

CC CANNABIS CONNECTIONS

420 Ways to Get High

Page 7

The Softer Side to 420

Page 13

The End of the Secret Stoner

Page 25

A New Dawn for ECS

Page 29

FREE

Locally Owned And
Published In Maine

April | May 2026



MarijuanaVille
MAINE

MUST BE 18 W/ A MED CARD - CGR#25709

ALFRED - AUGUSTA
BANGOR - WINSLOW
GARDINER - NEWPORT
READFIELD - UNITY
WATERVILLE - WILTON
LEWISTON - ORLAND
AND ELLSWORTH

1G PRE-ROLLS 30 FOR \$100
1.5G PRE ROLLS 6 FOR \$40
7G BALLER DAB JARS FOR \$50
1G DABS FOR ONLY \$10
\$40 OZ OF FLOWER
1G CARTS FOR \$15 or 10 for \$100
400 MG CANDY BARS FOR \$20
THCA DIAMONDS FOR \$10
FREE MED CARDS
OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK
365 DAYS A YEAR

Cannabis Crafted with Purpose

Clean | Consistent | Designed for Your Lifestyle



At **The Maine Lab**, we believe cannabis should work as hard as you do — supporting balance, clarity, and a modern lifestyle.

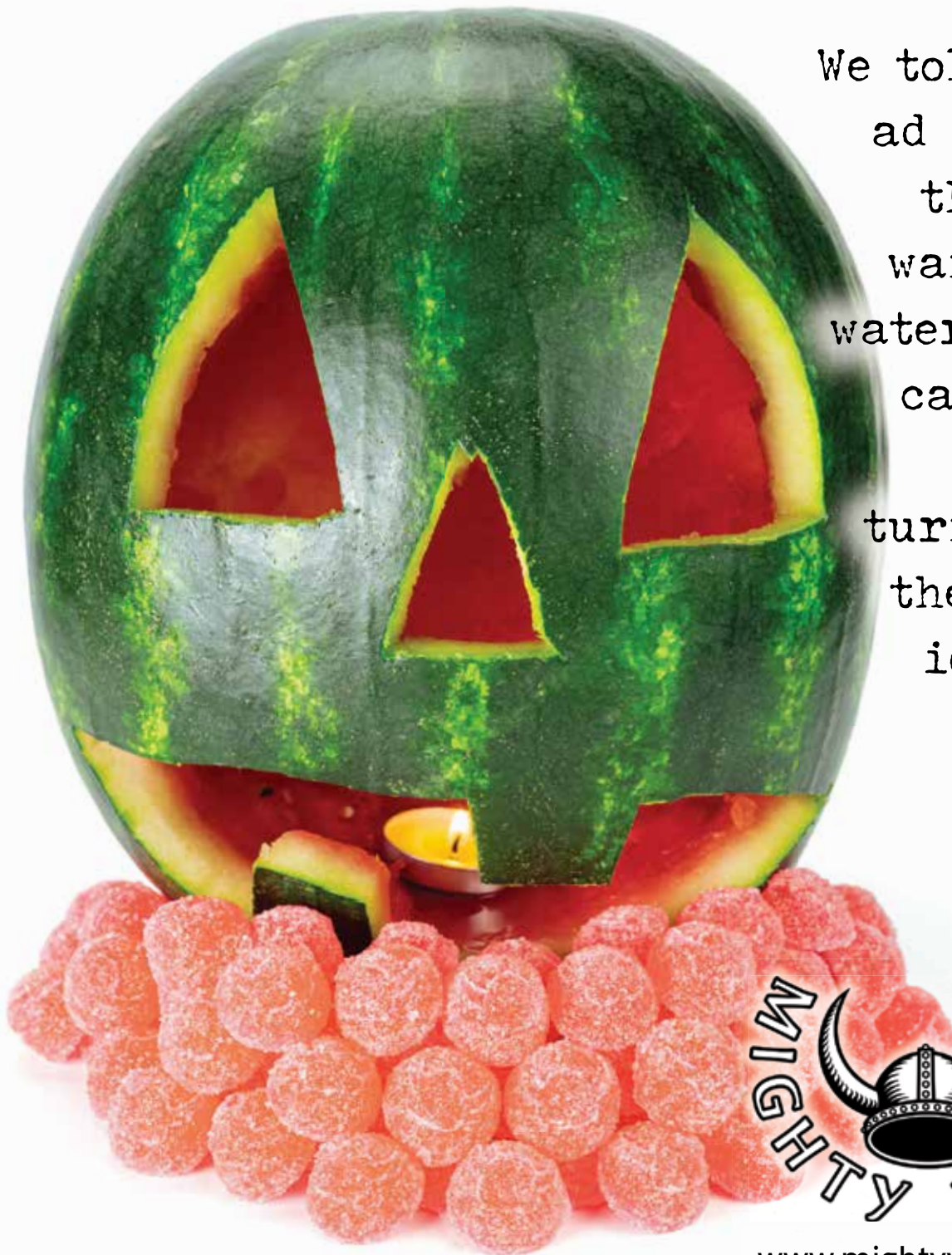


Scan to see what 4/20 means to us.

THE MAINE LAB

SOUR WATERMELON GUMMIES

We told our
ad people
that we
wanted a
watermelon
carving,
and it
turns out
they are
idiots...



www.mightyviking.com

FEATURES

VOLUME 5- ISSUE 2 - APRIL | MAY 2026

7 **420 Ways to Get High** by Jeff Cutler



13 **The Softer Side of 420** by Beverly Ann Soucy

25 **The End of the Secret Stoner** by Jonathan Strieff

29 **A New Dawn for ECS** by Dr. Eric Mitchell

36 **Legal Section** by AJ Harrington



*This product is proudly printed in
Lewiston, Maine at:*



PUBLISHER
Jodi Cornelio

**CONTENT
COORDINATOR**
George McGregor
gmcgregor@turnerpublishing.net

DESIGNER
Brett Bannister
bbannister@turnerpublishing.net

SALES
George McGregor
gmcgregor@turnerpublishing.net

Kathlene Clarke
kathlene@turnerpublishing.net

Jessica Mason
jess@turnerpublishing.net

Glenn Bechard
glenn@turnerpublishing.net

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

Beverly Ann Soucy

Jonathan Strieff

Jeff Cutler

Eric I. Mitchell

A.J. Harrington

Proofreading by Glenn Bechard &
Robin Robertson

ccme@turnerpublishing.net
cannabisconnectionsmaine.com
www.turnerpublishing.net

Craft Maine Beer, Wine & Spirits features content about beer, wine, spirits, and alcohol-related products and information. In addition, the magazine features articles, political editorials, legal information, and news relevant to the craft industry. All content within our publication and on our website is for educational and entertainment purposes only and should not be considered personal, legal, or medical advice. Both the printed publication and website are intended for those over the age of 21. In the state of Maine, alcohol is intended for use by those 21 and older. If consuming, please keep out of the reach of children. The Publisher assumes no responsibility for the advertisements within this publication. We strive to ensure the accuracy of the information published. The Publisher cannot be held responsible for any consequences which arise due to errors or omissions. Reproduction in whole or in part is strictly prohibited. All rights reserved.

HAPPY 420



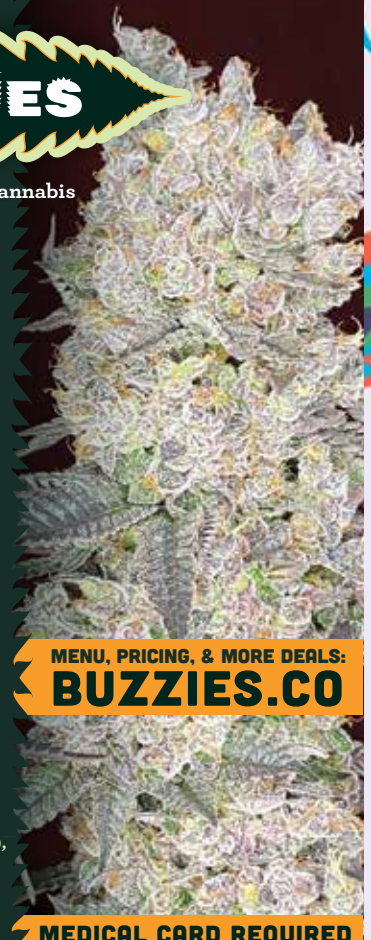
Cultivators of Coveted Cannabis

THE BEST FOR YOUR **BUZZBUCK!**

PRICES STARTING AT

- Flower \$60 / oz
- All of April: \$15 / 8TH
- Prerolls \$5 / GRAM
- Dabs \$10 / GRAM
- Edibles \$1.50 / 10 MG

50+ STRAINS OF ONLY IN-HOUSE SOIL GROWN ORGANIC FLOWER



MENU, PRICING, & MORE DEALS: BUZZIES.CO

Visit our store at:
432 RIVER ROAD ANSON, MAINE
OPEN 9AM - 6PM WED * THU * FRI * SAT
207.696.0009

a.k.a. Route 201A
& Open Sunday April 19, 10-3pm

MEDICAL CARD REQUIRED



MEDICAL CRAFT CANNABIS
FAMILY OWNED & OPERATED
PROUDLY SERVING THE MIDCOAST SINCE 2014
(207) 389-4442

Come see us on 4/20!
420 Specials & Giveaways
Mystery Bags & our famous 420 Raffle!

127 MAIN STREET, WOOLWICH MAINE 04579
INFO@FARLEYS-CANNABIS-FARM.COM
FARLEYS_CANNABIS ON INSTAGRAM



Blowin'
SMOKE

With Jeff Cutler

420 Ways to Get High

Treat Yourself

By Jeff Cutler



My birthday falls in April. In fact, my birthday is so **close to 420**, that you might think I came out of the womb in a puff of vapor. Or back then it was pure cannabis smoke — vapes weren't even on the drawing board yet.

Fast-forward many years and the pot landscape we're looking at has changed significantly. Not pointing out the obvious, but sharing some random thoughts that should help you enjoy your high this season.

