

Kaycee Hathaway

From: SOARS Save Our Ag & Rural Spaces <saveouragandruralspaces@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, December 26, 2014 4:52 PM
To: Kaycee Hathaway
Subject: McDonald CUP
Attachments: BOCC MARIJUANA DOCUMENTS11042014_0000.pdf

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Ms. Hathaway,

This is the second document I would like put in the official files for the McDonald CUP. It has some pertinent information in it.

Julie Ufkes
SOARS

**MUNICIPALITIES
PLACING
MORATORIUMS**

SHOULD MARIJUANA BE LEGALIZED? VOTE NOW!

Tribune

SNOHOMISH COUNTY NEWS
Serving Snohomish, Monroe
Everett, Mukilteo



Come Visit us on Facebook

HOME NEWS SPORTS PHOTOS OBITUARIES BUSINESS LISTINGS CLASSIFIEDS CONTACTS WEATHER

Google Custom Search

Bazaar Headquarters
Craft Show and Bazaar Listings from Around Snohomish County

Knock Knock. Who's there?
Ben.
Ben who?

Ben looking for ways to save.
PUD rebates up to \$800 for installing a ductless heat pump! (only electrically heated homes eligible)
Click for details

SNOHOMISH COUNTY PUD
PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 1

CHERRY
Famous Corn Maze
Pumpkin Patch
Haunted House
Zombie Paintball
and more

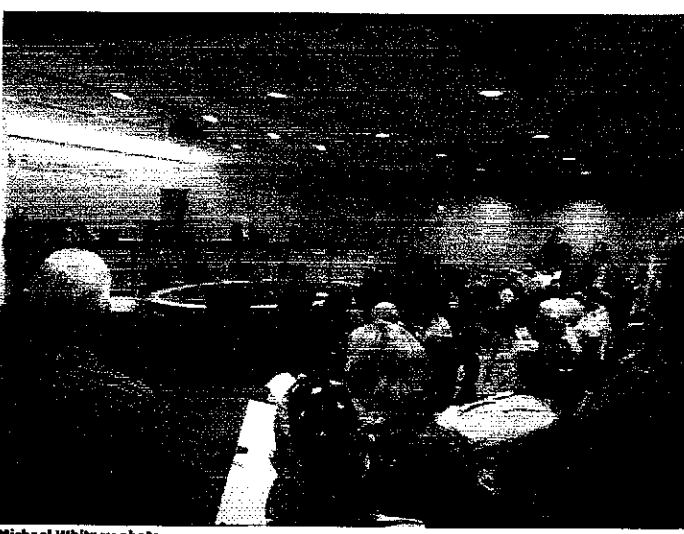
Thomas Family Farm
thomasfamilyfarm.com
11414 145th Ave SE
Snohomish

THOMAS Family Farm
thomasfamilyfarm.com
11414 145th Ave SE
Snohomish

By MICHAEL WHITNEY
Published November 5, 2014

Snohomish County continues rural marijuana business ban

Another public hearing coming in December



Michael Whitney photo

People who came to speak at the County Council public hearing spilled into the hallway Wednesday, Oct. 29.

SNOHOMISH COUNTY — Marijuana entrepreneurs and rural residents collided at a hearing last week on the County Council's emergency moratoriums halting recreational marijuana businesses in two zoning areas.

The County Council heard three-and-a-half hours of testimony from 77 people at the hearing Wednesday, Oct. 29 before deciding to continue the six-month moratorium until April 1.

The moratorium prohibits new recreational marijuana retailers, growers and processors in the ubiquitous Rural 5-acre (R-5) zone and the Clearview business corridor zone. Any businesses that already have a county construction permit are grandfathered in. Waiting with the moratorium will allow county planners to brainstorm on kinks in the code that allow marijuana businesses close to homes, council members said.

The county planning commission is scheduled to hold a public hearing on the issue Tuesday, Dec. 16 as part of that brainstorming work.

The council set the emergency moratorium Oct. 1 after residents in a neighborhood in Machias north of Snohomish and at Wagner Lake north of Monroe spoke out against large pot farms proposed near them.

Their outcry was that the proposals damages the character of their

Check out our online Publications!

Local HEROES November 2014
A Salute to People on the Ground in the War on Drugs
In total, they have raised \$7,000 for relief efforts

HOME IMPROVEMENT

FALL/WINTER 2014

Kids Stuff
A good afternoon to go fishing

Country Living

TASHA
previously at
Third Diners On
is now on First Street at
Vault Hair Lounge
1009 First St #203 • Snohomish
360-243-3803

Community Breakfast
First Saturday of Every Month 8:30-10:30am
Best Deal in Town!
\$5 adults, \$3 youth
19 & under (cash only)
Biscuits & Gravy, Scrambled Eggs,
Pancakes or French Toast, Ham or Sausage,
Coffee & Juice
360-568-0934 • 506 Fourth St., Snohomish

FACTORY AUTHORIZED CLEARANCE
ANNUAL OPEN HOUSE
FRIDAY NOV 7TH 4-10
FREE Food, Prizes, Discounts and lots of fun!
425-488-9500
1117 75th St., Everett, WA 98202
www.stevensofcars.com

Community Council Meeting
at the Paine Field
8415 Paine Field Blvd and
Wednesday Nov 12, 2014
7:00 PM Meeting
PAINE FIELD
To see the current agenda visit our website at
www.paine-field.com
For more information please visit our website at
www.paine-field.com

Scandinavian Festival
Nov. 14th & 15th
10am - 4pm
Authentic Norwegian Dinner
Sat. 4-6pm
Normanna Hall
2125 Babes Ave. Everett
425-252-8291

We offer: Short Stay Rehabilitation
Long Term Care/Hospice/Respite Care
We accept: Private Pay Residents & are
considered a
"Best Value" in Snohomish County
WE'RE HERE TO HELP!
Call to schedule a tour or discuss our services.
360-568-3161
800 Tenth Street, Snohomish
www.nerzyhaven.com

MONROE ANTIQUE SHOW & SALE
April 5th & 6th
Saturday, 10 am to 2 pm Sunday, 10 am to 4 pm
Antiques, Art, Collectibles, Pottery, Glass, Books,
Clothing, Furniture, and More. Prizes for the Best of Show.
Location: Everett State Fairgrounds, Everett, WA
Admission: \$5
Antique at Heart

Muk. School District 21st Annual
CRAFTS FAIR
Sat., Nov. 8, 2013 • 9 am - 4 pm
Mariner High School
200 120th St SW • Everett
Holiday Gifts Unique Hand Crafted Items

Carolyn ESLICK
For Snohomish County Executive
www.eslick.com
1000 1st Ave. Ste 200 • Everett, WA 98201

Deno Millikan Law Firm
Everett and Snohomish County.
General Practice Attorneys.

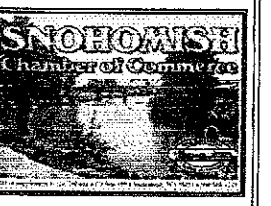
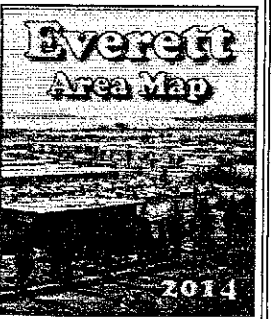
neighborhoods, property values and they're concerned about impacts to traffic and water tables that feed their wells. State-licensed pot entrepreneurs countywide, though, said the moratorium "blindsided" them and their plans are being unfairly blocked. They feel especially burned because when the zoning rules were set last fall, nobody spoke up against the plan. Some business owners asserted the vocal minorities in Machias and Wagner Lake forced a "fear-based" emergency ruling that affects the whole county when no emergency exists. "R-5 is not the problem, it is the location within R-5 and the size (of the operation)" David Evans, who wants to be a small-scale grower near Sultan, said. "If other areas have a problem, why should I be punished?" Many entrepreneurs invested huge dollars thinking they had the green light to proceed when state-governed marijuana licenses started being handed out this summer. Andrew Strackbein, who did many tours of duty as a soldier in Iraq and Afghanistan, is one of the entrepreneurs affected by the moratorium. He wants to put in a mid-sized 5,000 square foot marijuana growing facility at the dead end of Van Brocklin Road near Monroe. His operation is near the bigger proposed operation that stirred Wagner Lake neighbors. The entire industry is being stereotyped, he said. His business "will have no impact on traffic as there are only four employees including myself, who lives on the property," Strackbein said, adding he wants his company to be known for "keeping with the rural character of the area, being a trusted neighbor and contributing to the local economy."

Some consensus

One idea that both sides seemed receptive to was a middle-ground approach of allowing smaller-scale marijuana growers in the county but restricting the largest-size tier of operators. The state determined three classification tiers by size last year. The largest tier of marijuana facilities can be up to 30,000 square feet in size. The middle tier caps the maximum facility size at 10,000 square feet. Strackbein, for example, said that if he had to draw a line it would be to allow tier 1 and tier 2 growers and processors. County Council Chairman Dave Somers said post-meeting that allowing small-scale growers could be the route the county takes. "I think we need to look at tiers 1, 2 and 3 separately," Somers said during the meeting. R-5 zoning presents a challenge because of how much it encompasses across the county. The designation allows one house for every five acres, hence Rural-5. R-5 zoning allows for some forms of commerce already. While it includes barren rural areas, there are a few neighborhood-style clusters in R-5 zones that have been built in the past decades. The clustering idea was encouraged by county planners, Somers said. The Machias neighborhood is one example, where there is a quasi-suburban feel with homes near the street and large back lots. Residents said they built homes here to live in the country. John McCauley lives across the road from the proposed Wagner Lake large-scale grow operation. "There's a place to grow it, but not in a neighborhood," McCauley said. Small-scale growers countered that they aren't hurting anyone. One such grower said from the street nobody can tell his building is for growing marijuana. For all they know, it could be for other plants. One speaker who's lived in R-5 zoning for 30 years suggested the county split the zoning to give these neighborhood clusters their own zoning designation. Kim Morrow said there are rural areas with enough space between homes that a marijuana farm wouldn't be troublesome.

Why neighbors are concerned

Neighbors to the proposed projects have many concerns. There also is some confusion on what these marijuana facilities would look like, although it's commonly held the largest-scale

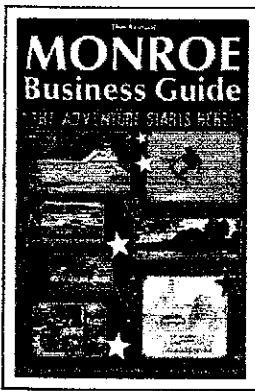


growers would be a big box. Because of state security regulations, the idea of marijuana farms stirs many worries among residents that a compound-like building will go up next door, complete with barbed-wire fencing and prison-style security lighting. One marijuana grower applicant from Stanwood said many of these concerns are misplaced. The state does not require either that style fencing or lighting at night. Many residents also don't want their home values damaged by a marijuana operation next door. "I invested my time and money into my property and I have a right to keep my property value," Snohomish resident Matt Kline said. Some residents said outright a marijuana business nearby is a bad influence on children. Marijuana operations nearby "will ruin a lifestyle we thought we had ensured," Steve Harwood of Machias said, calling on the council to think of families. The proposed big marijuana growing facility at Wagner Lake called Red Frog prompted a packed town hall meeting among nearby residents. Red Frog was ready to file its permits the morning of the moratorium vote and was told it couldn't because of the impending vote, the Wagner Lake businesses' property owner Robert Heldt said. Heldt deferred to the business operator on whether the moratorium will kill the project. In Machias, the issue may have calmed down as a would-be large-scale marijuana grower may be backing out of its plans. That grower would have been at the end of a neighborhood cul de sac. It's said the property was bought unseen. The property is up for sale, although residents there emphasized last week they're not in the clear until someone buys the house. The case in Machias was unique and shouldn't be the benchmark, marijuana entrepreneurs countered.

Concerns in Clearview

The moratorium does not affect medical marijuana businesses, which have proliferated along state Route 9 in Clearview to the point of making residents upset. There are five medical marijuana businesses along the stretch. One resident calculated that's one medical site for every 400 residents. "The concentration of that is outrageous," Carmel Ackermann said. One attorney who works with Initiative 502 clients suggested the Clearview issue may be cause for emergency. Medical marijuana is currently unregulated by the state, but county zoning code can set locational regulations on that side of the industry.

» Send us your thoughts with a letter to the editor, click here



Jefferson County enacts moratorium on I-502 marijuana growing, processing businesses

By Nicholas Johnson of the Leader | Posted: Monday, August 11, 2014 6:21 pm

Jefferson County officials say legal marijuana growing and processing businesses don't belong in rural residential areas.

That's why staff proposed Monday, Aug. 11 a moratorium on county permitting for such businesses, unless they locate in areas zoned for agriculture, forest or industry. After brief review, county commissioners unanimously adopted the six-month moratorium, effective immediately.

Retail stores are still allowed in commercial areas.

“Our comprehensive plan and our development code are abundantly clear that the primary use of rural residential land is for single family residential use,” said Carl Smith, director of the county's Department of Community Development, while presenting the idea during the board's regular weekly meeting.

“So we feel we have some gaps in our regulations. We feel that we don't have the adequate tools that we need to both support agriculture and make sure these potential and unintended consequences are prevented or mitigated in single-family zones.”

The county still considers marijuana an agricultural product, as is evidenced by the fact that I-502 business are still allowed in areas zoned for agriculture. But staff say they are struggling to remedy the county's welcoming agricultural policies with unique impacts associated with industrial-scale businesses, such as traffic, noise, light, odors, water supply and potential water pollution.

“The nature of some of the applications is showing that the intensity and scale of types of development that are being financed as part of marijuana production and processing are



Marijuana moratorium 2014

Carl Smith (right), director of the Jefferson County Department of Community Development, speaks to commissioners during their regular Aug. 11 meeting alongside Stacie Hoskins, senior planner and County Administrator Philip Morley at the Jefferson County Courthouse. Smith and his fellow county staff proposed, and the commissioners unanimously adopted, a six-month moratorium on I-502 marijuana businesses looking to locate anywhere but land zoned for agriculture, forest or industrial. Photo by Nicholas Johnson

significantly different than what we've seen with other agriculture,” said County Administrator Philip Morley, citing the potential for 40,000 square-foot structures. “Placing a building of that size and scale within a residential zone raises fundamental land use compatibility issues that frankly in October [2013] we weren't seeing and weren't anticipating.”

Some 55 percent of producer-processor applicants in the county have chosen to setup on land zoned rural residential, Smith said. Some 90 percent of applicants looking to grow marijuana in the county are also looking to process it, he said.

The moratorium does not apply to those whose applications are deemed “substantially complete,” which Smith said amounts to at least two and as many as five.

According to state law, a public hearing must be conducted by Oct. 11. A public comment period is expected during September. Final regulations are set to be adopted within 180 days, following study of these businesses' impacts and consideration of public comment.

(See an updated story in our Aug. 13 issue).

The Seattle Times

Winner of Nine Pulitzer Prizes

Local News

Originally published Friday, August 29, 2014 at 9:17 PM

Pierce County judge upholds Fife ban on pot businesses

A Pierce County judge upheld the city of Fife's ban on marijuana businesses, in a case the state attorney general foresees will wind up in the state Supreme Court.

By Evan Bush

Seattle Times staff reporter

A Pierce County judge Friday upheld the city of Fife's ban on marijuana businesses, saying the state law legalizing pot did not mandate cities to allow them.

Prospective marijuana retailer MMH was suing the city and hoped the judge would compel Fife to issue it a business license. Tedd Wetherbee, who owns MMH, said he plans to appeal the judge's ruling.

State Attorney General Bob Ferguson said he expects the case will wind up in the hands of the state Supreme Court, possibly early next year.

"It's precisely the issue the state Supreme Court is likely to provide guidance on to the state," Ferguson said.

There were two key issues in the case: whether Fife and other municipalities are allowed to ban marijuana businesses under Initiative 502, and whether federal marijuana laws on pot trump the state's.

MMH's lawyer, Mark Nelson, argued that Initiative 502 set up a tightly regulated system controlled by the state Liquor Control Board. Because the board allotted stores across the state and licensed them, Nelson said, his client had the right to open up a shop, and Fife shouldn't be able to stop him.

He also argued that disallowing MMH to operate violated voters' will. Fifty-three percent of Fife voters approved I-502 in November 2012, he said.

"I-502 represents the will of people of Washington state," said Nelson during the hearing in Pierce County Superior Court. "It represents the will of Pierce County and the will of the city of Fife."

Judge Ronald Culpepper disagreed in what he represented as a "quick and dirty" ruling from the bench.

"It could be consistent for people to generally think of legalization of marijuana as a good thing, but not in their backyard," Culpepper said. "I don't think that's an irreconcilable conflict."

Because Culpepper decided Fife was allowed to ban pot businesses within the bounds of I-502, he didn't have to reach the second issue Fife raised — federal pre-emption. He did take a moment to comment on the issue though.

"There is not federal pre-emption here," he said.

The judge said the state has the authority to legislate marijuana policy and that Washington's approach wasn't at odds with the Controlled Substances Act. If the federal government wanted to crack down on marijuana, he said, it still could.

During the hearing, Culpepper also balked at Fife's argument that city officials could be prosecuted by federal authorities for approving pot businesses, saying it seemed "far-fetched."

The state Attorney General's Office, which intervened in the case and believed the bans were legal, disagreed with Fife on the issue of federal pre-emption and said it could "eviscerate" the law legalizing marijuana.

After the hearing, Ferguson said the judge's ruling put the initiative on stronger legal ground because federal pre-emption was a nonstarter for the judge.

"We'll go anywhere, any time to defend I-502" from federal pre-emption, said Noah Purcell, the state Solicitor General, who argued the office's position.

It's not clear yet if the ruling will have a widespread effect. The Legislature meets in January and could address pot bans. A higher court could overturn the judge's decision.

Alison Holcomb, the ACLU lawyer who crafted the initiative, said she believed the judge's ruling was "specific to the case."

"I don't think Judge Culpepper's decisions necessarily applies to other jurisdictions or Pierce County, where legislation is pending right now," she said.

I-502 requires Washington residents have "adequate access" to pot products "to discourage purchases from the illegal market."

Representing the ACLU, attorney Salvador Mungia argued that if municipalities adopted widespread bans, it would undercut the system and prevent the state from its goal of eradicating the black market.

The judge seemed sympathetic to the argument, and suggested a ban in Pierce County might not be analogous to one in tiny Fife, a town of about 9,000 people where residents can access nearby pot shops.

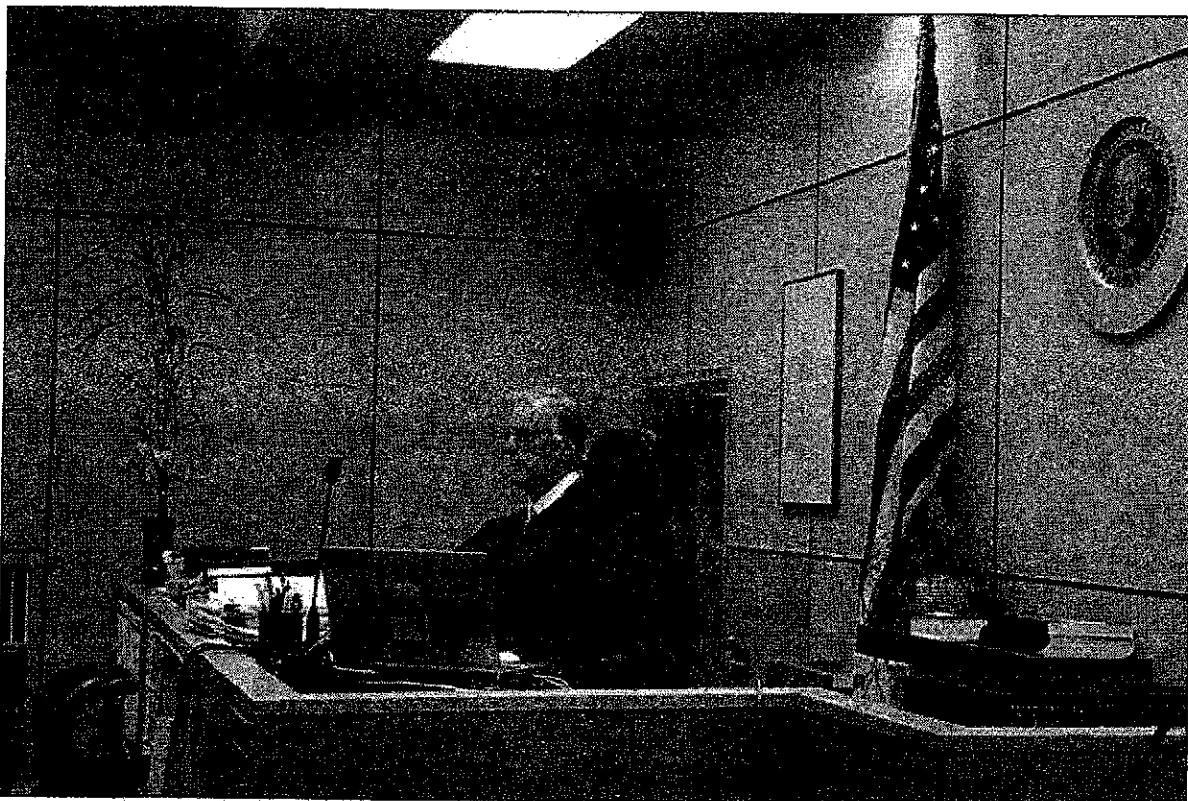
Holcomb said she hopes the Legislature can address bans this session. "My hope is that we'll have a political solution in 2015," she said. Holcomb said the Legislature should consider incentivizing municipalities to participate in the I-502 system by changing the law's tax structure.

Evan Bush: 206-464-2253 or ebush@seattletimes.com. On Twitter @evanbush.

KOMO News

Judge upholds local pot business ban in Wash. state

By GENE JOHNSON, Associated Press | Published: Aug 29, 2014 at 2:11 PM PDT (2014-08-29T21:11:21Z)



Judge Ronald E. Culpepper presides in Pierce County Superior Court, Friday, Aug. 29, 2014, in Tacoma, Wash., during a hearing for a man who wants to open a marijuana shop in the Tacoma suburb of Fife, Wash.

PHOTOS ([HTTP://WWW.KOMONEWS.COM/NEWS/LOCAL/JUDGE-UPHOLDS-LOCAL-POT-BUSINESS-BANS-IN-WASH-STATE-273234711.HTML?TAB=GALLERY&C=Y](http://www.komonews.com/news/local/judge-upholds-local-pot-business-bans-in-wash-state-273234711.html?tab=gallery&c=y))

TACOMA, Wash. (AP) - A Washington state judge says a small city can continue to ban licensed marijuana businesses, even if they're allowed under state law.

Pierce County Judge Ronald Culpepper issued the ruling Friday after extensive arguments in a case with big implications for Washington's experiment allowing recreational marijuana.

A man who wanted to open a pot shop in the city of Fife sued over its ban on such businesses, saying voters intended to allow adequate access to marijuana to displace the black market.

But the judge said there isn't enough evidence that Fife's ban conflicts with the will of the voters.

The would-be pot shop owner says he'll appeal.

KOMO News

Small city's lawsuit could derail state's recreational marijuana law

By GENE JOHNSON, Associated Press | Published: Aug 28, 2014 at 1:10 PM PDT (2014-08-28T20:10:26Z) | Last Updated: Aug 29, 2014 at 11:32 AM PDT (2014-08-29T18:32:3Z)



If the courts won't let Fife ban licensed pot growers, processors or sellers, the city wants the judge to address a second question: Should Washington's entire legal marijuana scheme be thrown out and all stores, like this one in Bothell, be closed?

FIFE, Wash. (AP) - To Tedd Wetherbee, the vacant storefront seems a suitable spot for selling pot. It's in a strip mall across from BJ's Bingo parlor, in a long commercial stretch occupied by fast-food joints, dry cleaners and massage parlors.

But like dozens of other cities in Washington, the small Tacoma suburb of Fife doesn't want Wetherbee - or anyone else - opening marijuana businesses, even if state law allows it. The arguments officials are making in a lawsuit over the dispute threaten to derail Washington's big experiment in legal, taxed cannabis less than two months after sales began.

A Pierce County judge on Friday is scheduled to hear arguments on two key issues at the core of Wetherbee's legal challenge to the ban. The first is whether Washington's voter-approved marijuana measure, Initiative 502, leaves room for cities to ban licensed pot growers, processors or sellers. If the answer is no, Fife wants the judge to address a second question: Should Washington's entire legal marijuana scheme be thrown out as incompatible with the

federal prohibition on pot?

