

# WILLAMETTE VALLEY NORML



your local chapter of the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws

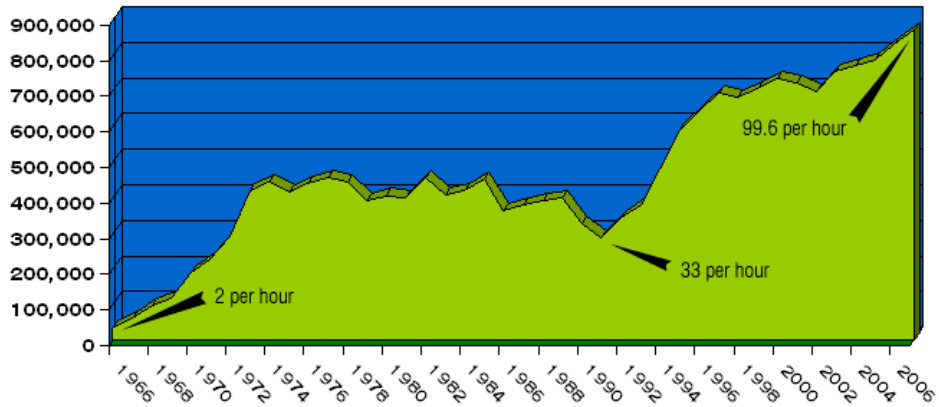
## 872,721 Marijuana Arrests For Year 2007 Tops Record High - Five Percent Increase Over 2006

**Washington, DC, USA:** Police arrested a record 872,721 persons for marijuana violations in 2007, according to the Federal Bureau of Investigation's annual Uniform Crime Report, released today. This is the largest total number of annual arrests for cannabis ever recorded by the FBI.

Cannabis arrests now comprise nearly 47.5 percent of all drug arrests in the United States.

"These numbers belie the myth that police do not target and arrest minor cannabis offenders," said NORML Executive Director Allen St. Pierre, who noted that at current rates, a cannabis consumer is arrested every 37 seconds in America. "This effort is a tremendous waste of criminal justice resources that diverts law enforcement personnel away from focusing on serious and violent crime, including the war on terrorism."

Of those charged with marijuana violations,  
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Annual Marijuana Arrests in the US  
1965-2007

### Registering For NORML's 2008 National Conference

**Washington, DC, USA:** NORML's 37th annual national conference is less than one-month away, but attendees still have time to take advantage of discounted pricing by visiting: [http://www.norml.org/index.cfm?Group\\_ID=7626](http://www.norml.org/index.cfm?Group_ID=7626).

This year's 'extravaganja' takes place in Berkeley, California on Friday, October 17 and Saturday, October 18 at the Doubletree Hotel & Executive Meeting Center.

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### Cannabis May Halt Progression Of Multiple Sclerosis, Study Says

**"Cannabinoids may not only offer symptom control but may also slow ... disease progression"**

**London, United Kingdom (UK):** Cannabinoids possess neuroprotective properties and may modify the progression of multiple sclerosis (MS), according to a review published in the journal *Current Pharmaceutical Design*.

Investigators at the London School of Medicine, Neuroscience Center reported  
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## The Willamette Valley NORML News Report

is an all-volunteer, not-for-profit project to record and broadcast news, announcements and information about cannabis law reform.

The W-V-NORML News Report is produced by the Eugene, OREGON chapter of NORML, the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws

----- Making contact -----

*You can Snail Mail:*

The W-V-NORML Newsletter team by writing to -

**P.O. Box 10957  
Eugene, OR 97440**

*E-mailing:*

newsroom@willamettevalleynorml.org

or phoning: **541-517-0957**

Check 'em out on-line! *visit:*

**WillametteValleyNORML.org**

## A Voice for Responsible Marijuana Smokers

Since its founding in 1970, NORML has provided a voice in the public policy debate for those Americans who oppose marijuana prohibition and favor an end to the practice of arresting marijuana smokers. A nonprofit public-interest advocacy group, NORML represents the interests of the tens of millions of Americans who smoke marijuana responsibly. During the 1970s, NORML led the successful efforts to decriminalize minor marijuana offenses in 11 states and significantly lower marijuana penalties in all others.

