

FILL Innovative Tech

FALL EDITION

## PRESCRIPTION STRENGTH MARIJUANA IS HERE... ARE YOU READY?

# A drug derived from marijuana

has become the first to win federal approval, and experts predict an avalanche effect



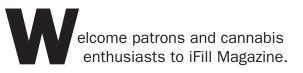


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In the past, no one could have ever imagined that the day would arrive when marijuana use would be legalized for recreational use. Notwithstanding the pleasurable benefits, a countless number of people were incarcerated for years and others have lost their lives over this "mean green plant". Moreover, many people have surreptitiously smoked this "so called" illegal plant since they were teenagers, which was found to contain astonishing health benefits to support people with varying illnesses.

I feel it is my responsibility to bring forth as much information as possible to an unsuspecting populace who are still afraid to even talk about marijuana use in public places. That's because an unworthy stigma has been hovering over the heads of weed lovers like a puff of smoke for many centuries.

One of the crazy secrets about this new health craze is that many scientists have known about the many health benefits of cannabis for decades. They have been studying various marijuana strains for more than 30 years. While some people in certain states are enjoying the many health benefits, others are still being criminalized for smoking and possessing the plant. The corruption has to stop.

I understand the money generating factor here. There's a lucrative financial benefit involved in the criminalization, as well as the pharmaceutical part of the business. We don't want to criticize the pharmaceutical companies that are lobbying against its legalization. We understand that some of their products work, and we need most of the medicines that are available to us.

The side effects are the only issue I have with pharmaceuticals. There are no side effects to marijuana except you may find yourself eating a little more than you'd like to. We also want to inform you of the business opportunities that are involved in this new medical revolution called Hemp or CBD. They have made it to where it cost hundreds of thousands of dollars to get into this business which is unfair to the general population.

We have to get creative with our information and voices. Where there's a will, there's iFill. Let's remove ourselves from the dream state and go to work.

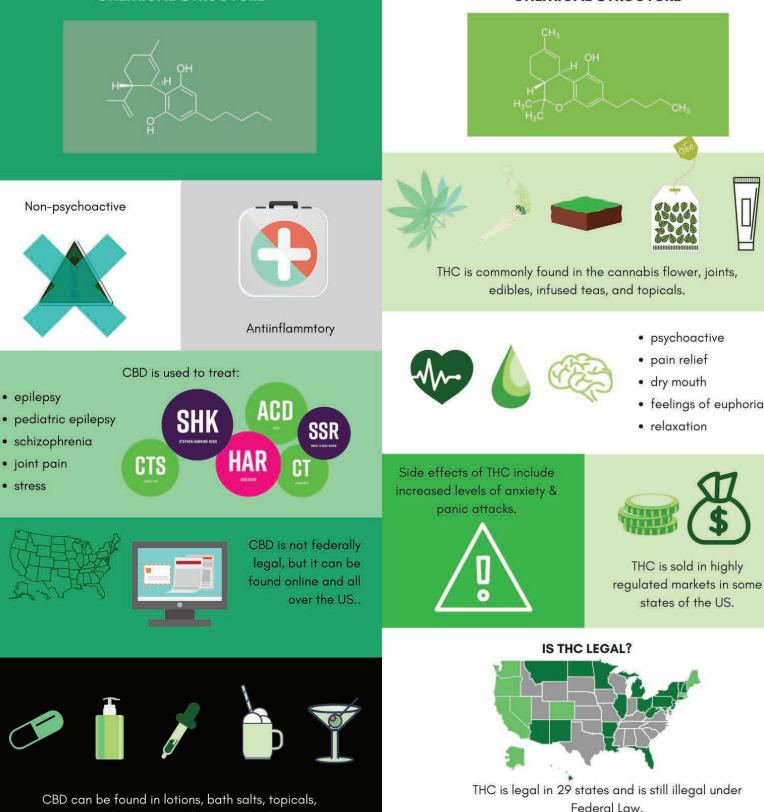




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#### CHEMICAL STRUCTURE



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## New Police Drug Test Aims to Tell Pot From CBD

BY: JODIE FLEISCHER, KATIE LESLIE, STEVE JONES AND ANTHONY JAMES

ith the rise in use of CBD to treat ailments from anxiety to arthritis, police across the U.S. now have a problem: Commonly used drug field tests can't tell the difference between legal hemp products and marijuana.

