandiego.com/news/local-beat/Patient-Pistol-Whipped-During-Marijuana-Robbery-73845607.html>

Home invasion robbers targeted pot

The Union staff / Tuesday, October 13, 2009

At about 3 a.m. Saturday, the Nevada County Sheriff's Office responded to a home on Keenan Way for a reported home invasion robbery. ***The occupants of the home reported that three males knocked on the front door, identifying themselves as law enforcement officers. The three male suspects entered the home and took an unknown quantity of marijuana in various stages of processing.*** One of the occupants of the home sustained a head injury after being struck in the head by a blunt object.

Detectives from the Nevada County Major Crimes Unit were called out to investigate and through the course of the investigation detectives were able to gather suspect information leading to the recovery of

the marijuana and the apprehension of two of the three suspects.....

<http://www.theunion.com/article/20091013/NEWS/910139994/1007/NONE&parentprofile=1053>

Two men allegedly rob Bayside marijuana seller

The Times-Standard / 10/13/2009

Two Southern California men were arrested Sunday after they allegedly pulled a gun on a Bayside man and stole a large amount of marijuana. Humboldt County Sheriff's Office deputies responded to Walker Point Road in Bayside on Sunday after receiving reports of a robbery. ***The reporting Bayside man told deputies he'd intended to sell a large amount of marijuana to a Los Angeles area cooperative,*** according to a Sheriff's Office press release. One of the men allegedly displayed a handgun and the two then left without paying for the drug, the release states.....

http://www.times-standard.com/localnews/ci_13549753

Medical pot targeted in two Chico home invasion robberies

By GREG WELTER - Staff Writer / 10/17/2009

CHICO -- Police are investigating two home invasion robberies in west Chico Friday that may have been committed by the same suspects. The first took place about 8 a.m. at a home on Willowbrook Way near Greenwich Drive. A man said three suspects entered his home, struck him with his own water pipe — a device used to smoke pot — then robbed him of an undisclosed amount of processed marijuana.....At 3:38 p.m., a man living in an apartment complex at 1001 West Sacramento Avenue called 9-1-1 to report three suspects had barged into his residence and stolen his medical marijuana. Police said there was about a 10-minute delay between the robbery and the time they were called....."Unfortunately, this is the time of year when we get a lot of calls about someone trying to take marijuana by force," said Lt. John Carrillo.....

http://www.chicoer.com/publicsafety/ci_13583700

Pot might be home invasion motive

12/03/2009

A Mariposa couple say they found themselves on the floor of their home at gunpoint on Nov. 29, after three men forced their way into the Triangle Road residence. The three alleged suspects fled after the male victim feigned a heart attack.....***Early told investigators that he believed they were after his medical marijuana. The sheriff's report indicates that they in fact took the pot and some cash and other items. "It appears that the suspects were aware that the victim possess a sizable amount of medical marijuana and were targeted specifically for that reason," the release reads.....***One of the men hit his wife in the face with a pistol and tried to zip-tie the couple, but Early said they were unsuccessful. He said they got a "good look" at one of the men, but the other two had their faces covered. He said he recognized the jacket and size of the larger man, but did not identify him.....Early said he was in the process of becoming a part of a cooperative to grow marijuana for a dispensary. He said he has an authorization to grow 499 plants, enough for 84 medicinal marijuana patients. The man with whom he was trying to do business isn't buying the home invasion story. "I think he wants to borrow money from me," he said. "I think that he smokes too much of what he grows," said Phil Maita. Maita, who lives in Nevada and works with a dispensary in South Lake Tahoe said the whole thing sounds fishy. "I get a deal for him to grow 499 plants from a legititmate source, and all of a sudden, he's got a home invasion. I just don't believe it, that's all." The business associate said Early's claims are a "controversy of stories." Maita said "I don't want to get involved with these people if that's what they're all about.".....The case remains under investigation, and law enforcement is concerned about the growing trend of theft related to medicinal marijuana. ***This is the second recent case. Both involved the use of firearms. "The increasing number of criminal incidents surrounding the cultivation and possession of medical marijuana is of great concern," Sheriff Brian Muller said. "As individuals***

continue to exploit and abuse the intended purpose for which the Compassionate Use Act of 1996 was passed, the frequency and seriousness of these types of crime will undoubtedly increase exponentially.”.....

http://www.mariposagazette.com/news/2009-12-03/Front_Page/Pot_might_be_home_invasion_motive.html

Police want public's help in solving pot-clinic heists

By Tony Castro, Staff Writer / 08/28/2009

A team of gunmen has been robbing medical marijuana dispensaries in the west San Fernando Valley, **and officials say the frequency of the heists and the level of violence is increasing.** According to police, the suspects pose as customers in groups of two or more, then take over the business before fleeing with large quantities of marijuana. During the most recent robbery, an operator in a dispensary in the 23000 block of Ventura Boulevard was shot and wounded during the holdup. Two suspects then fled in a 2006 red four-door Mercedes-Benz CLS500 with a sunroof. The heist prior to that targeted a clinic in the 8200 block of Canoga Avenue. Authorities said the suspects shot their way out of the business and fled in a dark green four-door sedan. And during an earlier robbery of a dispensary in the 6400 block of Topanga Canyon Boulevard, victims were kicked and pistol whipped, officials said.....

http://www.dailynews.com/education/ci_13226562

Garberville home invasion robbers likely after medical pot

The Times-Standard / Posted: 10/08/2009 01:15:27 AM PDT

A Humboldt County Sheriff's Office deputy responding to a call of an armed man near the Garberville Motel late Tuesday afternoon came upon the scene of a man who was seriously injured in an apparent home invasion robbery, reportedly involving medical marijuana.....He later told Humboldt County Sheriff's Office investigators that two men came into his trailer without permission. Collins said he was immediately struck on the head with an unknown object, lost consciousness and awoke later at the hospital, according to a Humboldt County Sheriff's Office press release.....Collins told deputies that the robbers were likely after his medical marijuana, but it is unclear how much, if any, was taken during the incident.....

http://www.times-standard.com/localnews/ci_13512826

Armed robbery suspect arrested

Written by [Union Democrat staff](#) December 31, 2009

Tuolumne County Sheriff's deputies Wednesday arrested one of the three men believed to have been involved in an armed robbery in the Standard area on Tuesday night....According to a Tuolumne County Sheriff's report, a woman was in her home on the 19000 block of Susan Way when three men in their 20s wearing bandannas on their faces and carrying rifles entered and demanded to know where her son's room was. One of the men, allegedly Mendenhall, kept his weapon trained on her, according to the report. They broke in the door to the son's room and stole a small safe and a PlayStation 3.

According to the report, the son later confirmed that the safe contained money and marijuana.....

<http://www.uniondemocrat.com/2009123198766/News/Local-News/Armed-robbery-suspect-arrested>

Healdsburg police investigate pot robbery

Friday, October 30, 2009

A 56-year-old Healdsburg man told police that robbers pulled a gun Friday morning and stole medical marijuana from his home. Rick Jones called police about 9:20 a.m. and said he had just been robbed by gunpoint. He said that two men and a woman that he knew came to his Johnson Street home Friday morning to look over some medical marijuana, according to a press release. One of the three pulled a

handgun and ordered Jones to lie down on a bed in a bedroom. The three fled with three large ziplock bags of marijuana.....

<http://www.pressdemocrat.com/article/20091030/ARTICLES/910309944?Title=Healdsburg-police-investigate-pot-robbery>

Arrest in Danville pot robbery-slaying

Henry K. Lee, Chronicle Staff Writer / Friday, November 20, 2009

Walter Bell, 19, was arrested Wednesday at Santa Rita Jail in Dublin, just before he was to have been released in an unrelated case, said Danville Police Chief Chris Wenzel..... Authorities believe that Fuchs was selling marijuana and that Bell tried to rob him of the drug. Bell was charged with murder, attempted robbery and a special circumstance alleging that he killed Fuchs during an attempted robbery. If convicted, he could face the death penalty.....

<http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2009/11/19/BAJ61ANHDK.DTL>

Medical marijuana dispensary burglarized

Kris Mulholland /12/07/2009

LAKEWOOD - Police say it's the kind of a crime they may start seeing more and more of, break-ins into medical marijuana dispensaries. Lakewood is investigating one such burglary Sunday. Police say burglars broke into Green Tree Medical LLC and got away with an entire safe full of cash. "These burglars were highly efficient," said Sgt. Mark Reeves with Lakewood Police, "according to the report, they got in and out in less than five minutes." Anthony Branam and his brother Chris co-own the company. "We couldn't believe it, we were stunned," Anthony Branam said. "Business is starting to pick up a lot finally and then this happens right before Christmas." Branam said the thieves took an entire safe that was bolted into the wall and the floor, in it \$10,000 cash..... Green Tree Medical lost more than cash, the burglars cleaned out the place, taking pipes, edibles and the cash register. Police say dispensaries could be vulnerable to crimes like this. "We knew that there was a possibility that this crime was gonna increase," said Reeves. "These businesses should limit the amount of cash they keep in the stores overnight, get security systems, get surveillance systems, anything they can to minimize the chance that a burglar is gonna break in." The Branam brothers have owned the business for five months. ***And just started making a profit in the last few weeks.*** But come Monday, they still plan to be open for business

<http://www.9news.com/news/article.aspx?storyid=128360&catid=188>

Two more arrested in marijuana robbery of Windsor man

Friday, December 18, 2009

Windsor police have charged two more men in connection with an armed robbery of another Windsor man..... When officers arrived, the victim told police that two men, one of whom he was familiar with, knocked on his door. When the men entered the apartment, they pulled a gun and a set of brass knuckles on the victim and demanded all the money and marijuana he had in his possession. According to police reports, the victim is in the process of applying for a medical marijuana permit. The victim ran to a neighbor's apartment on another floor, and the two men fled the scene. When the victim returned to his apartment, he noticed his cell phone and several other items were missing. ***This is the fourth case in a six weeks that Windsor police have tied a crime to medical marijuana.*** On Wednesday, the Windsor Town Board passed a 75-day moratorium on medical marijuana dispensaries after they received applications for three new businesses in a week.

<http://www.mywindsornow.com/article/20091218/NEWS/912189991/1040&ParentProfile=1001>

Fort Collins police: Robbery victims tied up at gunpoint, had alleged medical marijuana stolen

By Nate Taylor / December 7, 2009

Five people who tell police they were in possession of medical marijuana were robbed on Friday at a residence in northwest Fort Collins and were tied up at gun point in the process. The 22-year-old told police four people entered his home, including one person who he knew personally, Davis said. The man also told police the four intruders tied him up along with four others and held them at gun point. "The suspects stole cash and alleged medical marijuana. When asked if the other four alleged victims were hospitalized and if there was any indication of how much money and marijuana were stolen, Davis said she did not have any further information for release as the investigation is open and ongoing.
<http://www.coloradoan.com/article/20091207/UPDATES01/91207036/Fort+Collins+police++Robbery+victims+tied+up+at+gunpoint++had+alleged+medical+marijuana+stolen>

Sheriff's office investigates phony marijuana raid

Written by Lake County News Reports / Saturday, 03 October 2009

LAKE COUNTY – The Lake County Sheriff's Office is investigating a report of men who allegedly raided a marijuana grow while impersonating federal agents. Capt. James Bauman reported that the sheriff's office recently received a report of a marijuana grow being raided by a group of armed men dressed in law enforcement attire and claiming to be agents with the Drug Enforcement Administration. Other incidents of phony law enforcement raids involving the theft of marijuana by people impersonating law enforcement officers and mocking their tactics have been reported in other Northern California counties this season, Bauman said. There was no violence or injury to the victim in the phony raid in Lake County, Bauman said. He added that those engaged in the cultivation of marijuana, whether legally or illicitly, are advised to be mindful of the incidents. No further information is being released pending further investigation into the Lake County case, Bauman said
<http://lakeconews.com/content/view/10608/764/>

Fake DEA agents arrested in Calif. marijuana theft

Saturday, October 3, 2009

Healdsburg, Calif. (AP) -- Sonoma County sheriff's deputies have arrested three men on suspicion of impersonating federal drug agents to steal marijuana. Deputies say one man wore a Drug Enforcement Administration cap and another had a police badge when they broke into the home west of Healdsburg. They tied up the victim and threatened to shoot him before taking his wallet and several marijuana plants and guns, investigators say. Deputies soon stopped a vehicle with the three nearby. They say they found the badge, DEA hat, masks and marijuana residue. Arrested Thursday were Brian Montgomery, 50, and James Cooper, 37, both of Sonoma, and Paul Huych, 37, of Sacramento. All three were in Sonoma County Jail awaiting court appearances.
<http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/n/a/2009/10/03/state/n110915D01.DTL&tsp=1>

Man injured in fight over marijuana deal

November 9, 2009

Redding police arrested three men Thursday after a reported assault with a two-by-four that sent another man to the hospital. The trio attacked Powell, striking him once in the head and once in the wrist with a two-by-four board, police said. Powell, who was taken to Mercy Medical Center in Redding for treatment, admitted to obtaining marijuana from one of the suspects and not paying for it, police said. The three men fled the scene, but later returned. They were interviewed by investigators and booked into jail on suspicion of conspiracy, assault with a deadly weapon and felony battery, police said.
<http://www.redding.com/news/2009/nov/06/north-state-in-brief-nov-6-2009/>

Doctor busted smoking pot with 'patients'

By Marc Brown / Wednesday, September 30, 2009

LOS ANGELES (KABC) -- In an Eyewitness News exclusive, a Southern California physician with a very unique specialty displays some questionable medical ethics. Dr. Armond Tollette abandoned traditional medical practice to focus on medical marijuana. California law allows physicians to recommend marijuana for seriously ill patients. But Dr. Tollette recommended marijuana to just about anyone, as long as the price was right. And sometimes he'd smoke it with them too. A confidential informant met with Tollette at his office in Culver City. ".....Tollette was running his marijuana-focused medical practice out of his mother's town home in Culver City.....The laws may be vague, but guidelines from the California Medical Board are very clear. "The first step is to take a history and a physical examination of the patient and that is to confirm the diagnosis," said Candis Cohen, spokesperson for the Medical Board of California.....They're using it as a cash-making business and when we catch them doing that, we discipline them," said Cohen. It's estimated nearly 400,000 Californians now have doctor-issued medical marijuana recommendations. Along the boardwalk in Venice Beach, some doctors employ what are known as "Cappers." Doctors pay them to round up patients. "Three months is \$75," says one capper. "Look in my eyes -- nine months is \$100. And one year is \$120. And we have shops right around the corner I can take you to. " An Eyewitness News producer walked into on "open air" medical office and asked if she had to have a real medical condition. "And what do I have to have?" asks the producer. "It's so easy. You'll get it," says one waiting patient. "If somebody has a good case where they just hand out cards without any medical diagnosis, we'll go after them," said Jerry Brown, Calif. attorney general.....Tollette is no longer a doctor. He's now in federal prison after pleading guilty to charges related to that marijuana, along with a separate case of Medicare fraud. Tollette declined a request from Eyewitness News for an interview.

http://abclocal.go.com/kabc/story?section=news/local/los_angeles&id=7039914

Child-care provider arrested on suspicion of making bombs in Lake Elsinore

One son is also charged. A second son, injured when a bomb exploded in their home, is to be charged when he leaves the hospital.

