



October 2017 - March 2018



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# Company eyes Scranton office for people looking to enter marijuana program

By Jerry Lynott - jlynott@timesleader.com | October 29th, 2017 7:21 pm - updated: 10:50 pm.



Once Pennsylvania approves doctors to see patients seeking medical marijuana, Compassionate Certification Centers will be ready to open up franchise-like offices, including one in Scranton, to get people into the state program.

Dr. Bryan Doner, co-founder of the [company](#), said he anticipates having between 20 and 25 locations statewide within the next year and a half.

"It's very similar to an urgent care center. They function similar to any outpatient healthcare clinic," said Doner Friday.

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The state is in the process of registering doctors to participate in its [program](#) and certify people to receive medical marijuana grown, processed and dispensed by licensed facilities beginning early next year.

"I'm going to be one of them," said Doner. He said he will be working at a few of the company's offices in the Pittsburgh area.

The company will attempt to staff its offices with local doctors from a broad range of specialties, said Doner.

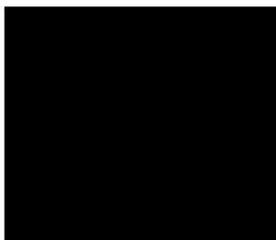
Doner, 41, who practices emergency medicine in the greater Pittsburgh area, said the Scranton office is in the works and, depending upon supply and demand, the company would be interested in another office in Wilkes-Barre. The department issued permits for 27 dispensaries and 12 growing and processing operations statewide, including Lackawanna and Luzerne counties.

The doctors must undergo training in order to be participate, and they'll be listed in a state registry under the law that Gov. Tom Wolf signed on April 17, 2016.

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## Butler County doctors approved to prescribe medical marijuana

November 7, 2017 [News Extra](#)



Five Butler County doctors have been approved by the Pennsylvania Office of Medical Marijuana as "approved practitioners" after completing both practitioner registration and the required state training to prescribe medical marijuana.

They may now issue prescriptions to patients with one of the 17 "serious medical conditions" defined by state law. The local doctors are:

Andrew Adams, M.D., internal medicine, Saxonburg;

Bryan Doner, D.O., emergency medicine, Butler;

Connie Anderson, D.O., Sarver;

Dillon Stein, D.O., hospice and palliative medicine, Butler; and

Jerome Scherer, D.O., family medicine, Valencia.

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## Medical Marijuana Doc Discusses Participation In Program

The phone has been ringing off the hook at some area doctors' offices after the state Health Department released a list of physicians approved to prescribe medical marijuana; KDKA's Julie Grant reports.

Categories: Health & Fitness News Local News National News KDKATV



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# Medical Marijuana Doc Discusses Participation In Program