First and foremost, most of the population here in Maine and elsewhere, spends money and time on birthday surprises

and gifts. Bearing that in mind, when it comes to cannabis gifts there might be too many.

While variety is the spice of life, having to make a decision when your mindset is ALL ABOUT avoiding heady decisions is hard. And when making choices about what to give, you'll invariably end up wondering what to buy for yourself.

And that's why the subhead is that you should treat yourself.

Essentially, I see the goal of cannabis in a person's life as a tool that can be used every day without harm. It can also



be used sparingly so you get great effects and still maintain a semblance of productivity.

Fundamentally, pot and all the ways you can consume and enjoy it, makes cannabis the magic fingernail clipper in your life. Stick with me, I know fingernails aren't sexy in many cases, and clipping of nails isn't a great way to build an **appetite for food or information**.

But it still fits. So let's get to trimming...

Start out with either your list of gift recipients or lay out the items you are willing to gift. This can include pot-related gear you bought and will not ever use; devices you weren't able to use or understand; containers for your stuff to keep it organized; and a **slew of cleaners** and random tools to keep sticky icky from getting all over you and your stuff.

As you might realize, there are a couple different types of people. In the larger universe, we group these people into **A and B categories**. A = good drivers; B= bad drivers. A=organized people; B=the disorganized masses. A=people willing to pay more for convenience; B=people who will smoke a roach they found in a sneaker that was in their pile of clothes to go to Goodwill.

I think we can agree, that if you fall into the B category, you are likely smarter and better looking than the A group. This is because the disorganized folks who are accepting of their foibles lead lives that have less stress.

Think about it. If you're in the A group, you have the **pressure of: parking between lines**; using your cannabis up in the order you purchased or grew it; making sure every bong/pipe/clip/cleaner/dab tool is free from residue and won't stick to your fingers, lip, desk, computer, cat, shoe or can of beer.

I know it sounds terrifying, but the best path is the relaxed one. Don't worry if you drop some **ash on the carpet**. Don't fret if you've just sucked in a piping hot kernel or THC distillate. Don't panic over where you left your lighter or your vape.

All these things shall pass. Spill on the carpet, make sure it's not on fire and then move along. Piping hot distillate — happens to everyone. Stop buying super-cheap carts or find a better way to store your stuff so it doesn't go through big temperature changes.

And finding your stuff after you've puffed, that's a challenge and it's OK. When you start to come down, you'll remember **where the pipe is** and you'll then be ready to puff again.

Let's bring this back a bit to gift giving; cannabis; friends; and Maine.

Here in **Maine, 420, or April 20**, is an event. It's not quite a holiday, but it's like a state-wide fair where most cannabis shops have a booth. So, if you're at a loss for ideas and maybe a little short on funds (because why buy pot just to give it away), here's how you can really make a splash without spending all your cash.

First, start planning your day. April 20 this year is on a Monday which has its own challenges, especially since COVID. Now, you can hardly go anywhere in Maine where some stores aren't open on Monday.

*Not pot stores, they're open as much as possible. But many restaurants and similar venues still have limited hours. In fact, here in Bath, ME, there are at least four downtown restaurants (we only have eight) that are not open every day. **Try watching Monday Night Football** (yes, 420 doesn't fall in the fall, but I'm making a point) at a bar if that bar doesn't open up on Mondays.

That's just one example. Essentially, I'm talking about the places you want to go after you've gotten a little attitude adjustment. Places like movies; theaters; restaurants; pubs; the gym; hiking; skiing, **boating, hunting** (though I think fishing is OK, hunting with guns isn't so good if you're high).

So, you've picked a spot or spots, now you should pick your people. Who do you spend time with regularly? Are these the same people who like to get high with you, or are they OTHERS. Do you have a cadre you can call for your 420 adventure this year, or will you go solo.

It's a big question...especially because getting high alone — even on 420 — is sort of sad. You want to share the fun. Firepits, tubing runs, surf casting, ATVing — each capture more of your passion and attention when you're sharing. **Oh, so back to the 420 fair!!**

Like a carnival or a fair, each store you visit on 420 will likely have free stuff, so be prepared. You can operate in pairs if you'd like — very efficient and two heads are better than one. Or if you go alone, just be sure to focus on the plan and don't get distracted by freebies that might (WILL) affect your decision making.

What I like to do, because I **mostly do the 420 drive alone**, is bring a cardboard beer bottle case with me. The sides are

higher than the can case, and it has flaps so you can fold it up and secure it. I put this box on the passenger floor of the car and then I set up Apple Maps.

Entering each cannabis store within a 30-minute radius is plenty. As you know, you can't even swing a lobster without hitting two or three pot shoppes. So, I punch in the locations, grab some water and snacks from the house, then set out around 10am.

As I've found in past years, the 420 events happen at various times, but hardly ever right at the opening gun. Many stores have



cannabis company reps come by to talk with customers and give away schwag.

But these reps usually aren't around until later in the day, so do your regular shopping in the morning. Prices will be favorable and you will get your supplies all sorted before you dive into the adventure of **free 420 stuff**.

In no particular order, here's what I got last year from only visiting six cannabis stores. Five were medical, one was recreational...

Ceramic pipe

Silicone storage cases

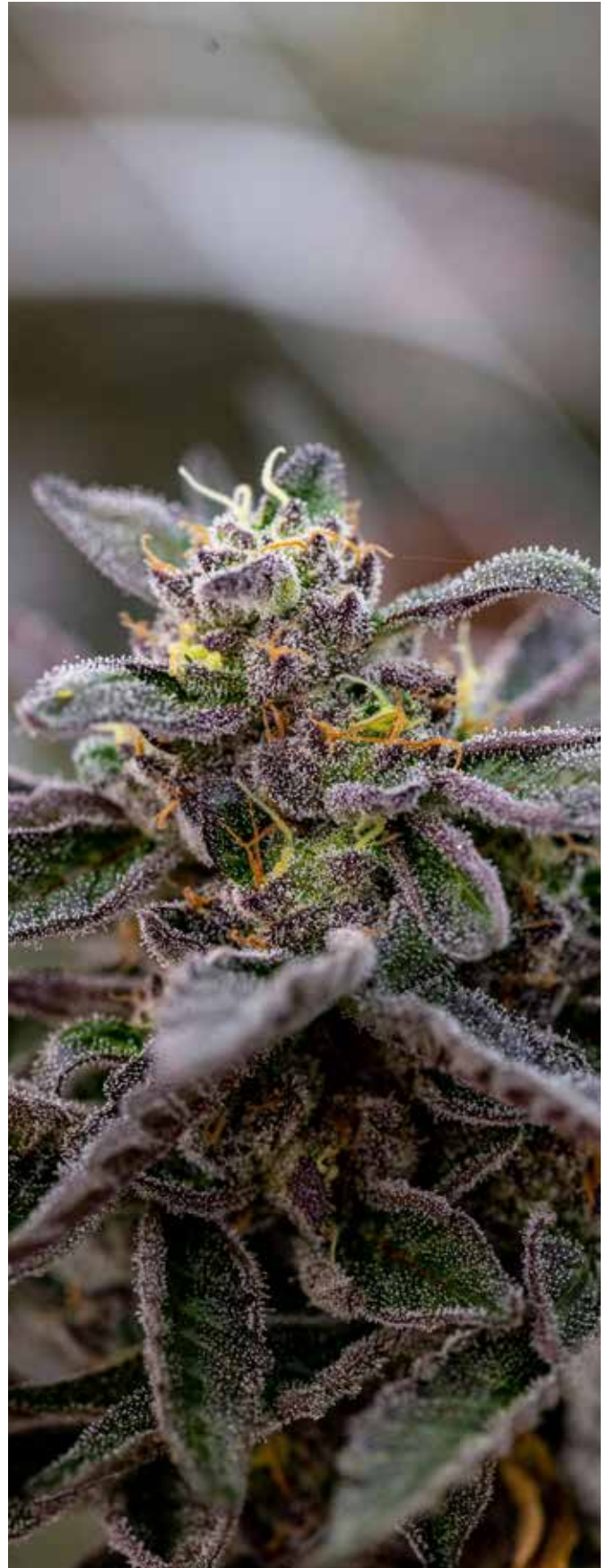
- **Dab tools**
- **Lanyards (I don't fully get these — my vapes always hang upside down and the distillate clogs)**
- **1/8 oz of flower**
- **1/4 oz of flower**
- **Tiny bong**
- **Lighter**
- **T-shirts**
- **Hats**
- **Smashburger**
- **THC drinks**
- **Doob tube**
- **and a lot more.**

When it comes right down to it, 420 isn't a holiday so much as it's a way of life. If you've already **got a little cannabis routine going**, you'll be able to capitalize on April 20 this year. Just set up a list of what you want; make a list of where to go (think about the best pot products you've gotten locally); then get a good night's sleep on 4/19 and hit the road early.

As I pointed out before, there are plenty of places to go. **Two final tips**, the major national retailers will have better giveaways and probably have more discounts and reps. Smaller places like Farley's other other independent stores will have super sales on stock that hasn't moved; AND they'll have a bunch of stuff from all their suppliers.

During your journey, you might not get to talk to company reps everywhere, but be assured the bud tenders you run into will be fully versed in making sure you have a good time.

I think that's all I've got to say on this today. See you again in a couple months — and definitely see you in the cannabis stores here in Maine — **from Kittery to Cutler**





HERBALIST

Corner

The Softer Side of 420

A Movement from the Shadows into the Sunlight

By Beverly Ann Soucy



Every April, just when the snowbanks in western Maine finally surrender and shrink back into the earth like tired old sheep, I start thinking about 4/20. Not the history of it, or the secret code words or the whispered stories from decades past where it all started for me. I think about the feeling of it all and what it means today for how far we have come for recognizing it for the medicinal plant that it is and how it has helped so many people for wellness and for a better quality of life.