By Robert J. Lopez / October 9, 2009

By all appearances, Rebecca Kuzelka used her home to operate a child day-care business on a quiet, tree-lined street in Lake Elsinore. But a different picture of the 55-year-old mother emerged after her home was rocked by an explosion late Wednesday night. On Thursday morning, deputies arrested Kuzelka and her son Grey Kuzelka, 21, on suspicion of using their home to make bombs and grow marijuana.....Inside the home, Nieburger said, deputies found materials used to make explosives and a sophisticated indoor marijuana growing room. Authorities did not say how many marijuana plants were found in the home or disclose the type of explosive materials that were discovered.....Rebecca and Grey Kuzelka were booked on charges of manufacturing of explosives, cultivating marijuana and felony child endangerment, Nieburger said.

<http://www.latimes.com/news/local/la-me-elsinore-bomb9-2009oct09,0,2852670.story>

Marijuana brownies sicken Ukiah High students

By TIFFANY REVELLE The Daily Journal / 11/18/2009

Two students who got sick after eating marijuana brownies last week sparked an investigation that led authorities to question the goings-on around a particular locker on the Ukiah High School campus. Ukiah police discovered at least three students were using the shared locker to store and distribute marijuana brownies to at least seven other students, according to Capt. Justin Wyatt of the Ukiah Police Department. The brownies, which Wyatt said were actually muffins, are commonly known as "hash brownies" and are made using a concentrated form of marijuana. "The student who the locker was assigned to may have known his friends were using it for marijuana....."The true source of the

brownies is being investigated," Wyatt said. The teens who consumed the marijuana were not arrested or cited, but Wyatt noted being under the influence of marijuana on the campus is against school rules. http://www.ukiahdailyjournal.com/ci_13813552

UHS pot arrests lead police to parent's medical grow

By TIFFANY REVELLE The Daily Journal / 11/11/2009

Wyatt: teen pot problem on the rise. ***A 14-year-old Ukiah High School student was arrested and booked at juvenile hall after allegedly selling marijuana she took from her mother's medical grow to four other teens, three at the high school.*** Capt. Justin Wyatt of the Ukiah Police Department said campus security caught two 14-year-old students with less than an ounce of marijuana apiece on school grounds at around 7:30 a.m. Oct. 30. Police found the teens allegedly bought the marijuana from the 14-year-old girl, along with another student of the same age found later that day to be under the influence and in possession of less than an ounce of marijuana on the campus. "What she said was that her mom grew medical marijuana, and this was drying in the garage," Wyatt said. The girl had also allegedly supplied a fourth teen with marijuana before school, off of school grounds, according to Wyatt. Police found just more than two ounces stashed in town, Wyatt said, and the fourth teen was booked at juvenile hall on suspicion of a felony marijuana possession charge. Police cited the teens who had less than an ounce, according to Wyatt. The girl alleged to have sold her mother's marijuana is facing four counts of marijuana distribution, according to Wyatt. "We did a follow-up on where she got it, and determined it was a medical marijuana grow that appeared to be in compliance (with state law).....characterized this incident as one of the largest at UHS, but said possession is a common occurrence. "Marijuana is definitely a problem up there, and it's becoming a more frequent problem," Wyatt said, adding that he's seen an increase this year. ***He said police deal with marijuana at UHS "at least several times a week," if not daily.*** In addition to possession incidents, officers help campus security determine whether a student is under the influence of marijuana in violation of school rules.....

http://www.ukiahdailyjournal.com/ci_13761163

Teen arrested in crash the injured Wellness Center owner

By GREG WELTER - Staff Writer / 09/30/2009

CHICO — A teenage driver from Cohasset was arrested on charges of driving under the influence of marijuana Monday night when he caused a crash on Cohasset Road that injured a Chico man.....The impact of the crash sent the Explorer flying over a median strip, where it pulled a road sign buried in cement out of the ground. It spun out and wound up facing north on East Lassen. Logan's truck jumped a curb and traveled about 100 feet up a grassy knoll, where it slammed head-on into a large tree near an office building. Police had no immediate estimate on Logan's speed, but witness said the truck was traveling fast.....

http://www.chicoer.com/ci_13451098?source=rss

Raid nets arrest, marijuana, weapon

Staff Reports / 12/30/2009

OROVILLE — Authorities arrested an Oroville man Tuesday and seized numerous weapons and about 50 pounds of marijuana. The Butte Interagency Narcotic Enforcement Task Force and Butte County Sheriff's Office executed a search warrant at the 400 block of Butte Avenue, the residence of Benjamin Eugene Morris and three other people. Morris, 25, was arrested, but authorities determined the other three residents were not involved in any criminal activity. Officers found about 30 pounds of marijuana packaged for sales along with a loaded .45-caliber pistol and \$4,860 in currency. The currency was seized along with the pot and weapon, BINTF reported. BINTF alleges the case developed after Morris tried shipping approximately five pounds of marijuana to an undisclosed location in the Midwest. Street value of the pot seized Tuesday was estimated at \$270,000. Morris was booked into Butte County Jail

on suspicion of sales/transportation of marijuana, possession of marijuana for sales and the armed commission of a felony. Bail was set at \$95,000.
http://www.chicoer.com/news/ci_14092510

Monster Truck & Rodeo Promoter Arrested on Marijuana Charges

Contributor: [Kelli Saam](#) / 10/21

A well-known monster truck and rodeo promoter in Tehama County has been arrested on drug charges. Joe Froome, age 47, was booked into the Tehama County Jail after agents with eight separate departments raided four locations Wednesday morning. Authorities say an elaborate indoor marijuana operation was discovered inside two buildings on Baker Road. They say they came away with more than 400 pot plants, and 25 pounds of dried marijuana. Agents also seized more than \$9,000, a gun, and financial documents from Froome's home. 26-year-old Daniel Ludwig was also arrested. Agents say he assisted in the operation. They say the operation did not comply with proposition 215 guidelines. Froome was arrested for cultivation of marijuana and possession for sale. Froome is the promoter of the West Coast Monster Truck Nationals and the Director of the Red Bluff Roundup
http://www.khsltv.com/content/localnews/story/Monster-Truck-Rodeo-Promoter-Arrested-on/WuQPBVHa0E29kF9pfpls_w.csp

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

Possible indoor pot farm in 4-alarm blaze

By Henry K. Lee | September 1, 2009

A four-alarm fire that ravaged seven warehouses in San Francisco's Bayview neighborhood led to the discovery of an apparent marijuana-growing operation, authorities said Monday. The blaze broke out at 1526 Wallace Ave. about 10:50 a.m. Sunday and quickly spread to six other buildings on Wallace and Van Dyke avenues. Police found equipment used to grow marijuana at one of the buildings, 1546 Wallace Ave., police Sgt. Wilfred Williams said. No plants were found, and police are still trying to determine who may have been growing the marijuana, Williams said.
<http://articles.sfgate.com/keyword/marijuana/recent/2>

Marijuana grow discovered after fire in West Oakland

By Harry Harris / Oakland Tribune / 10/09/2009

OAKLAND — A small electrical fire led to the discovery of a "very sophisticated" indoor marijuana growing operation this morning in a West Oakland building. More than 350 mature plants with an estimated street value of anywhere from \$350,000 to \$750,000 were found, said Oakland police spokesman Jeff Thomason. Just after 7 a.m., firefighters responded to a report of a fire at a two-story commercial building in the 800 block of West Grand Avenue. During a subsequent safety inspection of the building, firefighters spotted the marijuana plants inside.The elaborate electrical system is likely what overloaded the exterior circuit box, causing the fire, Lipp said. "Firefighters have seen a big problem with people who pirate power," Lipp said. "It's a huge problem for us. Not only from marijuana grows, but people tampering with power boxes, which overload circuits and start fires. There's often danger to unknowing neighbors." ***Thomason said this was the 41st illegal pot growing operation found by police and firefighters this year. From those, police have seized more than 2,400 pounds of marijuana.*** "Marijuana grows can be the source of violence and other crimes and other problems," Andreotti said. "An example is what we saw this morning, with a criminal enterprise that caused a fire."
http://www.mercurynews.com/breaking-news/ci_13524870

SFPD on fog-shrouded pot farms: too much green

By MARCUS WOHLSEN (AP) –

SAN FRANCISCO — Socked in by coastal fog, gardeners in the city's Sunset District struggle to coax vegetables from plots rarely touched by sunlight. But recently, a certain crop has flourished behind closed doors. Marijuana farms have become so widespread in this middle class neighborhood that the city's new police chief appealed to the public Wednesday for tips to help shut the operations down. Apparently even in this pot-tolerant town, there is such a thing as too much green. ***In the Sunset, police say row houses crammed with as many as 2,000 marijuana plants bear the marks of classic criminal enterprises. Raids on three dozen homes and warehouses have uncovered 20 guns, more than 8,000 plants and nearly \$85,000. Investigators believe that organized crime is keeping the drugs, cash and weapons flowing.*** Often once grow houses are raided, police said, their backers just set up new operations down the street. "All this has led to the creation of a very dangerous situation," Chief George Gascon said. Growers are attracted by rents that are moderate by San Francisco standards. Coastal winds sweep pot's skunky smell away. Beyond the concern about drug-ripoff shootouts and deals gone bad, officials said the real worry is the potential for fire from houses gutted to create intensive urban farms. ***At a news conference Wednesday, San Francisco Fire Marshal Barbara Schultneis said growers rewire the homes to avoid detection of the huge spike in energy use needed to grow pot. Shoddy electrical work can spark blazes she said, as can hot grow lights used to simulate sunshine.*** Houses in the Sunset often share common walls, which allows fires to spread quickly. Growers often nail plywood to the insides of windows to keep out natural light and prying eyes, investigators said. As a result, fires can burn longer without being noticed. City firefighters typically battle two blazes a year caused by marijuana growing operations, Schultneis said. This year they have already fought four, including one at a warehouse that partially collapsed onto a firefighter, causing serious injuries.....But Gascon said the crackdown on grow houses in the Sunset has nothing to do with a political stance on pot. "This is not an argument about legalization or not legalization. This is really about public safety," Gascon said. "Quite frankly, we could end up burning an entire city block."

http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5hkxw_E7EaLmXl7XQNTGJbX-9byHAD9B1TR1G0

Police: Palo Alto house was elaborate indoor pot farm

By Will Oremus / Daily News Staff Writer / 10/01/2009

An apparently vacant Palo Alto house was actually an elaborate indoor marijuana farm, police discovered Wednesday morning. Acting on a tip, officers searched the house on the 300 block of Olive Avenue, near Park Boulevard and Page Mill Road, and found it packed wall-to-wall with marijuana plants and paraphernalia. All the furniture had been removed to make room for the plants, fertilizer, bright lights, packaging and other accessories, police Sgt. Dan Ryan said. "Someone spent a lot of money setting up the infrastructure for this operation," he added. "They took great pains to isolate this house and keep it from being discovered." No one was home when police searched the house, and detectives are still trying to track down the grower, Ryan said. Meanwhile, they seized about 100 mature marijuana plants and multiple bags of dried marijuana.

http://www.mercurynews.com/breaking-news/ci_13459054

Sheriff's Office raids marijuana grow on Santa Cruz's Westside

By Jennifer Squires - Sentinel staff writer / 10/09/2009

SANTA CRUZ -- Deputies in the Sheriff's Office narcotics enforcement unit raided a Westside home and confiscated about 100 marijuana plants Thursday, Sgt. Mark Yanez reported. Deputies were tipped off to the grow by an anonymous source and developed enough evidence to get a search warrant for the house, which is on the 200 block of Surfside Avenue. At the home, they found an indoor grow, about a pound of dried pot, packaging material and a scale, Yanez said. ***The resident claimed to be growing for***

medicinal purposes and had a valid doctor's recommendation, but Yanez said they took his marijuana because "he was diverting his medicine for financial gain." The \$16,000 cash found in a closet was deputies' clue that the resident was selling pot,.....

http://www.santacruzsentinel.com/localnews/ci_13522152

Over \$970K In Marijuana Recovered

October 23, 2009

ROSAMOND, Calif. -- The Kern County Sheriff's Department said that they found several hundred marijuana plants with a street value of over \$974,000 dollars were seized Thursday evening. Around 5:30 p.m., a deputy from the Rosamond substation was conducting a follow up investigation to a report of a theft at a residence in Rosamond.....The KCSO said several hundred mature and immature marijuana plants were seized with an estimated street value of \$974,000 dollars Middleton was arrested on charges of cultivation and utility theft. He was transported to KCSO's Central Receiving Facility where he was booked on the above listed charges. <http://www.turnto23.com/news/21402862/detail.html>

Narcotics agents find hundreds of marijuana plants in home

Sunday, November 1, 2009, 4:30 PM

A call to San Ramon police to investigate a home where marijuana might be growing led to the discovery of live and cut plants as well as processed marijuana buds, all worth an estimated half million dollars.....Officers arrived and conducted a protective sweep of the residence; they discovered a sophisticated indoor hydroponic marijuana growing operation.....The search yielded the following confiscation, 280 live marijuana plants, 63 cut marijuana plants, 40 pounds of processed marijuana buds The estimated street value of the marijuana is in excess of \$500,000. The investigation is ongoing

http://www.danvilleweekly.com/news/show_story.php?id=2278

Police find 6 year-old at grow house, arrest dad

Alejandro Martínez-Cabrera, Chronicle Staff Writer / Sunday, November 15, 2009

(11-14) 19:59 PST Vacaville -- Vacaville police took custody of a 6-year-old boy on Friday evening after they arrested his father, who they say kept a sophisticated indoor marijuana grow room in their house. Christopher Stouffer, 27, was arrested at his house on the 100 block of E. Deodara Street where police found 162 marijuana plants in a room with "a sophisticated lighting, ventilation and irrigation system," according to a press release. Police also seized one pound of processed marijuana, two ounces of cocaine, some ecstasy pills and \$476 in what appeared to be proceeds from drug sales. The boy was removed from the house and is currently under the custody of Child Protective Services.....

<http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2009/11/14/BU1B1AKM9B.DTL&tsp=1>

Police search in Oakland finds pot grow

Published online on Tuesday, Dec. 08, 2009

OAKLAND, Calif. -- Police searching a house in Oakland for a stolen big screen television set and other items found a lot more than they were looking for. Oakland police say when officers entered the two-story house Tuesday morning they found about 300 marijuana plants growing inside. The plants were growing with the help of a sophisticated irrigation and ventilation system, as well as lights. Officers say it all was being powered by an illegal connection to the electrical grid. The plants were estimated to have a street value of about \$105,000.....

