



"... polite conversation
is rarely either."

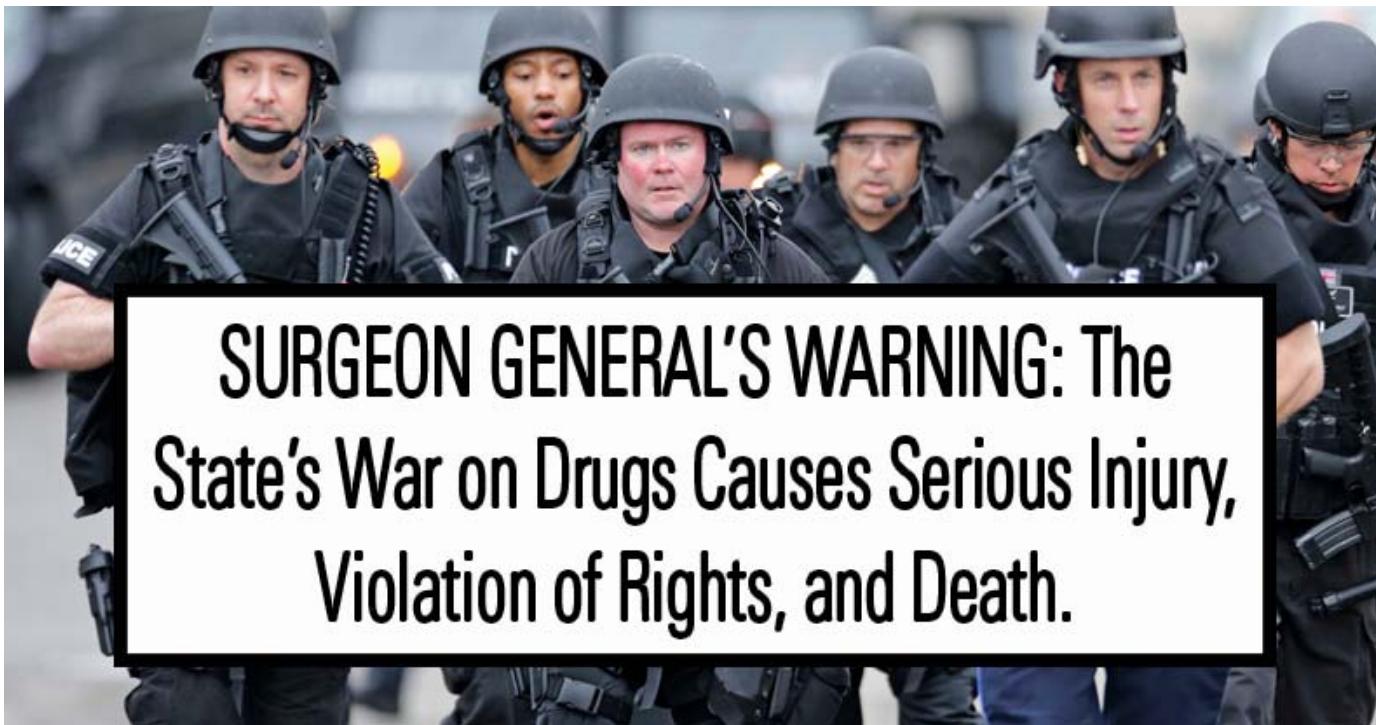
Fran Lebowitz

The world needs to
make room for
industrial hemp!

Issue 23
FREE
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Police drug test kits are a sham!

K-9 Lives don't matter to the police!



SURGEON GENERAL'S WARNING: The State's War on Drugs Causes Serious Injury, Violation of Rights, and Death.

The 3rd leading cause of death in the USA is MEDICAL ERROR!





time4hemp.com/joint-conversations

Submissions/Articles

Letters to the Editor

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Index



Study proves that marijuana save lives

[Page 3](#)



It's time for the world to make room for hemp

[Page 4](#)



K-9 lives don't matter to cops

[Page 7](#)

Law proposed to let police enter your home without a warrant and shoot your dog

[Page 8](#)



48 years in jail for selling herbal remedies

[Page 9](#)



Police field drug test kits are a shame

[Page 10](#)



Medical error is the 3rd leading cause of death in America

[Page 12](#)



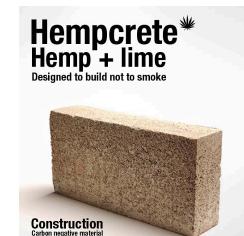
Hemp Recipes: Dinner And Sweet Treats For You And Your Friends!

[Page 14](#)



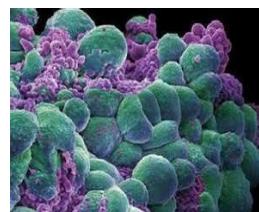
The growing success of a marijuana delivery service

[Page 15](#)



Hempcrete is becoming the new foundation of construction

[Page 17](#)



Painkiller deaths drop by 25% where medical cannabis is legal

[Page 18](#)



FREE VAPE GIVEAWAY

[Page 19](#)

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Published May 20, 2016

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Study Proves Marijuana Saves Lives

Found at Counter Current News

A study by the Journal of the American Medical Association has indicated that legalized marijuana in certain areas coincided with a drastic reduction in painkiller deaths. According to the study, between 1999 and 2010, within the 13 states that legalized marijuana, there was a 25% reduction in opiate painkiller overdose deaths.

Study co-author Colleen Barry said that this same trend occurred in every state to legalize the plant since.

A new survey conducted by the Centre for Addictions Research of BC helps explain why Big Pharma is so afraid of cannabis. The pharmaceutical and alcohol industries, both powerful influences in Washington, have long lobbied against cannabis legalization in order to protect their profits.



However, the tide has turned as decriminalization of medical and recreational cannabis sweeps the nation and the continent. With legalization, more and more people are discovering how this plant can provide a safe alternative to the dangerous effects of prescription pills.

The survey of 473 adult therapeutic cannabis users found that 87% of respondents gave up prescription medications, alcohol, or other drugs in favor of cannabis. Adults under 40 were likely to give up all three of these for medical cannabis.

Legalization has proved many other myths of the drug war wrong. According to statistics released by the government in Denver, the number of robberies and violent crimes significantly decreased since marijuana legalization went into effect.

It is important to mention that this strong correlation is not definitive proof that legalization is the cause of this drop in crime, but it does strongly suggest that this is the case.

These statistics are especially convincing considering the short amount of time that this drastic reduction in crime has taken place. In just one short year, the number of homicides dropped by 52.9%; sexual assaults were reduced by 13.6%; robberies were down by 4.8%, and assaults were down by 3.7%.

The statistics measured the first few months of the year for both 2013 and 2014 and then compared those numbers with one another to determine whether they were higher or lower after legalization went into effect.

Also, according to a recent study on marijuana legalization, use among teens has actually dropped in states where the herb is no longer prohibited. The study took data from over 1 million teens from various states, over the course of 24 years.

