



## Presidential candidate from NM signs nation's 12th MMJ law

### NM law sets stage for new federal drive in Congress

By Bruce Mirken

Presidential candidate and New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson signed the nation's 12th state medical marijuana law April 2 in a move advocates said will likely jumpstart efforts to reform federal policy.

The signing came in the wake of new research documenting marijuana's medical value and public outrage at the Appeals Court's rejection of Angel Raich's medical marijuana due process claim.

New Mexico joins Alaska, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Maine, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Rhode Island, Vermont and Washington in protecting medical marijuana patients from arrest.

Democrat Richardson, the first presidential candidate to have supported medical marijuana by signing it into law, has consistently voiced his strong support for the bill and was a major proponent in ensuring its passage.

"Gov. Richardson is showing his compassion for seriously ill people, and he is also reflecting the will of the majority of New Mexicans and the American people," said Drug Policy Alliance NM director Reena Szczepanski.

"I hope other elected officials take note: Americans will stand behind those that believe in compassion and mercy for our most vulnerable, our sick and dying patients struggling for relief."

Added Rob Kampia, director of the Marijuana Policy Project, "The American public, too, is solidly behind medical marijuana. An October 2005 Gallup poll found

*Continued on page 13*



**GREENING OF AMERICA** — Map of medical marijuana states is superimposed over the window sign of a Los Angeles dispensary. Passage of New Mexico's law gives more Americans safe access. Arizona's law is invalid due to its wording. Oaksterdam News photo by Jaime Galindo

## State board wants taxes from cannabis sales

By Richard Lee

The California Board of Equalization announced in February that cannabis products are subject to sales tax, including medical marijuana.

With as many as 500 outlets in the state generating two billion in sales, the state could collect \$175 million in 2007 on cannabis drinks, baked goods, confections, ice cream, plants, herb, concentrates, topical ointments, and oral spray formulations.

The Board determined that SB 420

does allow sales under state law but since medical marijuana only requires a doctor's recommendation it is not a prescription medicine and therefore not exempt from sales tax.

Since cannabis is still illegal federally, "retailers may decline to provide information on products sold due to concerns about self-incrimination," according to a Board of Equalization *Special Notice*.

For 2007, revenues could be even greater than \$175 million due to many retailers paying tax that was collected in 2006 before the policy was finalized. Some companies have been collecting sales tax on cannabis products since 2002,

*Continued on page 12*

## So Cal cannabis outlets surpass 400

### Flurry of openings seek a foothold ahead of new rules

By Jaime Galindo

With a moratorium on new Los Angeles cannabis outlets on the horizon, the number of SoCal retailers has now risen to more than 400. The DEA raids of last January have not slowed the increase in cannabis availability in the nation's second largest city.

Police Chief William J. Bratton submitted a report to the Los Angeles City Planning Commission a year ago, identifying issues associated with medical marijuana dispensaries. This report included a total of 41 recommendations to regulate existing and future medical marijuana dispensaries, carrying specific emphasis on hours of operation and land use issues.

The report recommended that an ICO (Interim Control Ordinance) be imposed and no dispensary be granted grandfather status and that dispensary operators be required to register with the department within 60 days of the ordinance taking effect. These proposals were dropped after the Planning Commission held a public hearing on March 22 regarding the proposed Interim Control Ordinance (ICO). Van Nuys Courthouse was filled with supporters of the proposed moratorium, including medical marijuana patients, advocates, and dispensary operators.

Although the majority of dispensary operators seek regulation, it can be a double-edged sword. While regulation is needed to ensure safe access, the proposed moratorium may force a number of dispensaries to shut down or relocate due to land use issues, such as its proximity to a church, school, or another dispensary.

*Continued on page 19*

## Rosenthal victory: Most of grower's charges thrown out as 'vindictive'

By Martin Williams

San Francisco's federal US Attorney George Bevan survived a recent administration purge of prosecutors who were not "Bushy" enough in pursuing the president's partisan political agenda. Part of his assignment has been to undermine California state laws by aggressively pursuing those who work within the state's developing legal medical cannabis infrastructure.

### A juror cannot be punished for voting to acquit a defendant, regardless of the 'facts' presented.

"Guru of Ganja" Ed Rosenthal was prosecuted by Bevan and convicted of drug charges in 2003. In 2006 he saw his conviction overturned because one of the jurors had been intimidated from exercising her right to vote "not guilty" when she realized the case involved medical use.

A juror cannot be punished for voting to acquit a defendant, regardless of the facts that are allowed into evidence; this power to vote "not guilty" is known as *jury nullification* when applied to unjust laws.

Rosenthal had been deputized by the City of Oakland in an effort to give him the same immunity for providing cannabis to patients for medical use that an undercover narcotics agent has when selling drugs

to school children or others in order to entrap them into violating a law.

The US Supreme Court held in 2001 that deputies are immune only if they attempt to trick people into breaking a law, and not when they try to help sick and dying people under state law.

Rosenthal continued to be a thorn in federal prosecutors' sides, and Bevan announced last year he would retry Rosenthal on the charges, only to be told by Judge Charles Breyer that it was a waste of time because, if Rosenthal was convicted, the judge had already passed a sentence and would not add to his one day for time served on the night of his arrest.

Bevan responded with a flurry of subpoenas for Rosenthal's acquaintances and filed new charges of tax evasion regarding less than \$2000 worth of money orders Rosenthal had once purchased.

Americans for Safe Access attorneys (see story on page 2) argued that this amounted to vindictive prosecution and the charges should be tossed out. On March 14, Breyer agreed that "it is apparent that (the US prosecutor) decided to re-evaluate its strategy in response to Rosenthal's public criticism of the trial. In other words, the

*Continued on page 12*

**LA Dispensary Reviews**  
— Inside —

## Federal judge tells DEA to stop obstructing cannabis research

By Dale Gieringer

In response to a lawsuit brought by medical cannabis research advocates, Drug

Enforcement Administration (DEA) Administrative Law Judge Mary Ellen Bittner ruled Feb. 12 that the agency should stop blocking approval of a private cannabis research production facility at the University of Massachusetts.

In an 87-page ruling, Judge Bittner found that the public interest would be served by ending the government's monopoly on marijuana supplies.

The lawsuit was sponsored by the Multidisciplinary Association for Psychedelic Studies (MAPS), which is sponsoring the U Mass project, with legal assistance from the ACLU.

"This is a major step to getting us to do the scientific research that the government has been blocking for the past 30 years," said MAPS Director and NORML board member Rick Doblin.

"For decades, politicians have said that marijuana has no proven medical value while scientists have been denied the ability to prove otherwise."

At present, the only legal source of marijuana in the US is the government's research farm at the University of Mississippi, controlled by the National

*Continued on page 4*



**FLOWER FROM A PATIENT** — Juries cannot be punished for their verdicts. This issue patient garden is on page 7. Oaksterdam News photo by Jaime Galindo

## Americans for Safe Access:

# ASA played key role in Rosenthal charge dismissals; victory is relief for community

By William Dolphin

Noted cannabis author Ed Rosenthal had the majority of the federal charges against him dismissed on March 14, thanks in large measure to the legal work of Americans for Safe Access' Chief Counsel, Joe Elford. The judge in the high-profile case made an extraordinarily rare ruling that the government was engaging in an illegal "vindictive prosecution" when it expanded the charges against Rosenthal upon re-indicting him.

Convicted in 2003 on three felony cannabis counts in a case that received worldwide media attention, the 62-year-old medical marijuana advocate had his convictions overturned by a federal appellate court in 2006.

*ASA has been attending court hearings, mobilizing grassroots support, and keeping people informed about the case*

The government then brought a new indictment against Rosenthal that included not only the original charges related to growing medical marijuana as part of a City of Oakland program, but also tax and money laundering charges.

In dismissing the additional money-related charges, Charles Breyer, the federal judge hearing the case, said the addition of money laundering and tax charges was an effort to dissipate the harsh criticism taken by the government over the case.

When the prosecutor, Assistant US Attorney George Bevan, Jr. indicated that he intended to retry Rosenthal anyway on just the cannabis charges — despite the fact that the government stated it would not seek more than the one-day sentence Rosenthal received for the original conviction — Judge Breyer postponed the case to give the government time to reconsider.

Breyer set the stage by asking what purpose could be served by a new trial and directing prosecutors to find another case of a defendant being re-tried after serving

his sentence.

Dismissal of the new charges meant a sigh of relief for many in the Bay Area medical marijuana community. More than 70 witnesses had been subpoenaed by the government to testify against Rosenthal, beginning with the federal grand jury in August 2006. Throughout the process, ASA staff worked to protect the rights of the subpoenaed members of the community, many of whom were reluctant to testify.

During the grand jury phase, at least four witnesses were subpoenaed, two of whom refused to testify and were close to being jailed for contempt. ASA informed and trained these and other people subpoenaed about their rights in general and, specifically, before a federal grand jury. ASA also secured legal counsel experienced in grand juries for one of the people the government was attempting to coerce into testifying.

In addition to helping Rosenthal and people the government has been trying to strong-arm into testifying, ASA has been attending court hearings, mobilizing grassroots court support and keeping the community informed about what was happening in the case.

At the next hearing in the Rosenthal case, prosecutors will reveal whether they are appealing the "vindictive prosecution" dismissal or dropping the remaining charges. Judge Breyer scheduled that hearing for Friday, April 13, a date that drew an incredulous "Friday the thirteenth?" from one of the attorneys.

"I can't imagine a better day," Breyer deadpanned.

"4/20," suggested Rosenthal.

*Come out of the closet!  
Join the  
Cannabis Consumers  
Campaign!*

Visit us online at  
[cannabisconsumers.org](http://cannabisconsumers.org)



**SMILES — Attorneys Omar Figueroa and Shari Greenberger of Pier 5 Law Offices flank a happy Ed Rosenthal after most of his charges were dismissed.**

Photo by Vanessa Nelson Courtesy of MedicalMarijuanaofAmerica.com.

## ASA suit challenges government's misinformation on cannabis efficacy

By William Dolphin\*

The federal government's continuing denials of the medical efficacy of cannabis may soon come to an end, thanks to action by Americans for Safe Access, who filed a lawsuit in federal court Feb. 21 demanding that the Food and Drug Administration and the Department of Health and Human Services stop spreading misinformation on medical cannabis and correct the information they have published.

The ASA case specifically challenges the government position that "marijuana has no accepted medical value." This key claim has been trotted out by federal authorities every time a legislative body considers cannabis reform, and those same officials and agencies have the data showing it is not accurate.

"The FDA position on medical cannabis is incorrect, dishonest and a flagrant violation of laws requiring the government to base policy on sound science," said Joe Elford, Chief Counsel for ASA.

The ASA lawsuit charges the federal agencies with a violation of the little-known Data Quality Act (DQA). That law requires federal agencies to rely on sound science in the information they disseminate and the policies they make. The DQA also allows citizens to challenge government information believed to be inaccurate or based on faulty, unreliable data.

"The science to support medical cannabis is overwhelming, yet the government continues to play politics with the lives of patients desperately in need of pain relief," said ASA Executive Director Steph Sherer. "Americans for Safe Access is fil-

ing this lawsuit on medical cannabis to demand that the FDA stop holding science hostage to politics."

The court filing is the outcome of a more than two-year petition process and comes on the heels of a recent University of California, San Francisco study demonstrating the effectiveness of medical cannabis in treating pain in people living with HIV/AIDS.

ASA first filed a petition to force HHS — the FDA's parent agency — to correct statements about the medical value of cannabis in October 2004. Under the DQA, agencies must respond or file for an extension 60 days from the date of the first petition filing. The government response was a statement saying that it would not act on the petition, a position it has maintained despite ASA's May 2005 appeal. Using the DQA's judicial review provisions, the Oakland-based organization is now taking its cause to the courts.

"Citizens have a right to expect the government to use the best available information for policy decisions. This innovative case turns the Data Quality Act into a tool for the public interest," said case co-counsel Alan Morrison, a preeminent legal scholar who founded Public Citizen's Litigation Group and currently serves as a senior lecturer at Stanford Law School.

"I had side effects from morphine patches, oxycontin, and oxycodone before starting a medical cannabis regime that has allowed me to get off prescription drugs and live virtually pain-free," said Blackfoot, Idaho resident Victoria Lansford, a named patient in the lawsuit who suffers from fibromyalgia.

"The government's refusal to face up to the science is irresponsible and harms citizens like me for whom this treatment is a lifeline."

\* The DQA complaint is posted online at: [AmericansForSafeAccess.org/downloads/DQA\\_Complaint.pdf](http://AmericansForSafeAccess.org/downloads/DQA_Complaint.pdf). Background info: [AmericansForSafeAccess.org/DQA](http://AmericansForSafeAccess.org/DQA)

### For the record ...

In our patient directory of the last issue, *Oaksterdam News* printed an incorrect address for MedEx information service in Santa Cruz. We apologize for any errors and inconvenience that resulted.

**OAKSTERDAM**  
GIFT SHOP  
OAKLAND CALIFORNIA  
Monday - Saturday  
11AM - 5PM  
405 15th St. Oakland, CA 94612  
510-836-GIFT(4438)  
[OaksterdamGiftshop.Com](http://OaksterdamGiftshop.Com)

**OAKSTERDAM NEWS**

*Oaksterdam News* is a free speech publication owned and operated by The Oaksterdam News. This newspaper promotes the community by providing news, photos, directories, features, regional information and guides for California and other readers.

We support tolerance and believe that cannabis sales and cultivation should be legal for adult consumption. We provide a free listing for California cannabis outlets and patient support groups that are on the public record. Any service provider who is *not* interested in this feature needs to advise our office using the contact information below:

**510-836-NEWS (6397)**  
Richard Lee, publisher  
Chris Conrad, executive editor  
Jaime Galindo, managing editor  
Richard Muller, office volunteer  
405 15th St., Oakland CA 94612  
[www.OaksterdamNews.com](http://www.OaksterdamNews.com)

Print run: 120,000 copies. © 2007. All rights reserved.

## Cannabis oversight committees forming

### Cities implement cannabis-friendly 'LLEP' measures

By Mikki Norris\*

Last fall, voters in three California cities approved measures designed to reduce cannabis arrests and save money.

Santa Barbara Mayor Marty Blum has selected the city's first oversight committee mandated by Measure P, the Lowest

Law Enforcement Priority for Marijuana Offenses (LLEP) initiative following interviews with applicants that were held at the end of February. While she and the city council authorized the city attorney to seek "judicial clarification" of the measure, they also voted to go forward and create the oversight committee that monitors compliance with the policy.

Despite concern that their opposition could pose a threat to the composition of the committee by selecting members who reflect their negative views of the policy, the mayor selected many allies of Measure P. Well-known doctor and medical marijuana proponent, Dr. David Bearman, was selected to fill the medical professional seat on the committee. The criminal defense attorney's seat went to Joe Allen who was an endorser of Measure P and a former district attorney for Mendocino County. Keeping an eye out for city residents is Patrick Fourmy, long-time medical marijuana activist and owner of the Compassion Center of Santa Barbara. Rounding out the committee is attorney Luis Esparza for the civil liberties advocate seat, Ryan O'Leary for the second city resident seat, Brendan Hamme, for the medical marijuana patient seat, and Al Rodriguez, for the Drug Abuse, Treatment and Prevention Counselor seat.

Mayor Blum received many calls from constituents complaining about the waste of tax dollars challenging a policy that won by a mandate of 66 percent of the vote, after the Marijuana Policy Project sent out alerts in an effort to avert a lawsuit. Defending her position in an email the mayor responded, "It would not matter if the subject matter were marijuana or automobile tires or anything else. Our City Attorney does not believe that the voters can tell us specifically what to do. The argument goes that the voters elect the City Council to act within the Constitutions of the State of California and the US Constitution, and individual initiatives to do the Council's work are not constitutional."

The ACLU Drug Law Project has signed on as counsel for the Measure P proponent to defend the rights of the voters to set such a policy by initiative. Considering the fact that similar measures have not been found to be unconstitutional in Seattle and Oakland, where related initiatives were voted on and have been in effect since 2003 and 2004 respectively, there is much optimism that Measure P will withstand the challenge. If any part is

## Poll: Past drug use no big deal for candidates

By Phil Smith, DRCNet\*

Only 17 percent of Democratic voters and 22 percent of Republican voters would refuse to vote for a Presidential candidate who admits to past drug use, a Gallup poll has found. Overall, only 19 percent of voters would reject a candidate because he smoked a bowl or snorted a line in the distant past, the survey found.

### Good news for Barack Obama

History shows us that it didn't stop Bill Clinton from getting elected.

The poll, conducted late last month, asked more than 1,000 respondents what qualities they were seeking in the next president. Concern about candidates' past drug use ranked only 13th out of 16 questions about candidates' qualities, scoring higher than only "attends religious services regularly" (18 percent), "has worked in Washington a long time" (10 percent), and "has served in the military" (7 percent).

Potential voters were much more concerned that candidates are strong leaders (77 percent), have good moral character (68 percent), are effective managers (63 percent), can unite the country (59 percent), and are consistent on the issues (47 percent).

That's good news for Democratic contender Barack Obama, who has publicly admitted to past drug use. The news isn't so good for possible Republican contender Newt Gingrich, who recently admitted to carrying on extramarital affairs. Being faithful to one's spouse is considered absolutely essential by 37 percent of potential voters, including 52 percent of Republican voters.

\* Smith writes for DRCNet, the online news and activism service supported by donations that publishes the *Drug War Chronicles*. To subscribe, visit [stophthdrugwar.org](http://stophthdrugwar.org)



RESIST LA RAIDS — Protesters face off against a DEA barrier during the March 6 raid at West Hollywood Caregivers at Fairfax & Santa Monica. Oaksterdam News photo by Henriette Miller

overturned, however, the remainder of the initiative will still stand. The fact that the mayor has selected an oversight committee shows that she is responsive to the will of the voters to some degree. Other council members also assured supporters that they would do what they can to preserve the policy if needed.

Santa Cruz City Attorney John Barisone initiated a similar challenge to Measure K, another LLEP initiative, which passed with 64 percent of the vote last November. Claiming the measure conflicts with the city charter and responding to pressure from local police, the city attorney informed Measure K proponents, Theodora Kerry and Craig Reinerman, that changes needed to be made to avoid a lawsuit. Kerry and Reinerman with the help of Defense Attorney Ben Rice, were able to come to a satisfactory compromise with the city that keeps the policy in tact while accepting a few proposed changes. This effectively should end the challenge.

The Santa Cruz city clerk is now accepting applications for Measure K's Oversight Committee, which will oversee compliance with the policy. Each city council member must select a member to serve on this committee. No known supporters have submitted applications. If backers of the policy do not apply for a seat on the oversight committee, they run

the risk that council members will choose people to serve who are less supportive, as the city council is more conservative than in years past.

The City of Santa Monica, meanwhile, is not challenging their LLEP initiative, Measure Y, which passed with a resounding 65 percent of the vote. Measure Y does not provide for an oversight committee, leaving the responsibility for its implementation with the city council in cooperation with the police department. The new police chief indicated a willingness to cooperate.

According to local contacts in all three areas, the city clerks' offices are complying with the component of the initiatives that require them to issue letters to all the state and federal elected officials representing the respective areas within three months of the measures' passage. The letters notify them of the passage of the local initiatives that de-prioritize cannabis offenses and "request that the federal and California state governments take immediate steps to enact similar laws."

To apply for the Santa Cruz Oversight Committee, you can download an application at: [www.ci.santa-cruz.ca.us/advbod/advbdappl.pdf](http://www.ci.santa-cruz.ca.us/advbod/advbdappl.pdf)

\* Norris is director of the Cannabis Consumers Campaign. For info on the measures, see [taxandregulate.org](http://taxandregulate.org).

**Omar Figueroa**  
Attorney specializing in cannabis cultivation, medical marijuana & cybercrime cases.

¡Yo hablo español!

Graduate of Yale College and Stanford Law School with years of experience defending growers, patients and caregivers in California and federal courts.

**Complimentary case consultation.**

506 Broadway, San Francisco 94133-4507 • 415/986-5591

[www.pier5law.com](http://www.pier5law.com)

Email to: [omar@stanfordalumni.org](mailto:omar@stanfordalumni.org)

**Dr. Green**  
T-Shirts  
Mens and Womens  
Available at  
OCBC (The Co-op Stop)  
in Downtown Oakland

510-839-CLBZ

510-839-CLBZ



**CLUB**

**Measure Z Measure**

## Another Walter Reed veteran abuse scandal

# Therapy suppressed for PTSD injuries

By Fred Gardner\*

The corporate media would have us believe that it's only the living conditions at Walter Reed Army Medical Center that are deplorable, not the medical care. But California cannabis specialists question the quality of care itself. "Wounded soldiers at Walter Reed are treated with toxic medications," says Tod Mikuriya, MD, "while the safest painkiller known to man is systematically withheld."

*The new Congress could go far in establishing its bona fides as both reasonable and compassionate by immediately moving on this issue*

"If anybody needs and deserves cannabis-based medicine, it's the thousands of soldiers who have been seriously wounded in Iraq," says Philip A. Denney, MD, president of the Society of Cannabis Clinicians. "Cannabis would help in treating insomnia, pain, PTSD, spasticity, and a whole array of symptoms that wounded vets typically face."

PTSD is widespread in our society. Mikuriya, who has monitored cannabis use by more than 8,500 patients, reports that approximately eight percent had a primary diagnosis of PTSD. Many "are Vietnam veterans whose chronic depression, insomnia, and accompanying irritability cannot be relieved by conventional psychotherapeutics and is worsened by alcohol. For many of these veterans, chronic pain from old physical injury compounds problems with narcotic dependence and side effects of opioids.

"Cannabis relieves pain, enables sleep, normalizes gastrointestinal function and restores peristalsis. Fortified by improved digestion and adequate rest, the patient can resist being overwhelmed by triggering stimuli. There is no other psychotherapeutic drug with these synergistic and complementary effects.

"Physical pain, fatigue, and sleep deficit are symptoms that can be ameliorated. Restorative exercise and diet are requisite components of treatment of PTSD and depression. Cannabis does not leave the patient too immobile to exercise, as do some analgesics, sedatives, benzodiazepines, etc. Regular aerobic exercise (where injury does not interfere) relieves tension and restores control through kinesthetic involvement. Exercise also internalizes the locus of control and diminishes drug-seeking

ing to manage emotional response.

"PTSD often involves irritability and inability to concentrate, which is aggravated by sleep deficit. Cannabis use enhances the quality of sleep through modulation of emotional reactivity. It eases the triggered flashbacks and accompanying emotional reactions, including nightmares.

"The importance of restoring circadian rhythm of sleep cannot be overestimated in the management of PTSD. Avoidance of alcohol is important in large part because of the adverse effects on sleep. The short-lived relaxation and relief provided by alcohol are replaced by withdrawal symptoms at night, causing anxiety and the worsening of musculoskeletal pain...

"Based on both safety and efficacy, cannabis should be considered first in the treatment of post-traumatic stress disorder. As part of a restorative program with exercise, diet, and psychotherapy, it should be substituted for 'mainstream' anti-depressants, sedatives, muscle relaxants, tricyclics, etc."

Somewhere at Walter Reed and through the VA system there are wounded men and women who know from direct experience that cannabis eases their symptoms and who, sooner or later, will assert the right to use it openly.

Donna Shalala and Bob Dole, who have been appointed by Bush to assess conditions at Walter Reed, are the last people in the world who would allow cannabis use by wounded vets. Shalala stood alongside Barry McCaffrey to denounce Dr. Mikuriya and Prop 215 at a well-covered press conference in December 1996. She stated that it's wrong to use cannabis "because it's illegal" and the reason it's illegal is "because it's 'wrong.'"