Where I live, tucked in the folds of the mountains, not far from Sunday River and the long, winding sweep of Route 2, April for so many of us is a study in mud and hope for the next season of riding or hiking our trail system. The river runs high as the ice comes down from the mountains. The sap buckets come off the trees and Maple

Sunday celebrations are getting ready for community pancake breakfast celebrations. And something that I look forward to every single year as my personal sign of spring are the little purple and yellow crocuses as they push through stubborn still frozen ground as if they've got something to prove. And somewhere between tapping maple trees and arguing with your neighbor about whose plow did more damage to the mailbox, or how much was spent on heating oil, somebody says, "You doing anything for 4/20?" And just like that, a slow smile spreads and gets everyone thinking ahead for simple celebration and for what that day has meant.

For years, my own 4/20 celebrations were small and homespun. A few friends gathered around an old, round oak table in my kitchen. We were chefs and teachers and artists. Our gatherings often

involved intricate preparations for great meals. Someone would bring brownies that were suspiciously labeled “extra relaxing.” Someone else would bring a jar from their winter harvest, proud as if they’d raised the thing like a prize pumpkin at the fair and we would share multi-course meals accompanied by great bottles of wine we had saved specifically for the occasion. We would sit around that old oak table and talk about everything from politics to music and to who was getting married next.

Over time, as cannabis laws softened and storefronts popped up much like the dandelions in every New England town, I began to realize something bigger was happening. 4/20 wasn’t just a date on a counterculture calendar. It was becoming a global harvest festival of sorts, much less about rebellion and more about reverence, less about secrecy and having to be covert and more about forming community. And being the curious Maine woman I am, I started paying close attention to how the rest of the world marks the day as a marker for what I could bring to our own celebrations by way of something new and cultural. Here in the United States, of course, the celebrations are bold and varied and loud. We celebrate this day loudly for how far we have come for baring witness to the legality of cannabis. My friends in Colorado, hold an annual gathering at Civic Center Park in Denver that grows bigger and bigger every year, that has the feeling of a modern-day Woodstock with music playing on every corner and vendors line the sidewalks, the air fragrant with terpenes and optimism. And when you take a moment to look around, what you realize is that everyone is smiling. California brings its own sun-drenched flavor, especially at places like Hippy Hill in Golden Gate Park, where thousands gather under eucalyptus trees to share a collective exhale in a gathering that feels more like a Grateful Dead concert. But what tickles me most is not the scale of the events, it is the personality of each place that lends to the celebration. All so different but the same in the basic shared meaning of what this day actually means.

Here in New England, we do things a little differently. We are not known for flamboyance. We are known for flannel shirts, dungarees, and a great pair of boots and for having the season’s recreational toys to match for simply getting outdoors. Throughout New England dispensaries host educational seminars alongside their 4/20 specials where you might listen to a local grower talk about the importance of nutrients and soil, or listen to an herbalist speak to the medicinal values for all things wellness. Here in Maine the dispensaries hold parties and BBQ’s and incentives with lots of swag. I once attended one where a retired nurse gave a lecture on cannabinoid receptors with the kind of enthusiasm usually reserved for Patriots games and the next year I listened to a chef on an outside barbecue, surrounded by the last remnants of a late snowstorm, talking about cannabis-infused recipes while he was barbecuing up the best rib ribs, The swag? Was a full bag of goodies that included a sweatshirt and lighters, stickers and samples and we





left with not just a full belly but a sense of excitement. In Vermont, the celebrations lean towards the artisanal with small-batch growers showcasing craft flower like it's heirloom cheese. And in Portland, Maine, 4/20 can look like a yoga class followed by a farm-to-table dinner where every course is thoughtfully infused and carefully dosed. It is all very "us;" extremely practical and just a little bit earthy without being too overdressed. But step outside our borders and the story widens across the world. In Canada, where cannabis is federally legal, 4/20 feels almost civic. In cities like Vancouver and Quebec, the annual gatherings have long been a mixture of protest and party. Today, they feel like a coming-of-age celebration, an acknowledgment of a once forbidden plant that moved from the shadows to the storefront friends there say it isn't about testing limits at all, it is about honoring a freedom that came at a real cost. Across the Atlantic, the United Kingdom carries a much different tone. In London's Hyde Park, informal 4/20 gatherings still hold a whiff of rebellion. Cannabis laws remain strict, and so the celebrations there feel a bit like a whisper and a nudge. Thousands of people quietly (and not so quietly) assembling in solidarity. It reminds me of our own earlier days in New England, when conversations were hushed with secret code words whispered on the down low and where doors were double-checked after entering. In Spain, however, 4/20 can take on a more relaxed Mediterranean rhythm. Cannabis social clubs are private, member-based spaces that offer a community-centered approach. I've spoken with a woman from Barcelona who described 4/20 there as "like a neighborhood block party, only with better snacks." Members gather together and share their many different strains, discuss cultivation techniques, share elaborately carved pipes and treat the plant with an almost culinary respect. And then there's Amsterdam. Now, Amsterdam on 4/20 is not what many Americans imagine. Yes, the coffee shops are pretty lively and yes, tourists arrive in droves to partake in the celebrations often with a preconceived notion that the sky is the limit. But there's something surprisingly calm about it. The Dutch have had decades to integrate cannabis into daily life. So 4/20 there while it is not explosive; it's definitely steady. It feels less like Mardi Gras and more like a well-attended birthday party for an old friend. Further south, in places like Uruguay, which we rarely if ever hear about, and for those of you who don't know, was the very the first country to fully legalize cannabis nationwide. The celebrations there are quietly profound. A Uruguayan journalist friend once described it to me as "a reminder of autonomy." The ability to cultivate at home and the freedom to purchase through regulated channels changed the entire country for the better. And in that country the word freedom means everything. While it was a big shift from criminalization to control, their 4/20 celebrating is less spectacle, more sovereignty, and yes, well-earned for setting an example to the world. Even in parts of Australia and New Zealand, where laws are still evolving, 4/20 carries a hopeful undercurrent. Festivals combine live music, activism, and education on the different strains and for treating



various ailments with plant medicine. There is an insistence on responsible use, on harm reduction, on bringing cannabis out of stigma and into sunlight right where it belongs as a valuable plant medicine.

And perhaps that is what ties all these celebrations together: the movement from shadow to sunlight. Back here in Maine, I see that shift most clearly in the faces of older folks who never imagined they'd walk into a dispensary without looking over their shoulder. I've met Vietnam veterans who use cannabis for chronic pain and PTSD, grandmothers who prefer a low-dose edible to a glass of wine, and young entrepreneurs who speak of terpenes the way sommeliers speak of tannins. 4/20 has become a tapestry of stories. Last year, I hosted a small 4/20 supper at my home. I set the table with my grandmother's china and created a menu that celebrated the plant without overpowering the meal. A citrus salad with a hemp-seed vinaigrette. Herb-roasted chicken (no infusion

there, just respect for flavor). A lavender-lemon tart with a carefully measured cannabis-infused honey drizzle. Before dinner, we each shared a story about our first encounter with cannabis. My own was the last day of school my junior year at a third floor apartment of a friend's older sister. Some were awkward, others were hilarious. One friend confessed she thought you were supposed to swallow the smoke. Another recalled hiding in a fishing shack on Moosehead Lake, convinced the game warden could smell them from three counties away and remembering when joints were fifty cents way back in the old days. We laughed until we cried. But we also talked about how much it has all changed and the fact we are all here to witness legalization, never imagining that we would live to see it all. How legalization in many U.S. states has reduced arrests, the tax revenues support schools and infrastructure and how the research is finally catching up to anecdote. And in all of that I thought about the women, especially. Globally, more women are entering the cannabis industry not just as cultivators, but as chemists, marketers,





educators, and herbalists as well as for finding an alternative for getting away from the alcohol culture as a way to cope with everyday stress. In Maine alone, I know several female growers who approach their plants with the same attentiveness they give their vegetable gardens. They speak softly to their seedlings and keep track of humidity like it's a sacred metric. They understand that cannabis, like any living thing, responds to love and care. In countries like Colombia and Thailand, where cannabis laws have recently shifted, women are stepping into leadership roles in cultivation and export. It's not just an economic shift; it's cultural. A plant long associated with male-dominated spaces is being re-imagined through a more inclusive lens. And that makes me hopeful. Because 4/20, at its best, is not about excess. It's about expression and about acknowledging a plant that has been medicine, sacrament, scapegoat, and symbol for as long as we can remember. It's about recognizing the communities harmed by prohibition and supporting equity in legalization. It's about education and understanding dosage, respecting potency,

and advocating for responsible use not just for the high, and for seeking wellness far removed from the pharmaceutical industry. It is also, quite frankly, about joy. There is something disarming about watching a group of adults giggle over a board game, or wax poetic about the flavor notes in a particular strain much like a wine tasting. ("I'm getting pine," someone will say. "No, definitely citrus with a hint of berries.") It softens us all and reminds us not to take ourselves too seriously. In a world that feels increasingly sharp-edged, 4/20 offers a day of collective softness and a way to de-stress that is far removed from drinking alcohol to unwind at the end of a particularly stressful day. Of course, it's not without complexity. Around the world, cannabis laws remain uneven. In some countries, possession still carries severe penalties that range from ten years imprisonment to simple misdemeanors. In others, commercialization has outpaced regulation. The global cannabis landscape is a patchwork quilt, as is our own country, bright in some squares, threadbare in others. But even in places



Council Office
Community Centre

Bankie Park

↑ ↑ ↑

Bankie Park





where the celebration must remain quiet, the spirit persists. A friend in Japan once told me that 4/20 there is almost entirely online private gatherings, secret, coded language, a digital nod to a global community as it isn't legal to partake in that country, with punishments that could lead to ten years in prison, but it doesn't mean they cannot celebrate the day with a glimmer of hope for the future. In parts of Eastern Europe, small groups meet discreetly in apartments, sharing not just cannabis but conversations about reform and what it could mean.

