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CANNABIS BUSINESS DIRECTORY

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Trulieve Launches Liquid Live Resin Carts From Its In-house Brand Muse

BY DANIEL CASCIATO

Florida-based Trulieve, one of the largest cannabis companies in the state, recently launched its new Liquid Live Resin carts from its in-house premium concentrate line Muse.

Extracted in Trulieve's state-of-the-art lab with fresh frozen flower, Muse provides a full-spectrum concentrate that is exceptionally flavorful and typically contains higher levels of terpenes than other traditional concentrates. The Muse line was created in response to the growing demand for cannabis vaping products and offers a high-quality option for those looking to vape their cannabis.

The products in the Muse line are all lab-tested to ensure purity and potency and are available in a variety of strains and formulations. Whether you're looking for a sativa-dominant strain to help you wake up and start your day, or an indica-heavy strain to help you wind down at night, Trulieve's Muse line has you covered.

The following new strains are now available across Florida:

- Cake Face (Hybrid)
- Purple Punch (Indica)

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DocMJ: Helping Patients Find Relief With Cannabis for a Variety of **Medical Conditions**

BY DANIEL CASCIATO

As Florida's largest and most recognized medical cannabis physician's practice, DocMJ currently operates 25 clinics across the state of Florida, in convenient locations such as Tampa, Ft. Lauderdale, Bradenton, Orlando, Tallahassee, the panhandle, and West Palm Beach. Since providing recommendations in Florida in 2016, DocMJ physicians have conducted more than 250,000 patient evaluations, according to CEO, Aaron Bloom.

"In some areas of Florida, you will find a DocMJ medical card evaluation clinic beside leading medical marijuana treatment centers (MMTCs) such as

Trulieve, Fluent, and Surterra," says Bloom. "We've also expanded our patient services to locations in Ohio and Texas." The organization advocates for responsible use and doctor-supervised medical

cannabis. "Our friendly medical assistants, call-center support team, and experienced physicians

advocate for better health and wellness through alternative medicine," says Bloom. "We support the right of patients to try safe means to manage debilitating symptoms." Providing a positive patient experience is what matters most at DocMJ, notes Bloom.

"We know that many people have questions about medical cannabis," he explains. "First, we help make patients feel informed and confident about their choices so they

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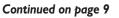
Aaron Bloom

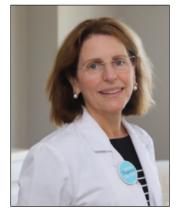
All Welcome: Insa Opens First Florida Dispensary in Tampa

BY CAROL NEWMAN

Insa may be new to Florida, but the company is not new to cannabis. Insa, founded in 2013, is led by two childhood friends (and best buds), Pete Gallagher and Pat Gottschlicht, who grew up not far from the company's first location in Springfield, Massachusetts. They wanted to start a business in an industry they believed in, with their own community serving as the launching pad for their

This September, the friends took their company south and opened its first medical cannabis dispensary in Tampa, Florida. The S. Dale Mabry Highway location is the first of ten planned medical marijuana retail stores to open in Florida in 2022. The vertically integrated company is focused on every step of the medical cannabis process, from sourcing to growing to creating and dispensing high-quality, crafted products. They offer a wide variety of products and accessories including new and exclusively grown culti-





Dr. Melanie Bone

The ABCs of **Medical** Marijuana and **Senior Care**

BY MELANIE BONE, MD, FACOG

There are 749,604 qualified patients with active medical marijuana ID cards in Florida as of the September 9th weekly update from Florida's Department of Health, Office of Medical Marijuana Use. While that department does not release statistics, the 2020 National Survey of Drug Use and Health reported that the proportion of adults 65 or older who reported recent cannabis use jumped by

In 2019, MorseLife Health System became the only senior living provider authorized by the State of Florida to offer cannabinoid-based therapies for its clients in a variety of care settings including independent living, assisted living, short term rehab, memory care and hospice. I offer the following overview of current trends and issues.

Florida rule 64-4.011, F.A.C. requires all patients and caregivers to have a Medical Marijuana Use Registry identification card. Patients must be recertified every 210 days and renew their ID card annually. Elderly caregivers of another must also be approved and a patient wishing to serve as a caregiver must apply separately for a caregiver card and a patient card.

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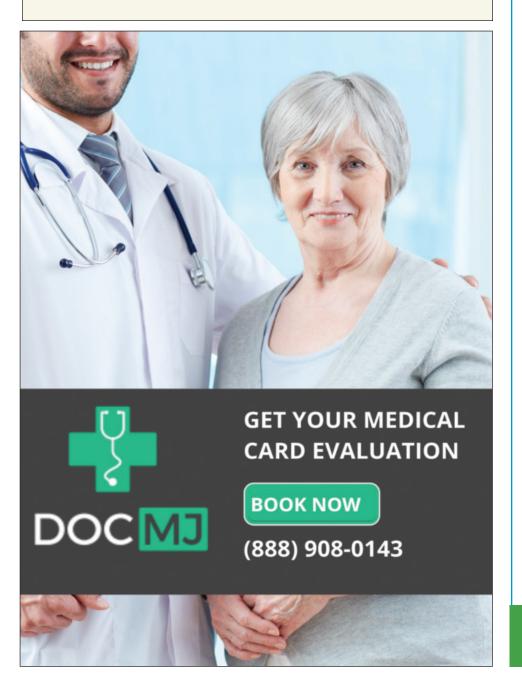


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Publisher's Note

After Fifty-One Years of Marriage, You Would Think I'd Learn ...

There is no such thing as a Sunday free lunch in the Felix household — not when Carol is around.

Our marriage "made in Brooklyn" in October 1971 is the perfect combination of opposites ... I want to spend Sunday afternoon watching stupid movies (or as Carol characterizes them "idiot" movies) and Carol either has a household project planned or reads the Sunday New York Times cover to cover, including doing the entire crossword puzzle. I think you get the picture.

But seriously, that was last Sunday. We actually had an empty house and nothing scheduled — it was just the two of us. This for anyone familiar with the Felix revolving door was pretty much a miracle. No kids in temporary residence, no grandkids for me to spoil, no early snowbirds seeking a little fun in the sun ... just Carol and me.



But after a satisfying Palm Beach Bagel breakfast (albeit Keto-friendly) and enough coffee to sink a ship, I slumped on the couch and found one of my ultimate stupid movies — the infamous Waterworld (probably second only to Ishtar in terms of epic failures.) So with my penchant for bad movies, Carol knew I was settling in for a two-hour marathon of Mad Max action, starvation (the characters not me!) and watery dialogue. And that's when she struck ... and I realized I'd been had.