TIME 4 HEMP GLOBAL BROADCASTING NETWORK



Did you know that marijuana triggers neurogenesis. Layman's terms: It leads to brain cell growth. The roots of the marijuana-kills-brain-cells myth are deep despite the lack of credible evidence. The original study supporting this notion is questionable at best and recent research suggests exactly the opposite.

In 2005, a study showed cannabinoids' ability to promote neurogenesis in the adult hippocampus, the brain region responsible for many important brain functions including mood and memory. The authors also cited anti-anxiety and anti-depressant effects that accompany the neurogenesis. This explains why people across California, Colorado, Washington and other marijuana-friendly states often turn to the herb for a mood-boost instead of pharmaceutical drugs. It also supports research that marijuana helps improve cognitive function in bipolar disorder patients.

Move Over Cotton, Say Hello to Hemp



Allowing and encouraging domestic hemp cultivation would be a boon for small farmers, especially organic farmers. I'm talking only about industrial hemp, not medical cannabis, which continues to prove its merits and gain acceptance.

By: Paul Fassa

Industrial hemp's use should be a no-brainer; it's a complex boondoggle of legal and bureaucratic nonsense even without THC, the molecule that leads to "Reefer Madness". Industrial hemp commercial cultivation is legal in Canada, but the USA hemp industry was pushed to the side by government connected industry insiders whose monopolies were threatened when it appeared hemp may boom and compete for the very products of their monopolist concerns.

Circa 1937, the hemp industry had been given a mechanical invention gift known as the decoricator machine was invented. It was a machine that was to hemp what the 19th Century cotton gin was. It replaced hand shredding of hemp to glean its fibers, fibers that could be used for textiles, clothing, paper, and plastic.

With the advent of the decoricator, hemp would have been able to take over competing industries in paper, textiles for clothing and other applications, fuel, and plastics. Growing hemp in abundance was easy, and its plant to harvest time was no more than six months. According to Popular Mechanics during that time, "10,000 acres devoted to hemp will produce as much paper as 40,000 acres of average [forest] pulp land." Then a small number of large businesses with competition concerns used high level government connections to push through the Marijuana Tax Act of 1937.

The ensuing marijuana scares hyped by movies such as "Reefer Madness" brought about more legislation that would prohibit all hemp cultivation, even hemp without THC. Prior to this, even without the high speed decoricator, hemp was an easy cash crop for small farmers, some of whom were recruited to continue cultivating hemp during WW II to provide hemp fibers for U.S. Naval ships' ropes as well as other military applications. Hemp was so important during colonial and early American times that farmers were virtually required to cultivate it along with their other crops.

Hulled hemp seeds, their powders and cold pressed oils provide all the essential amino acids for easily digested high protein. Hemp is not only very high in omega-3, but it provides an almost perfect ratio of omega-3 to omega-6.

It is truly a super food that you can buy in health food stores or online. The seeds come from Canada, where industrial hemp is legal. Hemp is so nutritionally dense that one could survive on hemp seeds alone during extreme food shortages. If hemp were legal, you could easily grow your own.



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Serious Seeds

Hemp plants don't need pesticides or synthetic fertilizers, which rely mostly on the phosphate industry. A phosphate industry byproduct is the sodium fluoride that is sold to municipality water works for our poisoned tap water. The runoff from fields of phosphate fertilizers into waterways that merge with seawater is causing all sorts of nitrogen and phosphorous excesses and imbalances, leading to algae that stifles the water's ecological support systems.

Hemp's thick roots ward off weeds, and growing hemp improves the soil's nitrogen, making that soil better for other crops. They would be useful and lucrative rotation crops for organic farmers. Hemp plants have a growth cycle of only four months. In mild climates, harvesting hemp two times in one year would create an annual cash cow for farmers. The marijuana taboo is eliminated by allowing the male plants to continually pollinate the female plants, this reduces psychotropic THC to legal levels.

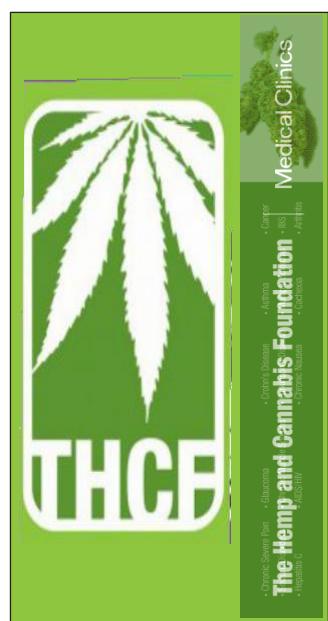
There is a clump of plastic waste residue larger than the state of Texas floating in the middle of the Pacific. A lot of it is expected to decompose, creating a plastic soup in the ocean. The toxins from this plastic soup spread out into other oceanic regions and are hazardous to fish and bird wildlife. This soup could find its way into our kitchens as well! All kinds of plastics are produced with hemp, from clear wraps for foods to automobile parts. Hemp plastics are durable and heat resistant. And they are bio-degradable. Recently the French auto industry use hemp to manufacture some of its automobile parts. Henry Ford pioneered this in 1941 when he built his "vegetable car" with hemp and flax. It was stronger and lighter than steel cars. Ford's hemp-mobile also used hemp bio-diesel fuel, which creates very little pollution. The petroleum industry didn't want to see or hear that. Hemp seeds were even used to make paints and lacquers in the mid-1930s. Petrochemical plastics for all purposes could be replaced with hemp plastics that are non-toxic and bio-degradable.

Amazingly, housing construction materials made from hemp fibers have been discovered to be superior to most cheap materials used in housing construction these days. Ever see a house under construction after its initial framing?

**Hemp House
Walls made with Hempcrete
Solar Windows made with Hemp Plastic
Hempcrete is more energy efficient than concrete
Hempcrete energy savings = up to 70%**



Hempcrete is mildew resistant, termite resistant, an excellent sound isolator, and breathable insulator



What you'll usually see before whatever exterior coating is used are sheets of wood substitutes, either pasteboard or particle board or press-boards, some of which are processed and bound with toxic chemicals that can off-gas into interior quarters. It's cheaper than other materials and used abundantly. Inexpensive hemp can be made into various building materials such as hempcrete, fiberboard, carpet, stucco, cement blocks, insulation, and plastic. These hemp made materials are stronger and longer lasting than what's being used currently and are also more fire resistant, non-toxic, environmentally, mold and rot free.

Pulp from trees is used to make paper. But anything wood pulp can do, hemp fibers can do better. It's said that the original Constitution and Bill of Rights were on hemp paper. Paper from trees can be recycled maybe three times. Hemp paper can be recycled eight times. Since hemp was effectively banned in the USA since 1937, 70% of the USA's forests have been eliminated. It takes years for trees to grow. Hemp can be grown and harvested within six months.

It's estimated that one acre of hemp produces more oxygen from CO₂ and methane than 25 acres of forest. One idea presented by hemp advocates is to have inner city hemp plots to improve urban air quality. We wouldn't need bogus carbon tax legislation.