And so the celebration becomes not just about the plant, but about connection. As for me, this April 20th, I plan to start the day the way any self-respecting Maine woman would: with strong coffee and a walk down to the river, those days of smoking joints as a wake n bake start to the day left behind long ago... I'll notice how the ice has finally let go. I'll breathe in that damp, earthy smell that only spring can produce and later in my morning, I'll stop by a local dispensary, one owned by a family I've known for years to ask about their newest strain, listen to their recommendations, maybe pick up something bright and terpy to gift to my friends who still partake. And later in the evening, we'll gather again around that old table for a home cooked meal. There we will share laughter and stories, good food and music. And then there will be a moment right around 4:20 p.m., because tradition matters. When we pause, look at one another, and acknowledge how far we've come from the days

of the Mexican brick back in the seventies and pot brownies that still held stems and seeds. From the days of buying joints for fifty cents up the path with whispered secret codes to open conversation to today where you can walk into a shop and find the perfect strain for enhancing the day. So much has changed. 4/20 has grown up. It is no longer just a counter-cultural wink. It is a global dialogue about wellness, autonomy, business, justice, and lastly, peace of mind. It is farmers tending carefully monitored crops. It is business owners making a great living. Scientists mapping cannabinoids. Chefs experimenting with infusions. Legislators debating policy. Grandmothers choosing gummies over gin. And somewhere in all of that, it is still what it always was: people gathering together sharing something that makes them feel a little lighter far away from the day to day grind.

As the sun sets over the western Maine mountains where my little home sits and the peepers begin their evening chorus, I am reminded that celebration does not have to be loud to be meaningful. Sometimes it is as simple as a circle of friends, a well-set table with locally grown food, and the understanding that we are part of something larger than ourselves. A once forbidden medicinal plant that crossed oceans is now a movement that crosses borders. A day that, once hidden, now celebrates in plain sight. And if you ask me, that is worth celebrating here in New England, across old England, and all around this wide, wonderfully complicated world.



Are We Fighting Illicit Grows, or Reinforcing Prohibition?

By Kristi Shaw, Vice President of MMCM

Every few years, Maine hears the same concern: “illicit grows.” And almost every time, the policy response leans in the same direction — more regulation, more tracking, more oversight of the legal market.

But it’s worth asking a harder question: Are we addressing illegal activity effectively — or are we layering prohibition-era thinking onto a system that’s supposed to have moved beyond prohibition?

Cannabis is legal in Maine. Patients rely on it. Small businesses have built livelihoods around it. The cannabis industry supports their communities, pays taxes, employs thousands, follows canopy limits, keeps records, and submits to inspections. And yet, cannabis remains federally illegal. That conflict has real world consequences.

Even as state markets become normalized, federal prohibition still shapes how cannabis is treated - as something inherently suspect, requiring extraordinary control. That mindset often leads to regulatory responses that go far beyond what we see in other forms of agriculture or small business.

When illegal grows make headlines, the instinct is often to tighten compliance rules on those who are already licensed. Add another reporting layer. Mandate another tracking tool. Increase documentation. Require participation in a single state-selected software system.

Illicit operators, by definition, are not following all the rules. They aren’t complying with canopy limits. They aren’t submitting reports. They aren’t following state rules or paying taxes. They’re using illegal pesticides and taking cannabis across state lines.

So we have to ask: Is increasing regulatory pressure on

compliant caregivers the most effective way to deal with those operating outside the law?

Maine’s medical caregiver program was built around small-scale, locally accountable businesses. Maine is nationally recognized to have the best caregiver program in the country, with some of the best craft cultivators in the world. These operators already face inspections, plant limits, and detailed record-keeping requirements. Each additional mandate increases administrative burden and operating costs - costs that affect small businesses more harshly than larger,

vertically integrated companies. When regulation

becomes too heavy, three things can happen:

Legal operators struggle to survive, barriers to entry rise, and the “illicit market” thrives. Ironically, measures intended to strengthen the legal market can weaken it.

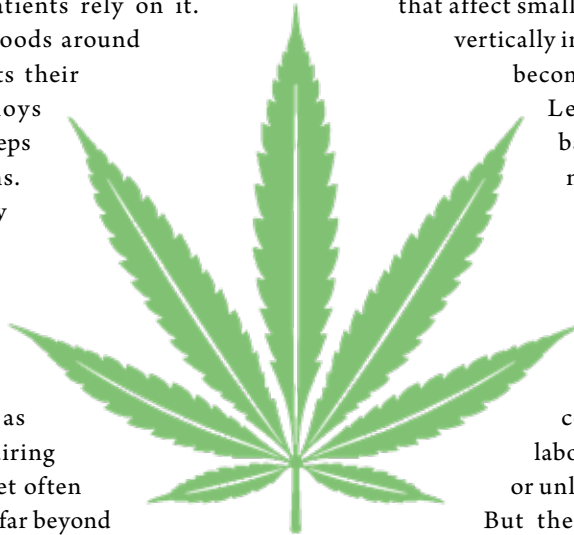
None of this means illegal activity should be ignored. It shouldn’t.

Targeted enforcement against people committing environmental violations, labor abuses, criminal enterprises, licensed or unlicensed, is appropriate and necessary.

But there’s a difference between focused enforcement and broad regulatory expansion rooted in prohibition-era suspicion.

If cannabis were treated fully as agriculture -like apples or blueberries - would we respond to illegal orchards by intensifying digital tracking on licensed farms? Or would we focus directly on those breaking the law?

Maine has the opportunity to lead with proportional policy. The public conversation shouldn’t just be about how to regulate more. It should be about regulating wisely - in a way that recognizes cannabis is legal here, even if federal law hasn’t caught up. The real question isn’t whether oversight matters. It’s whether we’re still building policy around the shadow of prohibition, instead of the reality of legalization





LOOKING FOR AN ATM?

**Discover the Green Passion Difference:
ATM Solutions Tailored for Cannabis
Dispensaries**

**Green Passion ATM – is proudly Maine-
owned and operated**

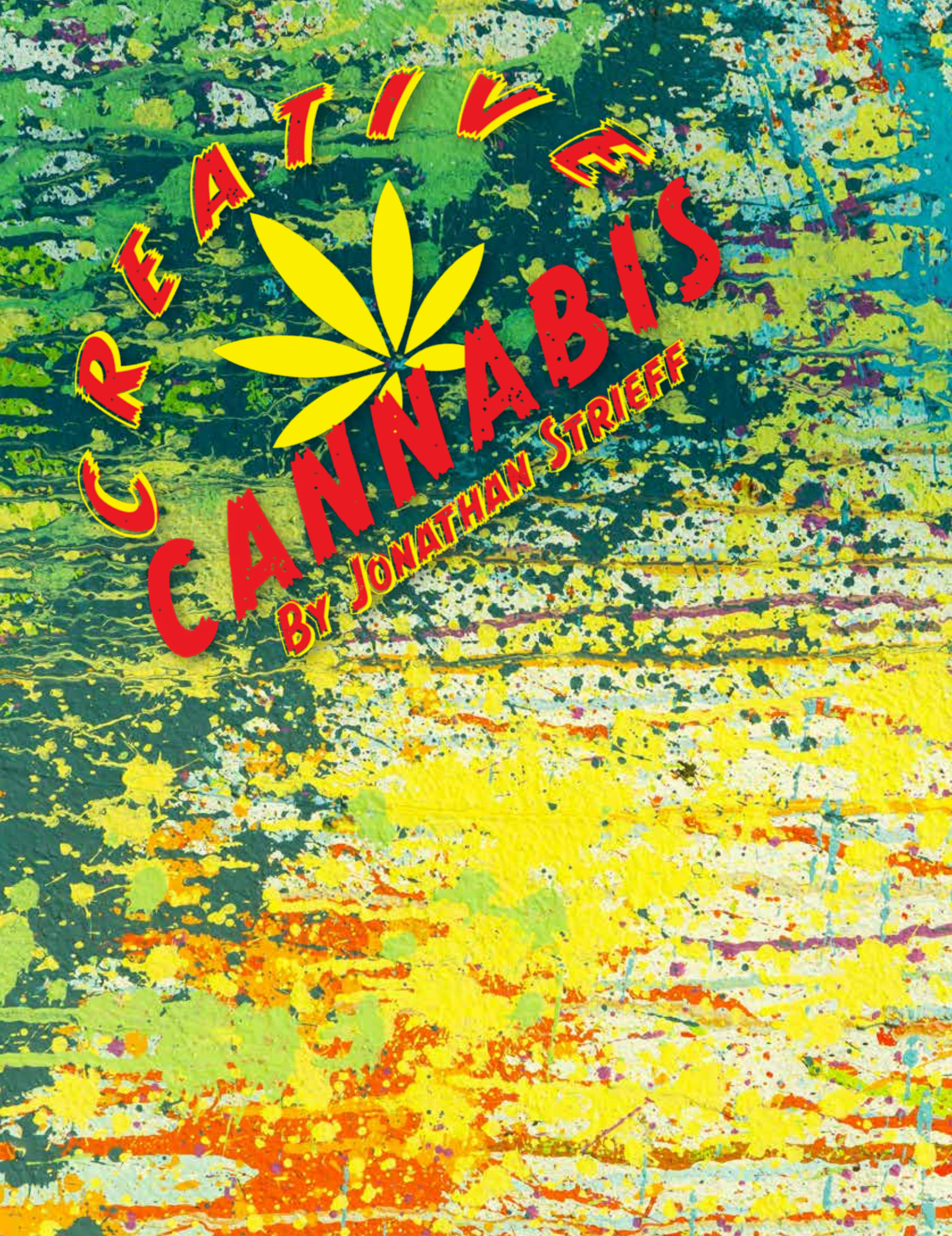
**We offer free ATM placement with a
straightforward profit-sharing model**

**Want to take more control? We also
offer options to help you own your own
ATM (No Credit Checks)**

Contact **Green Passion ATM
today for a free consultation**

CALL
207-380-9865
TODAY





CREATIVES
CANNABIS
BY JONATHAN STRIEFF

The End of the Secret Stoner

By Jonathan Strieff

The 1998 stoner cinema classic, “Half Baked,” introduced audiences to a long list of different categories of pothead. There was the, “MacGuyver Smoker,” who can improvise a bong out of any household object, and the “Scavenger Smoker,” who appears uninvited at every session but never has any weed of his own. Then, there was the father and son duo, shown hiding from each other while blowing smoke from adjacent apartment windows.