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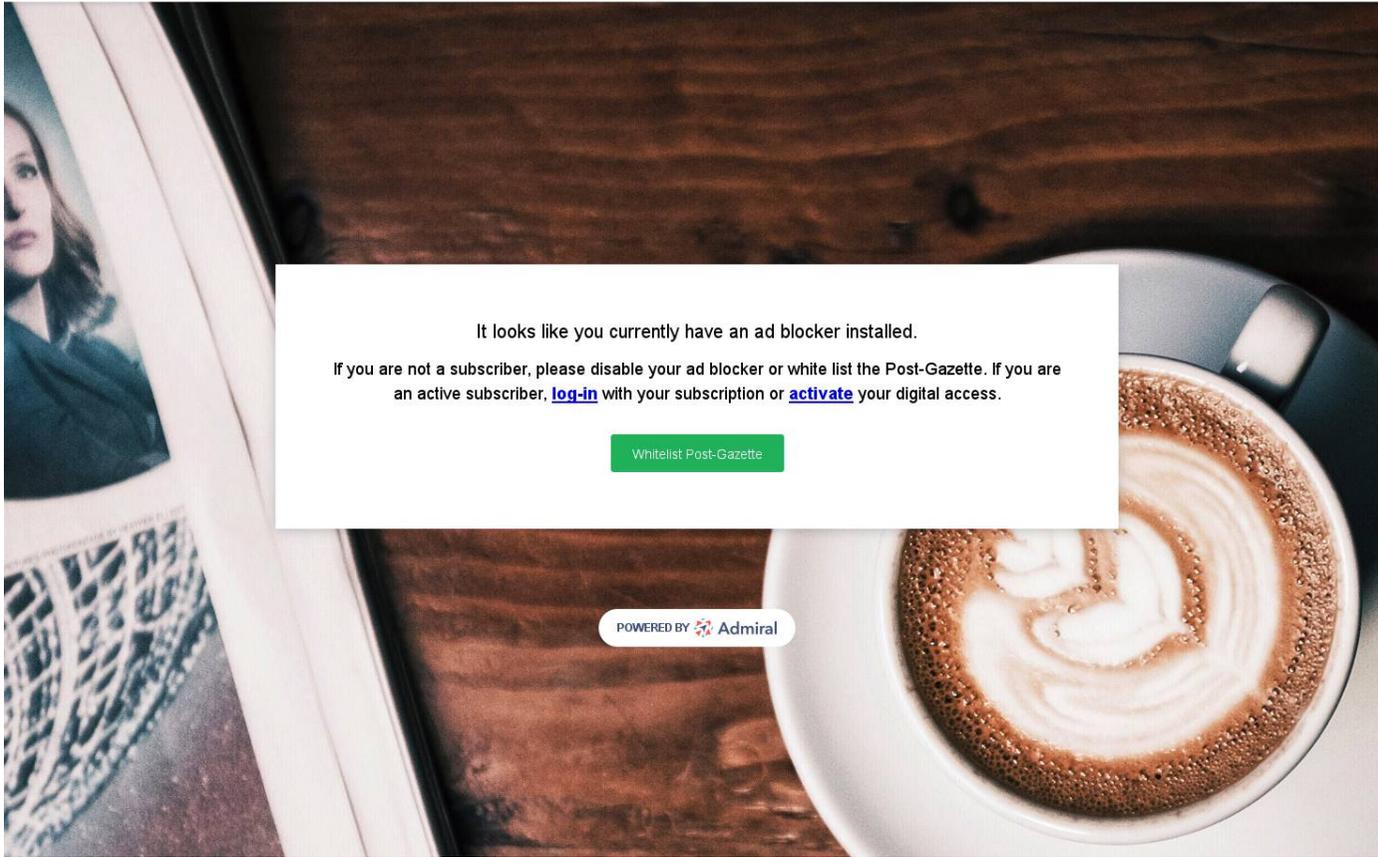
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13





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## Green Medicine: The Business of Medical Marijuana

DEC 13 2017

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# Green Medicine: The Business of Medical Marijuana

For many, medical marijuana is a panacea capable of alleviating a wide range of symptoms. As Pennsylvania begins allowing the drug's medical use, patients are relieved — and business is booming.

BY MARK HOUSER

December 13, 2017

(page 2 of 2)



(left) Trent Hartley, C.O.O., Cresco Yeltrah, Gabe Perlow, Co-Founder, PurePenn

To get a marijuana card, a patient must visit a physician registered through the state's medical marijuana program, who then certifies that the patient has one of the conditions named in the law and is likely to receive therapeutic or palliative benefit from cannabis. In New York and New Jersey, critics say too few doctors in the state registries has led to bottlenecks keeping patients from getting the medicine they need.

A Pittsburgh-based startup called Compassionate Certification Centers is trying to solve this problem by operating medical marijuana clinics across the state. The first opened in Gateway Center, co-founder Melonie Kotchey says she plans to have 10 going by spring and another 10 by year's end. In April, the company will host its second World Medical Cannabis Conference and Expo at the David L. Lawrence Convention Center,

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The ABC show will hold its first-ever Pittsburgh casting call at the end of March.



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(EST.) COVERAGE VIEWS: **1.32K**

DOMAIN AUTHORITY: **56**

**640**





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## Medical marijuana: Lancaster County's up to 3 participating doctors, and other news



HEATHER STAUFFER | Staff Writer Dec 20, 2017 (1)



Marijuana plants grow at the Northwest Patient Resource Center medical marijuana dispensary, Wednesday, Oct. 10, 2012, in Seattle.

Ted S. Warren/The Associated Press

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1.75M

(EST.) COVERAGE VIEWS:

8.37K

DOMAIN AUTHORITY:

66



59



1



**2 Lancaster County doctors will participate in state medical marijuana program; Patient registry is open**

More than 1,000 people signed up within 24 hours of Pennsylvania opening its medical marijuana...



As Pennsylvania's medical marijuana program gets closer to full implementation, what it's going to look like here is becoming clearer.