"It's challenging the state's ability to create a legal and controlled market," said Alison Holcomb, the American Civil Liberties Union of Washington lawyer who drafted the law. "They're saying, 'We'll just take the entire regulatory system down.' "

Washington's experiment is built around the notion that it can bring pot out of the black market and into a regulated system that better protects public health and safety than prohibition ever did. In reality, there won't be legal marijuana businesses in much of the state: 28 cities and two counties have banned them, and scores more have issued long-running moratoriums preventing them from opening while officials review zoning and other issues.

In Fife, a community of 5 square miles and fewer than 10,000 people, the planning commission spent months working on a plan that would have allowed state-licensed marijuana businesses in the commercial zone where Wetherbee wants to open his shop. But the City Council this summer amended it to ban the businesses.

Council members expressed concern about the number of pot sellers who might open in Fife, uncertainty about the impact that would have on the community or police resources, and objections that the law doesn't direct any marijuana taxes back to the cities.

I-502 won 53 percent of the vote in Fife, and there's little reason to think legal pot businesses have a greater impact on a community than the black-market marijuana trade. Fife's ordinance directed the planning commission to review any data collected on the topic, leaving open the possibility it could reconsider.

Wetherbee says he's been paying almost \$3,000 in monthly rent on the storefront. He finally sued in Pierce County Superior Court, challenging Fife's zoning authority and the way the ban was adopted. "State law says I get to do business, and they're not letting us," he said.

The lawsuit has attracted a lot of attention, with the state, the ACLU chapter and other counties and towns filing briefs. The ACLU says that while Washington's liquor laws allow towns to ban alcohol sales, the pot law contains no such opt-out provision.

Cities can create zones for marijuana establishments, but they can't ban them, Holcomb said. If they could, it would undermine the will of Washington's voters in taking control of the black market.

Colorado, the only other state with legal pot for adults, expressly allows cities to ban pot businesses. Dozens have.

Attorney General Bob Ferguson has taken the position that I-502 did not negate local zoning authority to ban the shops, but he insists the state's law is not pre-empted by the federal Controlled Substances Act. He called Fife's arguments "a significant threat to the implementation of Initiative 502."

Fife is making the arguments the U.S. Justice Department declined to make last year, when it announced that it would allow legal pot experiments to move forward. When state and federal law conflict, federal law trumps. Some lawyers argue that for states to license the sale of a drug that's federally banned is an obvious conflict.

But Ferguson, the ACLU and Wetherbee's lawyers say the federal law contains a provision stating it trumps state law only in narrow circumstances. And as the U.S. Department of Justice suggested in its memo last year, there is no real conflict between state and federal law, they argue: By strictly regulating marijuana, prohibiting sales to teens and taking it away from criminal enterprises, the state is actually complementing the goals of the Controlled Substances Act, "to conquer drug abuse and to control the legitimate and illegitimate traffic in controlled substances."

Fife's city attorney, Loren Combs, said too much is being made of the case, which is at its heart a zoning dispute. "It's really no bigger than just 5 square miles in Fife," he said.

SHOULD MARIJUANA BE LEGALIZED? VOTE NOW!

THE DENVER POST
(<http://www.denverpost.com>)

Denver, CO | Now: 52°
(<http://www.denverpost.com/Weather>) | High: 60°
(<http://www.denverpost.com/Weather>) | Low: 36°
(<http://www.denverpost.com/Weather>) | 5-Day Forecast
(<http://www.denverpost.com/Weather>)

YOURHUB JEFFERSON COUNTY (/SOUTHJEFFCO)

Election 2014: Colorado Senate control on line for Democrats
(<http://www.denverpost.com/election/2014-colorado-senate-control>)

Republicans seek senate control, bigger House edge
(<http://www.denverpost.com/news/control-is-top-prize-midterm>)

U.S. Rep. Mike Coffman aims for 4th term; Andrew Romanoff seeks upset
(<http://www.denverpost.com/election>)

Election 2014: Hickenlooper faces test in Colorado governor's race
(<http://www.denverpost.com/election>)

Jefferson County marijuana task force recommends ban on marijuana businesses

By Joe Vaccarelli

YourHub Reporter (mailto:jvaccarelli@denverpost.com?subject=The Denver Post:)

POSTED: 09/23/2014 11:34:54 AM MDT | UPDATED: ABOUT A MONTH AGO

56 COMMENTS (http://www.denverpost.com/southjeffco/ci_26589387/JEFFERSON-COUNTY-MARIJUANA-TASK-FORCE-RECOMMENDS-BAN-MARIJUANA#DISQUS_THREAD)

JEFFERSON COUNTY — The Jefferson County Task Force on Marijuana is recommending (<http://jeffco.us/bcc/volunteer-boards/marijuana-taskforce/>) that the Board of Commissioners not allow any marijuana businesses in unincorporated Jeffco, but the commissioners want more time to study the issue.

The volunteer task force released its 134-page report and presented it to the board Tuesday. The recommendation read that the licensing of marijuana establishments is "not consistent with the safety, health and welfare of the citizens of Jefferson County."

Jefferson County placed a moratorium on marijuana businesses in July 2013 after the passage of Amendment 64 in November 2012 (http://www.denverpost.com/ci_21041018/nation-watches-colorados-marijuana-legalization-vote). That moratorium is set to expire Feb. 1, 2015 unless more action is taken. The county also voted in April to prohibit marijuana clubs and to limit cultivation.

"I don't have enough data to make a decision," Commissioner Don Rosier said as the meeting wrapped up Tuesday.



([/portlet/article/html/imageDisplay?contentItemRelationshipId=625956](#))
A marijuana plant at a Colorado greenhouse. (Denver Post file photo)

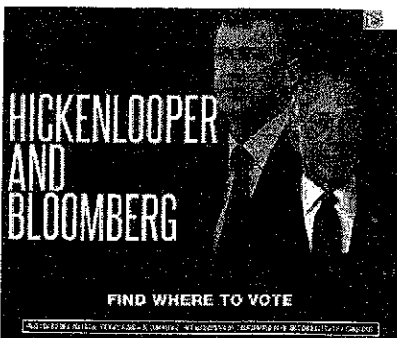
Catit Style Scratching Board with



Lowest Price Guarantee!

\$10.49

This is in Colorado but it is relevant.



The task force met eight times since being established in April

(http://www.denverpost.com/yourhub/ci_25235163/jefferson-county-looks-marijuana-task-force-volunteers) and studied data regarding impacts on public safety, public health, government and business. The members then voted on whether to "opt in" or "opt out" on marijuana. Eight of the members voted to opt out, two voted to opt in and one abstained.

The commissioners heard arguments from both sides, with Michael Elliott, executive director of the Marijuana Industry Group stating that the county should allow marijuana establishments. He said that county residents will have access to retail marijuana by either going to Denver or cities in Jefferson County that already allow retail pot businesses. By opting out, the county won't benefit from the tax revenue and the jobs the industry can create.

Dr. Mark Johnson, director of the county's health department, told the commissioners that studies have shown that smoking any substance is harmful and should not be allowed. He added that the county should take more time with the process.

MOST POPULAR (/POPULAR)

DAY (/POPULAR) HOUR (/POPULAR) NEWS (/POPULAR)
SPORTS (/POPULAR) BIZ (/POPULAR) A&E (/POPULAR)
EMAIL (/POPULAR) LIFE (/POPULAR)

Rosenthal: What made my marriage go so wrong?
(http://www.denverpost.com/lifestyles/ci_26824076/what-made-my-marriage-go-so-wrong?source=most_viewed)

Cheap Checklist: Free meal for veterans, Buy-Buck for Halloween candy, health talk and more
(http://www.denverpost.com/smart/ci_26839599/cheap-checklist-free-meal-veterans-buy-buck-halloween?source=most_viewed)

Review: "Kinky Boots" struts into Denver Center
(http://www.denverpost.com/lifestyles/ci_26839501/review-kinky-boots-struts-into-denver-center?source=most_viewed)

Recently Recalled: 11/03
(http://www.denverpost.com/lifestyles/ci_26839639/recently-recalled-11-03?source=most_viewed)

What's the Plan? Couple's crucial step: Pension survivorship benefit
(http://www.denverpost.com/smart/ci_26839675/whats-the-plan)

"It would be smart to hold off until we can get better data," Johnson said. "It's all over the place."

The commissioners will schedule another meeting with members of the task force within the next few weeks to ask more questions before deciding how to proceed.

Joe Vaccarelli: 303-954-2396, jvaccarelli@denverpost.com or twitter.com/joe_vacc (https://twitter.com/joe_vacc)

[plan-couples-crucial-step-pension-survivorship-benefit?source=most_viewed](#)

[At-home pet euthanasia is an option that puts animal owner at ease](#)
(http://www.denverpost.com/homegarden/ci_26839792/at-home-pet-euthanasia-is-an-option-that?source=most_viewed)

[How clotheshorses can rein in wardrobes](#)
(http://www.denverpost.com/lifestyles/ci_26839697/how-clotheshorses-can-rein-wardrobes?source=most_viewed)

[Rim to Rim to Rim: a vision of teamwork](#)
(http://www.denverpost.com/lifestyles/ci_26856745/rim-rim-rim-vision-teamwork?source=most_viewed)

» [More most-popular style stories](#) (/popular#pop-style)

RELATED STORIES

DISCUSSION (56 COMMENTS)

From Around the Web

(Sponsored)



<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2014-07-24/doesn-t-matter-if-gop-gains-control-of-senate>
QBO~mn7oQmKX9Imj7Zsu8Q.html



<http://www.kfoa.com/the-home-refinance-plan-banks-dont-want-you-knowing/>
BILLS.COM



<http://www.answers.com/topic/most-unbelievably-cruel-torture-devices-in-history>
ANSWERS.COM



<http://www.3035951.com/3035951/the-glaring-design-flaw-in-us-election-maps>
CO. DESIGN
The Glaring Design Flaw



<http://www.fastcodesign.com/3032535/slicker-city-tiny-houses-have-a-not-so-tiny-problem>
FAST COMPANY
Tiny Houses Have A



<http://www.rd.com/slideshows/massage-therapists-secrets/>
READER'S DIGEST
20 Secrets Massage Therapists Know About Your Body



<http://www.fastcodesign.com/3032535/slicker-city-tiny-houses-have-a-not-so-tiny-problem>
BORDELION
What These Death Row

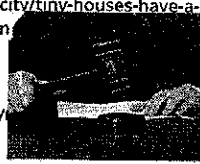


<http://www.fastcodesign.com/3032535/slicker-city-tiny-houses-have-a-not-so-tiny-problem>
BORDELION
What These Death Row

More from The Denver Post



<http://www.denverpost.com/news/local/politics/an-informed-voter-when-deciding-judges>
OPINION
Be an informed voter



<http://www.denverpost.com/news/sports/broncos/broncos-have-aqib-talib-this-time-not>
DENVER BRONCOS
Denver Broncos have



<http://www.denverpost.com/news/sports/broncos/power-rankings-week-8>
DENVER BRONCOS
Post's NFL Power



<http://www.denverpost.com/news/sports/broncos/power-rankings-week-8>
DENVER BRONCOS
Post's NFL Power



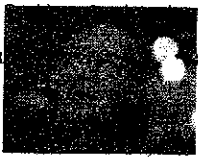
<http://www.denverpost.com/news/sports/broncos/redmond-has-overcome-stroke-watch-film-loss-patriots-then-turn-page>
DENVER BRONCOS
Briefs: Broncos watch film of loss to Patriots, then turn...



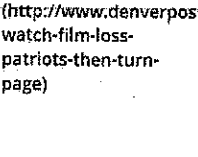
<http://www.denverpost.com/news/sports/broncos/super-hype-manning-vs-brady>
THE DENVER POST
Saunders: Super hype in Manning vs. Brady



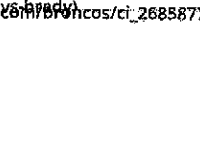
<http://blogs.denverpost.com/avalanche/19912/>
ALL THINGS AVS
COLORADO
Roy describes Xs and Os behind avalanche's problems



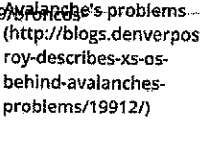
<http://www.denverpost.com/news/politics/budget-plan-endorses-tax-rebates-new-state>
NEWS
Hickenlooper's budget plan endorses tax rebates



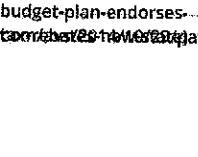
<http://www.denverpost.com/news/politics/budget-plan-endorses-tax-rebates-new-state>
NEWS
Hickenlooper's budget plan endorses tax rebates



<http://www.denverpost.com/news/politics/budget-plan-endorses-tax-rebates-new-state>
NEWS
Hickenlooper's budget plan endorses tax rebates



<http://www.denverpost.com/news/politics/budget-plan-endorses-tax-rebates-new-state>
NEWS
Hickenlooper's budget plan endorses tax rebates



<http://www.denverpost.com/news/politics/budget-plan-endorses-tax-rebates-new-state>
NEWS
Hickenlooper's budget plan endorses tax rebates

Denver Local Guide (<http://mylocal.denverpost.com/>)

Featured Businesses

- Grape Leaf Wine & Spirits
(<http://mylocal.denverpost.com/denver-co/shopping/liquor-store/Grape-Leaf-Wine-and-Spirits-720-941-7117>)
- Standley Lake Marketplace
(<http://mylocal.denverpost.com/broomfield-co/shopping/liquor-store/Standley-Lake-Marketplace-720-440-6000>)
- Phil Long
(<http://mylocal.denverpost.com/denver-co/auto/auto-dealers/Phil-Long-720-379-9937>)
- Carmel Oaks
(<http://mylocal.denverpost.com/denver-co/real-estate/apartments/Carmel-Oaks-303-937-1010>)
- Hobby Town USA
(<http://mylocal.denverpost.com/longmont-co/shopping/hobby-homes/Hobby-Town-USA-970-441-1111>)

CRIME RELATED



Enter Symbols GO Enter Keywords GO



HOME U.S. NEWS MARKETS INVESTING TECH SMALL BIZ VIDEO SHOWS PRIMETIME WATCH LIVE PRO

REGISTER | LOG IN

Asian shares mostly lower on oil, growth concerns



SMALL BUSINESS

SMALL BUSINESS | FRANCHISING | FINANCING | MANAGEMENT | VIDEO | TOOLS

Robber gangs terrorize Colorado pot shops

Tony Dokoupil and Bill Briggs, NBC News
Wednesday, 5 Feb 2014 | 8:27 AM ET



415 SHARES

111 COMMENTS Join the Discussion



Ed Kashi for NBC

Broken windows and doors are evidence of a recent burglary at the Timberline Herbal Clinic, owned by Yvette Williams.

One thief, posing as a delivery man, pulled a can of bear mace on employees and ransacked their marijuana shop, fleeing in a defensive cloud of "ultra-pepper" spray. Another opened the wall of a dispensary with an ax and attacked the store's safe with a circular saw. Still another stuck to the basics. He kicked in the front door and pointed his gun at the counterman. An accomplice kicked in the back door and filled a duffel bag with more than \$10,000 worth of high-quality cannabis.

For weeks now, the Mile High state has allowed the sale of recreational pot to adults, and so far the Rockies still stand. But crimes like the ones above, all of which occurred in Colorado in the last six months, have produced an acid-drip of anxiety in the industry, highlighting the

MORE FROM CNBC

Recommended by

Energy stocks a good buy on oil drop; Billionaire

dangers faced by those hoping to drag America's most popular illegal drug into the light. Because marijuana remains banned by Congress, banks and security firms deny services to most dispensaries. That leaves them cash-based and vulnerable, a magnet for criminals who like the idea of unguarded counting rooms and shelves lined with lucrative horticulture.

"Everyone in the industry is having nightmares," says Michael Elliot, executive director of the Marijuana Industry Group, a powerful young lobby in Colorado. "You hit a 7-Eleven, you'll get 20 bucks. You hit a dispensary, you'll get \$300,000 on a good day," adds Mitch Morrissey, District Attorney for Denver. "It's only a matter of time before someone gets shot."

(Read more: How legal marijuana could be the next great American industry)

Since 2010, the new pot barons have been required to install alarms and surveillance cameras, and most secure all cash and retail pot in a floor-bolted safe overnight. That helps limit losses, but the thieves keep coming. They throw bricks through windows, and tunnel under floors. One team tore away the locks on a grow house with a set of chains and a Subaru Outback. Another crashed an Audi through a warehouse door.

At first, most of the heists were softened by a kind of likable idiocy. Owners joked about the hapless fellow who zip-lined through an opening in a greenhouse roof, then lacked the oomph to climb his way out. Or the thief who kicked into an apartment above a pot shop, only to be chased off by the apartment's surprised owner, a member of the Denver Nuggets. Or the team that crowbarred into a dispensary in 2012, leaving with a broken scale and \$8 from a "karma jar" on the counter.

More recently, however, the crimes have sent a forked bolt of fear through the industry. Last summer, for example, a trio of gunmen "demanded Weed" from the workers at a dispensary called 420 Wellness, according to documents provided by the district attorney's office. As two of the gunmen filled "several trash bags" with award-winning marijuana, the third leapt over the counter and took a female employee by the elbow, leading her around the shop as a human insurance policy. Police caught up with that squad soon after they fled the scene, charging the ringleader with aggravated robbery and kidnapping.

But over the next six weeks, a different team of burglars hit at least eight dispensaries, and a third team is still on the loose after a stick-up at New Age Wellness in nearby Boulder County. Moments after closing time, two men dressed in baby-blue ski-masks burst in, pointed guns, and cleaned out the little mountain depot. "It's an epidemic," says one of the employees, who declined to give his name for safety reasons. "Everything is a lot tighter now. It isn't so homey anymore."

(Read more: Marijuana refugees face real estate challenges)

Covance meets 3Q profit forecasts

What's tech's most important innovation?

Pro to markets: The worst may be yet to come

Cashin: Don't buy without understanding this

Co-host of NPR's 'Car Talk' dies

Wanted: 500,000 pilots for China aviation gold rush

'Red' states push to keep Obamacare subsidies

Argentina accuses Procter & Gamble of tax fraud

Elite Ivy STEM education catapults leader success

SPONSORED

Recommended by



These 5 Old Money Families Are No Longer Wealthy
(Bankrate)



The 15 Best Hot Dog Spots In The Country
(Green Label)



Ten "Surprisingly Fast" Cars for Under \$30k
(Insider Car News)



Billionaire Richard Branson gives his staff unlimited...
(Fortune)

SMALL BUSINESS



What's at stake this election

In the midterms Tuesday, businesses in some states have much at stake with measures that may impact marijuana and minimum wages.



Small business borrowing surges

U.S. small businesses boosted borrowing in September to its highest level in 7½ years, according to data released Monday.



As gas prices fall, Main St. hopes rise

As fuel prices fall, businesses are wondering if energy cost savings will translate into more consumer spending.



Main St. not cheering low interest rates

While interest rates remain historically low, Main Street business owners largely are on the fence about accessing capital.

CNBC NEWSLETTERS

Get the best of CNBC in your inbox



Getty Images

To judge by the data, it's not so homey anywhere in the region's marijuana market, where attempted theft has gone from a concern to a near-certainty. In 2009, the Denver Police Department estimated that about 17 percent of marijuana retail shops had been robbed or burglarized in the last year. That was good news: a bit less than liquor stores (20 percent) and banks (34 percent), and on par with pharmacies.

Today, however, a darker picture has emerged. There are about 325 marijuana companies in Denver, based on an analysis of licensing data done for NBC News by Marijuana Business Daily, a leading trade publication. (Most companies hold numerous licenses.) At the same time, there have been about 317 burglaries and seven robberies reported by these companies in the last two years, according to police data. That's an annual robbery and burglary rate of about 50 percent, more than double what it was in 2009.

While a Denver Police spokesperson disputed these figures, the department doesn't have its own. What is available suggests a troubling parallel development: as the industry has grown, its access to banking and security has declined, and crime has soared. What spurred the sudden loss of services remains a mystery, although many dispensary owners blame it on pressure from the Drug Enforcement Administration, which has called Colorado's experiment "reckless and irresponsible."

"It's like they're trying to precipitate some sort of disaster," says Norton Arbelaez, the founder of River Rock, one the Denver's larger dispensaries. "It's like they think: 'If we can precipitate some sort of public safety issue, maybe we can stop it.'"

(More from NBC News:

Poll: Majority of Americans support efforts to legalize marijuana

Denver's pot culture gets down to business

Pot-friendly states can't really stop carry-on weed)

The Obama administration says that it's working on new regulations that will allow banks to hold accounts for legal marijuana businesses. But Jack Finlaw, the chief legal counsel to Colorado's governor doesn't think that will be enough. As long as marijuana remains illegal under

SIGN UP

> Learn More

TOP NEWS & ANALYSIS >

Live: Election 2014--Will the GOP take the Senate?

US stock market psyched for GOP win

The deep-pocketed GOP donor you've never heard of

McConnell projected to win re-election: NBC News

Market predicting not just a GOP win, but a 'wave'

Dispensary License

420college.org

Get a Dispensary License
and Start Operating
Today

the Controlled Substances Act, he says, banks, security firms and indeed most traditional businesses will be wary of aiding what amounts to a state-sanctioned federal crime. "Congress really needs to act," he says. "I don't see a quick fix."

Meanwhile, the collateral damage continues to mount. Some dispensaries may be hit five times and others none at all, but on average every marijuana-related business in Denver can now expect a taste of the crowbar or the gun at least once every two years.

'Feeling less than safe'

"I think everyone has been robbed at least once," says Jonathan Salfeld, the owner of Local Product of Colorado, which has been broken into twice, despite being located a block from Denver Police headquarters. "It leaves you feeling less than safe," adds Elan Nelson, the director of business development at Medicine Man, one of the largest dispensaries in Denver. She says her last dispensary was broken into four or five times, and employees began to watch the door, wondering when the thieves would decide to try work hours.

Yvette Williams of Timberline Herbal Clinic is facing that same feeling, after suffering three break-ins in four years. The most recent heist was last month, amid a rash of seven burglaries in Denver in the first 11 days of legalization. The thieves came at night, taking \$1,000 in edible pot and leaving \$6,000 in damages. "We just don't know what to do," she says. "We're at a loss."

For the moment, Coloradans can still cling to a pebble of solace: no one has ever been killed in a state-licensed marijuana dispensary. Expect that to change, says Denver District Attorney Mitch Morrissey. Last summer he told the city council that there have been a dozen homicides "directly" related to mom-and-pop residential marijuana grows, which have been legal in the state since 2000.

The editorial page director of the Denver Post accused him of "blowing smoke," but Morrissey is now going further, predicting a spike in "strong-arm, bank-style, mask-and-gun robberies," as the old violence of the residential market spills into the new world of legalized marijuana from seed to sale. "You know, they say this is going to bring in tax revenue for our schools. Well, I don't deal with that. I deal with dead bodies."

The worst violence has been in California, where in 2010 a gunman forced workers down on the ground, robbed their medical marijuana dispensary, and returned moments later to shoot both in the back of the head. But the fate that's really spreading terror in Colorado fell just shy of murder.

It began when three men broke into the home of a dispensary owner in Newport Beach, Calif., according to police reports that surfaced last fall. They zip-tied the man, dragged him into a van, burned him with a blow-torch, doused him in bleach, severed his penis, and then drove away with it—all in a bid to learn where he was hiding his cash. Now Elliott, the industry lobbyist, appends press releases with an unusual

note: "To understand the importance of fixing banking, please read this story: 'Marijuana clinic owner penis cut off.'"

Safeguarding cash transports

The industry is certainly taking the crime threat seriously. Dispensaries are sinking cash into bulletproof glass, Mission Impossible-style fingerprint scanners, and guards—lots of guards. A marijuana militia of sorts is building across the state, a force big enough to safeguard six-figure cash transports, seven-figure inventories and assets, and thousands of justifiably paranoid employees.

As with the criminals, some of the guards are less than intimidating. The owner's elderly (and doze-prone) uncle is the designated watchman inside one Denver dispensary. At another dispensary a guard considers his biceps "the only guns I need." But at least two major security firms—one purely marijuana-focused, the other an all-purpose global heavyweight—have ridden in to rescue Denver in the last year.

The first was Blue Line Protection Group, launched in August by Ted Daniels, a retired police officer and U.S. Army veteran who served in Afghanistan. He cuts a rather secure figure himself, with muscle that jumps from shoulder to ear, and shades wrapped around a bald pate. He has hired more than 40 guards, most with special ops experience.

"If you're going to fight the best," as he likes to say, "you better have the best."

(Read more: Colorado's pot economy has growing pains)

Holy smoke! Pot shortage hits Colorado

Thursday, 9 January 2014 | 5:43 PST | 03:24

In a little over a week since the legalization of recreational marijuana, residents of the Centennial State are already running out of cannabis as demand begins to outweigh supply and prices skyrocket, reports CNBC's Jane Wells.