We call this kid the 'After School Special Smoker.' He spends all of his allowance on reefer. Thanks little buddy. In the next room, his father, an 'I'm 40 but I'm Still a Cool Smoker,' is toking up, trying to figure out a way to bond with his son. Isn't it ironic? Don't ya think?



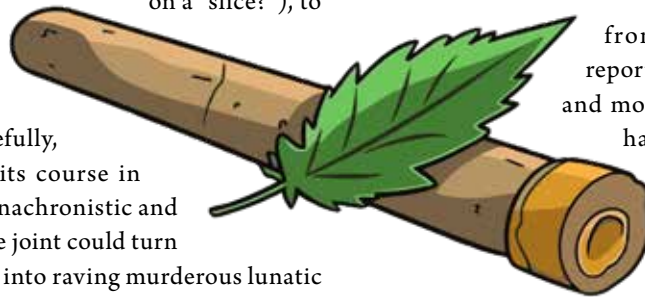
Many readers have likely been smoking for long enough to have transitioned from this first category of smoker to the second. Personally, I invested an embarrassing amount of mental energy as a teenager concocting convoluted schemes to keep my gram bags of brick schwag and chillum hidden from my mom. My challenges today are keeping my curious six-year old from stumbling into my jars of herb and glassware and coming up with noncommittal answers to her questions about the tall flowers in the garden. Weed is legal in Maine, and my daughter sees me drink a beer with dinner most nights but, after growing up steeped in prohibition propaganda, the idea of role modeling responsible cannabis use in front of her feels like low level child abuse.

But stigmas and stereotypes are changing at pace with each new state to legalize and each moratorium to fall. Anyone attempting to buy, sell, use or grow cannabis as recently as ten years ago, inevitably needed to navigate a complicated, sometimes torturously so, maze work of security culture. From asinine coded slang (anyone else ever spend \$30 on a "slice?"), to hidden stash compartments and secret smoke spots, not getting busted used to be as essential to getting high as the act itself. Hopefully, this trend will have soon run its course in society and quickly become as anachronistic and unrelatable as the notion that one joint could turn an otherwise upstanding citizen into raving murderous lunatic from the "Reefer Madness" days of the 1930's.

Nowhere is this transformation more pronounced than in the world of cultivation. Unlike any other home gardening guides, printed instructions for cannabis growing from the 80's and 90's typically dismiss as a nonissue the notion that a grower could possibly offer his or her plants the two things that guarantee a healthy crop; deep, rich soil and abundant sunshine. Instead, guides like Ed Rosenthal's *Growers Handbook* and Jack Herer's *The Emperor Wears No Clothes*, detail ways to force the plant to produce something while evading detection from nosy neighbors and law enforcement. Thankfully, the opportunity to come out of the closet with our plants has opened up previously unknown insights into the genetic potential of cannabis sativa L. The results have included decoding various flavor terpenes, understanding the endocannabinoid system to select strains for targeted relief of physical and psychological ailments, and pushing yields per plant into units of pounds instead of ounces.

The other major recent change in cannabis culture seems to be around representation. The assorted flavors of stoner that Dave Chappelle identified 30 years ago are all descendants of the dumb pothead characters pioneered by Pedro and the Man in "Up in Smoke." Absentminded, oblivious, self absorbed and singularly motivated by scoring more grass, this stereotype has persisted for decades and only now seems to be receding as a consequence of legalization. Even Towlie has been reimagined as a serious player in Colorado's Adult Use market.

While plenty of us turned out mostly ok, the research suggests that children probably shouldn't smoke weed. So, how then are parents meant to navigate "The Talk," in the post-prohibition landscape? Rapper Fatlip, in the 1992 song, "Pack the Pipe," asked insightfully, "He's looking through the window. Why we trying to hide it? So the boy can grow to be ignorant and misguided?" It's impossible to know how the cultural landscape will continue to shift as cannabis use becomes ever more widely accepted. It's entirely possible that Gens-Z, Alpha, and their followers will turn away



from weed altogether, like they reportedly have with alcohol, dating, sex, and most of the offline world. Advocates have long argued that legalization would eradicate the violence and corruption connecting weed with other illegal drug trades. It may have also done away with the sexy taboo that drew so many young people in to begin with.

Today, in an irony lost on no one, I am my own mom's dealer. She visits Maine every few months to see her granddaughter and leaves with a care package of flowers, tinctures, and assorted edibles. She, in turn, distributes the goods to all the neighborhood parents I had to sneak around in order to get high 25 years ago. I don't believe we were an exact copy of the father and son from "Half Baked" while I was growing up, but this kind of upheaval certainly changed my perspective on things. Is the whole world just sneaking around, hiding their cannabis use from each other? What kinds of rips would form in the fabric of society if no one had to pretend that they didn't smoke? I also have to wonder if all those times I got grounded for showing up home high if my mom wasn't just jealous and upset that I didn't think to share. Probably not, but who knows how things will change by the time my daughter is in high school.





A New Dawn for ECS: A New Chapter in Brain Health

By Eric I. Mitchell



*Eric I. Mitchell, MD MA FACPE
AAPL is president and medical director of Hemp Commodity Industries, LLC.*

Unlocking the Endocannabinoid System: A Natural Ally for Brain Health in Aging

As the baby boomer generation surges into retirement... America faces an unprecedented demographic shift. Approximately 350,000 Americans turn 65 each month... swelling Medicare rolls and straining a system already grappling with cognitive decline and falls—the leading cause of injury-related death among seniors. Studies indicate that roughly two-thirds of people over 70 experience some level of cognitive impairment... ranging from mild cognitive impairment... affecting about 22% of those 65 and older... to dementia... around 10% percent. These changes erode what we might call “brain-foot mapping”—the precise sensorimotor integration of proprioception... vestibular input... and motor reflexes that keeps us steady on our feet... and they slow neurosynaptic transmission essential for memory... cognition... hearing... breathing... and balance.

Enter the Endocannabinoid System... or ECS... a master regulator of homeostasis discovered in the 1990s. This lipid-signaling network... present in all vertebrates... modulates synaptic plasticity... inflammation... and neuroprotection across the brain and body. With the 2018 Farm Bill legalizing hemp—*Cannabis sativa L.* with less than 0.3% Delta-nine THC—research on phytocannabinoids has truly blossomed. The plant produces over 100 phytocannabinoids... with estimates reaching 140 or more when including variants... offering diverse tools to fine-tune the ECS. Emerging evidence suggests these compounds may help preserve cognitive sharpness... memory consolidation... and balance in aging brains... by supporting synaptic efficiency and curbing neuroinflammation.

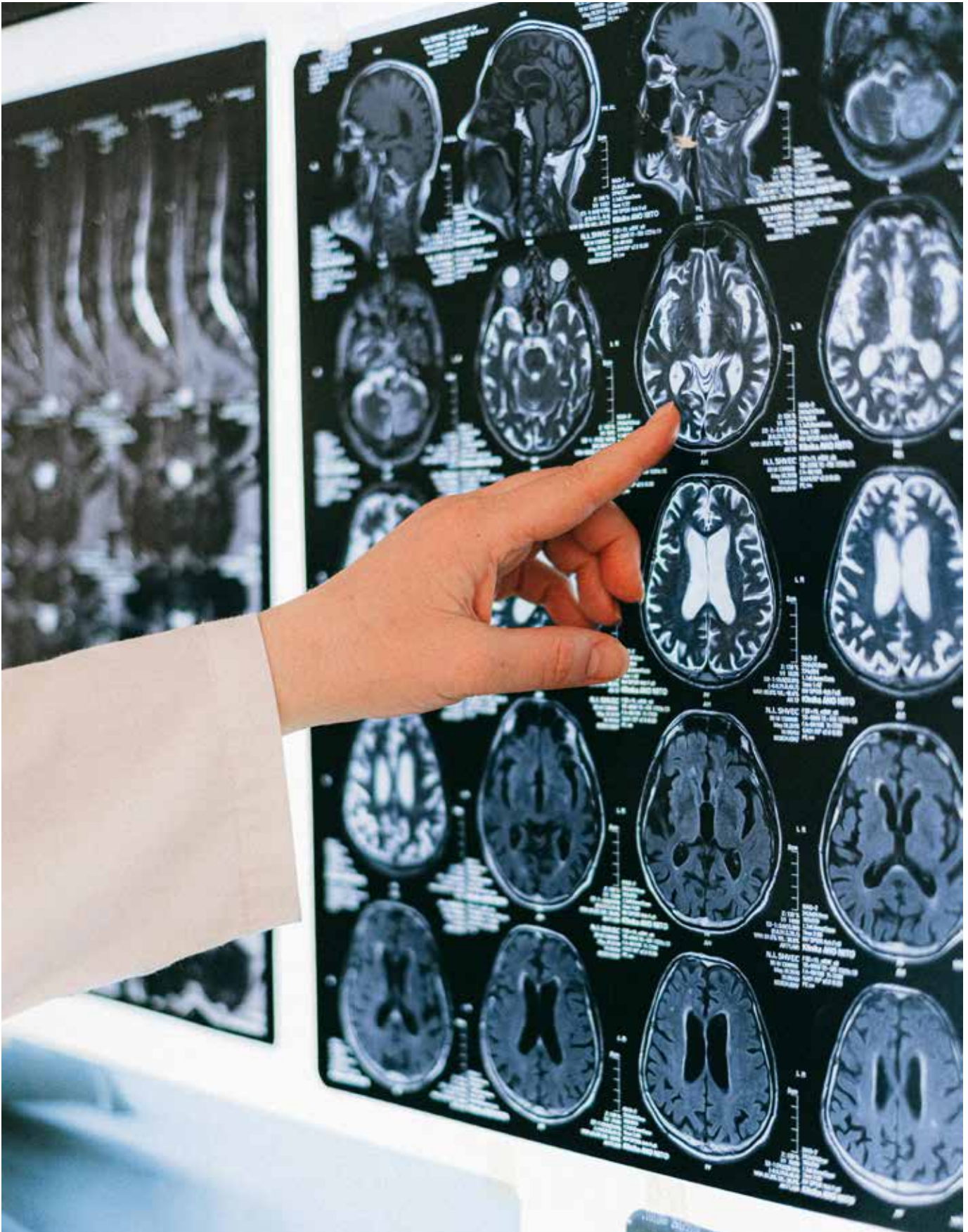
The Endocannabinoid System: Architecture and Brain-Wide Influence

The ECS comprises three core elements: cannabinoid receptors—primarily CB-1 and CB-2... endocannabinoids like anandamide... AEA... and two-arachidonoylglycerol... two-AG... and enzymes—FAAH and MAGL—that synthesize and degrade them on demand.