The law will allow those with specific medical conditions who are certified by a participating doctor to access some forms of medical marijuana, including pills, oils, vapor and liquid. That's expected to happen in the next five months.

The latest list shows three Lancaster County doctors participating in the program, up from two in the initial list. The new doctor is neurologist Heather Harle, who's an employee of Lancaster General Health/Penn Medicine.

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Business — Cannabis Coverage

# First Pa. patients get pot ID's for Christmas

Updated: DECEMBER 27, 2017 — 11:55 AM EST



Theresa Nightingale, a medical marijuana activist in Pittsburgh, received her registration card two days before Christmas 2017.



by **Sam Wood**, Staff Writer [@samwoodiii](#) | [samwood@phillynews.com](mailto:samwood@phillynews.com)

The first of Pennsylvania's medical marijuana patients received their state registration cards last week, making them eligible to buy legal cannabis oils when the state's first dispensaries open in early 2018.

**Theresa Nightingale**, a marijuana activist in Pittsburgh, received her card two days before Christmas.

"It was the perfect gift," said Nightingale, a cancer survivor who was crowned Miss

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(EST.) COVERAGE VIEWS: **17.7K**

DOMAIN AUTHORITY: **86**

**3.1K**

# Success Of Pennsylvania's Medical Marijuana Hinges On Getting Doctors To Sign Up

By JOAQUIN GONZALEZ • DEC 28, 2017

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Bottles of cannabis tinctures are on display at a dispensary in Oregon on Sept. 28, 2015.

RYAN KANG/AP

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4:16

Physician participation will be crucial if Pennsylvania's new program is going to work for patients.

Stephen Arch, a 60-year-old filmmaker from Moon Township, is prescribed the drug Klonopin for his Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, which he said stems from childhood trauma.

He said it helps keep him calm, but because he takes it on an as-needed basis, he sometimes runs out before he can refill his prescription. Because the drug is a benzodiazepine, it can lead to physical and psychological dependence. Arch said when he doesn't take Klonopin, he experiences withdrawal symptoms.

"I get almost flu-like symptoms, very high levels of anxiety and I can't sleep at night," said Arch.

He said hopes that medical marijuana will provide similar anti-anxiety benefits without the harsh effects, but that neither his primary care physician nor his psychiatrist are willing to help him get it.



## Success Of Pennsylvania's Medical Marijuana Hinges On Getting Doctors To Sign Up

DEC 28 2017

(EST.) MONTHLY VISITS: 174K

(EST.) COVERAGE VIEWS: 1K

DOMAIN AUTHORITY: 59

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65

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## Medical Marijuana Info Session To Be Held In Municipal Building



By Caitlin Gailey

1/17/18 4:06 am

PA Safe Access, a non-profit organization dedicated to fighting for medical cannabis lobbying and education in Pennsylvania, will hold a medical marijuana information session Thursday, January 18 at the State College Municipal Building from 6-8 p.m.

The presentation will provide information on the specifics of the Pennsylvania medicinal program, including how to register with the Department of Health, how to find a doctor, how to acquire your medical marijuana card, and when and where the medicine will be available in the state.

“We have an office in Huntingdon and we found that we had a lot of people from State College who wanted an information session. They had a lot of legal questions they wanted us to cover,” a representative from PA Safe Access said.

The information session will also include guest speaker Frank Halling from the Compassionate Certification Centers. Halling helps recommend physicians to interested patients and hopes to put an office in State College.

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13

# Patient evaluations for medical marijuana start Friday in Pittsburgh

Updated: Dec 4, 2017 - 5:58 PM

- Patient evaluations for medical marijuana start Friday in Pittsburgh**
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**PITTSBURGH** - A medical cannabis health care network will begin taking appointments to certify and evaluate patients in Pittsburgh on Friday.

Nearly 200,000 patients are estimated to qualify for Pennsylvania medical marijuana cards under the Department of Health registry that was announced in November, according to Compassionate Certification Centers. Notifying the patient and caregiver registry is the first step people must take before getting a prescription.

### Related Headlines



Here's the list of Pa. doctors cleared to prescribe medical marijuana



Pennsylvania starts signing up patients for medical marijuana



Nearly 4,000 sign up for medical marijuana registry in a week

- **Pennsylvania starts signing up patients for medical marijuana**
- **Nearly 4,000 sign up for medical marijuana registry in a week**  
Compassionate Certification Centers' Pittsburgh location is on Stanwix Street in 2 Gateway Center. Its doors will open at 8 a.m. Friday to patients for medical cannabis certifications and evaluations.