<http://www.fresnobee.com/384/story/1740901.html>

California Family Accused of Making Bombs at Pot Farm Doubling as Day Care Center

Thursday, October 08, 2009

LOS ANGELES— Explosives and a marijuana farm were discovered at a Southern California home doubling as a state-licensed child day care center after a man blew off four of his fingers while mixing homemade explosives, authorities said Thursday. . . . Authorities went to Kuzelka Family Day Care after a local hospital reported late Wednesday that Kuzelka walked in and said he had shot himself in the hand. Doctors, however, became suspicious because the wound was inconsistent with a gun shot injury and they called authorities. . . . The explosives were hidden outside and detectives believe Grey Kuzelka moved them from the garage to the backyard while his brother was seeking medical treatment, said sheriff's Sgt. Pat Chavez. A hazardous device team responded to the scene and defused explosives Thursday in several controlled blasts throughout the day. . . . Grey Kuzelka had been arrested on Saturday for investigation of possessing marijuana and concentrated cannabis, and was released the next day on \$5,000 bail. . . . The facility was licensed for children ages 2 to 5 and was approved for no more than eight children at a time, Chavez said.

<http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,562581,00.html?test=latestnews>

Clovis family arrested for drugs, guns

Published online on Tuesday, Sep. 29, 2009

A Clovis couple and their 15-year-old son were arrested Tuesday on drug and weapons charges after detectives discovered a marijuana-growing operation in their home, police said. Armed with a warrant, detectives discovered a "sophisticated hydroponic growing system," 75 marijuana plants and several pounds of high-grade marijuana, police spokeswoman Janet Stoll-Lee said. . . . The family also had 13 long guns and 10 handguns, some of them loaded, she said. . . . The parents face additional charges of furnishing marijuana to a minor, employing a minor to prepare marijuana for sale, maintaining a drug house, contributing to the delinquency of a minor, child endangerment and neglect, and being armed in the commission of a felony. They have been selling marijuana to dispensaries, which is illegal, she said. . . . Last week undercover narcotics officers purchased marijuana from the 15-year-old boy who was arrested Tuesday, Stoll-Lee said. The officers also bought a quarter pound of marijuana from Robert Lee Williams Jr., 50. . . . The investigation revealed they were supplying drug dealers at the Skate Park, Stoll-Lee said.

<http://www.fresnobee.com/local/story/1656212.html?storylink=mirelated>

\$2M In Marijuana Plants Found In Palmdale Home

Dec 12, 2009

PALMDALE (CBS) — Authorities say deputies found at least \$2 million worth of marijuana at a Palmdale operation, but no suspects were arrested. . . . The investigation was prompted by a neighbor's report that two males were seen jumping over a fence into the backyard of the home and trying to break in. Sheriff's deputies found an open door on the side of the garage, but no suspects. Once inside, deputies discovered the indoor marijuana operation detectives believe yielded plants worth \$2.2 million on the street.

<http://cbs2.com/local/Palmdale.Marijuana.Grow.2.1366874.html>

Calif. Police Find 2 Warehouses Filled with Pot Plants

By ELYSSE JAMES / Orange County Register Friday, December 18, 2009

An anonymous tip led police to warehouses and homes containing marijuana plants and weapons in Tustin and Santa Ana. Four people were arrested as a result of the search that uncovered marijuana plants and processed marijuana with a street value of about \$1 million, according to police. The plants that were seized can produce more than 1,000 pounds of marijuana, police said. . . . Tustin officers on Tuesday afternoon reported finding marijuana, scales, packaging material, handguns, assault rifles and a

shotgun at the house at 17501 Linda Lane, near Santa Clara Avenue and Yorba Street. The search led the Special Investigations Unit to a warehouse at 620 S. Grand Ave., No. 105, in Santa Ana, where they found a "sophisticated marijuana cultivation," according to police. Police said they found more than 600 marijuana plants in varying stages of maturity on multiple levels of the building. Surveillance equipment had been installed to detect people approaching the warehouse. Officers searched another warehouse in Santa Ana at 1118 E. Walnut St., Unit P, and found a second operation with more than 300 plants on multiple levels. At 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, officers searched a home in Santa Ana, police said. More than 10 pounds of processed marijuana and a ballistic military-style vest were found in an outbuilding.Officers are expecting to make more arrests as the investigation continues.

[http://www.officer.com/web/online/Top-News-Stories/Calif-Police-Find-2-Warehouses-Filled-with-Pot-Plants/1\\$49828](http://www.officer.com/web/online/Top-News-Stories/Calif-Police-Find-2-Warehouses-Filled-with-Pot-Plants/1$49828)

250 Pounds of Marijuana Taken in Raid of Paradise Home

Reported by: Alan Marsden / 12/29/2009

Two Paradise residents are behind bars after drug agents reportedly.....found the 250 pounds of pot worth 225-thousand dollars along with some loaded weapons and a two-year-old child.....Their child was taken into protective custody. A third man, 45-year-old Eric Parker, was cited and released.

http://www.khsltv.com/content/localnews/story/250-Pounds-of-Marijuana-Taken-in-Raid-of-Paradise/sriL604L_Eeenbzq0ky2kg.csp

Deputies seize 300 pot plants in LA County home

The Associated Press / Tuesday, Dec. 29, 2009

LANCASTER, Calif. -- Los Angeles County sheriff's officials say three people were arrested following a raid at a home in Lancaster where more than 300 marijuana plants were seized. Deputy Michael Rust says a phone tip led deputies to the home early Tuesday. When deputies entered the house they found two bedrooms and a large room that were converted into a marijuana growing facility with a sophisticated system of "grow" lights and automatic irrigation. Rust says a 23-year-old man was arrested inside the home. Two other men were taken into custody in the backyard of a nearby home. All were booked on marijuana-related charges.

<http://www.fresnobee.com/state/story/1764264.html>

Fresno Co. deputies find 137 pot plants

Fresno County sheriff's officials discovered more than 100 marijuana plants being grown indoors Sunday night just south of Fresno.....In their search, deputies found 137 marijuana plants, 5 pounds of processed marijuana and an AK-47, Rien said.

<http://www.fresnobee.com/state/story/1764264.html>

Larkin Valley Road man will be charged with marijuana, gun crimes

By Jennifer Squires / 12/30/2009

SANTA CRUZ -- A Larkin Valley Road man arrested when the Sheriff's Office SWAT team served a search warrant at his family's property two weeks ago will be in court Wednesday to face drug and weapons charges.....the Dec. 16 raid that netted more than 50 guns, about 5 pounds of marijuana, \$15,000 cash and a 100-plant indoor pot garden.....Five of the allegations are felonies. Investigators have not said why Nottoli allegedly had the cache of weapons: pistols, hunting rifles, revolvers and assault rifles, including an AR-15 assault rifle equipped with a grenade launcher. Many were unlicensed firearms and some are illegal under state law.....*The investigation into Nottoli began Dec. 6 when a sheriff's deputy stopped Nottoli on Highway 1 near Watsonville for speeding and driving recklessly. Nottoli was suspected of being under the influence of drugs and the deputy found a loaded gun was found in his vehicle*, according to the Sheriff's Office. Nottoli faces charges of carrying a concealed

gun, driving under the influence and being under the influence of a controlled substance in that case, according to court records.....

http://www.santacruzsentinel.com/localnews/ci_14092133

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

Tulare deputies hold 17 in pot conspiracy

Bee staff and news services / Friday, Oct. 02, 2009

Seventeen suspects have been arrested and booked on suspicion of conspiracy of illegal cultivation, distribution and sales of marijuana, the Tulare County Sheriff's Department said. The arrests follow the department's four-month investigation into a drug trafficking organization operating within Tulare County.....The organization used an illegitimate medical marijuana disclaimer in an attempt to cover its illegal cultivation, sheriff's officials said. A total of 161 marijuana plants, with a street value estimated at \$584,000, and 235 pounds of processed marijuana, valued at \$500,000, were seized.

<http://www.fresnobee.com/local/story/1660816.html>

Marijuana seizures quadruple in L.A. County

The county climbs to the No. 5 spot in California's annual eradication campaign, with more than 340,000 plants destroyed.

By John Hoeffel / November 5, 2009

Los Angeles County, which has seen a whirlwind expansion in medical marijuana dispensaries this year, has notched another marijuana milestone. The county has moved to No. 5 for the amount seized in the state's annual eradication campaign, with 340,187 pot plants uprooted -- more than a fourfold increase. Statewide, the 27-year-old effort, known as the Campaign Against Marijuana Planting, found and destroyed almost 4.5 million plants in 41 counties, up from 2.9 million seized in each of the two prior years' growing season. The amount has climbed steadily since 1996, when California voters approved the nation's first medical marijuana law. State officials put the wholesale value of this year's eradicated marijuana at \$17.8 billion.....The proportion seized on public lands increased to 76% this year from 70% in 2008. The annual effort includes officers from numerous state and federal agencies, including the Drug Enforcement Administration and the California Highway Patrol, which conducted 665 raids, up from 542 in 2008. Agents made 111 arrests and found 89 weapons. Last year, they made 143 arrests and found 142 weapons.

http://www.latimes.com/news/local/la-me-marijuana5-2009nov05_0,509391_story

38 arrested in pot raids

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

<http://www.santaynezvalleyjournal.com/archive/7/40/5235/>

Eradication Season Ends with Record Numbers

Source: SBSB / Nov 18, 2009

Santa Barbara—The Santa Barbara Sheriff's Department has completed a record year for marijuana eradication in Santa Barbara County. The Sheriff's Narcotics Bureau discovered 22 illegal grow sites in 2009, an increase of more than 25% from the 16 marijuana gardens discovered the year before. The larger number of grows resulted in the eradication of more than 238,335 marijuana plants. "That's an increase of more than 350% from just one year ago,".....The total combined indoor and outdoor plant count for 2009 is 240,219 with an estimated street value of \$720,867,000. "240,000 plants averages out to about half a plant for every resident in Santa Barbara County," said Commander Laz Salinas who oversees the Department's special investigations. "This is not for medicinal use; this is purely for profit which can come at a very high price in terms of the public's safety." Over the past several years, the majority of the outdoor marijuana gardens have been linked to Mexican Drug Trafficking Organizations and the ensuing challenges they create. For example, in 2007 the SBSO investigated a murder that stemmed from two Mexican Drug Trafficking Organizations that were fighting over growing territory. *Another probable homicide occurred this year in a marijuana garden in the hills of Santa Barbara. Detectives are still investigating this incident which has led to search warrants in five counties, the seizure of several hundred pounds of marijuana, over a kilo of cocaine and the arrest of 17 suspects believed part of a Mexican Drug Trafficking Organization.* These investigations have taxed the Sheriff's Department resources both physically and financially. The eradication of outdoor marijuana grows has also revealed the negative impact these illegal gardens have on the environment. The illegal dumping of trash, pesticides and poisons pollutes the water supply and the damming and re-routing of natural streams and creeks prohibit the natural vegetation from flourishing. Earlier this year, the cause and origin of the 90,000 acre La Brea Fire was determined to be a faulty propane tank in a marijuana garden.....

<http://www.edhat.com/site/tidbit.cfm?id=1400&nid=24391>

3 brothers indicted for growing marijuana

October 16, 2009

A federal grand jury returned one count of conspiring to manufacture marijuana against three Stockton brothers. Osvaldo Arias-Diaz, Jose Arias-Diaz and German Arias-Diaz are alleged to have grown about 3,500 marijuana plants inside Sequoia National Park, starting in June. The brothers were arrested Oct. 6 when a federal search warrant was served at the Stockton home they shared. The case is part of an investigation by the National Parks Services and the High Density Drug Trafficking Area task force.

<http://www.visaliatimesdelta.com/article/20091016/NEWS01/910160333>

Authorities bust marijuana-growing operations east of Visalia

Several suspects were arrested in raids at undisclosed sites

Staff reports • October 2, 2009

Four search warrants served east of Visalia on Thursday afternoon netted hundreds of pounds of marijuana, guns and cash. Deputies with the Tulare County Sheriff's Department, along with the Farmersville Police Department and Drug Enforcement Administration agents, arrested several suspects at the sites, which contained more than 100 plants and several hundred pounds of marijuana in various stages of being dried and prepared for sale. "There were plants in there the size of orange trees," said Sgt. Chris Douglass, a Sheriff's Department spokeswoman. Officials were still investigating the scene Thursday evening

<http://www.visaliatimesdelta.com/article/20091002/NEWS01/910020325>

Four people convicted in 'mega' medical marijuana scam sentenced

By TERRY VAU DELL - Staff Writer / Thursday, November 5, 2009

OROVILLE -- A handful of the nearly dozen people convicted in connection with a countywide "mega" medical marijuana scam were sentenced Monday....*During a pretrial hearing in June, sheriff's detectives testified to finding the same names of medical marijuana patients on scripts posted at multiple grow sites. Some patients testified they had been asked to join what they thought were legitimate medical marijuana cooperatives, only to learn later their doctor's recommendations were being copied and posted at several of the raided gardens.* Assistant district attorney Helen Harberts alleged a Chico resident, Casey James Wilkins, had been the principal mastermind behind many of the grows and was funneling profits into a series of "shell" business in an attempt to launder the money. Wilkins pleaded no contest to charges of felony cultivation, possession of pot for sale and money laundering, in return for the dismissal of a newly-filed marijuana sales case and an agreement not to prosecute a female acquaintance. Wilkins also stipulated to a civil asset judgment that will require him to forfeit more than \$9,000 in cash seized during the raids and a boat, which has already been sold at auction by local authorities.....

http://www.chicoer.com/news/ci_13700142

Freshwater fire reveals marijuana grow

The Times-Standard / 11/02/2009

An outbuilding at 49 Fellman Road in Freshwater, along with a car parked nearby, suffered heavy damage in a fire Saturday evening....During overhaul operations, firefighters discovered a marijuana growing operation inside a room of the outbuilding. The Humboldt County Sheriff's Office was notified and responded to the scene to investigate. The cause of the fire is still under investigation, and it's unclear if any arrests are planned due to the marijuana grow.

http://www.contracostatimes.com/california/ci_13693434

Humboldt man gets 6 years in land-for-pot case

The Associated Press / 11/28/2009

OAKLAND, Calif.—The U.S. Attorney's Office says a Humboldt County man has been sentenced to six years in federal prison for growing large quantities of marijuana and buying several pieces of land for other people to cultivate pot. Rio Dell resident Jordan Pyhtila was sentenced Wednesday as part of a plea agreement. Besides pleading guilty to money laundering and maintaining a place to manufacture marijuana, Pyhtila forfeited four pieces of property and the proceeds from a subdivision he was developing. Federal prosecutors accused Pyhtila and a 27-year-old co-defendant of leasing land to marijuana growers and using the money to finance an excavating business and real estate deals. Drug agents found about 4,677 marijuana plants on the land that Pyhtila co-owned or financed.