First, she'd encouraged me to really treat myself with an artery-clogging breakfast, and then watched mutely as I settled in for a long stretch on the couch. And no sooner had I gotten hooked on the whole Waterworld plot once again (or lack of plot), she mentioned this little project on the agenda that day. Of course, she said there was no hurry, and it could certainly wait until after my movie – that was the dead giveaway. I knew this little job had to involve something much bigger. And I fell for it ... hook, line and ladder. According to her, bleaching ceiling water stains in 3 different rooms was no big deal.

So can you blame me – when Kevin Costner called for help to defeat the Smokers, I actually yelled out to volunteer! But Kevin didn't answer, and Carol was suddenly sitting nearby watching me watching the movie. Some will accuse me of being clueless, but even I, got the picture. Yes I was done for, done for the day, done for the movie and all because I was seduced by a big breakfast and a "man dream." That one "little job" turned out to be not so little, the domino effect coming into play — namely getting the ladder, laying the tarp, donning my slicker and goggles, and by the time I was done, so was my back. Nothing more for me to do than curl up with 2 Advil and a heating pad to watch a real man defeat his enemy. (There are no ceiling water stains in the ocean.)

Charles Felix

You can reach Charles Felix at Charles@cannabisnewsflorida.com



Cannabis Spotlight

Debbie Altman Weiner Cannabis Consultant/Educator

What benefits do you see for patients throughout Florida within this space?

The legalization of Medical Marijuana has allowed patients to have more choices when it comes to taking care of their own health. Our health care system is so strained right now, and it is up to us individually to take an active role in our own healthcare choices (and in most cases, become our own advocate). We know our body best and there are holistic choices that we can make instead of the typical pharmaceutical route, and without all the side effects. Pharmaceuticals remain necessary, but they do not have to be the first (or only) choice when it comes to healthcare and

What motivates you to be a part of the cannabis Industry?

As a 53-year-old woman, I never thought that I would see the day when a patient could walk into a specialized dispensary and have so many options of plant medicine from which to choose. Not to mention the fact that Marijuana is finally being recognized as medicine! Cannabis has personally helped me so much over the years in ways that pharmaceuticals could not. With my depression. With my anxiety. With sleep. And most recently, grieving from an extremely traumatic event. There is so much stigma and misinformation still out there regarding Marijuana. I want people to "see" an actual Medical Marijuana patient who does not fit the old norms of a "typical marijuana proponent" and know that there are other healthy choices outside of antidepressants and anti-anxiety medications. For me, both personally and having worked professionally in Doctors' offices with patients throughout my career, I believe that these medicines tend to numb out emotions, which can provide short-term relief for some, but does not always provide long-term healing solutions. Plus, this class of pharmaceuticals has a high incidence of addiction.

What field are you in within the cannabis space?

I work in business development and education/advocacy, implementing programs that grow relationships with Physicians and my community.

How can people in Florida benefit from the company you represent?

The Hippie Chick (THC) Helps is a consulting firm that specializes in education and advocacy for Doctors and patients involved with all things Medical Marijuana. My goal is to help our industry become exceptional. I'd like to see the purchase of Medical Marijuana be like walking into a drugstore for a patient, where you can order and pick up your medication, and have someone available to answer questions regarding dosage, quantity, and routes. I feel that there is still a HUGE gap in education, especially for older patients. It takes so much more for them to open up to the idea of Medical Marijuana, so any small hurdle prevents them from following through with this life-saving medicine. Situations where a patient goes through all the motions to start their journey with medical marijuana but gives up due to small inconveniences breaks my heart because they discourage patients in that age group from coming back. All that hard work and the patient ultimately does not benefit.

How did you get started within the cannabis industry?

I was already a Medical Marijuana patient when my father, who was an Emergency Room doctor in South Florida for more than 30 years, decided to become a Medical Marijuana Doctor. Imagine my delight (especially because my entire life I hid my bloodshot eyes to keep him from knowing I had smoked marijuana!) As a result of my own personal experience with Medical Marijuana, I had always dreamed of being in this space of educating/collaborating with Doctors and patients on the benefits of Medical Marijuana. Having my father in this space definitely helped open doors for me, but I've had to work really, really hard to get ahead, and I don't plan on stopping anytime soon.





Are you personally a MJ card holder?

I am a Medical Marijuana card holder and I highly recommend being one as I feel that using different routes (in addition to combining with CBD) is so important for obtaining the full health benefits of Medical Marijuana.

Do you see Florida moving forward with recreational Marijuana/ cannabis and how will that affect your business?

I do see Florida moving forward with recreational marijuana, but I don't feel that it will affect the "major" players in this industry much. Most have been planning their "pivot" to a recreational market for a while, to minimize the effects that it would have on their business. There is actually a new industry-led initiative in Florida for the legalization of mar-

ijuana aimed at the 2024 ballot. The initiative is being backed by Trulieve, along with musicians The Bellamy Brothers, who are featured in an initial ad for the effort that talks about the economic opportunities and civil liberties implications of recreational legalization.

For more information, contact debbie@thehippiechickhelps.com.

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3



ZOOMMeetings

Wednesday, October 12 Wednesday, October 26

6:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)



A bimonthly Zoom meeting exclusively for Certified Medical Marijuana Physicians and MMTC Medical Directors in the State of Florida

Purpose: to discuss current medical, legal and business issues facing the Medical Marijuana industry.

Registration in advance is required.

Registration is **FREE**

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Cover Story: DocMJ: Helping Patients Find Relief With Cannabis for a Variety of Medical Conditions

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are able to take control over their health and wellness, making informed decisions. Finally, we assist them to determine if cannabis is a safe choice for their wellness needs."

In addition, Bloom says that their medical providers are compassionate and understanding. They help patients develop a treatment plan to realize their symptom management goals.

"We know that many patients are concerned about stigmas associated with cannabis. Patients who get their medical health evaluation with DocMJ are genuinely cared for, every step of the way," he says. "DocMJ is committed to helping patients bridge the knowledge gap about doctor-supervised cannabis use. And we help make applying for a Florida medical card a pleasant experience for our patients."

In the past two years, DocMJ's business has grown exponentially. They believe this is because of their positive relationships with patients.

Bloom notes, DocMJ is more than a place to get your medical card evaluation. "We are a growing community of patients, providers, and advocates for responsible and safe use. Our growth is primarily due to patients recommending DocMJ to their friends and family."

Patients who receive their health evaluation through DocMJ remain part of their community. They provide informative newsletters and resources monthly.