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(EST.) MONTHLY VISITS: **3.69M**

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DOMAIN AUTHORITY: **65**



870

HEALTH

Patient evaluations for medical marijuana begin Friday in Pittsburgh office

BEN SCHMITT | Monday, Dec. 4, 2017, 4:51 p.m.



REUTERS

Marijuana has been infused into a variety of legal and illegal products nationwide in recent years.



A national medical marijuana health care network plans to open its doors in Downtown Pittsburgh on Friday for patient evaluations and certifications.

Compassionate Certification Centers in 2 Gateway Center on Stanwix Street in Pittsburgh has two doctors, Bryan Doner and Dr. Keyur Patel, who have been approved by the Pennsylvania Department of Health state registry, oversee the office.

Westmoreland County resident Diana Briggs and her son Ryan, 17, who suffers from epilepsy, will be among the first to be evaluated at 10 a.m.

"Seeing all of our hard work coming to fruition has been amazing," said Briggs, who lives in Export. "Since none of Ryan's doctors have yet registered for the program, knowing we could depend on Dr. Doner and Compassionate Certification Centers to complete our journey has been an absolute blessing for our family."

WHO CAN BE CERTIFIED AND EVALUATED?

No referrals are required to visit the Pittsburgh office. Under state law, patients can apply for a state-issued medical marijuana card if a doctor certifies they have one of 17 qualified medical conditions, including epilepsy, cancer, multiple sclerosis and seizure disorders.

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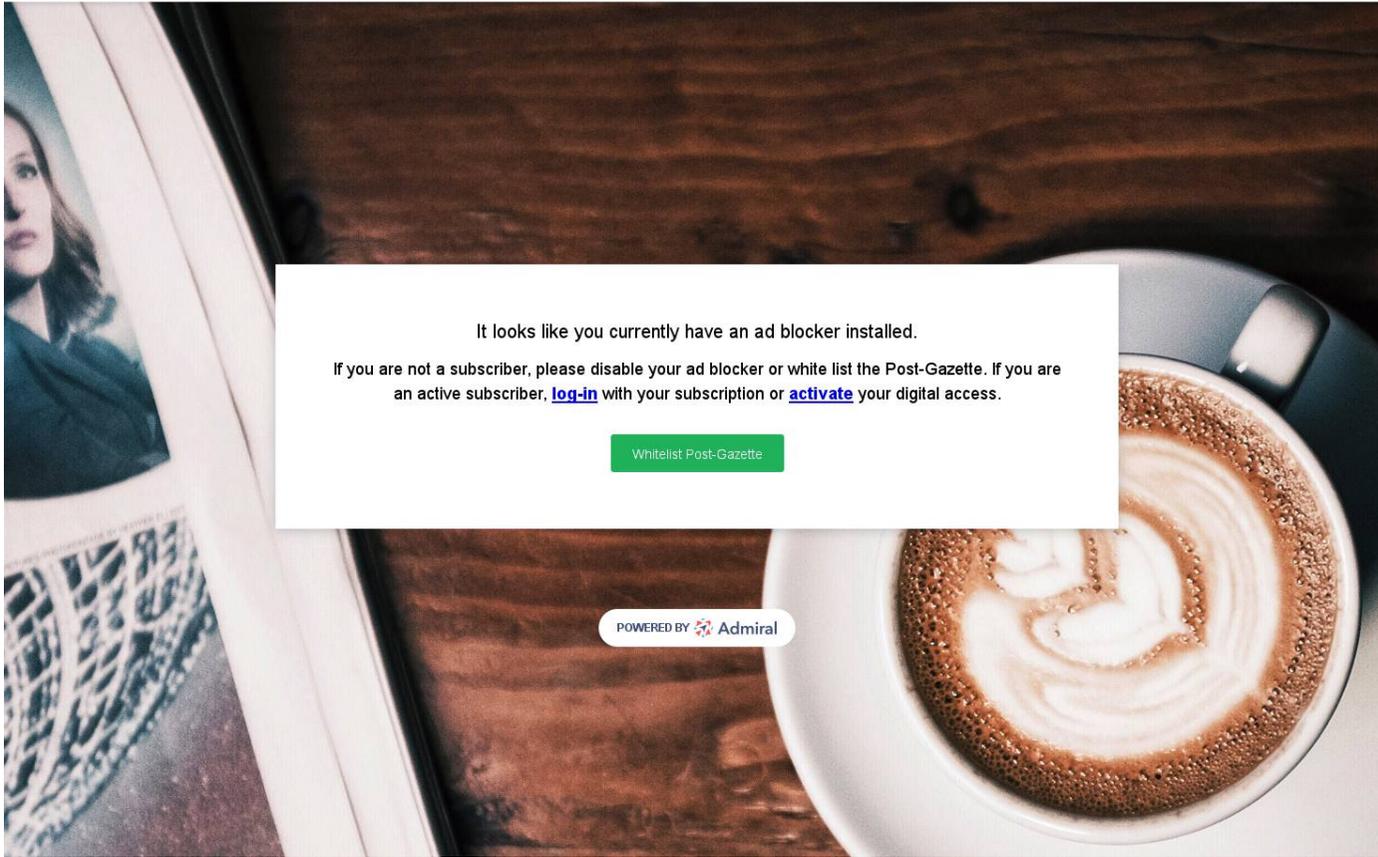
10.1K

