



HUNT INSIDER

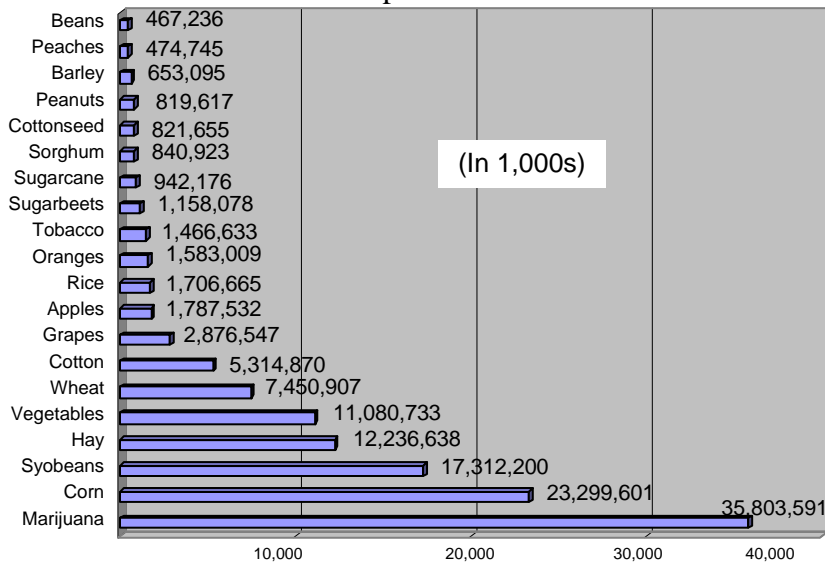
Issue 2

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MARIJUANA—THE LARGEST CASH CROP IN THE NATION

According to the 2006 Marijuana Production in the United States Report, marijuana is the largest cash crop in the nation. It is more valuable than corn and wheat combined. An estimated \$35,803,591,000 worth of marijuana is grown in the United States annually. Following marijuana is corn, at \$23,299,601,000 and soybeans, at \$17,312,200,000.

Value of Cash Crop Production in the United States



In Michigan however, marijuana is the third largest crop, with corn being first at \$537,908,000, soybeans second at \$420,201,000, and marijuana third at \$324,830,000.

Michigan ranks as the 8th largest in the nation for indoor marijuana cultivation, with an estimated 300,000 plants grown annually, valued at over \$106,000,000.

Michigan ranks 16th in the nation for outdoor marijuana cultivation, with an estimated 308,400 plants grown annually, valued at over \$218,000,000.

FEATURED BOARD MEMBER: THAD TAYLOR

Thad Taylor graduated from Ferris State College with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Law Enforcement/Criminal Justice. He began his career at the Greenville Department of Public Safety in 1977, and remained there as a Public Safety Sergeant until 1988. He then went to Dewitt Charter Township where he was Chief of Police and then Public Safety Director until 1992. In 1992 Mr. Taylor and his family moved to Alpena where he became the Public Safety Director and has been since. As of December, 2006, he is also the city of Alpena's Interim City Manager. In addition, Mr. Taylor serves as the District 11 representative on the Michigan Association of Chiefs of Police Board of Directors.



Mr. Taylor has been married to his wife Theresa for 29 years. They have two children and two grandchildren. He is also on the board of the Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northern Michigan.

Mr. Taylor has been an active member of the HUNT Board of Directors since 1992. He avidly strives to support the team and provide administrative services via the Board. His history in public safety and law enforcement makes him a valued asset to the team and to the community.

IN THIS ISSUE

- Marijuana Production
- Featured Board Member
- Paraphernalia Statute
- Featured Drug

Memorial Day,

originally called Decoration Day, is a day of remembrance for those who have died in our nation's service. Memorial Day was officially proclaimed on May 5, 1868 by General John Logan, national commander of the Grand Army of the Republic, and was first observed on May 30, 1868, when flowers were placed on the graves of Union and Confederate soldiers at Arlington National Cemetery.



HUNT CASE LEADS TO STATUTE CHANGES



In early 2003 the Huron Undercover Narcotics Team initiated an investigation regarding a local establishment doing business as The Concert Connection in the city of Alpena, and its alleged sale of narcotics paraphernalia. This investigation revealed that the establishment was indeed offering items of narcotics paraphernalia for sale to the public. Subsequently a report was made to the Alpena County Prosecutor's office, who, under power of the narcotics paraphernalia statute, drafted a notice to the business owner, requesting that he cease the sale of these items within 48 hours. The Concert Connection challenged the order, stating that the items in question were held exempt under another statute, as they were items "which may be used in the preparation or smoking of tobacco or smoking herbs other than a controlled substance."