http://www.mercurynews.com/california/ci_13886420?nclick_check=1

Hooked on the marijuana money

By TIFFANY REVELLE The Daily Journal / 10/24/2009

Dan Fields (not his real name) knows what he's doing is illegal. But he doesn't sell marijuana because he's greedy; he does it to pay the bills. Fields has a doctor's recommendation and grows three marijuana plants in his back yard, half of what he's allowed under state law. But like many of his fellow growers, Fields' plants produce more than what he can use for medicine - enough to live on....*Fields' plants are each about five feet tall, and are expected to produce about 20 pounds in all. Fields estimated near harvest time that might mean an untaxed, off-the-books profit of up to \$40,000 for eight months of work.* Fields' wife said that estimate was too high. Both earn legitimate, taxed incomes, but don't make enough together to raise the household income above the poverty line. "My son had a good Christmas last year," said Fields, a grower whose name has been changed. "I do this so I can feel normal for eight

months out of the year, and not have to scrounge and worry and have to suck gas out of my car." Fields isn't alone. "Everybody and their uncle is selling here," Mendocino County Major Crimes Task Force Commander Bob Nishiyama said. There's often a big difference between how much marijuana a person can grow and what they actually use for medicine. The average marijuana plant authorities haul away from an illegal grow is the size of a Christmas tree, and produces between three and five pounds of bud, according to Nishiyama. Nishiyama recommends growers bury the excess and let it decompose into an unusable goo.....He has what his doctor considers a legitimate medical need: pain from an old back injury and nausea caused by chemotherapy for his lung cancer. ***He mixes a liquid form of his cannabis with butter and eats it for his ailments, but admits he sells about 75 percent of what he grows to local, undercover shops that resell it. He takes the legally-allowed eight ounces at a time to the shop owners. But that's not where Fields makes the majority of his money. Growers and law enforcement authorities agree that Mendocino County's marijuana market is so flooded with people wanting to sell what they grow that growers have to send their pot out of the county to make much money.*** Nishiyama said there were so many more sellers than buyers that a local dispensary had to shut down. Fields estimates he gets \$3,000 to \$4,000 for a pound in Southern California, and also sells the stuff from his local office for \$1,000 or \$1,100 per pound. Nishiyama said a pound is worth even more in other states. He's gotten calls about Mendocino County residents caught with 50 or 75 pounds from "every state in the union." Nishiyama gave the example of Chicago, where a pound of marijuana is worth \$7,500. But Nishiyama says the Task Force doesn't go after people like Fields, who are within legal parameters, even when investigators are positive it's not all for medicine.....Fields admits he'd like to have more land so he could grow more marijuana. He says he enjoys the plant itself and loves growing it, but holds what many other marijuana proponents claim: using the plant isn't addictive. It's the financial effect that has him hooked.

http://www.ukiahdailyjournal.com/ci_13633428

Despite media assertions to the contrary, the Drug Enforcement Administration continues to take action against those who are selling marijuana in violation of the spirit of medical use. Cities and Counties are also beginning to close dispensaries via land and licensing use violations. Several Cities and Counties have also established moratoriums or enacted bans on the establishment of dispensaries within their jurisdictions.

Feds to Continue Raids on Medical Pot in California

By: Bryan Gibel | November 3, 2009 – 12:51 am

The federal government will continue raids on medical marijuana dispensaries in California despite guidelines issued by the Justice Department two weeks ago indicating prosecutors should yield to state laws. "I think it's unfortunate that people have for some reason picked up on this as a change in policy, because it's really not a change at all," said Joseph Russoniello, federal prosecutor for the northern district of California.....A memo sent Oct. 19 by Deputy Attorney General David Ogden to federal prosecutors in California and the other 13 states where medical cannabis is legal stated that law enforcement should focus on major drug trafficking networks, rather than entities "in clear and unambiguous compliance with existing state laws." The memo clarified a policy announced by Attorney General Eric Holder in March: Federal officials should desist from raiding and prosecuting state-approved medical marijuana providers. Less than a week after Holder's announcement, more than a dozen Drug Enforcement Agency agents raided Emmalyn's California Cannabis Clinic, a medical marijuana cooperative located near the intersection of 12th and Howard streets on the edge of the Mission District.....Last year, State Attorney General Jerry Brown set guidelines mandating that city dispensaries are legally required to operate as not-for-profit collectives or cooperatives. That means they can only obtain cannabis from growers that are members of their co-op or collective, and their

customers have to be members too. Russoniello said many dispensaries in San Francisco and around California aren't really not-for-profit, and he will prosecute any distributor fraudulently operating as a commercial enterprise in violation of state laws. "By that I mean people who are in it as if they were running a neighborhood candy store instead of running a commune, a collective or a group club that caters only to specific identified persons," he said.....

<http://missionlocal.org/2009/11/feds-to-continue-raids-on-medical-pot-in-california/>

Investigator testifies Temecula medical marijuana collective was a sham

By SARAH BURGE / The Press-Enterprise / Monday, November 2, 2009

A judge is expected to rule Wednesday on whether there is enough evidence for a 57-year-old medicinal marijuana user from Temecula to stand trial for unlawful cultivation and possession of the drug for sale. In September 2008, Riverside County sheriff's deputies seized 70 mature marijuana plants and 5 pounds of processed marijuana from the home of Martin J. Victor Sr., authorities said. Victor....told police that he ran a 10-person medicinal marijuana collective out of his home, but police said he had too much pot.....Sheriff's investigator Kenneth Thurm testified that Victor's marijuana collective was a sham and that paperwork seized during a search of the Victor home detailing the activities of the collective was simply an attempt to "give the illusion of being a legitimate co-op.....In a declaration in support of an arrest warrant filed in May, Thurm wrote that Victor "bragged about being the 'Pot Guy' in the community." It goes on to say that Victor had more marijuana than is allowed under Prop. 215 and SB 420, that he was not properly distributing marijuana to co-op members, and that the Victors were providing marijuana to people who did not have a doctor's recommendation.....

http://www.pe.com/localnews/rivcounty/stories/PE_News_Local_N_victor03.448cc9d.html

Prosecutor says medical marijuana manager hid behind law

By Kelly Wheeler, Friday, November 20, 2009

The manager of a medical marijuana collective hid behind a law designed to help patients legally obtain the drug so he could make money, a prosecutor said Friday, but a defense attorney said the prosecution would not be able to prove the charges against his client. Jovan Jackson, 31, was arrested after a pair of raids at "Answerdam Alternative Care" on Convoy Court in Kearny Mesa last year. Jackson is charged with selling marijuana, possession for sale of marijuana and possession of ecstasy. Deputy District Attorney Chris Lindberg told jurors....."This case is about making money, plain and simple," the prosecutor said. During the raids, officers found credit card receipts for more than \$150,000 in sales at Answerdam, Lindberg said. The prosecutor said the case was not about marijuana patients but was "about profits." "He (Jackson) was running a business," the prosecutor told the jury. Lindberg said an undercover San Diego police officer was able to get a medical marijuana recommendation from a doctor and then bought marijuana on two occasions at Answerdam, which, according to its records, had 1,649 members. The prosecutor said the undercover officer paid \$20 to join Answerdam and immediately was able to buy the drugs. A raid on Aug. 5, 2008, at Answerdam turned up five to six pounds of marijuana and a receipt in Jackson's name for a \$100,000 transaction to an investment company, Lindberg said. Agents also searched the defendant's home and found some marijuana by his bed and 17 ecstasy tablets, according to the prosecutor. Lindberg told the jury that Jackson took advantage of a law that allows medical marijuana patients to legally buy the drug from a collective that grows it to meet those needs.....Two months ago, 31 people were arrested during raids at 14 medical marijuana dispensaries in San Diego County. District Attorney Bonnie Dumanis said the collectives appeared to be run by drug dealers trying to make a "fast buck." The number of medical marijuana dispensaries went up recently, in the wake of San Diego County's failed attempt to overturn the state's 1996 medical marijuana law and U.S. Attorney Eric Holder's directive that federal agents only target medical marijuana storefronts when operators violate both state and federal laws.

<http://www.sdn.com/sandiego/2009-11-20/local-county-news/courts/prosecutor-says-medical-marijuana-manager-hid-behind-law>

Medical Marijuana Dispensary Shut Down by County

Reported by: [Britt Carlson](#)

L A medical marijuana dispensary on the outskirts of Red Bluff in Tehama County is shut down Wednesday. The Tehama County District Attorney requested a temporary injunction in court today to close down the Red Bluff patient collective, under an ordinance adopted by the board of supervisors. The collective remained open after the moratorium that temporarily prohibited the operation of marijuana dispensaries in Tehama County. District Attorney Gregg Cohen says the collective is also in violation of a zoning code. And even after 35 citations, the collective didn't close until the injunction Wednesday. Cohen says, "The counties and the cities do have a right to regulate the health, safety and welfare of what's going on in their jurisdiction."

<http://www.khsltv.com/content/localnews/story/Medical-Marijuana-Dispensary-Shut-Down-by-County/WdET-0FEZkGQl167Pybpug.csp>

Medical-marijuana facilities in Tulare County told to close down

Owner in Goshen is petitioning board to reconsider ban

BY VALERIE GIBBONS / December 11, 2009

As owner of the Compassionate Cannabis Information Center in Goshen, Tammy Murray is at the center of a county fight to rein in distribution of medical marijuana. Murray was told Thursday that she has 10 days to close her 1,000-customer dispensary or face criminal charges.....Last month the Board of Supervisors voted to halt distribution of marijuana in unincorporated areas. The ordinance took effect Thursday. It does not affect medical-marijuana organizations within incorporated cities.....Under the new county ordinance, no organization that operates as a dispensary will be allowed in the unincorporated areas until the distribution of medical marijuana is recognized by federal law, Boudreaux said.....If state and federal laws come into agreement, the county will limit the number of facilities to three, and none of the dispensaries will be allowed to operate near schools or allow customers to test the drug on site.

<http://www.visaliamtimesdelta.com/article/20091211/NEWS01/912110325/Medical-marijuana+facilities+in+Tulare+County+told+to+close+down>

County authorities shut down new Hacienda Heights medical marijuana shop

By James Wagner, Staff Writer / 12/17/2009

HACIENDA HEIGHTS - County officials shut down a recently opened medical marijuana collective Thursday because it didn't have the proper county approval, authorities said.....Clinics have been feeling the heat lately after Los Angeles County District Attorney Steve Cooley vowed last month to prosecute all clinics, saying the clinics were violating state law.....http://www.whittierdailynews.com/news/ci_14022680

Napa's marijuana shop is shut down

By KEVIN COURTNEY / Register Staff Writer Saturday, December 12, 2009

Napa's renegade medical marijuana clinic is defunct, at least for now.....Going Green shut down in late November after Napa Superior Court Judge Francisca Tisher issued a preliminary injunction saying that it had not been operating legally. "The court finds that defendants' activities are a nuisance under civil and municipal codes," Tisher said. "The court finds that defendants' activities are contrary to the public interest and that injunctive relief is necessary to protect against significant public harm." The clinic, run by Kimberly Pelham of American Canyon, opened without a city business license early last summer. The city sued in October to shut it down.....Napa City Attorney Michael Barrett said he was happy with

the preliminary injunction against Going Green. "She was not above board," he said of Pelham's clinic. "We want the regulations to be in place so the operations that do come in operate above board.".....The city will ask the court to order Pelham to reimburse the city for the cost of prosecution and pay a penalty, Barrett said. Napa Police Chief Rich Melton said it was important that rogue operators pay a financial price. This will serve as a deterrent to others, he said.....

<http://www.napavalleyregister.com/articles/2009/12/12/news/local/doc4b232fa4ae966275958214.txt>

Fresno judge orders pot club shutdown over zoning

The Associated Press / 10/09/2009

FRESNO, Calif.—A judge is ordering nine Fresno medical marijuana dispensaries accused of violating a city zoning ordinance to stop distributing pot. The city says Fresno County Superior Court Judge Alan Simpson issued a temporary restraining order Friday against the clubs as city attorneys seek a more permanent order. The city requires dispensaries be in compliance with both state and federal laws.....The dispensaries' attorneys argued that the ordinance's guidelines ensure that no dispensary could operate within the city, improperly undermining state law. But Simpson says nothing in the state's medical marijuana laws pre-empted a local government's right to regulate land use.

http://www.mercurynews.com/news/ci_13527533?nclick_check=1

Fresno to Seek Contempt Charges against Medical Marijuana Dispensaries

Tuesday, November 17, 2009

Fresno, California (KFSN) -- The city of Fresno is preparing for a new round of legal action against medical marijuana dispensaries that are defying a judge's order to shut down. The city attorney's office thinks one or two clinics are still operating despite last month's temporary injunction.....The city says it may soon seek contempt charges which could lead to fines and even jail time for business owners who refuse to shut down. Fresno Assistant City Attorney Doug Sloan said, "It is frustrating but we have seen in other jurisdictions where for example in the city of Oakland where the U.S. attorney got an order to shut one down and they continued to operate and the U.S. attorney had to pursue contempt also. So it's not unusual."

<http://abclocal.go.com/kfsn/story?section=news/politics&id=7122662>

Fines mount for Walnut Creek marijuana dispensary

By Elisabeth Nardi / Contra Costa Times / 10/17/2009

Even as the chief executive of the C3 Collective cut a ribbon to officially open Walnut Creek's first medical marijuana dispensary, the city continued to push for the center's closure. C3 held an official opening ceremony Oct. 8, even though it has been open and providing medical marijuana to its members for months. The opening happened in the face of the city's mounting defense against the collective. The nonprofit private collective is already being hit with zoning violation fines from the city — \$500 for every day it is open. So far the collective owes more than \$14,800. On Oct. 6, just two days before the grand opening, the city denied C3's appeal of the fines at an administrative review hearing. C3 has been ordered to pay the money by Nov. 6. Walnut Creek officials not only consider the dispensary's operation illegal, but say similar legal uses, such as pharmacies, are prohibited by zoning code on Oakland Boulevard, where the collective operates. The city sued the collective last month in an effort to shutdown the dispensary; the first hearing in that case is in March. But city attorneys are working on an injunction that, if granted, could force the center to close down sooner....."Our objective is compliance, not to get money out of people." The only way for C3 to comply would be to shut down. But that isn't going to happen, Candell said. "Their priority is the continuation of service to their patients who need medication," he said. "C3 feels they would be abandoning their patients if they were to just fold up their tent at this point." Candell said he doesn't understand why the city is pushing for a shutdown so hard

when, he believes, there will eventually be an ordinance that allows dispensaries in Walnut Creek. City staff is currently studying whether to allow, or permanently prohibit, medical marijuana dispensaries.
http://www.contracostatimes.com/news/ci_13577861

Medical marijuana ordinance passed

By Jenny McGill / Wednesday, December 2, 2009

The Kingsburg City Council passed an emergency ordinance Nov. 18 to keep medical marijuana dispensaries out of the city for now. Kingsburg City Manager Don Pauley said the city had received a request from someone wanting to apply for a business license to open a medical marijuana dispensary in Kingsburg. The emergency ordinance keeps that from happening now. Pauley said that currently the city has been working on preparing an ordinance about the establishment of medical marijuana dispensaries and medical marijuana cooperatives in Kingsburg. That ordinance will be presented to the city council and planning commission so it can be voted on later. But until that happens, Kingsburg had no regulations about medical marijuana dispensaries or cooperatives in the city. That is why the emergency ordinance needed to be passed, giving the city time to make its own rules and regulations concerning the establishment or non-establishment of medical marijuana shops....."The laws are evolving as cases go through the system," Pauley said. Rissa Stuart, acting Kingsburg city attorney, said at the council meeting that 120 cities have banned medical marijuana dispensaries in their jurisdictions. City council members did not discuss the issue, but voted unanimously to approve the emergency ordinance. The city of Selma passed a similar ordinance in October. Selma had received two inquiries about setting up a medical marijuana dispensary in the city. There have been court cases won on each side of the medical marijuana argument.....In a report to the Kingsburg Council, City Attorney Michael Noland wrote: "...in order to protect the public safety, health and welfare of the citizens of Kingsburg, to adopt as an urgency measure, an interim ordinance prohibiting any uses that may be in conflict with a contemplated general plan, specific plan, or zoning proposal the city council, the planning commission or city staff are considering or studying."