\* Gardener is a journalist who specializes in coverage of medical marijuana research issues, and editor of *O'Shaughnessy's Journal*.

## DEA Judge advises the federal agency to end its marijuana monopoly and license cannabis growers

Continued from page 1

Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA). However, NIDA tightened restrictions on access to its marijuana following passage of Prop. 215, refusing to make it available even by sale for certain FDA-approved medical marijuana studies.



**NATURAL SOURCE** — Containers of medical cannabis in LA's Apothecary 420 dispensary display stand in front of an illustration of the THC molecule, generally considered the key medically active ingredient found in cannabis. Oaksterdam News photo by Jaime Galindo

FDA studies are needed to approve marijuana, while at the same time it blocks the studies.

Among the studies that NIDA has blocked is one on marijuana vaporizers sponsored by California NORML and MAPS. The study, designed by Chemic Labs of Canton, Mass., is aimed at developing a smoke-free delivery system for medical cannabis. Because the government has declared that smoking is an unacceptable delivery form, the development of a smoke-free alternative is essential to winning FDA approval of herbal cannabis for medicine. In 2004, Chemic Labs asked to purchase 10 grams of marijuana from NIDA for a vaporizer study. For comparison purposes, Chemic applied to import another 10 grams of high-CBD marijuana from a licensed supplier in the Netherlands. After an 18 month regulatory delay, the applications were denied by NIDA and DEA.

In light of Judge Bittner's decision, Chemic Labs is planning to re-submit the vaporizer research proposal shortly.

Drug reform advocates are hopeful that the Congress will hold hearings on the government's obstruction of medical marijuana. However, prospects of actually passing legislation remain dim so long as the Bush administration remains in power.

Judge Bittner's ruling is posted online at: [maps.org/ALJfindings.PDF](http://maps.org/ALJfindings.PDF).

In response, MAPS filed an application by U. of Massachusetts Prof. Lyle Craker, a medicinal plant horticulturist, to establish a DEA-licensed cannabis research farm to supply researchers interested in medical cannabis R & D. After three and a half years of regulatory delay, the DEA rejected Prof. Craker's application in December, 2004, precipitating the MAPS lawsuit.

Judge Bittner sided with Prof. Craker in every major contention, rejecting the government's claims that present cannabis supplies are adequate, that international treaty forbids alternative cannabis suppliers, and that U. Mass. failed to offer adequate security.

The DEA is not bound by Judge Bittner's decision and is not expected to issue a final reply to it for several months. Past DEA administrators have rejected other administrative law judge decisions, notably Judge Francis Young's 1988 ruling that marijuana should be rescheduled for medical use.

Nonetheless, the decision is expected to stir up pressure against the DEA within the new Democratic Congress, where supporters of medical marijuana have moved into leadership positions. The new chairman of the House Committee overseeing drug policy, Rep. Dennis Kucinich, advocates not only medical marijuana but also decriminalization. He replaces arch-drug-warrior Rep. Mark Souder, who led in legislative attacks on medical marijuana.

The establishment of a private producer of marijuana is crucial to conducting the kinds of FDA efficacy studies that the government has demanded in order to allow medical marijuana. Although NIDA has allowed its marijuana to be used in studies by California's state-sponsored Center for Medicinal Cannabis Research, the results cannot be used for FDA approval, since that requires a new drug application from the manufacturer. NIDA has indicated that it has no interest in filing a new drug application for its marijuana. Therefore another manufacturer is needed to begin the process of new drug approval.

In effect, the government has created a Catch-22 situation, in which it insists that

## NIDA: Drug library closed due to budget cuts

By Phil Smith, DRCNet\*

The National Institute on Drug Abuse's (NIDA) massive collection of journals and books related to drug use and addiction has been shut down because of budget cuts, according to the organ of the Substance Abuse Librarians and Information Specialists, SALIS News. The fate of the 12,000 journal volumes and 8,000 books in the collection is unclear at this point, but it will likely be scattered between the National Institute of Health, other drug and addiction collections, and the personal libraries of researchers.

While the collection was used primarily by NIDA staff, it also contains many historic documents. The collection dates back to 1929 and includes every article published by program staff since NIDA's predecessor, the Addiction Research Center, was founded in 1935. Also among the holdings are the entire set of the Committee on Problems of Drug Dependence meetings abstracts/minutes since its inception in 1929, and numerous other government documents and materials only found in such special collections.

NIDA gets over a billion dollars a year to conduct research on drug abuse and addiction, but it can't seem to find the money to keep this resource going.

As the SALIS News noted: "What will this mean in the long term for those who had relied on [the NIDA Library] for the information they sought? Will it be just a few clicks on Google for them to find the information? What about the history of this research unit so long a part of the early drug addiction research in America? And gee, I thought drug abuse was supposed to be one of the major problems in America."

\* Smith writes for DRCNet, the online news and activism service supported by donations that publishes the *Drug War Chronicles*. To subscribe, visit [stopthedrugwar.org](http://stopthedrugwar.org)

# Marijuana



It's **Not**  
for Kids.

Join the Oaksterdam News in encouraging young people not to use cannabis until adulthood, and in reminding adults to consume it responsibly.

**Ever dreamed of being a reporter or journalist? Getting your photos published?**

**LA and Bay Area bureaus**

Oaksterdam News invites you to electronically submit materials

**510-836-NEWS (6397) • Mon - Friday 1 - 4 PM**

Send submissions to [oaksterdamnews@gmail.com](mailto:oaksterdamnews@gmail.com)

**Upcoming copy and photo deadline: May 20, 2007**

## Latest UC San Francisco study points to cannabis as 'Wonder Drug' for pain

By Dr. Lester Grinspoon\*

A new study in the journal *Neurology* is being hailed as unassailable proof that marijuana is a valuable medicine. It is a sad commentary on the state of modern medicine — and US drug policy — that we still need “proof” of something that medicine has known for 5,000 years.

The study, from the University of California at San Francisco, found smoked cannabis to be effective at relieving the extreme pain of a debilitating condition known as peripheral neuropathy. It was a study of HIV patients, but a similar type of pain caused by damage to nerves afflicts people with many other illnesses including diabetes and multiple sclerosis. Neuropathic pain is notoriously resistant to treatment with conventional pain drugs. Even powerful and addictive narcotics like morphine and OxyContin often provide little relief. This study leaves no doubt that cannabis can safely ease this type of pain.

*The new Congress could go far in establishing its bona fides as both reasonable and compassionate by immediately moving on this issue*

As all cannabis research in the United States must be, the new study was conducted with government-supplied marijuana of notoriously poor quality. So it probably underestimated the potential benefit.

This is all good news, but it should not be news at all. In the 40-odd years I have been studying the medicinal uses of cannabis, I have learned that the recorded history of this medicine goes back to ancient times and that in the 19th century it became a well-established Western medicine whose versatility and safety were unquestioned. From 1840 to 1900, American and European medical journals published over 100 papers on the therapeutic uses of cannabis.

Of course, our knowledge has advanced greatly over the years. Scientists have identified over 60 unique constituents in marijuana, called cannabinoids, and we have learned much about how they work. We have also learned that our own bodies produce similar chemicals, called endocannabinoids.

The mountain of accumulated anecdotal evidence that pointed the way to the present and other clinical studies also strongly suggests there are a number of other devastating disorders and symptoms for which marijuana has been used for cen-



tures; they deserve the same kind of careful, methodologically sound research. While few such studies have so far been completed, all have lent weight to what medicine already knew but had largely forgotten or ignored: Marijuana is effective at relieving nausea and vomiting, spasticity, appetite loss, certain types of pain, and other debilitating symptoms.

And it is extraordinarily safe — safer than most medicines prescribed every day. If marijuana were a new discovery rather than a well-known substance carrying cultural and political baggage, it would be hailed as a wonder drug.

The pharmaceutical industry is scrambling to isolate cannabinoids and synthesize analogs, and to package them in non-smokable forms. In time, companies will almost certainly come up with products and delivery systems that are more useful and less expensive than herbal cannabis. However, the analogs they have produced so far are more expensive than herbal marijuana, and none has shown any improvement over the plant nature gave us to take orally or to smoke.

We live in an anti-smoking environment. But as a method of delivering certain medicinal compounds, smoking marijuana has some real advantages: The effect is almost instantaneous, allowing the patient, who after all is the best judge, to fine-tune his or her dose to get the needed relief without intoxication. Smoked marijuana has never been demonstrated to have serious pulmonary consequences, but in any case the technology to inhale these cannabinoids without smoking marijuana already exists as vaporizers that allow for smoke-free inhalation.

Hopefully the UCSF study will add to pressure on the US government to rethink its irrational ban on the medicinal use of cannabis — and its destructive attacks on patients and caregivers in states that have chosen to allow its use. Rather than admit they have been mistaken all these years, federal officials can cite “important new data” and start revamping outdated and destructive policies. The new Congress could go far in establishing its bona fides as both reasonable and compassionate by immediately moving on this issue.

Such legislation would bring much-needed relief to millions of Americans suffering from cancer, AIDS, MS, arthritis, and other debilitating illnesses.

\* Lester Grinspoon, an emeritus professor of psychiatry at Harvard Medical School, is the coauthor of *Marijuana, the Forbidden Medicine*. Originally published March 3, 2007 in the *Boston Globe*.

## National outpouring of sympathy for Angel Raich after latest Federal Appeals Court ruling

By Justin Baker

Angel Raich got another dose of federal medicine March 14, when the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals dismissed her lawsuit seeking protection from federal arrest and prosecution for using cannabis consistent with California law. After hearing the decision, she broke down in tears and said she is a “dead woman walking.”

“For now, federal law is blind to the wisdom of a future day when the right to use medical marijuana to alleviate excruciating pain may be deemed fundamental,” wrote Judge Harry Pregerson.

The ruling led to a national outpouring of sympathy, compassion and support for Raich, one of the best known medical marijuana patients in the USA. She suffers from scoliosis, fibromyalgia, wasting syndrome and an inoperable brain tumor, among other conditions.

News media across the country called for federal policy to change. That staid conservative publication, *The Wall Street Journal*, published a commentary stating that “the Ninth Circuit turned away another constitutional challenge to the federal ban on using cannabis for medical purposes. Its decision revealed a glaring weakness in how the Supreme Court protects liberty under the Constitution.”

With its new ruling, the Appeals Court held that neither Common Law nor due process allow a US American citizen to make their own personal, life or death decisions under the guidance of a physician without the constant threat of federal harassment and prosecution. The judge did dangle forth another carrot on a stick, holding that if arrested by federal drug agents Raich might be able to argue a medical necessity defense.



In June 2005 the US Supreme Court had rejected Raich's first set of arguments that the Commerce Clause and Ninth and Tenth Amendments preclude the DEA from arresting California-qualified patients for cannabis when there is no interstate commerce involved, in part because States have authority to pass criminal laws, and a voter initiative, Prop 215, legalized medical marijuana as a matter of States' Rights.

*The “federal law is blind to the wisdom of a future day when the right to use medical marijuana to alleviate excruciating pain may be deemed fundamental”*

The Court ruled that States cannot stop federal drug agencies from enforcing federal law within their jurisdictions; however it dangled forth two possibilities: medical necessity and “due process of law,” meaning the right to adjudicate any issue. Raich and her attorney and ex-husband Robert Raich went forward with an appeal based on due process, which could have helped a larger group of patients.

They had hoped to stem the arrests and prosecutions. The highly restrictive “necessity” argument requires patients to first be arrested and prosecuted after having tried every available legal option, no matter how toxic or undesirable, before they can use cannabis, one of the oldest and safest medicines known to humanity. So far, the courts have not ruled out that particular defense.



### Medical Marijuana Physician Evaluations

Howard Street Health Options  
(415) 255-1200 (530) 210-4450 (707) 568-0420  
[www.HowardStreetHealthOptions.com](http://www.HowardStreetHealthOptions.com)

New Oakland Location!  
(510) 465-0420 • 1 (877) PROP-215

**For advertising info, visit us online  
at [OaksterdamNews.com](http://OaksterdamNews.com)**




Click on advertising  
from the main menu

Or call us at  
**510-836-NEWS (6397)**

We're here to help *You* get the word out ...  
**Ask about our Special Features.**

## OUT OF THE SHADOWS INTO THE LIGHT



### Harborside Health Center

Great Selection of Flowers, Concentrates,  
Edibles & Clones, Many Organics Available  
Free Holistic Health Services

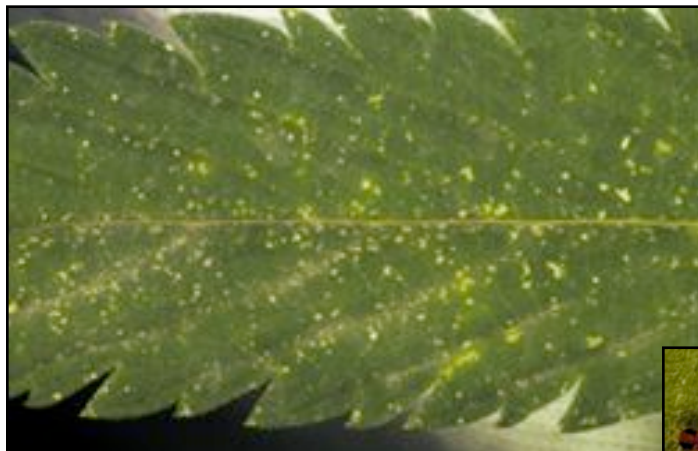
11am to 8 pm, 7 days/wk  
1840 Embarcadero, Oakland  
[www.harborsidehealthcenter.com](http://www.harborsidehealthcenter.com)  
"free parking"

**510.533.0146**

# Spider Mites and Insects Getting rid of your uninvited guests



This is the worst spider mite infestation I have seen!



Spider mites cause stippling, small spots, on the top of leaves.

Remove leaves with 50 percent or more damage.

Photos courtesy Jorge Cervantes.



## Spider Mites

**Identify:** The spider mite is the most common pest found on indoor plants and causes the most problems. Mites have eight legs and are classified as spiders. To the untrained naked eye, they are hard to spot. Spider mites appear as tiny specks on leaf undersides; however, signs of feeding—yellowish-white spots, stippling—on the tops of leaves are easy to see. Careful inspection reveals tiny spider webs—easily seen when misted with water—on stems and under leaves as infestations progress. A magnifying glass helps identify mites and their translucent eggs.

**Damage:** Mites suck life-giving sap

from plants, causing overall vigor loss and stunting. Leaves are pocked with suck-hole marks and yellow from failure to produce chlorophyll. They lose partial to full function, and leaves turn yellow and drop. Once a plant is overrun with spider mites the infestation progresses rapidly. Severe cases cause plant death.

**Controls:** Cleanliness and good air circulation: This is the most important first step to spider mite control. Keep the grow room and tools spotless and disinfected. Mother plants often have spider mites. Spray mothers regularly with miticides, including once three days before taking cuttings. Once mite infestations get out of control I recommend the entire grow room be cleaned out and disinfected with a pesticide and 5 percent bleach solution.

**Cultural and physical control:** Spider mites thrive in a dry climate and reproduce every five days in temperatures above 80°F (27° C). Create a hostile environment by lowering the temperature to 60°F (16°C) and spray foliage, especially under leaves, with a jet of cold water. Spraying literally blasts them off the leaves as well as increasing humidity; it will slow their reproductive cycle and you will have a chance to kill them before they do much damage. Manual removal works for small populations and wash leaves individually in between two sponges. Avoid infecting

other plants with contaminated hands or sponges.

Remove damaged leaves and throw away, making sure insects and eggs do not reenter the garden. If mites have attacked only one or two plants, destroy the infected plants to stop the spread of mites.

**Biological:** Predators. Predatory mites work best when there are only a few spider mites. Introduce predators as soon as spider mites are seen on vegetative growth, and release them every month thereafter. This gives predators a chance to keep up with mites. When spider mites have infested a garden, the predatory mites cannot eat them fast enough to solve the problem. Predators are available commercially. When properly applied and reared, predatory spider mites work very well, but predators eat a limited number of mites a day. The fungus, *Hirsutella thompsonii*, trade name Mycar®, kills spider mites.

**Sprays:** Homemade sprays often lack the strength to kill infestations but work as a deterrent by repelling mites. Popular

By Jorge Cervantes\*

I want to share one of the best web sites I've found that describes insects with excellent photos of pests that attack cannabis: [vegipm.tamu.edu/imageindex.html](http://vegipm.tamu.edu/imageindex.html).

## MARIJUANA HORTICULTURE

The Indoor/Outdoor MEDICAL Grower's Bible  
by Jorge Cervantes

All-time best selling book on the subject

### More than 500,000 books sold

**MAGAZINE & EXPERT REVIEWS**

"If you want to grow weed, this is the book you need!" David Bierensstock - Editor, [www.hightimes.com](http://www.hightimes.com)

"The new Bible is without a doubt the best grow book on the market," Phil Kiri, Editor in Chief, [www.cannabard.com](http://www.cannabard.com)

"Fun, informative, illustrative, hands-on and authoritative," Allen St. Pierre, Executive Director, NORML, Washington, DC, [www.norml.org](http://www.norml.org)

"... a true and valuable encyclopedia for the modern cannabis cultivator. This is a must read!" Rob Tuinstra, Chief Editor, [www.highlife.nl](http://www.highlife.nl)

"Putting aside any legal and moral judgements one may have about marijuana, this is one hell of a book!" - Jeff Lowenfeld, America's Longest Running garden columnist, Fellow and Hall of Fame member, GWA, America's dirtiest lawyer.

"Well-researched, well-written and well put together. It is high quality knowledge. A must-read!" Cliff Cramer, International Editor, [www.softsecrets.net](http://www.softsecrets.net)

"Jam-packed with tons of information, a must-have for any ganja lover!" Kays Spring, Editor, [www.headsmagazine.com](http://www.headsmagazine.com)

"With this most recent edition of his Bible, Jorge proves once again he remains far ahead of the pack." Steven Hager, Cannabis Cup Founder, [www.cannabiscup.com](http://www.cannabiscup.com)

"This is the most complete and up-to-date manual for growers!" Daniele Levi, Chief Editor, [www.suaparcabi.com](http://www.suaparcabi.com)

"Weighty, comprehensive, beautiful. The outright world leader. Nuff said!" Lyndon, Editor in Chief, [www.C4HDVZ.com](http://www.C4HDVZ.com)

"In my book, it's an A+, read!" Sooma, Sooma Seeds, [www.soomaseeds.nl](http://www.soomaseeds.nl)

"No stone is left unturned in this must have book," David Strange, Editor in Chief, Skunk, [www.skunkmagazine.com](http://www.skunkmagazine.com)

"This opulently illustrated book is overflowing with marijuana expert knowledge," G.B.I., German Cannabis Journalist, [www.zeitung.de](http://www.zeitung.de)

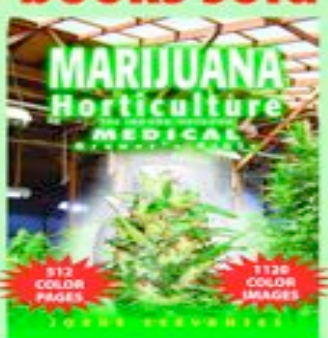
"Jorge Cervantes published the best growing book ever" KIMO, Hemp Journal, Germany [www.hempjournal.de](http://www.hempjournal.de)

"It credits more than 300 contributors and reads like a who's who in the world of cannabis cultivation," Martin Palmer, [www.unitedweedshop.co.uk](http://www.unitedweedshop.co.uk)

"The new Bible is a must read for all marijuana lovers, from novices to experts!" Mosefor Jose Maria, Soft Secrets, Spain

"The new Bible is great!" Ryoichi Maeda, BURST HIGH magazine, Japan [www.commagazine.co.jp/burst/high.html](http://www.commagazine.co.jp/burst/high.html)

"The new Medical Grower's Bible is fantastic in every way!" Lorna, Director Cannabis College, Amsterdam, Holland, [www.cannabiscollege.com](http://www.cannabiscollege.com)



312 COLOR PAGES    1120 COLOR IMAGES

ISBN: 1-87823-23-X    \$24.95  
Van Patten Publishing - Trade Paperback  
6x9.25" - 1120 color images - 512 pages  
Fifth Edition

AVAILABLE AT YOUR LOCAL BOOKSTORE, Barnes and Noble, Borders Books


If the book is not on the shelf at your local bookstore, order it by providing them with the title name, ISBN number and author name.

DISCOUNTED AT AMAZON.COM


WHOLESALE ORDERS:  
Quick Distribution: 1-810-327-7886  
Hammstead Books: 1-800-306-9131  
Last Stop: 1-800-434-4772

Secure Telephone Orders  
FS Book Co. 1-800-633-8883  
24-hour Credit Card Orders:  
1-916-577-1226

**Jorge Cervantes' Ultimate Grow DVD**  
Based on the Bible!



Plant for a Patient  
founded by  
Jorge Cervantes



Visit Jorge's ALL-NEW updated website [www.marijuanagrowing.com](http://www.marijuanagrowing.com)

### How you can enter the Odam News GARDEN PHOTO CONTEST

Every issue, *Oaksterdam News* will choose a winner of the contest for medical gardens and publish their stories and images.

**Here is what we are looking for:**

1. High quality digital images, at least 5 megapixel in size.
2. Medical marijuana gardens only
3. Send digital images with a short descriptive paragraph and return e-mail to: [oaksterdamnews@gmail.com](mailto:oaksterdamnews@gmail.com).

Subject: Plant for a Patient

Please include a few words to a paragraph or two about each photo you submit. The information provided by the images of cannabis gardens will help other qualified medical growers produce better gardens. The contest will also help expand the feeling of camaraderie within the cannabis community.

Rent To A Patient  
Make \$3000.00  
Upon Signing!

Property Owners  
Consider Renting To A Patient!

- By Renting To A Patient Through "Steve's List".
- By Allowing "Steve's List" To Help Patients Grow Medication On Your Property. 6 Legal Plants Are Allowed!
- We Give You 3 Patient Renters To Choose From. It's Always Your Choice!

"Steve's List.info" A Division of  
420 Primary Caregivers  
Call: 714-758-3500

### Steve's List.info

Dedicated To The Medical Cannabis Patient

- Patients Looking For A Room? Use "Steve's List"!
- We Provide 3 Room Packages: #1 Room, Board, Medicine (2 Oz's Cannabis Rx) #2 Room & Medicine (2 oz's Cannabis Rx) #3 Room Only!
- Hurry! Sign Up Today, Call 714-758-3500

Call Monday - Saturday! Hours: 12 pm to 4 pm  
Visit Our Website [www.steveslist.info](http://www.steveslist.info)  
E-Mail: [420@420primarycaregivers.com](mailto:420@420primarycaregivers.com)

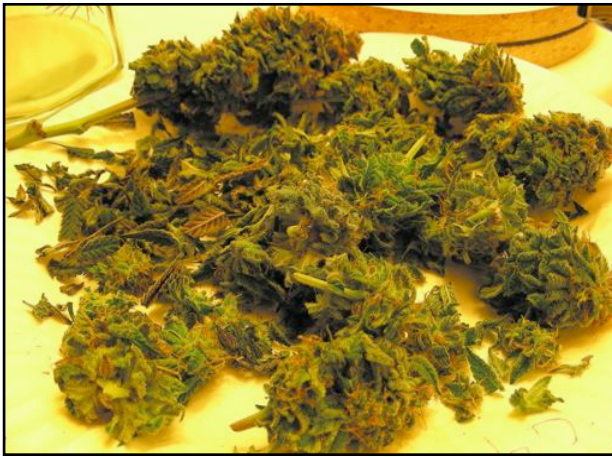



Only In California, State Wide!