His firm has landed about 30 contracts so far and is adding about one a day, according to Daniels, who charges between \$5,000 and \$15,000 a month. Most of the contracts come right after a break-in or a robbery, he says, and none have been hit again with his team on the scene. "I think criminals are afraid," he says. "I don't think they want to deal with my guys."

At Medicine Man, where Daniels has provided security since January 1st, there are now six cash registers and an armed guard for each one, plus another at the door. At the end of the day, after spraying the cash

with Febreze to mask the scent, employees stuff it into tamper-resistant clear plastic bags, which Blue Line escorts downtown and into the company's vault.

If they face a robbery, they may call 911, but they're authorized to return fire. Every day now at New Age Wellness, in Boulder County, steps from the counter where the peace buds are sold, a warning sign is emblazoned with the words, "DEADLY FORCE." In front of the sign is a Blue Line guard, Glock on his hip.

"One of my guys, I think, can probably easily hold off five to 10 guys by himself," says Daniels, who appreciates the irony of blending what is essentially police work with the protection of a product that he used to bust people for using. For most of his guys, however, the product doesn't matter.

Daniels allows them to partake of the plant they're guarding, as long as they quit it at least 10 hours before reporting to duty, but they're in it for the conflict.

"We thrive on going out," says Keith Wood, a former Army Ranger who deployed to both Iraq and Afghanistan, before coming home to become Blue Line's operations manager. "I'm not going to run away," he said in an interview. "I could die today on the job. We don't know. But that's another reason to bring veterans in. That's how we're trained to think."

The competition comes from former Denver city councilman Ed Thomas, a 23-year veteran of the Denver Police Department. He recently partnered with CSC-USA, a California-based company that touts security gigs during two World Cups, four presidential inaugurations, and 30 Super Bowls. He's got two contracts so far and expects that number to grow.

"There are some really bad guys out there," he says. "It's just a matter of time until ... well, I don't even want to go there."

—NBC News

MORE FROM CNBC

Recommended by

Virgin Galactic ignored warnings on rocket: report

In fast food, is \$6 the new \$5?

Yen hits 7-year low after surprise BOJ easing

Insects could be on your dinner menu, soon

Stock market looks like 'a sucker trade': Trader

Macau October gaming revenues set for worst ever drop

SPONSORED

Recommended by

Janet Lee Williams, 60, has been at the property for 29 years and was born in Prosser, the application said. The couple own a carpet-cleaning business and has lived together at the property for 17 years, roughly about the length of time they have been married.

Randall Williams, 52, has a criminal history, including convictions for grand larceny, theft, eluding, driving under the influence and cocaine possession, according to the application. He also spent five years in federal prison for cultivating marijuana in 1990, the application said.

Criminal history does not automatically disqualify an applicant. The Liquor Control Board uses a point system when considering an application.

They have not yet applied for building permits from Benton County.

So far, the county has issued building permits to three people asking for fencing or storage buildings related cannabis grows in unincorporated Benton County. Two of them are near Prosser.

Another is in review.

Those have not been licensed by the state yet.

The city of Prosser has no additional restrictions on recreational marijuana businesses other than those in state law. However, the city has a moratorium on medicinal use, while the City Council has been discussing banning medicinal use.



Add a comment...

Also post on Facebook

Posting as Julie Ufkes (Change)

Comment



Deborah Burksfield · Top Commenter · Yakima, Washington

My personal thoughts are amply expressed by Leonard Cohen's "Hallelujah" <http://www.music.com/video/leonard-cohen/hallelujah-3/17305740001>

Reply · Like · Follow Post · May 15 at 7:36pm



Jade Deyo · Top Commenter

this is great news for the valley. unfortunately it doesn't do anything to remedy the fact that, as of yet anyway, there will be no LEGAL retail outlets for selling marijuana in the valley. beings as pot is LEGAL in our state now, what this means is that local governments have declared OPEN SEASON for the black market to continue to supply marijuana to those that want it. this makes no sense to me.

Reply · Like · Follow Post · May 14 at 1:06pm



Alta Ball · Office Work at Real Estate Companies, Hanford area, self employed

so if it is illegal by Federal Law, how can it be legal at all??? I have been a customer of this carpet cleaning company for a long time and I am no longer going to do business with them I only do business with people who obey federal law

Reply · Like · 1 · Follow Post · May 13 at 4:43pm



Daniel C. Smith · Top Commenter · Yakima, Washington

After 6 months, legal pot in Colorado a mix of highs, lows; related crime down, impaired driving up

BY: [Lindsay Watts \(mailto:lindsay.watts@kmggh.com\)](mailto:lindsay.watts@kmggh.com)

POSTED: 5:50 PM, Jun 26, 2014

UPDATED: 9:48 AM, Jun 28, 2014

TAG: [colorado \(/topic/colorado\)](#) | [marijuana \(/topic/marijuana\)](#) | [legal marijuana \(/topic/legal+marijuana\)](#) | [marijuana edibles \(/topic/marijuana+edibles\)](#) | [marijuana industry group \(/topic/marijuana+industry+group\)](#)

DENVER - Nearly six months after Colorado became the first in the world to sell legal recreational marijuana, industry advocates are playing up the high points -- specifically an economic boom and crime in Denver actually declining.

"I think a lot of people are looking at Colorado, and when you see crime going down, that's a huge sign of success," said Michael Elliot, executive director of the Marijuana Industry Group.

"I think so many things people were scared about have been shown to be nonsense."

The first four months of recreational pot sales has brought in nearly \$11 million in tax revenue, demand for real estate has gone up, and the marijuana industry estimates there are currently 10,000 people working in the business.

On Thursday, the state announced that during 20 undercover operations to test if pot shops would sell to minors, not a single store sold to a child.

"The Division prides itself on ensuring public safety; we are pleased with the results and will continue to monitor the businesses to ensure that the compliance efforts are maintained," said Lewis Koski, Director of the Marijuana Enforcement Division.

But while the state hasn't gone up in smoke, not everyone agrees Colorado is better off and safer.

The state's largest provider of community detox centers, Arapahoe House, reported this week that DUI admissions involving marijuana have nearly doubled since legalization.

In 2013, 8 percent of admissions were accused of driving under the influence of marijuana, and now that's up to 15 percent.

"We're only seeing recreational legalization in it's infancy, but it's already having an impact on public safety," said Araphoe House spokeswoman Kate Osmundson.

7NEWS found small children continue to get their hands on marijuana, particularly edibles.

The Rocky Mountain Poison Control Center said, so far this year it's had 19 calls from people reporting pot ingestion by children younger than 5 years old.

Children's Hospital Colorado said it's treated 11 kids who've ingested edibles marijuana, six of whom have become critically ill.

Copyright 2014 Scripps Media, Inc. All rights reserved. This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten, or redistributed.

WEEKLY ADS AT SHOPSMART

Advance Auto Parts

Automotive Essentials

Valid until Oct 29

Sports Authority

Sport Your Pink!

This Week Only

Target USA

Good Morning Savings

This Week Only

Dell

Inspiring Gifts for Less

Valid until Nov 03



(<https://news.vice.com>)



CRIME & DRUGS (/TOPIC/CRIME-DRUGS)

Denver's Crime Drop Might Have Nothing To Do With Marijuana Legalization

f Share

🐦 Tweet



By Jordan Larson (/contributor/jordan-larson)

June 9, 2014 | 3:55 pm

It came as no surprise that Colorado's recent legalization of marijuana was accompanied by panicky claims that crime would increase dramatically as a result. In September 2012, Douglas County Sheriff David Weaver warned that "there will be many harmful consequences" and to "expect more crime, more kids using marijuana, and pot for sale everywhere."

But, according to recent statistics from Denver's Department of Safety (http://www.denvergov.org/Portals/720/documents/statistics/2014/UCR_Citywide_Reported%20Offe) crime is actually on the decline. In its comparison of certain violent and property crimes between January 1 and April 30, 2013, and the same period this year, the department reported an overall 10.6 percent drop.

After all the doomsaying surrounding marijuana legalization from politicians and other opponents, it's tempting for some to call Denver's decrease in crime an outright victory for legalization.

The numbers show slight declines in rates of sexual assault, aggravated assault, robbery, and burglary, with a slight increase in larceny and a large increase in arson, but most of the decline is attributable to changes in homicide and thefts from motor vehicles, which declined 52.9 and 36.3 percent, respectively.

The end of weed prohibition is still a long way off. Read more here.

(<https://news.vice.com/article/the-end-of-weed-prohibition-is-still-a-long-way-off>)

There were eight homicides in the first quarter of 2014, compared to 17 in 2013; however, in the same period in 2012 and in 2011, there were 13 and 12 murders respectively, indicating that 2013's large number may be the outlier here.

But there was a massive decline in theft from motor vehicles between this year and last, decreasing from 2,317 incidents to 1,477.

'I'm always very careful to not mistake correlation with causation, and I think it's too early to necessarily draw a conclusion that there's a causal relationship here.'

Chris Wyckoff, director of the Data Analysis Unit at Denver Police, told VICE News that a change in police tactics could have had a significant effect on the decline in crime, especially in incidents of theft from motor vehicles.

"Starting at the beginning of this year we implemented a focus area policing tactic, and each week the lieutenants are looking at where they need officers to focus on, based on the crime patterns or crime issues emerging in their areas, and targeting those areas when they have time to patrol," Wyckoff said. "So we're finding some great effects from that."

Legal pot in the US is crippling Mexican cartels. Read more here.

(<https://news.vice.com/article/legal-pot-in-the-us-is-crippling-mexican-cartels>)

Wyckoff was hesitant to derive any kind of correlation between the city's decline in crime and the recent legalization of pot.

"A lot of times, if marijuana's involved, it's a subsidiary type of crime or component of a crime, so it doesn't come out as being causality, and we aren't able to show that within the crime stats," she said. Wyckoff noted that possible criminal effects of marijuana legalization could show up in increase burglaries of dispensaries, for instance. "Other than that, it's been very challenging to see any kind of direct correlation."

Mason Tvert, director of communications at the Marijuana Policy Project, was also hesitant to draw conclusions from the crime drop. "I'm always very careful to not mistake correlation with causation, and I think it's too early to necessarily draw a conclusion that there's a causal relationship here," Tvert told VICE News. "It certainly suggests that opponents' fears of crime increasing are unfounded."

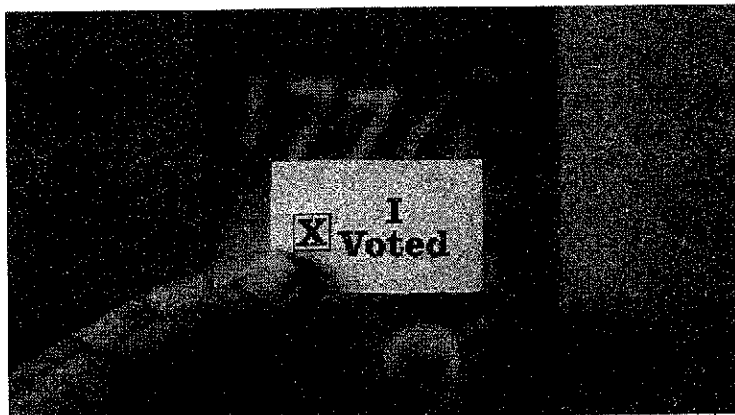
So while these numbers show marijuana legalization hasn't lead to an increase in crime in the Mile High City, they also don't show the opposite: that it has decreased crime. Until more information is available, the most that these figures show is that legalization hasn't single-handedly destroyed Denver.

Follow Jordan Larson on Twitter: @jalarsonist (<https://twitter.com/jalarsonist>)

Image via Flickr (<https://www.flickr.com/photos/denverjeffrey/6806340790/in/photolist-edth6X-edzg7d-edyUX3-edz5cA-edtf2c-edtqM8-edtAW4-edtnPi-edtkdc-----edze4W-edyT3q-edtdb8-edyQQh-edyTEw-edtwLz-edtt4R-edyYdE-edyU5s-edtmLx-edtm8e-edtcoD-edtgbV-edz98j-edza1q-edzfWQ-edoRxj-7PSHbT-bnsgZh-9tbaa6-7PW2kh-gaC4xa-7PW1qb-9dsPvL-74pNuM-7V8maW-gaCaTq-e3kEzh-9WDpXX-k1nFXV-iQi9jw-7GPDfq-jd76LY-izB69N-drNdp8-dzKJAn>)

TOPICS: [marijuana \(/topic/marijuana\)](/topic/marijuana), [denver \(/topic/denver\)](/topic/denver), [colorado \(/topic/colorado\)](/topic/colorado), [police \(/topic/police\)](/topic/police), [crime & drugs \(/topic/crime-drugs\)](/topic/crime-drugs), [data \(/topic/data\)](/topic/data), [statistics \(/topic/statistics\)](/topic/statistics), [americas \(/topic/americas\)](/topic/americas)

RECOMMENDED



(</article/why-the-2014-midterms-matter-and-why-nobody-seems-to-care>)

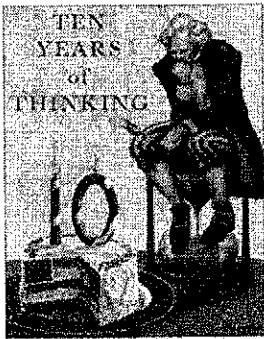
Why the 2014 Midterms Matter — And Why Nobody Seems to Care (</article/why-the-2014-midterms-matter-and-why-nobody-seems-to-care>)



(</article/there-is-nowhere-we-can-live-in-peace-visiting-an-afghan-hospital-overwhelmed-by-war>)

'There Is Nowhere We Can Live in Peace': Visiting an Afghan Hospital Overwhelmed by War (</article/there-is-nowhere-we-can-live-in-peace-visiting-an-afghan-hospital-overwhelmed-by-war>)





American Thinker

April 9, 2014

Pot Legalization and Crime Rates in Denver, Colorado

By Sierra Rayne

Over at Ezra Klein's new site, Vox.com, German Lopez has an [article](#) claiming to show that Colorado's recent marijuana legalization experiment hasn't increased crime rates in Denver. In contrast, when we actually look at the raw data Lopez uses, the message isn't so clear. In fact, using Lopez's own methods, we might conclude pot legalization has dramatically increased crime in Denver.

Lopez claims that "three months into its legalization experiment, Denver isn't seeing a widespread rise in crime." To reach this conclusion, Lopez uses Denver's crime data (available [here](#)) for the months of January and February in 2013 and 2014. When I look at the data, I see some potentially different findings.

Over the first two months of 2014, "simple assaults" in Denver are up an astonishing 70% over the same timeframe in 2013. The crime of "intimidation" is up 86%, and all "crimes against persons" have increased 32% compared to 2013. But the real changes are evident in the "all other offenses" category. Here we see that "disorderly conduct/disturbing the peace" has increased 1,144% (from only 18 offenses in 2013 to 224 in 2014), "family offences/nonviolent" are up 97%, "liquor law/drunkenness" is up 1,150%, "violation of a restraining/court order" increased 87%, "criminal trespassing" is up 339%, and the "all other offenses" subcategory have increased 400%.

Of course there is also data available back to 2009 that illustrates the anomalously high incidence level for these offenses during the first two months of 2014 following marijuana legalization, as shown in the table below.

Year	Simple assault	Intimidation	All crimes against persons	Disorderly conduct/disturbing the peace	Family offences/nonviolent	Liquor law/drunkenness	Violation of a restraining/court order	Criminal trespassing
2009	464	61	1027	6	51	0	72	34
2010	396	69	941	13	46	1	69	31
2011	426	65	967	19	42	0	62	36
2012	466	83	1024	19	46	0	69	37
2013	413	94	1020	18	36	2	76	49
2014	584	175	1354	224	71	25	142	215

The number of offenses in each of these categories during January and February of 2014 are, by far, the highest over Denver's available historical record, in some cases by more than an order of magnitude.

Time will indeed tell what impact pot legalization has on crime rates in Colorado, but the early results do not appear promising for legalization proponents.

REPORTED OFFENSES IN THE CITY AND COUNTY OF DENVER BY MONTH

TYPE OF OFFENSE	Jan		Feb		Mar		Apr		May		Jun		Jul		Aug		Sep		Oct		Nov		Dec		Total
	2013	2014	2013	2014	2013	2014	2013	2014	2013	2014	2013	2014	2013	2014	2013	2014	2013	2014	2013	2014	2013	2014	2013	2014	
CRIMES AGAINST PERSONS																									
Murder	4	2	5	1	3	5	5	2	2	2	2	2	4	3	5	5	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	30
Aggravated Assault	207	191	142	172	213	197	177	169	216	255	212	224	238	218	280	240	238	216	238	218	238	218	238	218	1,655
Forcible Sex Offenses	74	62	52	47	66	52	61	66	91	66	77	65	63	63	75	48	63	63	63	63	63	63	63	63	559
Non-Forcible Sex Offenses	1	4	3	0	2	1	4	0	2	0	0	0	3	1	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	18
Kidnaping/Abduction	15	13	19	17	13	16	18	13	13	13	18	19	17	16	22	21	17	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	133
Simple Assault	211	371	202	337	254	302	204	311	340	417	422	418	403	441	372	436	422	418	422	418	422	418	422	418	2,408
Intimidation	48	81	46	102	50	78	40	89	73	97	113	90	92	96	96	85	92	90	92	90	92	90	92	90	556
SUBTOTAL	560	724	463	678	601	701	509	649	731	855	845	819	820	838	831	836	820	838	820	838	820	838	820	838	5,372
CRIMES AGAINST PROPERTY																									
Arson	1	10	11	20	5	20	6	8	10	11	14	10	11	14	12	12	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	70
Bribery	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Burglary	443	451	330	348	357	356	397	323	438	395	444	410	476	371	499	415	410	410	410	410	410	410	410	410	3,384
Counterfeiting/Forgery	8	9	2	16	13	18	17	20	9	18	13	20	20	20	15	5	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	97
Criminal Mischief/Damaged Property	471	482	381	406	415	487	435	468	497	516	593	519	617	590	531	542	617	590	617	590	617	590	617	590	3,990
Embezzlement	9	0	2	0	0	2	3	1	4	1	1	2	1	0	3	0	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	23
Extortion	0	2	0	0	1	1	0	4	1	1	0	4	1	2	1	0	4	1	4	1	4	1	4	1	10
Fraud	76	67	57	84	77	81	96	103	68	73	64	60	77	62	57	69	62	62	62	62	62	62	62	62	572
Larceny	562	622	496	513	538	644	562	613	727	687	750	697	876	752	808	807	876	752	808	752	808	752	808	752	5,335
Theft from Motor Vehicle	731	441	589	328	510	388	500	359	583	583	600	455	616	522	561	574	616	522	561	522	561	522	561	522	4,690
Motor Vehicle Theft	332	327	259	252	265	250	267	240	284	287	287	314	303	320	299	301	314	303	320	299	301	314	303	2,291	
Robbery	117	121	78	62	85	71	72	81	85	85	95	83	121	104	110	95	121	104	110	104	110	110	110	110	763
Stolen Property	14	14	9	6	10	12	7	9	5	13	10	10	10	11	7	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	74
SUBTOTAL	2,784	2,526	2,114	2,035	2,276	2,330	2,362	2,225	2,714	2,480	2,871	2,584	3,133	2,743	2,904	2,771	2,584	3,133	2,743	2,904	2,771	2,904	2,771	2,904	21,257
CRIMES AGAINST SOCIETY																									
Drug/Narcotics Violations	201	184	187	210	152	233	171	242	176	209	192	208	219	206	228	263	219	206	219	206	219	206	219	206	1,508
Gambling	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Child Pornography	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Prostitution	7	1	2	4	7	1	6	3	4	2	3	6	5	6	10	0	6	5	6	5	6	5	6	5	44
Weapon Law Violations	37	40	22	53	37	63	30	36	46	63	37	43	50	67	42	64	50	67	42	64	50	67	42	64	301
SUBTOTAL	245	225	211	267	197	297	207	241	226	274	222	258	272	276	272	276	272	276	272	276	272	276	272	276	1,858
ALL OTHER OFFENSES																									
Fraud - NSF - Closed Account	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Carjacking	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Disorderly Conduct / Disturbing the Peace	8	118	9	107	10	123	10	123	51	123	145	141	138	139	134	132	138	139	138	139	138	139	138	139	596
Family Offenses / Nonviolent	18	42	20	29	21	38	32	47	39	37	46	37	44	38	38	42	44	38	44	38	44	38	44	38	257
Liquid Law/Drunkness	1	11	1	14	1	18	1	17	7	17	16	15	21	14	19	23	21	14	19	14	19	14	19	14	87
Other Sex Offenses	27	30	23	24	28	26	33	27	32	33	35	34	26	29	35	23	34	26	29	35	23	34	26	29	238
Viol of a Restraining/Court Order	34	82	42	65	38	73	47	93	48	92	72	75	81	83	79	87	81	83	79	87	81	83	79	87	441
Harassment	29	16	28	28	28	29	24	23	28	33	41	24	28	28	34	26	41	24	28	34	26	41	24	26	240
Criminal Trespassing	26	97	23	119	19	126	28	130	73	121	105	127	119	138	125	127	119	138	125	127	119	138	125	127	518
All Other Offenses	30	148	27	138	42	179	43	173	110	166	198	165	177	219	215	194	177	219	215	194	177	219	215	194	842
SUBTOTAL	172	544	173	526	488	614	419	636	380	526	559	518	536	584	581	656	518	536	584	581	656	518	536	584	3,118
GRAND TOTAL	3,762	4,818	3,657	3,604	3,462	3,942	3,297	3,731	3,937	4,235	4,587	4,279	4,839	4,544	4,888	4,598	4,279	4,839	4,544	4,888	4,598	4,839	4,544	4,888	31,805

All files utilized in the creation of this report are dynamic. Dynamic files allow additions, deletions and/or modifications at any time, resulting in more complete and accurate records in the databases. Due to continuous data entry, after reports are compiled, numbers may vary in previous or subsequent reports. Data downloaded 9/7/2014.

PREPARED TO DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY PUBLIC INFORMATION STANDARDS

Excludes runaways, traffic offenses, unfounded reports and non-criminal activity. Due to changes in data collection (US&C process) the data is normalized to compare 2013 to 2014.

In May 2013 the Denver Police Department implemented the Unified Summons and Complaint (US&C) process. This process unifies multiple types of paper citations, excluding traffic tickets, into an electronic process. That information is transmitted to the Denver Sheriff, County Court, City Attorney and District Attorney through a data exchange platform as needed. As a result of this process a reported offense is generated which was previously not captured in National Incident Based Reporting System (NIBRS). For comparison purposes, crimes which were captured due to the US&C process were excluded from the data when comparing 2012 to 2013. An additional column has been added to the tables which reflects the actual number of crimes.



American Thinker

Home Archives Video Cartoons About Search Login More

Archives Home → Articles

Legalize It?

Should pot be legalized in the? Vote

Email | Print | 253 Comments | Facebook | Twitter | Share

April 12, 2014

Interpreting Denver's Crime Rates before and after Pot Legalization

By Sierra Rayne

In a prior [article](#), I discussed the potential relationship between massive increases in the numbers of some criminal offenses in Denver, Colorado, between January and February 2013 and 2014 and the start of state-regulated recreational marijuana sales on January 1, 2014. What is certain is that, in contrast to the [claims](#) over at Vox.com, crime rates in Denver between the first two months of 2013 and 2014 are not unchanged, and certainly not generally declining.

Some commenters on my article noted that Colorado had also changed its gun laws during 2013, and wondered if this could possibly explain some of the recent changes in crime rates. When we look at when the crime rates for offenses that have spiked during the past year actually began their rapid rise, it is clear that rates started to increase substantially in May 2013, and then increased much more in June 2013, after which they have been approximately stable at this significantly higher level. Could this be due to Colorado's gun law changes? This may play a minor background role, but – given [their timing and nature](#) – these firearms restrictions are not likely the cause of the skyrocketing crime rates for most offenses during May/June 2013.

What happened in May 2013? On May 8, the Colorado legislature [passed](#) bills regulating the manufacture, sale, distribution, and use of recreational marijuana.

In late May 2013, the governor signed the bills into law. On January 1, 2014, the first stores in the state to sell pot for recreational use [opened](#).

It was during May and June 2013 that crime rates in Denver for offenses such as simple assaults, intimidation, disorderly conduct/disturbing the peace, family offenses/nonviolent, liquor law/drunkenness, violation of a restraining/court order, and criminal trespassing went through the roof effectively overnight (in some cases by almost two orders of magnitude when compared either to the same month in 2012 or to only a few months prior). Could Denver law enforcement just have started cracking down at much higher levels during this timeframe in an attempt to send a strong public message in response to these bills being signed into law? Certainly. A law enforcement crackdown could also have been timed to send a message regarding increased gun restrictions, but this seems to be a background issue.