CB-1 receptors densely populate the central nervous system—highest in the hippocampus for memory... prefrontal cortex for cognition and executive function... cerebellum for motor coordination and balance... and basal ganglia. CB-2 receptors appear mainly on immune cells but upregulate in microglia during inflammation... offering neuroprotective potential.

In the mature brain... the ECS acts via retrograde signaling. Postsynaptic neurons release endocannabinoids that cross the synapse to bind presynaptic CB-1 receptors... suppressing excess neurotransmitter release—whether glutamate or GABA. This produces short-term effects like depolarization-induced suppression of inhibition or excitation... DSI and DSE... and longer-term depression... LTD... fine-tuning synaptic strength. Such plasticity underpins learning... memory formation... and adaptive responses. CB-1 activation also modulates dendritic excitability via hyperpolarization-activated currents... influencing network oscillations critical for cognition.

As we age... ECS tone naturally declines: CB-1 density drops... endocannabinoid levels fall—especially 2-AG in the hippocampus—and chronic low-grade inflammation... “inflammaging”... rises. This contributes to synaptic slowing... reduced neuroplasticity... and the erosion of brain-foot mapping—proprioceptive feedback from muscle spindles and joints processed through spinocerebellar tracts to the cerebellum. Result? Slower reflexes... poorer balance... and heightened fall risk. Phytocannabinoids from cannabis can modulate this system: THC acts as a partial CB-1 and CB-2 agonist... while CBD





functions as a negative allosteric modulator of CB-1... inhibitor of FAAH—raising anandamide—and anti-inflammatory agent via multiple pathways like PPAR-gamma... TRPV-one... and serotonin receptors.

**Cannabinoids and Cognition:
Neuroprotection Against Decline**

Cognition relies on prefrontal-hippocampal networks for executive function... attention... and decision-making. Aging erodes these via oxidative stress... amyloid-beta accumulation... and glial activation. Post-2018 studies highlight cannabinoids' promise here.

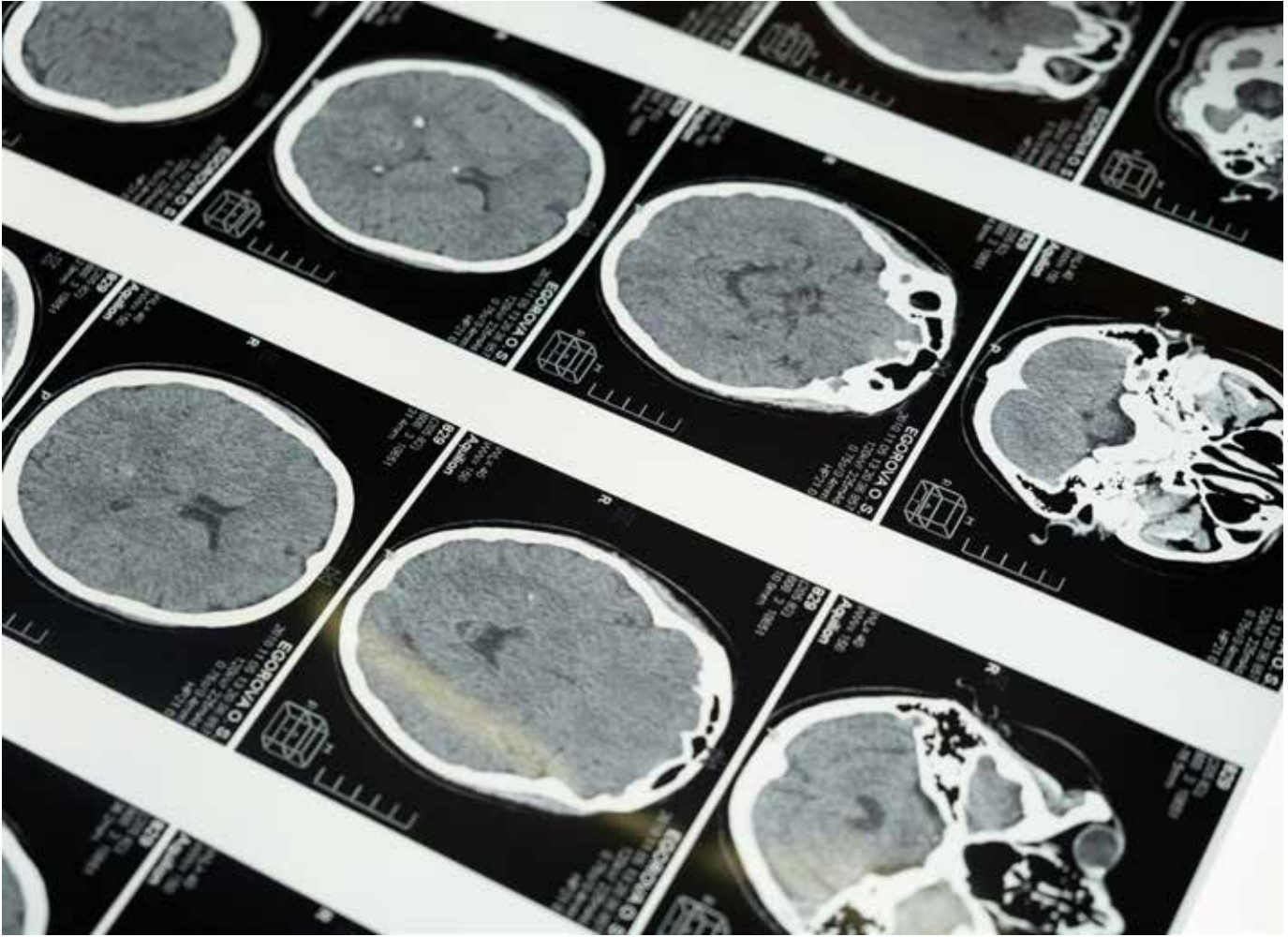
Recent research... including a 2026 analysis of over 26,000 adults aged 40 to 77 ... found that greater lifetime cannabis use was associated with larger brain volumes in key regions—like the hippocampus and caudate—and better performance in learning... processing speed... short-term memory... and executive tasks. Moderate use often showed the strongest links... suggesting protective effects in midlife and older adults... potentially through ECS-mediated reduction of inflammation... immune modulation... and support for neurogenesis.

In animal models... low-dose THC has restored hippocampal gene expression and synapse density in aged subjects... while CBD reduces amyloid-beta toxicity... promotes neurogenesis... and restores synaptic function. Small clinical trials... including those testing low-dose CBD or balanced THC-CBD oils in mild Alzheimer's... have shown stabilization of cognitive scores... like Mini-Mental State Examination... over months... with reduced agitation and neuroinflammation markers. No major side effects emerged in these low-dose regimens... though larger randomized trials continue to refine dosing and safety.

**Memory:
Fine-Tuning Hippocampal Synapses**

The hippocampus... rich in CB-1 on GABAergic interneurons... is ground zero for declarative and spatial memory. ECS-mediated LTD and DSI enable memory encoding and extinction—forgetting irrelevant fears. Age-related ECS decline impairs long-term potentiation... contributing to forgetfulness.

Low-dose THC has paradoxically improved memory-related gene pathways in aged models... and CBD indirectly boosts anandamide to support plasticity without psychoactivity. Observational data in dementia patients using synthetic THC...



like dronabinol... show reduced behavioral symptoms while stabilizing some cognitive domains. Hemp-derived cannabinoids thus offer a pathway to maintain the speed of neurosynaptic transactions essential for daily memory functions.

**Balance and Motor Reflexes:
Cerebellar and Proprioceptive Support**

Balance integrates proprioception—brain-foot mapping—vestibular signals... and visual input... orchestrated by the cerebellum... another CB-1 hotspot. Here... ECS modulates Purkinje cell inhibition and granule cell excitability... ensuring precise timing of motor reflexes. Aging slows these circuits via inflammation and reduced synaptic efficiency... increasing fall risk... which remains the number one killer for seniors.

While acute high-THC use can impair coordination—via cerebellar CB-1 overactivation... leading to increased sway and slower gait in some chronic users—targeted ECS modulation shows protective potential. CBD’s anti-inflammatory effects may preserve cerebellar synaptic health... and broader cannabinoid profiles...

including CBG or CBN... support proprioceptive feedback by reducing glial overactivation in sensorimotor pathways. Preclinical links tie ECS to spinocerebellar tract modulation... suggesting phytocannabinoids could reinforce daily mapping maintenance that often diminishes in retirement due to reduced activity.

Importantly... non-intoxicating hemp-derived options... like CBD-dominant products... minimize impairment risks... though caution is advised for those with fall history... as some studies note potential dizziness or gait changes with THC.

The 2018 Farm Bill Catalyst and Future Horizons

Before December 20th... 2018... federal restrictions stifled hemp research. The Farm Bill removed hemp from controlled substances... unleashing studies on CBD... CBG... CBC... and minor cannabinoids. This blossoming has connected ECS deficits to age-related synaptic slowing and validated cannabinoids’ multi-target actions: anti-inflammatory... antioxidant... and plasticity-enhancing.

Challenges remain: optimal dosing—microdoses or full-



spectrum?... ratios—CBD-dominant for seniors?... interactions with polypharmacy... and long-term safety. THC-dominant products risk cognitive side effects in vulnerable brains... while CBD appears well-tolerated. Regulatory clarity and larger RCTs are essential... with ongoing trials exploring cannabinoids for mild cognitive impairment and Alzheimer's progression biomarkers.