Subsequently a hearing was held in the 26th Circuit Court in Alpena, at which time Judge John Kowalski ruled that the challenged items, which included pipes, bongs, and dugouts, were drug paraphernalia.

Furthermore, the Court held that the items were not exempt sales under the other statute which allowed the sale of items which may be used to smoke tobacco or herbs.

The matter was then appealed and on June 28, 2005, the Michigan Court of Appeals examined the two Michigan statutes at issue and agreed with the Circuit Court Judge that the items, including pipes, bongs, and dugouts, were in fact drug paraphernalia. However, the Court declared that the other statute created a loophole which would allow the continued sale of the items as they **may** be used to smoke tobacco. The court conceded that the result in the case was absurd as the statutes were not consistent. In turn, the Court invited the Legislature to reconsider and make appropriate amendments to the statute to eliminate the loophole currently allowing the sale of these items.

The Legislature accepted the Court's invitation and as of March 20, 2007, the statute which permitted the continued sale of items which "may be used in the preparation or smoking of tobacco or herbs other

than a controlled substance" has been eliminated.

Richard K. Steiger, Presque Isle County Prosecutor and Legal Advisor for the Huron Undercover Narcotics Team stated, "I cannot emphasize enough the importance the 2003 Alpena case played in ensuring the drug paraphernalia statute can now be enforced in Michigan."

As a result of this nearly 4-year long legal process, the sale of narcotics paraphernalia, including pipes, bongs, and dugouts, is illegal under the narcotics paraphernalia statute. Any business or individual who chooses to sell such items after March 20, 2007, can face criminal prosecution and sanctions.

The sale of narcotics paraphernalia to an adult is a misdemeanor, which can carry up to 90 days in jail and/or \$5,000.00 in fines. A person 18 or older who sells or offers for sale paraphernalia to a person less than 18 is guilty of a misdemeanor, punishable by up to one year in jail and/or \$7,500.00 in fines.

Featured Drug:

Heroin is a highly addictive drug, which poses a serious drug abuse problem in America. It is the most widely abused and most rapidly acting of all the opiates. It is processed from morphine, a substance extracted from the seedpod of the poppy plant.

The short-term effects of heroin are euphoria, or a sense of well being, and a warm flushing of the skin. It also causes dry mouth and heavy extremities. After the initial euphoric feeling, the user experiences an alternately wakeful and drowsy state. Due to the depression of the central nervous system, mental functioning becomes clouded and breathing may be slowed to the point of respiratory failure. Chronic users of the drug may develop collapsed veins, infection of the heart lining and valves, abscesses, and liver disease. With regular heroin use, tolerance develops. Once this happens, the abuser must use more of the drug to achieve the same intensity that they are seeking. After continued use at the higher dosage, physical dependence and addiction develop. Withdrawal from the drug may occur as quickly as a few hours after the last administration.

HUNT's first substantial encounter with heroin was in 2003, when 16 investigations were initiated with regard to the drug, resulting in the seizure of over 25 grams. This figure fell in 2004, to 3 cases, and only 1.16 grams seized. It then began to rise in 2005, to 8 cases and 9 grams seized. In 2006, 11 cases were initiated with regard to heroin, and 23.5 grams seized. Data from The Drug Abuse Warning Network (DAWN) indicates that heroin was the cause of 164,572 emergency room visits nationwide during 2005. According to the same agency, heroin use among youths, ages 12-17 has quadrupled during the past decade. DEA statistics show heroin reaching a peak in the early 1990's, and then dropping off during the late 1990's. It then began to rise in 2000, and has risen steadily since, reaching nearly the quantities that it was in the early 1990's.

The signs of heroin use or abuse are: dry mouth, droopy appearance, as if extremities are "heavy," alternately wakeful and drowsy, disorientation, poor mental functioning, signs of injection, and shallow breathing.

Heroin addiction can be treated. There are medications, behavioral therapies, and other supportive services in place for those who need it. Science has proven that heroin addicts can recover from this potentially fatal addiction and lead stable lives.

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Huron Undercover Narcotics Team, telephone 800-573-DRUG, or visit www.huntteam.net