But the News4 I-Team has learned a new test developed by forensic chemists in Switzerland could help keep American CBD users out of legal trouble.

Area police have yet to deploy the new test, which was just made available in the U.S. in June. But the I-Team, the first news outlet in the U.S. to obtain and try out the Swiss kits, has learned Virginia is now evaluating the test to see whether it's a suitable replacement for the current drug field kits used by law enforcement in the Commonwealth.

Virginia's chief forensic scientist told the I-Team that her department, along with the Drug Enforcement Administration, is testing samples "so that we can understand the limitations of that test."

Popular Police Field Tests Can't Tell Pot From CBD[DC] Popular Police Field Tests Can't Tell Pot From CBD

A News4 I-Team investigation found people arrested — and a local store raided — because police, and even



upcoming meeting of the state's oversight board. Changing Laws

Common Police Field Tests Can't Distinguish Between CBD, Pot

The test, which police in Zurich developed after Swiss law changed in recent years to allow hemp with up to 1% THC, only recently became available in the U.S. And it comes as law enforcement across the country grapples with evolving CBD laws.

After federal statute changed with the 2018 Farm Bill to allow for hemp-derived CBD products with up to

### "CBD Laws Need to Be Fixed to Protect the Innocent: Lawmaker

some state labs, can't tell the difference between CBD and marijuana. Investigative Reporter Jodie Fleischer shares what she uncovered and what one state is doing about it.(Published Thursday, May 23, 2019)

Linda Jackson has warned the state's prosecutors and law enforcement about the old tests' limitations, but as of now, they are still the only kits her agency has approved for use by law enforcement.

"Those regulations would need to be altered to include the use of another test," Jackson told the I-Team in a May interview, adding that it could happen an 0.3% of THC – the chemical that can produce a high – states including Virginia, Florida and Ohio followed suit.

In March, Virginia changed the definition of marijuana to mirror federal law. Now, Virginia allows for "finished" hemp-derived products, such as CBD, as long as they contain no more than 0.3 percent THC. Marijuana remains illegal.

CBD Laws Need to Be Fixed, Lawmaker Says[DC] Continued on next page

#### **NEW POLICE DRUG TEST AIMS TO TELL POT**

#### **Continued from previous page**

CBD Laws Need to Be Fixed, Lawmaker Says

A Virginia legislator says laws surrounding hempderived CBD products need to change to make sure innocent people don't get caught in the criminal justice system.(Published Tuesday, May 28, 2019)

But as the I-Team first reported in May, some CBD users have been arrested because popular police field tests are designed to detect cannabinoids, which include both hemp and marijuana.

The I-Team has interviewed multiple people who said they were detained or arrested after their CBD products tested positive for marijuana in the disposable police field test.

They include Michael, a Virginia man who asked News4 not to use his last name, who was detained last year during a police raid of a Washington, D.C., party where others were selling marijuana. While D.C. legalized marijuana possession in small amounts, it's illegal to sell it.

Va. Warns Authorities About Tests Misidentifying CBD as Pot

"I was shocked," Michael told News4. "I literally was like, is this really happening right now?"

He said police seized his inventory but he was able to avoid arrest after showing the officer the lab results detailing the product's CBD content.

The I-Team found another case — this time out of Virginia — in which a store owner was arrested and charged with felony distribution of marijuana in March.