<http://www.kingsburgrecorder.com/articles/2009/12/02/news/doc4b16d7e869620594518894.txt>

No place for marijuana dispensary in Saratoga, at least not for the next 45 days

By Brian Babcock / Saratoga News / 11/24/2009

With a quick discussion and vote, the Saratoga City Council has bought time to figure out what to do about medical marijuana dispensaries, which have been popping up in cities around the Bay Area for years. There will be no dispensaries opening up in Saratoga — at least for the next 45 days — as a result of an interim urgency ordinance the council unanimously approved at its Nov. 18 meeting. The town of Los Gatos approved a similar moratorium last month. The Saratoga City Council also has the ability to extend a decision on the issue for as long as two years, said city attorney Richard Taylor. The city has fielded "several inquiries from prospective medical marijuana dispensary operators," community development director John Livingstone wrote in a report to the council. The city of Saratoga's code does not specifically address medical marijuana dispensaries as a permitted or conditionally permitted use in any zoning district, Livingstone said. The city also does not have regulations in place regarding licensing for anyone seeking to establish a dispensary. Cities that have permitted dispensaries have seen a rise in crime, ranging from loitering to drug dealing to robberies, Livingstone's report states. The establishment of dispensaries has also negatively affected public health, safety and welfare in those cities, he wrote. The correlation between medical marijuana dispensaries and an upsurge in crime is very real, said Capt. Terry Calderone of the Santa Clara County Office of the Sheriff-West Valley Division. "There's always a connection between narcotics use, whether it be medical marijuana or illegal narcotics, and property crimes," he told the council.....

http://www.mercurynews.com/breaking-news/ci_13859036

Some cities banning medical marijuana providers

Andrew Edwards, Staff Writer / 10/13/2009

San Bernardino City Councilman Chas Kelley is unambiguous about his opposition to allowing medical marijuana to be distributed in his city. "I just don't want to be a regional magnet," said Kelley, noting that nearby cities had prohibitions on the books before San Bernardino followed their lead last month. . . . In San Bernardino County, the response to medical marijuana has generally been to just say "no" - or at least "not yet." Officials in several local cities have adopted bans or moratoriums aimed at keeping cannabis providers out of some towns. . . . A California Police Chiefs Association report on medicinal marijuana is but one voice of skepticism. The paper argues that federal law trumps Proposition 215 and that dispensaries, which should be deemed illegal, are likely targets for criminals looking to score pot or cash. "Marijuana dispensaries are commonly large money-making enterprises who will sell marijuana to most anyone who produces a physician's written recommendation for its medical use," the report reads. "These recommendations can be had by paying unscrupulous physicians a fee and claiming to have most any malady, even headaches." Kelley, the San Bernardino councilman, referred to the report in late September when he won his colleagues' approval to ban dispensaries from the city. He echoed concerns that cannabis can be prescribed for trivial problems and that without a ban, San Bernardino could become a place where the sight of people "puffing away on weed" becomes a new obstacle to business development. Redlands and Yucaipa have already banned dispensaries, and Rialto is moving in that direction. Other inland jurisdictions have adopted temporary bans that block cannabis providers until more detailed policies can be crafted. Loma Linda, Montclair and Yucca Valley are among the cities that have moratoriums. County government also has a moratorium. San Bernardino County extended its temporary ban in August, but some providers who set up operations before county officials acted are still dispensing marijuana. . . .

http://www.contracostatimes.com/california/ci_13548448?nclick_check=1

Los Gatos council says no to having medical marijuana dispensary in town

By Judy Peterson / Los Gatos Weekly-Times / 10/13/2009

Cancer patients who are prescribed medical marijuana won't be filling their prescription in Los Gatos anytime soon. The town council unanimously adopted an urgency ordinance on Oct. 5 that prohibits medical marijuana dispensaries in town for at least 45 days. Because the ordinance was approved as an urgency measure, town manager Greg Larson said he would return to the council within 45 days to ask for a longer moratorium that would be adopted under what he called "normal" procedures. The moratorium comes on the heels of a request from an individual who recently applied for a business license for a medical marijuana dispensary. . . .

http://www.mercurynews.com/breaking-news/ci_13553368

<http://www.ncbr.com/article.asp?id=103049>

Selma acts to outlaw medical marijuana

By Kyle Lazarus October 14, 2010

In a unanimous decision, the Selma City Council adopted an urgency ordinance prohibiting smoking, selling and everything else related to medical marijuana within city limits. The urgency ordinance, which lasts 45 days, immediately affects people wishing to set up medical marijuana dispensaries within the city. In Selma City Manager D-B Heusser's report to the council, he said that the city has already received two inquiries from people looking to set up medical marijuana dispensaries in Selma. . . .

<http://www.selmaenterprise.com/articles/2009/10/14/news/doc4ad601d9787dc148504736.txt>

San Bruno bans medical marijuana clubs until 2011

By Joshua Melvin / San Mateo County Times / 11/12/2009

SAN BRUNO — City officials said they needed more time to decide whether or not allow medical marijuana collectives in town and now they won't have to take action until 2011. The City Council decided unanimously Tuesday night to extend a temporary ban on the setting up of pot clubs in San Bruno to Sept. 25, 2011. Under state rules, a first moratorium lasts a maximum of 45 days. But if a City Council opts to extend the hold it jumps to 22 months and 15 days, according to city documents. The council approved the first moratorium last month. "We just wanted a little more information," said Mayor-elect Jim Ruane. "The idea is to be more well-informed."

http://www.insidebayarea.com/sanmateocountytimes/localnews/ci_13766517

Red Bluff bans marijuana cooperatives

By TANG LOR -DN Staff Writer / 11/05/2009

An urgency ordinance has been passed by the Red Bluff City Council to ban medical marijuana cooperatives, collectives and dispensaries effective immediately. The ordinance will be in effect for the next 45 days. It does not include a ban on cultivation because the growing and harvesting season is already over, City Attorney Richard Crabtree said. The council voted 4-1 in favor of the ordinance to ban medical marijuana cooperatives, collectives and dispensaries and the cultivation of medical marijuana. Councilman Jim Byrne voted against the ban. Byrne said, an ordinance is not necessary when these things are already illegal under current policies.....A final vote to pass the ordinance will be taken at the next council meeting on Nov. 17. The ban will go into effect 30 days later if the vote is in favor of the ban.

http://www.contracostatimes.com/california/ci_13720241

Tehama County's pot ban extended

By GEOFF JOHNSON -DN Staff Writer / 10/28/2009

The Board of Supervisors voted 4-1 Tuesday to extend its ban on marijuana collectives into late 2010, but may replace the ban with a permanent policy before then. Supervisors previously directed County Counsel to come up with a policy addressing the regulation of dispensaries, collectives and related marijuana operations and passed a 45-day ban that would have expired Friday. As court cases across California continue to clarify what local governments can do to regulate medical marijuana, counsel returned with a proposal extending the county ban by 10 months and 15 days, or until the county has a clearer understanding of what it can do within the confines of state law. The ban does not extend to individual growers with a medical marijuana recommendation or small collectives that do not exchange marijuana for money.....

http://www.contracostatimes.com/california/ci_13659109

Yreka bans marijuana dispensaries

By David Smith / Daily News / Fri Nov 20, 2009,

Yreka, Calif.: The public had a chance to weigh in on a possible moratorium on medical marijuana dispensaries Thursday night as the Yreka City Council held its regularly scheduled meeting with two related ordinances up for discussion.Upon the closing of the public comment period, councilmember David Simmen stated that he believes a provision in the second ordinance may create more of a nuisance if it is included. Specifically, he referred to ordinance number 817, which would amend the Yreka Municipal Code by prohibiting medical marijuana dispensaries, collectives, cooperatives and the cultivation of marijuana in any zone. Simmen stated that at issue for him was the provision in the ordinance stating that cultivation can be done by qualified patients or primary caregivers, but only inside. He cited what he believed were possible problems with restricting cultivation to indoors, including living space issues, lighting and energy cost issues and the possible escalation of theft crimes

occurring inside a residence, among others. Simmen stated that while he is against having dispensaries in Yreka, he feels that with state law guaranteeing access for patients, removing the indoor cultivation restriction would be safer. City Attorney Mary Frances McHugh stated that a “significant body of evidence” exists that supports the notion that marijuana plants produce noxious odors and when planted outside can possibly invite a public nuisance with regard to theft crimes. After further discussion of whether or not the nuisance is increased by restricting the cultivation to indoors, McHugh stated that both the moratorium and the introduction of ordinance 817 would provide the city with an opportunity to collect evidence and assess the possible impacts of outright banning dispensaries. When the items went to vote, ordinance number 816, “An Urgency Ordinance of the City of Yreka adopting a Moratorium on Medical Marijuana Dispensaries” was passed unanimously. The second vote was to introduce Ordinance 817, meaning that it will be referred to the Planning Commission for review and report. Simmen made the motion to introduce the ordinance, with an alternative provision eliminating the restriction to indoor cultivation, which also passed unanimously.

<http://www.siskiyoudaily.com/news/x1792905319/Yreka-bans-marijuana-dispensaries>

Yucca Valley Town Council says Medical Marijuana Dispensary has to go

The Yucca Valley Town Council made it loud and clear last night that they do not want any medical marijuana dispensaries in the town, even the one already established. Reporter Tami Roleff was at last night’s Town Council meeting...The Yucca Valley Town Council had a clear message for the Planning Commission about medical marijuana dispensaries. At its meeting last night, newly named Mayor Chad Mayes told Town staff to tell the Planning Commission that the one marijuana dispensary, in Yucca Valley, known as CAMS, has got to go. "The desire of the Council is complete prohibition." Council members emphasized that the question of disallowing a dispensary was a land-use issue; the dispensary should not be located next door to a ballet studio.....With that, staff was directed to tell the Planning Commission to come up with a complete prohibition against medical marijuana dispensaries.

<http://www.kcdzfm.com/news/fullstory120209.html#03>

Redwood City Council passes marijuana collective moratorium

By Shaun Bishop / Daily News Staff Writer / 12/15/2009

Medical marijuana collectives could be barred from opening in Redwood City for up to two years after the city council approved a temporary moratorium targeting them Monday. With little discussion, the council voted 7-0 to prohibit any medical marijuana collective from setting up shop for 45 days. The moratorium can be extended in January for an additional 22 months and 15 days. City officials say the moratorium will give them time to draw up regulations for the collectives on issues such as security, hours of operation and criminal background checks. The city currently has no laws regulating medical marijuana collectives or a zoning designation for them. Council Member Jeff Gee, who was elected to the council in November, said during his council campaign he heard from residents in the unincorporated North Fair Oaks area who were concerned about the impacts of the collectives on neighborhoods. Two collectives in North Fair Oaks recently shut down after their applications for licenses under a San Mateo County ordinance regulating collectives were denied. "We heard issues about parking, traffic, a number of things, so I believe it is worthy of making sure that we get it right," Gee said.....

http://www.mercurynews.com/breaking-news/ci_13999406

Dispensaries, cultivation ban approved by Montague council

By Mike Slizewski / Daily News / Wed Dec 09, 2009

Montague, Calif. - With a minimum of discussion, the Montague City Council unanimously approved two marijuana-related ordinances at its Thursday meeting. The council first OK’ed Ordinance 09-07, termed “an Uncodified Interim Urgency Ordinance of the City Council of Montague Extending Interim

Urgency Ordinance No. 09-06, which imposes a Temporary Moratorium on the Establishment of Medical Marijuana Dispensaries in the City for an Additional 90 Days.” Prior to the 5-0 vote, Councilwoman Jayne Keller explained that the previous moratorium (09-06) was for 45 days, giving the council time “in order to get this ordinance in place....The ordinance then defines marijuana dispensaries, collectives and cooperatives, and states that “Cultivation means the planting, growing, harvesting, drying, or processing of cannabis/marijuana plants or any part thereof, whether indoors or outdoors.” There was no input offered by the small crowd in attendance at Thursday’s meeting, and the motion to approve the ordinance was 5-0 in favor.

<http://www.siskiyoudaily.com/news/x1896264833/Dispensaries-cultivation-ban-approved-by-Montague-council>

Medical marijuana clubs get cold shoulder on Peninsula

By Joshua Melvin / San Mateo County Times / 12/20/2009

SAN MATEO — A recent spate of temporary bans on setting up medical marijuana dispensaries in Peninsula cities probably has more to do with changing laws and "not in my backyard" sentiments than hostility toward the concept of medical marijuana, officials said. City councils in South San Francisco, San Bruno and Redwood City have approved moratoriums on medical marijuana collectives after raising questions about crime and concerns of becoming a haven for pot smokers. City officials said the bans allow them to weigh their options.....

http://www.insidebayarea.com/sanmateocountytimes/localnews/ci_14030063

Hollister Says No To Pot Clinic

Purple Cross RX Gives Presentation To City / December 22, 2009

HOLLISTER, Calif. -- The city of Hollister said no Tuesday evening to having a medical marijuana dispensary move into town. In a unanimous vote, the City Council decided to keep current zoning laws that prevent a marijuana dispensary from being in the town. The vote came after representative from Purple Cross Rx made a presentation to the City Council. Purple Cross RX said their clinic would have contributed up to \$130,000 in taxes to the city.

