

# Inglewood News

The Weekly Newspaper of Inglewood

Daily News on a Weekly Basis - Herald Publications - Inglewood, Hawthorne, Lawndale, El Segundo, Torrance & Manhattan Beach Community Newspapers Since 1911 - Circulation 30,000 - Readership 60,000 (310) 322-1830 - January 4, 2018

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## SBWIB I-CARE Scholarship Awarded to Morningside Student



South Bay Workforce Investment Board (SBWIB) Executive Director Jan Vogel (center) presents \$500 I-CARE Scholarship to La Quita Davis on behalf of her son Samaj Perry, a graduate of Morningside High School in Inglewood. SBWIB hosted the December meeting of the I-CARE Advisory Board. Joining in the presentation are, from left: Elisa Irish, SBWIB staff; Lt. Scott Collins, Inglewood Police Department; Sabrina Barnes, Inglewood Recreation, Parks and Library Services; Phaedra Allen, Centinela Youth Services; and, Jodi Castano, Los Angeles District Attorney's Office. Photo Courtesy of SBWIB

## Legal Marijuana Dos and Don'ts

By Rob McCarthy

A century of marijuana criminal law goes up in smoke in a few days, leaving in its place a patchwork of dos and don'ts for South Bay residents and their employers to follow.

On January 1, marijuana became legal for recreational adult use. Adults must be 21 and older to buy, carry and use marijuana. They can't smoke it in a public place though.

It has been a crime since 1913 to possess or grow marijuana in California. That changes, too when adults can grow six marijuana plants in their homes or outdoors as long as the plants are out of plain sight. The strong odor from mature marijuana plants attracts attention, and authorities want to deter minors from getting their hands on easy weed.

### The Dos

Let's start here. Adults over 21 can grow their own marijuana or buy it from a state-licensed retailer. All licenses must be issued by the Bureau of Cannabis Control.

Adults can give away marijuana, but cannot sell or barter with it. The adult-use law also doesn't mean the end of medical marijuana. State-sponsored medicinal pot retailers will be open for business in early 2018.

Young adults, 18 to 21, can buy medicinal marijuana with a recommendation from a physician or a county-issued identification card.

The cannabis control bureau had issued approximately 150 temporary licenses statewide as of December 27. Unlike Colorado that was ready with retail stores

on the law's first day, California's rollout is much slower. The state released the rules for retailers and laboratories in November, including a requirement that applicants for licenses comply with local rules.

### Now for the Don'ts

Make no mistake. There is a time and a place for lawful use of recreational pot. And there are places where under no circumstances will it be okay to smoke a joint.

Employers have the right to ban the use of marijuana and cannabis products by their employees. Getting stoned before or during the workday is not a protected activity.

Driving while under the influence remains illegal, the DMV reminded motorists in a pre-Christmas announcement. A stash of marijuana must be kept in a closed container in a vehicle or in the trunk.

The open-container restriction applies to passengers, too. "The DMV will assign negligent operator point counts for this violation," it warned on December 21.

The annually revised drivers' handbook for 2018 will explain the penalties for marijuana-related violations.

Traveling across the state line with marijuana is forbidden, even to Nevada and Oregon that have legalized pot. It's not okay to carry marijuana or cannabis onto federal property, including national parks and military bases. That's because federal law continues to classify weed as a Schedule 1 drug, making it illegal to use as a medicine or to kick back and relax.

A Schedule 1 drug is considered extremely harmful and without any medical benefits. Other Schedule 1 drugs include LSD, heroin and the date-rape drug Ecstasy. Despite several studies done on marijuana's medical benefits, federal authorities haven't reclassified marijuana. Nonetheless, 23 states now allow medical marijuana. Landlords and private property owners can ban marijuana from the premises, too.

Despite the new freedoms, California's decriminalization of pot law isn't open season for state-licensed shops in the South Bay. Carson is the only city open to allowing marijuana businesses to operate locally. Voters approved taxing marijuana and cannabis products grown and sold in the city. There are no retail shops open yet.

The Bureau of Cannabis Control did not issue a single temporary license to operate a cannabis store, growing operation, testing lab or delivery service in the South Bay, as of last week. The nearest adult-use retailers of marijuana are found in West Hollywood, where four retailers had the green light to open for business on Jan. 1.

The California Department of Public Health talks about legal, safe and responsible use of cannabis on the Web at [www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/DO/letstalkcannabis/Pages/LetsTalkCannabis.aspx](http://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/DO/letstalkcannabis/Pages/LetsTalkCannabis.aspx). The health information pertains to youth, pregnant and breastfeeding women, parents and mentors, and health care providers. •

## Weekend Forecast

**Friday**  
Partly  
Cloudy  
68°/57°



**Saturday**  
AM Clouds/  
PM Sun  
66°/54°



**Sunday**  
AM Clouds/  
PM Sun  
66°/53°