DocMJ recently announced a new initiative for patients as well. DocMJ will launch a community forum in January 2023 to allow patients to connect online with their local community. Patients can register and chat live with other patients and the DocMJ team.

"When you suffer from debilitating symptoms, it is nice to be able to have conversations with other patients—people who may be living with the same challenges," says Bloom.

They will also share news and wellness blogs through the new community portal. Access to the DocMJ community hub will provide free support to answer questions about medical cannabis before the patient schedules an appointment with a physician.

"Our goal is to continue to provide accurate, helpful, and affordable resources for our patients," adds Bloom. "We are proud of the compassionate wellness community we have built in Florida. And look forward to our expansion into other states."

One of the most popular DocCBD products is the CALM tincture. It is a full-spectrum cannabidiol liquid supplement that provides 1,800mg of CBD and

600mg of CBG. Each bottle contains sixty (60) doses to help patients with symptoms of anxiety, mood, and other related conditions.

"We formulated our CALM tincture with cannabigerol (CBG), a non-psychoactive cannabinoid derived from hemp," says Bloom. "Patients using medical cannabis who want to reduce the psychoactive effects of Delta-9 THC may find a CBD+CBG supplement helps. And CBD can help with chronic inflammation and nausea."

Topical cannabidiol creams can be effective for individuals who have localized chronic pain. That includes people living with arthritis and joint inflammation, peripheral or diabetic neuropathy, fibromyalgia, and sports injuries.

The DocCBD PAIN products are available in an easy-to-dispense roll-on container or cream.

DocMJ provides a convenient monthly subscription for patients who want to add cannabidiol topicals and supplements to their wellness plan. The DocCBD subscription plan also provides a significant discount for patients.

DocMJ wanted to start offering their own products as a result of the Food and Drug Administration issuing more than one hundred warning letters to CBD brands since 2015. There are many imposter cannabidiol products that offer little to no wellness benefits for patients.

"Our knowledge of medicinal cannabis inspired us to develop DocCBD," says Bloom. "We understood that it could be challenging for patients to identify a high-quality CBD supplement or topical for pain relief. DocMJ worked to develop an exclusive private label of wellness supplements, including a tincture and topicals."

Every DocCBD product has a certificate of laboratory analysis (COA). Their oral cannabidiol supplements are formulated for maximum bioavailability. That means more of the wellness benefits of cannabinoids survive the digestive tract.

Looking ahead, Bloom says the company wants to differentiate themselves by continuing to provide caring support for patients and affordable services.

"At DocMJ, our patients matter to us," he says. "And the care and support they receive are unparalleled compared to other medical cannabis provider service options. At the end of the day, it is about making a positive difference in the lives of patients. We want to remain an important part of helping every patient improve quality of life and effective symptom management."

For more information, visit www.docmj.com.



Four Steps Toward a Green Global Future: Insights from a Cannabis Summit at the United Nations

BY SUMMER WESTERBUR AND SARAH BODNAR

In a historic gathering this spring, government officials, academics, entrepreeconomists, international activists, industry leaders, and legal professionals gathered from around the world to discuss how cannabis and hemp can advance global sustainability goals.

The Regenerative Cannabis Live summit was hosted at the United Nations (UN) in New York City a year after New York became the 15th state to legalize cannabis, and two years after a vote by the United Nations to remove cannabis from Schedule IV of the 1961 Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs.

A visionary lineup of speakers and panelists discussed how the hemp and cannabis industries can help actualize the United Nations' 17 sustainable development goals. The UN's aspirational goals call for eliminating hunger and poverty, and promoting health and wellbeing, climate action, equality, innovation, and sustainable management of global resources.

The burgeoning hemp and cannabis industries present great opportunities on these fronts. How do we get there? In the day's discussions about building regenerative industries, the following steps outlined the path to a global green future:

1. Medical Advancement: One of the driving forces behind the UN's reschedul-



Authors Summer Westerbur and Sarah Bodnar in attendance at Regennabis UN event

ing of cannabis was to promote medical studies, treatment, and Decriminalization and legalization propel science forward and drive innovation. Further medical study of hemp and cannabis supports public health and safety and helps reverse stigma around cannabis usage.

- 2. Finding Competitive Advantage: Many countries are exploring their role in a global cannabis marketplace as the prospects for international trade legalization roll out around the globe, demand is driving. Countries are racing to find their place in the global cannabis market.
 - 3. Prioritizing Social Equity: Jaime

Pearson, CEO of Bhang Inc., noted in her ICBC Berlin speech a need to unite the suits and the roots. She defines the roots as people who've made cannabis accessible before legalization. Strong social equity programs prioritize license applications for victims of the drug war. Previous attempts have largely failed. Cannabis can and should be used as a path to provide reparations to those most impacted by the drug war.

4. Shifting Cultural Norms: Ultimately, legalization is a process of cultural integration. Where legalization ends, normalization truly begins. Psychedelic research is encouraging. Psychedelics have become an important part of the legalization conversation with Colorado voting on legalization in November.

With the growth of these industries also comes great responsibility.

Second largest carbon footprint

Interestingly, many of the member countries of the United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs who aligned with a World Health Organization recommendation to deschedule, have not yet mirrored this policy domestically. This misalignment in policy underscores the piecemeal way in which decriminalization is evolving around the world, and poses one of the greatest obstacles to advancing the industry.

Legalization is only the first step in unleashing the social, economic, and environmental power of these industries.

The Sustainable Goals

The 17 United Nations sustainable development goals (SDGs) to transform our world:

GOAL 1: No Poverty

GOAL 2: Zero Hunger

GOAL 3: Good Health and Well-being

GOAL 4: Quality Education

GOAL 5: Gender Equality

GOAL 6: Clean Water and Sanitation GOAL 7: Affordable and Clean Energy

GOAL 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth

GOAL 9: Industry, Innovation

and Infrastructure

GOAL 10: Reduced Inequality

GOAL 11: Sustainable Cities

and Communities

GOAL 12: Responsible

Consumption and Production

GOAL 13: Climate Action

GOAL 14: Life Below Water

GOAL 15: Life on Land

GOAL 16: Peace and Justice

Strong Institutions

GOAL 17: Partnerships to achieve the Goal

To watch the recording of Regenerative Cannabis Live, visit www.regennabis.com

Summer Westerbur is President & Founder of Kairos Insurance Group Cannabis Division. Sarah Bodnar is California-based Cannabis Policy Advisor & Founder of Golden State Public Affairs.