Pulping trees for paper creates more waste, pollution, and consumes more energy than most enterprises. This industry consumes more water than almost all others. It is the fifth largest industry consumer of energy, and it emits a good deal of toxicity in the process.



Anything the petrochemical industry can produce, hemp can do better without toxic synthetic-investments-environmental and human consequences. Deforesting could be a thing of the past if hemp became the major source of construction materials and paper. Heavily pesticide and herbicide sprayed or GMO cotton wouldn't be necessary, nor would toxic synthetic fibers.

Amazing how such an easily cultivated plant with so many beneficial applications has been so efficiently suppressed by the one or two percent for their purposes while too many among the 98% agreed with that suppression.

"Why use up the forests which were centuries in the making and the mines which required ages to lay down, if we can get the equivalent of forest and mineral products in the annual growth of the hemp fields?" — Henry Ford



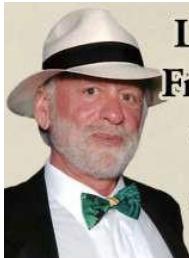
KY's First Hemp Processing Plant Unveils Range of Products

By Nicole Erwin

The owner of Kentucky's first hemp processing plant has opened its doors to the public. Kentucky Hemp Works, located in Hopkinsville, is the first of 35 processing plants to join the Kentucky Department of Agriculture in its statewide hemp pilot project. Janine Silfies combines frozen fruits, unsweetened almond milk and hemp protein powder, a byproduct of the oil making process from hemp seed; "What's not protein is fiber. And then there is an oil, and that's a positive oil, it's omega 3 omega 6, perfect ratio for humans. So this is a good safe source of omegas and protein," says Silfies.

Silfies is the mother of Hemp Works Owner Katie Moyer; "The first thing that sparked my interest in hemp was that hemp was 7 times more efficient in ethanol than corn was," says Moyer. Christian County was already home to an ethanol plant. Moyer saw possibilities for hemp beyond "clothing and necklaces."

Moyer, also an appointed member of the Kentucky Hemp Commission began sharing her interest in the plant almost 8 years ago. In her journey to educate Kentuckians on the sustainable properties of the plant Moyer met Jamie Comer, the former Ag Commissioner responsible for bringing hemp to Kentucky after an exemption in the 2014 Federal Farm bill allowed the growing of the crop for research purposes. Moyer has teamed up with Kendall Clark, owner of the largest pilot hemp plot in the U.S. as well. It is his seed that provides Hemp Works the material to produce the salves, lip balms and protein powders they sell to the public.



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K-9 Lives Matter? Not to Cops!

By Lorelei McFly

I need to take a moment to point out some important facts that indicate just how little many police departments really value their canine officers' lives.

I visited the Officer Down Memorial Page and checked out the numbers, and also found another case not listed on the ODMP website, bringing the number of dogs killed by their handlers to 11 out of the 26 K-9s who died in the line of duty last year. That equals 42% of K-9 deaths, more than double the number of K-9s killed by suspects in 2015.

5/27/15 - K-9 Hector and K-9 Jimmy - Officer Nelson Enriquez of the Hialeah Police Department in Florida, drove home at the end of his shift and just forgot about the two police dogs he had in his car. They were left unattended in the car for an unknown number of hours. He was given a paid vacation and didn't face any criminal charges. No charges for Florida cop who left K-9s to die in hot car

6/18/15 - K-9 Mason (not listed on the ODMP website) - Corporal Josh Coleman of the Gulf Shores Police Department in Alabama left his K-9 partner in an unattended vehicle for an unspecified amount of time while attending a hurricane preparedness conference. News reports state disciplinary action was taken in this case, but not of what nature. No criminal charges were filed. Alabama Cop Will Face No Charges After Leaving Police Dog in Hot Car to Die.

6/30/15 - K-9 Nitro - An unidentified officer with the Stockton Police Department in California left a K-9 unattended in a running car. The official story is that the air conditioning in the car failed. The officer wasn't disciplined or charged in the incident. Stockton K9 officer dies after being in hot car.

7/10/15 - K-9 Baston - An unidentified Savannah State University officer in Georgia went into this home, had dinner, and then fell asleep, leaving his K-9 partner in a hot car for 4 hours. According to reports he is "no longer employed." No charges were filed. SSU K-9 dies in handler's hot car.

7/16/15 - K-9 Zane - Officer Jerahmy Williams of the Conyers Police Department in Georgia forgot his K-9 partner in a hot car for 10 hours. He resigned citing "vicious threats" from the public following news coverage of Zane's death. A grand jury did not return an indictment for animal cruelty. Officer will not face charges after K9 'Zane' died after being trapped in hot car.

7/23/15 - K-9 Zeke - Officer Robert Allen of the Muldrow Police Department in Oklahoma left a K-9 unattended in a running vehicle for several hours. The air conditioning unit "malfunctioned." No disciplinary action was taken, nor were any criminal charges filed. Muldrow Police K9 Dies Of Heat Stroke In Vehicle.

8/10/15 - K-9 -Jola-Deputy Latham Roldan of the Jim Wells County Sheriff's Office in Texas was fired after leaving a K-9 in hot car for over 20 hours. Roldan was charged with misdemeanor animal cruelty in September, but I didn't see any news reports about the outcome of the case. As Photography is Not a Crime reported last summer, Roldan should actually have been charged with a felony under state law: "Texas Penal Code 38.151 (b) (6) and (7), which states the following is a second-degree felony, punishable by a prison sentence of anywhere between two years to two decades:

- (A) killing a police service animal or engaging in conduct likely to kill the animal;
 - (B) injuring a police service animal in a manner that materially and permanently affects the ability of the animal to perform as a police service animal; or
 - (C) engaging in conduct likely to injure a police service animal in a manner that would materially and permanently affect the ability of the animal to perform as a police service animal.
- (6) injures or kills a police service animal; or (7) engages in conduct likely to injure or kill a police service animal, including administering or setting a poison, trap, or any other object or substance." The Texas Deputy was fired after leaving the dog in car to die of heat,

**Over A 9-Year Period
Milwaukee Police Shot 434 Dogs.
That's One Every Week.**



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Pays for itself in two grow cycles



8/12/15 - K-9 Wix - Another air conditioner malfunction claimed the life of K-9 Wix of the Brown County Sheriff's Office in Wisconsin. Deputy Austin Lemberger left the dog in a running car while providing security at a PGA Championship. No disciplinary action was taken, nor were any charges filed in this case. UPDATE: Brown Co. K9 Wix died of heat exhaustion.

8/25/15 - K-9 Dingo and K-9 Kojack - The final air conditioner "malfunction" of 2015 occurred when unidentified officers with the Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Service left two K-9s unattended in a running car. No disciplinary actions were taken, nor were any charges files. State law enforcement K-9s die from heat exhaustion.