# Patient's "Willie Nelson" harvest yields well despite the mighty spider mite

By Phil Better

Here we were trimming up the harvested GDP tall phenotype; one cola weighed 39 grams wet (yielding 9.5g dry). The growing plants in the pictures are Willie Nelson. It's funny how they give them male names and we want female plants. This lady will be ready in two days, maybe one. She has a lot of spider mites and seems to be weak against them. The clone source had to re-vamp his system because he had so many bugs. I hope they will cease to be a problem soon.



Oaksterdam News photos by Phil Better.



*Continued from previous page*  
homemade sprays include Dr. Bonner's Soap, garlic, hot pepper, citrus oil, and liquid seaweed comos. If these sprays do not deter spider mites after four to five applications, switch to a stronger spray: neem oil, pyrethrum, horticultural oil, or nicotine sulfate, cinnamaldehyde. Insecticidal soap does a fair job of controlling mites. Usually two or three applications at five to ten day intervals will do the trick.

Pyrethrum (aerosol) is the best natural miticide! Apply two to three applications

at five to ten day intervals. Pyrethrum is the best control for spider mites. Spider mites should be gone after two or three applications at five to ten day intervals, providing sanitary preventative conditions are maintained. Eggs hatch in five to ten days. The second spraying will kill the newly hatched eggs and the remaining adults. The third and subsequent applications will kill any new spider mites, but mites soon develop a resistance to synthetic pyrethrum. Neem oil works great!

Heavy-duty chemical miticides are

available but are not recommended on plants that will be consumed by humans. If using any chemical miticide, be sure it is a contact poison and not systemic.

### Progressive control measures for Spider mites:

**Cleanliness** — Clean room daily, disinfect tools, do not introduce new pests into the garden on clothes, no animal visits, etc.

**Create hostile environment** — Humidity, temperature, water spray.

**Create barriers** — Smear Tanglefoot™

around pot lips, stems, drying lines.

**Dip cuttings and vegetative plants** — Dip small plants in pyrethrum, horticultural oil, neem oil.

**Spray** — Apply pyrethrum or neem oil; use strong miticides only if necessary. Rotate sprays so mites do not develop immunity.

\* Excerpted from "Chapter 14 – Pests and Diseases" *Marijuana Horticulture: the Indoor/Outdoor Medical Grower's Bible*, by J. Cervantes, 512 color pages, 1120 color photos and illustrations, glossary, index, \$24.95.

**BOO-KU COLLECTIVE CARE**  
The leader in high performance THC...

NW corner Sepulveda & Vanowen  
6817 Sepulveda blvd. Van Nuys, CA 91405  
Phone 818-908-9255 Fax 818-908-9275  
Hours 12:00 to 8:00 & 12:00 to 7:00 Sun  
FREE PATIENT REFERRALS. IN STRICT COMPLIANCE WITH PROP 215 AND 58420. PLEASE BE SURE YOUR DR IS AVAILABLE FOR VERIFICATION OR CALL TO PRE-VERIFY

## Topping and pruning outdoor cannabis plants

By John Thomas Ellis

Topping and pruning are two methods outdoor growers use to alter the growth pattern of cannabis.

**Pruning Cannabis** — is the removal of unwanted, often dying foliage. Pruning away old yellowing leaves helps to invigorate the health of the plant. Done right, it allows light to penetrate evenly throughout the crop. Some growers believe that trimming cannabis concentrates growth into certain favored areas of the plant. Others feel it allows the plant to branch out and spread, creating more of the desired buds. Pruning is done in some cases to prevent disease. Any trimming of foliage or branches will temporarily slow growth for a few days while the plant recovers. Use sharp tools to prevent injury to the overall plant. Never overprune because the plant needs leaves for energy. Hard-pruning can lead to plant shock and to all kinds of other problems such as stunted growth or death.

**Topping Weed** — Amongst growers, topping a plant is controversial and refers to cutting off the top shoot(s) of cannabis plants. You can take-off the tallest branches or the freshest shoots. Cut the branch stem just below a fully developed node of choice. The plant starts developing at the remaining nodes. This is a good technique to keep a plant short and bushy, which always starts the debate over whether more is better or a single concentrated bud is best.

I'm of the 'more is better' school of growers. Remember, bushy plants require more direct light to flourish. Don't top a plant more than once and never top when it is in the flowering stage.

**420ATTORNEY.COM**  
Medical Marijuana Law  
Criminal Defense

**WILLIAM S. KROGER, JR. ATTORNEY AT LAW**  
800.655.7505 / 323.655.5700  
420attorney@420attorney.com  
420attorney.com

**Chris Lung**  
Owner/ Multi-Media Artist

Web Design \$250+  
Premium Biz Cards \$100+

LOGO DESIGN \$75+  
GRAPHIC DESIGN \$45/HR  
WEB ANIMATION \$175+  
AUDIO/VIDEO PRODUCTION \$45+

310-498-7412  
e-mail: chromedragonx@hotmail.com

**Gotaragon.com**

## British Commission wants to scrap drug schedule for scientific method

### Call for common sense on drug policies from Britain

By Bruce Mirken\*

On March 8, a high-powered British commission recommended tossing that country's law on illegal drugs onto the scrap heap and starting over again. Given that the US Controlled Substances Act parallels the British Misuse of Drugs Act in important ways, the suggestion deserves attention in America as well.

Indeed, it would be a fine start if Americans could simply begin the sort of rational, thoughtful debate on drug policy that the British government seems to be having. If we could manage such a thing, we might start changing illogical and unscientific laws that now lead to more US arrests for cannabis possession than for all violent crimes combined.

*The Drug War, the commission noted, "is driven more by 'moral panic' than a practical desire to reduce harm."*

The RSA Commission on Illegal Drugs, Communities and Public Policy <[thersa.org/projects/drugs.asp](http://thersa.org/projects/drugs.asp)> was convened by the Royal Society for the Encouragement of Arts, Manufactures and Commerce, a respected think tank with a 250-year history. After two years of research, this panel of experts and laypeople came to a number of conclusions so sensible and obvious that it's astonishing how consistently our elected leaders have avoided confronting them. In particular:

1) The notion of a drug-free society is "almost certainly a chimera. ... People have always used substances to change the way they see the world and how they feel, and there is every reason to think they always will." Therefore, "[t]he main aim of public policy should be to reduce the amount of harms that drugs cause." A policy based on total prohibition "is bound to fail."

2) The concept of "drugs" should include tobacco and alcohol. "Indeed, in their different ways, alcohol and tobacco cause far more harm than illegal drugs." These substances should be brought into a unified regulatory framework "capable of treating substances according to the harm they cause."

3) The heart of this new framework must be an index of substance-related harms. "The index should be based on the best available evidence and should be able to be modified in light of new evidence."

4) We need a new way of evaluating the efficacy of drug policies. "In our view, the success of drugs policy should be measured not in terms of the amounts of drugs seized or in the number of dealers imprisoned, but in terms of the amount of harms reduced."

As an example of the sort of harms index they envision, the RSA Commission points to an index developed by a pair of British scientists, David Nutt and Colin Blakemore, and published in a House of Commons report last year. Based on scientific evaluations of physical harms (e.g.

acute and chronic toxicity), likelihood of dependence, and social harms (including damage done to others, health care costs, etc.), Nutt and Blakemore ranked 20 different classes of drugs, both legal and illegal. Not surprisingly, heroin was at the top of the harm scale, followed by cocaine and barbiturates. Alcohol and tobacco rated significantly more harmful than cannabis and several other illegal substances.

While not specifically endorsing the Nutt/Blakemore index, the RSA Commission clearly considered these rankings a good example of what they have in mind, using them as a starting point for illustrations of how such an index might translate into law. Cannabis, they wrote, "should continue to be controlled. But its position on the harms index suggests that the form this control takes might have to correspond far more closely with the way in which alcohol and tobacco are regulated."

Both the US and Britain now have drug laws that rank drugs into a series of classifications. The problem — well, at least one problem — is that these classifications have little connection to what the science actually tells us about the dangers (or lack thereof) of different substances. Britain's version, the commission noted, "is driven more by 'moral panic' than a practical desire to reduce harm. ... It sends people to prison who should not be there. It forces people into treatment who do not need it (while, in effect, denying treatment to people who do need it)."

And Britain's law is, on at least one key point, far more rational than the US Controlled Substances Act. The British classify cannabis in the lowest of three classes of illicit drugs — still illegal, but treated as less dangerous than cocaine, heroin or methamphetamine. Simple possession, without aggravating circumstances, is generally a "non-arrestable" offense.

Our CSA ranks cannabis in Schedule I, the worst class of drugs — considered not only to be at high risk of abuse but also to be unsafe for use even under medical supervision — along with heroin and LSD. Meanwhile, cocaine and meth are in Schedule II — considered acceptable for use under medical supervision.

There are plenty of specifics in the RSA report about which reasonable people can disagree. But the important thing is not what they say about any specific drug — and indeed, the report is careful not to advocate specific legal changes for particular drugs. What's important is that it suggests a framework that's far more rational than what now exists in the US, Britain and most other countries: A reality-based approach rooted in sound science, focusing on how to reduce harm.

Even more encouraging is the generally level-headed reaction thus far. Some commentators are arguing with parts of the report and disagreeing with some suggestions, but even critics seem to be acknowledging that the RSA has raised important issues that need serious discussion. As a commentary in the March 9 edition of the London paper *The Mirror* put it, "Hasn't the time now come to hold a public debate on whether our current drug prohibition is working any better than the alcohol prohibition of Al Capone's day? Aren't we now

adult enough to discuss whether a legally regulated drug trade would work better than our gangster-run market? We think we are." Sadly, it's hard to imagine such a rational discussion taking place on the

national stage in the US. Meanwhile, in the time it took you to read this, 12 Americans were arrested on cannabis charges.

\* Bruce Mirken is director of communications for MPP

## SAFER calls 4/20 'Time for action!'

By Mason Tvert

Colorado-based Safer Alternative For Enjoyable Recreation (SAFER) capitalized this year on the heightened attention paid to marijuana on April 20 (4/20).

SAFER worked with students at more than 40 universities, including a number of Students for Sensible Drug Policy (SSDP) and campus NORML chapters, to spread the word on this celebratory day that marijuana is safer than alcohol and should be treated that way. Students wearing shirts reading "Cannabis" and "Can o' beer" (with a check next to "Cannabis") handed out hundreds of educational flyers to students on campus and at 4/20-related events, and the staff at SAFER worked with students to encourage and coordinate positive press coverage of the event.

SAFER has been working with college students across the country this past semester, and campus SAFER referenda and resolutions have been introduced at the George Washington University, Virginia Tech, the University of Arkansas, and the University of Washington. SAFER literature is also being distributed at a number of colleges and in a variety of cities nationwide.

Campus SAFER measures urge administrators to decrease university penalties for student cannabis use so that they are no

harsher than those for student alcohol use.

The groups argue that marijuana is less harmful than alcohol to both the user and to society, thus there is absolutely no reason why universities should have policies that make drinking alcohol more attractive than using cannabis.

According to the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism's Task Force on College Drinking, alcohol use by college students contributes to an estimated 1,400 student deaths, 500,000 injuries and 70,000 cases of sexual assaults or date rapes each year. Every objective study of cannabis has found it to be less addictive, less toxic and less harmful to the body than alcohol. The US Centers for Disease Control report no annual deaths as the direct result of cannabis use, and there has never been a fatal marijuana overdose in history. Marijuana also does not contribute to violent or aggressive behavior, and mention of it is conspicuously absent from the literature on date rape and sexual assault.

SAFER hopes to maintain momentum heading into the summer, and the organization is currently considering prospects for citywide ballot initiatives for the fall.

For more information on SAFER or to get involved in your area, please visit <http://www.SAFERchoice.org>.

## Lancet journal compares, rates drugs; cannabis safer than alcohol or tobacco

By Chris Conrad

One of the most prominent scientific journals in the UK, *The Lancet*, is entering the drug policy debate and potentially trying to revise the way that nation's current laws are formulated. The proposal is to index drugs according to their actual danger.

The rating process polled two groups of scientists and took into account legal as well as illicit drugs. To no one's surprise, alcohol was ranked third and fifth most dangerous on the two lists. Cannabis was rated 11th & 12th (Ecstasy was rated 11th on one and didn't make the top 14 on the other).

The first ranking was undertaken by the national group of consultant psychiatrists who were on the Royal College of Psychiatrists' register as specialists in addiction. The second group of experts represented a wider spread of expertise, with experience in one of the many areas of addiction, ranging from chemistry, pharmacology, and forensic science, through psychiatry and other medical specialties, including epidemiology, as well as the legal and police services.

The findings and suggestions in "Development of a rational scale to assess the harm of drugs of potential misuse," by Prof. David Nutt and an academic team from Bristol, Oxford and London, were published in *The Lancet*, March 24, 2007.

"There are three main factors that together determine the harm associated with any drug of potential abuse: the physical harm to the individual user caused by the drug; the tendency of the drug to induce dependence; and the effect of drug use on families, communities, and society," the researchers determined.

Given the addictionist-heavy makeup of the base, it is conservative in its approach, such as reliance upon "possible lung disease with cannabis" when there is little proven detriment

"So, if a three-category classification were to be retained, one possible interpretation of our findings is that drugs with harm scores equal to that of alcohol and above might be class A, cannabis and those below might be class C, and drugs in between might be class B. In that case, it is salutary to see that alcohol and tobacco—the most widely used unclassified substances—would have harm ratings comparable with class A and B illegal drugs, respectively."

### Rankings by two independent groups of experts

#### Group A

- 1 = Heroin
- 2 = Cocaine
- 3 = Alcohol
- 4 = Barbiturates
- 5 = Amphetamine
- 6 = Methadone
- 7 = Benzodiazepines
- 8 = Solvents
- 9 = Buprenorphine
- 10 = Tobacco
- 11 = \* Ecstasy
- 12 = Cannabis
- 13 = LSD
- 14 = \* Steroids

\* Compound is only on one group's rankings but not the other

#### Group B

- 1 = Heroin
- 2 = Cocaine
- 3 = Barbiturates
- 4 = Street Methadone
- 5 = Alcohol
- 6 = \* Ketamine
- 7 = Benzodiazepines
- 8 = Amphetamine
- 9 = Tobacco
- 10 = Buprenorphine
- 11 = Cannabis
- 12 = Solvents
- 13 = \* 4-MTA
- 14 = LSD



**OaksterdamNews.Com**  
 CANNABIS NEWS  
 CLUB REVIEWS  
 PATIENT DIRECTORY  
 Please Consume Cannabis Responsibly

## Fry and Fortt cases taking their toll; Lepp gets a break on his plant count

By Vanessa Nelson\*

Cannabis patients who run into legal problems have a new online support network at [MedicalMarijuanaofAmerica.com](http://MedicalMarijuanaofAmerica.com), which tracks some high profile cases.

### Mollie Fry and Dale Schafer

In front of a courtroom packed with spectators Jan 25, a federal judge in Sacramento denied all of the motions filed on behalf of a medical marijuana doctor and her husband. Dr. Marion "Mollie" Fry and Dale Schafer, who both suffer severe health problems, were allowed to take a

seat halfway through the reading of the ruling. As they sat attentively at the defense table, the pair watched the case continue its slow, inevitable slide towards trial. Fry and Schafer have been fighting this legal battle since a dramatic 2001 raid, in which federal agents ransacked the couple's home and the office where Fry examines medical marijuana patients in compliance with California's Prop 215.

[MedicalMarijuanaofAmerica.com](http://MedicalMarijuanaofAmerica.com)

Fry and Schafer's case proceeds with a readiness conference at 10am on June 22, on the 15th floor of 501 I Street in Sacramento. Their trial is set to begin on July 31 and is expected to be a lengthy one. Six years in the making, it will feature

myriad witnesses and last an estimated two months. With so much hanging in the balance, Fry's concern is her minor children. 'I just don't want my kids to be orphans,' she said outside court yesterday. 'That's what will happen if they send us to jail — they'll be making orphans.'

### Joe Fortt sentencing update

Freshly released from the hospital, a demonstrably ill Joseph Fortt was brought by wheelchair to a federal courtroom for sentencing March 5. The former Bakersfield dispensary owner sat hunched and frail at the side of his attorney, who asked the judge to observe his client's physical condition and consider a slight reduction in the recommended sentence.

Fortt, who pled guilty to charges related to his cultivation of medical cannabis, was set to receive a sentence equivalent to time already spent in jail. But there was a problem with that plan — Fortt's time served was still six weeks shy of the recommended 21 month sentence.

### Judge dismisses 32,524 plants


There were strong words in a federal courtroom Tuesday as Judge Marilyn Patel made a series of decisions in the case of Lake County medical marijuana provider Reverend Charles "Eddy" Lepp, who runs *Eddy's Medicinal Gardens and Ministry of Cannabis & Rastafari*. He has been facing charges that relate to a 2004 raid that netted an unprecedented 32,524 marijuana plants and left him in jeopardy of serving multiple life sentences. With one short declaration, however, Judge Patel knocked some of the sharpest teeth out of the case against Lepp. "All evidence seized through the 2004 warrant is suppressed," the judge said unambiguously.

To read more about these cases, show support for patients and caregivers facing prosecution, or donate to support the project, see [MedicalMarijuanaofAmerica.com](http://MedicalMarijuanaofAmerica.com).


\* Nelson is the correspondent at the scene reporting on many of the key cases in *Court reports from the front lines of the War on US* at [MedicalMarijuanaofAmerica.com](http://MedicalMarijuanaofAmerica.com)

Learn about California state cannabis laws.

Visit [chrisconrad.com](http://chrisconrad.com) for valuable information




*Heb Dhw heb dym, Dhw a digon.*



with liberty and justice for all. I Pledge Allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands: one nation under God, indivisible, one people, one faith, one destiny.

# Crusaders




## For Patients Rights

TM

### April 29th Ed Rosenthal book signing

Crusaders for patient right does understand it is an honor and a privilege to reside in the capital of the most powerful state, in the most powerful nation in the world.

Crusaders for patient rights also known as CPR is a club of caregivers and patients with similar concerns, and problems. We are not a cannabis provider, a smoking lounge or a care facility. We are a club for fellowship, information and support, where we also believe that patients and caregivers have responsibility to their neighbors and community. We know that we must respect our community, country, peace officers, and all other wholesome things. While remembering most medical cannabis patients are an integral part of our community, and so forth part of the soul of America. We know that medical cannabis is not the only answer but definitely one of the answers. So it is time to heal by straightening out the bends in the tracks that might derail safe access for those who are under a doctor's care, and find themselves being helped by using medicinal cannabis. We also know that there has to be safe access for all patients, and for whatever support they may need. Even more important is the quality of life it might provide to any and all U.S. citizens, because no one knows when and if they might need to benefit from the fruits of our crusade



320 Harris Ave Suite H, Sacramento CA 95833 - Call for time and events 916-924-3455-

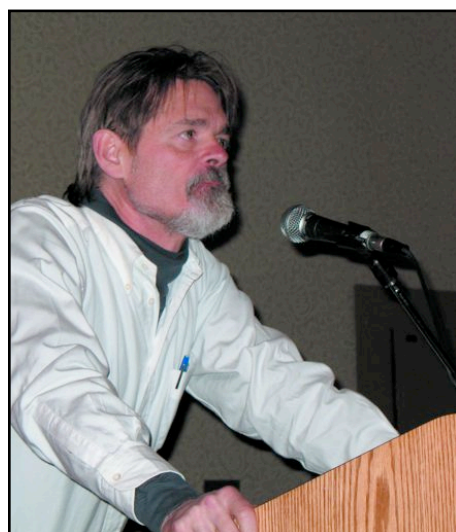


Beginning this issue, California NORML will have an info page in *Oaksterdam News*.

## Cal NORML challenges cultivation ban ordinance by the city of Lakeport

By Dale Gieringer\*

In response to complaints from local patients, Cal NORML is challenging an ordinance by the city of Lakeport banning cultivation of medical marijuana within the city limits. The ordinance, which becomes effective on April 6, is the first attempt by a California city to deny the right to cultivation guaranteed under Prop. 215.



Dale Gieringer.  
Oaksterdam News photo by Chris Conrad

In a letter to the Lakeport city attorney, California NORML attorney William Panzer warned that the ordinance would likely cause "irreparable harm to lawful medical cannabis patients living in Lakeport." State law SB 420 (Health & Safety Code Section 11362.77) specifies that cities and counties may not impose limits on cultivation below the statewide default standard (6 mature or 12 immature

plants). The State Supreme Court reaffirmed that these were minimal limits in *People v. Wright*.

The letter warns that Lakeport patients are prepared to file suit against the city if it tries to enforce the ban on cultivation.

The ordinance, enacted at the urging of the local police chief, declares that the smell of cannabis plants poses a public nuisance, offending the noses of neighbors and potentially attracting robbers.

*A ban does "irreparable harm to lawful medical cannabis patients."*

"We need to differentiate between responsible cultivators and others," local patient Howard "Duke" Holtz told the city council. "State laws cannot be overridden simply because of the abuse by a few. If they could be, we may as well throw away our Bill of Rights and most other rights we have in our country."

Patient advocates say that the ordinance goes far beyond what is required to deal with odor nuisances. The cities of Ukiah and Willits both have ordinances aimed at dealing with cannabis odors, but they prohibit only open-air gardens, not cultivation indoors or in greenhouses.

"If the city of Lakeport tries to counter our given state rights, then they should also take the responsibility of providing medical marijuana to approved users, either free of charge, or fully reimburse purchases of it," argues Holtz.

\* Director, California NORML

## Cannabis poses less on-road risk than alcohol, latest US crash data shows

By Paul Armentano\*

US drivers involved in fatal crashes who had trace levels of cannabis in their blood or urine are less likely to have engaged in risky driving behavior than drivers who test positive for low levels of alcohol, according to case-control data published in the current issue of the *Canadian Journal of Public Health*.

Investigators at Ontario's Lakeland University, Public Health Program, reviewed drug and alcohol data from US drivers aged 20-49 who were involved in a

fatal crash from 1993 to 2003. Researchers separated motorists into 'cases' (drivers who had at least one potentially unsafe driving action recorded in relation to the crash) and 'controls' (drivers who had no such driving action recorded).

Investigators sought to determine whether drivers who tested positive for cannabis but negative for alcohol were more likely to have engaged in risky driving behavior than drivers who tested negative for both pot and alcohol.

*Continued on page 19*

## O'Reilly factors out facts in his claims against MMJ

By Dale Gieringer\*

A television news commentator known for his extreme points of view and outrageous assertions, Bill O'Reilly, was flat wrong when he wrote a nationally published opinion piece about California's medical marijuana laws ("Medical MJ for Teens," *SF Chronicle*, Mar. 23). State law specifically requires parental approval for minors under 18 to get medical marijuana. None of the state's medical "clinics" or dispensaries (which number in the hundreds, not "thousands" as O'Reilly wildly alleges) allow sales to minors.

As for San Francisco's cannabis dispensaries, the zoning problems had nothing to do with "drug addicts," as O'Reilly claimed. The problem all along has been the federal government's refusal to provide for licensed pharmaceutical outlets, which compelled Mayor Gavin Newsom to seek alternative local dispensary regulations.

I would invite O'Reilly and anyone else in need of accurate info on medical marijuana in California to visit our website, [CANorml.org](http://CANorml.org).