A Hopeful Path Forward

The ECS represents a profound evolutionary toolkit for brain resilience. With over 140 cannabinoids available from legal hemp... we now have unprecedented opportunities to support cognition... memory... and balance as 350,000 seniors monthly enter Medicare. By preserving synaptic reflexes... curbing inflammation... and maintaining cerebellar-proprioceptive

harmony... these compounds could ease the cognitive-decline burden that threatens to overwhelm healthcare.

Lifestyle remains foundational—exercise... Mediterranean diet... sleep... and social engagement amplify ECS tone naturally. Cannabinoids may serve as a complementary bridge. As research accelerates... personalized ECS modulation could help seniors not just survive longer... but thrive with sharper minds and steadier steps.

This is the dawn of a new chapter in brain health. More science will refine it... but the foundation is solid—and profoundly hopeful.

Eric I. Mitchell, MD



DISTRIBUTED TO OVER 300 LOCATIONS FROM KITTERY TO BANGOR

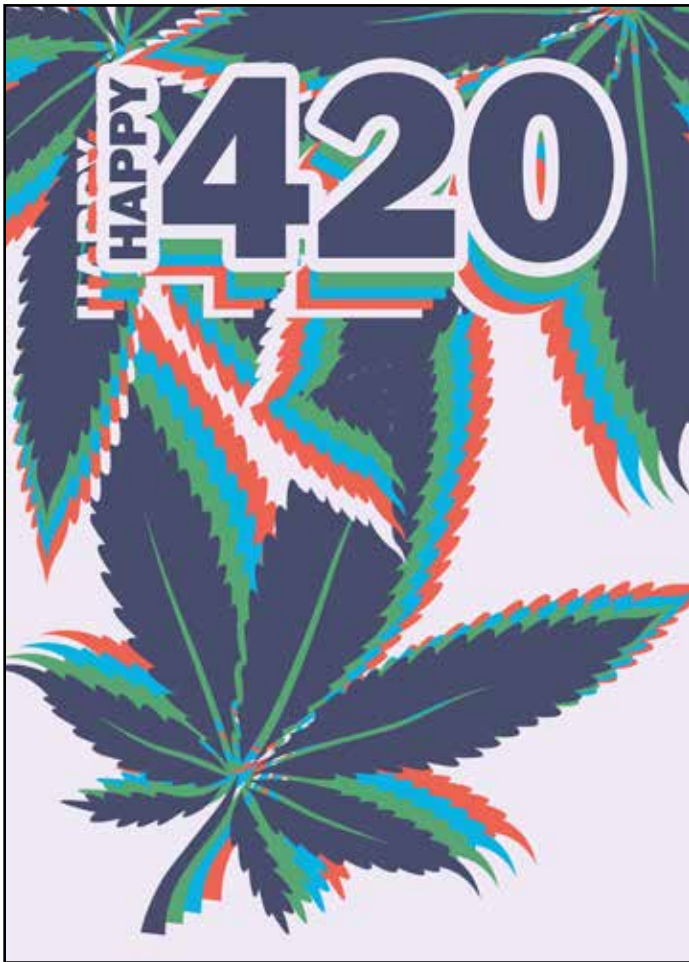
TURNER PUBLISHING IS A MAINE PUBLISHING COMPANY WITH OVER 30 YEARS OF PUBLISHING EXPERIENCE AND OVER 20 CURRENT PUBLICATIONS. CANNABIS CONNECTIONS OF MAINE MAGAZINE IS A DEDICATED, EDUCATIONAL RESOURCE FOR MAINE'S CANNABIS INDUSTRY. WE FEATURE THE INFORMATION YOU WANT TO KNOW AND THE BUSINESSES YOU WANT TO SEE. INTRIGUING INTERVIEWS, EDUCATION, TIPS FROM THE EXPERTS, BUSINESS PROFILES AND SO MUCH MORE!

- **Dispensaries**
- **Grow Supply Stores**
- **Vape Shops**
- **Smoke Shops**

D E A D L I N E S

FEBRUARY/MARCH.....	1/1
APRIL/MAY.....	3/1
JUNE/JULY.....	5/1
AUGUST/SEPTEMBER.....	7/1
OCTOBER/NOVEMBER.....	9/1
DECEMBER/JANUARY.....	11/1





MAINE CANNABIS EXPO'S
Save the dates!

📅 **SPRING SESSION**
MARCH 21ST & 22ND, 2026

📅 **SUMMER SESSION**
AUGUST 8th & 9th, 2026

Brought To You By:



✓ To stay informed about 2026 Vendor registration, which will open early in January, check the MMCM website

🌐 mmcm-online.org,

✓ Follow us on Instagram and Facebook @

📷 [mainecannabisexpo](https://www.instagram.com/mainecannabisexpo)

👤 [MMCMTradeAssociation](https://www.facebook.com/MMCMTradeAssociation)



WATCH FOR SPECIAL DEALS... COMING SOON!

MMCM Office 207-598-3501



SEACOAST SECURITY

Est. 1976

Proudly Serving Maine, New Hampshire & Vermont

Specializing In Compliant Security Solutions Within The Adult Use & Medical Cannabis Market For All Facility Types

- ✓ Intrusion Detection
- ✓ IP Video
- ✓ Access Control
- ✓ Fire Alarm
- ✓ Environmental Monitoring
- ✓ Inspections & Testing

Contact Us Today For a Complimentary Site Assessment & Proposal

1-800-654-8800
www.seacoastsecurity.com



24/7 Local Alarm Monitoring Center



TRUMP

Silence Follows Trump's Executive Order on Cannabis Rescheduling

By AJ Harrington

More than two months after President Donald Trump signed an executive order directing his administration to speed up a long-pending decision on federal cannabis rescheduling, no substantive progress has been made on the issue. The president signed the executive order on December 18, pitching it as a way to finally push the federal government to a decision on a proposal that would move cannabis from Schedule I to Schedule III.

The order also instructed federal agencies to tighten oversight of hemp-derived cannabinoids and improve access for researchers, setting the stage for a broader reset of federal cannabis policy. But since the day it was issued, there has been no public indication that DOJ or the Drug Enforcement Administration has taken any steps to carry it out. No rulemaking updates, no notices in the Federal Register, and no sign that the process is moving any faster than before the president signed the directive.

Silence Leads to Speculation

That silence has left lawmakers and advocates trying to read the administration's intentions on their own. Some remain hopeful that the order will eventually translate into action. Others see the lack of visible progress as a reminder that federal cannabis policy can remain stuck even when the White House says it wants movement.

In February, Ohio Rep. David Joyce told Marijuana Moment that he isn't sure if cannabis policy reform is a priority for the Trump Administration. Despite the uncertainty, however, the co-chair of the Congressional Cannabis Caucus said that he and members of the bipartisan group will be prepared to make progress on reform when the "opportunity does present itself."

"I think it's important to make sure when the opportunity does present itself, we're ready to go," said Joyce, adding that he is encouraged that Trump has been "pretty forward on it."

"Given the opportunity and the timing, I think we can do it," Joyce said.

Cannabis policy reform advocates outside of Congress, however, have criticized the Trump administration's failure will make significant progress on the issue. After the president failed to mention the cannabis rescheduling proposal and his executive order to expedite the process during his February State of the Union address, Adam Rosenberg, chairman of the National Cannabis Industry Association, said that Trump had missed an opportunity to move the needle forward.

"Tonight's address missed an opportunity to highlight a major gap between federal policy and state law. Nearly every state has legalized cannabis in some form, yet federal rules continue to create uncertainty for legitimate operators," Rosenberg said in a statement from the group. "The industry has heard promises before, including support for rescheduling. What's missing is delivery. Federal inaction continues to punish state-legal businesses with punitive tax treatment and banking barriers, while the illicit market operates without consequence. That imbalance is unsustainable."

Paul Armentano, deputy director of the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws (NORML), says he sees little chance that the Trump administration will substantially change cannabis policy through rescheduling. He told Salon that he expects the rescheduling process to take years or perhaps longer.

"I've been on the record for the last three years or so, making it very clear that this is designed to be a very long and drawn-out process," Armentano said. "When you look back historically at previous rescheduling petitions, of which there have been numerous ones, they have all taken many years until they've reached their resolution. And in fact, the longest rescheduling petition, which was filed by NORML in 1972, was not resolved until 1994. So we're talking a span of multiple decades from the initiation of that petition until its conclusion."

"If parties want to drag this process out, the mechanisms exist within the administrative process that allow them to do so nearly indefinitely," Armentano said. "Again, that's not a bug. That's the way the process was designed."



U.S. Basketball Player With Crohn's Fears Dying In Indonesian Prison

By AJ Harrington

Nearly a year after he was spared a possible death sentence over cannabis gummies in Indonesia, American professional basketball player and Crohn's patient Jarred Shaw now fears for his health as he faces untreated infections behind bars. His 26-month sentence spared him from Indonesia's harshest punishment, but Shaw and his Kansas City-based negotiator, criminal justice advocate Donte West, warn that untreated Crohn's complications and three active infections could still turn his case into a death sentence.

In an interview via WhatsApp, Shaw, who was playing basketball in Indonesia for the Tangerang Hawks before he was arrested, says his health has taken a turn for the worse since his arrest last year.

"Currently, it's not the best. It's not good, actually," he says, referring to his health. "I have three active infections right now."

"I might make it look easy, but it's not," he adds.

Cannabis Gummies Delivery Leads To Arrest

Shaw was arrested by Indonesian authorities in May 2025 after he received a package of CBD gummies, which he used to treat his condition, from Thailand. Maintaining the gummies contained THC, authorities charged Shaw with drug trafficking, an offense punishable by death in Indonesia, a nation with some of the world's harshest drug laws.

When West, who spent a year in a U.S. prison for a cannabis conviction, heard about Shaw's case and that he faced the death penalty, he decided to help him. After U.S. cannabis prisoner advocacy groups declined to take up Shaw's case, West flew to Indonesia to see how he could help as an advocate and negotiator.

Once in the Southeast Asian nation, West connected with Shaw's attorneys and local officials. Working with the ball player's legal team, West shared details about Crohn's disease and the lack of proper treatment in prison with court officials. With the trial underway, Shaw's advocates persuaded the court to allow the former Utah State and Oklahoma State ball player to be examined by a medical specialist outside the prison. After his exam, the specialist confirmed that Shaw has Crohn's disease, reporting that he has three active infections that seriously threaten his health

and could be life-threatening.