RECENT VIDEOS

[More Videos »](#)



[More videos:](#)

Recent Articles

- [Celebrating Six Years of Broken Promises](#)
- [How Will Democrats Divide Us Next?](#)
- [Hillary Unbound](#)
- [What Should A Smart Conservative Do?](#)
- [U.S.-backed Syrian Rebels Surrender to al-Qaeda](#)
- [Canada and Australia Make the Right Choice on Ebola](#)
- [Voice of America... or Voice of the Ayatollahs?](#)
- [Barack Butworth Obama](#)
- [Understanding Obama's Ebola Psychosis](#)
- [Wendy Davis: Dreams from my Uterus](#)

Blog Posts

- [Off the front pages, Yazidis threatened with genocide - again](#)
- [The integrity of the ballot is in the very best of hands](#)
- [Sabato's final race rankings predict a big night for Republicans](#)
- [Begich's support for Libertarian candidate could swing Alaska Senate seat to Dems](#)
- [Startling Change in North Carolina Early Voting Pattern](#)
- [E-mail shows White House lied about firing Shirley Sherrod](#)
- ['Civil rights' activists demand an investigation of Maxine Waters' 'poverty pimp' guerrilla posters](#)
- [Court rejects disparate impact housing suit as 'wishful thinking'](#)
- [Nobel Peace Prize cash to be used for war against children?](#)
- [Americans overwhelmingly want health workers returning from Ebola host spots quarantined](#)

If the enhanced gun restrictions were behind these increases, we would probably also expect increasing rates of other – more violent – crimes against persons, such as murder, aggravated assault, sex offenses, and kidnapping/abduction, between 2012 and 2013. But we don't see that. Rates for these crimes are generally unchanged, or even slightly declining, after the 2013 gun laws came into effect.

The isolated increases in less violent crimes such as simple assaults and intimidation are more consistent with marijuana legalization and/or a law enforcement crackdown than with increased gun restrictions.

The Occupy movement is also not likely a direct cause of the May/June 2013 crime rate increases on its own. The Occupy movement is often strongly linked to marijuana legalization, so if you promote the latter, you encourage the former to build their base and engage in socially disruptive activities. If you build it, they will come, and Colorado is building a base for an entrenched and emboldened Occupy movement through its legalization of pot. This is a built-in mechanism for increased crime rates.

What is often overlooked in terms of pot legalization are the indirect messages that easing/removing marijuana laws sends to the public, and in particular to those with antisocial, rebellious, and/or criminal tendencies. Yes, there are direct impacts of pot legalization – namely, people getting high and engaging in socially irresponsible/criminal behavior due to impaired judgement and other psycho/physiological factors. But marijuana laws, especially in the United States, have massive social stigmas. Over decades, smoking pot represented for many a de facto dividing line between those citizens who were generally law-abiding and followed the rules of a civil society and those who did not. Consequently, we may expect the indirect impacts of legalizing marijuana to be as significant as – if not more so than – the direct impacts.

Rightly or wrongly, marijuana laws are a “sentinel species” (i.e., they represent much more than just the simple intent to restrict a banned substance), and knowing that a substance will be legalized in the near future can also lead to direct effects showing up prior to the actual legalization date. Access to pot is easy, and once a substance such as marijuana is placed on the legalization path, many members of the public will assume (often correctly) that enforcement of the existing (but soon to not exist) restrictions by law enforcement will cease or be severely curtailed. Thus, we wouldn't necessarily expect the crime rate impacts of marijuana legalization to show up at the moment the substance formally becomes legal. We may just as reasonably expect the criminal effects to manifest the moment the public is told the substance will become legal in short order.

Marijuana legalization also sends a message that the traditional multi-decadal law-and-order approach to governing society is generally being relaxed. This empowers some to engage in activities that they might not do otherwise; call this the spin-off criminal impacts of pot legalization. In other words, the reasoning used by some is if we are getting lax on pot, we'll be soft on crime overall.

The timing of Denver's crime rate explosion for various offenses is consistent with this more nuanced interpretation. While the implementation of greater firearms restrictions in early to mid-2013 may have played a role, the dominant influence appears to be that either the Denver police engaged in a message-sending crackdown starting soon after the state legislature passed the pot legalization bills, or the indirect and direct impacts of marijuana legalization started as soon as the state government indicated the path to regulated recreational marijuana sales had begun (or both). In any case, these impacts are the result of marijuana legalization in Colorado. The data is irrefutable.

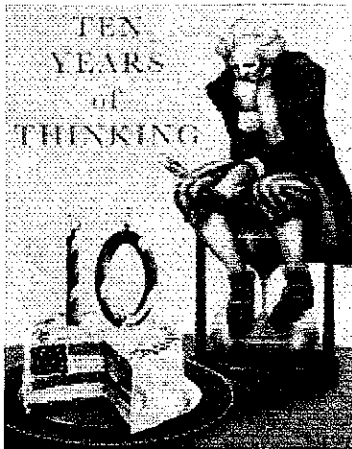
Monthly Archives

- November 2014
- October 2014
- September 2014
- August 2014
- July 2014
- June 2014
- May 2014
- April 2014
- March 2014
- February 2014
- January 2014
- December 2013
- November 2013
- More...

FOLLOW US ON



Email | Print | 253 Comments | Facebook | Twitter | Share



American Thinker

Home Archives Video Cartoons About Search Login More

Archives Home →Articles



Email | Print | 189 Comments | Facebook | Twitter | Share

April 23, 2014

The Effect of Medical Marijuana Laws on Violent Crime

By Sierra Rayne

Nov 4: Obama Reduces Amount Homeowners Owe
 Did you know mortgage companies have dirty little secrets? If you owe less than \$625,000 on your home, use the President's Refi Program. You'll be shocked when you see how much you can save.

PICK YOUR AGE:

18-25		46-55
26-35		56-65
36-45		Over 65
	Over 75	

[Calculate Payment](#)

A recent study in the peer-reviewed journal *PLOS ONE* examined the effects of medical marijuana legalization (MML) on crime rates. The work has garnered some notable media attention. The authors of the study noted that their "findings run counter to arguments suggesting the legalization of marijuana for medical purposes poses a danger to public health in terms of exposure to violent crime." Further investigation of this study is required.

The study used data "between 1990 and 2006 [that] were obtained from the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program." As the authors note, "between 1990 and 2006, the following 11 states legalized marijuana for medical use, with the year the law was passed in parentheses: Alaska (1998), California (1996), Colorado (2000), Hawaii (2000), Maine (1999), Montana (2004), Nevada (2000), Oregon (1998), Rhode Island (2006), Vermont (2004), and Washington (1998)." One obvious question comes to mind: how do

you examine MML effects on crime rates using a dataset that ends in 2006 when there are states such as Rhode Island that only legalized medical marijuana in 2006? And a two-year post-MML dataset for states such as Montana and Vermont, which legalized the medical use of this narcotic in 2004, seems very short for trend analysis.

Overall, primary concerns with the study appear to be the short, and inequivalent (i.e., not all MMLs occurred in the same year among the states) pre- and post-MML timeframes chosen for these states, as well as the limited -- and somewhat unusual -- choice of sociodemographic control variables (e.g., percent of the civilian labor force unemployed; the total employment rate; percent of the population living below the poverty line; real per-capita income; the proportion of residents aged 15-24; the proportion of residents aged 25-34, the proportion of residents aged 35-44 years; the per-capita rate of beer consumption; the proportion of residents with at least a bachelor's degree; the percent of the state's population that lived in a metropolitan area; number of prison inmates per 100,000 residents; and the number of police officers per 100,000 residents). Certainly having "beer shipments (31-gallon barrels) per 100k" as a variable seems odd. Some of these variable may also display extremely high intercorrelation of predictors, or multicollinearity, which is a major faux pas in traditional multiple linear regression approaches.

When I look at the FBI's UCR data for violent crime rates, which are available between 1960 and 2012, I see some potentially different results. Controlling for all possible underlying variables is clearly desirable, but effectively impossible. The choice of control variables can often predetermine the findings, a problem commonly observed in econometrics. For a first-cut analysis, looking at trends in crime rates before and after MML in each state can be informative. If this approach agrees with the study results, we can assume the study's results are likely on solid footing. If not, perhaps the study did not reach the correct conclusions and warrants further examination.

The following table shows the date of MML in each state, along with the change in violent crime rate before and since MML. To compare with the post-MML change in violent crime rates, the corresponding change in the US national violent crime rate is provided, along with the pre-MML change in crime rate (using the same time length as for the respective post-MML period) for both the state and the nation as a whole. In other words, if a state had MML in 2000, the post-MML period would go from 2000-2012 and the pre-MML period from 1988-2000 (i.e., 12 years in both directions).



- Beg
- Libe
- cou
- seal
- Stat
- Car
- Pati
- E-m
- lied
- She
- 'Civ
- den
- of A
- pim
- Cou
- imp
- 'wis
- Nob
- be t
- chil
- Ame
- war
- refu
- spo

Mc

- Nov
- Oct
- Sep
- Aug
- July
- Jun
- May
- Apr
- Mar
- Feb
- Jan
- Dec
- Nov
- Mor

State	MML date	Change in violent crime rate			
		In-state before MML	USA overall before in-state MML	In-state since MML	USA overall since in-state MML
Alaska	1998	5%	5%	-8%	-32%
California	1996	-3%	7%	-51%	-39%
Colorado	2000	-29%	-21%	-8%	-24%
Hawaii	2000	-5%	-21%	-2%	-24%
Maine	1999	-24%	-16%	10%	-26%
Montana	2004	82%	-27%	-7%	-16%
Nevada	2000	-33%	-21%	16%	-24%
Oregon	1998	-17%	5%	-41%	-32%
Rhode Island	2006	-23%	-5%	10%	-19%
Vermont	2004	-5%	-27%	24%	-16%
Washington	1996	5%	5%	-31%	-32%

In the period before MML, eight (Alaska, California, Colorado, Maine, Nevada, Oregon, Rhode Island, and Washington) of the eleven states had violent crime rates that were declining faster than, or equivalent to, the national rate (highlighted in green). The remaining three states (Hawaii, Montana, and Vermont) had pre-MML violent crime rate changes that were not declining as much as the national rate (highlighted in red).

Compare this to the equivalent length post-MML period. Now only two of the states (California and Oregon) have violent crime rates declining more rapidly than the national rate. The other nine states all have rates that are either increasing post-MML (Maine, Nevada, Rhode Island, and Vermont) or not decreasing as rapidly (Alaska, Colorado, Hawaii, Montana, and Washington). The violent crime rate trend reversal in Maine, Nevada, Rhode Island, and Vermont following MML is notable. All these states had declining violent crime rates before MML, and now have increasing violent crime rates since MML, whereas the corresponding national rate has declined rapidly in the post-MML periods.

The national violent crime rate peaked in 1991, similar to that of Alaska (1995), California (1992), Colorado (1992), Hawaii (1995), Nevada (1994), Rhode Island (1991), and Washington (1992). The violent crimes rates peaked at different times in Maine (1977), Montana (2007), Oregon (1985), and Vermont (1979). The graphs below show the violent crime rates (per 100,000 population) since 1960 for each state, as well as the national rate. The red dashed lines indicate the date the MML law was passed. Unfortunately, the mainstream media rarely shows the public actual data like this, thus allowing unsupported generalizations to routinely be made that the public cannot check for themselves.

Search foxnews.com

MENU

OCTOBER 29 - NOVEMBER 4

SAVE UP TO \$300

via GE Visa® prepaid card rebate

FRED'S APPLIANCE

CLICK TO LEARN MORE

- BREAKING NEWS -

KENYAN RUNNERS WILSON KIPSANG, MARY KEITANY WIN NEW YORK CITY MARATHON

Subscribe to Alerts

U.S. Home Crime Terrorism Economy Immigration Disasters Military Education Environment Personal Freedoms

Regions

CRIME & COURTS

Colorado pot shops likely targets of cartels, say experts

By Joseph J. Kolb

546

127

2838

Published January 11, 2014

FoxNews.com



Employees roll joints behind the sales counter at Medicine Man marijuana dispensary in Denver. (AP)

As the smoke settles from the first week of legal marijuana sales in Colorado, experts are warning that sanctioned pot dealers could become targets for the very folks they put out of business.

Taking over a trade once ruled by drug cartels and turning it into an all-cash business could make pot shops prime targets

for extortion, black-market competition and robbery. One veteran border narcotics agent told FoxNews.com Colorado's legal pot industry will find it hard to keep the criminals from horning in on a lucrative business they once controlled.

"What is quite possible is that cartels will hire straw owners who have clean records who can apply for a license, then sell large quantities both legally and on the black market."

- Denver DEA office spokesman Albert Villasuso

"Mexico is already in Colorado without the risks," the agent, who requested anonymity, said of the state's heavy pre-existing cartel presence. "Legal businesses will likely see a rise in extortion attempts while law enforcement will see a lot of backdoor deals being made."

Cartels, especially the Juarez and Sinaloa, who have a strong presence in Colorado, could not have been happy with the estimated \$1 million in sales Jan. 1, the first day of legalized retail sales. In 2012 the Mexican Competitiveness Institute issued a report saying that Mexico's cartels would lose as much as \$1.425 billion if Colorado legalized marijuana. The organization also predicted that drug trafficking revenues would fall 20 to 30 percent, and the Sinaloa cartel, which would be the most affected, would lose up to 50 percent.

Faced with such losses, the violent cartels could force their way in as black market wholesalers or simply rob pot dispensaries, which take only cash and have not been able to establish accounts with banks because of lenders' fears of violating federal laws. But the general consensus is that the Mexican cartels will not quietly relinquish the Denver market.

The owner of the Colorado Springs dispensary told the Denver Post he is planning to get a concealed-weapons permit, for protection when he has to move money out of the store.

"Any way you plan it out, there's going to be a large amount of cash around," he said. "And that's extremely scary."

Denver police are taking a wait-and-see posture as to what may emerge.

"It's only been a week, so we still have to sit back and see how this will play out," Denver Police spokesman Sonny Jackson told FoxNews.com. "We're a police department, we're always concerned about what may happen."

Jackson said he would not speculate as to if or which cartels may decide to infiltrate the legitimate businesses or how.

"We're concerned with the public consumption right now," Jackson said.

The Marijuana Enforcement Division of the Colorado Department of Revenue, the primary enforcement office responsible for overseeing the production and sale of the retail marijuana, did not return repeated attempts by Fox News.com for comment.

Denver DEA office spokesman Albert Villasuso said with some 50 retail outlets in operation, the agency can only monitor if, how and when the cartels decide to move in to the legalized retail industry in Colorado.

"What is quite possible is that cartels will hire straw owners who have clean records who can apply for a license, then sell large quantities both legally and on the black market," Villasuso said. "We still don't know what the fall out will be but when there is this much money involved the potential is great for groups to want capitalize."

Villasuso also said that even if legal stores do face extortion efforts by cartel groups it is unlikely law enforcement will even be made aware of it if merchants are too frightened to come to police. Extortion has proven to be a lucrative ancillary enterprise for cartels in Mexico resulting in thousands of businesses closing rather than pay the quota, as it is called, or the store owners face the threat of death, which too has occurred.

One group who hopes to mitigate any risks is the Blue Line Protection Group, which specializes only in security for the marijuana stores.

Seeing a growing market, Ted Daniels started the company and uses ex-military and law enforcement to provide security for the stores' money and supply shipments, and the growing operations. The highly-trained and combat-experienced guards are heavily-armed with assault rifles and protective vests.

"This was an industry here that created a lot of challenges," Daniels told WDVR television news in Denver Jan. 7. "This group I put together is designed specifically to protect product, people, and money."

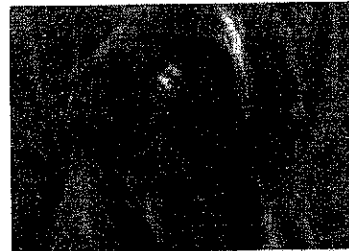
SPONSORED STORIES YOU MAY LIKE



16 Cancer Causing Foods You Probably Eat Every Day
NaturalON



36 Jaw-Dropping Living Room Designs - Click Here
Home Stratosphere



Hunter Rescues 20 Abandoned Puppies From Coyotes (Pics)
PopFotos



Glenn Beck's Apology to Liberals: 'You Were Right' About Iraq
Politics Cheat Sheet

Recommended by

Also on the Web

After His Death, This Grandpa's Family Found A Trunk He Left Behind - What's Inside Is Fascinating (*Viral Nova*)

What's Scariest than Turbulence? Airline Pilots Open Up (*Reader's Digest*)

Build this instead of a spare bedroom! (*BuildDirect*)

Andy Griffith's Widow to Raze His Home (*AARP*)

11 Worlds Biggest Vehicles (like... Mind-Blowingly Large) (*rides*)

You'll Never Need Another Deviled Egg Recipe After This (*Food.com*)

More from Fox News

Boko Haram's treatment of captured Nigerian girls detailed in new report (*World*)

Google coughs up \$2,250 for showing a woman's cleavage in Street View (*Tech*)

Dead bobcat found hanging from Tennessee high school goalpost (*U.S.*)

Dog's master flees from police, dog follows master, police follow dog, master arrested (*U.S.*)

California Highway Patrol officers accused of stealing nude photos from female arrestees (*U.S.*)

Are young Western women the new face of terror?  (*Video - World*)

Recommended by

Watch now...

http://www.denverpost.com/marijuana/ci_25969469/burglaries-at-denver-marijuana-shops-slow-but-industry

Burglaries at Denver marijuana shops slow, but industry still worried

By John Ingold and Ricardo Baca

The Denver Post

POSTED: 06/16/2014 12:01:00 AM MDT18 COMMENTS | UPDATED: ABOUT A MONTH AGO



Marijuana is weighed and packaged at a Denver area shop on Jan. 01, 2014. (Craig F. Walker/ The Denver Post file)

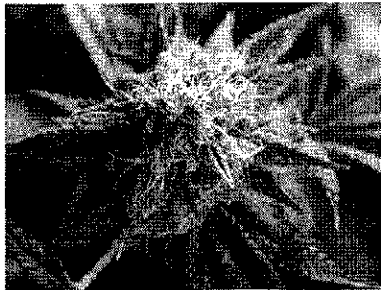
RELATED STORIES

- **May 1:**
 - Wyoming officers will track marijuana arrests
- **Apr 28:**
 - Two children caught in marijuana oil explosion
- **Apr 2:**
 - Denver coroner: Man fell to death after eating marijuana cookies
- **Mar 24:**
 - Marijuana ruling could overturn thousands of convictions --- or dozens
- **Feb 3:**
 - Colorado man gets 60 days in Nebraska pot case
- **Jan 13:**
 - Denver police citing one person per day for public marijuana use
 - Federal grant funds Colorado effort to fight driving while high on pot
- **Jan 12:**
 - Marijuana case filings plummet in Colorado following legalization
- **Dec 31:**
 - Marijuana in Colorado has a long history and an uncertain future
 - A Colorado marijuana guide: 64 answers to commonly asked questions
 - Keep the marijuana in the trunk, Colorado law enforcers say

Even with the start of legal recreational marijuana sales 5½ months ago, burglaries and robberies at all pot businesses in Denver are on pace for their lowest total in three years, according to figures from the city's Department of Safety.

Through the end of May, there had been 53 burglaries and one robbery at the city's more than 700 licensed marijuana stores and cultivation facilities — putting the city on pace for about 130 burglaries and robberies by year's end. In 2013, there were 147 burglaries and four robberies, according to Safety Department data, and in 2012, there were 170 burglaries and three robberies.

THE CANNABIST



- More Denver Post marijuana coverage at **The Cannabist**
- See a map of Colorado's recreational marijuana shops

Recent Cannabist news

- Parenting: Cannabis among tough choices in family's battle with cancer
- Editorial: Denver County Fair's pot pavilion too much trouble
- Cannabist Q&A: Grow room tour, penny stocks, strain hunting website

The dip comes despite police and industry fears that marijuana businesses — many of which keep large amounts of cash on hand because they don't have access to banking services — remain alluring targets for crime.

"This situation could be a lot worse," said Michael Elliott, the executive director of the Marijuana Industry Group. "But it's still a lot of burglaries, whether it's more or less than it was last year."

Elliott said the state's security requirements for marijuana businesses, along with the extra security guards some businesses have hired, could be discouraging would-be thieves.

But the drop mirrors an overall decline in robberies and burglaries in Denver this year. From January through April, there were 1,453 burglaries and 336 robberies, according to Denver police. There were 1,527 burglaries and 352 robberies during the same period in 2013.

Overall, violent and property crimes are down in Denver since the start of recreational marijuana sales as well.

"We don't have one real answer, but we look to the economy and other factors as to why crime goes up and down," said Sonny Jackson, a Denver police spokesman. "Traditionally, it's been trending downward for the last few years."

The city has, though, seen more arrests for drug violations — 865 so far in 2014, compared with 711 at the same time in 2013. And incidents of disorderly conduct and disturbing the peace are up significantly, according to the city's crime stats. Jackson said the higher numbers are likely the result of officers cracking down on illegal drug sales and public use.

"These arrests are the result of proactive police work," he said. "Our officer productivity has gone up considerably."

The burglaries at marijuana businesses appear to have no particular pattern. They occur most frequently in the largely industrial north Denver ZIP code of 80216, which has seen 14 burglaries so far this year. There is another cluster among marijuana businesses along South Broadway — where eight burglaries have occurred this year.

Only nine of the 44 unique addresses targeted for a burglary or robbery have been hit more than once this year. And state marijuana regulators have suspended the license of the most-hit store in Denver this year: the Green Thumb Organics medical marijuana dispensary and cultivation facility on Pearl Street in north Denver.

Since the beginning of the year, burglars struck the store three times, each time taking dozens of marijuana plants, according to the state Marijuana Enforcement Division's order of summary suspension sent to Green Thumb Organics. Burglars also struck the store last October, according to the document.

The burglaries led state auditors to uncover numerous alleged compliance violations, ultimately leading the state to accuse Green Thumb Organics of illegally possessing 1,559 marijuana plants and 359 ounces of marijuana and marijuana products. Other alleged violations included inadequate security camera coverage and poor record keeping. State regulators wrote in the suspension order that the violations "compromised the Licensed Premises."

Late last week, the Green Thumb Organics facility appeared abandoned, with miscellaneous plant supports piled into garbage cans outside. On the door was a handwritten note: "No marijuana in building. Removed by MED."

61°F San Francisco

Search

Sign In Register

News Sports Business A&E Food Living Travel Columns Cars Jobs Real Estate Find&Save

Pot grow robbery gone wrong: Man killed, teen wounded

Kale Williams

Published 2:29 pm, Thursday, September 18, 2014

(09-18) 14:27 PDT DINUBA, TULARE COUNTY -- A man was shot dead and a teenager was wounded when their attempted harvest-season robbery of a marijuana growing operation southeast of Fresno turned into a gunfight, officials said.

Deputies from the Tulare County Sheriff's Department responded at 4 a.m. Thursday to a 911 call reporting gunfire on the 10000 block of Avenue 400, a rural area near the Central Valley community of Dinuba.

Deputies found a pushed-over fence surrounding a grove of about 50 marijuana plants, each one roughly the size of an orange tree, said Sheriff Mike Boudreaux.

A search of the area turned up an AK-47, a shotgun, two police scanners, a pool of blood and what Boudreaux described as "body drag marks."

At the same time, deputies received a report from a fire station a few miles away that two individuals had been dropped off with gunshot wounds, Boudreaux said.

Upon arriving at the fire station, deputies discovered a 25-year-old man dead from multiple gunshot wounds and a 16-year-old boy suffering from a gunshot wound to the leg and bleeding profusely, Boudreaux said.

Neither of their identities were released.

The teen was rushed to a nearby hospital, where he was undergoing surgery Thursday afternoon, according to Boudreaux. He is expected to survive.

A third man, who is believed to have driven the two victims to the fire station, fled when deputies arrived, but was quickly apprehended.

During the course of the investigation - which included interviews with two individuals who lived on the property where the confrontation took place - detectives learned that there was likely a gunbattle after the two victims, and possibly the third man detained, attempted to rob the marijuana operation, Boudreaux said.

No arrests had been made by Thursday afternoon. Boudreaux said detectives were trying to sort out exactly what happened before they arrested anyone.

Kale Williams is a San Francisco Chronicle staff writer. E-mail: kwilliams@sfchronicle.com Twitter: [@sfkale](https://twitter.com/sfkale)

© 2014 Hearst Communications, Inc.