DOMAIN AUTHORITY:

83



130



(EST.) MONTHLY VISITS: **6.01M**

(EST.) COVERAGE VIEWS: **12K**

DOMAIN AUTHORITY: **86**

  
**1.5K**



### Pennsylvania's Patient Evaluations for Medical Marijuana Begin Dec. 8 in Pittsburgh

A medical cannabis health care network will begin taking appointments to certify and evaluate patients.

December 5, 2017

WPXI.com



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**PITTSBURGH** - A medical cannabis health care network will begin taking appointments to certify and evaluate patients in Pittsburgh on Friday.

Nearly 200,000 patients are estimated to qualify for Pennsylvania medical marijuana cards under the Department of Health registry that was announced in November, according to Compassionate Certification Centers. Notifying the patient and caregiver registry is the first step people must take before getting a prescription.

**RELATED: Pennsylvania Starts Signing Up Medical Marijuana Patients**

"We have been hand in hand with the patient community since the program's inception, preparing for this historic moment," CEO Dr. Bryan Doner said in a news release. "Our company is ready to meet the patient influx with plans to have 10 centers open throughout Pennsylvania by February 2018."

[Read more](#)

Top image: © Zimmytws | Dreamstime.com

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FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2017

**The Healing Center breaks ground on medical-cannabis dispensary that will bring relief to ailing Pennsylvanians**

Posted By [Rebecca Addison](#) on Fri, Dec 8, 2017 at 5:36 PM



The Briggs family at the groundbreaking ceremony in Monroeville *CP photo by Rebecca Addison*

Earlier today, Ryan Briggs became one of the first Pennsylvanians to be certified as part of the state's new **medical marijuana** program. Together with his mother Diana Briggs, he and other members of his family travelled from Westmoreland County to the Compassionate Certification office in Downtown Pittsburgh where Ryan Briggs received his certification this morning.

"We started our journey four years ago with Ryan and when we started the journey, Ryan was seeing 400 seizures today," Diana Briggs said at the event.

After their appointment, the family travelled to Monroeville for a celebration of sorts. Today marked the groundbreaking of The Healing Center, a Southwestern Pennsylvania medical-cannabis dispensary.

"What we do today will help tens of thousands of people," said Pennsylvania Sen. Jim Brewster (D-McKeesport). "I was a late comer to this, but then I met the Briggs family."

Ryan Briggs has been living with intractable epilepsy, a seizure disorder, for his entire life. His family turned to medical cannabis to reduce the frequency of his seizures. They received a Safe Harbor Certificate, eligible to individuals under the age of 18 who suffer from one of the seventeen serious medical conditions defined in the Medical Marijuana Act.

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**Pittsburgh City Paper**

DEC 8 2017

(EST.) MONTHLY VISITS: **188K**

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**97**





### Pittsburgh Region's First Medical Marijuana Certification Center Opens

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CBS Pittsburgh  
Published on 8 Dec 2017

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A big step forward for Pennsylvania's medical marijuana program – the first certification center in the Pittsburgh region opened Friday to help patients who want a medical marijuana card; KDKA's Jon Delano reports.