\* Director, California NORML; Co-sponsor, Proposition 215 (California's medical marijuana initiative), Member, Oakland Cannabis Oversight Committee.

## CA Dept of Health cuts back its fee hike for medical marijuana ID cards

By Dale Gieringer\*

Feb 28th, Sacramento. After an outburst of protest from medical marijuana advocates, the California Department of Health Services significantly cut back an announced fee hike for state medical marijuana ID cards effective April 1st.

Originally, the department had announced it would be raising its charge for the ID cards from \$13 to \$142. Because counties charge additional fees for the cards, the total cost to patients would have been close to \$200. Patient advocates strongly opposed the hike, arguing that that it would make the card unaffordable and destroy the program.

Instead of charging \$142, the state will charge \$66 for its costs., making the total cost closer to \$100. Medi-Cal patients get a 50 percent discount. The cutback was announced by Assemblyman Mark Leno, who thanked DHS Director Sandra Shewry for responding to public outcry against the increase.

A coalition of cannabis reform groups, including NORML, ASA, MPP, and Axis of Love helped lobby against the fee hike. In addition to Leno, several county supervisors spoke out. San Francisco Supervisor Ross Mirkarimi proposed a resolution calling on the city to drop out of the state ID program if the full \$142 fee hike were approved. Since San Francisco has far more registrants in the state ID card system (3,421) than any other county, that would have threatened the state program with collapse.

The DHS was forced to order the hike in order to cover costs of the program, which by law must be paid by the card fees. The DHS needs to pay off a \$1+ million loan that was used to pay for start-up costs.

Opponents of the hike argued that the card program would collapse if DHS raised its fee to \$144, leaving it holding the bag for the entire loan. At the lower rate, there is a better chance that the program will survive and eventually pay off its costs.

Enrollment in the state program has run far below expectations. While the state originally forecast 150,000 card appli-

cants, only 8,700 had enrolled as of January 2007.

One reason for the disappointing enrollment is that less than half of the state's 58 counties have implemented the card program. Some counties are awaiting the outcome of a lawsuit by San Diego and San Bernardino, which challenged the program's legality on the grounds that it violates federal law. Although the suit was rejected by San Diego Superior Court Judge William Nevitt, an appeal is pending. Advocates are hopeful that enrollment will pick up after Los Angeles county begins issuing cards, which is expected to happen this spring.

*The cutback was announced by Assemblyman Mark Leno, who thanked DHS Director Sandra Shewry for responding to public outcry against the increase.*

Another major reason for low enrollment has been that many patients are reluctant to register out of fear of losing their privacy.

Based on historical experience, California NORML regards these fears as overblown. No patient has ever been arrested for having registered in a medical marijuana ID program. Several states, including Oregon, have mandatory patient registration programs but have experienced no problems with patient privacy. California's system is more secure than other state programs in that only the patient's number and picture - not name or address - are kept in the state's data base, though counties often retain additional information.

Federal officials have repeatedly disavowed interest in going after individual patients, and would face political and legal problems in trying to do so. Tens of thousands of patient names have been seized by law enforcement in the course of DEA raids on dispensaries and cannabis clinics; yet the federal government has never tried to prosecute individual patients, only those growing and providing for others.



**"I enjoy grass and hash, no hard drugs.  
But the point is that I do what I feel like doing."**

**-Arnold Schwarzenegger, 1977**



**CHANGING  
THE FACE OF  
MARIJUANA™**

[www.canorml.org](http://www.canorml.org) (415) 563-5858

## Oakland dispensaries not a police problem, patients call for freer access

By Dale Gieringer

Oakland's cannabis dispensaries have been generating significant employment and revenue and are not a problem for the police, according to a Feb 27 report from the city administrator's office to the City Council Public Safety Committee.

The report by city administrative hearing officer Barbara Killey contradicts the widespread myth that dispensaries are a public nuisance and source of problems, as has been alleged by critics from law enforcement in cities without dispensaries.

(Elsewhere, Berkeley police reported no recent problems with the city's three dispensaries. "I'm going to equate it to having a high-end jewelry store," Berkeley Police Officer Ed Galvan told KRON-4 News. "You have a product that's in high-demand with a high dollar value.")

Patient advocates urged Oakland to liberalize its dispensary regulations, saying that patients had been forced to patronize other facilities in Berkeley and Alameda County due to the city's excessive restrictions. In particular, they called on the city to permit on-sight consumption, allow more dispensaries and license off-site dispensary gardens.

*Nadel proposed raising the number of dispensaries in Oakland to 6*

According to the City Administrator's report, dispensary revenues declined dramatically after the city cut back to just two dispensaries a year ago, from \$16.423 million to \$5.461 million. It predicted an upswing in revenues this year due to the

recent licensing of two more dispensaries. The city's four current dispensaries employ a total of 99 persons.

City Council member Nancy Nadel proposed raising the number of dispensaries in the city to six, allowing on-site vaporization, and establishing licenses for dispensary gardens.

Committee Chairman Larry Reid flatly opposed Nadel's proposals. Council member Jean Quan expressed skepticism, but voted to have the City Administrator report on Nadel's plan.

Oakland patients have vowed to keep pressing the city for more liberal dispensary regulations. Oaklanders are urged to contact their city council members.

*"If all that Americans want is security, they can go to prison. They'll have enough to eat, a bed and a roof over their heads."*

— President Dwight D. Eisenhower

## Hemp bill returns to California legislature

By Dale Gieringer

A bill to authorize regulated cultivation of industrial hemp as an agricultural commodity has been introduced in the California legislature by Assemblymen Mark Leno (D-SF).

The bill, AB 684, is cosponsored by Republicans Chuck DeVore (Irvine), Anthony Adams (Hesperia) and Sen. Tom McClintock (Thousand Oaks), as well as by Democrat Patty Berg (North Coast).

AB 684 is modeled on a bill that passed the legislature last year but was vetoed by Gov. Schwarzenegger. It would permit cultivation of hemp containing no more than 0.3 percent THC. Manufacturers would be required to test their crop through a DEA-licensed lab.

Letters in support of AB 684 can be sent to the legislature via the Cal. NORML website: [canorml.org](http://canorml.org).

323 Roberts Ln.  
Bakersfield, Ca  
93308

OPEN  
8am-8pm (Mon-Fri)  
10am-8pm (Sat)  
11am-7pm (Sun)

Telephone:  
(661)392-9353  
Fax:  
(661)392-9395

*Bakersfield's First Medicinal Cannabis Club*

# NATURES MEDICINAL

## High Grade

## Medicinal

## Cannabis

Premium Products & Friendly Service



Lounge  
Room

Great  
Prices



Great Selection of Cannabis, Extracts, Clones, Books, Glass,  
Shirts, Water Extraction Bags, & Much More

# SENSI PARADISE BEACH RESORT LIVES UP TO ITS NAME



**PARADISE RETREAT:**  
Clockwise from left: The Romantic suite;  
Sunset behind fishing boats; Sensi  
Paradise front desk staff. Oaksterdam News  
photos by Mikki Norris.

**Below: Chris Conrad with (l-r) Ben  
Dronkers, Ravi Dronkers, Alan Dronkers,  
and Tracy.**



## Rustic elegance surrounded in Koh Tao's natural beauty

By Chris Conrad

I've known Ben Dronkers since before I stayed at the Sensi Seed Bank's *Cannabis Castle* in Holland with my wife Mikki Norris or curated the *Hash, Marijuana and Hemp Museum* in Amsterdam.

For the past five years or so, he's been telling us we have to see his resort on the island of Koh Tao in Thailand. In February, we finally took Ben up on that offer, and quickly found out how the family could be so enamored about the tropical gem called Sensi Paradise Beach Resort, where guests are greeted at check-in with a fruity "Welcome Drink" bedecked in flowers.

Koh Tao is famed for its scuba diving and snorkeling amongst incredible coral and tropical fish. Although cannabis is illegal in Thailand and consumers should be discreet in public, medicine can be found on the island, and the Sensi Paradise staff takes an easy-going attitude toward how people enjoy their holidays.

Sea cucumbers and dazzling fish

abound in the warm waters among a rainbow of living coral. There is a fairly large shipwreck not far from the shore, and exploring it at both high and low tides gives you two very different experiences.

In addition to some of the best snorkeling around, free resort amenities include such a lending library, use of snorkel equipment, beach towels, mats, and sarongs, in-room coffee, tea and fruit, and access to its beautiful gardens, benches and platforms. Winding walkways are sprinkled with intimate spots to sit on a rock or a bench and talk throughout this romantic resort.

*The island is famed for its snorkeling, and the resort is friendly to patients' needs*

At night and periodically throughout the day the island erupts in the cicada's high-pitched hum. We saw kingfishers soaring during the day and fruit bats flitting about at night. The sky was pastel blue



during the day and starlit at night.

Sensi Paradise also has a wonderful, reasonably-priced restaurant and a massage service, for people who don't ever want to leave the grounds. The only things it doesn't have are hot water (which isn't really needed in this climate) and a sunset view — for that you have to walk down the beach a short distance.

The resort offers more than forty guestrooms that are beautifully and individually decorated, with artsy touches and mosquito nets over the beds, mostly situated on stilts amongst the gardens with rates ranging from mid-range to luxury for

Thailand, from 1,100 to 13,900 Bhat (\$34 to \$430) per night. The bungalow we reserved, the Romantic Suite, was nestled among crags of granite with a small private beach at \$150 per night.

We were impressed at how helpful and gracious the staff were and even better, had the good fortune to be there when Ben was there along with his sons Ravi and Alan.

There are a lot of good reasons to go to Thailand, and Sensi Paradise rates right up there very high among them.

For online info and reservations visit [sensiparadise.com](http://sensiparadise.com).

## Tax board says pay up

*Continued from page 1*

reporting sales as other goods, such as tee shirts, coffee or soft drinks.

Most cannabis retailers have been paying federal income and payroll taxes as well as county property taxes for years, as well as providing workmen's compensation and health insurance.

As more retailers report their sales, producers and suppliers will be able to report earnings and legitimize more of the \$13.8 billion dollar California cannabis industry.

Some cities and counties, such as Oakland, San Francisco, and Santa Cruz, have laws calling for all cannabis sales to adults to be taxed and regulated as soon as possible under state law. The Board of Equalization's ruling may allow these laws to go into effect.

The Board of Equalization information center telephone number is 800-400-7115.

## Rosenthal dismissals

*Continued from page 1*

government's deeds — and words — create the perception that it added the new charges to make Rosenthal look like a common criminal and thus dissipate the criticism heaped on the government after the first trial."

*A juror had been intimidated from exercising her power to vote "not guilty" once she realized the case involved medical marijuana*

Afterwards, Rosenthal thanked the judge and encouraged Bevan to continue to pursue him, so people would see his "hate of marijuana and medical marijuana patients." Defense attorneys, on the other hand, encouraged the Feds to drop the matter. At press time, Bevan's office had not announced its intentions.

# The Co-op Stop

## Patient & Caregiver ID Services

Monday-Friday 10am-6pm Saturday 10am-5pm

Featuring Quality Hemp Products and Accessories

1733 Broadway, Oakland, CA 94612

[www.rxcbc.org](http://www.rxcbc.org)

510-832-5346

## Study shows that cannabis reform does not lead to increased teen use

By Bruce Mirken

A new report from the Marijuana Policy Project (MPP) in Washington, D.C., challenges the key assumption underlying present US cannabis laws: that marijuana must be prohibited for adults in order to deter teens from using it.

The report, at [mpp.org/teenuse](http://mpp.org/teenuse), comes as the federal government prepares to release its annual "Monitoring the Future" survey of teenage drug use, which is traditionally released in mid-December.

When reformers propose regulating cannabis for adults in a manner similar to alcohol or tobacco, government officials typically argue that such a policy would encourage use by children, and such assertions are widely accepted by the press and the public. MPP undertook a thorough review of government data from the US and around the world, as well as studies by think tanks and academic researchers. Key findings include:

- Marijuana prohibition has not prevented a dramatic increase in cannabis use by teenagers. In fact, the overall rate of cannabis use in the US has risen by roughly 4,000 percent since marijuana was first outlawed.

- Independent studies by RAND Europe and the US National Research Council have reported that marijuana prohibition appears to have little or no impact on rates of use.

*Not only do decrim laws not increase cannabis use among teens, in states where medical use is legal, teen use has declined*

- Since Britain ended most cannabis possession arrests in 2004, the rate of cannabis use by 16- to 19-year-olds has dropped.

- In the US, rates of teen cannabis use in states that have decriminalized adult cannabis possession are statistically equal to the rates in states that have retained criminal penalties.

- Not only do decrim laws not increase cannabis use among teens, in states where medical use is legal, teen use has declined.

- In the Netherlands, where adults have been allowed to possess and purchase small amounts of cannabis since 1976, the rate of cannabis use by adults and teens is lower than in the US, and teen use of cocaine and amphetamines is far lower than in the US. Indeed, some researchers believe it is the prohibition of cannabis that causes progression to hard drug use, sometimes called the "gateway effect."

"The idea that prohibiting adults from using marijuana will keep it away from kids is a myth that isn't backed up by the data," said MPP Executive Director Rob Kampia. "We need laws that are based on facts and science, not faith-based myths."

With more than 21,000 members and 100,000 e-mail subscribers nationwide, the Marijuana Policy Project is the largest cannabis policy reform organization in the US. MPP believes that the best way to minimize the harm associated with cannabis is to regulate marijuana in a manner similar to alcohol. For more information, visit [MarijuanaPolicy.org](http://MarijuanaPolicy.org).

*Data contradicts LAPD claims on cannabis outlets*

## Reason Foundation: Most dispensaries are run responsibly; teen use is down

By Chris Mitchell\*

A report issued on March 20 identifies several inaccuracies in the Los Angeles Police Department's "Fact Sheet" about medical marijuana dispensaries and urges the city to take a "sensible approach" that respects the rights of medical marijuana patients and legitimate, legal businesses that are serving their medical needs.

Los Angeles is considering a moratorium that would block the establishment of new medical marijuana dispensaries and Police Chief William Bratton is calling for closure of dispensaries operating within 1,000 feet of schools, churches and parks.

LAPD claims "anecdotal evidence" shows the growing number of dispensaries has caused an increase in the number of cannabis arrests and seizures. In reality, the number of cannabis arrests in 2006 (5,506) was lower than the number of arrests in 2004 (5,946) according to police department figures.

"If dispensaries are to blame for marijuana arrests, why were there fewer arrests in 2006, when the LAPD says there were at least 98 'documented' dispensaries, than in 2004, when there were no more than four dispensaries operating in LA?" asked Skaidra Smith-Heisters, author of the Reason Foundation report.

LAPD also alleges medical marijuana dispensaries are targeting children. Yet data from the California Attorney General shows that cannabis use among teens has decreased since voters passed the Compassionate Use Act in 1996.

Chief Bratton wants to ban all dispensaries from operating within a 1,000 foot radius of schools, parks and churches. However, Reason finds the LAPD report curiously and quietly extends - and extends - its danger zone, complaining that some dispensaries are within 1,000 yards (3,000 feet) and others are within one mile (5,280 feet) of the "public locations of concern."

"The vast majority of dispensaries are operating in a responsible manner and have taken numerous steps to regulate themselves to ensure the safety of their patients and the community around them," said Adrian Moore, vice president of research at Reason. "Most Angelenos

## New Mexico is nation's newest MMJ state

*Continued from page 1*

that 78 percent of voters supported allowing physicians to prescribe marijuana to reduce pain and suffering. Politicians are learning that supporting medical marijuana doesn't cost support — it gains votes."

The hallmark of New Mexico's medical marijuana bill is its strict controls and safeguards to prevent abuse. It will be one of the most tightly regulated programs in the country. The State Department of

Health will develop the program's rules and regulations and also regulate licensed producers, ensuring that security and safety issues are addressed.

Following the NM Senate's passage of SB523 by 32-3, the New Mexico House of Representatives passed the SB 523 by a 36-31 margin during the 2007 legislative session. "Governor Richardson's action is the clearest sign yet that the politicians are finally catching up with the people on the issue of medical marijuana," said Aaron Houston, director of government relations for MPP.

"Backing from the medical community is solidifying as new research continues to document marijuana's benefits. Support in Congress keeps growing, and this could be the year the federal government finally ends its cruel attacks on the sick in states where medical marijuana is legal."

Former Republican Congressman Bob Barr of Georgia recently joined MPP's lobbying effort. MPP is working with DPA and other organizations and supportive members of Congress to pass an amendment to end federal medical marijuana raids in states where it is legalized.

A University of California study published in the Feb. 13 issue of the journal *Neurology* found that marijuana effectively relieved a type of severe nerve pain that afflicts hundreds of thousands with HIV/AIDS, and is similar to the type of pain experienced by many patients suffering from multiple sclerosis, diabetes, and other illnesses.

A wide variety of medical and health organizations support legal access to medical marijuana, including the American Public Health Assn, American Nurses Assn, American Academy of HIV Medicine, and Lymphoma Foundation of America.

With more than 21,000 members and 100,000 e-mail subscribers nationwide, the Marijuana Policy Project is the largest marijuana policy reform organization in the US and believes that the best way to minimize the harm associated with marijuana is to regulate marijuana in a manner similar to alcohol. For online information, visit [MarijuanaPolicy.org](http://MarijuanaPolicy.org).

*Dispensaries have taken numerous steps to regulate themselves*

"The city should focus on measures that ensure dispensary members are qualified patients and have valid doctors' recommendations," stated Smith-Heisters. "California voters have made it clear: we want ill, suffering patients to receive the medicine they need and their doctors recommend. The City Council should keep these patients, and the will of voters, at the forefront of its discussion on how to improve the dispensaries."

Reason Foundation is a nonprofit think tank dedicated to advancing free minds and free markets. Reason produces respected public policy research on a variety of issues and publishes the critically acclaimed monthly magazine, Reason. For more information, visit [reason.org](http://reason.org).

\* The full report, *Sensible Policies for Medical Marijuana Dispensaries*, is online at [reason.org/pb57.pdf](http://reason.org/pb57.pdf).

**OaksterdamNews.Com**  
 CANNABIS NEWS CLUB REVIEWS PATIENT DIRECTORY  
 Please Consume Cannabis Responsibly

**JAMES ANTHONY**  
 COUNSELOR & ATTORNEY AT LAW  
 MMDLANDUSELAW@COMCAST.NET  
 Medical Marijuana Dispensary Land Use Law: Permits; Bans; Start-ups  
 3542 Fruitvale Ave # 351  
 OAKLAND, CA 94602  
 TEL: (510) 207-6243  
 FAX: (510) 228-0411

## Shafer Commission anniversary:

# 35 Years later, half of US backs decrim

By Dale Gieringer

As the *Report of the National Commission On Marihuana* marked its 35th anniversary, its reform message is even more pressing today than it was then.

Recommendations to Congress by the National Commission on Marihuana (sic) and Drug Abuse that called for ending the criminal arrest and prosecution of adults who possess or use small amounts of cannabis are more applicable today than they were then, says NORML Executive Director Allen St. Pierre.

Instead, then-President Richard Nixon rejected the Commission's determinations, electing to launch a federal "War on Drugs" strategy that still exists today.

The first, and only, US Congressional commission to address cannabis and public policy recommended Congress amend federal law so possession and use of small quantities of cannabis by adults would no

longer be a criminal offense. Nixon's appointed Blue Ribbon Panel, "The Shafer Commission," concluded:

"[T]he criminal law is too harsh a tool to apply to personal possession even in the effort to discourage use. It implies an overwhelming indictment of the behavior which we believe is not appropriate. The actual and potential harm of use of the drug is not great enough to justify intrusion by the criminal law into private behavior, a step which our society takes only with the greatest reluctance."

The Commission recommended, for the first time, that Congress enact a national policy of marijuana 'decriminalization,' whereby the possession of cannabis for personal use as well as the casual distribution of small amounts of marihuana for little-or-no remuneration would no

longer be a criminal offense.

"In the years since former President Richard Nixon and Congress rejected the Shafer Commission's recommendations, the US government has spent billions of taxpayers' dollars targeting and arresting minor marijuana offenders without achieving any reduction in marijuana use, availability, or demand," St. Pierre says.

He notes that since 1972:

- Approximately 16.5 million Americans have been arrested for cannabis violations — more than 80 percent of them on minor possession charges;

- US taxpayers have spent well over \$20 billion dollars enforcing criminal marijuana laws, yet cannabis availability and use among the public remains virtually unchanged;

- Nearly one-quarter of a million Americans have been denied federal financial aid for education because of anti-drug provisions to the Higher Education Act. Most of these applicants were convicted of minor cannabis possession offenses.

"In 1972, the year the Shafer Commission first recommended decriminalizing small amounts of cannabis, the FBI reported that fewer than 300,000 Americans were arrested for pot," St. Pierre said. "Today, nearly 800,000 Americans are arrested annually on marijuana charges — an increase of more than 150 percent — and 90 percent of those are charged with simple possession only, the very practice that Commission demanded Congress end 35 years ago."

"One in eight inmates incarcerated for drug crimes is behind bars for pot, at a cost to taxpayers of more than \$1 billion per year. It's time for the new Democrat Congress to revisit this issue and bring an end to the needless arrest and incarceration of otherwise law abiding citizens who consume cannabis in the privacy of their home."

## President Nixon on Pot

*Previously Unheard Nixon Recordings To Be Broadcast Exclusively On NORML's Daily AudioStash*

Former President Richard Nixon repeatedly warned members of the National Commission on Marihuana (sic) and Drug Abuse not to issue findings that could appear "soft on marijuana," according to never-before aired Presidential audio-tapes played online on NORML's Daily AudioStash, at [normlaudiostash.com](http://normlaudiostash.com).

The audio, made available to the public for the first time on the NORML AudioStash, captures several conversations between Nixon, his staff, and former Pennsylvania Gov. Raymond P. Shafer, who headed the 1972 Marihuana Commission.

In the recordings, Nixon and Shafer consistently voice their objections to legalizing or regulating cannabis use in a man-

ner similar to alcohol — a proposal that they note was then-favored by several members of Congress.

Nixon also warned Shafer about making any recommendations that might appear to run contrary to his own anti-drug position. "The thing that is so terribly important here is not to appear that the Commission [is] frankly just a bunch of do-gooders that would come out with something that would run counter to what the Congress feels and what we're planning to do," Nixon told him Sept. 9, 1971.

He added, "On the marijuana thing, I have very strong convictions. Just on my own analysis, once you start down that road, the chances of going further down that road are great. I know there's a lot [of experts] who disagree with that because of the people that are, frankly, promoting it [but] they're not good people."



Recordings from March 21, 1972, the day before the Commission released its findings, indicate that the White House intended to bury its findings. Speaking with domestic policy advisor John Ehrlichman, Nixon affirmed that his administration would not endorse the Commission's recommendations to decriminalize the private possession and use of pot.

President Nixon: What is your feeling about this damned report, this thing?

John D. Ehrlichman: A lousy report.  
Nixon: Can we give an inch on this?

Ehrlichman: No, sir. No. There is no place.

Nixon: How was he able to sell all that ... [inaudible].

Ehrlichman: Well, I'll never understand what went on in that commission, 'cause this guy, for instance, from Rockford is a ...  
Nixon: John Howard [inaudible].

Ehrlichman: ...rock-ribbed conservative.

Nixon: Well, what do you think about legalizing the use and possession of marijuana?

Ehrlichman: It's a crazy rule. What they've done is they've come half way. It's this, it's like liquor. There would be no law against consuming liquor at home, but there'd be a law against selling it. Now how the hell can you make that work?

