

Busts highlight pot smuggling from legal states

Hard to tell if grown legally

By **ANDREW SELSKY**
Associated Press

Marijuana grown in Oregon and the handful of other states where pot is legal is being smuggled to other parts of America, authorities say. It's often hard to tell if the trafficked weed was grown legally or illegally, but some say the fact that pot is leaving these states at all puts the marijuana industry at risk.

Here is a look at some recent notable cases.

Denver

Colorado officials announced on June 28 they had cracked a huge smuggling ring that, under the cover of the state's legal medical marijuana industry, shipped pot to a half-dozen other states.

A Denver grand jury indicted 62 people and 12 businesses. It was the largest illegal marijuana operation discovered since Colorado legalized recreational pot in 2012, Colorado Attorney General Cynthia Coffman said. Federal agents also were involved in the bust. The indictment says the



Oregon State Police
The Oregon State Police displays 113 pounds of high-quality marijuana found in the trunk of a Minnesota man's car after he was stopped for speeding in Bly in February.

enterprise produced more than 100 pounds of illegal pot each month for shipment to Kansas, Texas, Nebraska, Ohio, Oklahoma and other states. The ring operated from 2012 until 2016, earning an estimated \$200,000 a month, Coffman said.

Nebraska Attorney General Doug Peterson thanked Coffman for "exposing the influx of Colorado marijuana entering Nebraska," the Lincoln Journal Star newspaper reported.

Nebraska and Oklahoma earlier filed a lawsuit against Colorado, saying legalized

marijuana in the neighboring state was spilling into Nebraska and Oklahoma, complicating their anti-drug efforts and draining state resources. The U.S. Supreme Court dismissed the lawsuit without comment.

Two of the men named in the Colorado indictment were arrested during an earlier traffic stop in Nebraska with 36 pounds of marijuana packed into two suitcases in their car.

Bly

An Oregon State Police

trooper stopped a car that was driving just over the speed limit in a remote part of Oregon, and right away noticed there was only one key on the key ring.

Trooper Austin Hopson's training and experience told him that was a sign that the driver of the car he stopped on Feb. 12, 2016, was a marijuana smuggler. The road has been known to be used by traffickers seeking to avoid law enforcement, authorities said.

Plus, the passenger seat was full of items — including

luggage and a musical instrument case — that would normally be in the trunk, and the driver was nervous. Hopson asked the man, a Minnesotan who was a former cellist with the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra, if he could search the car.

"At this point, for the first time during the stop, the defendant would not make eye contact with Trooper Hopson. Instead, the defendant stared down at his paperwork as his hands began to shake uncontrollably," a deputy district attorney said in a filing with the Klamath County Circuit Court.

The police searched the car without the driver's consent. In the trunk, they found over 100 pounds of marijuana in vacuum-packed bags and a backpack full of cash, the filing said.

The driver was later let go and charges were dropped after a judge ruled police lacked probable cause to search the car.

Llano, Texas

A Texas man was piloting his plane after taking off from Medford, one of the country's richest marijuana-growing regions, when the aircraft attracted authorities' attention.

The U.S. Customs and Border Protection's Air and Marine Operation Center, in Southern California, began tracking the single-engine plane after observing it had a suspicious flight pattern and landed in Arizona to refuel, according to the U.S. Attorney's Office for the western district of Texas.

The pilot, Wayne Douglas Brunet, of Austin, landed at an unmanned airport in Bulverde, Texas, but when he saw authorities on the ground waiting for him, he took off again. He then tried to land at the Lago Vista, Texas, airport but aborted the landing when he saw law enforcement officers again.

Brunet then landed in Llano, Texas. He tried to run, tossing a duffel bag and a cellphone near the runway, but was arrested. Authorities seized 15 duffel bags filled with vacuum-sealed packages of 230 pounds of marijuana.

Brunet pleaded guilty on June 28 to possession with intent to distribute marijuana and faces up to 20 years in federal prison. According to a plea deal, he forfeits his 1969 Piper PA-30 Comanche airplane, \$5,400 in cash and \$3,000 in prepaid cards.

Marijuana states try to curb smuggling, avert crackdown

By **ANDREW SELSKY**
Associated Press

PORTLAND — Well before Oregon legalized marijuana, its verdant, wet forests made it an ideal place for growing the drug, which often ended up being funneled out of the state for big money. Now, officials suspect pot grown legally in Oregon and other states is also being smuggled out, and the trafficking is putting America's multibillion-dollar marijuana industry at risk.