West says U.S. embassy staff characterized Shaw's outside doctor visit as "extraordinary," making him the first American to receive that kind of specialist care while in Indonesian custody.

After taking his condition into account, the presiding judge cleared Shaw of the drug trafficking charges. But he was found guilty of drug possession and given a sentence of more than two years behind bars.

"He was the first American in history to be transported to a Crohn's disease specialist, and then they saw he was very sick and recommended him to be hospitalized," West says during the three-way WhatsApp call. "And then they said, 'No, we're gonna give you 26 months in prison.'"

American's Health Deteriorates As He Languishes In An Indonesian Prison

News of Shaw avoiding the death penalty made news in outlets including High Times. But 11 months into his 26-month sentence, prison life is taking its toll on Shaw. He's lost 40 pounds since his arrest, which he attributes to his disease and the poor conditions in prison.

"The place I'm in is not the best. It's not really sanitary. The food is not very clean," he says, adding "It's pretty much fried fish and rice, so it's not really a nourishable place."

Prison doctors have told Shaw they are not able to treat Crohn's disease in the facility, leaving him without the medical care he needs. Unsure about his chances of surviving another 15 months behind bars, West and Shaw's legal team are hoping authorities will end his incarceration so he can be treated by experienced specialists.

"I was facing the death penalty. We got it down to 26 months," says Shaw.

"I'm grateful to get the 26 months, but my biggest concern now is my health, with me still having the active infections and me not being able to get the proper treatment that I need."

Advocates Call For Action From US Officials

West says he has sent a detailed packet of information about Shaw's case to the U.S. State Department. They are urging Secretary of State Marco Rubio and U.S. Ambassador to Indonesia Peter Haymond to intervene on Shaw's behalf and call on Indonesian authorities to grant parole and deport Shaw back to the United States.

Shaw's case illustrates how the laws of many nations have failed to recognize the value of medical cannabis and the risks for patients traveling to jurisdictions with severe drug laws. And as he waits for compassionate release, the outcome could influence how future patients are treated if they run afoul of the law.

"Jarred's case is going to help so many other people that get into this similar situation," West explains.

"He will be case law for people that come into similar situations from America or whatever country they come from into Indonesia, just by him avoiding the death penalty."

New Bill In Congress Seeks to Postpone Hemp THC Ban

By AJ Harrington

An Indiana congressman has introduced legislation to delay the ban on hemp THC products approved as part of a spending bill that ended last year's government shutdown. Republican Rep. Jim Baird filed the legislation (H.R. 7010) on Monday, according to a report from cannabis news outlet Marijuana Moment. Congress adopted the ban on hemp products such as delta-8 THC and THCA as part of an appropriations bill that ended the 2025 federal government shutdown in November. The provisions, which also change the definition of hemp under federal law, are scheduled to go into effect one year after passage of the funding bill.

The hemp provisions of the appropriations bill ban products containing more than 0.4 milligrams of delta-9 THC per package. The legislation changes the definition of hemp as legalized by the 2018 Farm Bill, which allowed all products with no more than 0.3% delta-9 THC by dry weight.

Hemp THC Ban Threatens The Industry

Critics say the legislation threatens the \$28 billion hemp industry with extinction. If passed, Baird's bill would delay implementation of the hemp THC ban until 2028.

The two-page measure simply states that "Section 781 of the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agency Appropriations Act, 2026 is amended, in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking '365 days' and inserting '3 years.'" "Planting and growing crops requires planning well in advance," Baird said in a press release on Tuesday. "Congress created a regulatory environment in the 2018 Farm Bill that allowed for certain investments, and farmers were operating within this environment. The hemp provision included in the Continuing Resolution and Appropriations bills passed in November 2025 disrupted planting decisions that had already been made."

"Congress should not have passed such a sweeping policy change that upends a growing industry," the lawmaker added. "Instead, Congress should have given farmers more time, creating a more stable environment for farmers to modify their future planting decisions. I am proud to introduce this legislation to ensure farmers have predictability and sufficient time to adjust to new laws that affect

their livelihood."

Co-Sponsors Back Bipartisan Legislation

Four co-sponsors have so far added their names to the bipartisan legislation, including Republican Reps. James Comer of Kentucky, Colorado's Gabe Evans, and Tim Moore of North Carolina, as well as Minnesota Democratic Rep. Angie Craig.

"This common-sense extension gives farmers and America's hemp industry the time they need to adapt while Congress works to establish a clear, reasonable regulatory framework," Comer, the chair of the House Oversight and Accountability Committee, said in a statement.

"Recent changes to hemp production and processing regulations pulled the rug out from under Minnesota's hemp producers, craft brewers, and retailers at a time when too many business owners are already dealing with high prices and uncertainty," said House Agriculture Committee Ranking Member Craig. "I'm proud to be introducing this common-sense legislation with my colleague Rep. Baird to fight these ill-thought-out policies and support the farmers and small business owners who make up Minnesota's \$200 million hemp industry."

Industry Backs Bill To Pause Hemp THC Ban

Baird's bill is also supported by leading hemp advocates. Jonathan Miller, general counsel for the trade group the U.S. Hemp Roundtable, says that the legislation has broad support among hemp operators.

"The entire hemp industry is united behind passage of HR 7024," Miller writes in an email. "A two-year extension of the hemp moratorium is critical to provide farmers certainty concerning their 2026 crops and to provide an appropriate runway to allow for the passage and implementation of a robust regulatory framework for hemp products."

"This two-year extension gives farmers the certainty they need to make planting decisions with confidence," Justin Swanson, president of Midwest Hemp Council, said in a press release. "Congressman Baird understands that hemp farmers cannot operate in an environment of constant uncertainty."



States Move Forward with Bills Allowing Hospice Patients to Use Medical Cannabis

By AJ Harrington



Lawmakers in several states are advancing legislation to let seriously ill patients continue using medical cannabis inside hospitals, nursing homes, and other healthcare facilities. Each is modeled on versions of Ryan’s Law, the California statute named for a young patient whose end-of-life experience helped spark a national push to protect access to cannabis in medical settings.

Recent activity on Ryan’s Law legislation shows how quickly the idea is spreading. Bills moved forward in Connecticut, Hawaii, Oregon, Virginia, and Washington State, while a similar effort stalled in Mississippi.

Connecticut

Connecticut’s Joint Committee on Public Health held a hearing on HB 5242, which would allow terminally ill patients to use non-smokable cannabis products in hospitals and other health facilities. The bill includes a federal carve-out that lets facilities suspend the policy if agencies such as the Justice Department or CMS issue enforcement guidance.

Erin Gorman Kirk, the state’s Cannabis Ombudsman, told lawmakers that current rules force some patients to abandon their treatment the moment they enter a hospital. “Patients who cannot or will not tolerate opioids, or who have found in medical cannabis the only effective relief for their pain, nausea, or anxiety, are left without options simply because of where they receive care,” she said. She called the bill “important, impactful, and morally necessary.”

Hospital groups opposed the measure, arguing it would put facilities in conflict with federal law.

Hawaii

Hawaii’s SB 2408 advanced through another Senate committee with unanimous support. The bill would allow terminally ill patients and qualifying seniors to use medical cannabis in certain residential health facilities that provide a homelike environment. Smoking and vaping would remain prohibited.

State health officials acknowledged earlier concerns about



conflicts with federal law but said lawmakers had addressed many of them. Advocacy groups including the Marijuana

Policy Project, the ACLU of Hawaii, and the Last Prisoner Project submitted testimony in support.

Mississippi

Mississippi lawmakers bucked the trend and rejected a Ryan’s Law bill. The measure to allow terminally ill patients to use medical cannabis in hospitals, nursing homes, and hospice centers that passed in the state House of Representatives failed in the Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee.

The bill would have required facilities to permit non-smokable cannabis use, with patients or caregivers responsible for storage and administration. Sen. Hob Bryan, the committee chair, said “if you are terminally ill, you ought to have access to most anything you want,” but the measure still failed in an 8-9 vote. A motion to reconsider keeps it alive for now.

Oregon

Oregon lawmakers advanced HB 4142, which would allow hospice, palliative care, home care organizations, and certain residential facilities to develop policies permitting medical

cannabis use. The bill does not extend to hospitals but would expand access for patients with debilitating conditions.

Rep. Farrah Chaichi said the measure supports quality of life at the end of life.

“Opiates are often overly sedative, preventing quality family interaction in someone’s final days,” she said.

Virginia

Virginia lawmakers reached a compromise on SB 332 and HB 75, which would add hospitals to existing protections for health professionals who assist terminally ill patients using medical cannabis. The legislation also creates a Department of Health working group to develop implementation guidelines and review federal developments.

Washington

Washington’s HB 2152 would require hospitals, nursing homes, and hospices to allow terminally ill patients to use medical cannabis beginning in 2027. Patients and caregivers would handle their own administration and storage, and smoking or vaping would be prohibited. Facilities could suspend the policy if federal agencies take enforcement action.



MarijuanaVille MAINE

ALFRED - AUGUSTA - BANGOR - WINSLOW
GARDINER - NEWPORT - READFIELD - UNITY
WATERVILLE - WILTON - LEWISTON - ORLAND
& BOSS LADY GENETICS IN ELLSWORTH

**LEWISTON #2 & PORTLAND
COMING SOON!!**

1G PRE-ROLLS 30 FOR \$100

1.5G PRE ROLLS 25 FOR \$100

7G BALLER DAB JARS FOR \$50

1G DABS FOR ONLY \$10

\$40 OZ OF FLOWER

1G CARTS FOR \$15 or 10 for \$100

400MG CANDY BARS FOR \$20

500MG GUMMIES \$25 OR 5 FOR \$100

THCA DIAMONDS FOR \$10

FREE MED CARDS

AND MUCH MUCH MORE!!!!

**OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK
365 DAYS A YEAR**

MUST BE 18 W/ A MED CARD - CGR#25709