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Trulieve Wins Georgia Production License to Provide Patients Access Statewide to Medical Cannabis

Trulieve Cannabis Corp. announced the Georgia Access to Medical Cannabis Commission ("GMCC" or "Commission") awarded Trulieve GA, Inc. with a Class 1 production license. Trulieve patients in Georgia will be able to choose from a variety of low-THC oil products in both oral and topical forms in the near future.

The GMCC's decision solidifies and expands Trulieve's Southeastern hub and will introduce the Company's high-quality and safe products in Georgia's developing medical cannabis market. Georgia's "Hope Act" was signed into law in 2019 to authorize the Commission to oversee the selection process to launch a medical cannabis program in the state. After evaluating and scoring the competitive submissions, GMCC announced in July 2021 of its intent to award Trulieve a license in part due to the Company's ability to make products available to patients across the entire state.

Trulieve will have an initial allocation of five medical cannabis dispensaries in Georgia and will seek to open additional dispensaries in the state as the patient population grows. Trulieve is building an indoor cultivation facility in Adel, GA, to produce low-THC oil products. The Adel site will also house a processing facility as part of the Company's vertically integrated "seed-to-sale" model.

"The Georgia team is hard at work to begin operations as soon as possible to ensure those in need have access to Trulieve's line of products," said Lisa Pinkney, President of Trulieve Georgia. "We're also excited to share that Trulieve's operation and its ancillary business partners are projected to create a wide range of jobs in the state as the

Trulieve is committed to investing in the communities where it operates, and its Supplier Diversity Program will provide opportunities for diverse businesses in Adel and throughout Georgia both during construction and after operations begin

E-mail your Cannabis news to: carol@cannabisnewsflorida.com



Florida Approves Medical **Marijuana License for** First Black Farmer

BY DANIEL CASCIATO

Terry Donnell Gwinn, the owner of a Suwannee County farm, will soon become Florida's newest medical marijuana operator. His application was unanimously approved by a state panel earlier this month. This will also make him the first black-owned business in the state's medical marijuana industry.

Gwinn and his brother Clifford have operated Gwinn Brothers Farm in McAlpin for more than 40 years and produce a variety of crops there. On their 1,137-acre farm the Gwinn's produce includes: peanuts, iron clay peas, bahia grass seed, hay, and beef cattle. They are best known, however, for their premium watermelons, which are sold locally and throughout the eastern part of the country. The two brothers also manage a packinghouse in McAlpin, where they employ local workers and high school students.

The Florida Department of Health, Office of Medical Marijuana Use (OMMU), will issue as many as 22 licenses to qualified applicants under the General Application Round, in accordance with a 2017 medical marijuana law that sets parameters for the sector. This will double the number of cannabis operators

The 2017 law included a provision requiring health officials to approve a license to a Black farmer since no African American farmers in the state met eligibility requirements for an earlier round of state licenses. Those early licenses were based on a 2014 law that legalized non-euphoric cannabis for a limited number of patients.

The 2017 law required granting a license to one applicant who is a recognized class member from the class action lawsuits known as the Pigford cases. These were the Black farmers who sued the federal government in 1997 alleging that they had been discriminated against in gaining access to loans, debt restructuring, and other aid provided to white farmers.

To be eligible, Black farmers had to show they've been operating in Florida at least five years. However, when the Department of Health's application process was revealed to include a \$146,000 fee non-refundable license - more than double what prospective operators paid last time an open spot became available many were upset. To alleviate these concerns, the state passed a law stating that eligible Black farmers would not have to pay for any future licenses.

A total of 12 Black farmers submitted applications for the lone license. As a result of the state's decision to award Gwinn a license, litigation is expected from some of the other medical-marijuana providers who lost their chance. In fact, 17 of the current 22 providers received licenses after filing lawsuits.

The selection of Gwinn also comes as there's a big push to add a proposed constitutional amendment on the 2024 ballot that would legalize recreational use of marijuana in Florida.

Cover Story: The ABCs of Medical Marijuana and Senior Care

Continued from page I

This can create hurdles for seniors who are not active or living independently. Many of those do not have the necessary valid driver's license or photo ID listing their current address to successfully

The largest barrier to access for elders in assisted living or depending on caregivers is that medical marijuana is still illegal according to the Federal Government and has not been cleared by the Food and Drug Administration. Therefore, it cannot be offered as any part of care subsidized by Medicare and Medicaid.

Boomers

There has been a large uptick in the number of baby boomers utilizing cannabis products for medical purposes. In fact, an April survey of Medicare recipients by Medicare Plans reported that one in five currently use medical marijuana. Given the access barriers discussed above, there is an age divide with younger boomers and older patients.

Conditions

When cannabinoid therapy works it does a very good job and people want to continue. Many of our patients who started with us are still utilizing it while some who stopped have resumed noting its health benefits.

In Florida, conditions that qualify are cancer, epilepsy, glaucoma, HIV, AIDS, PTSD, ALS, Crohn's disease, Parkinson's disease, MS, anxiety, a terminal condition, and chronic nonmalignant pain arising from and extending beyond one of these conditions.

While we don't have the typical double-blind research studies to rely upon, millions of data points are giving us a

much better understanding of how to use cannabinoid treatments.

We are seeing a shift from conditions such as Parkinson's to lifestyle usage for anxiety and sleep disorders. Patients in memory care receiving cannabinoid therapies appear to be calmer with reduced sundowning. Encouragingly, our data points are revealing at least a 50% reduction in use of other medications that patients were taking for their conditions.

Dosing

I have added D – dosing - to my ABC's as it may be the greatest difference between the older population and younger users. Seniors are very uncomfortable with self-medicating and want to control what and how much they take.

Doctors cannot prescribe medical marijuana and budtenders at dispensaries are not physicians. Seniors are faced with a wide variety of products with different potencies and delivery systems from oldfashioned joints to vape cartridges, topical, edible and oral options. While many older patients prefer CBD products or a ratio of CBD to THC, these products are not widely available.

Every patient's experience will be different and, more often than not, patients are left to experiment on their own to find the optimum dosage and product.

Practitioners must continue to educate themselves. Like any specialty, there is a learning curve regarding products, providers, what helps people and what to avoid. Medical marijuana has tremendous power to help seniors but needs to be ordered with a provider's guidance.

Dr. Melanie Bone directs the Living Learning Lab at MorseLife Health System in West Palm Beach.



Cover Story: Trulieve Launches Liquid Live Resin Carts From Its In-house

Continued from page I

• LA Kush Cake (Hybrid)

premium Liquid Live Resin is as pure as it comes, meaning a full spectrum of cannabinoids, rich flavor, aromatic profiles, and sensational effects, with nothing more added," says Kristin Robertson, Trulieve's Executive Director of Marketing in Florida.