The oldest and largest marijuana legalization organization in the country, NORML maintains a professional staff in Washington, DC, and a network of volunteer state and local [NORML Chapters](#) across the country. Check 'em out, and find the one nearest you!

**The NORML mission is to move public opinion sufficiently to achieve the repeal of marijuana prohibition so that the responsible use of cannabis by adults is no longer subject to penalty.**

When marijuana is enjoyed responsibly, subjecting users to harsh criminal and civil penalties provides no public benefit and causes terrible injustices. For reasons of public safety, public health, economics and justice, the prohibition laws should be repealed to the extent that they criminalize responsible marijuana use. **NORML, the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws – is located at 1600 K Street, NW, Suite 501, Washington, DC 20006-2832. Phone (202) 483-5500, Fax: (202) 483-0057 or visit: [www.norml.org](http://www.norml.org)**

Today Willamette Valley NORML joins the fight to reform state and federal marijuana laws, whether by voter initiative or through the elected legislatures. W-V-NORML will serve as an informational resource to media on marijuana-related stories, providing a perspective to offset the [anti-marijuana propaganda](#) from the government; lobby state and federal legislators in support of reform legislation; publish a regular [newsletter](#); host an informative web site; and serve as the umbrella group for a regional network of citizen-activists committed to ending marijuana prohibition and legalizing marijuana.

Along with their parent organization, W-V-NORML will sponsor public advertising campaigns to better educate the public about marijuana and alternatives to current marijuana policy; provide legal assistance and support to victims of the current laws; and promote relevant research.

W-V-NORML supports the right of adults to use marijuana responsibly, whether for [medical](#) or [personal](#) purposes. All penalties, both civil and criminal, should be eliminated for responsible use. W-V-NORML also advocates the legalization of [hemp](#) (non-psychoactive marijuana) for industrial use. **To find out more, like how you can help, call, write or visit our website. You'll be glad you did!**

<continued from ARRESTS, page 1 > approximately 89 percent, 775,138 Americans were charged with possession only.

The remaining 97,583 individuals were charged with "sale/manufacture," a category that includes all cultivation offenses, even those where the marijuana was being grown for personal or medical use. Nearly three in four of those arrested are under age 30.

"Present policies have done little if anything to decrease marijuana's availability or dissuade youth from trying it," St. Pierre said, noting young people in the U.S. now frequently report that they have easier access to pot than alcohol or tobacco.

"Two other major points stand out from today's record marijuana arrests: Overall, there has been a dramatic 195 percent increase in marijuana arrests in the last 15 years -- yet the public's access to pot remains largely unfettered and the self-reported use of cannabis remains largely unchanged. Second, America's Midwest is decidedly the hotbed for cannabis arrests with over 60 percent of all cannabis-related arrests. The region of America with the least amount of cannabis arrests is the West with 29 percent. This latter result is arguably a testament to the passage of various state and local decriminalization efforts over the past several years."

"Of further note, this year the Midwest saw a 13.3% increase in cannabis sales/cultivation-related arrests, while the West saw a 14% increase in possession-related cannabis arrests."

The total number of marijuana arrests in the U.S. for 2007 far exceeded the total number of arrests in the U.S. for all violent crimes combined, including murder, manslaughter, forcible rape, robbery and aggravated assault.

Annual marijuana arrests have nearly tripled since the early 1990s.

"Arresting hundreds of thousands of Americans who smoke marijuana responsibly needlessly destroys the lives of otherwise law abiding citizens," St. Pierre said, adding that nearly 9 million Americans have been arrested on

marijuana charges in the past ten years.

YEAR	MARIJUANA ARRESTS
2007	872,721
2006	829,625
2005	786,545
2004	771,608
2003	755,187
2002	697,082
2001	723,627
2000	734,498
1999	704,812
1998	682,885
1997	695,200
1996	641,642
1995	588,963
1994	499,122
1993	380,689
1992	342,314
1991	287,850
1990	326,850

During this same time, arrests for cocaine and heroin have declined sharply, implying that increased enforcement of marijuana laws is being achieved at the expense of enforcing laws against the possession and trafficking of more dangerous drugs. In fact, **October 10, 2008 will mark the arrest of the 20 millionth cannabis consumer arrested under cannabis prohibition**, circa 1937.