<http://www.ksbw.com/news/22038834/detail.html>

Lake Elsinore OKs moratorium on growing medical marijuana

By GENE GHIOTTO / The Press-Enterprise / Tuesday, December 22, 2009

LAKE ELSINORE - City Council members voted unanimously Tuesday to impose a 45-day moratorium on legal marijuana-growing operations in Lake Elsinore while officials decide how to regulate such activities.....The city prohibits the establishment of medical marijuana dispensaries but allows the possession, use and cultivation of medical marijuana in accordance with state law, according to a staff report.

http://www.pe.com/localnews/rivcounty/stories/PE_News_Local_S_spot23.47060fe.html

Medical marijuana demand continues, suppliers abound

By [Dylan Darling](#) / October 31, 2009

As medical marijuana use and collectives continue to grow in the north state, so does the amount of pot grown both indoors and outdoors by people with doctors' recommendations for the drug. "It's everywhere," said Lt. Jeff Foster of the Shasta County Sheriff's Office. And as leaders in Redding and other cities throughout the north state continue to debate how they may regulate the new businesses, law enforcement agencies are trying to make sure growers don't plant more than the allowed amounts. At the same time, the collectives are trying to maintain a supply for the increasing demand. Owners at three of the more than 20 collectives in Redding said they fill their jars with marijuana grown by their members. "A good portion of the marijuana here is patient-grown," said Allen Perry, co-owner of the River Valley

Collective.....Sheriff's officials say it can be much more profitable if a grower decides to break the rules. Twenty outdoor plants can produce more than 100 pounds, Foster said, possibly bringing more than \$200,000 when sold to collectives - which he said pay about \$2,000 per pound.....**Sgt. Steve Solus said about 7 out of 10 people growing pot in the county saying it was for a medicinal purposes this year were out of compliance for having too many plants, an expired recommendation or no recommendation at all. Sheriff's deputies this year pulled about 10,000 plants from 50 outdoor and indoor gardens, including 800 plants from one Whitmore garden grown by a man with one recommendation. In Redding, the level of compliance was reversed, with 26 out of 36 - about 70 percent - indoor and outdoor gardens meeting legal guidelines, said Sgt. Jeff Wallace of the Redding Police Department. Like Foster, Wallace said the possibility of a profit is what motivates people to grow more than allowed. "People are making a lot of money behind this," he said.....**
<http://www.redding.com/news/2009/oct/31/medical-marijuana-demand-continues-suppliers/>

Growing Medical Marijuana Industry Sparks Debate in California

By Mike O'Sullivan / Los Angeles / 11 November 2009

.....Marijuana clinics are spreading in California, which has some people calling for a crackdown, and others demanding that marijuana be legalized. **In Oakland, California, the state's largest marijuana dispensary, called the Harborside Health Center, serves 600 patients a day.** It provides marijuana for a wide range of ailments, from cancer to difficulty sleeping. "When a patient comes to us for the first time, we first, of course, verify that they're a legal medical cannabis patient. And then we ask them to sign an agreement. And in that agreement, they elect to become a member of our collective and they authorize all of the other members of the collective to grow cannabis on their behalf," said Steve DeAngelo, the center's founder and chief executive officer.....**The Harborside Health Center has 30,000 registered members and annual revenues of \$20 million.** Members line up and clerks help them with their purchases of marijuana strains with names like Blue Dream and Train Wreck.....Both supporters and opponents of marijuana agree that current laws governing the use of medical marijuana are confusing, and they say it is up to the courts to decide how widely available marijuana will be in the future.
<http://www.voanews.com/english/2009-11-11-voa1.cfm>

Pot billboards near school go down

By FERMIN LEAL / THE ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER / November 16, 2009



ANAHEIM -

A billboard for medical marijuana located near Magnolia High School in Anaheim. The photo was taken Nov. 6, 2009. The ad was replaced as of Nov. 16, 2009 with a new one that had no photo of a person and no direct reference to marijuana. COURTESY OF LINDA PADILLA

.....The ad described the man as "A Typical Stoner," and also said "Marijuana Works." Those billboard signs were replaced last week by others that just displayed MediCann, with the company Web site and toll free phone number. A MediCann dispensary sits about four miles away on Ball Road and Anaheim

Street. Mike Cossota, a sales manager with Lamar Advertising, the company that owns the billboards, said advertisements for MediCann should have never gone up so close to a school. MediCann officials did not immediately return phone calls. Cossota said his company inherited the billboards after Lamar Advertising took over Vista Media, the billboard company that originally contracted with MediCann....Lamar Advertising was unaware the billboards it inherited from Vista Media for MediCann were adjacent to the school, Cossota said. Linda Padilla, a grandparent of a student at nearby Savanna High School, said she saw the billboards while driving by and was "outraged." "My concern was that this advertisement was so close to the school," she said. "We're trying to send a message to our children that drugs are bad, but then they see signs like these ones."
<http://www.ocregister.com/news/billboards-219682-medicann-school.html>

'Nonprofit' key to medical marijuana sales

By SALVADOR HERNANDEZ / THE ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER / Dec. 4, 2009

Authorities may have seized jars and bags filled with medical marijuana from two Lake Forest dispensaries, but it was the businesses' financial records they were really seeking, records and interviews show.....When it comes to medical marijuana, local authorities say their efforts are focused on the financial status of several dispensaries, and inspecting which are not operating as collectives or cooperatives, where earnings and savings are distributed among its members. Instead, in search warrant affidavits filed in court, investigators point to the criminal history of some dispensary owners, and examples of where they were found to be in possession of tens of thousands of dollars in cash. ***In one instance, a dispensary owner was pulled and found to be carrying more than \$140,000 in cash -- the result of eight days worth of sales in one shop, according to an affidavit. In another case, an owner was carrying \$76,000 and 23 pounds of marijuana. Authorities say such examples are contradictory to California law which does not authorize collectives, cooperatives or individuals to profit from medical marijuana sales.*** Must be nonprofit: "It has to be a nonprofit," said Assistant District Attorney Joe D'Agostino, who oversees the narcotics division. "We're looking at what the letter of the law is, and it says it must be nonprofit."....."We're looking at what the letter of the law is, and it says it must be nonprofit," D'Agostino said. In search warrant affidavits filed in court, investigators allege that 215 Agenda and the Health Collective were not operating as nonprofits. Instead, investigators with the Orange County Sheriff's Department paint a picture of two store-front businesses which were operating with a large amount of cash. According to an affidavit, Mark Moen, owner of 215 Agenda, has been stopped on several occasions by police while carrying a large amount of cash. ***In September, Moen was allegedly stopped by Huntington Beach Police carrying \$145,530 in cash. According to the affidavit, Moen told the officer he was the owner of 215 Agenda and said the money was the proceeds of eight days worth of sales. In June, Moen was arrested on suspicion of being in possession of more than \$25,000 derived from sale of a controlled substance in Ukiah County.*** In the affidavit, investigators state they believe 215 Agenda is selling marijuana for a profit, instead of operating as a cooperative. "I believe the business is a marijuana distribution company that distributes marijuana for cash to any individual with a marijuana recommendation without having any other relationship to the customer," the affidavit reads. Cash and marijuana: A second affidavit alleges The Health Collective also makes a profit.....

<http://www.ocregister.com/news/dispensaries-222445-profit-marijuana.html>

During this quarter, two reports two reports were published which suggest an increase in use of marijuana by teens. This importance of this increase is magnified by the findings of two separate medical studies which assert that the use of marijuana by adolescents causes irreversible effects on the brain and that those effects were more profound than previously thought.

Report says teens drinking, smoking pot on the rise in Santa Cruz County

By Marissa Cevallos / Santa Cruz Sentinel / 10/27/2009

SANTA CRUZ — Pot and booze are on the rise with young teens in Santa Cruz County, according to data from the annual California Healthy Kids Survey released Monday. More than 6,200 students countywide in fifth, seventh, ninth and 11th grades took the survey. More local teens report thinking alcohol is harmful, but that isn't stopping an increasing amount of middle and high school students from binge drinking, the survey showed. Thirty-six percent of high school freshmen countywide who were surveyed in February say they've been very drunk or sick from alcohol, up from 29 percent in 2005. Sixteen percent of seventh-grade students report binge drinking, up from 10 percent in 2005. Yet, more freshmen report thinking that alcohol is harmful or extremely harmful, which is up seven percent from 2005. For marijuana, students seemed less conflicted: more are toking and believe it's benign. Twenty-six percent of freshmen who took the survey report having used marijuana in the last 30 days, as opposed to 18 percent in 2005. Half of juniors say they've tried the drug. Bill Manov, the director of alcohol and drug services for the county's Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services, thinks it's good news that more teens are perceiving alcohol as dangerous because it could lead to a decrease future drinking habits. And although he said there's a pretty widespread acceptance of marijuana in Santa Cruz, he said he is still alarmed at the upward trend of use among children. "For marijuana, the numbers are all going in the wrong direction," said Manov. He said he thinks the new federal policy that gives states more autonomy in policing marijuana is a good move to keep medical marijuana patients out of jail. But, he added, "it may have the unintended consequence of giving kids a message that marijuana use is not harmful.".....

http://www.mercurynews.com/ci_13646607?source=most_viewed

Pot Is Now More Popular Than Tobacco Among Seniors (in High School)

Jacob Sullum | December 14, 2009

The latest data from the government-sponsored Monitoring the Future Study, released today, indicate that marijuana use by teenagers, which fell from 2001 through 2006, may be on the rise again. Between 2008 and 2009, the share of students who reported smoking pot in the previous month rose from 5.8 percent to 6.5 percent among eighth-graders, from 13.8 percent to 15.9 percent among 10th-graders, and from 19.4 percent to 20.6 percent among 12th-graders. This is the third year in a row that self-reported marijuana use has risen among high school seniors, who are now more likely to smoke pot than cigarettes (PDF). According to the Associated Press, "researchers said" that "the increase of teens smoking pot is partly because the national debate over medical use of marijuana can make the drug's use seem safer to teenagers." Yet the first medical marijuana law, California's, was passed in 1996, and during the subsequent 13 years another dozen states adopted similar policies. If these laws are signaling teenagers that smoking pot is safe, why the lag? A June 2008 report from the Marijuana Policy Project noted (PDF): More than a decade after the passage of the nation's first state medical marijuana law, California's Prop. 215, a considerable body of data shows that no state with a medical marijuana law has experienced an increase in youth marijuana use since their law's enactment. In fact, all states have reported overall decreases—exceeding 50% in some age groups—strongly suggesting that enactment of state medical marijuana laws does not increase teen marijuana use. To put the recent upward trend in perspective, past-month marijuana use by high school seniors is still only about half as common as it was in 1979. Still, federal officials lament that "the percentage of eighth-graders who saw a 'great risk' in occasionally smoking marijuana fell from 50.5 percent in 2004 to 48.1 percent in 2008 and 44.8 percent this year." It speaks volumes about the scientific basis of our current drug policy that the people charged with implementing it openly pin their hopes for success on their ability to trick 13-year-olds into believing something that is patently false.

<http://reason.com/blog/2009/12/14/seniors-in-high-school-like-pot>

Risks of marijuana use: Irreversible marijuana effects on the brain of teens

December 22, 2009 / SF Wellness Examiner / Allie Mendoza

Risks of marijuana use among teens are worse than originally thought. Daily use of marijuana (also known as cannabis, weed or pot) in teens can cause anxiety and depression as well as irreversible long-term effects on the developing brain, according to a new study by scientists at the Research Institute of the McGill University Health Centre. Canadian teenagers are among the largest consumers of marijuana in the world. Previous studies have shown that marijuana use can affect teen behavior. Dr. Gabriella Gobbi and her team of researchers wanted to know the effects of marijuana on the brains of teenagers; they also wanted to know if teens are more susceptible to its neurological effects than adults. Results of the study suggest that cannabis affects serotonin and norepinephrine. These brain chemicals are involved in regulation of neurological functions, including mood control, anxiety, depression and stress. According to Dr. Gobbi, teenagers who use cannabis have decreased serotonin and decreased norepinephrine transmission. These changes lead to mood disorders and greater susceptibility to stress, respectively. This study provides evidence that teens are more susceptible to the neurological effects of marijuana than adults. Cannabis consumption can lead to irreversible long-term effects on the brain of teenagers.

<http://www.examiner.com/x-15753-SF-Wellness-Examiner~y2009m12d22-Risks-of-marijuana-use-Irreversible-marijuana-effects-on-the-brain-of-teens>

Daily Pot Smoking May Hasten Onset of Psychosis

ScienceDaily (Dec. 21, 2009) — Progression to daily marijuana use in adolescence may hasten the onset of symptoms leading up to psychosis, an Emory University study finds. The study was published in the November issue of the American Journal of Psychiatry. The researchers analyzed data from 109 hospitalized patients who were experiencing their first psychotic episode. The results showed that patients who had a history of using marijuana, or cannabis, and increased to daily pot smoking experienced both psychotic and pre-psychotic symptoms at earlier ages. "We were surprised that it wasn't just whether or not they used cannabis in adolescence that predicted the age of onset, rather it was how quickly they progressed to becoming a daily cannabis user that was the stronger predictor," said Michael Compton, lead author and assistant professor of psychiatry in the Emory School of Medicine. The study also found a gender difference: The female subjects who progressed to daily pot smoking had a greater increased risk for the onset of psychosis than the males. Marijuana is the most abused illicit substance among people with schizophrenia, the most extreme form of psychosis, and previous research has shown that smoking pot is likely a risk factor for the disease. The Emory study also focused on what is known as the prodromal period, when a person has symptoms such as unusual sensory experiences, which are often precursors to frank hallucinations and delusions. Prodromal symptoms can occur months, or years, before a diagnosis of psychosis. About 30 to 40 percent of prodromal teenagers will eventually develop schizophrenia or another psychotic disorder. "The prodromal period is especially important because it's considered to be a critical time for preventive intervention," says Elaine Walker, a co-investigator of the study and professor of psychology and neuroscience at Emory. The study also involved researchers from Emory's Rollins School of Public Health and Georgia State University. It was funded by the National Institute of Mental Health.

<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2009/12/091220144936.htm>

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

Naked man on U.S. 34 attracts attention, cops

Mike Peters / Friday, October 2, 2009

While Greeley and other cities debate medical marijuana, a bizarre case east of Greeley last weekend may fuel arguments about the issue. The incident took place last Friday near Dearfield on U.S. 34, about 30 miles east of Greeley. According to arrest reports, a naked man hit and damaged vehicles, walked over the top of one car and spit on a state trooper. . . . The numerous charges to be filed against Robbins include five counts of indecent exposure, assault on a police officer, driving while under the influence of marijuana, two counts of harassment and reckless driving. The incident began about 5 p.m. Friday, when Robbins was driving west on the highway and a witness reported his car was swerving into the path of oncoming vehicles, then swerving back out of the way. When Robbins stopped his car and got out, a witness said he was shirtless and his pants were down around his ankles. He pulled his pants completely off, then stood naked in the middle of the highway, cursing at passing cars and hitting some of them with his fists. This created a traffic jam, according to witnesses. Two Greeley women in their 70s and 80s later told deputies that a naked man ran at their car, jumped on the hood and broke the windows with his fists and feet, then walked over the roof, down over the trunk and ran away. Damage to the car was estimated at \$1,200. When the drivers called police, the first to arrive was a Colorado State Patrol trooper, who arrested Robbins. It was then that Robbins spit in the trooper's face, according to reports. That resulted in the assault charge. Deputies who searched Robbins' car said they found 4 ounces of marijuana and a notebook containing certificates for medicinal marijuana. The notebook listed Robbins as the "caretaker" for his customers, who had prescriptions for medicinal marijuana. Deputies did not find a license for dispensing medicinal marijuana. A test of Robbins' blood at the hospital indicated he was under the influence of marijuana. He remains in the Weld County Jail with a bond set at \$50,000.