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## First-Of-Its-Kind Medical Marijuana Certification Center Opens In Downtown Pittsburgh

By Jon Delano December 8, 2017 at 9:54 am



Filed Under: Gateway Center, Jon Delano, Local TV, Medical Marijuana



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PITTSBURGH (KDKA) — A new medical marijuana center opened its doors to patients in Downtown Pittsburgh on Friday morning.

Carter Huber is a non-verbal 9-year-old with autism who was one of the first to show up with his mother at the just-opened Compassionate Certification Center in Two Gateway Center Downtown.

"It means everything to us, to our family," Carter's mother, Kelly Huber of Irwin, told KDKA political editor Jon Delano. "We're really excited to see what Carter's capable of. We know there's a lot in there, and we're slowly but surely getting it out."

Huber and her son met with Dr. Keyur Patel, a local physician recently certified by the state to evaluate and recommend medical marijuana for patients and their caregivers.

His partner, Dr. Bryan Doner, explained what happens in the exam room.

"We're going to take the patient, examine them, make sure they meet the state-mandated criteria and meet one of those 17 conditions and that medical marijuana would be a potential safe and effective alternative for their treatment plan," Doner said.

There is no medical marijuana in the facility.

This is just the first step in a process that leads to a medical marijuana card that will allow you to buy the medical cannabis at a dispensary when they open sometime in 2018.

One such dispensary — The Healing Center — broke ground Friday afternoon for their new facility in Monroeville.

## First-Of-Its-Kind Medical Marijuana Certification Center Opens In Downtown Pittsburgh

DEC 8 2017

(EST.) MONTHLY VISITS: **2.93M**

(EST.) COVERAGE VIEWS: **5.42K**

DOMAIN AUTHORITY: **87**

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**2.7K**



# Channel 4 Action News Pittsburgh: Evaluations for medical cannabis begin in downtown Pittsburgh

DEC 8 2017

(EST.) MONTHLY VISITS: **2.2M**

(EST.) COVERAGE VIEWS: **10.5K**

DOMAIN AUTHORITY: **66**

  
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Medical Marijuana Health Care Network Opens In Downtown Butler

January 26, 2018 at 6:53 pm



Filed Under: Butler, Butler County, Compassionate Certification Centers, David Highfield, Local TV, Medical Marijuana



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BUTLER (KDKA) — People in Butler County are one step closer to having access to medical marijuana.

A national, medical cannabis health care network just opened an office in Downtown Butler. It's called Compassionate Certification Centers. The new branch is located on East Cunningham Street.

Before they can have access to medical marijuana, patients need to get approval from a doctor.

"Patients will be able to receive the best medical cannabis treatment care," says Melonie Kotchey, the CEO of Compassionate Certification Centers. "They'll see a physician, we'll go over their medical records, and if approved, they'll be able to get their medical card in roughly a week."

The new center will be open five days a week.

It is not a dispensary, but there is one nearby. Cresco Yeltrah is located on Pillow Street. It was one of 52 locations in the state which were given medical marijuana permits. It has already passed its health inspection. Soon, it will be able to start selling medical marijuana. They're just waiting on the products to be delivered.

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Medical Marijuana Health Care Network Opens In Downtown Butler

JAN 26 2018

(EST.) MONTHLY VISITS: 2.93M

(EST.) COVERAGE VIEWS: 5.42K

DOMAIN AUTHORITY: 87

f 310



# Medical marijuana evaluation office opens in Butler

Updated: Jan 26, 2018 - 6:35 PM



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**BUTLER, Pa.** - An office specializing in certifications and evaluations for medical marijuana opened Friday in Butler, and dozens of residents seeking help were there for the grand opening.

To be prescribed medical marijuana in Pennsylvania, patients need a medical identification card approved by the state, and many of those people were signing up.

Paul and Paula Green came to Compassionate Certification Center on East Cunningham Street in hopes of helping their 15-year-old son Nathan, who is living with autism.

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"Since he hit puberty, his outbursts have gotten much worse," Paula Green said.

The Greens allowed Channel 11 to follow them through the process: they consulted with doctors and nurses and ultimately signed up for a medical marijuana card.

With medical marijuana now legal, Carol Cricks, who's had four hip surgeries and is in constant pain,

(EST.) MONTHLY VISITS: **3.69M**

(EST.) COVERAGE VIEWS: **18.1K**

DOMAIN AUTHORITY: **65**



330

## Medical marijuana guidance available in new city facility

January 26, 2018 News Extra



Patient Eugene Bonetti of Butler shows his medical Marijuana card during an open house and ribbon cutting ceremony on Friday.