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<continued from previous page> St. Pierre concluded: "Enforcing marijuana prohibition costs taxpayers between \$10 billion and \$12 billion annually and has led to the arrest of nearly 20 million Americans. Nevertheless, nearly 100 million Americans acknowledge having used marijuana during their lives. It makes no sense to continue to treat nearly half of all Americans as criminals for their use of a substance that poses far fewer health risks than alcohol or tobacco. A better and more sensible solution would be to tax and regulate cannabis in a manner similar to alcohol and tobacco."

For more information, please contact Allen St. Pierre, NORML Executive Director, at (202) 483-5500. For a comprehensive breakdown and analysis of US cannabis arrests, please see NORML's report: "cannabis arrests, please see NORML's report: "Crimes of Indiscretion: Marijuana Arrests in the United States" at:

[http://norml.org/index.cfm?Group\\_ID=6411](http://norml.org/index.cfm?Group_ID=6411)

Also, "What If We Arrested 20 Million Americans and No One Noticed" is a featured plenary session at the upcoming 37th Annual NORML National Conference in Berkeley, CA.

<continued from CONFERENCE, page 1 > Plenary sessions at this year's conference include:

- **Getting the Story Wrong: How the Media Lie About Cannabis**
- **The Legal Marijuana Generation: Growing Up In The Age of Legal Pot**
- **The War On Pot Is a War On Young People**
- **What If We Arrested 20 Million Americans And Nobody Noticed?**
- **The Politics of Marijuana And Health**

In addition, on Sunday, October 19, NORML's Legal Committee and the faculty of Oaksterdam University will co-sponsor a special, third-day session, entitled "Cannabusiness 102." This unique, one-day seminar will outline step-by-step how to establish a legally-compliant medical marijuana business in the state of California.

Mark your calendar now and plan to join us as we focus on the latest marijuana policy developments at the state and federal levels, celebrate our victories over the past year, and hear from the world's leading activists and cannabis law reform

organizations. Mingle with celebrities and members of NORML's staff and Board of Directors in one of the most cannabis friendly cities in the world.

Additional details about this year's national conference – including patient accommodations, vending and sponsorship opportunities, conference scheduling, and a guide to NORML social events – are now available online at NORML's 2008 Conference Registration page here: [http://www.norml.org/index.cfm?Group\\_ID=7626](http://www.norml.org/index.cfm?Group_ID=7626). For more information, please call (202) 483-5500. Answers to frequently asked questions (FAQs), about this year's NORML Conference are at: [http://norml.org/index.cfm?Group\\_ID=7668](http://norml.org/index.cfm?Group_ID=7668)

<continued from MS, page 1 > that cannabinoids likely hold therapeutic value for MS patients beyond providing temporary symptomatic relief.

"Recent clinical trials may indeed suggest that cannabis has some potential to relieve, pain, spasms and spasticity in MS," authors wrote. "In addition, CB(1) and CB(2) cannabinoid receptor stimulation may also have anti-inflammatory and neuroprotective potential. Therefore cannabinoids may not only offer symptom control but may also slow the neurodegenerative disease progression that ultimately leads to the accumulation of disability."

A recent expert opinion paper published by the US National Multiple Sclerosis Society concluded that cannabis possesses the potential to treat MS symptoms as well as moderate disease progression, but stopped short of recommending that patients use it therapeutically.

Survey data indicates that an estimated one in four patients with MS use medicinal cannabis.

For more information, please contact Paul Armentano, NORML Deputy Director, at: [paul@norml.org](mailto:paul@norml.org). Full text of the study, "The endocannabinoid system and multiple sclerosis," appears in the journal *Current Pharmaceutical Design*.

## **Schizophrenics Report Subjective Relief From Cannabis, Study Says**

**Adelaide, Australia (AU):** Patients diagnosed with schizophrenia report obtaining subjective relief from cannabis to control various symptoms

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<continued from previous page> associated with the disease, according to survey data published in the International Journal of Mental Health Nursing.

An investigator at Flinders University in South Australia interviewed 30 patients aged between 18 and 65 who had a DSM-IV comorbid diagnosis of schizophrenia and cannabis 'abuse.' The investigator reported that over half of the respondents reported using cannabis to control schizophrenic symptoms. Of those interviewed, 25 patients reported that smoking cannabis reduced their anxiety; 21 patients said that marijuana helped them to forget childhood trauma; and 12 stated that cannabis "enhanc[ed] their spiritual awareness."