President Nixon: Well, I made it clear enough to him that I don't endorse it.

Ehrlichman: He's not [under] any illusions, and I made it very clear to him before he came in here so that he's not under [any] misapprehensions.

\* To hear these and other audio transcripts, please visit [normlaudiostash.com](http://normlaudiostash.com).

••••• *On Earth As It Is In Heaven* •••••


# SANCTUARY

**SF'S PREMIER MEDICAL CANNABIS BOUTIQUE**  
SPECIALIZING IN: PATIENT EDUCATION AND PURIFIED CANNABIS PRODUCTS


**669 O'FARRELL AVE HYDE (415) 885-4420**  
On the 3rd Garage Ave, 3 blocks downtown from Van Ness

*Located in the heart of fabulous Tenderloin Heights!*

• clones available •



## OPEN DAILY 12-8PM



Only individuals with legally recognized medical cannabis identification cards may obtain cannabis from medical cannabis dispensaries.

## New Zogby poll: Plurality of Americans back ending criminal penalties on adult cannabis

By Dale Gieringer

A slight plurality of Americans support amending federal law to remove "criminal penalties for the personal use of marijuana by adults," according to a national poll of 1,078 likely voters by Zogby International and commissioned by the NORML Foundation.

Forty-nine percent of respondents, including 57 percent of men, said they would support "a law in Congress that would eliminate federal penalties for the personal use of marijuana by adults and allow states to adopt their own policies on marijuana." Only 48 percent of those polled said they oppose such a law; three percent were undecided. The poll has a margin of error of  $\pm 3$  percentage points.

This proposal, commonly known as decriminalization or *decrim*, was first rec-

ommended to Congress by the US National Commission on Marihuana (sic) and Drug Abuse (The Shafer Commission) 35 years ago, on March 22, 1972.

Respondents' support for cannabis law reform was strongly influenced by age and political affiliation. More than half of Americans (52 percent) between the ages of 30 and 64 support decrim, while only 45 percent of those under age 30 and 43 percent of seniors endorsed it.

Among those who identified themselves as political Independents, 62 percent supported federal decriminalization legislation, and 51 percent of Democrats. Only 37 percent of Republicans supported eliminating federal penalties for minor cannabis offenses.

Respondents' opinions were also influenced by educational level and ethnicity.

Fifty-three percent of those polled who had obtained college degrees said they backed decrim versus only 44 percent of those without college diplomas.

A majority of whites (51 percent) and nearly half of African Americans (49 percent) said that they supported decriminalization, while its stated support among Hispanics was only 26 percent.

The poll found little difference in attitudes among parents (48 percent support) and non-parents (50 percent support) on the issue. Americans' views did not vary significantly by region.

Gender and holding a belief in God significantly influenced respondents' opinions. Among those polled, 57 percent of men said they supported removing criminal pot penalties versus only 41 percent of women. Of those who reported having no religious affiliation, 63 percent supported decriminalization legislation.

NORML Executive Director Allen St. Pierre noted that the poll was one of sever-

al recent surveys indicating growing support for ending cannabis prohibition. "This latest poll confirms an 80 percent upward swing in public opinion since 1990 in favor of ending the war on cannabis consumers," he said.

*The Congressional commission felt "the criminal law is too harsh a tool" to apply to pot possession*

A Zogby poll of 1,004 likely voters commissioned last year by the NORML Foundation reported that 46 percent of Americans support allowing states to regulate cannabis, similar to alcohol.

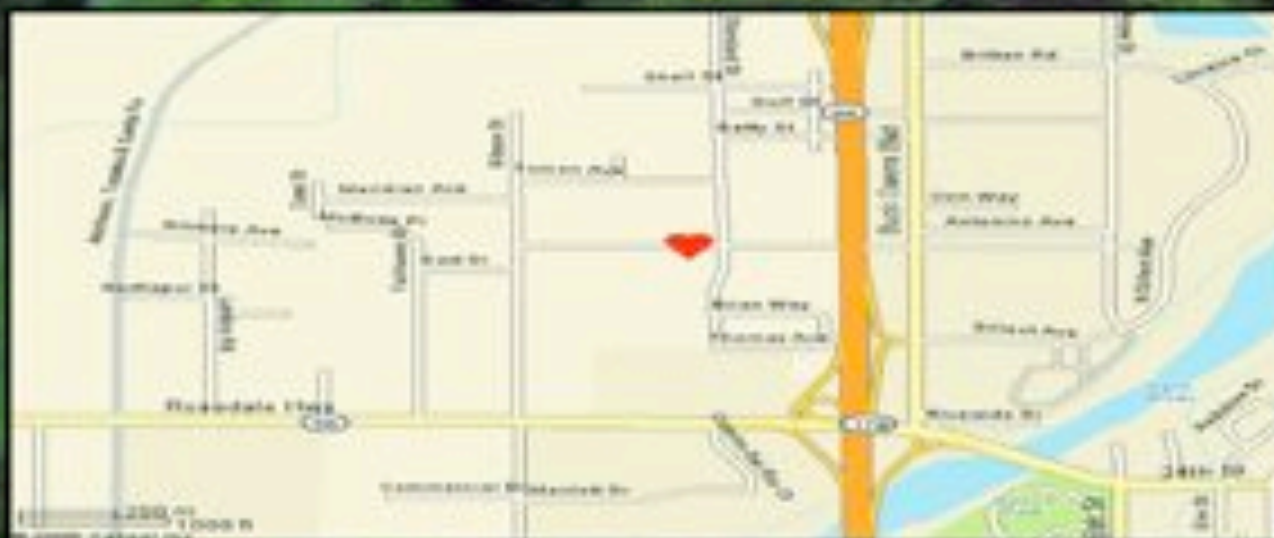
For more information, please contact Allen St. Pierre, Executive Director of the NORML Foundation, or Paul Armentano, NORML Senior Policy Analyst, at 202-483-5500. [norml.org/pdf\\_files/NORML\\_Nationwide\\_Poll\\_2007.pdf](http://norml.org/pdf_files/NORML_Nationwide_Poll_2007.pdf)

# AMERICAN CAREGIVERS COLLECTIVE

Purple Kush

OPEN MON-SAT 10-7PM  
SUN 12-6PM

661-324-1353



3615 GILMORE AVE  
BAKERSFIELD, CA 93308

AmericanCaregiversCollective.Com

# Prop. 36 graduated over 60,000 patients, saved taxpayers over \$1 billion in 5 years

**State fails to implement policies to improve outcomes; governor cuts funding**

By Isaac Skelton

Recent media reports on California's treatment-instead-of-incarceration law, Prop 36, have called into question whether that program has been successful enough. Treatment advocates counter that the program has saved the state over \$1 billion while reducing drug-related incarceration. They complain that the state is failing to implement policies to further enhance program outcomes.

*The state has failed to implement any of the policy changes proposed by UCLA to bring in more people*

Margaret Dooley, Prop. 36 statewide coordinator for the Drug Policy Alliance, said, "By all measures, Prop. 36 has exceeded expectations: it has successfully intervened in the lives of tens of thousands of drug-addicted Californians, significantly reduced the prison population, and saved taxpayers over a billion dollars. The best news of all is that, with the right policy changes, outcomes and savings could be still better."

According to University of California at Los Angeles researchers, Prop. 36 has graduated over 60,000 Californians and saved taxpayers at least \$850 million in just five years. Nearly six years into Prop. 36, the number of people incarcerated for drug possession has fallen by 32 percent (5,000 people).

More than 1,000 Californians on parole complete treatment under Prop. 36 each year instead of going back to prison. By diverting so many into treatment, Prop. 36 rendered unnecessary the construction of a new men's prison (saving another \$500 million) and also resulted in the shuttering of a women's prison.

Dave Fratello, co-author of Prop. 36, said "No program in California has done more to slow prison population growth than Prop. 36. Rather than turn our backs on this success, the state should fully fund the program. It needs over \$200 million, but the governor is proposing cuts instead.

His plan is short-sighted and self-defeating. Adequate funding for Prop. 36 will improve treatment outcomes and save taxpayers even more money."

One area that could be improved significantly is "show" rates; that is, the number of people who elect Prop. 36 who actually enroll in treatment. Currently, about one-quarter do not enroll. Data suggest that many get lost in the system, while others simply choose jail time after they learn what Prop. 36 requires – a year or more of treatment, with the threat of incarceration for failure to complete the program. Advocates also note that the state has failed to implement any of the policy changes proposed by UCLA to help bring more people into treatment after their initial choice to try Prop. 36.

Those recommendations include co-locating services to reduce the time and distance—often weeks and miles—between court, addiction assessment, probation orientation and treatment enrollment. UCLA also notes that inability to secure transportation to and child-care are other factors that must be mitigated to help people get to treatment.

"Although there is general acknowledgement that removing barriers is essential to improving success rates, the resources just aren't there. Due to insuffi-



**DRUG WAR DEBATE** — Ethan Nadelmann, director of the Drug Policy Alliance and noted drug policy reform advocate, on March 27 debated James Q. Wilson, formerly a professor at Harvard University (where Nadelmann was one of his students) and UCLA and one of the country's most influential conservative voices on criminal justice issues. The debate was held at USF's McLaren Building. Oaksterdam News photo by Mikki Norris

cient funding, Prop. 36 participants are often placed on long waiting lists or in an inappropriate but cheaper level of care. Until the state will commit to spending what is necessary to ensure rapid progression from court into treatment, the state is setting up addicted Californians for failure," worried Ms. Dooley.

Currently, 34 percent of people who enter treatment through Prop. 36 complete it. According to UCLA, this is comparable to treatment outcomes of other groups, both those who enter treatment voluntarily

and those otherwise ordered to treatment by criminal justice. According to the California Society of Addiction Medicine, it is also comparable to treatment compliance with other chronic conditions, including diabetes and hypertension.

To improve retention rates, UCLA recommends that Prop. 36 participants be placed in an appropriate level of care—one that matches their severity of addiction. UCLA found that in practice cost, rather than need, often drives placement of Prop. 36 participants. Due to budget cuts, for example, Sacramento County will not offer any residential treatment for Prop. 36 participants next year. According to UCLA, only 11 percent of participants are referred to inpatient services, which is more expensive than outpatient, even though over half of program participants have been using drugs for over a decade.

Drug Policy Alliance, druggpolicylorg, is the nation's leading organization working to end the Drug War through new policies based on science, compassion, health and human rights and a just society in which the fears, prejudices and punitive prohibitions of today are no more.

## Measure Z Committee discusses club guidelines

By Richard Lee

The Oakland Cannabis Regulation and Revenue Ordinance Oversight Committee is working on guidelines for the Measure Z Clubs that are currently operating under the three year old law. Due to past opposition the Committee was not able to meet for over a year but with a new mayor supporting the will of the voters progress is being made.

Measure Z made private adult cannabis sales, cultivation and possession the lowest law enforcement priority and calls on the city to tax and regulate as soon as possible under state law.

The Measure Z Committee is looking into appropriate zoning laws, similar to the restrictions on restaurants that serve booze. Other issues under discussion are proper ventilation for smoking areas, limiting the

number of members clubs are allowed to have, and how to structure permit fees.

Also the committee is scheduled to present it's annual report to the Public Safety Committee on April 24th and to the full City Council on May 1st.

The Oversight Committee meets the third Thursday of every month at 6 PM in Oakland City Council Chambers in the Oakland City Hall building.



**420 COMPASSION CENTER — Quality is the first order at the collective's bud bar.**

## LA Reviews, March 2007

By Randy Tan with Jaime Galindo

### PCLA: Patients & Caregivers LA

5763 W. Pico Blvd., Los Angeles, Ca. 90019  
Mon-Sat 12pm-8pm  
323-932-8266

Patients & Caregivers Los Angeles is a new dispensary located on Pico Blvd., just three blocks East of Fairfax Avenue. Founded by a small group of dedicated patients, it is clear that PCLA is going to make an impact.

Likable people, knowledgeable staff, and the goal is clear, "To provide a safe and tasteful healing environment and superior medication at affordable prices."

Being the new kid on the block is not easy. With the rapid growth of dispensaries operating in Los Angeles, PCLA knows it is mandatory to separate themselves from the rest. "This place is a work in progress, we have so much room and cannot wait to utilize this space to its full potential. Our goal is to bring together the best of both worlds." PCLA provides a vaporizer and concentrate bar for patients that prefer a social aspect to their healing process. They plan to soon open an additional medication room to provide a quick purchase and pick up area for patients that prefer to medicate in the privacy of their own home. Or, as one patient put it "I like the bar atmosphere when I have time to chat, but if I am in a rush, or not feeling up to it, I need the option to get in and get out."

PCLA explains, "We love the atmosphere of 420 Compassionate Center, the spirit of LAPCG and the convenience of UMCC. If we can fall somewhere in the middle, our goals will be met."

Convenience is the key at PCLA. Ample street parking is available directly out front. The facility is handicap accessible, bar included. The registration process is quick yet efficient.

Medication is superior with fourteen strains to choose from. "Our selection seems to be growing at a healthy rate; we aim to be consistent with a minimum thirty strains by mid-summer." Both organic and non-organic meds are available with an even balance of Sativa and Indica. Medication is kept in glass jars and weighed at time of donation. A free gram of choice is offered to new patients and twenty percent off for seniors, veterans, SI and SSDI patients. Donations range from a compassionate \$40 per



**APOTHECARY 420 — Collective brings its customers up close to the medicines to view trichomes in their stereo-microscopic glory.** Oaksterdam News photos by Jaime Galindo

one-eight ounce, not to exceed \$65 for top shelf Kush. PCLA provides a wide selection of edible and new concentrates will be on the shelf soon.

I had an opportunity to sample a variety of PCLA's medication. I suggest the Bubba Kush and the Trainwreck, although the Sour Diesel was fantastic as well.

So what's next for PCLA? "Paint the front and plant some grass." Rebecca laughs, but she means it. "We look forward to contributing to the neighborhood, both aesthetically, physically and financially. We are grateful to be a part of this movement and want to represent the medical marijuana community well."

I really enjoyed my experience at PCLA. Their dedication in providing a good customer experience is felt all the way around. They excel in ambiance, meds and customer service. I really look forward to watching these guys grow.

### SL Caregivers

3003 W Olympic Blvd Ste 201  
Los Angeles CA 90006  
Phone: (213) 487-1700

Hours: Mon - Sat 10a to 8p, Sun 11a to 7p

If you're near Koreatown, check out SL Caregivers. Talk about an incognito location. You'll pull up to this place and say to yourself, "I can't find no club in here." But, it's there on the 2nd floor at the end. Take the stairs or ride the elevator to this hidden treasure that recently opened up. Once inside, there is a yellow waiting room brightly lit with sunlight where patients are greeted and checked in. You'll quickly notice this is a very colorful location where



**NATURE'S HOLISTIC CAREGIVERS — Jimmy wears his social conscience on his tee shirt.**

each room has its own custom hue. Back in the dispensary, you'll feel a sense of calm with the lavender painted walls. Or perhaps you'll feel a sense of royalty as you assess the wide selection of flowers, edibles, and hash.



**PATIENTS & CAREGIVERS LOS ANGELES (PCLA) — "To provide a safe and tasteful healing environment and superior medication at affordable prices."**

There were about 12 different types of flowers ranging in price from \$45-70 an eighth. All the Kush topped the menu with flavors like Diamond, Bubba, and OG. Once you get your medicine, you can relax in the SL Caregivers greenroom decorated with chroma green paint, plush couches, flat screen TV, video games, and consumption on the premises.

There was a first for the *Oaksterdam News* staff on this visit. The review staff sampled Ice Vapor hits for the first time ever thanks to the pros at SL Caregivers. Here's how it works: The medicine was placed in a glass bowl from a triple-chamber percolator bong. Ice was placed in the upper part of the tube just below the mouthpiece. The medicine was then vaporized using a heat gun set to 380 degrees. The heat gun pushes the vapor through the tube, so you can pretty much sip the vapor from the top of the bong. We sampled Strawberry Cough that had a sweet, berry-like finish, and we sampled some Granddaddy Purple using this intake method. The result was phenomenal.

Special note: valet parking is available at this location.

### 420 Compassion Center

6116 W. Pico Blvd  
Los Angeles, CA 90035  
Phone: 1-877-573-3990

Hours: Mon. to Sat. 12p to 8p

What a cool place, one of my favorite clubs so far. 420 Compassion Center is at street level and there is metered parking right outside. Watch out because the funspoilers are constantly cruising around looking for expired meters.

You arrive at this location and check in at the window of the reception area. There are a few chairs, so relax for a minute while you're being verified. The inside of the dispensary is beautifully decorated resulting in both a professional and tranquil feeling. The dispensary walls feature an interesting collection of framed portraits and other works of art that all pertain to cannabis, cannabis freedom fighters, and our freedoms as U.S. citizens. The décor not only looks great, but is also inspiring to look at. Check it out.

Upon first glance one might think you're walking into a regular coffeehouse. However, there isn't any coffee behind the counter, its medicinal marijuana. But if you're in the mood for a hot beverage, there is complimentary tea available at the serve-yourself tea station. The dispensary countertop was custom built and has a deep walnut luster with cannabis leaf inlays. The back bar is styled with large hemp sacks, mirrors and natural fibers, and somewhat resembles a trading post Indiana Jones would go to for medicine.

420 Compassion Center offers try-before-you-buy samples via Erbo. An Erbo is a motorized bong that shoots the smoke through a thin tubular mouthpiece. It is a very sterile process since you don't have to put your mouth on it. Don't go crazy and think you're going to sample every strain, just try a couple. 420CC has a wide array of perfectly cured flowers and there were about 14 flavors the day we visited. Besides flowers, they have hash, kief, edibles, *Continued on next page*

## Subscribe to Oaksterdam News

Get 3 copies of each issue plus your choice of one of our collectible Oaksterdam jerseys or classic tee shirts (mention your size). Both shirts are unisex.

Subscriptions are \$75 for one year.

Just mail in your payment to the *Oaksterdam News*, along with your name, address, (e-mail and telephone optional) to:

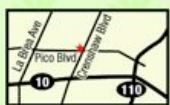
405 15th St. Oakland CA 94612.  
Attn. Subscription Dept.

*Oaksterdam News* respects your privacy and will never share any of your information.

Visit us online at  
**oaksterdamnews.com**  
and check out our online gift shop.

Providing Your 420-7 Days A Week

UNDER CALIFORNIA STATE LAW PROP. 215 AND SB420, IT IS YOUR LEGAL RIGHT TO MEDICAL CANNABIS (IF YOU QUALIFY)



**FREE MEDICINE**  
FOR FIRST TIME PATIENTS

**323.936.5000**

4207 W. Pico Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA 90019



**HIGHLAND PARK PATIENT COLLECTIVE** — It looks sort of like a pharmacy, and has a reputation as the “Home of the Perfect Cure.” Oaksterdam News photos by Jaime Galindo

*Continued from previous page*

concentrates, and clones. We sampled some savory Wondergirl and Maui Wowie that was like fruit punch.

The staff is totally pro and friendly, so don't be afraid to use them as a resource. Tell them your symptoms and they'll recommend a certain strain. Or, if you have a question about cultivation, use their patient research library. Just like their slogan says, 420 Compassion Center is “Like no other.”

### **Apothecary 420**

330 N Western Ave, Los Angeles, CA 90004  
Phone: 323-836-0420  
Hours: Mon. to Sun. 11a to 8p  
www.Apothecary420.com

This is probably the most stylish dispensary so far. You enter a spacious waiting room that's decked out with elegant custom furniture. It's a very clean, professional look throughout the whole club. There is parking on the street, and this location is wheelchair accessible.

Inside, the dispensary is like a high-end boutique, and that's exactly the look its owners are going for. “We are trying to be professionals, our commitment to quality can't be paralleled,” said one of the owners. This place is so tricked out, I could take my Mom here and she would think we were there to buy perfume.

Put all the looks aside and check out the quality of the medicine. Apothecary 420 has an interesting selection plus a couple of unique items that we didn't find anywhere else on this trip. The flowers are kept in very scientific looking jars that somewhat resemble a beaker. All the jars are pretty much kept out on the counter, but they could probably use a menu board or perhaps some printed menus. Next to the flowers, there is a nice microscope where patients can get a stereo-microscopic view of the trichomes, or crystals that form on the flowers of cannabis. If you've never seen what this looks like, you need to check it out. Another nice thing to see was house Volcano vaporizer in the lounge area across from the dispensary counter.

We sampled some Trainwreck, Master Kush, OG Kush, Mothership, Granddaddy Purple, even some Sour Diesel full-melt hash, but the Chem Dog infused with Honey Oil was outstanding. There was also some OG Kush infused with Honey Oil. Both of these infused herbs were so aromatic and tasty it's too bad that it has to be a connoisseur type of item, because \$75 a gram isn't for everyone. Overall, the quality and selection of the medicine was very impressive, our compliments to your buyer.

### **Natural Remedies Caregivers**

6231 Santa Monica Blvd, LA, CA 90038  
Phone: 323-871-9500  
Hours: Mon - Sat 11a to 8p; Sun 12p to 6p

Natural Remedies Caregivers is housed in a ground floor location with free parking. This place has an upscale feel with wood and glass display counters and an interesting array of artwork on the walls. It's almost like going to one of those chocolate stores in the mall, or one of those stores that sells sunglasses. It's a nice aesthetic and a very mature feel, or perhaps it was the Sheryl Crow bumping on the stereo that added to this feeling.

When you first enter the club, there is a small check-in area with seating, security, and a restroom. Inside the dispensary you will be impressed with the hulking Bubba Kush nuggets for \$55 an eighth and Purple Urkle \$65. Other items include: Fire OG \$65, Master OG \$65, GDP, White Widow, Lavender \$60, and Trainwreck. The hash of the day was Af Wreck-\$40/gram, Bubble Hash, and Black Marble. We sampled some Granddaddy Purple via house glass. These were golf ball sized buds with alternating broadleaves of deep purple and lime green. The edibles are from Chef Boyarweed and kept in a refrigerated display case. There is a leather couch across from the counter where patients can relax. You can sample your medicine using the house glass, or maybe you're up for a game of

chess on the house chessboard, or perhaps you just want to kick back and read the *Oaksterdam News*.

Natural Remedies Caregivers is a clean, safe, and professional club, and they have some cool patient appreciation incentives going on. You can enter a raffle to win an eighth of Kush. There is a winner picked every Saturday and you must be a patient. For new patients, you can get 10% off the first visit and a free gram. Another promotion Natural Remedies Caregivers has is their *You Can Get Free Gram Every Visit*. Basically, with a \$100 donation, you get a free gram.

### **Nature's Holistic Caregivers**

14000A Crenshaw Blvd, Gardena, CA 90249  
Phone: 310-327-3551  
Hours: Mon. to Thur. 10a to 7p  
Fri to Sat 10a to 8p Sun 11a to 5p

On this visit, we hit the Nature's Holistic Caregivers in Gardena. It's run by the Kali-Urb family, who started off with one location and now operates three clubs in the LA area. These guys have been around for a while and they definitely have their business dialed in. From their professional demeanor all the way to white lab coats, Nature's Holistic Caregivers goes with a very clinical look, which is a reassuring feeling.

Aside from the white lab coats, NHC staff has expert knowledge of medicinal cannabis and they are cool people to talk to. Don't hesitate to ask them a question about a product. They have flowers, hash, concentrates, clones, and a nice stock of edibles. Also, be sure to ask about the best medicinal cannabis to match your particular tastes or ailments. Something we were impressed to learn is that all Nature's Holistic Caregivers staff has college degrees. Props to you guys.