In many of the cases listed above, the police departments stress that it is policy to leave K-9s unattended in vehicles to give them rest time, and that they use special devices that are supposed to alert handlers of dangerous temperatures in the vehicles (although none of the ones installed in the cars in these instances did so, allegedly). This is despite the fact that leaving unattended vehicles idling is illegal in at least two of the states where these events occurred last summer (Maryland and Texas). Of course we already know that laws don't apply to our heroes in blue.

Even Deputy Brett Berry of the Ramsey County Sheriff's Department in Minnesota was allowed to keep his position and given a plea deal for misdemeanor animal cruelty after being caught on video beating and slamming his K-9 partner on the ground in a drunken rage. The more serious charge of assaulting a public safety dog was dropped. How do you think police officers and their unions would respond to reduced charges for assaulting a law enforcement officer, a felony charge often levied against civilians for merely wriggling in their handcuffs or even brushing against a police officer's uniform?

It is absolutely heart-breaking watching this dog, that we know is fully capable of inflicting grievous harm to defend itself, be completely passive in response to the attack, even seeming to try to get back in Berry's good graces at some points. Although trained to be vicious attack dogs, these K-9s want nothing more than the love and acceptance of their handlers. No wonder the evidence shows that these dogs "detect" drugs based much more on intentional and unintentional cues from their handlers than the actual presence of illegal substances.

At any rate, the idea that cops want special exemptions when killing and abusing their K-9 partners was made abundantly clear, albeit unintentionally, by the "I am a police dog; My life matters, too" photo put up by Thugs With Badges Today (not their real name) on their Facebook page recently . The photo illustrates the situational amnesia and continual hypocrisy exhibited by cops since it proposes that whenever someone hurts a police dog they should be charged as if they hurt a human officer. All police have to do is review their own actions and responses in these fatal incidents over the previous year to know that is exactly what they do not want.

As per usual, cops want enhanced punishments for civilians while removing themselves from all culpability, or at securing greatly reduced culpability for themselves. As this astute Facebook commenter notes below, K-9s are elevated to human status when a "mundane" is involved in their death, and downgraded to mere property when it's a cop's fault. At least they seem to feel more remorse over K9 deaths than they do over the family dogs they kill every 98 minutes.

Law Proposed To Let Police Enter Homes Without Warrants And Shoot Dogs

by Jackson Marciana

A new bill has been proposed which would allow police officers to enter any home, regardless of whether or not they have a warrant, if there is a pit bull on the property. Even worse, the bill would allow officers to shoot and kill the dog if only a handful of conditions were met. The Huffington Post reported that measure would make Mississippi the only state in history with a policy against a specific dog breed. House Bill 1261 not only says police may enter homes without warrants, but they could actually kill the animal if they determine the dogs are "not under proper restraint when on the premises of its owner" or if they are not wearing vaccination tags and "attempts to peacefully capture the dog have been made and proven unsuccessful."

The bill is being called the Mississippi Regulation of Dangerous Dogs Act, and proponents say it is intended "create civil and criminal penalties for failing to keep dangerous dogs securely confined and under restraint, and for failing to meet certain requirements designed to protect the public." "This bill would make Mississippi the only state in the nation with a statewide policy discriminating against a specific dog breed, and the impact on local communities, animal shelters, and law enforcement would be disastrous," Chloe Waterman, the senior manager of state legislative strategy for the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals said.

"Dogs permitted by their owners to run loose, and dogs who attack people or other animals, pose a serious problem to public safety. But breed-specific dangerous dog laws are ineffective, inhumane and costly." Kris Diaz, executive director of a group that advocates for breed-neutral legislation, said that "the fourth amendment clearly protects people from such actions.

"This bill effectively removes any protections people have from unreasonable search and seizure, and opens the door to using a dangerous dog claim as a way to scrutinize people for things they couldn't otherwise get a warrant for."

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FDA wants to jail Amish man 48 years for selling herbal remedies people love

By Erin Elizabeth



Sam Girod, an Amish farmer from Kentucky, has been running his small business selling natural salves made from herbs such as chickweed (which seem to help relieve many skin conditions, including allergic rashes, psoriasis, poison oak and even skin cancers) for 15 years. He has no criminal record, is 56 years old and the father to 12 children and yet the FDA wants to put him in jail- for up to 48 years. Yet another story that I couldn't make up.

A simple search on Amazon (I did this myself) will bring up pages of products using chickweed and many of those products contain testimonials from users about its benefits, even how it cured their skin cancer. BUT, the cancer industry is a profit machine and the FDA has been cracking down on people and businesses who use language to suggest cancer can be cured naturally. About 12 years ago, the FDA did just that with Sam- they went after him for stating that his salve was effective for skin cancer, so he removed "skin cancer" from the label and anything else it was on. He renamed his salve, "Chickweed Healing Salve".

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But four years ago, a local health department official saw Mr. Girod's products on display in a Missouri town's convenience store, and reported him to a state health department official. The agency referred the matter to the FDA who then seized the products from the store; now at issue was the fact that the product and its display included testimonials- which meant he needed to register it as a drug!

If all this seems crazy, we aren't done. The FDA then seized the product in 2012 and filed an injunction to prohibit its sale because of its new name, "Chickweed Healing Salve", as you may have guessed, they objected to the word "healing". Mr. Girod renamed his product yet again before eventually settling on its current name, "Original Chickweed".

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P SCROG
Growing Kit

Because all that drama wasn't enough for the FDA they sent two agents to his Kentucky farm in 2013. Mr. Girod recalls that they sat on the front porch and worked out an agreement: the agents would return to his farm a few weeks later, while he was producing the product and search his production area- with the understanding they not take any photos (the Amish have an aversion to cameras for cultural and religious reasons). He assumed they could inspect and take any needed notes without taking photos. The agents returned a few weeks later and immediately pulled out their cameras.

They returned in November of 2013 and, spotting them a couple miles from his home, Girod refused them access to his farm (of interesting note, they had no warrant). As you might imagine, this angered them so much that he is now facing this ridiculous federal grand jury indictment. Sadly, none of this is unbelievable. We in the health community have been watching the FDA, CDC, AMA and others attempt to take away or restrict products and therapies that we know work and quite frankly, that we choose to use, for years. It seems the more you choose to exert personal choice, especially if the FDA isn't going to get a cut, the more you become a target. We wish Mr. Girod and his lawyer the best of luck.

Police Field Drug Test Kits Test Positive For Nearly Everything



SURGEON GENERAL'S WARNING: The State's War on Drugs Causes Serious Injury, Violation of Rights, and Death.

According to the national litigation and public policy organization, the Innocence Project, at any given time there are an estimated 40,000 to 100,000 innocent people currently locked in a cage in U.S. prisons. Couple this staggering number with those who are locked up for non-violent drug possession and America looks more like the Gulag of the 1930's than the Land of the Free.

But how can so many innocent people be locked up, how does the state present evidence, that it doesn't have, to get a conviction? Well, the folks at the largest marijuana policy reform organization in the U.S., Marijuana Policy Project, made a short video that explains just how easy it is for police to turn an entirely innocent person into a criminal. In the video, the researchers demonstrate how easy it is for police to generate a false positive during a field test for drugs.