Ten respondents reported that cannabis "makes the voices louder and clearer;" eight patients said that pot "enhanced their cognitive processes;" and five stated that it "increased their physical or mental energy." Finally, eight patients said that the legalization of cannabis would "improve their mental state" because it would reduce the anxiety and paranoia associated with using an illegal drug.

Commenting on the study, NORML Advisory Board Member Dr. Mitch Earleywine, author of the book "Understanding Marijuana: A New Look at the Scientific Evidence," said that these patients' testimonials lend credibility to the theory that a large part of the association between marijuana and schizophrenia may be explained by self-medication.

"It's not that cannabis use is causing schizophrenia," he said. "It's that patients notice the initial symptoms of schizophrenia and turn to marijuana for relief."

For more information, please contact Paul Armentano, NORML Deputy Director. Full text of the study, "The effects of cannabis abuse on the symptoms of schizophrenia: Patient perspectives," appears in the August issue of the International Journal of Mental Health Nursing.

## **Second Study In Two Months Touts Cannabis' Germ-Fighting Abilities**

**Oxford, MI, USA:** Non-cannabinoid constituents in marijuana possess anti-bacterial properties against malaria, methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (aka MRSA), and other

potentially drug-resistant pathogens, according to findings to be published in the journal Phytochemistry.

Investigators at the University of Mississippi, National Center for Natural Products Research reported the discovery of eleven new non-cannabinoid constituents in cannabis, several of which possess strong "anti-microbial," "anti-malarial," and "anti-leishmanial" (a common skin parasite) activity. Scientists reported that several of the compounds also possessed anti-inflammatory properties and acted as potent anti-oxidants.

Commenting on the study, NORML Deputy Director Paul Armentano said, "Therapeutic cannabis means just that - the therapeutic prowess of the whole plant. We should not advocate for, or accept, anything less."

A previous study published online in August by the Journal of Natural Products reported that at least five cannabinoids - THC, CBD (cannabidiol), CBG (cannabigerol), CBC (cannabichromine), and CBN (cannabinol) - possess germ-killing abilities against various strains of multidrug-resistant bacteria, including MRSA.

For more information, please contact Paul Armentano, NORML Deputy Director. Full text of the study, "Non-cannabinoid constituents from a high potency Cannabis sativa strain," will appear in Phytochemistry.

## **Cannabis Spray Demonstrates Long Term Efficacy In Neuropathic Pain**

**Porter Down, United Kingdom (UK):** Long-term administration of Sativex, an oral spray consisting of whole plant cannabis extracts, reduces neuropathic pain compared to placebo, according to clinical trial data released this week by the biotechnology company GW Pharmaceuticals.

Forty-one patients with multiple sclerosis and central neuropathic pain completed the double blind, placebo-controlled "randomized withdrawal" study. Volunteers in the study were administered either Sativex or a placebo daily for four weeks following their long-term use of the cannabis spray.

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<continued from previous page> "In the patients who were randomized to Sativex pain scores remained stable," the company announced in a press release. "In the patients randomized to placebo, pain and sleep scores deteriorated. ... The results of all other symptom-related endpoints showed that Sativex patients maintained or improved their response whilst the symptoms of those who switched from Sativex to placebo worsened in the four weeks following cessation of active treatment."

Previous open-label extension trials of Sativex have reported that patients required fewer daily doses of the drug and reported lower median pain scores the longer they took it. This trial is the first placebo-controlled trial to confirm the efficacy of Sativex long-term.

Last month, clinical investigators at the University of California at San Diego reported that inhaled cannabis significantly reduces HIV-associated neuropathic pain. The study is the third clinical trial published in the past 18 months demonstrating that inhaling cannabis ameliorates chronic neuropathy.

For more information, please contact Paul Armentano, NORML Deputy Director, or visit: <http://www.gwpharm.com/>

## **Ingestion Of Commercially Available Hemp Products Unlikely To Trigger Positive Drug Test**

**Rockville, MD, USA:** Commercially available ingestible hemp products, such as oils and nutrition bars, are unlikely to contain significant enough quantities of THC to trigger a positive drug test, according to findings published in the July/August issue of the Journal of Analytical Toxicology.