San Francisco Chronicle

SAN FRANCISCO NEWS

April 12, 2011
Contact: Casey McEnry
San Francisco Division
415-436-7994

Bakersfield Man Sentenced in Relation to Marijuana Dispensary

FRESNO, CA — United States Attorney Benjamin B. Wagner and Drug Enforcement Administration Special Agent in Charge Anthony D. Williams announced that John Richard Shanks, 62, of Bakersfield, was sentenced yesterday by United States District Judge Anthony W. Ishii to 20 months in prison, to be followed by three years of supervised release, for conspiring to distribute marijuana. Shanks pleaded guilty on February 8, 2010.

This case is the product of an investigation by the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Kern County Sheriff's Office, the Bakersfield Police Department, the Southern Tri-County High Intensity Drug Task Force, and the Internal Revenue Service, Criminal Investigation. Assistant U.S. Attorney Kathleen A. Servatius is prosecuting the case.

According to court records, Shanks worked as an armed security guard for Nature's Medicinal, a business engaged almost exclusively in distributing marijuana. Shanks was indicted along with other defendants, including the company's owner and CEO David Chavez Jr. and the treasurer David Chavez Sr. According to the indictment, between September 2004 and February 2006, the business had \$16.2 million in gross sales.

Court records show that law enforcement executed search and seizure warrants on the business and personal residences of the Chavez Sr. and Chavez Jr. on May 1, 2007 and again on July 16, 2007, resulting in the seizure of more than 200 pounds of marijuana and marijuana laced food products, more than \$57,000 in cash, and two firearms. They are awaiting trial on charges that they conducted a continuing criminal enterprise and conspired to distribute marijuana. If convicted, Chavez Sr. and Chavez Jr. each face a mandatory sentence of 20 years in prison and a \$1 million fine.

Two other co-defendants have pleaded guilty to conspiring to distribute marijuana and have been sentenced: Timothy Glenn Doolittle, 42, of Bakersfield, was sentenced to 30 months in prison and five years of supervised release, and Jennifer Diane Brown, 37, of Bakersfield, was sentenced to one year in prison and three years of supervised release.

An additional three co-defendants have entered pleas of guilty to conspiring to distribute marijuana and are awaiting sentencing: John Wayne Wyatt, 32, Israel Cavazos, 37, and Jonathan M. Chapman, 31, all of Bakersfield. Wyatt will be sentenced on April 25, 2011. Cavazos and Chapman are scheduled to be sentenced on May 9, 2011.

Jackie Lacey
District Attorney
<http://da.lacounty.gov>



NEWS RELEASE

CONTACT:

Shiara Davila-Morales, Chief
Media Relations Division
213-974-3525

Jan. 10, 2014

**Two Sentenced in Medical Marijuana Dispensary Murder,
Attempted Murder**

Two men convicted of the execution-style murder of a medical marijuana dispensary employee and the attempted murder of a security guard were sentenced today, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced.

Deputy District Attorney Stacy Okun-Wiese of the Major Crimes Division said Raymond Lemone Easter, 31, and Daniel Deshawn Hinton, 35, were each sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole.

Hinton and Easter were convicted on Nov. 19, 2013, of one count of first-degree murder with a special circumstance allegation of murder during the course of a robbery. The men also were convicted of one count of attempted murder.

On June 24, 2010, the defendants forced their way into the Higher Path Medical Marijuana Dispensary near Downtown Los Angeles. At the time of the robbery, Matthew Butcher, 27, and the security guard were the only two employees at the dispensary.

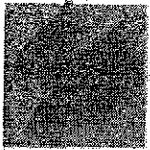
The armed defendants removed the dispensary's security cameras, computer hard drive, cash and several pounds of marijuana with an estimated value of \$10,000. The men left the dispensary but Easter returned and shot both victims in the head as they lay face down on the floor.

The case was investigated by the Los Angeles Police Department.

###

About the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

Los Angeles County District Attorney Jackie Lacey leads the largest local prosecutorial office in the nation. Her staff of nearly 1,000 attorneys, 300 investigators and 800 support staff members is dedicated to seeking justice for victims of crime and enhancing public safety. Annually, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office prosecutes more than 60,000 felonies and 140,000 misdemeanor crimes.



MINTPRESS NEWS

Drug and alcohol rehab.
A family business for a family problem. ☺

DUFFY
NAPA VALLEY
(888) 881-09

Has Legalized Marijuana Sparked A Crime Wave?

Most marijuana dispensaries have thousands of dollars in cash and no safe place to put the money.

By **Katie Rucke** [Follow](#) @katierucke | February 7, 2014



Different strains of pot are displayed for sale at Medicine Man marijuana dispensary in Denver, Friday Dec. 27, 2013. (AP Photo/Brennan Linsley)

Marijuana dispensaries in states such as Colorado and California are being raided not just by Drug Enforcement Administration officials these days, but by thieves not only interested in the drug itself but lured by the thousands of dollars in cash that dispensaries are unable to deposit since they lack access to bank accounts.

Due to marijuana's illegal federal status, federally insured banks are prohibited from knowingly handling any marijuana-related money, resulting in many financial institutions refusing to allow marijuana-related businesses from depositing money in a bank, using credit card services, or even transporting money from one location to another with the help of an armored vehicle.

In other words, most dispensaries across the U.S. have thousands of dollars in cash and no safe place to put the money.

Change may be coming soon, as Attorney General Eric Holder released a statement in September and again three weeks ago, saying that the Justice Department and the Treasury Department would issue guidance "very soon" to banks on how they can work with marijuana businesses.

But for many in the industry, changes to banking regulations are not happening quickly enough. And since many larger banks appear unconvinced that the federal government's word is enough to keep them protected



CIA Insider Warns "U.S. in for Big Surprise"

If you have money in a U.S. Bank, you'll want to see this shocking video immediately.

You've been warned.. [Watch Video](#)

Sign up for our Daily Newsletter

Email Address SUBSCRIBE

Insights



Catching A Glimpse Of America's Future In Ferguson

About the Author



legally if they do decide to partner with those in the budding industry, the DOJ's decision to tolerate banks' partnerships with marijuana-related businesses may be a bust.

However, Taylor West, deputy director of the National Cannabis Industry Association, said that smaller banks and regional banks may be more open to working with those in the industry, even if the larger banks refuse to do so.

Until there is progress in Washington, D.C., dispensaries throughout the U.S. are dealing with what some are referring to as a crime epidemic.

In Colorado, a thief posing as a delivery man snatched her mace on employees and ransacked a shop. Another law, while another pointed a gun at worth of high-quality marijuana.

"Everyone in the industry is having nightmares," said Michael Elliott, executive director of the Marijuana Industry Group, a Colorado based lobby group.

Sensationalized crime wave?

According to an NBC News report, the Denver Police Department estimated in 2009 that about 17 percent of marijuana retail shops had been robbed or burglarized, which was slightly less than liquor stores (20 percent) and banks (34 percent), and on par with pharmacies.

A recent analysis of crime affecting Denver's 325 marijuana companies by Marijuana Business Daily, a leading trade publication, found the current annual robbery and burglary rate of dispensaries is now around 50 percent, which is more than double what it was in 2009.

In an interview with MintPress, Patrick McManamon, managing director of Cannasure Insurance, which specializes exclusively on the legal cannabis industry, said he isn't seeing a ton of claims in his office and believes the current crime wave is sensationalizing a high crime rate at dispensaries.

"Think about how many dispensaries there are [across the U.S.]," McManamon said. "To say crime is up is a complete generalization."

However, Mitch Morrissey, district attorney for Denver, sees things differently. What makes dispensaries particularly attractive to thieves, he opined, is how much money a thief can make.

"You hit a 7-Eleven, you'll get 20 bucks," Morrissey said. "You hit a dispensary, you'll get \$300,000 on a good day."

Morrissey is particularly concerned about the increase in crime at dispensaries, saying "It's only a matter of time before someone gets shot."

But McManamon says the public should not associate a high crime rate with an increase in the number of dispensaries because "it's not real."

"A lot of people make money on it being illegal," he stressed, before adding "Any opponent to the industry really tries to make it way worse off than it is."

But as word begins to spread that crime is up at marijuana dispensaries, many legalization opponents, including Morrissey, have used the "crime wave" as an example of why marijuana should not be legalized.

"We have had 12 homicides related directly to medical marijuana," Morrissey said this past August.

"We have had over 100 aggravated robberies and home invasions. Many of you probably didn't read about the double-execution-style homicide that we had here in Denver, where people were laid down on the floor and executed because they were running a medical marijuana outlet."

In response to Morrissey's claims, marijuana legalization advocates argued dispensaries are not a haven for violent crime like Morrissey and others are painting them to be and blamed federal law for forcing the industry to largely operate on a cash-only basis.

Katie Rucke

Katie Rucke is a MintPress staff writer investigative report specializing in the war on drugs, criminal justice, marijuana legislation and watchdog investigations as well as whistle-blowers. Her investigations related to coverage of the 2010 Toyota recall scandal, coverage of the trials of Anonymous hacker and proclaimed activist Jeremy Hammond as well as Bradley Manning have received international acclaim. Rucke has been recommended by WikiLeaks organization as a trusted journalist. She has also been featured in various community magazines. Follow Katie on Twitter: @katierucke

Recent Articles by Katie Rucke

[You've Got Mail: Judge Grants Feds Unrestricted Access To Gmail Account](#)

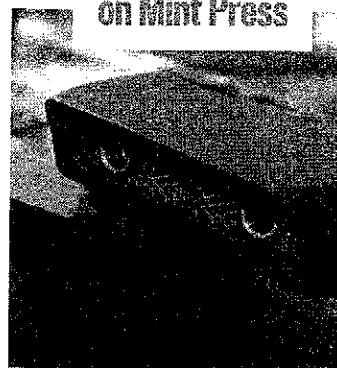
[Marijuana Legalization To Be On The Ballot In A Maine City And Oregon](#)

[Is The EPA Doing Enough To Stop Corporate Polluters?](#)

[New Hampshire Celebrates Bittersweet Anniversary Of Medical Marijuana Prohibition](#)

["Startling" Number Of Americans In Terrorist Watchlist](#)

— Related Stories — on Mint Press



America's Police Departments Getting Spying Equipment From Private Donors

[The International Community And The 'New Burmese Apartheid'](#)

[WATCH: ISIS Uses Only Half Of A Quran Verse To Justify Beheadings — See What's In The Other Half](#)

[MintPress Investigates: School Districts Using GPS, Ankle Bracelets, & Smartphone Tracking To Monitor Truant Kids](#)

[NYPD To Muslims: Don't Try To Assert Your Rights, Because If You Do, We Will Undermine Them Even Further](#)

[European Tech Company Helped Bahrain Government Spy On Arab Spring Activists](#)

More "Reefer Madness"

Mason Tvert, communications director for the Marijuana Policy Project, disagreed with Morrissey, and said he is "playing fast and loose with the facts" when it comes to the relationship with medical marijuana and crime in Colorado.

"Morrissey's suggestion that the state and locally regulated medical marijuana industry is somehow at fault for crimes that occurred entirely outside of its scope is ludicrous and irresponsible," Tvert emphasized. "I cannot imagine any other instance in which he would place blame for violent crimes on law-abiding businesses and citizens who have fallen victim to them."

West agreed that a business forced to operate entirely in cash is going to be more vulnerable to crime and said the marijuana industry's lack of access to banking is a huge problem one would never want for anyone in the retail industry.

"These dispensaries are not choosing to operate entirely in cash," she noted. "If they had the ability to use banking services, they would."

"No matter how you feel about taxing and regulating legal cannabis," West said it's in no one's best interest to operate a business exclusively in cash, adding that as more people become aware of the large amount of cash at these dispensaries, crime could get worse.

"If Morrissey is truly concerned about enhancing public safety, he should be testifying in support of policies that will eliminate the underground marijuana market and replace it with a system in which marijuana is regulated like alcohol," Tvert said.

"He should not be resorting to scare tactics and reefer madness. Voters in Denver and throughout Colorado have made it clear they want to change the way our cities and state handle marijuana. It is time for Mr. Morrissey and other elected officials to follow their lead and give up on the failed policy of marijuana prohibition."

McManamon agreed and said that for the marijuana industry, if a dispensary is robbed, people generalize the story and suddenly all dispensaries are dealing with high crime.

The reality of the situation, McManamon said, is that convenience stores and banks are robbed more often than dispensaries. He argued that if people call for the closure of marijuana dispensaries because one is robbed, then there should be calls to shut down all convenience stores and banks since they've been robbed.

For many legalization advocates like McManamon, the tax dollars generated by legal marijuana sales, the number of people the industry employs, and all of the relief the industry has brought to medical marijuana patients, "far outstrips the few crimes that do happen" at dispensaries.

Fighting crime

Though crime may not be as problematic for dispensaries than the public may have been led to believe, it is still an issue that dispensary owners take seriously.

According to a report from NBC News, marijuana-related business in Denver should expect to be robbed at least once every two years. For Jack Finlaw, the chief legal counsel to Colorado's governor, that statistic is not acceptable at all and has encouraged the federal government to do something about the problem, since the bulletproof glass, fingerprint scanners, and guards are not proving to be effective enough to protect dispensaries and those who work there.

Talking to NBC News, he said so long as marijuana remains illegal under the Controlled Substances Act, banks, security firms and most traditional businesses will be wary of aiding what amounts to a state-sanctioned federal crime.

"Congress really needs to act," he said. "I don't see a quick fix."

FBI Entrapment Created 'Illusion' Of Terrorist Plots: Report

New Snowden Docs Reveal British Spy Agency Tactic To Manipulate Social Media

Daily Digest

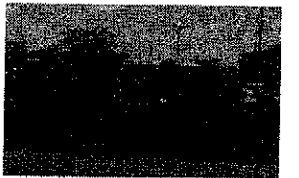
Targeted By Global Boycott, SodaStream To Close Factory In Occupied West Bank



Federal Gov. May Crack Down On Colleges Who Produce Graduates Incapable Of Paying Back Student Loans



VIDEO: 8 Police Officers Fired 46 Times At Mentally Ill Man Holding Pen Knife



The Democracy Experiment In Northern Syria



In Record 'Dark Money' Election, Chamber Of Commerce Top Shadowy Spender: Report




Iraqi Kurds Head To Kobani To Join The Raging Battle Against ISIS

Meanwhile, several dispensaries have hired security guards. In Colorado, two major security firms have been hired by several dispensaries to guard the stores for \$5,000 to \$15,000 a month — an expense that West points out that no other legal industry has.

Others have implemented expensive security systems and cameras, installed safes, hired armored car services to pick up the cash, and a lucky few have begun to work with some local banks.

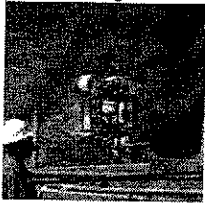
But for the bulk of dispensaries, adding security has been the answer to reducing the likelihood a store is robbed of its cash and marijuana inventory, until the federal government decides to take congressional action and regulates the industry.

Share this article!

 Print This Story

This entry was posted in National, News, Top Stories and tagged crime, DEA, Eric Holder, marijuana dispensaries, Marijuana Industry Group, National Cannabis Industry Association, Patrick McManamon. Bookmark the permalink.

[← Uganda Signs Roadmap To Commercial Oil Production](#)



[What Weird Well Names In PA Mean For Fracking →](#)



VIDEO: In Jerusalem Clashes Intensify Over Israeli Closure Of Holy Site



VIDEO: Attack On Canadian Parliament Fuels "Anti-Terror" Laws, Ignoring Ties To Mental Illness, Drug Abuse



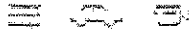
What's HOT on MPN

VIDEO: How America Recruited, Protected And Pays Nazis To This Day

Woman As Aggressor: The Unspoken Truth Of Domestic Violence

Six Months In, How Has Marijuana Legalization Treated Colorado?

Rasmea Odeh: Raped And Tortured By Israel, Now Being Prosecuted By The U.S.



NEWS

FUGITIVE RETURNED TO ORANGE COUNTY IN TORTURE OF MARIJUANA DISPENSARY OWNER

A fugitive accused of cutting a medical marijuana dispensary owner's penis appeared in a Santa Ana courtroom Wednesday after being extradited from Prague.

Share



Tweet

EMBED



By Eileen Frere

Wednesday, September 17, 2014

SANTA ANA, Calif. (KABC) -- A fugitive accused of kidnapping, torture and severing a man's penis appeared in a Santa Ana courtroom Wednesday after being extradited halfway around the world.

Prosecutors allege Hossein Nayeri, 35, fled to Iran nearly two years ago after allegedly helping his friends Kyle Shirakawa Handley, 35, and Ryan Anthony Kevorkian, 35, break into the Newport Beach home of a pot dispensary owner.

"Our victim John Doe owned a lucrative marijuana dispensary and one of Mr. Nayeri's co-defendants identified him as a good subject to rob," Orange County District Attorney's spokeswoman Farrah Emami said.

Prosecutors allege the defendants, including Naomi Josette Rhodus, 34, put together a plan. They videotaped the victim's home and recorded his frequent trips to the desert. But a week before the kidnapping, Newport Beach police tried to pull Nayeri over for a traffic violation. The incident turned into a pursuit. Nayeri fled leaving his car behind.

"They found that he was in possession of surveillance video as well as footage of a home, which at the time had no relevance to them, there was no criminal relevance," Emami said.

Prosecutors say Nayeri and his friends still went ahead with the kidnapping, allegedly zip typing the victim and his roommate's girlfriend, then driving them to the Mojave Desert, where they mistakenly believe he had buried money.

"The defendants are accused of brutally torturing this victim, they were beating him, they used a blowtorch to burn him," Emami said. "They cut off his penis, they caused him very, very serious injuries."

Prosecutors allege the suspects drove away with the penis so that it couldn't be reattached.

After the defendants took off, the female victim was able to run a mile in the dark for help.

Handley was arrested after investigators allege they found evidence in his home. DNA on that evidence linked the other defendants to the crime.

Nayeri fled to Iran, but was captured in the Czech Republic. He was extradited from Prague and arrived in Orange County on Monday night, Senior Deputy District Attorney Heather Brown said.

Nayeri asked that his arraignment be postponed so he could review his options for legal representation. His arraignment was rescheduled for Sept. 24, but he remains jailed without bail.

He faces up to life in prison without the possibility of parole if convicted.

CNS and The Associated Press contributed to this report.

Map My News

Related Topics:

news fugitive arrest kidnapping Santa Ana Orange County Newport Beach

Share



Tweet

(Copyright ©2014 KABC-TV/DT. All Rights Reserved.)

YOU MIGHT ALSO LIKE



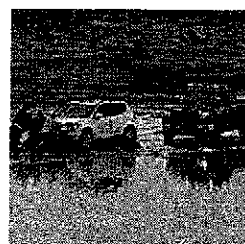
Where did Ebola come from?
hubub



Slow Cooker Mushroom Spinach Lasagna
Hunt's Recipes



Mom Killed by Foster Daughter Who Was Having Affair With Her
Stirring Daily



Miles of 1-15 in Nevada could be closed for days after record-breaking
FOX Business

FROM AROUND THE WEB

20 Killer Kids That Will Scare You (RantLifestyle)

10 Worst Women To Ever Walk The Earth (RantLifestyle)

I Tried Blue Apron's Meal Delivery Service and Here's How It Went — Product Review | The Kitchn (The Kitchn)

Do You Carry One Of These 7 Credit Cards? If You Do You Must Have Excellent Credit (NextAdvisor Daily)

5 Sarah Palin Quotes That Are Actually Really Insightful (Politics Cheat Sheet)

Understanding the Symptoms of Major Depressive Disorder (HealthiNation)

MORE FROM ABC7

Woman allegedly sets roommate on fire over argument about spaghetti and meatballs

Jodi Arias Death Penalty Trial Begins With Shocking Photo

Anaheim DUI crash leaves boy dead, 5 others injured

Watts shootings: 1 killed, 4 injured

Woman fatally stabbed in fight over swap meet parking space

Source: Eric Frein confessed to killing Pennsylvania State Police Cpl. Bryon Dickson

Central Texas Teens Charged In Colorado Pot Shop Robbery



(File)

DURANGO, Colo. (August 5, 2014) Two Corsicana teenagers have been arrested in connection with the robbery of a medical marijuana dispensary in Durango, Colo.

The two 17-year-olds are accused of entering the Animas Herbal-Wellness Center Monday in Durango and spraying workers with pepper spray.

The employees were able to provide a description of their car and a short time later police spotted the vehicle and approached the pair in the parking lot of a Holiday Inn, the Durango Herald reported.

The two teens were arrested after a short foot chase.

Police recovered the stolen jar of marijuana.

The dispensary's employees were treated at the scene.

The newspaper reported that the two teens were charged with aggravated robbery of a controlled substance, a felony that carries a maximum sentence of 24 years in prison and fines of as much as \$1 million, but it's not clear whether they'll be tried as adults.

Their names weren't released.

They spent Monday night in a detention center.

Meanwhile in Pueblo County, Colo., David Lopez, 40 of Austin, was arrested after an employee was forced into a Pueblo West marijuana dispensary at gunpoint Monday.

Phones were ripped from the wall and a large quantity of marijuana and marijuana products was taken.

Deputies who responded to a 911 call placed by someone inside the store arrested Lopez as he left the business.

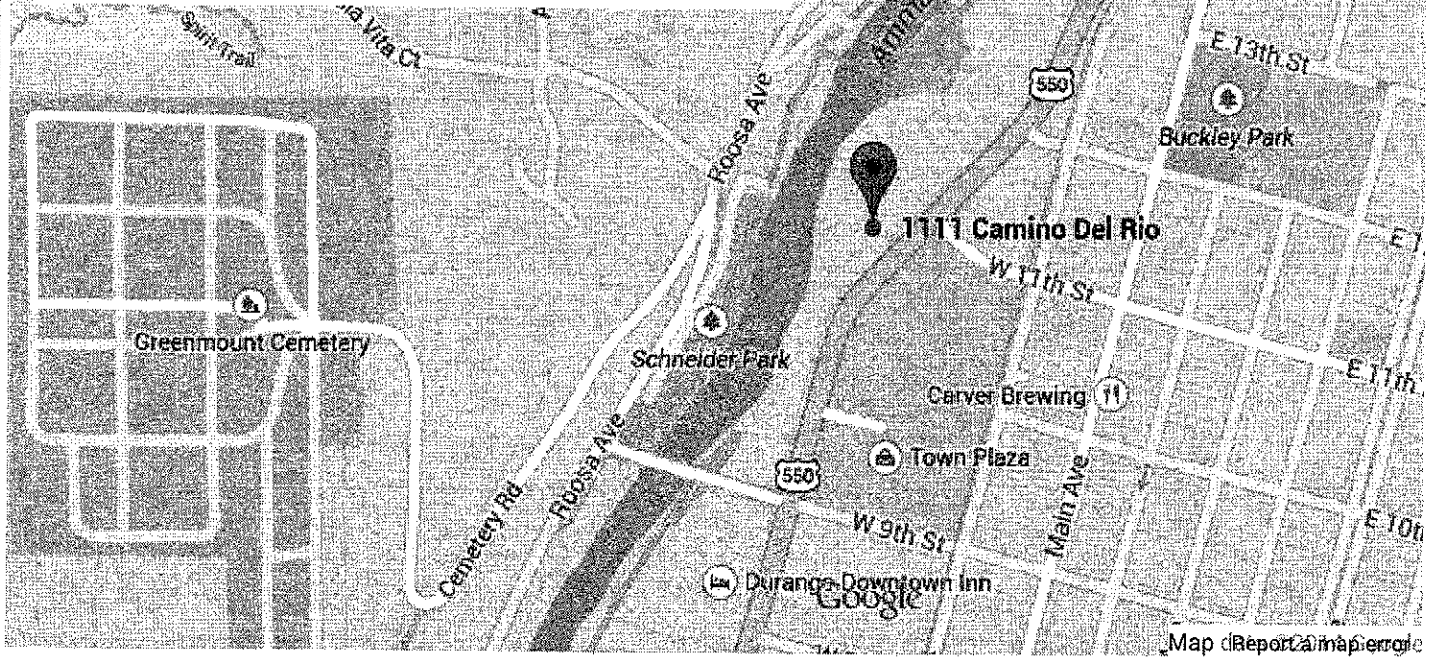
1111 Camino Del Rio

Durango, CO 81301

[Directions](#)

[Save](#)

[View on Google Maps](#)



KWTX-TV News 10 6700 American Plaza Waco, Texas 76712 (254) 776-1330 Fax (254) 751-1088
Copyright © 2002-2014 - Designed by Gray Digital Media - Powered by Clickability 270033921 - [kwtx.com/a?
a=270033921](http://kwtx.com/a?a=270033921)



Was \$200,000 Denver pot shop robbery an inside job? Friend of manager arrested in hold-up

Police recover \$139,477 from suspect's backpack

BY: [Alan Gathright \(mailto:alan.gathright@kmgh.com\)](mailto:alan.gathright@kmgh.com)

POSTED: 5:10 PM, Sep 12, 2014

UPDATED: 6:39 PM, Sep 12, 2014

DENVER - An Erie man has been arrested in a nearly \$200,000 robbery of a Denver marijuana store that police and the owner suspect may have been an inside job.