Liquid Live Resin is a full spectrum

extract that is 100% oil, contains no "Made solely with fresh frozen flower additives or fillers, and is not cut with from extraordinary single strains, our distillate. The flower is harvested and frozen at harvest time to preserve all of the rich aromatic compounds that provide LLR its characteristic flavor. The live resin is then extracted, utilizing our proprietary extraction blends.

> Stay updated on their upcoming launches and drops by following @trulieve.



Drug Testing for Cannabis in Sports: To "Catch" or "Identify"?

We caught you with marijuana in your system. A phrase repeated over and over for the past few decades during the era of drug testing in sports. The next step was to send an athlete off for counseling and determine if a suspension or penalty would be warranted.

I have previously written in this column and in all likelihood every reader is aware of the societal shifts toward greater acceptance and understanding of cannabis products ranging from THC Delta-9 to CBD. While drug testing will likely continue if not to detect marijuana but perhaps for other performance enhancing or street drugs, the view on cannabis is and must change. As I work closely with athletic programs, I see first-hand that there are essentially three approaches to this cultural shift. The first is to make things happen. That is, recognize the changes and better understand how to align program policy and philosophy with current trends. The second approach is to watch things happen. Here, programs recognize things are changing, but prefer to wait and see what others do that does or doesn't work. And the third

is to wonder what happened. This essentially describes the programs that really don't understand the need for change and have dug their heels in to their current abstinence and punitive type approach.

For all too long, positive tests "catching" athletes with THC metabolites through an announced urinalysis was the trigger for a counseling referral. Why? Because that is what we all did, and because all forms of cannabis were banned in most sporting organizations. I believe strongly that to move toward a more contemporary approach to testing programs, we need to ask "why?" we test and consider transforming the communication approaches we implement for education and testing.

To begin with, instead of "catching" athletes with marijuana in their systems, wouldn't it be better if we "identified" marijuana in their system? This change sounds much less authoritative and law enforcing and leads us closer toward a "why is it in one's system" to better understand the rationale and impact of personal use. For decades our only educational message was that from the "say no to drugs" era and we said marijuana was bad. The abstinence only message has proven not to be effective as we are learning more about true adverse effects of cannabis and equally more so any potential benefits. In other words, the message that cannabis is all bad is no longer believable. This has led to where we are today in that athletes do not believe the education that we are disseminating as being genuine. Some partake in usage when it is knowingly on a banned list and instead will spend their time learning how



BY JEFF G. KONIN

to mask a drug test.

Instead, repacking educational deliverables in a more factual and meaningful approach would serve an administration well. For example, begin by separating the non-euphoric components of the plant from those that do not create a high. This is basic knowledge and these differences should no longer be grouped together in a term such as "marijuana". Perhaps correlating facts about how cannabinoids such as CBD or THC work in one's system. Again, not an overkill on a scientific lecture, but rather layperson materials to better educate stakeholders. What about how dosage and even application methods make a difference in the benefits versus risks of use. Is it a good approach now to have any athlete self-dosing with a total lack of formal knowledge? Do we allow athletes to trial and error with any other potentially therapeutically beneficial or harmful drug?

Rather than clump all things marijuana in one group should we not educate on how vaping, smoking, and dabbing are so very different than

topicals, patches and even edibles? We do not expect our athletes to become experts on this nor do they have the time to focus all of their attention on marijuana knowledge. Heck, many of us who care for them aren't even close to being experts. A little bit of knowledge can be helpful when it comes to cannabis use in athletes since usage currently in all likelihood exceeds realistic and factual information dissemination in athletic settings.

Are all uses of various cannabinoids good? Are all bad? Clearly an approach that takes a hardline stance in either direction is not an accurate and honest form of education. Like all other settings and population of people, it is long past due time that we address the "why" of drug testing for marijuana. Despite slowly learning more and more each day about the benefits of cannabinoids, there are circumstances that yield abuse of marijuana that can assist us in helping athletes cope with mental health-related issues and other ailments that they are attempting to manage on their own.

Jeff G. Konin is a Clinical Professor in the Department of Athletic Training in the Nicole Wertheim College of Nursing and Health Sciences at Florida International University (FIU) where he directs the Global Initiative for Cannabinoid Research and Education. To learn more about FIU's cannabinoid research and education initiative you can visit their website at https://go.fiu.edu/GlobalCannabis. Views represented in this column do not reflect that of Florida International University and are solely attributed to Dr. Jeff G. Konin.



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Florida's Resource for Medical & Business Cannabis Developments



Branded Legacy, Inc. Partners With Apple Rush Company, Inc. Company Adds New Delta-8 Tincture to Product Line

Branded Legacy, Inc. (OTCQB: BLEG), a holding company focused on the commercial development of cannabinoid-infused products from CBD topicals and tinctures to edibles is pleased to announce it has partnered with Apple Rush Company, Inc., (OTC Pink: APRU), to make its Delta 8 tinctures for Spikes CBDX.

Apple Rush Company, Inc., a Texas corporation, is a company that engages in the business of developing, marketing, distributing, and selling products that promote a healthy lifestyle. Its primary focus is the food, beverage, snacks, anhydrous Hemp oil marketplace, kratom, kava, and other active ingredients. It is headquartered in Orlando, Florida.

Tony Torgerud, CEO of Apple Rush, stated "We are excited to partner with Branded Legacy on this product line. APRU has developed its own technologies in water solubility and have produced 100's of thousand tinctures, drinks, chews, and other products. We are excited to bring additional products to Branded Legacy and look forward to a long mutually beneficial relationship."

Brandon Spikes, chairman of Branded Legacy, Inc., stated, "We are pleased to be working with Tony and Apple Rush Company. We had an opportunity to tour their facility in Titusville which was the deciding factor in doing business together. We look forward to building a long-lasting relationship and potentially working together on other projects as well."

About Spikes CBDX: Spikes CBDX is a line of CBD products designed to assist athletes perform better, recover faster, and avoid injuries. The Company believes that post workout recovery, with Spikes CBDX products, can lower inflammation, aid in making your body stronger, and help recover from injuries naturally. The CBD line also targets individuals who are looking for pain relief, better sleep, faster recovery and lowering inflammation. Spikes CBDX provides tinctures, lotions, moisturizer, and cryo-gel roll-ons. To view all the Spikes CBDX products please visit: spikescbdx.com.