Investigators at the Armed Forces Medical Examiners Office in Maryland assessed 79 separate hemp products for the presence of THC. (THC found in manufactured products is present via contamination from resin produced in the leaves and buds that come in contact with the seed shell.)

Products that were aqueous based (such as hemp tea or hemp beer) possessed trace levels of THC present (below 2.5 ng/ml) while several hemp oil products tested positive for higher amounts. However, these amounts, on average, were far

lower than the levels of THC detected in similar products 10 to 15 years ago - when their ingestion was linked to positive drug test results.

More than half of the products tested possessed no detectable levels of THC.

"Results of the hemp products tested indicate the amount of THC present in commercially available products is significantly less in products available today than those reported in the past," authors concluded. "As a result, the probability that these products will produce urine THC metabolite levels greater than the [US federal guidelines] confirmation cutoff of 15 ng/ml is significantly reduced and should not be considered as a realistic cause for a positive urine analysis result."

Similar analysis conducted prior to 2001 found that certain hemp oil products contained sufficient THC levels to result in a positive drug test. Following these results, the Hemp Industries Association instituted so-called "Test Pledge" standards, a self-regulation program lowering trace THC levels in their products to levels that would no longer interfere with workplace drug testing regulations.

*For more information, please contact Allen St. Pierre, NORML Executive Director, at (202) 483-5500 or Paul Armentano, NORML Deputy Director. Full text of the study, "Delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol content of commercially available hemp products," appears in the Journal of Analytical Toxicology.*

## **Text Messaging Impacts Psychomotor Skills Far More Than Cannabis, Study Says**

**London, United Kingdom (UK):** Sending text messages from one's mobile phone impairs motorists' ability to drive a car to a far greater degree than does smoking cannabis, according to the findings of a study published this week by Britain's Transport Research Laboratory (TRL) and reported by Reuters news wire.

Seventeen volunteers age 18 to 24 years old participated in the driving simulator study.

"The reaction times of people texting as they drove fell by 35 percent, while those who had consumed the legal limit of alcohol, or taken

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<continued from previous page> cannabis, fell by 21 percent and 12 percent respectively," Reuters reported.

The study also found that drivers' ability to maintain lane position and headway with the vehicle in front of them was more adversely impacted by texting than by the influence of marijuana.

Currently, five US states have enacted laws prohibiting text messaging while driving. By contrast, fifteen states have enacted laws criminally prohibiting drivers from operating a vehicle with trace levels of cannabis or inactive cannabis metabolites in their blood or urine.

A study published earlier this year in the journal Accident Analysis and Prevention reported that in terms of overall driving performance, subjects under the influence of cannabis performed in a manner comparable to motorists with a blood alcohol concentration of 0.05 percent.

For more information, please contact Paul Armentano, NORML Deputy Director. NORML's white paper, "Cannabis and Driving: A Scientific and Rational Review,"

## 19th Annual Boston Freedom Rally Takes Place

**Boston, MA, USA:** The Massachusetts chapter of NORML (MassCann) will hold the 19th annual Freedom Rally this Saturday, September 20, at the Boston Common in downtown Boston. The event is the largest marijuana law reform gathering on the east coast.

Speakers at this year's event include NORML Executive Director Allen St. Pierre, NORML founder Keith Stroup, author Steve Bloom (*Pot Culture*), *High Times Magazine* associate publisher Rick Cusick, and Congressional candidate John Cunningham.

MassCann NORML will also be holding an awards banquet in Cambridge, Massachusetts, on Friday, September 19.

This November, Massachusetts' voters will decide on a statewide ballot measure that seeks to replace criminal penalties for the possession of up to one ounce of marijuana with a civil fine of no more than \$100. For more information on the Freedom Rally, please visit: <http://www.masscann.org>.

## Arkansas: Fayetteville Voters To Decide "Lowest Law Enforcement Priority" Initiative

**Fayetteville, AR, USA:** Fayetteville voters will decide this November on a municipal initiative that seeks to make marijuana law enforcement the city's "lowest priority."