Nature's Holistic Caregivers in Gardena is at ground level and there is free parking available in the parking lot. There is a nice sized reception area where patients check in before they enter the dispensary. Just past the reception area, there is a beautifully decorated lounge that looks something like a hotel lobby. Once you're inside the dispensary, you will immediately be impressed with the quality of the medicine and the wide range of selections. “We definitely try to keep all our stores filled with the same quality product,” said Virgil of NHC.

We sampled items like Chocolate hash, which The Holistic Caregivers says is “as close as you'll get to Moroccan hash in the U.S.” We also sampled magnificent flowers like: Blue Lights (Blueberry x Northern Lights), Blueberry Supreme, and some Granddaddy Purple that was so primo, we actually misplaced it for a few minutes. One special item from the flower menu was the Blue Thunder. It is something “exclusive to the Kali-Urb family, not found anywhere else,” said Virgil of The Holistic Caregivers. The bud gave off a lavender scent when broken apart and when smoked. This strain was a very effective appetite stimulant, and this *Oaksterdam News* reviewer discovered that it goes well with Japanese food.

### **Medi Mar Co-Op**

16218 Ventura Blvd Ste 12, Encino, CA 91436  
Phone: 818-501-6334  
Hours: Mon - Sat 10a to 8p; Sun 11a to 7p

Medi-Mar is a new club in the Encino part of The Valley. It is located in the back part of an office complex overlooking Benihana's on Ventura Blvd. The check-in area has a desk and some seating where the usual verification procedures take place. The dispensary is in the back and



**MEDI MAR CO-OP** — Tasty ways to medicate without the hassle of looking around for a lighter or vaporizer.



**SL CAREGIVERS** — Oaksterdam News cameraman samples Strawberry Cough using the ice vapor system at the discreet Koreatown dispensary.

it's a pretty modest space. Everything is displayed in glass cases and there is a menu listing all their medicinal goods.

Ask about any specials or price breaks they may have going. The day we were there, an eighth of meds went for \$40-60. We're talking about Purple Urkle, Bubba Kush, Silver Haze, Trainwreck, and Strawberry Cough to name a few. The hash du jour, or hash-of-the-day was Moonshine and Red Rock H20.

Medi Mar Co-Op has super edibles. A number of items caught our attention. First, the portions are massive. The Sugar Cookies, Oatmeal, and Chocolate Chip looked like doubles. The brownies appeared to be bigger than an iPod. There is a large selection of unique little candies like the Strawberry Drop and the Pineapple-Mango Dark Chocolate Drop. The peanut butter cups come in both white and dark chocolate, and they are as big as a hockey puck. They also have a good amount of accessories like pipes and bongs. Something unique we saw was the liquid filled glass hand pipes . . . so amazing!

If you're a new patient you should know there is free delivery available for disabled patients. That's good because the place is on the second floor and I'm not sure I saw an elevator.

### **Highland Park Patient Collective**

5716 N. Figueroa St, Highland Park, CA 90042  
Phone: 626-610-3145  
Hours: Mon. to Sun. 10a to 10p  
www.MyGreenMeds.com

If you're almost all the way to the north end of the 110 freeway, there is a club in Highland Park that's really cool. Highland Park Patient Collective is professional, clean, and safe . . . and it looks sort of like a pharmacy. Their motto is “Home of the Perfect Cure” and the *Oaksterdam*



**BOO-KU** — Comfortable surroundings with tasteful decor make patients feel welcome in Van Nuys.

*News* review team reaped the therapeutic benefits of their mouthwatering meds.

Highland Park Patient Collective is located in a ground floor location in a bustling part of North Figueroa street. You may have to drive around the block a few times until you find a place to park, so chill. You arrive at the club and go through standard check-in and verification procedures. Once you're verified, they buzz you through a hallway that leads to the dispensary.

The Highland Park Patient Collective dispensary is a pretty big room with glass display cases and countertops. The staff are friendly people and very knowledgeable. Remember, they are always available for any questions, information, or recommendations. They had a ton of edibles like cookies, rice crispy treats, brownies, granola bars, and candy bars. They stock energy drinks, plus liquid concentrates that you mix with cold sodas, and some other concentrates that are mixed with hot tea.

Highland Park Patient Collective has a wide selection of flowers ranging in flavor and price from Northern Lights 100 percent Indica for \$45/eighth to Master Kush for \$75. There's lots of kush and purples on the menu. Extra points for offering samples via Erbo, so you can make sure you like the med before you buy it. We sampled a phenomenal specimen of Purple Haze (60% Sativa 40% Indica). The bud was massive and shimmered like purple and green camouflage. The staff recommended the New York Diesel. The taste was pungent and spicy. The NY Diesel was also a nice change of pace after all the kush we had been sampling.

Something cool about Highland Park Patient Collective is the fact that they have a website. They can pre-verify patients by having them fill out the form at mygreen-meds.com and submitting online. Verification is usually pretty fast they say. Also, patients can check the flower menu online, or print out coupons from the Specials section of the website. Especial note: Si habla Espanol . . . get your pinche mota aqui chignon.

### Boo-Ku Collective Care

6817 Sepulveda Blvd, Van Nuys, CA 91405  
Phone: 818-908-9255

Hours: Mon. to Sat. 12p to 8p Sun 12p to 7p  
Boo-Ku is a delightful club in The Valley. If you're new in town, Van Nuys is in the heart of the San Fernando Valley, or The Valley for short. Fast Times at Ridgemont High, Valley Girl, Encino Man, and Karate Kid are a few movies about this area.

Boo-Ku Collective Care is just off the 405 on the northwestern corner of Vanowen and Sepulveda. The club is in a mini-mall with free parking. Look for it right next to the doughnut shop. Take the stairs or use the elevator to the upper level and follow the signs. Boo-Ku has nicely detailed signs all over the building to lead the way to their sanctuary.

The entire interior of Boo-Ku is very elegant with an upscale feel. The check in area gives a great first impression that you've arrived at a fine establishment. The dispensary is brightly lit and clean with glass display counters across the length of the room. The glass case in the center holds edibles and small sample jars of cannabis used to evaluate the floral meds. We got to check the big jars on the back wall. There are huge jars of nugs on display containing strains like: Bubba Kush, LA Confidential, Granddaddy Purple, Sour Grape, and Lavender. These meds were all at the high-grade part of the menu. The people behind Boo-Ku have a strong commitment to compassionately priced meds, \$60 is the highest price for a eighth of

medicine and \$35 is the low-end price. We were impressed with the high quality and the wide selection. "I buy nothing but the best of everything ... even the lower grades are hard to mess with," said John of Boo-Ku regarding the flowers on the menu. Seriously, every jar looked like it was filled with green golf balls mixed with jade tarantulas.

The lounge is painted with a color palette of golden beige and cabernet red.

There are two plush couches, a coffee table, a flat screen TV, and two cocktail tables with barstools. Consumption is allowed on site, so maybe it's time to try the house Volcano vaporizer. Ask for a demo if it's your first time and if you like it, they have some for sale.

Boo-Ku Collective Care has a super nice staff who are professional and courteous. The *Oaksterdam News* reviewers would like to visit here again.



**NATURAL REMEDIES CAREGIVERS** — Good meds and a nice ambience. You can enter a raffle to win an eighth of Kush. There is a winner picked every Saturday and you must be a patient.

## PATIENT SERVICES & SUPPORT

### Oakland

**SR-71, 377 17th St. Oakland 94612, 9 am-8 pm Mon-Fri 10 am-8 pm Sat. / 10 am- 6 pm Sun.**

We The People, 925-595-8879 Delivery Service  
OCBC 1733 Broadway Ave Oakland 94612, 510-832-5346

Harborside Health Care 1840 Embarcadero Oakland 94606, 510-533-0147

Purple Heart 415 4th St. Jack London Square Area  
CARE, 701 Broadway Ave Oakland 94607

### Bakersfield

Sweet Relief Compassionate Care, 1340 Roberts Lane #1 Bakersfield CA 93308, 661-399-4200, 9 am-10 pm Mon-Fri 9-5 pm Sat / closed Sun

California Compassionate Services, 376 Bernard St. Bakersfield 93305, 661-324-9080

American Caregivers Collect., 3615 Gillmore Av. Bakersfield 93308, 661-324-1353, 10- 7 Daily

Charity Caregivers of Tulare, 219 North M St. Tulare 93274, 559-688-2001, 11 am-6 pm Mon-Fri closed Sat & Sun

7 Seas Compassionate Care Ctr, 6403 Seven Seas Ave. #A, 93308, 10-6 Mon-Sat 10-2 Sun

Free & Easy Compassionate Care 1905 1/2 N. Chester Bakersfield 93308, 661-387-0509

Nature's Medicinal, 323 Roberts Ln. Bakersfield 93308, 661-392-9353, 11-9 Mon-Sat, 11-7 Sun

Green Cross of Torrance, 1658 B West Carson Street Torrance 90501, (310) 533-9363, 10-8 pm Everyday

### Beach Cities

Cancer Help Cntr Herbal Collect., 3381 LB Bl. Long Beach 90804, 562-424-HERB ( 4372 ), 11 am-8 pm Mon-Fri 11 am-7 pm Sat & Sun

Nature's Way Compassion Group, 1111 S. Pacific Av. San Pedro 90731, 310-514-9665, 12-7 pm Mon-Sat

Herbal Solutions Compassionate Caregivers, 5746 E. 2nd St. Long Beach 90803, 562-434-5075

Cal Caregivers Assoc. of Gardena, 17901 S. Vermont Av. #D Gardena 90248, 310-352-1188, 11:30-8 pm Daily

LBVLC, 1088 Redondo Av. Long Beach 90814, 562-434-6761, 11-8 pm Mon-Fri 11 -7 pm Sat&Sun

Palos Verdes Collect., PO Box 2002 Rolling Hills Estate 90274, 310-541-0608 877-420-2150, 12-8 pm Tue-Sat closed Sun & Mon

Nature's Holistic Caregivers, 14000 #A Crenshaw Bl. Gardena 90249, 310-327-3551

Peace of Green, 22828 Western Av. Torrance 90501, 310-530-4135, 12-8 pm Mon-Fri 12-6 pm Sat&Sun

### Berkeley

Berkeley Cannabis Co-op, 3124 Shattuck Berkeley

## LA could regulate soon

*Continued from page 1*

Degé Coutee, founder of the Patients Advocacy Network (PAN), spoke on behalf of patients and operators. Coutee asked the commission to extend grandfather status to existing dispensaries. She suggested that land issues often supersede the needs of the people and that by forcing existing dispensaries to shut down or relocate, patient access will ultimately be jeopardized.

Christopher Fusco, Los Angeles Field County Coordinator for Americans for Safe Access (ASA), stated that while he fully supports the moratorium, he takes issue with the request for dispensary operators to register with the Police. "The LA Police Department has been openly hostile towards medical cannabis dispensaries. LAPD has gone on record to say that he intends to shut these places down and will continue to cooperate with federal authorities to do so."

Commander David Done of the Los Angeles Police Department was quick to address the issue of dispensary registration. Commander Done acknowledged operator concerns and suggested that another agency to handle the registration process. Commander Done added that the department's recommendation to limit dispensary hours of operation from 10 am to 5 pm is unreasonable and should be changed better accommodate patients.

It was evident that the City Planning Commission supports access to medical marijuana within the city. The Planning Commission voted to recommend the ICO, yet made it clear that the purpose of an ICO is to temporarily prohibit the establishment of new medical marijuana dispensaries, and not to implement regulation. The ICO will soon go before City Council, bringing LA one-step closer to a city-wide moratorium.

94705, 510-486-1025, 10 am- 3 pm Tue-Sn / closed Mon 10:30 am- 5 pm Fri

Berkeley Patient's Care Collect., 2590 Telegraph Av. Berkeley, CA. 94704, 510-540-7878, Noon- 7 pm Tues- Sun closed Mon

Berkeley Patient's Group, 2747 San Pablo Av. Berkeley 94702, 510-540-6013, 11am- 7 pm daily

### Central Coast, Santa Barbara

HortiPharm Caregiving & Consulting 4 W. Calle Laureles Sta Barbara 93105, 805-563-2802

Central Coast Compassionate Caregivers, 780 Monterey Av. #B Morro Bay 93442, 805-772-4879, fax# 805-456-0389, 11 am-6 Tue-Sun closed Mon ACME, 211 W. Victoria St. Sta Barbara 93101, 805-679-1569, 8-10 pm Daily New

Pacific Greens, Inc., 816 Milpas St. Sta Barbara 93101, 805-963-0616, 10-8 pm Daily

Cal Alliance for Medical Mj Patients (I.D. Cards, Referrals), Ventura Co., 805-890-1365, 11:30-4:30 Thurs-Sat, by appointment on Sunday

Compassionate Cntr of Sta Barbara Co. #1, 2915 De La Vina St. Sta Barbara 93105, 805-682-8383, 11 am-6 pm Mon-Sat

Hezekiah Inc., 92 2nd St. #H Buellton 93427, 805-693-5790, 9 am 5 pm Mon -Fri 9 am-5 pm daily

Nature's Path Care, 414 E. Haley St. #B Sta Barbara 93101, 805-331-4567, 10-8 pm Daily

Helping Hands Wellness Center, 4141 State St. #F-4 Sta Barbara 93110, 805-692-1419, 10:30 am-8:30 pm Daily 805-708-7844

Sta Barbara Collect. 234 E. Haley St Sta Barbara 93101

*Please turn to page 20*

## OCBC opens LA office for patient ID cards

**By Jeff Jones**

Oakland Cannabis Buyers' Cooperative is pleased to announce the opening of a new patient membership office for California residents. Our first branch office is located in Southern California where limited ID services have been available for patients and caregivers qualified under Health and Safety Code section 11362.5.

Our new office is called the Patient ID Center, and is open to serve all patients and caregivers in getting Medical Cannabis ID Cards in California once verified by Doctor recommendation. It is located at 470 S. San Vicente Blvd., LA, CA 90048-4107, cross Street is Drexel, between Wilshire & 3rd St. Office hours are Monday thru Friday 10 am to 6 pm and Saturday 10 am to 5 pm. Phone 323-852-1039 or fax to 323-852-1051.

There is street parking around the office and additional parking in Cedars-Sinai Medical Center garage, entrance on Colgate one block down from our office. Prices for parking are posted inside.

## Oaksterdam News opens LA bureau office

**By Tristin Coffman**

The *Oaksterdam News* continues its rapid growth, alongside the burgeoning wave of cannabis entrepreneurs, and will soon open its Los Angeles news office. The LA bureau office will be located at 5763 W. Pico Blvd, east of Fairfax, 510-836-6397.

The decision is further recognition that developments in Southern California are reshaping the cannabis community.

The newspaper was launched two years ago as a quarterly publication with an initial print run of 12 pages and 5,000 copies. It became immediately evident that was insufficient, and a second print run of 5,000 copies of the first issue was ordered and distributed.

Since then the complimentary newspaper, which is financed by its advertisers, has more than doubled in size to 28 pages in a typical issue, and circulation has skyrocketed to 120,000 with this issue after running short with a 100,000 copy print run of the last edition.

The *Oaksterdam News* is uniquely situated as the only statewide newspaper to focus exclusively on topics of interest to the cannabis community. People interested in advertising or submitting articles and photos should visit the website, [OaksterdamNews.com](http://OaksterdamNews.com).

[www.JoinClubZ.com](http://www.JoinClubZ.com)



**Because You Don't Need A Medical Card To Buy A Beer.....**

# PATIENT SERVICES & SUPPORT

Continued from page 19

Compassionate Cntr of Sta Barbara Co. #2 SBC Collect. 119 N. Milpas St. #C Sta Barbara 93103, 805-963-9797, Nn-5 pm Mon-Fri 11 am-3 pm Sat Sta Barbara Patients' Group, 3128 State St. Sta Barbara 93105, 805-687-8988 / 898-2377, 10 am-6 pm daily

## Central Valley, Redding

The Compassionate Coalition 1500 Oliver Road Suite 248 Fairfield 94533,  
CHARITY CAREGIVERS OF TULARE 219 N. M Street #106 Tulare 93274, 559-688-2001, M-F 11-6 City and County of Trees 219 Walnut St Woodland CA, (530) 383-6714

El Dorado Pain Reduction Cntr., 645 Main St. #3 Placerville 95667, 530-642-1642, 11-6 pm Daily The Hemp Shack { Recommendations ID Cards } 220 E. Olive Av. Fresno 93728, 559-485-4367, 10-8 pm Mon-Sat. 12-5 pm Sun

Dr. William Toy, 120 Richerdson St. #B Grass Valley 95945, 530-273-5804

Calaveras CC, 11855 Goldstrike Rd. Pine Grove 95665, 866-401-2228, DELIVERY ONLY 8 am- 8 pm EVERYDAY

Golden State Patient Care Collect., 233 Hwy 174 Colfax 95713, 530-346-2514, 10 am- 5 pm Mon-Sat Dr. Solovan, 1522 Charles Dr. Redding 96003, 530-242-6784

VWCC Valley Wellness Center Collect. 130 W.11th St., Ste E Tracy 95376, 209-834-8929 420 Smoke Shop The Smoking Dragon 983 Lake Blvd. Suite C Redding 96003, 530-772-9420 Norcal Medical Cannabis Collect., 1444 Warner #A Chico 95926, 530-354-1114, 1 pm-8 pm Mon-Sat

## Contra Costa

MED Dispensary, 3823 San Pablo Dam Rd. El Sobrante 94803, 510-758-3269, 10 am-6 pm Daily call for appt.

Natural Remedies Health Center, Richmond, CA. 94805, 510-444-5771

Dragonfly/Holistic Solutions, 2924 Hill Top Mall Rd. Richmond, CA. 94806, 510-243-7575, Mn-Fr 11am-6pm / Sat&Sun 11am-4pm

Maricare, 127 Aspen Dr. Pacheco, 94553, 925-459-2929, Mon-Fri / 10 am-7 pm Sat / 11 am-6 pm Sun

## Hayward

Alameda Co. Resource Cntr, 16250 B E. 14th St. San Leandro 94578, 510-317-2150, 11 am- 8 pm Mon- Sat.

Hayward Patients Resource Cntr, 22550 Foothill Bl. Hayward 94541, 510-581-8640 888-389-6360, 11 am-9 pm daily also delivers MD clinic

Garden of Eden, 21227 Foothill Bl. Castro Valley 94541, 510-881-2160, 9 am-9 pm daily

Compassionate Collect. of Alameda Co., 21222 Mission Bl. Hayward 94541, 9-7 pm Mon-Fri NEW Spt'06 11-7 Sat & Sun

We Are Hemp, 913 E Lewelling Bl. Hayward 94541, 510-276-2628, 11 am- 8 pm Mon- Sat

A Natural Source ?, 16360 Foothill Bl. San Leandro 94578, 510-276-7224, 11 am- 7 pm Mon-Fr 12 pm-6 pm Sat & Sun

## Los Angeles

Whittier Medicinal Patients Collect. & Lounge WMPC 11618 Washington #D Los Angeles 90606, 562-692-3576, 7 days 11-7

420 Bros., 117 1/2 S. Western Av.

L.A. 90004, 877-420-BROS

Venice Beach Care Center 410 Lincoln Blvd. Venice 90291, 310-399-4307, M-Th 2-9, F-Sat 11-10, Sun 10-6

Relief Caregivers Coop, 24602 Raymond Way, Suite #201 Lake Forest 92630-4461, 949 735-9112, Hours: 11-7 Mon-Sat

Absolute Herbal Solutions 901 S. La Brea Suite 3 Los Angeles 90036, 323-896-6777, opens

Angel City Caregivers 441 1/2 E. 16th Street Los Angeles 90015, 213-291-8180, 10-8 daily

420 For the People (420FTP) 15300 Devonshire St. Suite 11 Mission Hills 91346,

SoCal Consultants Dispensary, 486 W. Arrow Hwy Covina 91722, (626) 967-1300?, M-F 12-8, Sat and Sun 10-8

Herbal Solutions Collect. (HSC) 22122 Sherman Way #206 Canoga Park 91303, HOURS: 11am-8pm S-Th 11am-9pm Friday-Saturday 12-7 Sunday Lake Forest Collect. 24370 Muirlands Blvd. El Toro 92630, 949-302-5235

DMC Inc. Downtown Medical Care, Inc 1301 S. Main St. #209 Los Angeles 90015, 213-741-0901, Mon-Sat 10-6

Galaxy Caregivers 11428 Vanowen North Hollywood 91605, 866-977-BEST, daily 11-8

Organic Century Pharmacy 404 W. 7th Street # 1405 Los Angeles 90014, 323-215-5021

Compassionate Caregivers-Studio City 11314 Ventura Blvd. Ventura 91604, 818-506-7207

The Health Center 5161 Melrose Hollywood 90038 Quality of Life Activities(IMO Francis), 4323 W. Melrose Av. L.A. 90029, 323-644-1209, 10 am-8 pm Mon-Sat / 12-7 pm Sun

Living Earth Wellness Center, 4207 Pico Blvd, Los Angeles 90019, 323-936-5000, Daily 10am-6pm

West Valley Caregivers, 23067 Ventura Blvd #102 Calabassas 91302, 1-818-222-9212

Venice Beach Wellness Collect., 1501 Pacific Av. Venice 90291, 310-399-7100, 11 - 8 pm Daily

The Dana Point Collect. (TDPC) 24662 Del Prado, Suite 1a Dana Point 92629, (949)439-8148

Wellness Earth Energy Dispensary (WEED) 12021 1/2 Ventura Blvd Studio City 91604, (818) 980-2266, HOURS: Mon. to Sat. 11a to 8p

California Organic Treatment Center, 11644 Ventura Blvd. Studio City 91604-2613, (818) 506-5948, Hours: 11a to 8p & Sun.12p to 8p

Exclusive Caregivers of California (ECC) 5327 Sta MoniBlvd., Los Angeles 90029, (323) 463-3429, HOURS: 7 Days: 11a to 12a

Korea Town Collect. 3567 W. Third Los Angeles 90020, 213-384-2403, M-F 1-7, Saturday 11-5

Trichome Healing Caregivers 7100 Van Nuys Blvd Van Nuys 91405, 818-373-5000

Live For Care, 1151 S. Robertson Bl. LA 90035, 310-435-0028

Silverlake Caregivers Group, 240 N. Virgil Av. #10 Silverlake 90004, 213-487-5442, 10-8 Mon-Sat

Supplemental Organic Solutions, 328 S. Lincoln Bl. Venice 90291, 866-SOS-5141, fax 310-450-9148, 11-7 pm Mon-Sat

Caregivers Earth Ordinance (CEO) 17050 Chatsworth St #243 Granada Hills 91344,

Arts District Healing Center ADHC 620 E. 1st St. Los Angeles 90012, 213-687-9981 310-709-1544, M-Sat 11-10 DOWNTOWN

Herbal Relief Caregivers 6317 Wilshire Blvd Suite 100 LA 90048, 323-951-9992, M-Sat 11-7

Premium Care Inc. PCI 16900 Lakewood Bl. #202 Bellflower 90706, (818) 752-7274,

Shiva's Gardens Caregivers, 2002 S. Robertson Bl. L.A. 90034, 310-841-0550, 11-8 pm Daily

United Med Caregivers Clinic, 1248 S. Fairfax Av. L.A. 90019, 310-358-0212, 10 am-7 pm Mon-Sat

California Herbal Remedies (CHR) 5470 Valley Blvd. Los Angeles 90032, (323)342-9110, Hours: Mon to Sat. 10am to 8pm.