About Elev8 Hemp: Elev8 Hemp's mission is simple: craft the highest-quality,

organic hemp products for consumers in search of a healthier, happier lifestyle. Everyone needs to get the proper amount of healthy proteins to keep them feeling better and more energetic. We source only the best organic hemp protein powders—naturally full of powerhouse amino acids and Omegas-3, 6, and 9—so we can infuse your daily coffee and tea with an abundance of minerals, vitamins, antioxidants, and fiber. www.elev8hemp.com

About Versatile Industries: Versatile Industries, LLC is an acquisition company used to incubate companies to eventually spin off into their own public vehicles. Currently owns patent for a sports training assembly called The Quickness, a solar and water treatment company Magic 1 Promotions, LLC and Astound NMN. By supplementing NMN it helps maintain NAD+ levels, ultimately slowing the effects of aging, www.astoundnmn.com

Safe Harbor Statement:

The information posted in this release may contain forward-looking statements within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. You can identify these statements by the use of the words "may," "will," "should," "plans," "expects," "anticipates," "continue," "estimate," "project," "intend," and similar expressions. Forward-looking statements involve risks and uncertainties that could cause actual results to differ materially from those projected or anticipated. These risks and uncertainties include, but are not limited to, general economic and business conditions, effects of continued geopolitical unrest and regional conflicts, competition, changes in technology and methods of marketing, delays in completing various engineering and manufacturing programs, changes in customer order patterns, changes in product mix, continued success in technological advances and delivering technological innovations, shortages in components, production delays due to performance quality issues with outsourced components, and various other factors beyond the Company's control.

Ketamd, A Florida-Based Telemedicine Platform Providing Safe Access To At-Home Ketamine Treatments, Is Acquired By Braxia Scientific Corp

KetaMD's mission is to expand access and awareness to psychedelic medicine treatment at a time when mental health issues are devastating people across the world

KetaMD, a Florida-based telemedicine company providing access to at-home ketamine treatments for people suffering from depression and related mental health conditions, has been acquired by Toronto-based Braxia Scientific Corp. (CSE: BRAX) (OTC: BRAXF) (FWB: 4960), a medical research and telemedicine company with clinics providing innovative ketamine and psilocybin treatments for depression and related disorders. With this recent acquisition, KetaMD is now available in the State of Florida with a rollout to other key states planned next year.

KetaMD's end-to-end telemedicine platform, utilizing leading technology and a mobile app, provides access to safe, affordable, and potentially life-changing at-home ketamine treatments for people suffering from depression and related mental health conditions. Treatments are medically supervised, guided virtually by registered nurses, and backed by the world's leading psychiatrists and researchers in depression.

Braxia Scientific plans to further augment the KetaMD platform, including planning new clinical trials in the U.S. and leveraging Braxia's growing proprietary patient dataset, to support the potential future development of psychedelic therapeutics in the management of depression and other related mental health conditions. KetaMD's innovative technology capabilities provide Braxia the opportunity to offer both in-person and digital telehealth ketamine treatments, combined with established clinical research and development capabilities focused on the commercialization and real-world implementation of novel pharmaceuticals.

"The KetaMD team is honored to have the opportunity to work with Braxia CEO Dr. McIntyre and a world-leading research team at Braxia Scientific in the area of depression and mood disorders," said Warren Gumpel, CEO and Co-Founder of KetaMD. "I believe this will be the key distinguishing factor in KetaMD's success."

"This acquisition is a notable step forward in bringing awareness, accessibility, and scalability of the benefits of ketamine and psychedelics generally for those suffering from depression and other mood disorders," said Dr. Roger McIntyre, CEO, Braxia Scientific. "We've seen improved outcomes firsthand from ketamine treatment in our clinics and in our clinical trials. Adding digital telehealth capabilities through KetaMD's online and mobile platform strengthens our position to lead the medical use of evidence-based psychedelics, while accelerating our ability to get treatment to those in need, safely and quickly across the U.S. and Canada, and globally in the future."

KetaMD was founded by psychedelic pioneers Zappy Zapolin and Warren Gumpel, along with mindfulness instructor and brand experience expert Kaia Roman and the company's President and Chief Operating Officer, Leann Taylor. The team are dedicated to helping those suffering from debilitating mental health issues find relief through ketamine and other novel psychedelic medicines.

For those interested in qualifying for KetaMD are encouraged to visit www.KetaMD.com and download the KetaMD app.

E-mail your Cannabis News to: carol@cannabisnewsflorida.com



Cannabis Operator Cresco Labs Brings Bestselling Flagship Brand, Cresco, to Florida

Cresco Labs announced the Florida expansion of its premium flagship brand, Cresco. Now available for purchase at the company's 19 Sunnyside stores throughout the state, Cresco launches with its multimarket leading Liquid Live Resin ("LLR") vapes and Live Resin concentrates.

"Florida's medical patients use cannabis regularly for their diverse health and wellness needs and gravitate towards premium branded products for their high quality, consistent experiences," said Cris Rivera, Florida Regional President at Cresco Labs. "Cresco's Liquid Live Resin vapes and Live Resin concentrates will not only offer top quality, repeatedly favorable experiences, but also will provide our patients with the confidence and assurance that they are consuming trusted, safe cannabis products with nothing added or taken away from a single strain. With the addition of Cresco to Sunnyside's brand assortment, we're excited to give our patients more choice in vape and concentrate forms across price points, potencies, flavor profiles, strains and more."

Throughout the coming months, the following Cresco products will be available exclusively at Sunnyside:

Liquid Live Resin Vape Cartridges: Cresco's LLR for vaping is unique and fundamentally different from other vapes in the market today. Cresco Labs uses a patented Butane Hash Oil (BHO) postextraction process that starts with a single strain harvested and extracted at peak freshness and results in the preservation of the strain's original full-spectrum effects, flavor and terpenes. Nothing is added or taken away. It's pure cannabis, and nothing else. Available now in 500mg for \$55 and soon in 1g for \$95.

Live Resin Concentrates: Utilizing the same BHO extraction process as LLR from premium, fresh-frozen flower without artificial flavors or fillers. Cresco's Live Resin Budder, Sugar and Sauce forms are for dabbing. They are strain-specific, robust in flavor and aroma, potent and capture the complexity of the plant. Consistency is the main difference among the four forms.

Budder: A smooth and creamy texture like peanut butter. Available now in 1g for \$65.

Sugar: A shimmering, crystalline consistency like thick sugar or raw honey. Available now in 1g for \$65.

Sauce: A syrupy, liquid consistency with granular crystals that is high in terpenes. Available soon in 1g for \$65.

THCa Crushed Diamonds: Brand-new to Cresco's portfolio, a potent concentrate that is similar in appearance to diamonds with solid crystalline structures. Available soon in 1g for \$65.