<http://www.greeleytribune.com/article/20091002/NEWS/910029989/1002/NONE&parentprofile=1001>

Neb. traffic stop finds 62 pounds of marijuana

The Associated Press / Monday, Oct. 05, 2009

LINCOLN, Neb. -- The Nebraska State Patrol says a California man has been arrested and 62 pounds of marijuana seized after a traffic stop in Lincoln. A patrol news release says a trooper stopped an eastbound vehicle along Interstate 80 around 9 a.m. Sunday for improperly changing lanes and failing to signal. *The release says the trooper smelled marijuana, and a subsequent search of the car revealed 62 pounds of it in the trunk. The search also found four pounds of hashish. The driver, 50-year-old Gerard Maddox of Los Alamitos, Calif., was arrested on suspicion of possession with intent to distribute.*

<http://www.fresnobee.com/state/story/1663152.html>

Alleged Fake Law-Enforcement Agents Arrested in Ariz.

October 13th, 2009

PHOENIX -- Four people are in custody after police responded to a call regarding yelling and screaming Monday afternoon, authorities said. Witnesses told police that a pickup truck with two men inside pulled up in front of the home near Dobbins Road and Seventh Avenue. The men identified themselves as law-enforcement agents, police said. They entered the home through the garage, and a suspicious neighbor called police, according to a public information officer with the Phoenix Police Department. Police arrived at the scene and took the fake law-enforcement agents and the two other men inside the home into custody, the representative said. Inside the home, police found marijuana, money and guns, officers said. . . .

<http://www.officer.com/online/article.jsp?siteSection=1&id=48820>

Police break up California-to-Austin marijuana pipeline

Money, potent weed, guns seized.

By [Steven Kreytak](#) / AMERICAN-STATESMAN STAFF / Saturday, October 24, 2009

A driver pulled over in Arizona last month with 70 pounds of high-grade marijuana helped Austin police break up a local drug-dealing ring whose members are charged with importing hundreds of pounds of pot from California to sell in Austin, according to court documents. *In searches of five Austin homes that followed the Arizona traffic stop, Austin police seized about \$608,000 in what they say are drug profits, 94 pounds of marijuana and several firearms. And earlier this week, six men were indicted by a federal grand jury on conspiracy charges, collectively accused of possessing and intending to distribute about 220 pounds of marijuana.* The men are accused of smuggling hydroponic marijuana, a potent type cultivated with water that contains dissolved nutrients. Austin police say such pot sells for about \$4,000 a pound, much more than marijuana that is conventionally grown in Mexico, which sells for about \$400 a pound. Most of Austin's marijuana comes from Mexico or is cultivated locally in clandestine "grow houses," but marijuana has long been transported to Texas from the areas between San Francisco and Canada, said Paul Brick, a retired Austin narcotics detective. California leads the nation in growing marijuana, according to the National Drug Intelligence Center. It is also among 13 states that allow some marijuana use for medicinal purposes. *Austin police Cmdr. Sean Mannix said California is a source of Austin marijuana because medical marijuana is legal there and "there's a little less enforcement effort with regards to the grow houses."* This week, the Obama administration directed U.S. attorneys in states with medical-marijuana laws not to pursue criminal cases against those users. Yet the relevant memo states, "The prosecution of commercial enterprises that unlawfully market and sell marijuana for profit continues to be an enforcement priority.".....Police affidavits depict events this way: Lopez told Austin police that on Sept. 7, he and Hak Il Kim, 34, drove from Austin to San Francisco to buy marijuana. They met with another man — whom Lopez later identified as 24-year-old Phillip Ryan Farr — who had \$300,000 in a suitcase and whom Kim had also hired to drive marijuana back to Austin. Lopez told police that after they bought marijuana in Fresno, Kim took a flight back to Austin, and Lopez and Farr drove in separate vehicles, each carrying marijuana....Farr told police that Green had previously hired him to transport more than 110 pounds of marijuana from California to Austin and paid Farr \$175 a pound for the transport, about \$19,000.....

<http://www.statesman.com/news/content/news/stories/local/2009/10/24/1024marijuana.html>

2 Arrests Made In Medical Marijuana Robbery

Family Held At Gunpoint, Police Say / October 29, 2009

OREGON CITY, Ore. -- Two men have been arrested in connection with a medical marijuana robbery at an Oregon City home.....They're accused in a robbery where a man was held at gunpoint and his three children were locked in a closet. At about 8:30 a.m. Wednesday, the man heard someone knocking on his front door and proclaiming that his girlfriend had just sideswiped their vehicle, according to Oregon City police. When the man answered the door, three masked men, at least one of them armed with a handgun, rushed through the door, police said. The victim said the three men ransacked the home, demanded money and took about 1 1/2 pounds of marijuana. At one point, the victim's 12-year-old daughter witnessed her father on the floor while one of the intruders held a gun to his head, police said.....Police said one or two people remain at large in the crime.

<http://www.kptv.com/news/21455348/detail.html>

Medical-marijuana case set for trial in Lafourche Parish

By Raymond Legendre / Staff Writer / Friday, October 16, 2009

THIBODAUX — A California man who says Louisiana's marijuana laws need to be changed to accommodate medical users like him will get his day in court next March. Matthew Zugsberger, 33, is adamant about his desire to make case law in Louisiana that would allow people with serious medical

conditions to possess marijuana with a doctor's prescription. State Police arrested Zugsberger on June 19, 2008, for allegedly possessing more than two pounds of medical marijuana he says a California doctor prescribed him to fight pain caused by a spinal injury.....Zugsberger's case for possession with intent to distribute marijuana will go to trial March 22, Lafourche Parish District Judge John LeBlanc announced Thursday afternoon. LeBlanc set the date after rejecting defense attorney Jerri Smitko's request to have the case thrown out based on evidence that her client had a prescription for his drugs.....Revised Statute 40:1046 mentions the use of marijuana for therapeutic reasons by patients suffering from glaucoma, undergoing chemotherapy or having spastic quadriplegia. Prescriptions must come from a physician licensed in the state and one licensed to prescribe Schedule I substances. Zugsberger does not have one of the three conditions recognized under state law, nor does he have a prescription licensed by a Louisiana physician.....

<http://www.houmatoday.com/article/20091016/ARTICLES/910169914/-1/LIVING?Title=Medical-marijuana-case-set-for-trial-in-Lafourche-Parish>

Two brothers arrested in drug-related home slaying

By MIKE BLASKY / LAS VEGAS REVIEW-JOURNAL / Oct. 16, 2009

Two Las Vegas brothers were arrested and booked on murder charges after killing a man who entered their house Thursday in a drug-related robbery attempt, Las Vegas police said today.....About 9:30 p.m. Thursday, police received a report that two residents.....had shot and killed a man trying to rob their house, said homicide Lt. Lew Roberts. Three or four possible accomplices of the dead man fled the scene, Roberts said, although the exact number of intruders has yet to be determined. When police arrived, they found one of the brothers outside smoking a cigarette. The other man was inside the home. After conducting an investigation, police determined that it probably wasn't a random home invasion but an attempted robbery of drug dealers. "Based on what we had, we arrested the occupants," Roberts said. "We're still trying to track down the others involved." Marijuana was the only drug found inside the house, he said, adding, "Sometimes that's large enough" to incite violence. Police found the deceased suspect in the backyard of the house. Roberts said it's too early in the investigation to determine exactly what happened during the robbery attempt, but enough evidence was available to make arrests.....Since the Saterstad brothers moved into the house about nine months ago, the neighbor said she noticed more criminal activity in the neighborhood, including attempted break-ins of her neighbor's house, as well as her husband's truck. People were constantly coming and going at the house, and the windows upstairs were always blacked-out, she said.....

http://www.lvrj.com/news/breaking_news/Two-men-arrested-in-home-slaying-64561702.html

Growth of medical-marijuana demand fuels Colorado land rush

By Tom McGhee / The Denver Post / 10/25/2009

Real estate brokers say that Colorado's medical-marijuana law has sparked a land rush, as entrepreneurs lured by a growing number of licensed users search for properties for growing or selling pot. In a down real estate market, landlords who might otherwise wait for more conventional tenants are snapping at the opportunity presented by medical-marijuana dispensaries, said Darrin Revious, a broker with Shames Makovsky Realty. "I am working a couple of these deals right now," he said. "It is absolutely crazy how many of these deals are in the market. I can't believe it.....Revious said he receives at least one request per day from brokers representing people seeking property suitable for grow operations or dispensaries, where medical pot is sold to card-carrying patients. Over the past three or four months, he said, demand for the properties has soared.....Laurel Alterman opened AlterMeds at the Colony Square Shopping Center in Louisville earlier this month, just before the City Council approved a moratorium on new dispensaries. Alterman abandoned her real estate business, which has done poorly recently, to open the dispensary.....*Alterman said she expects to earn twice as much as she made annually in real estate by selling medical marijuana.* One businessman said he has been approached a number of times by

people who wanted to rent space for a dispensary in his Colfax Avenue business. He refused. "We don't rent space," said the man, who asked that his name and business not be published because marijuana has negative connotations for many. ***Some Californians who wanted to open a dispensary in the area asked him what he thought his building is worth. When he said it was appraised at \$850,000 they offered \$750,000 in cash at closing.***.....Concern over the mushrooming number of dispensaries is growing, and some cities and towns are studying regulations to limit them, while others have passed outright bans. State Sen. Chris Romer, D-Denver, plans to introduce a bill next year that would clarify regulations involving pot-using patients. Alterman said she wouldn't object to some regulation in the industry that could make the shops operate more like licensed pharmacies. And she sees a need for properly zoning the establishments. Tight security measures are necessary to operate the shops and grow operations, which are natural targets for thieves, she said. "Zoning laws are important," she said. "This is a business that is inappropriate for a residential area because, yes, it is dangerous."

http://www.denverpost.com/news/ci_13636549

Medical marijuana undercover: The rush to get high

written by: Jeffrey Wolf Deborah Sherman 10/29/2009

DENVER - 9Wants to Know has discovered that anyone for any reason can get a doctor's prescription to buy medical marijuana - all they have to do is say they have pain and they don't have to offer proof. "He did it for me in three minutes," a woman who didn't want to be named told 9NEWS after she got her medical marijuana card from the Medical Marijuana Doctors (MMD) clinic in Denver for \$200. "The doctor's really nonchalant. He's kind of like, 'Whatever.'" An unnamed man inside the clinic said you can make up any reason and the doctor will recommend you use medical marijuana. "Don't sweat it," the unnamed man told 9Wants to Know undercover investigators.....Another patient said her husband got a card six months ago even though he has no medical condition. So, now she's getting a card. Most of the 40 patients a day who visit the clinic leave with approval for a card, according to the owner. "If you come in the clinic and you fit one of the qualifying conditions in order to receive a medical marijuana recommendation, then you're going to be able to get it," Dr. Joel Cherdack, the director of operations for MMD, said. Doctors at the clinic are paid by a percentage of the general income, which some say is an incentive to write more prescriptions.....***A businessman who works near the clinic sees groups of young men walk in and out of the clinic all day long, which scares away his own customers. Now, he wishes he'd never voted for Amendment 20. "Those people are not sick. If they're sick, they're as sick as I am," Mitch Van Cleve said. "It's a disaster. If I had known then what I know now, I would never have voted 'yes' for it."*** In the past year, the number of people on the state's medical-marijuana registry has nearly tripled, according to state statistics obtained by The Denver Post. Twenty four percent of them are men under the age of 30. "What I do know anecdotally is that there's a big trend of young people seeking these medical-marijuana cards. I actually know from my own children who are in this age bracket that they have friends who have no medical malady who have gotten medical marijuana cards," Romer said.....There are more than 20,000 people holding medical marijuana cards today and the state is receiving an average of 600 new applications every day, according to Romer. "The gold rush for medical marijuana is starting to happen and we need to speak very loudly and clearly that we intend to regulate this market, we do not intend to end this market," Romer said.....The owner of MMD obtained a medical marijuana card for severe neck problems but says he doesn't smoke it very often. He believes the caregiver part of the industry needs to be regulated. "In order to be named a caregiver, I don't think anyone off the street, anybody with no medical training whatsoever, should be able to be designated as a caregiver," Cherdack said. "I think it's somewhat irresponsible and I think that should be changed to some degree." ***Two doctors are responsible for more than one-third of the patients on Colorado's medical-marijuana registry and five doctors account for more than 50 percent of the patients,*** according to stats from the state health department obtained by The Denver Post.

<http://www.9news.com/news/article.aspx?storyid=125955&catid=339>

Marijuana seized after tip about erratic driver

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS / Last updated October 30, 2009 10:26 p.m. PT

KIRKLAND, Wash. -- After a citizen's tip about an erratic driver led a State Patrol trooper to stop a Ford Excursion in Kirkland for equipment and driving violations, *the trooper found 31 pounds of marijuana on the back seat. Trooper Dan McDonald says 68-year-old Byron Gilbert Pickle of California was arrested for driving under the influence of marijuana.* Troopers got the tip late Thursday night. The Eastside Narcotics Task Force, which includes state troopers and officers from several nearby jurisdictions, seized the marijuana, packaged in clear plastic gallon bags, as well as \$2,700 in cash and the vehicle.

http://www.seattlepi.com/local/6420ap_wa_driver_marijuana.html

Drug czar: Look at problems with medical pot in California

By CHARLOTTE EBY, Globe Des Moines Bureau / Monday, November 2, 2009

DES MOINES — The White House's drug czar said Monday that Iowa officials should look at the problems California has seen after allowing the use of marijuana for medical purposes as they consider the idea here. Gil Kerlikowske, director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy, specifically cited problems regulating the clinics in the Los Angeles area that dispense medical marijuana. Kerlikowske recounted going to Venice Beach and seeing people holding signs advertising marijuana and ads in newspapers. He also pointed to reports of robberies and assaults that have occurred in and around medical marijuana dispensaries in the Los Angeles area. "I would say that the recommendation for any state that's considering moving to medical marijuana is to look very closely at what's been occurring in California," Kerlikowske said. Kerlikowske, the former police chief in Seattle, reported better results for the medical marijuana law in Washington State. "It was not as significant a problem for law enforcement as it was in, as it is in, Los Angeles," Kerlikowske said.....

http://www.globegazette.com/articles/2009/11/02/news/latest/doc4aefb43522122015363464.txt#vmix_media_id=7131330

Should Ore. let medical marijuana users pack heat?