The robbery occurred at MMJ America, at 2042 Arapahoe St. in lower downtown at around 8 p.m. on Aug. 17.

The marijuana shop's manager told police he had locked up for the night and was leaving the store, when he realized that he forgot to turn on the security alarm, according to court records obtained by 7NEWS.

The manager said a man appeared, pointed a gun at him and ordered the manager back into the store, according search and arrest warrant affidavits.

The manager said the gunman "demanded money and weed," but the manager told him the store was out of weed. So the gunman told the manager to open the safe. He filled up a bag with \$198,000 in cash, and told the manager to count to 100 backwards, an affidavit said.

The robber took off in a red Ford F150 pickup truck. The manager gave police a detailed description of the suspect as a white man who was about 6 feet tall with a medium build. He had light brown facial hair on his chin, a wide jaw and straight teeth. He was wearing a beanie, a black hooded sweatshirt over his head, pants and Nike gloves.

Reviewing the store's surveillance camera video, both the manager and the store owner said the robber resembled an electrician that they had just fired. The manager even picked the electrician out of a photo lineup. But police found no evidence that the electrician has a red pickup.

Soon, the store owner grew suspicious after taking a harder look at the surveillance video. The owner called a Denver police detective and said, "it appears from the video, that the victim, [store manager], may have been part of this robbery. Based on [the manager] not setting the alarm and not locking the front door and walking away from the store," according to the affidavit.

7NEWS is not identifying the manager because he has not been arrested or charged in the case.

The robbery video shows the manager leaving the store and saying good night to an employee outside.

"It appears [the manager] is locking the door," the detective wrote about his review of the video in the affidavit. The video also shows a white man standing by a light pole next to a red Ford pickup. The manager then "looks at the suspect several times," the detective said.

Then the manager is seen on the video crossing Arapahoe Street and is in the middle of the road when the suspect says something, and the manager turns around and walks "with his hands up in the air back to the store," the detective wrote in the affidavit.

The manager's actions raised red flags for the detective.

"[The manager] could have taken off running across the street, as he was in the street already and the suspect can't been seen pointing any weapon at [the manager]," the detective writes.

After the manager is apparently ordered back to the store by the gunman, the detective "noticed that [the manager] walks to the front door and pushes the front door open, as if it was unlocked," according to the affidavit.

"Based on [the manager's] actions during this robbery, it appears to be suspicious that he would not set the alarm for the building when leaving and not locking [sic] the front exterior door when he was leaving," the detective wrote.

During an interview at the manager's home, the detective noticed the man was nervous and sweating. The detective asked the manager if he had anything to do with the robbery and he replied, "no." The detective asked if the manager would take a lie-detector test and the man refused, according to the affidavit.

During a videotaped interview taken later at police headquarters, the detective questioned the manager about his suspicious actions on the surveillance video. The manager said he's never forgotten to set the alarm before and he might have been tired and wanted to get out of the store after work. He maintained that he locked the front door, the affidavit stated.

The manager said as he crossed the street, he saw the suspect standing by the light pole. He said he then remembered he'd forgot to set the alarm and turned around and went back to the front door, and that's when the suspect came up behind him with the gun, according to the affidavit.

Then a bombshell revelation happened.

The store owner was telling another employee about his suspicions that the robbery was an inside job.

The employee, who knew nothing about the suspect's vehicle description, asked, "the vehicle wasn't a red truck was it?"

The employee explained that the store manager has a friend named, Tim Price, who drives a red Ford F150 pickup.

Denver police showed the store employee a photo lineup and the worker identified Price as the man who drives a red pickup, adding that Price resembled the robber's facial features and physical build in the video, the affidavit stated.

When police arrested Price at his Hickory Place home in Erie on Aug. 21, they found \$139,477 in cash in a backpack, the affidavit said. Police noted that more than \$58,000 from the robbery was missing.

Price's wife told police the couple is in the process of getting a divorce and were preparing to have their home shown to prospective buyers.

When the wife asked a neighbor to check the home and make sure it was ready, the neighbor found a black handgun in a kitchen cabinet, the wife told police, according to the affidavit.

Armed with a warrant, police searched the home and found a black Airsoft pellet gun, which are often replicas of real guns. Investigators also recovered two bank bags, a Nike glove, and other clothing from the home, according to the search warrant.

The Denver District Attorney's Office has formally charged Price with aggravated robbery, theft and kidnapping -- all felonies. He remains in Denver jail on \$65,000 bond.

Meanwhile, police have obtained a search warrant for the store manager's iPhone, which investigators seized. They want to examine the smartphone's data - including text messages, email, call logs, images, video and audio files -- to see if there's any evidence connecting him to the robbery, according to the search warrant affidavit.

Copyright 2014 Scripps Media, Inc. All rights reserved. This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten, or redistributed.

WEEKLY ADS AT SHOPSMART

Sports Authority

Give The Gift Of Sport!

Just Released

Macy's

6-Day Specials!

Expires this Tuesday

Staples

See the newest tech!

Brand New

Big 5 Sporting Goods

Hot Price Extravaganza!

Brand New

MORE ADS ([HTTP://WWW.THEDENVERCHANNEL.COM/CIRCULARS?LOCALE=EN&UTM_SOURCE=FM&UTM_MEDIUM=FM_1392&UTM_TERM=MORE&UTM_CAMPAIGN=WISHABI_1_0](http://www.thedenverchannel.com/circulars?LOCALE=EN&UTM_SOURCE=FM&UTM_MEDIUM=FM_1392&UTM_TERM=MORE&UTM_CAMPAIGN=WISHABI_1_0))

SEARCH

Alerts

Mobile

Submit a Tip



Like 68k

Follow

RIGHT NOW



Track weekend snow with Interactive Radar

Total Storm Tracker Video Forecas Weather Alert Closings

FULL COVERAGE

Get Alerts >

Home / Local News



Police investigate 3 medical marijuana thefts in one week

By Jim [Name] BIO

Men impersonating police steal plants in Winterport

UPDATED 6:24 PM EDT Sep 30, 2014

Share 9

Tweet 2

8+1 0

3

NEXT STORY

5 dead, 1 critically hurt in Portland fire

Text Size: A A A

Advertising

NTI
Northeast Technical Institute

for your **FREE** Career Report

to get started in one of our career training programs.

MOST POPULAR

SLIDESHOWS | STORIES | VIDEOS

1. Photos: Five killed, one badly burned in Portland fire



- 2. Total Storm Tracker
- 3. Grocery prices: then vs. now
- 4. Surprisingly short celebrities
- 5. Ridiculous 911 calls
- 6. 'Famous' Last Words On Headstones

From the web

- 4 Things You Should Never Buy at Trader Joe's Reviewed.com
- #1 reason not to buy a new computer SpeedFixTool
- Affordable Dream Vacation: Top 10 Cheap All-Inclusive Resorts TripCurator

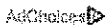
Sponsored Links by Taboola

FOLLOW US ON GOOGLE+

SHOW TRANSCRIPT

Advertising

This is an in-ad survey. [Click here to start it](#)



AUGUSTA, Maine — In the past week law enforcement has launched investigations into three separate medical marijuana thefts, according to Maine State Police.

Police circulated surveillance photos of three men dressed as law enforcement, captured during a medical marijuana robbery in Winterport Sunday. Police posted the images to Facebook and have received multiple tips.

"We really appreciate the public's willingness to assist us in the investigation and tentatively, we

feel we have the identities known of the individuals responsible for Winterport," Lt. Aaron Hayden, Maine State Police, said.

FACEBOOK POST HELPS NAB POT BURGLARS

A man who grows pot posts surveillance video to Facebook after



Last week in Lewiston two men turned themselves into police after surveillance video appeared to show them stealing plants from a licensed grower. There was also another theft in Standish Saturday.

burglars are caught on camera rummaging through his greenhouse.

MORE

State Police said Clyde Humiston and Justin Vadas kicked a medical marijuana grower to the ground and sprayed him with pepper spray. Both men have been arrested.

THIEVES IMPERSONATING POLICE STEAL POT PLANTS

Three men dressed as police officers and armed with a handgun stole medical marijuana plants in the town of Winterport, state police said.

MORE



Police said the recent medical marijuana thefts combined, with the 17 pharmacy robberies in 2014, is a cause for concern and that people need to take precautions to stay safe.

"People have to abide by the law. They have to keep their marijuana plants in a locked facility. They have to keep them out of public view. It's no different from any other prescription medication, with your painkillers and things like that. You don't want the general public knowing what you have in your residence," Hayden said.

In the Winterport case the suspects could face multiple charges, including, felony robbery, felony theft impersonating an officer and criminal trespass.

Share 9 Tweet 2 +1 0

Copyright 2014 by WMTW.com All rights reserved. This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten or redistributed.

TAGS Marijuana Theft Medical Marijuana Lewiston Winterport

Comments

Print

Share

Advertising



Trending Offers and Articles

Ads by Adblade



Beverly Hills Plastic Surgeon's Way To Remove Dark Spots



These shocking photos may suggest some unsettling things about



Do You Know Which Celebrities Had Plastic Surgery? #14 Will Blow



Amazing, Hard-to-Believe, Perfectly Timed Pictures - Taken at Just

RECOMMENDED

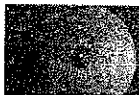
FROM WMTW

- Babysitter pleads guilty to sexually assaulting child
WMTW.com
- Three women arrested for in undercover prostitution sting
WMTW.com
- Nurse surrenders license after failure to report abuse
WMTW.com
- Man found buried in yard more than decade after disappearance
WMTW.com
- Police identify bodies found in Biddeford motel room
WMTW.com
- Waves batter Biddeford Pool
WMTW.com

FROM AROUND THE WEB



4 Things You Should Never Buy at Trader Joe's [Reviewed.com]



#1 reason not to buy a new computer [SpeedFixTool]



Affordable Dream Vacation: Top 10 Cheap All-Inclusive [TripCurator]

Promoted Links by Taboola

COMMENTS

The views expressed are not those of this site, this station or its affiliated companies. By posting your comments you agree to accept our terms of use.

[Skip to comments.](#)

Marijuana Burglaries Increase During Pot Harvest Season, Medical Marijuana Growers Worried [WA]

[Local NBC Right Now ^](#) | Oct. 2, 2014 | Fernanda Lopez

Posted on 10/2/2014, 8:05:32 PM by [steve86](#)

FINLEY, WA - Some medical marijuana growers in our area are not getting much sleep lately.

Especially after another marijuana burglary early Thursday morning.

The latest marijuana burglary happened just before 6 a.m. Thursday morning in the area of highway 397 and East Finley Road.

Benton County Sheriff's Deputies said a medical marijuana grower shot at a suspect as he ran from the property.

NBC Right Now found out this may happen more often this time of year because it is prime marijuana harvest season and medical growers are worried.

"If you don't have sophisticated cameras, alarm systems, (are) friends with your neighbors, you have no defense because all you can do is sit out and sleep or go without any sleep and babysit," medical marijuana grower, Gary said.

Gary only wants us to use his first name. He said he has not been getting much sleep, after thieves last week stole several of his medical marijuana plants, he wants to protect what is left of what he has been growing over the last 5 months.

"I've had couple friends say that they pitch a tent and sit out for two and a half to three weeks all night next to their plants," Gary said.

But the most recent marijuana burglary Thursday morning, ended in gunshots and K9 units searching the area, after a neighbor saw several people run through his backyard escaping gun fire from the marijuana grower..

Deputies said he is a medical supplier and had 41 plants in his outdoor operation, which is within the legal limit.

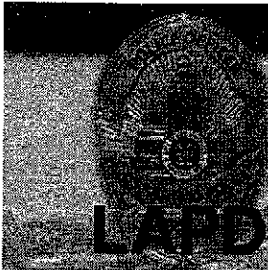
Tri-Cities Metro Drug Task Force commander Trevor White said marijuana harvest season can be dangerous for all parties involved, the criminals and the growers, and both could get in trouble.

"We see it as a safety issue and people need to remember that it's a property crime, protecting your plants does not necessarily allow you to use force against another directly, you got to be pretty cautious on both end," Cmdr. White said, adding They have seen an increase in reports of stolen marijuana plants from medical growers recently.

They do advise people to call police and not take matters into their own hands because they could end up with problems of their own.

contact us solve a crime non-emergency (877) ASK-LAPD about 911 city directory,311

los angeles
POLICE
FOUNDATION



Mon, Oct 20 2014 7:14pm

OFFICIAL WEBSITE OF **The Los Angeles Police Department**

Search

[valley bureau](#) → [devonshire community police station](#) → [devonshire news](#)

HOME

CRIME MAPPING

EMERGENCY NOTIFICATION

E-POLICING

JOIN THE TEAM

LAPD BLOG

LAPD EQUIPMENT

LAPD SPORTS

LAPD TV

NEWSROOM

OUR COMMUNITIES

POLICE COMMISSION

REPORT A CRIME

SOLVE A CRIME

SPECIAL ASSISTANT FOR CONSTITUTIONAL POLICING

SUPPORT LAPD

TRAFFIC

INSIDE THE LAPD



Salute Our Heroes
History of the LAPD
Metropolitan Division
LAPD Special Units
Unsolved Murders of LAPD
Officers

GET INFORMED

Alarm School

Contact Us

Crime Mapping and COMPSTAT

Crime Prevention

Los Angeles Police Department News Release Monday, January 30, 2012



Devonshire Area Detectives Close Down Last of Medical Marijuana Storefronts NR12050kr

Los Angeles: Monday afternoon Detectives served a search warrant at the last remaining medical marijuana storefront in Devonshire Area, which at one time had over 60 medical marijuana businesses operating in the area.

On January 30, 2012, around 3 p.m., LAPD Devonshire Narcotics Enforcement Detail served a search warrant at the Herbal Medicine Care facility in the 10100 block of Topanga Canyon Boulevard. An extensive investigation into criminal conduct of the storefront provided detectives with probable cause to serve the warrant and close down the business. Three suspects were arrested for Possession of Marijuana for Sale. Over 50 pounds of marijuana, including 156 Marijuana Plants, over \$6000.00, and paperwork detailing the purchase and resale of marijuana were also confiscated.

In 1996, California Voters passed the Compassionate Use Act (CUA) sometimes referred to as Prop 215. The CUA gave a limited group of patients and their "primary caregivers" the opportunity to possess, cultivate and transport marijuana for the patient's personal medical use. However, possession, cultivation, transportation, distribution and sales of marijuana are still illegal under both Federal and California Law.

In 2003, the California Legislature passed the Medical Marijuana Program (MMP), sometimes referred to as SB420. The MMP gave patients and their primary caregivers a chance to get a Medical Marijuana ID Card issued by the State of California, and the chance to come together in groups (Cooperatives or Collectives) to cultivate marijuana.

In recent years, many persons have set up marijuana storefront distribution centers claiming to be medical marijuana clinics, dispensaries, cooperatives and clubs. These businesses have set up next to legitimate businesses, schools, and even day care centers. Many of these businesses are supported by the same criminal element that would be selling drugs even if they could not hide behind the laws written to help people with serious illnesses. There is no provision in the CUA or MMP for the sale of marijuana.

The stated purpose of the CUA and the MMP was to help people with serious illnesses get safe access to marijuana. The CUA and MMP did not legalize marijuana or allow anyone to profit from cultivation, distribution, or sales of marijuana. Because of the exploitation of these laws and the strength of marijuana, marijuana is now the number one drug for self-admission to drug rehabilitation centers in LA County.

STATION INFO

10250 Etiwanda Avenue
Northridge, CA 91325
818-832-0633 Voice
818-832-0665 TDD/TTY

About Devonshire

Devonshire Community
Telephone Directory

Devonshire Division Goals

Valley Traffic

Community-Police Advisory
Boards (C-PAB) Meeting
Schedule and City-Wide Minutes

HELP FIGHT CRIME

E-Police Sign-Up

Report A Crime

Devonshire Community
Newsletter

STAY INFORMED

Devonshire Most Wanted

Devonshire Crime Statistics

[Domestic Violence](#)

[FAQs](#)

[For Your Family](#)

[Gang Injunctions](#)

[I Want to Know](#)

[LAPD General Fund Contracts](#)

[LAPD Adult Missing Persons Unit](#)

[Most Wanted](#)

[Read the Beat Magazine](#)

[Social Media](#)

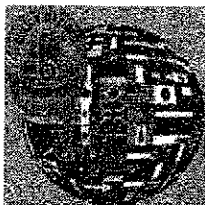
[Sworn and Civilian Report](#)

[Trademark](#)

[Year In Review](#)

[Youth Programs](#)

**FILE A
COMMENDATION
OR COMPLAINT**



Select Language ▼

Powered by Google Translate

Disclaimer:

The LAPDonline.org@ website has made reasonable efforts to provide an accurate translation. However, no automated or computerized translation is perfect and is not intended to replace human or traditional translation methods. The official text is the English version of the LAPDonline.org@ website. If any questions arise concerning the accuracy of the information presented by the translated version of the website, please refer to the English edition of the website, which is the official version.

With these laws in mind, starting in December 2008 the Los Angeles Police Department, Devonshire Narcotics Enforcement Detail in conjunction with the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office and with the support of the Los Angeles City Attorney's Office and Council District 12, established investigative protocols to determine if these storefront businesses were operating within the protections afforded by the CUA and MMP. At that time, there were over 600 of these businesses operating throughout the City of Los Angeles with more opening daily.

They quickly became the center of various crimes including the sale of marijuana to nonmembers and juveniles in the surrounding neighborhoods, the burglary of adjoining businesses in order to gain access to the marijuana facilities, armed robberies with shots fired and ultimately the attempted murder and murder of the owners and workers at these locations.

Starting in December of 2008, LAPD, Devonshire Narcotics Enforcement Detail has investigated thirty seven of these locations resulting in seventy-one related search warrants (storage facilities, owner's residences, etc.) and in each case these storefront marijuana sales locations were found to be in violation of State Law. All of these storefronts operated on a retail sales basis of cash and carry.

Several of the locations had armed security in plain clothes and others in uniforms, several had firearms concealed for easy access and in two instances they contained assault weapons including an AK-47 and a collapsible stock Mini-14. Some of these locations had other narcotics in them, including one with 9 kilos of cocaine. Some contained sophisticated hydroponic marijuana growing operations others had a few plants growing in pots under a single light. Owners of these businesses also engaged in tax evasion, money laundering, witness intimidation, threatening of nearby business owners and theft of utilities. All contained various amounts of cash ranging from a few hundred dollars to over half a million.

All of these arrests have resulted in felony filings in Superior Court with the vast majority of defendants pleading out and several cases are still pending.

Since 2008 there have been 74 arrests, over 2 Million in cash seized, the recovery of 30 guns including an AK-47 and a Mini 14, over 1 ton of marijuana, and other dangerous drugs including nine kilos of Cocaine, LSD, Hashish, and Anabolic Steroids.

Anyone with further information on this investigation, or questions may contact Devonshire Narcotics Enforcement Detail, Detective Robert Holcombe at 818-832-1164. During non-business hours or on weekends, calls should be directed to 1-877-LAPD-24-7. Anyone wishing to remain anonymous should call Crime Stoppers at 800-222-TIPS (800-222-8477). Tipsters may also contact Crime Stoppers by texting to phone number 274637 (C-R-I-M-E-S on most keypads) with a cell phone. All text messages should begin with the letters "LAPD." Tipsters may also go to LAPDOnline.org, click on "webtips" and follow the prompts.



Follow @LAPDHQ



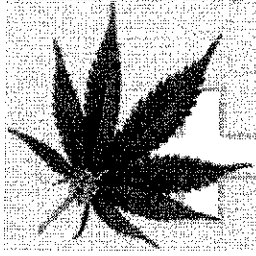
LAPD on Facebook



Follow @lapolicefdtn

[contact us](#) / [terms & conditions](#) / [los angeles police foundation](#)





UCLA MEDICAL MARIJUANA RESEARCH

[Home](#) |
 [About the Study](#) |
 [Research Team](#) |
 [MMD Resources](#) |
 [Frequently Asked Questions](#) |
 [Contact Us](#)

Featured

- Press Release
- Research Findings

Recent News

Dispensaries/Delivery Services and Marijuana Use (September, 2014)

The Economic Geography of Medical Marijuana Dispensaries in California (July, 2014)

How Colleges Are Preparing Students for a Country Where Pot Is Legal (January, 2014)

10 Things Medical Marijuana Won't Tell You (August, 2013)

Student Researchers on Front Lines of Marijuana Issue

Panel: Medical Marijuana: Helpful or Harmful? (March, 2013)

The Ledger: Legal Medical Marijuana Has Some Worried (March, 2013)

Study: Pot Shop Security Could Reduce Crime (February, 2013)

Washington City Paper: Vice Principles (January, 2013)

Top Downloaded Article of November 2012 (November, 2012)

NBC - Number of LA Pot Shops in Question (September, 2012)

MyFoxLA - Ban on Pot Dispensaries on Hold

10 Things Medical Marijuana Won't Tell You (Jen Weiczner, MarketWatch)

From <http://finance.yahoo.com/news/10-things-medical-marijuana-won-150649058....>

5. "You're not paranoid. They're out to get your money."

Last month, two men were shot and killed in a medical marijuana dispensary in Bakersfield, Calif. Just a couple of weeks earlier and 100 miles to the south, a police officer was wounded in an attempted robbery of a dispensary in Los Angeles County. In May, two men robbed a San Diego marijuana dispensary at gunpoint.

Medical marijuana continues to make crime headlines in states that have legalized it, and robberies can be particularly frequent. Industry analysts argue that it isn't necessarily the marijuana that attracts criminals to the dispensaries, but the stacks of cash on hand: Banks won't do business with dispensaries — since doing so could jeopardize their FDIC insurance — so the shops can't process credit card transactions or open checking accounts. "They end up having a safe in the back with all this cash," says Riffle.

Areas with a greater number of dispensaries, however, aren't correlated with higher rates of crime, according to research by the University of California, Los Angeles. The study's early results even suggest that dispensaries draw less crime than bars, though principal investigator Bridget Freisthler, a social welfare professor at UCLA, cautions that it's too early in the project to tell for sure. The researchers are still investigating whether crime increases over time after a dispensary moves into a neighborhood. "There's concern that the businesses themselves are going to be targets, but also the patients as they enter or leave the dispensaries," Freisthler says.

8. "There's a dispensary in the bathroom of this dispensary."

States might have anticipated that legalizing weed would cause

(September, 2012)

89.3 KPCC Southern California
Public Radio (September, 2012)

Woodland Hills Patch
(September, 2012)

stores selling it to sprout up like, well, weeds. But the industry has grown so fast, local governments have struggled to keep track of all the businesses, and dispensaries have been caught in the middle of political battles, even in cities with the friendliest laws. Denver, for example, recently released a report admitting that officials don't actually know how many medical marijuana businesses are within city limits: While the city counted 739, state records showed 676, and a spokesman for the city says it believes the true number is closer to 500. "This is a place where there's more pot shops than Starbucks," says Bierman, the dispensary consultant. (Indeed, there are only 415 Starbucks locations in the entire state of Colorado, according to the company's latest annual report.)

Local officials worry that such rapid growth will lead to widespread use by individuals without a prescription. The UCLA study, in fact, found that the more medical marijuana dispensaries and delivery services a city has, the more its residents use marijuana—regardless of whether they have a medical reason. Some dispensaries, UCLA's Freisthler says, will sell pot by the quarter-pound — a quantity that is four to 30 times the amount patients typically buy (an eighth-ounce to an ounce) and worth as much as \$1,000 or more. (Neither shops nor doctors issue guidelines on how much pot to use at a time and how frequently.) It's a pattern that has also been observed with alcohol: "More liquor stores and bars increase problems related to alcohol use," Freisthler says.

While cities like Los Angeles have tried to crack down on the number of dispensaries, with moratoriums and shutdowns, the ongoing tug of war hasn't scared many people in the business, who don't believe the regulations are enforceable: "Hundreds of millions of dollars are flowing through this, and it's impossible to put it back in the bag," Bierman says.

9. "But our storefronts are practically invisible."

Among the reasons marijuana dispensaries are so difficult for cities to keep count of are that some operate without licenses, some masquerade as another type of business, and some simply go out of business. Even medical marijuana industry associations say they can't keep a national tally on shops. And some industry insiders like it that way.