Putting Budding CBD Industry to the Test[DC] Putting Budding CBD Industry to the Test

Many claim the hemp extract CBD can offer medical benefits without getting you high, but the News4 I-Team found there's little oversight of what's really in it. Investigative Reporter Jodie Fleischer has here with what you need to know before you buy.(Published Wednesday, Feb. 20, 2019)

Kyle Traugh showed the I-team laboratory results that show that the product in question, which looks and smells similar to marijuana, contains less than 0.3 percent THC. But when Fredericksburg police sent the material to a lab, it came back positive for the presence of THC. It's unclear just how much THC is in the product, however, because Virginia state labs do not have the capability of measuring the exact amount of THC in most CBD or marijuana products.

Coming to America

Michael Bovens, chief scientist at the Zurich Forensic Science Institute, told the I-Team the Swiss police initially intended to develop the new test just for their own use. After validating its accuracy with hundreds of lab tests, he said, police there began using the test last September. CBD Laws Need to Be Fixed to Protect the Innocent: Lawmaker

"We are happy if the test is used successfully in other countries as well, of course," Bovens added.

The Swiss kits are similar in appearance to the older tests used throughout the U.S. But the chemicals in the Swiss test turn a purplish-pink when detecting products with a higher concentration of CBD and blue if the product is mostly marijuana.

"The Swiss kits are similar in appearance to the older tests used throughout the U.S. But the chemicals in the Swiss test turn a purplish-pink when detecting products with a higher concentration of CBD and blue if the product is mostly marijuana."

John Waldheim, the sole U.S. distributor of the Swistests, signed on to distribute the product just as Florida law was about to change. He said he's already received as many as 25,000 orders from Florida police agencies, outpacing the speed at which the Swiss manufacturer can provide them. It's unclear, however, whether any Florida agency is already using the new Swiss tests in the field.



### Whoopi Goldberg Talks Cannabis: 'I Think It's Worth Trying' BY: JAVIER HASSE, SENIOR CONTRIBUTOR

ve spent the better part of my life standing up for issues that were important to me," said actress, comedian, singer, writer, and entrepreneur Whoopi Goldberg in an OpEd about cannabis she wrote in 2018. Her latest cause, she explained, was helping women gain easy access to the therapeutic qualities of the marijuana plant.

This is a wellbeing issue, Goldberg argued, marking the difference between sheer recreation and actual medicinal need; between smoking weed in an old-fashioned joint format and consuming cannabis in ways that are not detrimental to one's lungs. This comprehension and latter distinction were crucial to the award-winning performer's decision to get into the cannabis industry, starting a business focused on women's comfort, and especially on treating menstrual aches.

"I asked a friend in the cannabis industry if anyone was doing marijuana for menstrual cramps; and when he said no, I knew someone had to – and that it may as well be us," Goldberg told me during a recent conversation. "We started working on a business plan and looking for product develop-



For Whoopi, the therapeutic properties of cannabis are no novelty.

# Goldberg's first "line of cannabis derived epsom salts and menstrual relief rubs,"

ers, which led us to Maya [Elisabeth]."

This is how Whoopi & Maya, Goldberg's first "line of cannabis derived epsom salts and menstrual relief rubs," as she defines it, came to be. Interested in learning more about this fascinating, women-focused venture, and Whoopi's long-standing love affair with cannabis, I decided to enquire further.

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**Continued on next page** 

Whoopi & Weed

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#### WHOOPI GOLDBERG TALKS CANNABIS: Continued from previous page

"When I was younger, I realized it helped my cramps, and I've had a good relationship with it since," Whoopi revealed.



"It continues to help me feel better as I get older. I'm a big fan of our products and my vape pen... they provide me relief as I get older.

We're not saying our products will work for everyone, but I think it's worth trying."

#### The Birth Of A New Love

The search for an outstanding cannabis grower was what led Whoopi to Maya Elisabeth, who is her partner at Whoopi & Maya today.