JUSTIN GUIDO

A new downtown doctor's office will help guide those suffering from one of 17 conditions through the medical marijuana maze.

Compassionate Certification Centers held a ribbon-cutting on Friday at their office at 127 E. Cunningham St.

Dr. Bryan Doner, CEO and medical director, said the six doctors who rotate through the company's regional offices will evaluate patients and help provide them with certifications to get their medical marijuana cards.

Only patients suffering from one of 17 state qualifying conditions can be treated with medical marijuana.

The patients then take the card to a dispensary to collect the medical marijuana product the Compassionate Certification Centers doctors feel would best ease their symptoms.

Doner said the doctors are all full-fledged physicians with varied specialties, including



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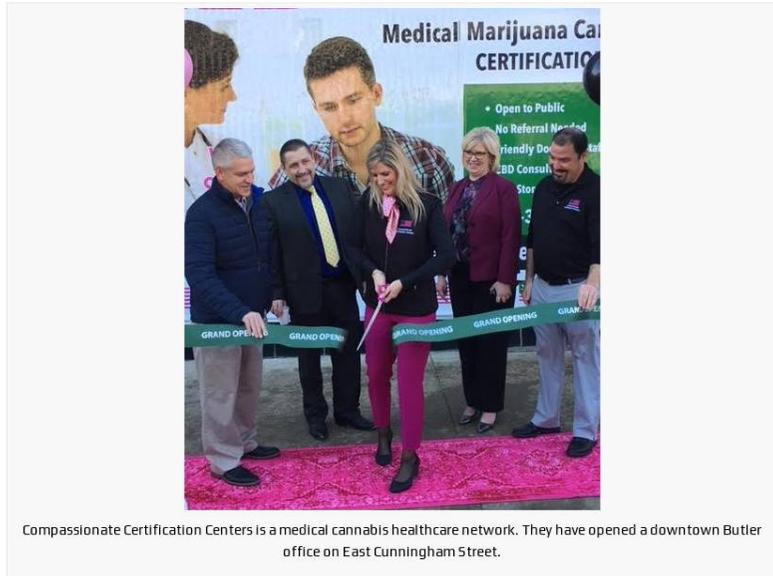


5

### Cannabis Healthcare Network Opens In Downtown Butler

Posted By: Kayla Molczan on: January 26, 2018 In: Featured News

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Compassionate Certification Centers is a medical cannabis healthcare network. They have opened a downtown Butler office on East Cunningham Street.

A national medical cannabis healthcare network has opened a location in downtown Butler.

Compassionate Certification Centers is located on East Cunningham Street. A ribbon-cutting ceremony was held Friday but CEO Melanie Kotchey said the office is already seeing patients.

"It's been wonderful," Kotchey said. "A lot of people are suffering and they've run out of options. This is a nice alternative. It's legal in 29 states- over half of the country has embraced medical marijuana. We need something like this."

Patients can come to the center to meet with doctors and discuss if medical marijuana could work for them. The center is not a dispensary, which means the office will not sell medical marijuana.

"But they can purchase CBD," Kotchey said. "You don't need a medical card for it so patients can leave here with product in hand."

CBD- short for cannabidiol- is a cannabis compound that does not possess any of the psychoactive properties of THC. Supporters say it has significant health benefits, but does not make people feel "stoned."

Before becoming the CEO of Compassionate Certification Centers Butler office, Kotchey was first a medical marijuana patient herself.

"I'm a big believer in medical marijuana. I was a patient first when I lived in Arizona and I wanted to bring this service to Butler," she said. Kotchey grew up in the North Hills of Pittsburgh.

Several members of local government attended the Friday ribbon-cutting ceremony at Compassionate Certification Centers on Friday.

"We want to help people who are in pain have options," State Rep. Brian Ellis, who represents the 11<sup>th</sup> district, said Friday.

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(EST.) MONTHLY VISITS: **461K**

(EST.) COVERAGE VIEWS: **80.8K**

DOMAIN AUTHORITY: **29**

  
**260**

## Doctor Will Oversee Cannabis Healthcare Network In Butler

Posted By: Kayla Molczan on: January 26, 2018 In: Featured News

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Dr. Anu Anand is the overseeing physician at Compassionate Certification Centers (CCC) in Butler.