The group tests over the counter Tylenol PM in a police test kit for cocaine — the test kit says the Tylenol is cocaine. The group also tests the most popular chocolate in the world, Hershey's chocolate, for marijuana, it also tests positive. Perhaps the most disturbing test was when the group put absolutely nothing into the field test kit, and they received a positive result.

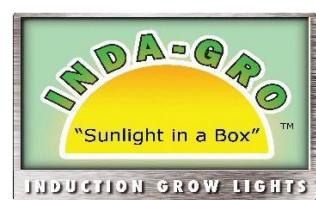
The implications associated with wrongfully accusing and then claiming to have evidence of an individual in possession of an illegal substance are formidable — to say the least. Most people are simply unaware of the fact that police test kits are a crap-shoot. According to Forensic Resources: The director of a lab recognized by the International Association of Chiefs of Police for forensic science excellence has called field drug testing kits "totally useless" due to the possibility of false positives. In laboratory experiments, at least two brands of field testing kits have been shown to produce false positives in tests of Mucinex, chocolate, aspirin, and oregano.

In spite of these recommendations and multiple examples of innocent people being incarcerated for their error, police departments across the country continue to employ the use of these "totally useless" kits. In October, college student John Harrington was thrown in prison after police, with one of these field drug test kits, tested sugar, and came up with a false positive for cocaine. "Really, I'm really in jail right now for powdered sugar," Harrington thought after it happened.

We've also seen the case in which police mistook Jolly Ranchers for meth and jailed an innocent man. Love Olatunijojo, 25, and an unidentified friend purchased Jolly Ranchers at the It'Sugar candy emporium in Coney Island in June of 2013. Several blocks away, cops stopped and searched the friends and mistook the candies for crystal meth. Olatunijojo was then thrown in jail. In August, we reported on the story of a man who was held in prison for over four months because police falsely identified salt as crystal meth; and the list goes on. It is bad enough that the state will kidnap, cage and kill people when they possess a substance deemed illegal by the state. But, when they kidnap, cage and kill people because of their own negligence involved in testing someone's personal items — they stoop to an entirely new low.



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Cops Are Pulling Over Countless Americans Just to “Check Their Papers”



TUCSON (CN) — Tucson police continue to use traffic stops illegally to check immigration papers and call the Border Patrol, despite a supposed policy against it, the ACLU said in warning letters to police and Homeland Security. ACLU Arizona Staff Attorney James Lyall sent letters to Tucson Police Chief Chris Magnus and Department of Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson, requesting investigations of the police department's immigration policies and its activities with the Border Patrol.

In reviewing records of 110 police stops between June 2014 and December 2015, the ACLU found 85 incidents in which police prolonged “routine stops far beyond the time reasonably required to resolve the underlying issue, solely to pursue investigations of immigration status or wait for immigration officials to respond,” Lyall wrote. “In many of these cases, officers are going out of their way to transfer custody to U.S. Border Patrol, regardless of the delay that results,” he wrote. Often, legal residents and/or citizens were detained because of false information, Lyall wrote.

“TPD records contained more than a dozen false positives, or ‘hits’ — instances in which TPD and/or Border Patrol’s status check indicated an individual was unlawfully present when in fact the individual either had status (including several U.S. citizens) or Border Patrol declined to take custody for some other reason. In these cases, the false positives were apparently the sole basis for prolonging the stops of individuals who were ultimately released.” (Parentheses in original.)

Lyall said these practices go “well beyond” Section 2(B) of Arizona’s SB 1070, the so-called “show me your papers” law, which requires police officers to make a “reasonable attempt” to determine an arrestee’s immigration status. They also “reflect fundamental misunderstanding of the Fourth Amendment’s prohibition on prolonging stops and limits on the authority of local police to enforce immigration laws,” he wrote. The prolonged stops also violate the Tucson Police Department’s own policies, the ACLU said. The department revised its immigration policies in February 2015 to prohibit officers from delaying release to investigate immigration status.

According to the department’s Revised General Order 2335: “When reasonable suspicion exists to believe a detainee is unlawfully present in the U.S. but there are no state or local criminal violations, or any other lawful basis to continue the detention (i.e. completion of a traffic stop), the officer shall release the detainee without delay.” The policy also states: “If reasonable suspicion exists to believe a detainee is an unlawfully present person during a valid detention, the officer will attempt to contact ICE/CBP via TPD TWX. If no information concerning the subject is obtained from ICE/CBP by the time that the basis for the detention is concluded, the detainee shall be released without delay.”

It adds: “The fact that ICE/CBP cannot verify a person’s status does not mean a person is lawfully or unlawfully present in the United States and provides no basis for any enforcement action to include transport or continued detention.” The ACLU review found incidents in which TPD had detained drivers —including at least one mother who was driving her children to school — for more than an hour while checking immigration status and waiting for the Border Patrol to arrive. The stops were generally for minor infractions such as suspended licenses and moving violations, and in many cases the driver should have been cited and released, Lyall wrote.

The letter to Secretary Johnson called for an “immediate investigation of improper U.S. Border Patrol involvement in local law enforcement activities in southern Arizona, specifically Border Patrol responses to routine stops initiated by local police.” Lyall said that many of the records obtained by the ACLU “reveal Border Patrol’s continuing disregard for DHS enforcement priorities and contradict the Obama Administration’s commitments — issued in response to Arizona’s SB 1070 — to limit the involvement of federal immigration officials in traffic stops by AZ law enforcement, and to protect the civil rights of residents.”

Police Chief Magnus said Monday that he was reviewing the letter. “I plan to give thoughtful consideration to the issues raised in the letter with an eye toward identifying any opportunities to improve our training, policies, and practices. Information in the ACLU letter will be of value in our evolving efforts to retain and further strengthen a trusting relationship with all members of the community, as we endeavor to fairly enforce the law,”

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Medical error third leading cause of death in US

By: Marlowe Hood

Paris (AFP) - Medical error is the third largest cause of death in the United States, according to an analysis published Wednesday in the medical journal BMJ. In 2013, at least 250,000 people died not from the illnesses or injuries that prompted them to seek hospital care but from preventable mistakes, according to the study.

That number exceeds deaths from strokes and Alzheimer's combined, and is topped only by heart disease and cancer, which each claim about 600,000 lives per year. The death toll from medical mishaps would be even higher if nursing homes and out-patient care were included, the researchers found.

"People don't just die from bacteria and heart plaque, they die from communication breakdowns, fragmented healthcare, diagnostic mistakes, and over-dosing," said Martin Makary, a professor at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine in Baltimore and lead author of the study.

"Collectively, these represent the third leading cause of death in the United States," he told AFP, adding that it is one of the most underreported endemics in global health. A earlier study estimated the toll at between 250,000 and 440,000 per year. Experts do not know the exact number of people who die from botched surgeries, faulty prescriptions, or a computer glitch simply because no one is keeping count.