"When we started looking for someone to help us make products, we saw that Maya won the most Cannabis Cups and was involved in a women run collective. We met and we hit it off immediately," said the immensely talented performer, winner of an Emmy Award, a Grammy Award, an "I thought her [Maya's] product was great, and I asked her if she'd be willing to do this with us. Luckily she said yes, and we launched Whoopi & Maya."

Now, what makes Whoopi & Maya different from other

"This is a long term plan and we're still a relatively small company," responded the artist who captivated the world with her role as Celie in The Color Purple. "Entertainment projects come and go and there are so many things outside your control."

companies in the cannabis, and the health and wellness spaces? Why is this brand so appealing to women?

"Our goal is to make you feel better, not get you high," Whoopi told me. "There are plenty of products out there that will get you high, but we want to make sure you are feeling OK.

"We want to help women who have bad cramps be able to work a full work day without excruciating pain."

From Hollywood To Holly-Weed

I wondered how similar (or different) running a company and being a performer had been for Whoopi.

"This is a long term plan and we're still a relatively small company," responded the artist who captivated the world with her role as Celie in The Color Purple. "Entertainment projects come and go and there are so many things outside your control. I like that we can own this and have control over the direction of our business."

Beyond these differences, I wanted to know if Whoopi had learned any lessons from her career in entertainment that could be applied to her business.

"Quality and working with the right people is important no matter what you do in life," she voiced, unhesitant.

### Disney World Fires Bartender for Using CBD Oil to Treat Foot Pain



by CHRIS MOORE • JUL 17, 2019

Ras J. Baraka as this year's honorary co-chairs.

A single bottle of CBD oil bought at a Florida grocery store cost a Walt Disney World employee her job, NBC affiliate WESH2 reports.

Kathy Talafous, a former bartender at Disney World in Orlando, said that park security confiscated a bottle of CBD oil from her purse while she was visiting the theme park on her day off this April. Talafous said she bought the CBD oil over the counter at a local grocery store to help her treat foot pain.

"I didn't do anything wrong," Talafous told WESH. "I went into a store. I bought it. I paid \$50 for it." Talafous had the CBD oil in her purse when she visited the park, and security personnel seized the bottle from her during a routine bag check. "They said, 'You can't have this, it's illegal.' I said, 'What do you mean it's illegal?"

The former Disney employee received a document from the local Sheriff's Office noting that they had not tested her CBD oil to determine the THC content. The Disney incident reports claim that her oil did test positive for THC, however.

When Talafous showed up at work the following Monday, her supervisors suspended her over the CBD incident. This week, the company officially fired her from her job. "Now here I am, losing my job because of something I bought at a supermarket," she said to WESH. A union rep reportedly told her that there is a chance she could fight to get her job back, but the process could take a long time. woman lost her job at Disney World for having CBD oil in her bag while visiting the park on her day off. So much for being the happiest place on Earth. accepted to a college of their choice, but that have the means to attend that college and unlock their Godgiven potential.

Along with the congregation of Metropolitan Baptist Church where Willing Hearts has its roots, Kimberly Baxter McLain, executive director of the Foundation for Newark's Future and many others gave their time and resources for this most worthy cause.

Senator Cory Booker joined Mayor

#### "I didn't do anything wrong," Talafous told WESH. "I went into a store. I bought it. I paid \$50 for it."

The very same week that Disney security busted Talafous with her store-bought medicine, a local cop arrested 69-year-old Hester Jordan Burkhalter for bringing CBD into the Magic Kingdom. The great-grandmother had a doctor's note for the oil, which she was using to treat arthritis, but the sheriff's deputy who arrested her still made her spend the night in jail.

The local sheriff's department eventually dropped the charges against Burkhalter, but Disney World issued a lifelong ban preventing her from ever returning to any Disney properties. The great-grandmother is now suing the theme park and the local police for emotional distress, defamation of character, false arrest, illegal detention, and other civil rights violations.

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