At Sunnyside, patients have access to one of the widest selections of products from Cresco Labs' One Plant, Supply, Good News, Remedi, Sunnyside Chews and now Cresco brands.

Cover Story: All Welcome: Insa Opens First Florida Dispensary in Tampa

Continued from page I

vars, pre-rolls, vapes, concentrates, and premium chocolate with the goal of meeting every patient's unique needs.

"Insa is focused on leading the field and advancing cannabis for everyone. As our business continues to expand down the East Coast, the Insa team remains committed to combining a passion for the best possible ingredients and products with cutting edge science and innovation," said Peter Gallagher, Insa Co-Founder. "Our team's passion for what we do, allows Insa to compete in this new market against the larger, corporate cannabis producers; we are excited to expand our footprint into Florida and to serve patients in this growing market."

Insa's commitment to serving patients goes beyond the quality of their products. The company has invested in a unique in-store design and employee training programs with the goal of providing a welcoming and educational patient experience.

"Shopping at dispensaries can feel intimidating and create a barrier for people to learn about cannabis and how it can help make their day better," said Sara Sullivan, Insa Director of Retail Development & Experience. "Insa puts customer service first by focusing on in-store education and by creating a retail experience that is easy to navigate for patients with all levels of cannabis experience."

The company plans to create similar in-store experiences in their other planned locations of Clearwater, Hudson, Tallahassee, Orlando, Jacksonville, Lake Placid, Largo, The Villages and Tampa (N Dale Mabry).

To learn more about Insa please visit www.insa.com.

Trulieve Announces Opening of Relocated Edgewater Dispensary in Florida

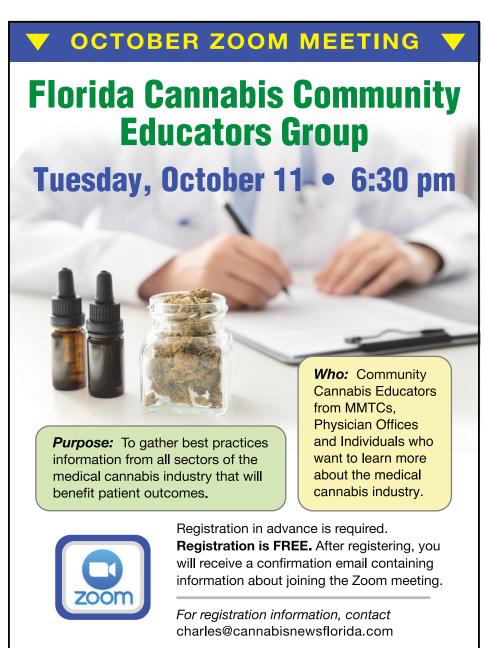
Trulieve Cannabis Corp. announced the relocation of its medical dispensary in Edgewater, FL. The new dispensary is located at 2102 S Ridgewood Ave.

"Trulieve is excited to open our newly relocated dispensary in Edgewater that offers a larger showroom with more amenities," said Kim Rivers, CEO of Trulieve. "Our company is driven by a commitment to provide tailored, high-quality care and exceptional customer experiences and this new location will help us reach those goals."

As the state's leading medical cannabis provider, Trulieve's retail employees are trained to provide personalized patient care and support individuals at every stage of their cannabis journeys. Trulieve dispensaries throughout Florida offer on-site consultations to help patients obtain appropriate medical products and dosages to ensure optimal cannabis experiences.



E-mail your Cannabis news to: carol@cannabisnewsflorida.com



9



Interview with Aaron Bloom, CEO, DocMJ Florida

BY DANIEL CASCIATO

Can you give our readers an overview of DocMJ?

DocMJ is Florida's largest and most recognized medical cannabis physician's practice. We currently operate 25 clinics across the state of Florida, in convenient locations such as Tampa, Ft Lauderdale, Bradenton, Orlando, Tallahassee, the panhandle, and West Palm Beach. Providing recommendations in Florida in 2016, DocMJ physicians have conducted over 250,000 patient evaluations.

In some areas of Florida, you will find a DocMJ medical card evaluation clinic beside leading medical marijuana treatment centers (MMTCs) such as Trulieve, Fluent, and Surterra.

We've expanded our patient services to locations in Ohio and Texas.



Aaron Bloom

What distinguishes your practice from other similar practices that offer patient evaluations for medical marijuana?

Our organization advocates for responsible use and doctor-supervised medical cannabis. Our friendly medical assistants, call-center support team, and experienced physicians advocates for better health and wellness through alternative medicine. We support the right of patients to try safe means to manage debilitating symptoms.

Providing a positive patient experience is what matters most at DocMJ. We know that many people have questions about medical cannabis. First, we help make

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CBN + CBG

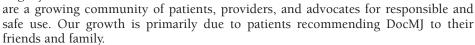
patients feel informed and confident about their choices so they are able to take control over their health and wellness, making informed decisions. Finally, we assist them to determine if cannabis is a safe choice for their wellness needs.

Our medical providers are compassionate and understanding. They help patients develop a treatment plan to realize their symptom management goals. We know that many patients are concerned about stigmas associated with cannabis. Patients who get their medical health evaluation with DocMJ are genuinely cared for, every step of the way..

DocMJ is committed to helping patients bridge the knowledge gap about doctor-supervised cannabis use. And we help make applying for a Florida medical card a pleasant experience for our patients.

How has your business changed in the past two years?

In the past two years, our business has grown exponentially. We believe this is because of our positive relationships with our patients. DocMJ is more than a "place to get your medical card evaluation." We



Patients who receive their health evaluation through DocMJ remain part of our community. We provide informative newsletters and resources monthly.

Tell us about some of the products you are offering and the monthly subscription plan.

One of the most popular DocCBD products is the CALM tincture. It is a full-spectrum cannabidiol liquid supplement that provides 1,800mg of CBD and 600mg of CBG. Each bottle contains sixty (60) doses to help patients with symptoms of anxiety, mood, and other related conditions.

We formulated our CALM tincture with cannabigerol (CBG), a non-psychoactive cannabinoid derived from hemp. Patients using medical cannabis who want to reduce the psychoactive effects of Delta-9 THC may find a CBD+CBG supplement helps. And CBD can help with chronic inflammation and nausea.

Topical cannabidiol creams can be effective for individuals who have localized

Continued on following page

Pain EXTRA STRENGTH AST-ACTING PAIN ROLLE Full Spectrum CBD Good for hjury, Aches, Par Arthritis, Relaxass

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Continued from previous page



chronic pain. That includes people living with arthritis and joint inflammation, peripheral or diabetic neuropathy, fibromyalgia, and sports injuries.