Along with more than 100 other nations, the United States uses a system for collecting national health statistics -- recommended by the World Health Organization -- that does not keep track of medical errors. "The absence of national data highlights the need for systematic measurement of the problem," said Makary.

"Our study took the best science on the incidence of medical mistakes killing people in the delivery of care, and extrapolated that to the amount of care that we administer." The scope of the problem in the United States -- which tops the world in per capita spending on health care -- is probably about the same in other rich countries, he said. As for the developing world, the situation is likely worse.

"I suspect that in Africa, poor quality medical care or preventable complications kill more people than HIV and malaria combined," Makary said. While it is not realistic to expect that human error can be eliminated in health care, protocols and "safety nets" can be put in place to track medical errors and reduce their number.

Death certificates, for example, could ask whether a preventable problem stemming from the patient's medical care might have contributed to the death. But asking hospitals and doctors to self-report their mistakes without offering a higher degree of protection from possible prosecution is a tall order, Makary acknowledged.

"It is difficult to create an open and honest conversation around the problem of people dying from the care that they have received," he said. Among other leading causes of death in the United States in 2013 were accidents (133,000), diabetes (76,500), influenza or pneumonia (55,000), and suicide (43,000), according to the National Center for Health Statistics.

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Cannabis To Be Planted Legally in WV For The 1st time In 70 years

Free Press - 05/11/16

Morgantown, WV - The era of industrial hemp will come to West Virginia next week as hemp seeds will be planted legally for the first time since the end of World War II. Industrial hemp is a cousin of the marijuana plant (aka Cannabis sativa) with very small amounts of the psychoactive ingredient THC, but is still regulated like marijuana in the eyes of the federal government. The first planting of hemp will be in Morgantown as part of a West Virginia University research study that will investigate the plant's ability to remove contaminants from the soil using a process known as phytoremediation.

In 1938, hemp was named by Popular Science magazine as The Next Billion Dollar Crop because of the nearly 25,000 products that could be derived from the plant. Some of those industrial applications that are used today are bioplastics, building materials, insulation, and paper. Some European automobile manufacturers, such as BMW, have started using molded plastic parts from hemp for car interiors. The second part of the WVU research study is to explore the use of hemp for these industrial application following its use in phytoremediation. In other words, grow hemp to clean the soil, then harvest the same plant for making plastics for car parts or hempcrete for building a house.

Agri Carb Electric Corporation Chief Executive Officer Don Smith II sees the impact that this study would bring, "There are a lot of contaminated brown fields throughout West Virginia that people find too expensive to cleanup. We can be a complement to the state's coal and gas industries by using a hemp cash crop to revitalize spoiled lands. This research should interest every post-industrial community in West Virginia to invest (with grants) and monetize what is now considered worthless."

The WVU research project will not be the only hemp planted in the state in 2016. Following in the footsteps of well-known hemp farmers and politicians, George Washington and John Adams, two WV political candidates will be planting commercial hemp plots. Mike Manypenny-D running for a seat in the U.S. House of Representatives will be planting a hemp plot in Grafton, WV and understands the historic significance, "I am excited to be the first Congressional candidate to be a hemp farmer since Thomas Jefferson." J. Morgan Leach-D running for WV House of Delegates will be planting a hemp plot in Parkersburg, WV. Followed by other hemp plots including one in West Virginia's birthplace and first capital Wheeling, WV in Ohio county as well as, Pocahontas, and Berkeley counties.

The U.S. imports more hemp than any other country in the world from countries like Canada and China – the total retail value of hemp products sold in the U.S. in 2015 was about \$573 million. Leach, who is also the Executive Director of the West Virginia Hemp Farmers Cooperative, sees how hemp can bring jobs in an economic downturn, "We want to encourage commercial growers throughout the state because the demand for domestic hemp will continue to increase. Hemp can be catalyst for agriculture in West Virginia providing farmers with a high yield cash crop, but the real impact will come in the downstream industries that will provide jobs in both the industrial and energy sectors of the state."

But, commercial farming of hemp this year was nearly prevented - until April 1st when Governor Earl Ray Tomblin vetoed a bill presented to him by the Legislature that would have rolled back the state's commercial industrial hemp industry. WV Senate Bill 159, a rules bundle bill, would have changed the basic nature of the state's program from commercial in nature to "research only" in nature by only allowing such work to be done in conjunction with a "higher institution of learning", such as West Virginia University, even though commercial farming of hemp is legal in nearly every industrialized country in the world, including China, Canada, United Kingdom, Australia and more.

Agri Carb Electric Corporation Chief Operating Officer Erik Janus sees a greater vision "The science is there. Hemp has long had the potential to create sustainable products that are preferable to many current technologies; however, what is really exciting is what we can do with hemp using the technologies of the future – such as genomics, nanotechnology and 3-D printing."





Vegetable Weed Lasagna

Time Required: 90-mins

Yields: 6 servings.

What You Need:

1 oz. Decarboxylated Medical Marijuana
20 oz. Spinach (Frozen)
2 Cloves of Garlic (Minced)
1 Can Tomato Sauce
16 oz. Ricotta Cheese
1 Cup Parmesan Cheese (Grated)
1 lb. Mozzarella Cheese
1 Egg
12 Oven-Ready Lasagna Noodles
Salt and Pepper to Taste

Steps:

Preheat oven at 350°F. Put the following ingredients in a large bowl and mix them until they are properly combined: the egg, the minced garlic, the Ricotta, half the grated Parmesan cheese, and the spinach. In the bottom of a 13 x 9 glass baking dish, thinly spread some of the tomato sauce, approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ cup. Start constructing the lasagna by placing three of the oven-ready lasagna noodles on top of the tomato sauce. Go ahead and add another $\frac{3}{4}$ cup of the tomato sauce on top of the second layer of lasagna noodles. After which you are going to add approximately one cup of the cheese mixture, then add the mozzarella on top of the cheese mixture. Do another two layers using the following order: lasagna noodles, tomato sauce, cheese mixture, and finish with mozzarella. Use the remaining Parmesan to sprinkle on top of the last layer. Cover the baking dish with aluminum foil and place it in the oven. Bake the lasagna for about 40 minutes. Take off the aluminum foil and bake for another 20 minutes or until the top layer has browned. Remove lasagna from the oven and allow to cool before cutting.



Strawberry Weed Muffins

Do you ever get a craving for the sweet tats found in nature? Then this recipe is just what you're looking for.

Time Required: 50-mins.

Yields: 6 servings.

What You Need:

1 cup of flour
1/2 cup of quick oats
2 teaspoons of baking powder
1/4 cup of sugar
1/2 teaspoon of salt
1 large egg
1/4 cup of cannabis butter
1 cup of milk
1 cup of fresh strawberries
1 Muffin Pan

Steps:

Mix together the oats, flour, baking powder, sugar, and salt in a large mixing bowl. In a smaller bowl mix together the egg, milk, and marijuana butter. Make a crater in the large bowl and then pour in the liquid mix from the smaller bowl. Stir it up a little, don't stir until smooth, it should be lumpy. Carefully insert the strawberries deep into the mix, you can slice the strawberries into halves and quarters if you wish. Pour the mixture into a muffin tin, using muffin liners, make sure that you leave room in each muffin tin for them to rise, your mix should fill about 75% of the capacity of the liners. Bake for 25-30 minutes in an oven which has been preheated to 380F-400F. Leave to cool on a wire rack, and then enjoy!