In response, pot-legal states are trying to clamp down on "diversion" even as U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions presses for enforcement of federal laws against marijuana.

Tracking legal weed from the fields and greenhouses where it's grown to the shops where it's sold under names like Blueberry Kush and Chernobyl is their so far main protective measure.

In Oregon, Gov. Kate Brown recently signed into law a requirement that state regulators track from seed to store all marijuana grown for sale in Oregon's legal market. So far, only recreational marijuana has been comprehensively tracked. State House Speaker Tina Kotek said lawmakers wanted to ensure "we're protecting the new industry that we're supporting here."

"There was a real recog-

nition that things could be changing in D.C.," she said.

The Washington State Liquor and Cannabis Board says it's replacing its current tracking Nov. 1 with a "highly secure, reliable, scalable and flexible system."

California voters approved using a tracking system run by Lakeland, Florida-based Franwell for its recreational pot market. Sales become legal Jan. 1.

Franwell also tracks marijuana, using bar-code and radio frequency identification labels on packaging and plants, in Colorado, Oregon, Maryland, Alaska and Michigan.

"The tracking system is the most important tool a state has," said Adam Crabtree, who

runs Denver-based National Compliance Specialists Inc., which helps tax collectors track elusive, cash-heavy industries like the marijuana business.

But the systems aren't foolproof. They rely on the users' honesty, he said.

"We have seen numerous examples of people 'forgetting' to tag plants," Crabtree said. Colorado's tracking also doesn't apply to home-grown plants and many noncommercial marijuana caregivers.

In California, implementing a "fully operational, legal market" could take years, said state Sen. Mike McGuire, who represents the "Emerald Triangle" region that's estimated to produce 60 percent of Ameri-

ca's marijuana. But he's confident tracking will help.

"In the first 24 months, we're going to have a good idea who is in the regulated market and who is in black market," McGuire said.

Oregon was the first state to decriminalize personal possession, in 1973. It legalized medical marijuana in 1998, and

recreational use in 2014.

Before that, Anthony Taylor hid his large cannabis crop from aerial surveillance under a forest canopy east of Portland, and tended it when there was barely enough light to see.

"In those days, marijuana was REALLY illegal," said Taylor, now a licensed marijuana processor and lobbyist.

"If you got caught growing the amounts we were growing, you were going to go to prison for a number of years."

Taylor believes it's easier to grow illegally now because authorities lack the resources to sniff out every operation. And growers who sell outside the state can earn thousands of dollars per pound, he said.