Herbal Remedies Caregivers, 4743 Fountain Av.

L.A. 90029, 323-913-0931, 8-8 Mon-Fr 10-6 Sat.

Purelife Alter. Wellness Cntr, 1649 S. La Cienega Bl. L.A. 90035, 310-246-9345, 12-8 pm daily

California Compassionate Care Network 4664 Lankershim ToluLake 91602, 818-980-MEDS, add 12/4

Discount Patient Collect. 1200 N. Vermont A# Los Angeles 90049, 818-625-5314, Hours 10-7

Cahuenga Care Givers Inc 5656 Cahuenga Blvd. North Hollywood 91601, 818-985-0012, Sun-Wed 11-9, Thurs-Sat 10-10

Patient Sensitive Services 5761 Whitnall Hwy #A North Hollywood 91601, 818-926-7890, 7 days 12-8

Hollywood Compassionate Collect., 1110 N. Western Av. #204 L.A. 90029, 323-467-7292, 11 am-7 pm Mon-Fri Nn-8 pm Sat

420 Compassion Center, 6116 W. Pico Bl. 90035, 877-573-3990, T-Sat 12-8, Closed Sun & Mon

**HS11362.775:** "Qualified patients, persons with valid identification cards, and the designated primary caregivers of qualified patients and persons with identification cards, who associate within the State of California in order collectively or cooperatively to cultivate marijuana for medical purposes, shall not solely on the basis of that fact be subject to state criminal sanctions under Section 11357, 11358, 11359, 11360, 11366, 11366.5, or 11570."

90025, 310-481-0660, Daily 11-7 add 11/28

Higher Path Holistic Care 2227 Sunset Blvd. Los Angeles 90026, 213-484-1001, en espanol 213-272-9489

Sunset & Fountain (S&F) 4343 West Sunset Blvd. #410 Hollywood 90029, (323) 660-6337 (MEDS), HOURS: 7 Days: 11a to 7p

Nature's Holistic Caregivers 14000 Crenshaw Blvd Gardena 90249, 310-327-3551, M-Sat 10-6 also has a Compton location

Green Earth Collect. (GEC) 5045 York Blvd. Los Angeles 90042, (323) 982-9042

Los Angeles Compassion Act Care 2227 W. Sunset Los Angeles 90026, 213-484-1001

Compassionate Patient Resources, INC. (CPR) 19237 1/2 Ventura Blvd. Tarzana 91356, (818) 343-3690

Cal Medical Caregivers Assoc. CM15838 Halliburton Rd. Hacienda Heights 91745, 626-336-2652, 11 am-7 pm Daily

Whittier Collect., 12450 #A E. Washington Bl. Whittier 90602, 562-696-9696, 11 am-7 pm Mon-Fri 11 am-6 pm Sat

California Caregiver's Association C1151 Pacific Coast Hwy Suite 4A Harbor City 90710, 310-530-1628

Todays Health Care Inc. (THC, INC), 18118 Parthenia Street, Northridge 91325, (818) 700-2THC (2842), Open: Mon. to-Sun. 11a to 7p

Southwest Caregivers 4961 Sunset Blvd Los Angeles 90027, 310-500-9365

Inglewood Wellness Center, 318 S. Market L.A. 90301, 310-674-4444, 11 am-7 pm Mon-Sat

LAMC Los Angeles Medical Caregivers 5589 W. Manchester Av. L.A. 90045, 310-410-9954, 10-7 pm Mon-Sat

So. Cal. Therapeutic Herbal Caregivers (So. Cal. THC) 22209 Sherman Way Canoga Park 91303, (818) 999-4THC, HOURS: m-f 11:00-7:00 & sat-sun 12:00-6:00

M M L A ( I. D. Cards ) Medical Marijuana of Los Angeles 9663 Sta MoniBl. #999 Beverly Hills 90210, 310-923-2626, Evaluations & Cards

Superior Herbal Health 1011 W. 84th Place Los Angeles 90044, 323-971-6333, 11-7 M-Sat

Medi-Mart 16218 Ventura Blvd #12 Encino 91436, 818-501-6334 310-384-1359, M-Sat 10-8, Sunday 10-7

Universal Herbal Center 3177 Cahuenga Blvd. Los Angeles 90068,

Fairfax Caregivers, INC. 1700 Lincoln Bl. Venice

Los Angeles 90015-1606, 213-746-3355, Tues-Sun 10-6

Delta-9 Compassionate Caregivers (D9CC) 7648 Van Nuys Blvd. Van Nuys 91405, 11am-7pm...

Melrose Therapeutic Herbal Caregivers 7266 Melrose Ave. Los Angeles 90046, 323-934-4835, 7 days 11-8

Golden State Caregivers, 5711 E. Beverly Bl. LA 90022, 323-888-0865, 11-8 pm Daily

Healthy Herbal Care (HHC) 313 N. Virgil Ave Los Angeles 90004, (323) 660-0386, hours: 10am-8pm

Ironworks Collect., 4100 Lincoln Bl. Venice 90292, 310-305-8425, 10 -10 pm Mon-Sat 11-6 pm Sun California Caregivers of Sta Monica, 12107 Sta MoniBl. Sta Moni90025, 310-826-3536, 10-8 pm Daily

Medical Caregivers Association 4966 Monte Vista Highland Park 90042, 323-551-5874

Majestic Natural Remedy 6722 White Oak Van Nuys 91406, 818-343-1831, Sun-Thurs 10-9, Fri-Sat 10-10

Galaxy Caregivers GC-PC 8741 Van Nuys Room#201 Panorama City 91402-2440, Mon-Sat 11-7 new 11/17

Greenlight Pharmacy Discount 15507 Cobalt #4 Sylmar 91342, 818-367-9190, daily 10-10

*Please turn to page 25*

Studio City Caregivers, 11026 Ventura Blvd. Studio City 91604, (818) 985-1722, 7 days:11am to 8pm

Apothecary Collect. (AC) 5404 Alhambra Ave. Los Angeles 90032, (323) 222-4420, hours: 7 Days: 11a to 8p

Perennial Holistic Wellness Center (PHWC) 14542 Ventura Blvd Ste 201 Sherman Oaks 91403, (818) 728-4883

California Patient's Group, 6208 Sta MoniBl. L.A. 90038, 323-464-7052, 12-8 pm Daily

Earth Collect., 5115 Sunset Bl.

L.A. 90027, 323-668-7633 fax 7637, 11 am -11 pm daily

United Caregivers Group, 643 S. 2nd Av. #G Covina 91723, 626-967-2080

Herbalology Collect., 1811 Ocean Front Walk#D Venice 90291, 310-823-2909, 10:30-8

Downtown Collect., 1600 S. Hill St. #D LA CA, 310-746-5420, Mon. 11a to 8p, Tue. to Sat. 11a to 8p & Sun. 12p to 5p

Tujunga Hills Caregivers 6920 Foothill Blvd. Tujunga 91042, 818-352-9400

A Kush Valley Collect. (AKVC) 11626 Ventura Blvd. Studio City 91604, (818) 985-HASH (4274)

Shaman Caregivers (SC) 14546 Vanowen St. Van Nuys 91405-3940, (818) 785-CARE (2273), Hours 10AM-8PM Monday-Saturday 11AM-6PM Sunday

Eagle Rock Herbal Collect., 4729 Eagle Rock Bl. Eagle Rock 90041, 323-257-4420

The Wilshire Clinic 6399 Wilshire Blvd. #208 Los Angeles 90048, 310-595-0803, 11-7 daily

Happy Days Herbal Relief, 5126 Vineland North Hollywood 91601, Tues-Thurs 10-8, Fri-Sat 10-10, Sun 10-5 CLOSED MONDAY

CMCA-LA Ca. Med. Care. Assoc. L.A. 3430 Whittier Bl. L.A. 90023, 323-261-2009, 11-7 pm Everyday

California Caregivers Alliance, 2815 W. Sunset Bl. #201 Silver Lake 90026, 213-353-0100, 11-7 pm Mon-Sat 12-7 pm Sun

Marina Caregivers, 3007 Washington Bl. #225 Marina Del Rey 90292, 310-574-4000, 12-11 pm Mon -Fri 12-10 pm Sat 12-8 pm Sun

Farm Assist Caregivers, 268 San Lorenzo St. Pomono 91766, 909-620-0275, 11-6 pm Mon-Sat

California Medical Caregivers 15838 Halliburton Rd. Hacienda Heights 91745, 626-336-2652

Natural Caregivers, 609 S. Westmoreland Av. L.A. 90005, 310-927-0911, 11 am-7 pm daily

LAX Compassionate Caregivers 6218A Manchester Ave. Los Angeles 90045, 310-568-9602, 10-8 daily

Downtown Patients Group, 928 East 12th St. Los Angeles 90021, 213-747-3386, 11-10 daily

The Holistic Caregivers, 1321 E. Compton Bl. Compton 90221, 310-889-4799, 310-764-4740 for Deliveries, 9 am-8 pm Mon-Thr 9 am-9 pm Fri & Sat 11 am-5 pm Sun

Northridge Caregivers 8672 Lindley Northridge 91325, 818-772-1990, M-F 10-8, Sat Sun 11-7

ECHO Collect. Earth Choice Healing Organization 716 N. La Brea Av. LA 90302, 310-672-3246, 11-9 M- Sat, 12-5 Sun

Alternatives Caregivers Discount Dispensary 122 S. Lincoln #204 Venice 90291, 877-219-3809, M-Sat 12-8

Fairfax Healing Services Inc. Hollywood FHS 1041 Highland Hollywood 90038, 323-469-0560, M-Th 11-8, Fri 11-9, Sat 11-8, Sun 12-7

Mother Nature's Remedy Caregivers 17302 Saticoy Van Nuys 91406, 818-345-6337, Tues-Sun 2:15-10

Hollywood Patients' Collect., 6115 Selma Av. #103 L.A. 90028, 323-464-6465, 10 am-10 pm Daily

**Malibu**  
The Calm at the Beach Compassionate Caregivers 21355 Pacific Coast Hwy #100 Malibu 90265, 310-317-6298

PCH Collect. (PCHC) 22333 Pacific Coast Hwy Malibu 90265, 310-456-0666

*Please turn to page 21*



KB Center for Compassionate Care (KBCCC) 9960 Canoga Ave Unit D-7 Chatsworth 91311, (818) 576-9877, hours: m-th 12:00-8:00 F-Sa 12:00-9:00 closed Sundays

North Hollywood Collect. 10929 Vanowen Blvd North Hollywood 95605, 818-761-9430

Natural Hybrid, Inc. 5065 Hollywood Blvd. #201 Los Angeles 90027, 323-665-2499, M-Th 11-7, Fri-Sun 10-7

Boo Ku CC (BKCC) 6817 Sepulveda Blvd. Van Nuys 91406, (818) 908-9255

Woodland Hills Caregiver's 23043 Ventura Blvd. Woodland Hills 91467

Western Caregivers Group, 467 N. Western Av. L.A. 90004, 323-464-5571, 10 am-8 pm Mon-Sat

Hezekiah Inc., 6051 Hollywood Bl. #202 L.A. 90028, 323-467-6484, 10 am-6 pm Mon-Fri 10-4 pm Sat

Long Beach Specialty Health (LBSH) 4100 East 7th Street Long Beach 90813, (562) 434-2633, M-F 3PM-8PM, Sat & Sun 11-8

Eagle Rock Patient Collect. 5716 N. Figueroa Eagle Rock 90041, 626-610-3145, Hours: 10-10 daily

Hollywood Holistic 1543 Sawtelle Los Angeles

90291, 310-396-7093

# PATIENT SERVICES & SUPPORT

Continued from page 20

## Marin, North Bay

Marin Alliance for Medical MJ 6 School St. Plaza #215 Fairfax 94930, 415-256-9328, 9:30 am- 5 pm Daily 7 pm- 8:30 pm Thur & Fri

## North Hollywood, San Fernando Valley

West Valley Caregivers, 23067 Ventura Bl. #102 Woodland Hills 91364, 818-222-9212, 12-10 pm daily

HC Remedies, 19327 Ventura Bl.#A Tarzana 91356, 818-758-9613, 10-9 pm Sn-Th 10-10 pm Fr-Sa

Mother Nature's Remedy Caregivers, 17302 Saticoy St. Van Nuys 91406, 818-345-MEDS (6337), 2 pm-10 pm Tue-Sun

Fairfax Caregivers Inc., 14303 Ventura Bl. Sherman Oaks 91423, 818-990-0401, 11-8 pm Mon-Sat. Fri till 9 pm 12-7 pm Sun

San Fernando Valley Patients Group, 8805 Reseda Bl. Northridge 91324, 818-734-2778, 11 -9 pm Daily

North Hollywood Collect., 10929 Vanowen St. #110 Nth. Hollywood 91605, 818-761-9430, 12-7 pm Mon-Sat

Natural Care Collect., 18341 Sherman Way #213 Reseda 91335, 818-344-7420, 10 am-8 pm Mon-Sat

RNS Caregivers United, 10551 Burbank Bl. Nth. Hollywood 91505, 818-763-7479, 11 am-7 pm Mon-Sat

ToluLake Collect., 10628 Riverside Dr. #1 ToluLake 91602, 818-752-8420, 10-9 pm

CannaMed of Northridge, 9349 Melvin Av. #9 Northridge 91324, 818-882-4849, 10 am-7 pm Mon-Sat

West Valley Co-Op, 19709 Ventura Bl. #B Woodland Hills 91367, 818-713-0258, 10-9 pm Sun-Thr 10-10 pm Fri & Sat

California Collect. Center, 14532 Friar St. #A Van Nuys 91411, 818-781-8865, 11-7 pm Everyday

Valley Independent Pharmacy, 19459 Ventura Bl. Tarzana 91356, 818-345-5477, 10 am-9 pm Sn-Wed 10 am-10 pm Thr-Sat

Valley Co-Op, 8363 Reseda Bl. #203 Northridge 91324, 818-727-1419 949-287-1744, 10 am-8 pm Mon-Sat

Valley Healing Caregivers Center, 7232 Van Nuys Bl.#204 Van Nuys 91405, 818-908-0198, 10 7 pm Mon -Sat

North Valley Discount Caregivers, 15600 Devonshire #203 Granada Hills 91344, 818-920-3110, 12-9 pm daily

Caregivers Medical Resource, 12458 Magnolia Blvd. Valley Village 90068, 818-980-8420, 7 Days a week 10-8

Mid Valley Compassionate Caregivers, 5658 Sepulveda Bl. Van Nuys 91411, 818-785-7440 818-317-1863, 11-7 pm Mon-Th 11-8 pm Fr & Sat.

C.C.C.N., 4664 Lankershim Bl. ToluLake 91602, 818-980-MEDS, 10-8 pm Daily

HIP, 22831 Ventura Bl. Woodland Hills 91364, 818-225-2426, 10-10 pm daily

Trichome Healing Caregivers, 7100 Van Nuys Bl. #204 Van Nuys 91405, 818-373-5000, 10 am-8 pm Daily / Sun. till 7 pm

Collect. Caregivers Pharmacy, 8239 Canoga Av. Canoga Park 91304, 818-264-0790, 11 am-8 pm EVERYDAY

215 Club, 22148 Ventura Bl. #A Woodland Hills 91364, 818-887-2106

S. California Caregivers, 15333 Sherman Way #Q Van Nuys 91406, 818-998-0699, 10-7 pm Daily

The Karma Collect., 16115 Vanowen St. Van Nuys 91406, 818-373-7733, 12-10 pm Mon-Fri 10-10 Sat-Sun

Green Light Discount Pharmacy, 13051 San Fernando Rd. #4 Sylmar 91342, 877-367-9190, 10-10 pm Daily

Little Cottage Caregivers, 8133 Foothill Bl. Sunland 91040, 818-353-7204, 10 -10 pm Daily

Therapeutic Medicinal Health Resources, 14836 Burbank Bl. Sherman Oaks 91411, 818-988-9615, 11 am-8 pm Mon-Fri 11 am-6 pm Sat 11 am-5 pm Sun

Conejo Wellness Center, 29399 Agoura Rd. #112 Agoura Hills 91301, 818-706-1143, 11-8 pm Mon - Fri

Compassionate Care of Studio City, 11314 Ventura Bl. Studio City 91604, 818-506-7207, 11 am-7 pm Mon-Thr 11 am-8 pm Fri 12-8 pm Sat

Chatsworth Caregivers Group, 21708 Devonshire St. Chatsworth 91311, 818-998-9700, 11 am-8 pm Mon-Sat

The Health Center Studio City, 11324 Ventura Bl. Studio City 91604, 818-509-0574, 11 am 7 pm daily KIND MEDS, 14649 Victory Bl. #24 Van Nuys 91411, 818-908-9580, 11-7 pm Mon-Sat. 12-5 pm Sun

Holistic Caregivers A Wellness Center 10652 Magnolia Bl. N. Hollywood 91601, 818-760-0717, 10 -8 pm Mon-Fr 12 -7 pm Sun.

**The Greenhouse, 5156 Sepulveda Bl. Sherman Oaks 91403, 818-386-1343**

Natural Relief Center, 7223 Owensmouth Av. Canoga Park 91303, 818-703-8599, 11 am-7 pm daily

## North Coast

North Bay Wellness Co-Op, 3386 Sta Rosa Av. Sta Rosa 95407, 10 am-7 pm Mon-Fri 10 am-5 pm Sat Resource Green Caregivers & Patient's Group, 532-D Sonoma Av. Sta Rosa 95401, 866-420-5020, 11 am-9 pm Daily

MMPU Medical Marijuana Patient's Union P.O. BOX 2059 FT. BRAGG 95437, 707-964-YESS Ukiah Hemp Plus Ministries 892 N. State St. Ukiah 95482-3410, 707-468-1478

Lake Co. Alternative Caregiver Clinic Caregiver Clinic

P.O. Box 1353 Clearlake Oaks 95423, 707-998-0358, 11-7 pm Tu-Fr 11-5 pm Mn & Sa

Lake County D & M Compassionate Center, 15196 Lakeshore Dr. Clearlake 95422, 707-994-1320, 10 am-8 pm Mon-Fri 10 am-6 pm Sat

The Holistic Solutions, 14240 Lakeshore Dr. Clearlake 95442, 707-995-9000, 11 am-7 pm Mon-Sat

Sonoma County Compassionate Services Delivery, 707-972-7818, M-S 11-6

Herban Legend, 18300 Old Coast Hwy #3 Ft. Bragg 95437, 707-961-0113, 11 am-6 pm Mon-Sat

**HS11362.5: "... seriously ill Californians have the right to obtain and use marijuana for medical purposes where that medical use is deemed appropriate and has been recommended by a physician..."**

Marvin's Gardens, 707-869-1291

Caregivers Compassion Group, 4349 Montgomery #D Sta Rosa 95356, 707-537-7303, 11 am- 5 pm Mn, Tu, Fr-till 6:30 W&Th 11 am-3 pm Sat closed Sun

SAMM Sonoma Alliance Medical Mj. 880 1st St. Sebastopol 95472, 707-522-0292

Mendo Remedies, 42400 Hwy 101 Laytonville 95454, 707-984-7101, 10 am-6 pm Tue-Sat .

Humboldt Patient Co-Op, 601 I St. #B Arcata 95521, 707-822-9330

Lake County Holistic Solutions 14240 Lakeshore Dr Clearlake 95422-8159, 707-995-9000

## OC, San Bernadino, Riverside

Palm Springs Caregivers, 2100 N. Palm Canyon Bl.#105 Palm Springs 92264, 760-327-8810, 11-8 pm Daily

C 3 (California Compassionate Caregivers ), 2166 W. Broadway #100 Anaheim 92804, 714-618-5221, 9 am-9 pm Mon-Sat

Laguna Beach Collect., 220 Park Ave., Suite 1 Laguna Beach 92651, 949-400-9345, Mon.- Fri. 11a to 7p Sat.-Sun. 12p to 5p

420 Primary Caregivers, 421 N. Brookhurst #130 Anaheim 92801, 714-758-3500, 11 am-7 pm Mon-Sat 215 Patient Bakery delivery

Orange County Patient Group (OCPG) 2315 E. 17th St., Suite 4 Sta Ana, 92705-6855, (714) 547-2525, Hours: Mon. to Fri. 10a to 8p & Sat. to Sun. 11a to 7p

A Compassionate Collect., 301 N. Prairie Ave #512 Inglewood 90301, 213-952-1857

OCMC, 24412 Muirlands Bl.#1 Lake Forest 92630, 949-855-0310

CAPS, 333 N. Palm Canyon #118 Palm Springs 92262, 760-325-1112, 11 am-7 pm Daily

CannaHelp, 73350 El Paseo #204 Palm Desert 92260, 877-760-4367, 10 am-8 pm Daily

Healing Nations Collect., 80 W. Grand #122 Corona 92882, 951-737-5100, 11-8 pm Mon-Sat 12-8 pm Sun

APCC, 22600-A Lambert St. #702B Lake Forest 92630, 949-689-3106, 10-8 pm Daily

Peninsula

Patient's Choice Resource Co-Op, 70 N. El Camino Real #B San Mateo 94401, 650-458-9505, 11-7 pm Mon-Sat 12-7 Sun

## Sacramento

Capitol Alternatives, 1611 G Street Sacramento 95814, 916-497-0277

Compassionate Patient's Center 1621 Fulton #22 Sacramento 95825, 916-486-7001

Greenhouse, 9555 Folsom Bl. #J Sacramento 95827, 916-366-0420, 868-9566, 10 am-6 Daily

Capitol Wellness Collect., 2400 14th St. Sacramento 95818, 916-497-0277

Canna Care, 320 Harris Av. #G Sacramento 95838, 916-925-1199, 9 am- 6 pm Mon-Fri 10am- 3 pm Sat & Sun

River City Patient's Center, 1611 20th St. Sacramento 95814, 916-649-0114, 10 am-6 pm Mon-fri 10 am-5 pm

Doctor's Orders, 1704 Main Av. Sacramento 95838, 916-564-2112 / 730-9032, 10 am- 6 pm Mon- Sat 10 am- 3 pm Sun

## San Francisco

Patient Place, 4811 Geary Bl. S.F. 94118, 415-386-4367, 11 am- 7 Mon- Fri Nn- 5 Sat @ 12th St

Green Door, 843 Howard St. S.F. 94103, 415-541-9590, 11 am- 8 pm daily

Good Fellows Smoke Shop, 473 Haight St. S.F. 94117, 415-255-1323, 10 am- 10 pm daily

San Francisco Dept. of Public Health 1001 Potrero Av. S.F. 94110, 415-206-5555, 1 pm-4 pm Mon-Fri I.D. Cards Only S.F. General Hospital / Main Lobby

Ketama, 14 Valencia St. S.F. 94103, 415-706-2679, 11 am- 8 pm Mon-Sat Noon- 6 pm Sun

Nor Cal Herbal Relief Center, 1545 Ocean Av. SF 94112, 415-469-7700, 10 -7 pm Daily

Patient & Caregivers Services of S.F., 1935 Mission 94114, 415-701-9537, 4- 7 Mon- Sat

Hopenet Coop, 223 9th St. S.F. 94103, 415-863-4399, Noon- 7. Mon-Fri Noon- 5 Sat closed Sun

Green Cross, 2701 Leavenworth S.F. 94110, 415-648-4420

SF Medical Cannabis Clinic #2, 194 Church St. S.F. 94114, 415-626-4781, 11 am- 7 pm Mon-Fri 11 am- 5 pm Sat & Sun Associated w/#1

Alt. Patient Caregivers, 953 Mission St. #108 S.F. 94103, 415-618-0680, 11:30 am-6:30 pm Mon-Sat closed Sun.