Little oversight, lots of success for marijuana delivery services



By Kay Lazar and Dan Adams - One delivery service offers gluten-free marijuana brownies. Another promises a free marijuana-laced lollipop with each order. A third touts trained "caregivers" and delivery until 4 a.m. These marijuana delivery services — the objects of an unsuccessful crackdown by Massachusetts health officials two years ago — were expected to fade away once the first state-sanctioned medical marijuana dispensaries opened last year. Instead, they have proliferated.

More than two dozen of these Internet-based services are now openly advertising long menus of marijuana strains and edibles, plus prices and user reviews. The cat-and-mouse dance between the services and regulators intensified last week when the popular website Leafly, which features marijuana news and product reviews, abruptly removed online listings for more than 20 Massachusetts delivery services after patient advocates and the Globe questioned their legality.

Unlike dispensaries — whose owners must pay hefty licensing fees, submit to background checks, and test their products for contaminants — delivery services operate without oversight. They call themselves caregivers, a designation they say allows them to supply patients. This booming cottage industry uses the Internet to offer on-demand delivery to anyone who shows a state-issued marijuana card. But in online discussion forums, several customers claimed to have used fake medical recommendations printed from the Internet to have marijuana delivered by the services.

Operators say they are exempt from Massachusetts rules that prohibit caregivers from supplying more than one patient at a time and that limit their compensation. State officials strongly disagree, saying only registered dispensaries can sell marijuana. Leaders of Massachusetts Patient Advocacy Alliance, a group representing medical marijuana patients, said they were troubled by complaints from patients about subpar products and tense encounters with gun-toting drivers. Earlier this year, the advocates urged Department of Public Health officials to rein in the delivery outfits, but said they were largely ignored.

Recently, health officials took another tentative step toward enforcement, telling Leafly the delivery services listed on its site were operating illegally. "Caregivers cannot sell marijuana or profit from its distribution," the health agency said in a statement. "Anyone distributing marijuana outside of state regulations may be subject to law enforcement action." Before learning of the department's stance, Leafly had argued that Massachusetts law permits "personal care attendants" to deliver marijuana to registered patients. The Seattle company, which calls itself "the world's largest cannabis information resource" and says that millions use its app and website, later suspended the listings. But it questioned whether delivery services are really banned under state rules.



"Leafly is still seeking further clarification," the company said in a statement. "The [department's] response did not provide guidance beyond what was already published on [its] website." Patient advocates attribute the continued popularity of the delivery services in part to supply problems that patients say they encounter at some of the state's six dispensaries. Delivery services also help patients with disabilities and patients who are too ill to travel to dispensaries.

High prices at dispensaries present another issue. Some delivery services sell marijuana for \$100 an ounce less than the dispensaries do, according to menus the delivery services publish online. But patient advocates acknowledge they face a quandary. While worried that patients using delivery services may be vulnerable to theft and questionable products, advocates also want increased access to marijuana. "We want the delivery people to be licensed and funneled through the proper channels," said Nichole Snow, executive director of the Massachusetts Patient Advocacy Alliance.

She said the state's registration system is too cumbersome for some patients to use, and there aren't enough licensed dispensaries to meet demand. She pointed to health department data showing that while 22,500 patients have registered with the agency's medical marijuana program, fewer than 9,000 have shopped in dispensaries. That means most are getting their marijuana elsewhere — on the street, from legitimate caregivers, or through the delivery services. A state health department spokesman said the agency is aware of patients' concerns. Leafly did not respond to questions about how — or if — it vetted the delivery services that had been advertising on its site. The same delivery outfits are still listed on similar websites. A spokeswoman said Leafly's removal of the services sparked a backlash from customers.

"Leafly has been contacted by dozens of patients who are extremely upset and concerned about how they are going to access their medicine," the spokeswoman wrote. "Many of these patients are elderly or disabled." At the Hynes Veterans Memorial Convention Center last month, a delivery outfit calling itself Boston Best Buds, which advertised on Leafly, set up a booth as part of the New England Cannabis Convention. A man who would give his name only as Ray invited anyone who claimed to have a state-issued medical marijuana card to enter a raffle for a free ounce of marijuana.

When a reporter asked Ray if his service was legal, he initially said it was. But when pressed, he conceded it was a "gray area." "Are we an unregulated service? Absolutely!" Ray said. "Does the state need to add regulations? One hundred and ten percent yes. There's nothing I would love more than to be completely within the system."

Ray boasted that at \$280 an ounce, his marijuana was selling for substantially less than at the dispensaries. And, he said, Boston Best Buds offers a far greater variety of strains. Ray said he initially delivered the marijuana himself, but now employs two drivers whom he pays \$20 per delivery. He said he gets his inventory from "small gardens in [patients'] houses, guys growing in their closet, growing in their old kid's [empty] room, stuff like that." He referred further questions to his lawyer, abruptly packed up his booth, and left the convention center.

"What Ray's doing isn't necessarily within the confines of the law at the moment, but that may very well change in short order," Rudolph Miller, Ray's attorney, said in a phone interview later. "It's a newly developing landscape that's subject to a great deal of interpretation." Miller declined to provide Ray's last name but insisted Ray was "trying to be as transparent as possible. He attends hearings at the State House, trying to get what he does recognized," Miller said.



Germany relaxes rules on using cannabis for medical purposes

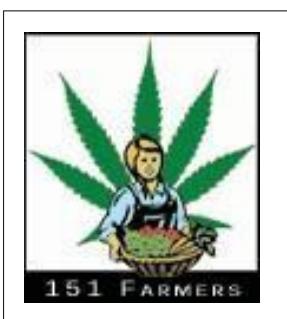
The German government gave the go-ahead on Wednesday to relax rules on cannabis use by the seriously ill from early next year if they have no other treatment options. Dried cannabis flowers and cannabis extracts will be available in pharmacies on prescription and the public health system will cover the cost, according to the draft bill that is expected to come into force from spring 2017.

Other countries that allow cannabis use for medical purposes include Italy and the Czech Republic. Some U.S. states have decriminalized cannabis completely. Portugal has decriminalized all drugs for personal use, but does not allow cannabis use for medical purposes.

Until now, seriously ill people in Germany with cancer, AIDS, Parkinson's disease or multiple sclerosis could only access cannabis with special approval and had to pay themselves. "Our aim is that seriously ill people are treated in the best possible way," Health Minister Hermann Groehe said in a statement.

The government is to set up specially supervised plantations to grow cannabis and will import what it needs for now. IBISWorld, a market research firm, projects sales of marijuana for medical use to increase to \$13.4 billion in 2020 from \$3.6 billion in 2015.