Associated Press - November 4, 2009 3:45 PM ET

SALEM, Ore. (AP) - Should Oregon let medical marijuana users obtain concealed handgun permits? That question was before the Oregon Court of Appeals on Wednesday. Sheriffs from Washington and Jackson counties are seeking clarification on whether federal law prohibiting illegal drug users from possessing handguns applies to people who have permits to use marijuana for medical reasons. Lower courts had twice ordered the two sheriffs to give weapons permits to people who had lost them because they are medical marijuana users, and the sheriffs appealed those rulings. A Portland lawyer argued in court Wednesday that under Oregon law medical marijuana users cannot be deprived of the right to a concealed handgun permit.

<http://www.ktvz.com/Global/story.asp?S=11444081>

News Release from: Oregon State Police

OSP TRAFFIC STOP LEADS TO SECOND LARGE MARIJUANA SEIZURE AT OMMP

Posted: November 10th, 2009

Six people are facing charges following a recent Oregon State Police (OSP) traffic stop in southern Oregon that led to a second significant marijuana seizure at a confirmed registered address for growing marijuana under the Oregon Medical Marijuana Program. OSP Drug Enforcement Section detectives and the Rogue Area Drug Enforcement (RADE) team *subsequently seized approximately 220 lbs. of unlawfully possessed marijuana, firearms, ballistic vests, ammunition and over \$10,000 cash associated with the ongoing investigation.* This investigation started with a traffic stop on November 3,

2009 when an OSP trooper stopped a vehicle displaying California license plates northbound on Interstate 5 near Ashland for a traffic violation. Subsequent investigation by the trooper led to the male driver admitting to being enroute to an outdoor marijuana growing operation in Josephine County with \$9,100 cash to buy 3 lbs. of marijuana. OSP Drug Enforcement Section detectives and the RADE team were contacted for assistance and later that date executed a search warrant on Dreamhill Drive in the Applegate area of Josephine County. Detectives found evidence reflecting a large scale marijuana growing operation capable of producing hundreds of pounds of marijuana. ***Also found at the location was approximately 240 lbs. of marijuana, including multiple pounds pre-packaged for sale; twelve firearms (including assault rifles); large amount of ammunition; two ballistic vests; and, approximately \$1,100 cash. Detectives also found three people inside the residence trimming marijuana for later distribution. The three people did not live at the residence and were....all from California.*** While detectives were at the residence, arriving in a Cadillac Escalade were the two unemployed homeowners identified as DARREN APPELEGATE, age 41, and LAUREL APPELEGATE, age 41. They were confirmed as registered growers under the Oregon Medical Marijuana Program (OMMP) and admitted they were growing for eleven "patients.".....The legal amount of usable marijuana that can be possessed by registered growers under the OMMP for 11 patients would total 16.5 pounds. The additional over 220 pounds of marijuana seized from the residence had a conservative estimated value of \$556,250.....Two of the three people were confirmed registered growers under the OMMP and they were charged in relation to that ongoing investigation. Estimated value of the seized marijuana in this incident was approximately \$450,000.....

www.oregon.gov/OSP

UHP checkpoint nets 97 pounds of pot

Published: Friday, Nov. 13, 2009

Utah Highway Patrol troopers found almost 100 pounds of marijuana in five duffel bags at a checkpoint they set up Friday in Grand County. At an "administrative checkpoint" set up for the day on I-70 eastbound to patrol for impaired drivers and those with expired or restricted drivers licenses, ***troopers stopped a Dodge pickup truck coming from California. The UHP had "several indicators" that there was something suspicious about the vehicle, including a UHP K-9 directing them to a "hit" near the bed of the truck. The UHP reported that they searched a camper and found five duffel bags that were "all full of high-grade marijuana." Those five bags contained a total of 97 pounds of the illegal substance.*** The 29-year-old driver of the truck was arrested before being charged with "possession and distribution charges." He was booked into Grand County Jail.

<http://www.deseretnews.com/article/705344387/Truck-with-97-pounds-of-marijuana.html>

Driver who hit, killed girls gets jail, probation

SOUTH BEND — ***A northern Indiana man who admitted having marijuana in his system when his car fatally struck two young girls will spend 10 days in jail.*** St. Joseph Superior Court Judge Richard McCormick sentenced 56-year-old Leroy Hoover to ***60 days in jail Thursday with 50 days suspended. He also ordered Hoover to take substance-abuse classes and serve a year's probation.*** Hoover's license also was suspended for a year. He pleaded guilty in October to a misdemeanor charge of having a marijuana metabolite in his system at the time his car struck the girls May 7. Police have said 6-year-old Shianna Aston and 4-year-old Shayla Aston were crossing a street on their way to a friend's house.

<http://www.azstarnet.com/news/318553>

Police arrest man with nine pounds of marijuana

Boise Police say they have arrested a ***California man after some nine pounds of marijuana were found in his truck.....***Boise Police Narcotics Unit (BANDIT) Task Force received an anonymous tip stating Shimel was transporting large amounts of marijuana from California to Boise to sell. Late Tuesday

afternoon, BANDIT and other Boise Police units conducted a traffic stop on Shimel in the area of Emerald and Milwaukee Streets. A police canine was used to search Shimel's GMC pickup. According to Boise Police spokesman Charles McClure, "Approximately nine pounds of marijuana, with an estimated value of roughly \$40,000 dollars, was located in the bed of his vehicle...."

<http://www.kivitv.com/global/story.asp?S=11574609>

Teen admits selling marijuana brownies at school

Posted on Sat, Dec. 12, 2009

ALLENTOWN - Authorities say a teenage youth admitted selling marijuana-laced brownies at school to friends and other students, two of whom became ill. Lehigh County prosecutor Gregory Englert said the teen brought 18 drug-tainted treats to Parkland High School near Allentown, where he sold them for \$5 to \$15 each last month. Englert said two girls who ate the brownies were treated at a hospital. No one else got sick, and authorities do not know if something else contributed to the girls' illness. Englert said the 17-year-old, whose name was not disclosed because of his age, admitted in Juvenile Court Wednesday that he sold the brownies. A judge sentenced him to time at a youth camp, community service, and a six-month suspension of his driver's license. - AP

<http://www.philly.com/philly/news/pennsylvania/79116587.html>

Medical Pot House Explodes, Two Burned

Resident Reportedly Using Butane To Make Hash Triggered Blast Near Breckenridge

SUMMIT COUNTY, Colo. -- A couple at a medical marijuana growing operation were severely burned when the house exploded near Breckenridge early Sunday. *A resident in the house was reportedly using butane gas to make hashish from marijuana when the house blew up about 2:30 a.m. Sunday, the Summit County Sheriff's Office said Monday. Hashish, or hash, is a highly concentrated form of cannabis extracted from a marijuana plant's resin-rich flower clusters.* Emergency responders found "bloody footprints in the snow" along with the shattered remnants of blown out windows, insulation and other debris scattered around the house, sheriff's spokesman Tracy LeClair said in a statement....The pot growing operation was deemed a legal dispensary under Colorado Amendment 20, because several medical marijuana registry cards were discovered in the home, LeClair said. Numerous marijuana plants of varying sizes were also inside. The male roommate told deputies said he believed the explosion occurred when one of his roommates attempted to make hash in their room through a TCH-extraction process using butane gas, according to the sheriff's office statement. The man said his roommate had made hash several times in the past, usually in the garage.

<http://www.thedenverchannel.com/news/21964487/detail.html>

Wis. Restaurant Workers Sickened by Pot-laced Brownies

Crocker Stephenson / Milwaukee Journal Sentinel Posted: December 15th, 2009

A chef who baked marijuana-laced brownies and fed them to three unsuspecting co-workers at Heaven City Restaurant pleaded no contest to three felony counts of delivering a controlled substance. Adam R. Carson, 26, of Mukwonago told police he boiled four cups of marijuana leaves along with a pound of butter, then baked the heart-shaped brownies with the tetrahydrocannabinol-infused result. He fed the brownies to his co-workers Feb. 18. No customers of the Town of Vernon restaurant were fed the brownies. Two of the three co-workers, a 27-year-old woman and a 77-year-old man, were taken by ambulance to Waukesha Memorial Hospital. The third worker, a 50-year-old woman, became sick at home and was driven to the hospital by her husband....

[http://www.officer.com/web/online/Top-News-Stories/Wis-Restaurant-Workers-Sickened-by-Pot-laced-Brownies/1\\$49788](http://www.officer.com/web/online/Top-News-Stories/Wis-Restaurant-Workers-Sickened-by-Pot-laced-Brownies/1$49788)

Police seize 10 pounds of Marijuana

Yukon Police Dept. / December 15, 2009

YUKON, OK -- Three California drug dealers were transferred from the Yukon jail to the Canadian County jail yesterday.....The suspects were parked in the lot of a business, when a concerned employee called the Yukon Police Department because the suspects were approaching store employees. When Yukon Police arrived at the scene to question the suspects, officers could smell an extremely strong and distinct marijuana-like odor when the suspect opened the driver's side door. The suspects were traveling together as Yukon Police recovered 10.29 pounds of marijuana in the vehicle they were using to transport their product.....Wilma and Tipton told officers they grow marijuana at their California home and Cooper was assisting them in selling their drugs out of state. The suspects said they expected to make \$3,600 from selling their marijuana. The seized marijuana was field tested positive for THC.

http://www.kfor.com/news/kfor-news-yukon-marijuana-seize-story_0,6715083.story

2 Injured In Medical Marijuana Dispensary Robbery

Written by Alan Gathright, Content Producer / December 16, 2009

DENVER -- Two armed would-be robbers were bloodied by irate family members Wednesday morning in what police say was the first shooting at a medical marijuana dispensary in Denver.....a pair of 20-something Hispanic men with guns burst through the door. "Everybody down on the floor! Where's the money?".....Rafael Hernandez said he and other medical-marijuana entrepreneurs suspect the two robbers were the same men who have recently robbed two nearby dispensaries, including a Tuesday night stickup at a place called "Mr. Stinky's" at Third Avenue and Federal Boulevard. "They match the descriptions of the guys who've been robbing dispensaries up and down Federal," Rafael Hernandez said. Wednesday morning's shooting was the first at a medical marijuana dispensary in Denver. ***It follows of rash of 25 medical marijuana-related robberies in Denver since July, said Denver police spokesman Sonny Jackson. The crimes include 13 dispensary stickups and 12 other pot-related robberies, with targets ranging from medical marijuana growing operations to home invasion robberies of medical marijuana patients.*** The Denver City Council and state lawmakers are considering legislation to tighten regulation of the booming medical marijuana dispensaries, whose large amounts of cash and drugs have made them magnets for violent crime. "I think this whole new wave that these medicinal marijuana dispensaries are operating ... is a draw for individuals that are looking at coming and taking advantage of the marijuana," Denver police Detective John White said. "It makes it an attractive target for individuals looking to get marijuana for free." In California, Los Angeles has seen an explosion of dispensaries -- from less than 186 pot shops to an estimated 1,000 in two years. With them has come a "Wild West" wave of violent crime as organized gangs are robbing dispensaries, triggering shootouts with armed dispensary workers and the murder of an unarmed pot-shop guard.....

<http://www.thedenverchannel.com/news/21983704/detail.html>

State: 15 Colo. doctors writing most medical marijuana prescriptions

KDVR Denver / December 17, 2009

DENVER, Colo. - Just a handful of licensed physicians are writing the vast majority of medical marijuana prescriptions in Colorado, state health officials said Thursday. ***According to the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, a total of 820 licensed physicians had authorized marijuana use for roughly 15,800 patients. However, of those physicians, just 15 accounted for 73 percent of total patients, and five have accounted for about half.*** "These figures are representative of the concerns we have about whether some physicians really have a bonafide physician-patient relationship, as required in the constitution, with those for whom they are authorizing the use of marijuana," said Chief Medical Officer Ned Calonge.....Approximately 70 marijuana dispensaries are current open for business in the City and County of Denver.

<http://www.kdvr.com/news/kdvr-marijuana-prescriptions-121709,0,2467562.story>

Your Medical Marijuana Card Won't Work In Arizona

December 17, 2009 /24-7PressRelease/ -- Your Medical Marijuana Card Won't Work In Arizona
Many out-of-state drivers have found themselves facing felony charges in Arizona for drug possession, even though it is legal in their home state. A new Arizona bill could change the state's stance. A California medical marijuana card does not guarantee you safe passage in any state other than California. So, if you're crossing the border into Arizona - leave the pot at home. Some Californians, at least, have learned this the hard way. Since 1996, when California legalized medical marijuana use, Arizona police officers have cited an increasing number of out-of-state visitors for drug possession. In the years between 1999 and 2002, marijuana seizures in the state jumped by nearly 69 percent. Under Arizona law, possession of marijuana is a criminal offense and can result in felony charges. Even if the marijuana is just for your own use, possession can net you a fine between \$750.00 and \$150,000.00, plus a mandatory drug treatment, and a permanent criminal record. Many visitors to the state, traveling with medical cards from other states, have found themselves facing felony charges, large fines and probation, thus the saying, "came on vacation, left on probation.".....
<http://www.24-7pressrelease.com/press-release/your-medical-marijuana-card-wont-work-in-arizona-129185.php>

Search of car turns up gift-wrapped marijuana

The Associated Press / Posted on Thu, Dec. 24, 2009
JOPLIN, Mo. | Somebody won't be getting the Christmas presents that Missouri troopers seized from a car they stopped for speeding on Interstate 44 near Joplin this week. The Highway Patrol says troopers found about 20 pounds of marijuana in the car — some of it in luggage, and some in boxes wrapped as Christmas gifts. Two California women in the eastbound car gave troopers permission to search the vehicle. Both were charged Tuesday with one marijuana-related count and released on \$1,000 bond.
http://www.kansascity.com/116/story/1649930.html?storylink=omni_popular

Car on closed road leads to marijuana arrest

JOAN BARRON Casper Star-Tribune | Posted: Monday, December 28, 2009
CHEYENNE — A drug smuggler who ignored a road closure on Interstate 80 failed to deliver his Christmas presents. On Christmas Day, the eastbound and westbound lanes of Interstate 80 were closed between Cheyenne and Laramie because of blowing and drifting snow, said a release from the Wyoming Department of Transportation.....***The driver, Jared L. Frisinger, 28, of Fortuna, Calif., “offered up a rolled joint of marijuana,” the release said. Troopers then searched the vehicle and found two boxes in the back seat wrapped as Christmas presents. The boxes contained slightly more than 5 pounds of high-grade marijuana with a street value of about \$13,500, the release said. It appeared Frisinger was coming from Eureka, Calif., with a final delivery of the marijuana load in Lincoln, Neb.....***
http://billingsgazette.com/news/state-and-regional/wyoming/article_6e7c8d34-f43d-11de-868a-001cc4c002e0.html