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TUESDAY EVENING												AUGUST 15	
A	L	6 PM	6:30	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	11 PM	11:30
2	KATU	(2) KATU News at 6 (N)		Jeopardy!	Wheel of Fortune	Bachelor in Paradise Pt. 2 of 2 (N)				SomewhereBetween "Into the Fire" (N)	KATU News (N)	(35) Jimmy Kimmel	
3	KOMO	(4) KOMO 4 News		Jeopardy!	Wheel of Fortune	Bachelor in Paradise Pt. 2 of 2 (N)				SomewhereBetween "Into the Fire" (N)	KOMO 4 News	(35) Jimmy Kimmel	
5	KING	(5) NBC News (N)	KING 5 News	KING 5 News	Evening	America's Got Talent "Live Show 1" Judging is turned over to the viewers. (N)				Game Night "This Is Us Game Night" (N)	KING 5 News	(35) Tonight Show	
6	KOIN	(6) KOIN Local 6 (N)	Evening News (N)	Extra	Ent. Tonight	NCIS: New Orleans "Quid Pro Quo"		Bull "E.J."		NCIS: New Orleans "Quid Pro Quo"	KOIN 6 News (N)	(35) Colbert	
7	KIRO	(7) KIRO 7 News	Evening News (N)	The Insider	Ent. Tonight	NCIS: New Orleans "Quid Pro Quo"		Bull "E.J."		NCIS: New Orleans "Quid Pro Quo"	KIRO News	(35) Colbert	
8	KGW	(8) KGW News at 6:00 p.m. (N)		Live at 7 (N)	Inside Edition	America's Got Talent "Live Show 1" Judging is turned over to the viewers. (N)				Game Night "This Is Us Game Night" (N)	KGW News (N)	(35) Tonight Show	
9	KRCW	(9) Last Man Standing	Last Man Standing	Modern Family	Modern Family	The Flash "Into the Speed Force"				News at 10 (N) Two and a Half	Two and a Half	Met Your Mother	
10	KOPB	(10) Ask-Old House	Business (N)	PBS NewsHour (N)		The National Mall				POV "Seven Songs for a Long Life"	Frontline "Terror in Little Saigon"		
12	KPTV	(12) 6 O'Clock News (N)		Family Feud	Family Feud	Lethal Weapon "Fashion Police"				10 O'Clock News (N)	News (N)	2 Broke Girls	
13	KPDx	(13) Mike & Molly	Mike & Molly	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	FOX 12's News (N)				Family Guy	Family Guy	American Dad!	Cleveland Show
14	KCPQ	(14) Modern Family	Modern Family	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Lethal Weapon "Fashion Police"				Q13 News at 10 (N)	Q13 News (N)	The Simpsons	
20	TBS	(20) Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Wrecked	Conan (N)	
22	KZJQ	(22) Last Man Standing	Last Man Standing	Friends	Friends Pt. 1 of 2	Modern Family	Modern Family	Q13 News at 9 (N)		Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Two and a Half	Two and a Half
29	ESPN	(29) SportsCenter Special "Fantasy Football Draft" (L)				SportsCenter (N)		SportsCenter (N)		SportsCenter (N)	SportsCenter (N)		
30	ESPN2	(30) SportsCenter (N)	Softball Little League World Series (L)				Skateboarding Street League			Jalen & Jacoby (N)	NFL Live "Fantasy Football Special"	E:60	
31	NICK	(31) The Loud House	The Loud House	Henry Danger	Henry Danger	The Thundermans	JoJoSiwaMyWorld	Full House		Full House	Full House	Friends	Friends
32	DISN	(32) Jessie	K.C. Undercover	K.C. Undercover	Bizaardvark	Stuck in Middle	Bunk'd	Bizaardvark	Andi Mack	K.C. Undercover	K.C. Undercover	Bunk'd	Jessie
34	FAM	(34) *** Juno (2007, Comedy) Michael Cera, Jennifer Garner, Ellen Page.				Fosters "Welcome to the Jungler" (N)		The Bold Type "Three Girls in a Tub" (N)		The Fosters "Welcome to the Jungler"	The 700 Club		
35	FAM	(35) (55) Dracula Untold (14, Fantasy) Sarah Gadon, Luke Evans. (45) FXM Presents				A Walk Among the Tombstones (14) Dan Stevens, Boyd Holbrook, Liam Neeson.				(20) FXM Presents	*** Paranormal Activity 4 (12) Kathryn Newton.		
36	LIFE	(36) Grey's Anatomy "Seal Our Fate"		Dance Moms		Dance Chat (N)	(50) Chloe Does (N)	Dance Moms (N)		Growing Up Supermodel (P) (N)	Growing Up Supermodel		
38	ROOT	(38) Mariners Access	Mariners Pre-game	MLB Baseball Baltimore Orioles at Seattle		Mariners Site: Safeco Field -- Seattle, Wash. (L)				Post-game	MLB Baseball Baltimore Orioles at Seattle Mariners		
39	FST	(39) (5:00) MLB Baseball Detroit Tigers at Texas Rangers (L)				MLB Whiparound (L)				Speak for Yourself	BIG3 Basketball		