Hempcrete used for building houses



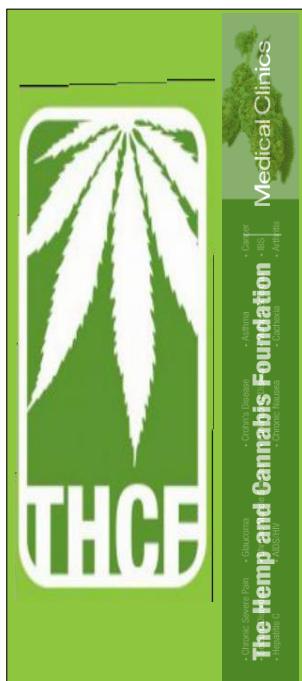
Imagine you had a building material that was energy-efficient, non-toxic and resistant to mold, insects and fire. The material may even have a higher R-value, or thermal resistance, than concrete, a claim that is still being investigated. The only problem? The base of the Hempcrete creation is hemp, which comes from the cannabis sativa plant -- the same one that produces marijuana, which is a federally banned substance. Because of this, industrial hemp production is illegal in the United States.

Still, the Hempcrete mixture of hemp, lime and water is being used to some extent for construction jobs across America. One of the companies working with Hempcrete is Hemp Technologies, a construction company based in North Carolina that is adamant about the advantages of building using Hempcrete. They've built homes out of hemp in Hawaii, Texas, Idaho and North Carolina, where they are currently working on a project known as "NauHaus."

Throughout Europe, the use of hemp for construction purposes has spread across many countries. "We got started about three years ago and I was looking for sustainable building products, Hemp Technologies co-founder David Madera told GOOD Design. [Co-founder Greg Flavall] was in Europe, found Hempcrete and we basically did a tour of Europe and looked at everything that they had done in the U.K., France, Belgium, and Switzerland. We did our first seminar in 2009, and it was the most important thing that helped promote it."

Seeing Hempcrete as a more efficient and sustainable building material has led to some dubbing it as a gateway product. The people behind the U.K.-based Radical Hemcrete are using their hemp based product to create a carbon negative thermal walling material. Hempcrete can be used for everything from roof installation to flooring to wall construction. The creators of the Carson, California-based HempTraders.com, distributors of "fine hemp products", sell Hempboard. Hempboard is a medium density fiberboard made from 100 percent hemp hurds and can be used to make environmental furniture, counter tops, walls and shelving.

Considering the ban on the industrial hemp production in the United States, the eco-friendly and potentially cost efficient -- were it legal -- use of hemp for building will remain a bit complicated for now. Hemp Technologies have a section of their site dedicated to the perplexing history of America's hemp laws, perhaps an indication that they understand their place in evolving the discourse on the issue that hemp isn't just a "drug", but an untapped, underused resource.



Letter to the editor about marijuana sentences from Emily C. Feinstein

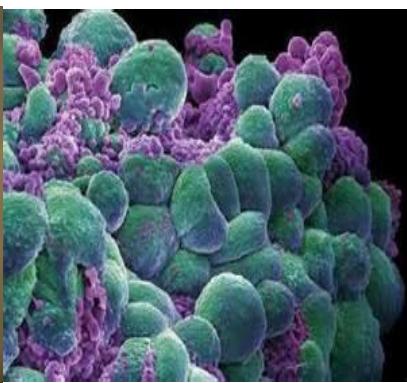
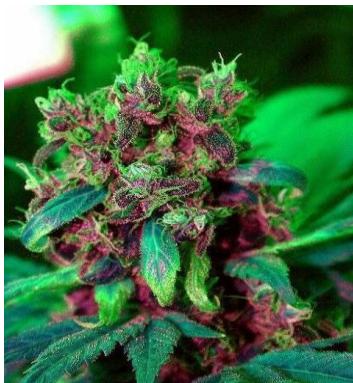
Whether or not the Supreme Court rules that draconian mandatory sentences for marijuana use are constitutional, they are an ineffective, harmful and extremely costly policy approach to substance use.

Marijuana use should be treated as a public health problem, not a crime. Incarcerating people for using marijuana serves neither the individual's nor the public's interest. Having a criminal record for marijuana use is damaging to people's livelihoods and life opportunities, particularly for youths.

The National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse supports decriminalization, a public health approach that imposes penalties intended to discourage marijuana use and encourage treatment when necessary — for example, fines or mandatory evaluation by an addiction treatment professional.

For individuals charged with more serious marijuana crimes (distribution), courts should explore the use of alternative sentencing programs like drug courts and evaluate their effectiveness in reducing substance use, recidivism and costs.

In States With Medical Marijuana, Painkiller Deaths Drop by 25 Percent



America has a major problem with prescription pain medications like Vicodin and OxyContin. Overdose deaths from these pharmaceutical opioids have approximately tripled since 1991, and every day 46 people die of such overdoses in the United States. However, in the 13 states that passed laws allowing for the use of medical marijuana between 1999 and 2010, 25 percent fewer people die from opioid overdoses annually. "The difference is quite striking," said study co-author Colleen Barry, a health policy researcher at Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health in Baltimore. The shift showed up quite quickly and became visible the year after medical marijuana was accepted in each state, she told *Newsweek*.

In the study, published August 25, 2014 in *JAMA Internal Medicine*, the researchers hypothesize that in states where medical marijuana can be prescribed, patients may use pot to treat pain, either instead of prescription opiates, or to supplement them—and may thus require a lower dosage that is less likely to lead to a fatal problem.

As with most findings involving marijuana and public policy, however, not everyone agrees on a single interpretation of the results. It certainly can be said that marijuana is much less toxic than opiates like Percocet or morphine, and that it is "basically impossible" to die from an overdose of weed, Barry said. Based on those agreed-upon facts, it would seem that an increased use in marijuana instead of opiates for chronic pain is the most obvious explanation of the reduction in overdose deaths.

Not so fast, said Dr. Andrew Kolodny, chief medical officer at Phoenix House, a national nonprofit addiction treatment agency. He said that the immediate reduction in overdose deaths is extremely unlikely to be due to the substitute use of the herb, for one simple reason: Marijuana isn't widely prescribed for chronic pain.

"You don't have primary care doctors in these states [prescribing] marijuana instead of Vicodin," he said. Even in states where medical marijuana is legal, it is only prescribed by a small subset of doctors, and, therefore, probably couldn't explain the huge decrease in opiate-related overdose deaths. Kolodny says the study results are more likely due to a host of factors. One example is differences in state policies to cut down on over-prescribing of opiate medications. Also, many people who overdose on painkillers are already addicted, and these individuals are naturally among the most likely to take too much, Kolodny told *Newsweek*.

States that pass progressive laws to treat addiction may be more likely to lower their rates of overdose deaths; for political reasons these states may also be more likely to legalize medical marijuana. "This is a good example of where policy change has gotten ahead of the science," Barry said. She and Kolodny would probably agree on that point.

By Douglas Main - *Newsweek*



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