Our DocCBD PAIN products are available in an easy-to-dispense roll-on contain-

DocMJ provides a convenient monthly subscription for patients who want to add cannabidiol topicals and supplements to their wellness plan. The DocCBD subscription plan also provides a significant discount for patients.

What made you decide to start offering products? How does your product differ from what's already on the marketplace?

The Food and Drug Administration has issued more than one hundred warning letters to CBD brands since 2015. There are many imposter cannabidiol products that offer little to no wellness benefits for patients.

Our knowledge of medicinal cannabis inspired us to develop DocCBD. We understood that it could be challenging to identify a high-quality CBD supplement or topical for pain relief. DocMJ worked to develop an exclusive private label of wellness supplements, including a tincture and topicals.

Every DocCBD product has a certificate of laboratory analysis (COA). Our oral cannabidiol supplements are formulated for maximum bioavailability. That means more of the wellness benefits of cannabinoids survive the digestive tract. Visit our website to learn more about DocCBD.

What are some of your practice's short and long-term goals?

We want to differentiate ourselves by continuing to provide caring support for patients and affordable services. At DocMJ, our patients matter to us. And the care and support they receive are unparalleled compared to other medical cannabis provider service options.

At the end of the day, it is about making a positive difference in the lives of patients. We want to remain an important part of helping every patient restore their quality of life and effective symptom management.

Is there anything I haven't asked you that you believe is essential for our readers to know?

We are pleased to announce a new initiative for our patients. DocMJ will launch a community forum in January 2023 to allow patients to connect online with their local community.

Patients can register and chat live with other patients and our team at DocMJ. When you suffer from debilitating symptoms, it is nice to be able to have conversations with other patients—people who may be living with the same challenges.

We will also share news and wellness blogs through our new community portal. Access to the DocMJ community hub will provide free support to answer questions about medical cannabis.

Our goal is to continue to provide accurate, helpful, and affordable resources for our patients. We are proud of the compassionate wellness community we have built in Florida. And look forward to our expansion into other states.

For your FREE interactive digital subscription, register today at www.cannabisnewsflorida.com



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CBD PRODUCTS AND SERVICES

PŪRWELL

PūrWell was founded in 2018 by Nick DiFrancesco who partnered with a farm in Pueblo, CO where PūrWell hemp is grown, cultivated, processed, and packaged. PūrWell's medical-grade products are designed for and are sold exclusively through healthcare professionals and in the PūrWell online store. PūrWell's proprietary formulations are crafted specifically to meet the needs of the healthcare marketplace, offering a range of strengths and applications for seamless customized treatment. PūrWell has a variety of programs that enable healthcare providers to capitalize on the emerging CBD market. For more information, please visit www.purwell.com or call 844-PUR-WELL (787-9355).

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S.R. Construction Services

From pre-construction through final DOH inspection, SR Construction Services is a valuable and scalable 3rd party extension of your organization's infrastructure. SRCS is a turnkey, division 1, CRB Bankable, statewide contractor experienced in the large-scale commercial, industrial cultivation and retail dispensary projects in the cannabis market since Florida medical legalization.

Having completed over 75+ retail dispensaries, offering 60-day retail fast track construction options and finishing numerous large-scale indoor & outdoor cultivation facilities, S.R. Construction delivers expertise with all phases of your vertical license requirements in FL (Seed to Sale). Please view our portfolio:

https://www.s-r-construction.com/industrial |

https://www.s-r-construction.com/commercial-tenant-projects. Contact us today to discuss your construction needs at Eric@S-R-Construction.com or (561) 290-0402.

MEDICAL MARIJUANA TREATMENT CENTERS

Curaleaf Florida – Cannabis with Confidence

Curaleaf Florida offers premium, safe and reliable medical cannabis products to our patients. Our mission is to improve lives by providing clarity around cannabis and confidence around consumption. Advanced industry research is used to develop our products. We cultivate our cannabis products using the highest standards of production with medically precise extraction and purification methods. Dispensaries are located across Florida with delivery offered statewide. Free patient consultations are available. Please visit us at https://curaleaf.com/

Inca

Insa is a vertically integrated, independent cannabis company. Founded in 2013, the Company was started in Springfield, MA - home to its co-founders (and best buds), Pete Gallagher and Pat Gottschlicht. Dedicated to making its patients' good days even better (through cannabis), Insa was recently named the most awarded brand in the HighTimes MA Cannabis Cup. The Company specializes in every step of the cannabis process, from sourcing to growing to creating and dispensing meticulously crafted products that suit everyone's unique needs. Insa offers a cannabis experience that's trustworthy and effective, personal and handcrafted. Insa has retail stores in Massachusetts and Florida. In addition to the stores currently open in Tampa and Clearwater, the company plans to open eight more stores in 2022 with locations in Hudson, Jacksonville, Lake Placid, Largo, Orlando, Tallahassee, The Villages and Tampa (N Dale Mabry). To learn more about Insa please visit www.insa.com.

MEDICAL MARIJUANA TREATMENT CENTERS

Trulieve

Trulieve is the first and leading medical cannabis company in the state of Florida. At Trulieve, we strive to bring you the relief you need in a product you can trust. We offer an extensive variety of premium medical cannabis products to meet our patients' needs. Our plants are hand-grown in a facility with a controlled environment specially designed to reduce unwanted chemicals and pests, keeping the process as natural as possible at every turn. With over 70 locations statewide, including Miami, Kendall, Deerfield Beach, and Fort Lauderdale, Medical Marijuana Patients in the Miami-Dade area can be sure there is a Trulieve dispensary nearby. We also offer convenient delivery options, including free delivery for patients over the age of 65. For natural relief you can rely on, visit us at Trulieve.com.

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PHYSICIANS

DOCMJ

DocMJ was started in August 2016 as a small group of physicians saw the need for affordable, direct patient access to medical cannabis recommendations under the Amendment 2 guidelines. Check out our Pricing page for our current options.

DocMJ Values - We're big believers in the virtues we live and work by — empathy, compassion, and kindness. We're here to support patients in getting the help they deserve as quickly as possible. We strive to accomplish that in the most effective way possible. **Our Mission -** We aim to bring affordable medical marijuana recommendations to qualified patients across the state of Florida. We work tirelessly to be the most convenient, streamlined, and cost-effective solution for Floridians, and our mission is to provide the highest quality of care in the process. Check us out at www.DOCMJ.com or call (888) 908-0143

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