Proponents of the measure, Sensible Fayetteville, gathered nearly 5,000 signatures from registered voters to place the proposal on the November ballot.

The measure would direct law enforcement to make activities related to the investigation and prosecution of adults who possess up to one ounce of cannabis their lowest priority. Local voters approved a similar 'deprioritization' measure in Eureka Springs, Arkansas in 2006.

Under state law, marijuana possession is a misdemeanor offense punishable by a \$1,000 fine and up to one year in jail.

If enacted, the ordinance would also require the city clerk to submit a letter to state and federal legislators urging them to "take immediate steps to enact similar ['deprioritization'] laws."

Voters have enacted similar initiatives in Seattle, Washington; Oakland, California; Columbia, Missouri; and Denver, Colorado.

Sensible Fayetteville is a coalition of statewide organizations, including the University of Arkansas chapter of NORML and the Alliance for Drug Reform Policy in Arkansas. For more information, please visit: <http://norml.uark.edu/>

## United Kingdom: Pot Potency Fell Following Cannabis Downgrade

**London, United Kingdom (UK):** The average potency of THC in seized samples of British cannabis fell 25 percent between 2004 and 2007 - following Parliament's decision to downgrade the drug's possession to a non-arrestable offense, according to data collected by the UK's Forensic Science Service and published by The Guardian newspaper.

Marijuana's THC content fell from 12.7 percent in 2004 to 9.5 percent in 2007 the newspaper reported.

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News From *your* local affiliate of the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws

<continued from previous page> In May, Home Secretary Jacqui Smith announced plans to upgrade cannabis possession to an arrestable offense punishable by up to five years in jail, claiming that the drug's potency had increased "nearly threefold." Just prior to Smith's announcement, British Prime Minister Gordon Brown claimed, "[T]he cannabis on the streets is now of a lethal quality."

Smith's decision contradicted the recommendations of Britain's Advisory Panel on Drugs, which noted that marijuana use by young people had fallen approximately 20 percent since 2004.

A spokesperson for the Forensic Science Service claimed to The Guardian that the agency did not analyze enough samples to accurately gauge the average potency of British cannabis.

In June, a University of Mississippi report alleged that US potency had grown to record levels. However, a close analysis of the report revealed that the average THC in domestically grown marijuana - which comprises the bulk of the US market - is less than five percent, a figure that's remained unchanged for nearly a decade.

*For more information, please contact Allen St. Pierre, NORML Executive Director, at (202) 483-5500 or Paul Armentano, NORML Deputy Director.*

## Hawaii: Big Island Voters To Decide "Lowest Law Enforcement Priority" Initiative

**Hilo, HI, USA:** Hawaii County voters will decide this November on a local initiative that seeks to make marijuana law enforcement the county's "lowest priority."

The County Council voted 5-4 to let voters decide the issue after proponents of the measure failed to gather a sufficient number

**\* NOTE! The Willamette Valley NORML Public meeting \* Happens every 4th Sat. of the month and will be at h'ERb'S Toasted Subs, 1210 Willamette St, Eugene call: 541.517-0957 -or- visit: <http://WillametteValleyNORML.org>**



*It's One Hell of A Joint!*

Visit - <http://herbstoastedsubs.com/> - and see!

of signatures from registered voters to place the proposal on the November ballot.

The measure would direct law enforcement to make activities related to the investigation and arrest of adults who possess up to 24 ounces of cannabis and/or 24 plants their lowest priority.

**Passage of the measure would also forbid the County Council from accepting government funding to promote federal marijuana eradication efforts on the Big Island.**

Voters have enacted similar 'deprioritization' initiatives in Seattle, Washington; Oakland, California; Columbia, Missouri; and Denver, Colorado.

For more information, visit: [http://www.norml.org/index.cfm?Group\\_ID=7692](http://www.norml.org/index.cfm?Group_ID=7692)

**\* THE WILLAMETTE VALLEY ( W-V ) NORML NEWS REPORT > \* P.O. Box 10957, EUGENE, OREGON, 97440 \* PH: (541) 517-0957 \* EMAIL: [newsroom@willamettevalleynorml.org](mailto:newsroom@willamettevalleynorml.org) \* OR VISIT: [www.WillametteValleyNORML.org](http://www.WillametteValleyNORML.org)**