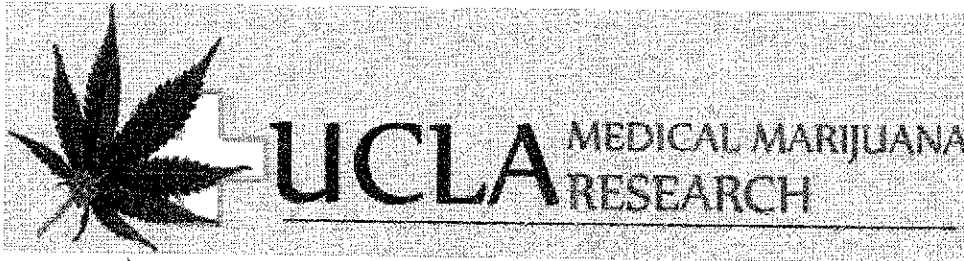
Fears of law enforcement and patient demand for discreetness top the list of reasons. But there's also the tax angle to consider: Dispensaries often face tax rates up to double what other businesses pay, so some may underreport their income, says Riffle at the Marijuana Policy Project. And some pretend to be, or double as, say, spas or health food stores, so that they can deposit their cash in a bank and process credit card transactions, says Denis Berckefeldt, Denver's director of government relations.

Dispensaries disguise their appearance in many ways, with some so unassuming that only insiders can find them. Bierman, the dispensary consultant, says some states require that shops look like medical clinics. Elsewhere, they may have blacked-out windows or be labeled with green crosses (like green versions of the Red Cross logo), the industry's version of a pharmacy

symbol. Still others resemble traditional neighborhood saloons, says Freisthler. One Hollywood dispensary, for instance, advertises that it specializes in "healthy alternatives" to smoking, including electronic cigarettes, organic e-liquids and vaporizers, but "it really sort of felt like a laid back corner bar," she says.

On the other hand, several states with legal medicinal marijuana have few stores that sell it, or none, Bierman says. Eight of the 20 legalized states don't even allow dispensaries, including Michigan, Oregon and Maryland. In those states, "patients are just legally protected to use the marijuana, [but] there's no legal way to obtain the medicine," says Nicolazzo, of MarijuanaDoctors. People have to either grow the marijuana plants themselves or appoint a grower known as a "caregiver" to provide it for them. "A 65-year-old patient isn't going to know how or be able to grow their own plants," he adds.

© 2011 UCLA Medical Marijuana Research. All Rights Reserved.


[Home](#)
[About the Study](#)
[Research Team](#)
[MMD Resources](#)
[Frequently Asked Questions](#)
[Contact Us](#)

Featured

- [Press Release](#)
- [Research Findings](#)

Recent News

[Dispensaries/Delivery Services and Marijuana Use \(September, 2014\)](#)

[The Economic Geography of Medical Marijuana Dispensaries in California \(July, 2014\)](#)

[How Colleges Are Preparing Students for a Country Where Pot Is Legal \(January, 2014\)](#)

[10 Things Medical Marijuana Won't Tell You \(August, 2013\)](#)

[Student Researchers on Front Lines of Marijuana Issue](#)

[Panel: Medical Marijuana: Helpful or Harmful? \(March, 2013\)](#)

[The Ledger: Legal Medical Marijuana Has Some Worried \(March, 2013\)](#)

[Study: Pot Shop Security Could Reduce Crime \(February, 2013\)](#)

[Washington City Paper: Vice Principles \(January, 2013\)](#)

[Top Downloaded Article of November 2012 \(November, 2012\)](#)

[NBC - Number of LA Pot Shops in Question \(September, 2012\)](#)

[MyFoxLA - Ban on Pot Dispensaries on Hold](#)

Exploring the Ecological Association between Crime and Medical Marijuana Dispensaries

Nancy Jo Kepple and Bridget Freisthler

Routine activities theory purports that crime occurs in places with a suitable target, motivated offender, and lack of guardianship. Medical marijuana dispensaries (MMDs) may be places that satisfy these conditions, but this has not yet been studied. The current study examined whether or not the density of MMDs are associated with crime. An ecological, cross-sectional design was used to explore the spatial relationship between density of MMDs, socio-demographics and two types of crime rates (violent crime and property crime) in 95 Census tracts in Sacramento, California during 2009. Spatial error regression methods were used to determine associations between crime rates and density of MMDs, controlling for neighborhood characteristics. Violent and property crime rates were positively associated with percent commercially zoned, percent one person households, and unemployment rate. Higher violent crime rates were associated with concentrated disadvantage. Property crime rates were positively associated with percent of population 15 to 24 years, percent owner occupied households, and presence of highway ramps. Density of MMDs was not associated with violent or property crime rates. Consistent with previous work, variables measuring routine activities at the ecological level were related to crime. There were no observed associations between the density of MMDs and either violent or property crime rates in this study. These results suggest that the density of MMDs may not be associated with crime rates or that measures dispensaries take to reduce crime (i.e., doormen, video cameras) may deter possible motivated offenders.

To obtain a copy of this paper, please contact us. [Back to Research Findings](#)

If density doesn't affect crime rate then putting them in an mj district would not increase crime 1/2

Routine activity theory

crime prevention



Attorney General
& Justice

Routine activity theory is one of the main theories of “environmental criminology”. The theory states that a crime occurs when the following three elements come together in any given space and time:

1. An accessible target
2. The absence of capable guardians that could intervene
3. The presence of a motivated offender

An accessible target

An accessible target can include a person, an object or a place. The following acronyms have been used to describe accessible targets:

- » VIVA – Value, Inertia, Visibility, Access
- » CRAVED – Concealable, Removable, Available, Valuable, Enjoyable, Disposable

Routine activity theory as a crime prevention methodology focuses on essential elements that make up a crime. This theory provides a framework within which to prevent crime through altering at least one of these elements (the offender, the target or the presence of capable guardians). The most effective crime prevention strategies will focus on all three of these elements.

Absence of a capable guardian that could intervene

A capable guardian has a ‘human element’, that is usually a person who, by their mere presence, would deter potential offenders from perpetrating a crime. A capable guardian could also be CCTV, providing that someone is monitoring it at the other end of the camera at all times.

Some examples of capable guardians are:

- » police patrols
- » security guards
- » doorstaff
- » vigilant staff and co-workers
- » friends
- » neighbours

Some of the guardians are formal and deliberate, like security guards; some are informal and inadvertent, such as neighbours.

It is also possible for a guardian to be present, but ineffective. For example, a CCTV camera is not a capable guardian if it is set up incorrectly or in the wrong place or is not monitored. Staff might be present in a shop, but may not have sufficient training or awareness to be an effective deterrent.

A motivated offender

Routine activity theory looks at crime from an offender's point of view. A crime will only be committed if a likely offender thinks that a target is suitable and a capable guardian is absent. It is the offender's assessment of a situation that determines whether a crime will take place.

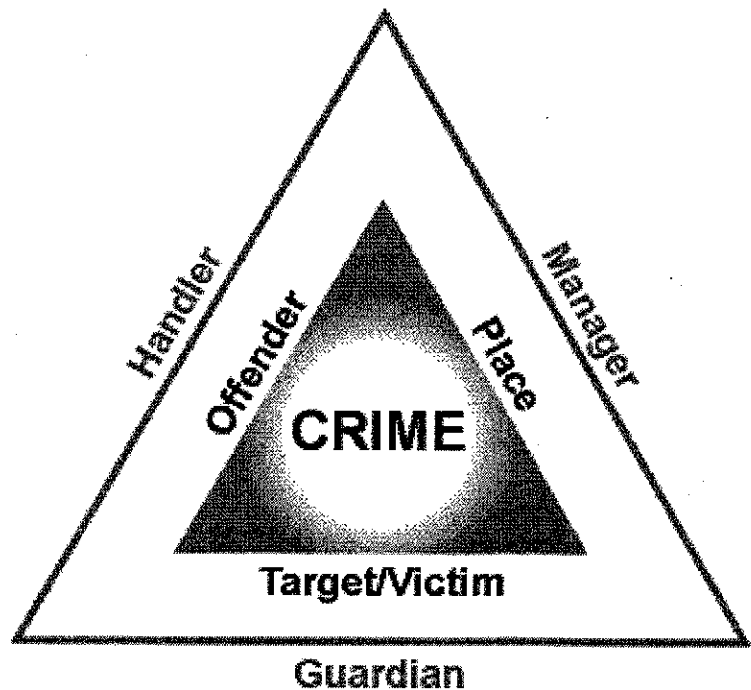
Crime triangle

(Also called Problem analysis triangle. A from www.homeoffice.gov.uk)

Routine activity theory introduces an im in crime analysis, the crime triangle (whir been called the problem analysis tria Crime triangle analyses both the elemer (target, location, offender) and potential interventions for each of the elements o (as depicted on the bigger triangle).

Further information

For more information on crime preventio theories and methodologies, please visit www.crimeprevention.nsw.gov.au



5 for FREE GET COUPON

KAPP TV 49° 45°

NEWS WEATHER HEALTH COMMUNITY

Home » UPDATE: Police: Man Shoots Suspect Stealing Pot Plants

UPDATE: Police: Man Shoots Suspect Stealing Pot Plants

By Lida Alkhanj Published Thursday, October 2nd, 2014

The Benton County Sheriff's office said around 5:30 AM they received calls of shots being fired in near 10th and Havana St in Hinley.

When they arrived on the scene, they found out a male suspect was trying to steal marijuana plants from a grower in the area.

The Sheriff's office said the grower, Sergio Dominguez, 20, then chased the suspect and shot several times into the air.

The suspect hopped a fence and Dominguez jumped it after him and shot at the suspect.

The Sheriff's office said there is no indication the suspect was hit, but he did get away.

K-9 units were on scene and followed the path the suspect ran down but could not find him.

It was still dark out, so there is no description available. A witness, who wishes to remain anonymous, tells Your Local ABC he was sitting in his backyard when he saw several men hopping a fence and running through his yard.

The witness said he believes he saw four suspects, and believed like one of the men was shot because he was screaming and cursing.

At one point, the witness said he may have seen someone fall and limp away, as if he was injured.

The Sheriff's office said they saw no blood on the scene and made calls to local hospitals but no patients were brought in with gunshot wounds.

The witness said he was shocked all of this was happening right in front of him.

He does not condone shooting, but respects the right of a homeowner to protect his/her property.

The Sheriff's Office said it is concerned with the fact that Dominguez ran after the man while shooting his gun.

The Sheriff's Office is meeting with the prosecutor's office to go over the legalities of shooting at someone once they are off your property.



AROUND THE WEB

WHAT'S HOT?

Next Advisor

7 Credit Cards You Should Not Ignore If You Have Excellent Credit

WiserSaver

Two Banks That Pay 10 Times the Interest on Your Savings

Best Movies by Farr

The 6 Best Bond Girls of the 60's and 70's

Newmax Health

Heart Attack: How Your Body Warns You Days Before

ALSO ON KVEWTV.COM

Richard City Council Will Vote On Marijuana Ban

Accused Child Molester Omnibus Moved

hoRay Medical's 1st Patient Celebrates Decade Cancer-Free

Theater Shooting Suspect's Trial Begins

2 Comments

KVEWTV.com

Login

Sort by Best

Share Favorite

Join the discussion...



JOHNNY LAWSON · 10 months ago

But I thought legalizing the stuff would magically erase the criminal element associated with it?

Pot is for losers and is bad news for communities.

2 · Reply · Share



Ruby Lawson · 10 months ago

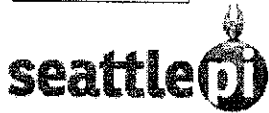
If this person is growing then it must be for medical or he would have been arrested. If it is for medical purposes, then who are you to say anything? Medical and recreational are 2 different laws and people have been growing medically for a long



tyco
Integrated Security

Inside Criminal Minds
and Tactics

Register Now



Facebook Twitter Google+ Breaking news alerts Register Sign In

Sunday, November 02, 2014

47°F Seattle, WA
Mostly Cloudy

Search seattlepi.com Businesses

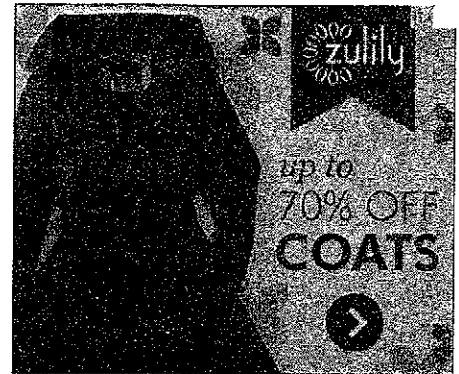
Home Local U.S./World Business Sports Entertainment Life Comics Photos Blogs Education Travel Real Estate Index
Weather Transportation Politics Joel Connelly Neighborhoods Environment Obituaries

Marijuana grower caught after self-defense shooting heads to prison

Maple Valley man sentenced to 2 1/2 years

BY LEVI PULKKINEN, SEATTLEPI.COM STAFF
Updated 8:18 pm, Tuesday, May 27, 2014

Sign up for seattlepi.com news alerts



Man Cheats Credit Score

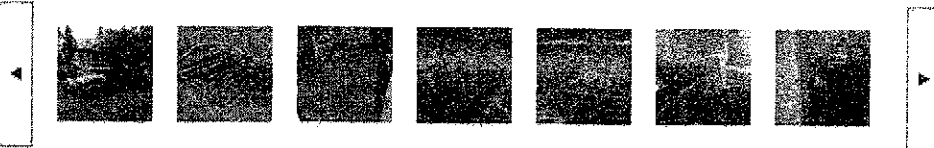
thcreditsolutionprogram.com

1 simple trick & my credit score jumped 217 pts. Banks hate this!

1 of 15 < PREV NEXT >



The location of an Aug. 13 robbery that saw two people shot while attempting to steal guns and marijuana from a grower, pictured in a Department of Justice photo. Photo: Justice Department Photos



Potty Train Dog in 6 Days

thedogtrainingsecret.com

This 4 Minute Exercise Teaches Your Dog To Potty Outside Every Time!

Mini mongoose pups take first steps
Press Association PRESS ASSOCIATION

2 0 0
Tweet Share +1

Larger | Smaller Email This
Printable Version Font

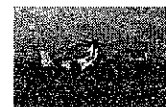
A Maple Valley marijuana grower who shot a robber last year was sentenced Tuesday to 2 1/2 years in federal prison.

The robbery's target, self-described medical marijuana grower Justin Loken, previously admitted to using a pistol to defend his Maple Valley home and marijuana grow. Loken's assailants - Melvin Slaughter, Ferdinand Clay

You Might Also Like



7 Signs You're About to be Fired Monster



The World's Most Dominant Army RantPolitical

and Annastasia Marie Pierson – have also pleaded guilty in the Aug. 13 robbery.

A prostitute pimped by Slaughter, Pierson had been trading Loken, 38, sex for money for some time when she led Slaughter to Loken's home, located in the 23300 block of Southeast 266th Street.

Known to Loken as "Kayla," Pierson arrived at his house after arranging to buy six pounds of marijuana. As Loken cracked a beer, Clay, 32, and Slaughter rushed into the home.

Is Your Business Secure?

tycois.com/Criminal-Minds-Tactics

There's a Burglary Every 12 Seconds Tyco's Free Webinar. Register Now.

Having forced Loken to open his safe, the men bound him with plastic ties and ransacked the house before taking guns and money to their waiting cars. Loken broke free, grabbed a 9 mm pistol hidden under a mattress and rushed outside in time to see Clay and Slaughter loading the rest of his guns into the back of an SUV.

One of the men raised a stolen AR-15-style rifle at Loken, who opened fire on the SUV and a car. He shot Clay and a woman who'd been duped into driving one of the men to the robbery.

The robbers made off with several rifles and shotguns, \$300 cash and a quarter pound of marijuana, according to charging papers. Witnesses also reported seeing an SUV and Honda leaving the area while discarding items; investigators later recovered bloody guns thrown from the SUV.

Clay, Slaughter and Pierson stopped at a 7-Eleven near the shooting scene to seek medical help for Clay, who'd been shot in the face and back. Clay was rushed to Harborview Medical Center in Seattle with life-threatening injuries.

The second woman told investigators she was sitting in the car outside Loken's home when the others rushed out carrying guns and pot. Writing the court, a King County Sheriff's Office detective said the woman was "very upset about being unwittingly dragged into" the robbery and, apparently, about being shot in the backside.

The woman drove herself to Valley Medical Center in Kent. She told police she didn't immediately realize she'd been shot.

Clay was arrested at Harborview while Slaughter turned himself in to police shortly after the shooting. Pierson was also arrested.

Police subsequently found about 100 marijuana plants growing inside Loken's home. While Loken initially claimed to be running a medical marijuana collective garden, prosecutors say he later admitted that was "at best partially true."

The amount of marijuana Loken grew and sold exceeded what's allowed under Washington's medical marijuana law, Lombardi said. Of course, all marijuana remains illegal under federal law.

Loken pleaded guilty to manufacturing marijuana and discharge of a firearm during a drug trafficking crime.

Slaughter, 41, was previously sentenced to 14 years in prison. Clay is scheduled to be sentenced next month, while Pierson was previously sentenced to 2 ½ years in federal prison.

Currently free on bond, Loken is expected to report to the Bureau of Prisons in coming weeks.

Check the Seattle 911 crime blog for more Seattle crime news. Visit seattlepi.com's home page for more Seattle news.

Seattlepi.com reporter Levi Pulkkinen can be reached at 206-448-8348 or levipulkkinen@seattlepi.com. Follow Levi on Twitter at twitter.com/levipulk.



12 Most Unbelievably Cruel Torture Devices Of All Time
Answers.com



8 Unsolved Mysteries of the World
The Daily 8

TODAY'S TOP HEADLINES

Seattle FreakNight canceled after fatal overdose

5 wounded in U District shooting

Dave's Killer Bread man guilty except for insanity

Rocket crash: Surviving pilot identified

No charge in fatal police beating, hog-tying

Guardsmen disciplined for bikini film shoot

Ex-Lockheed engineer: I met aliens at Area 51

Most Read

1. Phone company halts health benefits for strikers
2. Seattle FreakNight canceled after fatal drug overdose
3. Seahawks sign S Terrance Parks off practice squad, release WR Bryan Walters
4. Ruling in case of Dave's Killer Bread co-founder
5. 5 wounded in U District shooting; suspect sought
6. Yacht runs aground off NYC, about 100 rescued
7. 4 Utah Guardsmen disciplined for bikini film shoot

FresnoBee.com

[Previous Story](#)
[Next Story](#)

Apparent pot raid south of Fresno leads to shootout, deaths, kidnapping

By Jim Guy

The Fresno Bee August 7, 2014

[Facebook](#) [Twitter](#) [Google Plus](#) [Reddit](#) [E-mail](#) [Print](#)

Fresno County Sheriff Margaret Mims describes what her office knows about a predawn attempt to rob a marijuana-growing operation south of Fresno that ended in the deaths of two suspects and the kidnapping of a 15-year-old girl. THE FRESNO BEE



- Other Related Content:
- Audio: I hear shots being fired
- Audio: More shots fired
- Audio: Two vehicles leaving at high rate of speed
- Audio: Gun shot wound victim inside the vehicle
- Audio: Possible subject at the scene who's been shot
- Audio: Call for emergency medical services

What was likely a predawn attempt to rob a marijuana-growing operation south of Fresno turned into a deadly gunfight in which two bandits were killed and a 15-year-old girl was used as a human shield by fleeing robbers, Fresno County Sheriff Margaret Mims said Thursday.

Two other gunmen are in custody and three remain at large after the crew kicked in a door of a home on Orange Avenue south of American Avenue and exchanged gunfire with people inside during a wild melee that sent bullets flying through the neighborhood.

The sheriff said that the girl was quickly freed by the gunman and is telling deputies what she knows about the violent incident. The two captured suspects were also being interviewed Thursday afternoon.

At an afternoon news conference, Mims outlined what her office knows about the still-developing case:

- The Sheriff's Office received a call from a home in back of the robbery scene, where the caller said men identifying themselves as law enforcement officers were kicking in the door of the home and screaming could be heard inside. During the robbery of marijuana and cash, a man in the home was pistol whipped.
- Deputies sent to the home could hear the sound of gunfire as they were driving to the area and saw two cars speeding away in excess of 100 mph and "blacked out" -- without headlights or taillights. One of the cars was followed to Community Regional Medical Center, where officers ordered two occupants to the ground at gunpoint. Inside the car, deputies found a wounded man still wearing a ski mask. He was given CPR by deputies, but died a short time later inside the hospital.
- The other car, in which the girl had been taken hostage, managed to get away. The girl was dropped off near downtown Fresno and got a ride back to the shooting scene. She was unhurt. Deputies are looking for that car, a green Honda with a paper license plate with the word "CORONA."
- As deputies approached the home, they spotted a man who turned out to be one of the bandits lying nearby. Even though wounded, the suspect reached for a weapon, but was subdued. He later died of gunshot wounds he apparently received in the home.
- The bandits came to the home heavily armed with handguns and shotguns. One shotgun was tossed from a car at Central Avenue and Highway 41.
- There were three marijuana plots and about 150 plants at the home. Mims said investigators are checking to determine whether there were medical marijuana permits at the residence.

Mims said the bandits who were arrested are Sergio Hernandez, 23, of San Bernardino and Chi Tang, 31, of Madera. She said the two dead bandits had not been identified.

Mims said the incident exemplifies the risks that marijuana-growing operations bring to Fresno County

residents.

It's "directly related to drug trafficking and not medical marijuana," the sheriff said of the incident.

The reporter can be reached at (559) 441-6339, jguy@fresnobee.com or [@jimguy27](https://twitter.com/@jimguy27) on Twitter.

[Facebook](#) [Twitter](#) [Google Plus](#) [Reddit](#) [E-mail](#) [Print](#)

Join The Conversation

The Fresno Bee is pleased to provide this opportunity to share information, experiences and observations about what's in the news. Some of the comments may be reprinted elsewhere in the site or in the newspaper. We encourage lively, open debate on the issues of the day, and ask that you refrain from profanity, hate speech, personal comments and remarks that are off point. Thank you for taking the time to offer your thoughts.

[Commenting FAQs](#) | [Terms of Service](#)

Today's Circulars



MACY'S
EXPIRES THIS TUESDAY



SPORTS AUTHORITY
BRAND NEW



RADIOSHACK
VALID UNTIL NOV 08



STAPLES
JUST RELEASED

[View All Circulars](#)

[Email Newsletters >](#)
[Manage newsletter subscriptions](#)
[Tablets >](#)

SEARCH

Alerts

Mobile

Submit a Tip



64°

Like

146k

Follow

PARTNER TV STATIONS



Home / News / Local News / Seminole County News



By Marina Co

BIG

Man stole military vehicle out of boredom, deputies say

Jose Quinones arrested in Deltona

UPDATED 12:31 PM EST Feb 20, 2014

Share 83

Tweet 9

g+1 4

13

NEXT STORY

SO: Man accidentally shoots ex-girlfriend inside home

Text Size: A A A

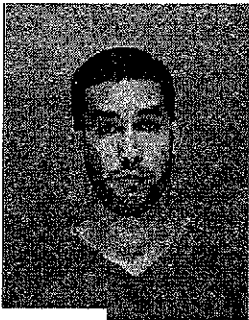
Advertising

This just shows cars can go through fences of marijuana producers + processors.

SHOW TRANSCRIPT

SANFORD, Fla. — A military vehicle was stolen overnight from the Army Reserve Center in Sanford, and the suspect said he did it because he was bored, according to officials.

JOSE QUINONES



Watch the report

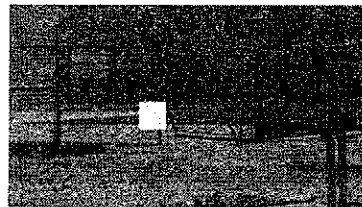
The Humvee was stopped later in Deltona after the driver, 19-year-old Jose Quinones, was caught driving it erratically.

Listen: 911 calls Call 1 | Call 2

"There's a Hummer, an old school Hummer behind us," said one 911 caller. "(It has) no headlights. He ran over a couple of traffic cones. He's swerving and he's been following us for a little while."

According to authorities, Quinones drove the vehicle from the reserve center near the Sanford-Orlando Airport to Deltona.

The Humvee was then spotted by another driver with no headlights or taillights and an orange traffic barrel jammed



VIEW LARGE

911 CALL: DRIVERS CALL AUTHORITIES ABOUT MILITARY...

911 CALL: DRIVERS CALL AUTHORITIES ABOUT MILITARY...

RELATED

MOST POPULAR

SLIDESHOWS | STORIES | VIDEOS

1. Updated: Florida counties with the most sexual predators



- 2. In pictures: A history of snow in Florida
- 3. List: 20 most common first names in Florida
- 4. Can you spot this Disney detail?
- 5. 33 of the most haunted destinations in Central Florida
- 6. Here are 12 places to eat chicken and waffles in Orlando

From the web

- Robert Griffin III Marries Rebecca Liddicoat ThePostGame
- 'Game of Thrones' Makes Our Heads Spin With Crazy New Lineup Stirring Daily
- The #1 Exercise that Accelerates AGING (Stop Doing It!) Old School New Body eBook

Sponsored Links by Taboola

FIND US ON GOOGLE+

under it.