Valencia Street Caregivers 208 Valencia Street San Francisco 94103, 415-621-0131

CannaMed Care Center, 1211 Sutter. 94109, 415-885-8007, 2 pm- 9 pm Mon-Sat 2 pm- 8 pm Sun

Holistic Solutions, 722 Columbus, S.F. 94133, 415-296-7614, 11 am- 7 pm Mon- Sat 11 am-6 pm daily

Vapor Room, 609 A Haight St. 94117, 415-436-

9063, 10:30 am-8:30 pm Mon-Fr 12-8 Sat & Sun

Emmalyn's, 1597 Howard #A S.F. 94103 ` , 415-861-1000, 10 am-7 pm Daily by 12th St.

Mr. Nice Guy, 174 Valencia St. S.F. 94103, 415-865-0990, 11- 9 Sun- Thr 11- 11 Fri & Sat

Bay Area Safe Alternative Collect. BASAC, 1326 Grove St.

S.F. 94117, 415-409-1002, 11 am-9 pm Daily

Bernal Heights Co-Op, 33 29th St. S.F. 94110, 415-612-5895, 8-8 pm Daily

Love Shack, 502 14th St. S.F. 94577, 415-552-5121, 10 am- 7 pm Mon-Sat 10 am- 5 pm Sun

Happy Days Herbal Relief, 607 Divisadero St. S.F. 94117, 415-359-9927, Nn- 10 pm Mon- Thr Nn-Midnight FRI & SAT 11 am- 5 pm Sun

Grass Roots, 1077 Post St. S.F. 94109, 415-346-4338, 10 am- 8 pm

Sanctuary, 669 O'Farrell St. S.F. 94109, 415-8 85-4420, Noon- 8 pm daily near Hyde St.

Alternative Herbal Health Services, 442 Haight St. S.F. 94117, 415-864-1300, 11 am- 8 pm Mon- Sat Noon- 5 pm Sun

The Divinity Tree, 958 Geary St. S.F. 94109, 415-614-9194, 10 am-8 pm Mon-Sat 11 am-7 pm Sun

1944 Ocean Alternative Relief 1944 Ocean MCC 1944 Ocean Av.

S.F. 94127, 415-239-4766, 12-7 pm Mon-Sat

San Francisco ACT-UP, 1884 Market St. nr Octavia S.F. 94102, 415-864-6686, Noon- 7 Tue-Sun

SF Medical Cannabis Clinic #1, 122 10th St. S.F. 94103, 415-626-4781, 11 am- 7 pm Mon-Wed 10 am- 7 pm Thr-Sat 11 am- 6 pm Sun

Re-Leaf Herbal Center, 2980 21st St. S.F. 94410, 415-235-3307, Nn-8 pm Mon-Sat near Folsom

208 Dispensary, 208 Valencia St. S.F. 94103, 415-621-0131, 8 am-10 pm Daily by Duboce

New Remedies Co-Op, 1760 Mission St. S.F. 94112, 415-864-0114, 8 am-8 pm Mon-Sat 9 am-8 pm Sun

Mason St. Dispensary, 124 Mason St. S.F. 94102, 415-433-4420, 7 am- 9 pm daily

SF Patient's Cooperative, 350 Divisadero 94117, 415-552-8653, 11- 5:30 Sat-Mon 11-7:30 Tue- Fri

## Santa Cruz

MED EX, Info only, 831-425-3444

Sta Cruz Patients Collect., 115 Limekiln St. Sta Cruz 95060, 831-425-SCPC, 11-7 pm Mon-Sat

Wo/Men's Alliance for MMJ ( WAMM) 309 Cedar St. #39 Sta Cruz 95060, 831-425-0580

Greenway Commpanionate Relief, 140 Dubois St. #D Sta Cruz 95060, 831-420-1640, 11 am- 6 pm Mon- Fri 10 am- 6 pm Sat

## South Bay

Kind Care Resource Center, 5423 Central Av #13 Newark 94560, 510-796-KIND

Patient's Choice Resource Cooperative 70 N. El Camino Real San Mateo 94401, 650-458-9505, Mary Jane's Collect., 7805 Sunset Bl. #211 W. Hollywood 90046, 323-874-7805, daily

## West Hollywood

AHHS Alternative Herbal Health Services 7828 Sta MoniBl. W. Hollywood 90046, 323-654-8792, 10 am-8 pm Mon-Sat 12-7 pm Sun

Zen Healing Collect., 8464 Sta MoniBl. W. Hollywood 90069, 323-656-6611, 12-8 Mon-Sat

LA Patients & Caregivers Group, 7213 Sta MoniBl. W. Hollywood 90046, 323-882-6033, 11 am-7 pm Mon-Sat 12-7 pm Sun

Medical Marijuana Pharmacy, 7825 Sta MoniBl. W. Hollywood 90046, 323-848-7981, 10 am-8 pm Mon-Sat 12-7 pm Sun

Sunset Collect., 7065 1/2 Sunset Bl. Hollywood 90028, 323-464-0111, 12-8 Mon-Sat 12-6 Sun

City of Angels Wellness Ctr 1600 N. LaBrea #118 Hollywood 90028, 323-463-0225, M-Sat 10-8

West Hollywood Center of Compassionate Healing, 8921 Sunset Bl. W. Hollywood 90069, 310-289-1369 / 626-3333, 11 am-8 pm daily

West Hollywood Caregivers, 111 N. Fairfax W. Hollywood 90046, 323-656-2033, 11 am-8 pm Mon-Sat Nn-7 pm

Canto Diem 5419 Sunset Blvd.#5 Hollywood 90027, 323-465-4420, 11-8 m-sat, sun 11-4

Mary Janes Collect. 7805 Sunset Blvd #211 W. Hollywood, 323-874-7805 daily

# Cannabis poses less on-road risk than alcohol, latest US crash data shows

Continued from page 10

Over the ten-year period, 1,647 drivers tested negative for alcohol, but tested positive for the presence of THC in their blood or urine.

Researchers concluded that alcohol-free drivers who tested positive for cannabis had a slightly elevated risk of engaging in a potentially unsafe action compared to sober drivers, even after controlling for age, sex, and prior driving record. However, investigators also reported that drivers who tested positive for low levels of alcohol (.05 BAC) possessed a significantly greater risk of engaging in such risky driving behaviors compared to sober drivers.

Investigators wrote: "The findings point to cannabis as a potential risk factor in fatal crashes. Individuals who tested positive for cannabis but negative for alcohol had a 29 percent excess risk of having driven in a fashion that may have contributed to the crash, compared to drivers who tested negative for cannabis. ... Yet these estimates appear small compared to alcohol and some prescription medications."

Motorists who had BAC of .05 percent, a threshold well below the legal limit for drunk driving in the US, had a 101 percent excessive risk of having driven in a risky manner compared to alcohol-free drivers, authors reported. Drivers with a BAC of .10, just over the US legal limit for drunk driving, had a 200 percent excess risk.

Canadian researchers also determined that motorists who tested positive for cannabis were generally younger, male, and had a poorer driving record in the prior three years than drivers who tested negative for pot.

Responding to the study, California NORML Coordinator Dale Gieringer said: "This is the latest in a long line of studies to show that marijuana is a lesser on-road accident hazard than alcohol. Yet, ironically, federal drug policy has been more geared toward exaggerating the minor on-road risks posed by cannabis and downplaying the known risks posed by alcohol."

An analysis of French crash data published in the British Journal of Medicine in 2005 similarly reported that drivers who tested positive for cannabis in the blood were far less likely to have been involved in a fatal traffic fatality than drivers who possessed BAC levels of .05-.08.

According to previous studies of on-road crash data, past use of cannabis (as indicated by the presence of marijuana metabolites in the urine) is not associated with an elevated risk of accident. By contrast, drivers who test positive for THC in the blood above 5 ng/ml (indicating recent use of pot) are typically associated with an elevated risk of accident compared to drivers who test negative for cannabis and/or test positive for very low levels of THC in the blood.

THC blood levels typically fall below 5 ng/ml in recreational (non-chronic) cannabis users within 60 to 120 minutes after inhalation.

For more information, please contact Paul Armentano, NORML Senior Policy Analyst, at (202) 483-5500 or Dale Gieringer, California NORML Coordinator, at (415) 563-5858. Full text of the study, "The impact of cannabis on driving," appears in the January/February issue of the Canadian Journal of Public Health.

Learn about California state cannabis laws.

# FREEDOM CALENDAR

## ONGOING ACTIVITIES

**Get cannabis events listed here**  
Email to [info@oaksterdamnews.com](mailto:info@oaksterdamnews.com)  
More organizations and meetings  
[oaksterdamnews.com](http://oaksterdamnews.com)

### Media Activism Roundtable, Online

The conferences will be held every Tuesday evening starting at 9 p.m. Eastern, 8 p.m. Central, 7 p.m. Mountain and 6 p.m. Pacific in the DrugSense Virtual Conference Room. [mapinc.org/resource/paltalk.htm](http://mapinc.org/resource/paltalk.htm)

### OCLA Social Hour, Oakland

Third Thursday of every month at 4 pm, before attending the Measure Z meeting, come to the Bulldog Coffeeshop, 1739 Broadway, Odam. Join OCLA for coffee and drinks to discuss how to best work with our cannabis-friendly new mayor Ron Dellums, and other projects to promote taxing and regulating cannabis in Oakland.

### Measure Z Committee, Oakland

Third Thursday of every month at 6 pm Oakland Regulation and Revenue Ordinance Oversight Committee meets at City Hall, Council chambers. Items on agenda are adult cannabis sales, cultivation, and possession, and zoning and protocols for Measure Z clubs.

### Free Monthly Grow Class, Oakland

Third Saturdays, 2:30 - 4:30pm, Bulldog Coffee Shop, 1739 Broadway, Oakland

### Cannabis Action Network

Second Monday each month, 7:30 pm  
1605 Ashby Ave, Berkeley. 510-486-8083

### Compassionate Coalition National

Meetings 2nd Sunday every month, 3pm  
2145 Collinsville Road, Birds Landing,  
707-635-3752

### ASA: Local and regional meetings

**East Bay, Alameda, Contra Costa Counties:**  
4th or last Wednesday (TBA) 7 pm, Oakland Cannabis Buyers' Coop, 1734 Telegraph (back entrance), nr 19th St BART. 510-251-1856 x 308, [Rebecca@SafeAccessNow.org](mailto:Rebecca@SafeAccessNow.org)

**Hollywood, LA:** 3rd Sat, 1-3p, 6208 Santa Monica Blvd (nr Vine), 323-464-7719. [rea@lamedicalmarijuana.com](mailto:rea@lamedicalmarijuana.com), [ana@safeaccessnow.org](mailto:ana@safeaccessnow.org)

**Orange County:** meets irregularly, 7 pm at 1520 Commonwealth Ave, Fullerton (by tattoo shop). Info, Adam, [adamgingras@gmail.com](mailto:adamgingras@gmail.com) 949-246-9395

**San Diego:** 2nd Tue / month, 7-8 pm, 619-518-0776. Twiggs Coffee House, Green Room, 4590 Park Bl. Info, Dion, [4cccp@cox.net](mailto:4cccp@cox.net), [sdasa.4mg.com](http://sdasa.4mg.com).

**San Francisco:** 2nd / 4th Tue, 7 pm, 415-794-1543 Woman's Building, 3543 18th St #8, Room B. Info, Alex, [alex@safeaccessnow.org](mailto:alex@safeaccessnow.org)

**Sacramento:** 2nd / 4th Thursday 6pm, Capitol Wellness Collective, 2400 14th Street, Sacramento. 916-325-9000

## APRIL

### 4-20 Events, Nationwide

Apr 20: There are events planned in communities throughout the world to mark the late planting season and unofficial holiday of the cannabis movement.

### Oaksterdam 420 Party!

Celebrate 4/20 in Oaksterdam at Lakeside Park Garden Center Vista Room Friday April 20, 5 - 10pm, Lakeside Park Garden Center Vista Room (just inside Lakeside Park, next to Botanical Gardens) Cost: \$25 (Tickets must be purchased by April 18 @ SR71, The Bulldog or Oaksterdam Gift Shop \* LIVE Music, Beverages and Food provided! \* Raffle \* Special Offer - Buy 420 Party & Canna-Cruise tickets together for only \$35! Plus, \$5 of every ticket goes to Cannabis Action Network

### NORML Conference moved to Oct.

See listing for Oct 12-13.

### National Candlelight Vigils

April 21 at 8 PM: PhillyNorml will host a Candlelight Vigil for Patients of Medical Marijuana Prohibition on Ben Franklin Parkway at 21st St., Philadelphia, PA. The annual vigil commemorates patients, living and deceased, with a condition for which cannabis is medically recognized. Simultaneous events planned nationwide. For info, [universalarts.net/candl.html](http://universalarts.net/candl.html)

## MAY

### Cannabis Liberation Day

May 6, noon - 6 PM: San Francisco will again host this annual celebration of cannabis culture in Civic Center Plaza as part of the global Million Marijuana

## Measure Z

### Meetings 2007

#### Oakland

#### City Council Chambers

Meeting at 6:00 p.m.

April 19 2007

May 17 2007

June 14 2007

July 19 2007

August 16 2007

September 20 2007

October 18 2007

November 15 2007

December 20 2007

March, in which 1,000,000 activists demonstrate for reform worldwide, everywhere. Booths, music, speakers.

### World Marijuana Film Festival

May 28-30, 2007, Ibiza, Spain, *High Times* is hosting the *World Marijuana Film Festival* (WMFF) in cannabis friendly Ibiza. [worldmarijuanafilmfestival.com](http://worldmarijuanafilmfestival.com); [myspace.com/marijuanafilmfestival](http://myspace.com/marijuanafilmfestival)

## AUGUST

### Seattle HempFest, WA

Aug 19 - 20: Seattle hosts the world's biggest reform rally: two days, five stages, many bands and speakers. Free, but please donate; it takes 1500 volunteers and a lot of money to pull this off.

### Oly Hempfest, WA

Aug 27: Annual rally, Heritage Park, Olympia. 360-456-3517 [olyhempfest.org](http://olyhempfest.org)

## ... JOIN THE FIGHT!

### Americans for Safe Access

[www.safeaccessnow.org/](http://www.safeaccessnow.org/) A patient support network. 510-251-1856

### California NORML

[www.canorml.org/](http://www.canorml.org/) California NORML  
510-540-1066 [canorml@igc.org](mailto:canorml@igc.org)

### Cannabis Action Network

1605 Ashby Ave, Berkeley. 510-486-8083

### Cannabis Consumers Campaign

[www.cannabisconsumers.org/](http://www.cannabisconsumers.org/) Come out of the closet to stand up for equal rights.

### DRCNet

[www.stophedrugwar.org/](http://www.stophedrugwar.org/) Drug Reform Coordination Network is a global network of reformers from perspectives such as harm reduction, sentencing and forfeiture reforms, medicalizing schedule I drugs, and open debate on prohibition.

### Drug Policy Alliance

[www.drugpolicy.org/](http://www.drugpolicy.org/) DPA works on new drug policies based on science, compassion, health, human rights and a just society free from prohibition.

### Drug Policy Forum of CA

Listserve for California cannabis and drug war issues. Send email to [canorml@igc.org](mailto:canorml@igc.org) to subscribe.

### Drug Sense

[www.drugsense.org/](http://www.drugsense.org/) A daily compilation of drug-related news excerpts.

### Family Council on Drug Awareness

[www.fcda.org/](http://www.fcda.org/) Accurate information on the effects of various drugs and drug policies. Offers downloadable literature for local activists to print and hand out.

## SEPTEMBER

### Portland Hempstalk, OR

Sep. 9-10: Portland, OR. Waterfront Park. Contact 503-241-7368, [seusuwa@hotmail.com](mailto:seusuwa@hotmail.com), or [hempstalk.org](http://hempstalk.org)

### Boston Freedom Rally

Sept 16: Boston, MA [www.masscann.org](http://www.masscann.org)

### Santa Barbara Hemp Festival

Sept 30: Eighth Annual Santa Barbara Hemp Festival, Santa Barbara, CA. [www.santabarbarahemp.com](http://www.santabarbarahemp.com)

## OCTOBER

### Great Midwest Harvest Fest, WI

Oct 7-8: Annual event, Madison, WI.

**NORML National Conference** Oct 12-13, Los Angeles. America's cannabis conference! Sign up now! [norml.org](http://norml.org)

### Harm Reduction Coalition

[www.harmreduction.org/](http://www.harmreduction.org/) The HRC works to reduce drug-related harm among individuals and communities, by programs such as clean needle exchange.

### Hemp Industries Association

[www.hempindustries.org/](http://www.hempindustries.org/) The HIA is a non-profit trade group representing hemp companies, researchers and supporters.

### Human Rights and the Drug War

[www.hr95.org/](http://www.hr95.org/) This project puts the drug war into the perspective of preserving and respecting human rights for all.

### Law Enforcement Against Prohibition

[www.leap.cc/](http://www.leap.cc/) Current and former members of law enforcement who support drug regulation rather than prohibition.

### Marijuana Policy Project

[www.mpp.org/](http://www.mpp.org/) MPP focuses on removing criminal penalties for cannabis use, with a particular emphasis on making cannabis medically available to seriously ill people who have the approval of their doctors.

### Media Awareness Project

[www.mapinc.org/](http://www.mapinc.org/) Have your voice heard; MAP has helped generate for millions of letters to the editor. Help gather news for their clearing house.

### MAPS

[www.maps.org/](http://www.maps.org/) Multidisciplinary Association on Psychedelic Studies, 2105 Robinson Ave., Sarasota FL 34232. 941 924-6277. Membership-based, non-profit 501(c)3 research / educational group that helps scientists design, fund, obtain approval for and report studies of risks and benefits of cannabis and psychedelics.

### NORML

[www.norml.org/](http://www.norml.org/) National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws. The original activist group; info, legal referrals and annual convention. 202-483-5500

### November Coalition

[www.november.org/](http://www.november.org/) National support group for Drug War POWs. Publishers of *The Razor Wire*.

### Oakland Civil Liberties Alliance

[www.taxandregulate.org/](http://www.taxandregulate.org/) Political action committee behind Measure Z in Oakland. 1714 Franklin Street, #100-118 Oakland, CA 94612

### SAFER

[www.saferchoice.org/](http://www.saferchoice.org/) Safer Alternative For Enjoyable Recreation. PO Box 40332, Denver CO 80204, [mason@saferchoice.org](mailto:mason@saferchoice.org)

### Students for a Sensible Drug Policy

[www.ssdp.org/](http://www.ssdp.org/) Students seeking to reduce the harms caused by drug abuse and drug policies.

### VoteHemp

[www.votehemp.com/](http://www.votehemp.com/) Lobby for industrial and horticultural hemp.

### Drug War Facts

[www.drugwarfacts.org/](http://www.drugwarfacts.org/) Just the facts.



Under California Law, a qualified medical marijuana patient, may grow, possess and use marijuana for medicinal purposes. Unfortunately some law enforcement agencies don't think so. **This is where our office can help you.**

### WILLIAM S. KROGER, JR. ATTORNEY AT LAW

8888 West Olympic Blvd

Beverly Hills, CA 90211

800.655.7505

[420attorney@420attorney.com](mailto:420attorney@420attorney.com)

[420attorney.com](http://420attorney.com)

### Annual MILLION MARIJUANA MARCH and

## CANNABIS FREEDOM DAYS

MAY 5 & 6, 2007

To Heal The Nation And All Our Relations  
In 205 Confirmed Cities Globally

### San Francisco — Civic Center Park

Saturday May 5 • 1-9 PM

Over Five Thousand People Turned Out Last Year!

No minors (under 18) without an adult allowed!

Entry Fee \$2-\$10 due to costs, on a sliding scale for those in need :-)

**ENTRY FEE NOW INCLUDES A RAFFLE TICKET AND A MEAL TICKET!**

As always we need volunteers! Visit [noegopresents.com](http://noegopresents.com) for more info

### Los Angeles — Leimert Park

Saturday May 5, 2007 March/Rally

Sunday May 6, 2007 Festival in the Park

Joke'n & Toke'n Comedy Show! So Line Up And Sign Up .

Kyle 818 894 6227 or Sister Queen Negus Somayah  
[Kambui@3232320935](mailto:Kambui@3232320935)

# fly the friendly skies.

Oakland's highest-flying coffeeshop.

**COFFEESHOP SR71**

377 17TH STREET, OAKSTERDAM, CA

Open seven days a week.



## Visitor's guide map Oaksterdam

Oakland, California USA

### A brief history of the Oaksterdam district

Some 220 years after the founding of the American Republic, California voters had qualified the first statewide medical marijuana initiative for the ballot and the San Francisco *Cannabis Buyers Club* was in its heyday.

Across the Bay, on July 4, 1996, Jeff Jones opened the Oakland Cannabis Buyers Coop on the fifth floor of 1755 Broadway. When the OCBC was prevented from distributing cannabis by the federal government in 1998, other clubs opened, starting with The Zoo at 1736 Telegraph Ave. Thus began the uptown district of Oaksterdam.

The OCBC stayed open issuing medical cannabis ID cards and operating a hemp store, moving to 1733 Broadway in 1999, next door to the



Four Seasons hydroponics store that had just opened.

The Bulldog Coffeeshop opened in December 1999, followed by Compassionate Caregivers the next year at their original location, 1740 Telegraph. By 2004, eight cannabis

dispensaries gave visitors a wide selection of products and created hundreds of jobs in Oakland.

Oakland can be proud to have helped thousands that came from all over the state before cannabis dispensaries opened where they lived.

#### The Oaksterdam Map Key

- A** Bulldog Coffeeshop, 1739 Broadway  
Four Seasons Hydro, 1735 Bdwy  
The Co-op Stop, 1733 Bdwy
- B** SR-71, 377 - 17th St.
- C** Oaksterdam News 376 15th St.
- D** Oaksterdam Gifts, 405 - 15th St.
- E** Post office, 1446 Franklin St
- F** Frank Ogawa Plaza
- G** Medicann, 1814 Franklin # 901
- H** Fox Theater, 1850 Telegraph
- I** CARE, 701 Broadway  
Harborside Health Ctr, 1840 Embarcadero  
415 Fourth St., Downtown
- J** Paramount Theater, 2025 Bdwy
- K** Kaiser rooftop garden
- L** Lake Merritt Park boat rentals
- M** Norcal MMJ, 1504 Franklin
- N** Van Kleef Cafe 1621 Telegraph Ave.
- O** Americans for Safe Access (ASA), 1322 Webster # 208  
Dr. Barth MMJ # 308
- P** Paid parking



[WWW.MYSPACE.COM/OAKSTERDAMNEWS](http://WWW.MYSPACE.COM/OAKSTERDAMNEWS)

# Medical Marijuana Evaluations

**Open 6 Days 11am - 4pm**

**Oakland**

**(510) 839-0723**

**1504 Franklin St, Suite 101  
Oakland, CA 94612**

**CALL FOR APPOINTMENT**

**Ukiah**

**(707) 468-7400**

**527 S. State St  
Ukiah, CA 95482**

**NORCAL HEALTHCARE**

**Bakersfield**

**(661) 322-4258**

**2808 F Street, Suite D  
Bakersfield, CA 93301**

**CALL FOR APPOINTMENT**

**Arcata**

**(707) 822-5244**

**4677 Valley West Blvd  
Arcata, CA 95521**

**[www.norcalhealthcare.org](http://www.norcalhealthcare.org)**

**Medical Marijuana Evaluations**