43	SPIKE	(43) Ink Master "Get the Flout Outta Here"		Ink Master "On the Bubble"		Ink Master "Masterpiece Mayhem"				Ink Master "Drill Baby, Drill" (N)	Ink Master (N)	Tattoo Night.	
44	CNN	(44) Futurama	Futurama	Futurama	South Park	South Park	South Park	Tosh.0	Tosh.0	Tosh.0 (SF) (N)	J. Jeff. (SF) (N)	Kevin Hart: Laugh at My Pain	
45	HIST	(45) Forged in Fire		Forged in Fire		Forged in Fire: Cutting Deeper				(05) American Ripper (N)	(05) Forged in Fire		
46	A&E	(46) L. Remini "Enemies of the Church"		L. Remini "Merchants of Fear"		L. Remini "Merchants of Fear"				Murder "Missing in Modesto" (P) (N)	(05) L. Remini "Merchants of Fear"		
47	TLC	(47) Daughter "Good Quits Gone Bad"		Daughter "Extreme Quint Makeover"		OutDaughtered: Life with Quints (N)		OutDaughtered (N)		(05) Rattled (N)	(05) OutDaughtered		
48	DISC	(48) Deadliest Catch "The Arctic Hurricane"		Deadliest Catch "Respect Earned"		Deadliest Catch: On Deck (N)		D. Catch "Hillstrand's Last Catch" (N)		Unabomber "Publish or Parish" (N)	Unabomber "Publish or Parish"		
49	UNBC	(49) Live Free or Die "The Hunt Is On"		Live Free or Die "The Tough Get Going"		Live Free or Die "Race Against Time"		Life Below Zero "Burn the Midnight Oil"		Life Below Zero "Arctic Super Moon"	Life Below Zero "Burn the Midnight Oil"		
50	TNT	(50) (55) *** Star Wars: Episode III - Revenge of the Sith (2005, Sci-Fi) Natalie Portman, Hayden Christensen, Ewan McGregor.				Animal Kingdom "The Leopard"				Animal Kingdom "The Leopard"	Law & Order "Fed"		
51	AMC	(51) (5:30) *** Ghostbusters II (89) Sigourney Weaver, Dan Aykroyd, Bill Murray.				*** Twister (1996, Action) Bill Paxton, Jami Gertz, Helen Hunt.				*** Alice in Wonderland (10) Johnny Depp.			
52	USA	(52) Modern Family	Modern Family	Modern Family	Modern Family	WWE Smackdown! WWE superstars do battle in long-running rivalries.				Shooter "The Man Called Noon" (N)	Law & Order: S.V.U. "Above Suspicion"		
53	FOOD	(53) Chopped "Truck Stop Stars"		Chopped "Food Truck Kitchen"		Chopped "Clean Eatin"		Chopped "An Ugly Turn"		Chopped (N)	Chopped "Healthy Rivalry"		
54	HGTV	(54) Fixer Upper		Fixer Upper		Fixer Upper		Fixer Upper "The Flipper Upper"		Bones "Small House, Big Problems" (N)	House Hunters	House Hunters	
56	FX	(56) (5:30) *** Men in Black 3 (12, Action) Tommy Lee Jones, Josh Brolin, Will Smith.				*** 22 Jump Street (2014, Action/Comedy) Jonah Hill, Ice Cube, Channing Tatum.				*** 22 Jump Street (14) Jonah Hill, Channing Tatum.			
57	CNN	(57) Anderson Cooper 360		CNN Tonight With Don Lemon		CNN Tonight With Don Lemon		Anderson Cooper 360		Anderson Cooper 360		CNN Tonight With Don Lemon	
58	CNN	(58) The Five		Hannity		Special Report With Bret Baier		The Five		Hannity		Tucker Carlson Tonight	
61	FNCF	(61) Shark Tank		Shark Tank		The Profit "Bodhi Leaf Coffee Traders"		The Profit "Pacific Hospitality"		The Profit "Bentley's Corner Barkery"		Paid Program	Paid Program
63	BRVA	(63) Below Deck "Swing Shift"		Below Deck "Stew the Right Thing"		Below Deck "Con-text Is Everything"		Below Deck "Reunion" (N)		A Night With (N)	A Night With My		Watch What Happens Live (N)
64	TCM	(64) (5:00) Latin Lovers (53) Lana Turner.		The Reluctant Saint (1962) Ricardo Montalban, Lea Padovani, Maximilian Schell.		*** Mystery Street (50, Mystery) Sally Forrest, Elsa Lanchester, Ricardo Montalban.				*** Mystery Street (50, Mystery) Sally Forrest, Elsa Lanchester, Ricardo Montalban.		Battleground (1949, War) John Hodiak	
65	SYFY	(65) (5:00) *** The Legend of Hercules (2014, Action) Gaia Weiss, Scott Adkins, Kellan Lutz.				Face Off "Journey Into Fear, Part 1" (N)		*** I, Frankenstein (2014, Fantasy) Aaron Eckhart, Bill Nighy, Yvonne Strahovski.					
69	RFD	(69) (5:30) Cattlemen (N)	Chasing-Madison	Horseman. "The Method With Minis"		Chris Cox		Rural News (N)		Ag PhD		Cattlemen to Cattlemen	
													Product Showcase