"There were sparks flying out from underneath it and when he went across the light at Howland right over that dip the barrel flew out from behind him. And I was right behind him and I had to swerve," said another 911 caller.

Marina Marraco



91 followers

Most watched video: School's policy on gang colors forces removal of American flag-like shirt

Deputies pulled Quinones over and took him to the Volusia County

Jail.

A marijuana cigarette was found inside the Humvee, and Quinones told authorities he stole the vehicle because he was bored, a news release said.

Maj. Shawn Keller said the Humvee's have chains around the steering wheels.

"They were able to steer the wheel, the Humvee, well enough to maneuver it around the corner," he said. "There was a chain swooped around the steering wheel. This is one we will have to go back and tighten up all the chains to make sure they are secured."

There is a damaged fence and tire tracks throughout the reserve center.

Quinones is charged with DUI, driving an unregistered motor vehicle, possession of marijuana and grand theft of a motor vehicle. He is being held on \$3,750 bond and will make his first appearance in front of a judge at 1:30 p.m.

WESH 2 News



+ 8,230

Advertising



1 of 200



Seven dwarfs mine train on fire NOW

Kimaviles76

Location: Magic kingdom



Share 83 Tweet 9 +1 4

Copyright 2014 by WESH.com All rights reserved. This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten or redistributed.

TAGS Sanford Humvee Stolen

Comments

Print

Share

Kaycee Hathaway

From: SOARS Save Our Ag & Rural Spaces <saveouragandruralspaces@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, December 26, 2014 4:49 PM
To: Kaycee Hathaway
Subject: Comments on Old McDonald's Farm request for a CUP
Attachments: McDonald SEPA.pdf

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Miss Hathaway,

The attached document has information/comments I would like put in the official records. I will also be sending another attachment on a separate email so as not to get rejected because of file size.

Thank you.

Julie UfkesSOARS

Kaycee K Hathaway
Kittitas County Community Development Services/ Planner I
411 N Ruby ST, Suite 2
Ellensburg WA 98926
Email: kaycee.hathaway@co.kittitas.wa.us

December 26, 2014

Re: McDonald SEPA

Dear Ms. Hathaway,

I urge the county planners to deny the Conditional Use Permit for the marijuana producer/processor called “Old McDonald’s Farm” on Emerson Road. It is inappropriately placed, as all marijuana businesses near homes are, incompatible with surrounding uses, has the potential to bring trouble to the neighborhood and harm the valley’s precious export Timothy hay industry.

LOCATION, SAFETY, EMERGENCY SERVICES

This location is directly across the street from the site of Brethren Christian School and bordered by residences with young children. The swing set in the photo to the right belongs to a next door neighbor to the proposed marijuana business whose buildings are teal. The private school, shown in the foreground of the photo below, is owned by the German Baptists



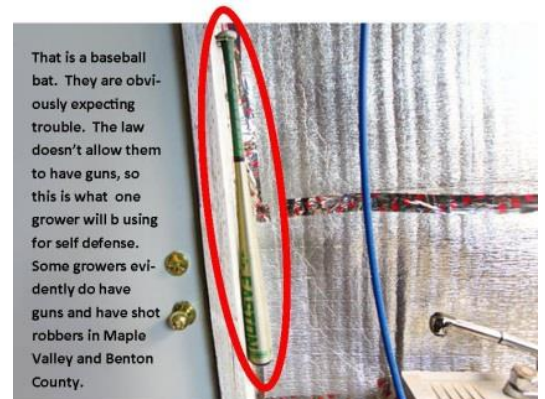
who have been running it for years. Therefore it violates the state’s requirement of being farther than 1000’ away from a school or church. The federal government as well as state requires the production or processing of any controlled substance to be at least that far. There is a reason for that.



product undoubtedly will. It is the value that is the most important reason to keep these away from where people live. And yes, people, real people that count as much as city-folk, do live in the country.

This is an industry that expects trouble. That is why the state is requiring such strong security measures of 8’ fences with razor wire, security lights and cameras. Because of federal laws the marijuana businesses are not to use guns, but those who would like to acquire their valuable

In other places in this state marijuana growers have engaged in shooting with robbers beyond the boundaries of their property in



the last year. (<http://www.seattlepi.com/local/article/Maple-Valley-medical-marijuana-grower-charged-in-4965683.php> and <http://www.freerepublic.com/focus/news/3210607/posts>) Robberies, shootings, kidnappings and even murders have not been uncommon in legal marijuana grows in other parts of the nation. In the first 6 months of recreational commercial cannabis operating in Colorado the crime rate against marijuana businesses rose 32%. To think that these crimes could not happen here shows a lack of awareness of the bigger picture of the industry's issues.

At Life Gardens alone, a marijuana producer at the end of Upper Badger Pocket, there were six police responses from shortly after the beginning of operations in August to harvest season in October. So it is likely that these businesses would have a higher than normal demand for emergency/public services.

10/06/14
15:50
Kittitas County Sheriffs Office
LAW Incident Table
Page: 148
1

CALLS FOR SERVICE REPORT:

When reported	Incident address	Incident na	Disp	Responsible off
21:49:36 09/16/2014	16845 UPPER BADGER POCK	ALARM-LAW	CH	THOMAS, DAVID
23:44:52 09/10/2014	16845 UPPER BADGER POCK	ALARM-LAW	CH	THOMAS, DAVID
20:32:36 09/06/2014	16845 UPPER BADGER POCK	VEHICLE CON	CHW	BERG, CHARLES
20:08:06 09/06/2014	16845 UPPER BADGER POCK	ALARM-LAW	CHW	BERG, CHARLES
19:32:12 08/26/2014	16845 UPPER BADGER POCK	ALARM-LAW	CHV	FLETCHER, PETER

10/31/14
14:36
Kittitas County Sheriffs Office
LAW Incident Table
Page: 148
1

CALLS FOR SERVICE REPORT:

When reported	Incident address	Incident na	Disp	Responsible off
22:19:31 10/15/2014	16845 UPPER BADGER POCK	ALARM-LAW	CH	KIVI, DAN
21:49:36 09/16/2014	16845 UPPER BADGER POCK	ALARM-LAW	CH	THOMAS, DAVID

Routine Activity Theory basically states that an accessible target without adequate guardians in the presence of a motivated offender create a situation where crime occurs. Two acronyms to describe accessible targets are VIVA (value, inertia, visibility, access) and CRAVED (concealable, removable, available, valuable, enjoyable, disposable). I have demonstrated marijuana has value, is concealable, disposable and removable. Many would say it was enjoyable. These are things that motivate thieves. Capable guardians that can interfere are woefully lacking when these businesses are located far from law enforcement. The Sheriff is responsible for enforcing

the law in over 2,300 square miles of this county. Only a few deputies are on duty in the nighttime hours when these break-ins usually happen. If one is called to investigate a possible problem at a marijuana grow, the rest of the county is that much less protected. One might wonder too, if it is a good idea for the officer to investigate alone.

Do not allow these near homes, even if it is low density homes in an agricultural area. Those in the country may live a greater distance from their neighbors than those in urban settings, but sound carries further and generally we can see and hear each other in this wide open landscape, so we are potential witnesses to crimes. Witnesses are at risk of being harmed, especially where high stakes like this are involved.

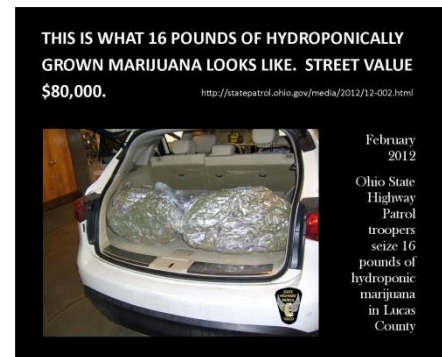
Understanding the value of this crop is key in comprehending why it is desirable to thieves, particularly thieves that already have a distribution network on the black market, some of whom are an unsavory lot. According to the state's consultants from Carnegie Mellon, BOTEC, the average price of high quality product was \$233/ounce to medium quality of \$190/oz. But as you can see from the November 2014 menu of our local retail marijuana shop, Cannabis Central, the prices have tripled to \$700/oz. for high quality bud. (\$25/gm x 28.3gm/oz. x= \$708/oz.) The photo shows the size of 1 gram of marijuana bud. A kitchen sized trash bag, like the ones in the back of the vehicle in the following photo can hold about 8 pounds and would be worth about \$40,000. The following figures use the lower values from the consultants, not the current inflated prices. Remember, current prices are triple what is shown here.

16-32.7 grams/ sq. ft. x 21,000 sq. ft (Tier 3 Grow) = 300,000 to 600,000 grams

= approximately 700 to 1,500 pounds per harvest= \$3-\$7.5M+ per harvest

Indoor grows can do 4-6 crops/year and store 6 mo. worth

Outdoor grows can do 1-3 crops/year and store 15 mo. worth



In my research over the last eight months I have contacted those who worked on regulating legal medical marijuana in Los Angeles, the Denver Police Department, the Denver District Attorney's office and the Colorado Springs Police Department, among others. Former Deputy Planner Chris Koontz told me that robbery and other crime because of the value and cash going in and out are the biggest problems with marijuana businesses. The crime rate against marijuana businesses increased significantly in Denver the first 6 months post opening of legal

recreational marijuana shops. An officer from Colorado Springs, which banned recreational marijuana but has mmj, says the black market is stronger than ever after the legalization of recreational mj.

There is no safety in denial. Hope is not a plan. Be proactive in the safety of the residents who receive no benefit but suffer the risks and environmental effects, of which we do not fully understand yet in this new industry that has never before been attempted at this scale.

From: "Dulacki, Mary J. - MOS" <Mary.Dulacki@denvergov.org>
Subject: MJ Business Crime
Date: Tue, 14 Oct 2014 10:02:48 -0600
To: "jufkes@fairpoint.net" <jufkes@fairpoint.net>

Good Morning:

The Denver Police Department website posts crime statistics at denvergov.org/police which can be accessed using the drop-down menu under the tab "Crime Information".

For crime related to marijuana, I can provide you with the following statistical information:

Tickets issued for Possession or Public Display/ Consumption through July, 2014:

-Possession	233 (down 68% from 2013)
-Public Display/Consumption	639 (up 245% from 2013)

Burglary is the most prevalent of all marijuana-related crime – 112 out of 187. Through June, 2014, marijuana-related burglaries were up 32% when compared to the first 6 months of 2013.

Charges for Driving Under the Influence of Drugs where Marijuana is the suspected drug have increased

Through 9/5/2013-54 DUID charges (23 for marijuana)

Through 9/5/2014-78 DUID charges (39 for marijuana)

<http://www.denvergov.org/Portals/584/images/New311Lockup/Emaillcon.jpg>

Mary Dulacki | Records Coordinator
Department of Safety | City and County of Denver
720.913.6262 Phone
mary.dulacki@denvergov.org

This e-mail and any attachments thereto are intended only for use by the addressee(s) named herein and may contain legally privileged or confidential information. If you are not the intended recipient of this e-mail, you are hereby notified that any dissemination, distribution or copying of this e-mail and any attachments thereto is strictly prohibited. If you have received this e-mail in error, please notify me immediately at [720-913-6262](tel:720-913-6262) and permanently delete the original and destroy any copies or printouts. Thank you.

EMPLOYEES, WELL WATER and TRAFFIC

The number of employees there will be is not stated in the application. At a certain level, around 25 employees I believe, a Group A water system is required to be installed on the property. NMF claimed they would employ 6 full time workers and 8 seasonal workers (Land and Shoreline Use, Section 8-I of NMF SEPA application) on their 21,000 sq. ft. grow operation. Mr. McDonald is seeking a total of 7 acres, 304,920 sq. ft. of growing area. That is over 14 times the amount of land. Would he need 14 times the amount of employees? If so, he would be well over the number of employees that would require him to install the class A water system. Even if he only did 90,000 sq. ft. it would put him at a level requiring the Group A water system.

The number of employees will also determine the traffic impacts of this business. No information other than, "we will not be hiring hundreds" was given. This is insufficient information to assess the impact to the

neighborhood and possible mitigations. He claims parking is adequate but how can you tell with no hard facts on number of employees? Should we just take his word for it?

WATER SOURCE

The application says water for growing the plants will be purchased from “local vendors.” These local vendors need to be named and their water rights need to be presented and verified. In addition, who will monitor regularly to see that water deliveries do in fact continue to be made and wells, KRD or other federally funded water is not being used improperly? Records for each delivery need to be kept and verified.

SIZE OF GROWING AREA

The plans are to eventually grow up to 7 acres which is 304,920 sq. ft. The state only allows one Tier 3 operation, 21,000 sq. ft., at the moment. Initial plans by the LCB were to allow up to three producer applications and one processor application per business. Tier 3 applications were going to be 30,000 sq. ft. maximum growing space but were later reduced. So 90,000 sq. ft, roughly 2 acres, was the maximum growing canopy allowed at first. How is this acceptable for 7 acres to be in production? I see no legally justifiable reason to grant 7 acres of growing space for marijuana. Are these additional square feet for growing medical marijuana? Does the county have any rules on growing medical marijuana and how is that going to be monitored that those portions for medical marijuana are only for this mmj business and not for the recreational? Lack of monitoring is problematic. The growing of medical marijuana being unregulated through zoning rules in this county is problematic. It is the same valuable product with the same appeal to thieves and therefore the same risks to the community via theft or harm to the hay industry.

WASTE MANAGEMENT

“Controlled burning” is a potential health hazard. This plant contains a chemical which is a psychoactive drug, even in the stems and cuttings other than the buds. It is these parts that are used in making edibles. A man in Spokane testified that his wife suffered asthma type reactions from the emissions coming from a large grow next door.

HAY INDUSTRY CONTAMINATION OR EVEN PERCEPTION, ABANDONMENT

Some have said that only female clones are used in this industry, so concern about seeds contaminating hay fields is unwarranted. The fact is that some marijuana growers do use seeds. In fact, in the blog from sfgate.com, “Marijuana Seeds vs. Clones.” *Smell The Truth*. 27 March 2013, the author states, “According to one seed distributor I spoke to almost all High Times Cannabis Cup Winners have been grown from seed and not from clone....” In addition to seeds, “hermies” can appear in grows. These are hermaphroditic plants, usually females that have grown some male reproductive parts. This can happen if females have been over cloned or plants have been stressed. Furthermore, there is always the chance that one male or hermaphrodite will be

overlooked, not removed in time and pollinate an entire greenhouse. The result would be flowers with viable seeds.

In the case of abandonment male plants or hermies would not be noticed. Lack of care would cause plants to become stressed thus creating hermies. If a site were abandoned, who would know? How would one see through the privacy fence? If it was known, would it be noticed quickly, before the plants reach a stage where they had produced seeds? How would the county take care of this potential source of contamination before the seeds were spread by wind, water or animal? Since losing the status of noxious weed, the county no longer has the right to come in and spray without going through the proper legal channels or getting the owner's consent. Could all these steps happen with adequate speed to prevent contamination? There are many places in the Midwest where ditch weed is a problem and is considered a noxious weed, such as Kansas and Nebraska.

Not too long ago, when a coke can was found in a bale of hay at a racetrack in Japan, it shut that track down for three days. Certainly parts of a marijuana plant would be even more serious. Imagine you are the Japanese businessman responsible for buying the hay that goes to the racetrack. Would you want to be the one that bought contaminated hay? What if they found out you bought hay from an area that grew marijuana? What would be the consequences besides the millions lost from closing the racetrack? Would you want to take a chance on that hay as a Japanese businessman? Or would you prefer to buy your hay from a safer location?

ECONOMIC BENEFITS TO COUNTY?

T.J. McDonald claims the county will benefit through the taxes his business generates. There is no certainty any taxes from this will come to this county. It all goes to the state general fund for dispersal as the legislature sees fit. The county has already spent a lot, the equivalent of two county employee salaries/month to deal with marijuana issues for quite some time. So far this has been an unfunded mandate. How long will it take for the revenue received to cover the costs to start up this business? How much will it take to mitigate or address negative environmental impacts that have yet to be discovered? How much will it cost to monitor and enforce the regulations? What additional needs for policing will be required? This is something that is not being done yet at the county level and the WALCB seems to be washing its hands of issues such as enforcing location. An example would be the church in Seattle that is suing to have a retail mj shop moved because they are 250' away. The city and the LCB have not acted to rectify the situation.

Verizon 11:47 AM 16%

yakima.craig Reader Search

reply Posted: 13 hours ago prohibited

★ Admin assitant (ellensburg)

compensation: \$12-\$15

Looking for full time admin secretary. Start up 502 legal marijuana garden with 20+ employees.

Compensation \$12-\$15.

We are looking for motivated individuals with highly organized administrative talents. Must be ready to manage calendars, time cards, pay roll, equipment check in/out, log books and aarons.

Position open today.

Please reply with short email about yourself and why you would like to work for us.

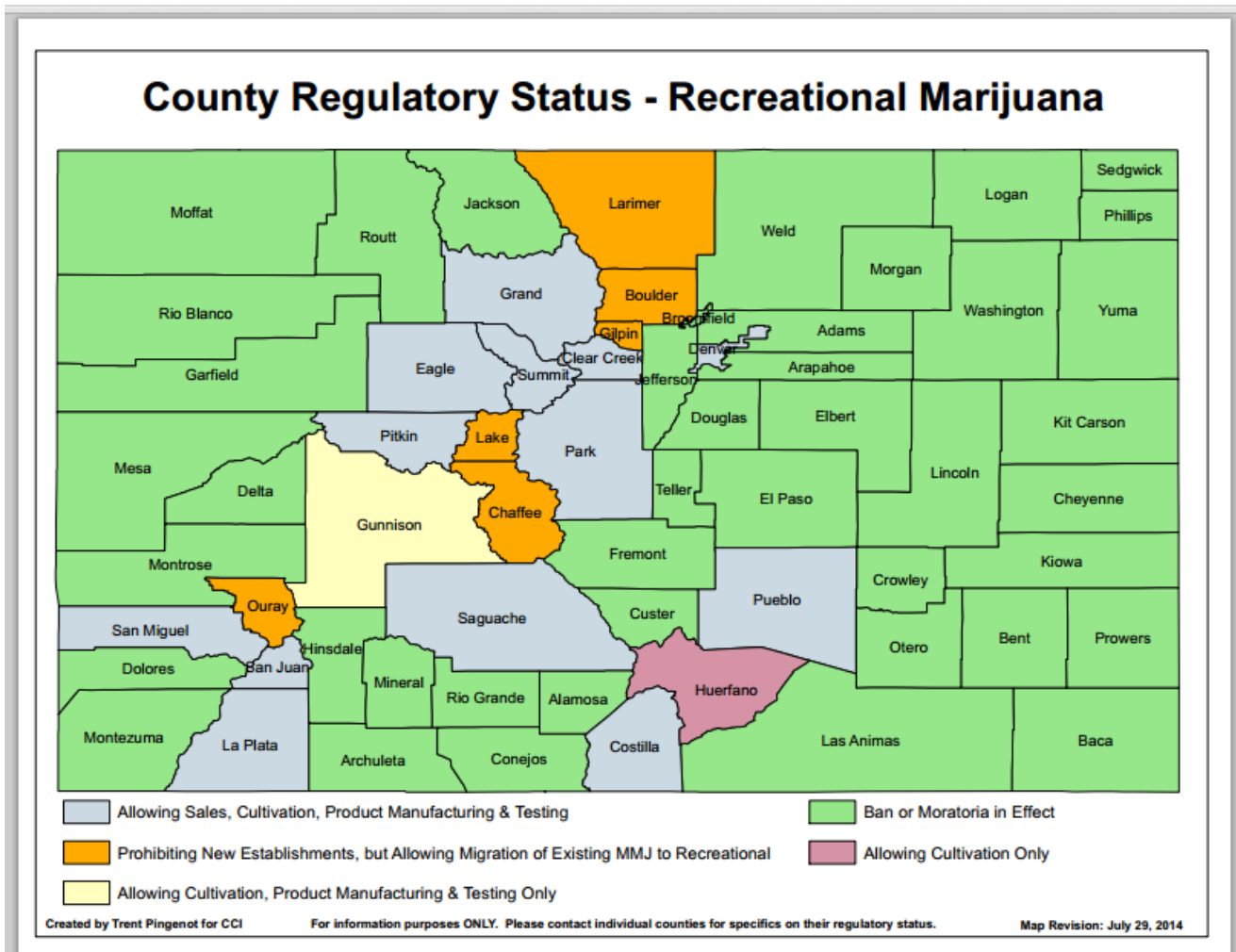
- Principals only. Recruiters, please don't contact this job poster.
- do NOT contact us with unsolicited services or offers

post id: 4715303433 posted: 13 hours ago email to friend best of

<http://mmjbusinessdaily.com/seattle-church-sues-to-close-rec-shop/?nomobile=1>

Some 502 business owners have claimed they would offer good paying jobs. There was an ad on Craig's List for \$12-\$15/hour book keeping job. That is minimum wage is Seattle. Employees should get hazard pay.

Just for your information, 87% of counties in CO have opted out of commercialized pot businesses even though their state law does give the counties a sizeable portion of the taxes. They must feel the costs outweigh the benefits. Taxes in CO have been a small fraction of what was expected statewide. Also many expenses in setting up and monitoring this industry are very expensive. Note how many visits by the sheriff to Life Gardens. The potential harm to the reputation of Kittitas County export hay could cause great harm to a long time staple industry that not only provides the valley with the economic multiplier effect felt in many local businesses, but also gives the valley the character and charm so many appreciate.



MISCELLANEOUS ISSUES

- Last 3 boxes on application are not checked for title report attached, recorded survey attached and current years taxes been paid.
- Mitigation issues. “We will mitigate in the future if needs arise.” This is not a plan. Maybe a bond to assure no contamination of hay crops, especially in case of abandonment. How do you mitigate for the lost value of homes that are harder to sell? How do you mitigate for making people want to move? How do you mitigate for putting a crime prone business next to a property where young children live? How do you mitigate for harming the reputation of the Kittitas County export Timothy hay industry?
- Common sense says this is not the proper zoning for this operation and the commissioners voted this to not be proper zoning on Nov. 13, 2014.
- Landscape Plan. If the purpose of the trees is to provide a screen for privacy or to mitigate the visual impact of these fences, which are identified as pot grow fences as no one else in the county has these, that is not going to happen for twenty years given the size of the trees being planted.
- Setbacks. Is 30’ from the KRD canal ok? I was under the impression 60’ setbacks were required.

CONCLUSION

To allow this to exist in a neighborhood creates a “taking” from the pre-existing residents. It “takes” their tranquility, security, and value of their home. MJ businesses are the nuisance coming to the neighbors, not the other way around. This is not compatible with the existing neighborhood. While many neighborhoods lack the funds to hire legal counsel, hardly anyone wants to live near marijuana grow. There is resistance all over this state and Colorado. What unknown and unintended consequences have we yet to experience? Negative impacts from other places include crime, asthma, smell, lights, habitat destruction, damage to waterways and more.

People didn’t spend their life working to live next to a pot farm. They worked hard and bought here for what this county has been; a safe, family oriented place. Hay fields, barns and open views, not chain link fences or other large fences, lights and security cameras recording the every move of everyone on the adjoining properties as all approaches must have surveillance cameras. In an article from The Stranger, <http://www.thestranger.com/seattle/behind-the-scenes-photos-of-a-bunch-of-marijuana-grows/Content?oid=20438779>, It tells us, “At this outdoor farm in Benton County, there are cameras every 15 feet along the fences.” It describes another grow operation’s security cameras, “On the corner of this barn at Gecko Growers, one of 38 cameras sits above a satellite dish, which in turn relays information to state officials in real time about everything happening in the building. That way, the Liquor Control Board can monitor the pot farms remotely *and* in person. The neighbors should be able to expect not to be filmed at their own home. Residents should have a reasonable expectation of privacy at their residence.

We need to address zoning of medical marijuana grows in Kittitas County. It has the same risks associated with it. Size matters when it comes to value, which affects the risk of theft, number of employees, amount of traffic and type of water system required. Why is he requesting seven acres of growing space? Is he intending to combine the production of medical marijuana with recreational? Is this allowable?

Thank you for including this in the official files for comments/objections to the CUP for Old Mc Donald's Farm.

Julie Ufkes

Save our Ag & Rural Spaces

707 N. Pearl Street, Suite A

Ellensburg, WA 98926

saveouragandruralspaces@gmail.com