"Our goal is to provide alternate treatment through medical marijuana to help alleviate patients' symptoms and improve their overall quality of life," Dr. Anand said in an interview.

Dr. Anand says patients don't a referral from their primary care physician before coming to CCC, but there will need to be a conversation about their past treatment options.

"We will go through their medical records, review what they've taken and determine if they're a good candidate to receive medical marijuana," she said.

Dr. Anand said she is most excited to offer an alternate method of pain treatment to the residents of Butler County.

This is Dr. Anand's first venture into the field of medical marijuana but through her specialty of physical medicine and rehab, she says she's always looking for safer alternative for pain management, especially due to the ongoing opioid epidemic.

"I do a lot of work with MS patients, ALS patients, stroke patients and a lot of chronic pain management," she said. "Through my profession, we are always trying to figure out safer alternatives for pain control."

Compassionate Certification Centers is located at 127 East Cunningham Street in Butler.

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(EST.) COVERAGE VIEWS: **80.8K**

DOMAIN AUTHORITY: **29**

  
**38**

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## Medical Marijuana Info Session to Be Held in State College

[Follow @StateCollege.com](#)

by **Caitlin Gailey** on January 17, 2018 12:51 PM

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PA Safe Access, a non-profit organization dedicated to medical cannabis lobbying and education in Pennsylvania, will hold a medical marijuana information session from 6 to 8 p.m. on Thursday at the State College Municipal Building from 6-8 p.m.



Click photo for gallery

The presentation will provide information on the specifics of the Pennsylvania medicinal program, including how to register with the Department of Health, how to find a doctor, how to acquire your medical marijuana card, and when and where the medicine will be available in the state.

"We have an office in Huntingdon and we found that we had a lot of people from State College who wanted an information session. They had a lot of legal questions they wanted us to cover," a representative from PA Safe Access said.

The information session will also include guest speaker Frank Halling from the Compassionate Certification Centers. Halling helps recommend physicians to interested patients and hopes to put an office in State College, where he can add insight and a new perspective on the medical marijuana conversation.

The event is free to attend for anyone who is interested

The planned State College dispensary, which received one of 27 dispensary permits in the state last year, is sponsoring the event. PA Safe Access hopes to hold two information sessions per year for patient outreach and is planning to host the next session in the fall.

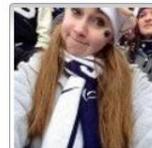
Gov. Tom Wolf announced in late December that more than 10,000 patients had registered for the state's medical marijuana program and about 1,200 had been certified by a physician.

Earlier this month, the state gave its first authorization to a dispensary, located in Bethlehem, to begin providing medical marijuana once licensed growers make it available. Permits were awarded last year for 27 dispensaries statewide, including one in the State College area, which will be located on North Atherton Street.

Nine grower/processor permits were authorized as well.

**NEXT ARTICLE**

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**Caitlin Gailey**

Caitlin Gailey writes for Onward State. The Penn State freshman is a native of suburban Philadelphia and says she bleeds blue and white.

[More articles by Caitlin Gailey](#) →

### Next Article

#### Candlelight Vigil to Remember Penn State Student

January 17, 2018 4:00 AM  
by Elissa Hill



Members of Alpha Tau Omega fraternity will hold a candlelight vigil for Penn State student Will Denton at 5 p.m. on Thursday on the steps of Old Main.

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## State College, PA - Medical Marijuana Info Session to Be Held in State College -

(EST.) MONTHLY VISITS: **214K**

(EST.) COVERAGE VIEWS: **1.26K**

DOMAIN AUTHORITY: **58**

**76**

WATCH LIVE: CBS News Live Coverage Of 18th Congressional District Race
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First Medical Marijuana Dispensary In Pittsburgh Area Set To Open

By John Shumway February 1, 2018 at 5:38 am



Filed Under: Brookville, Butler, Butler County, Cresco Yeltrah, John Shumway, Lisa Washington, Local TV, Medical Marijuana



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BUTLER, Pa. (KDKA) — What you first notice when you walk into the CY+ Medical Marijuana Dispensary is what you don't see. The only pot there is in a few pictures on the walls.

"It defies all the traditional stereotypes associated with this industry," says Butler County Commissioner Kimberly Geyer.

Larry Clark is the Pennsylvania Deputy Director of Medical Marijuana.

"It's a medical experience," Clark said. "It's not a quote unquote head shop that everybody thinks."

CY+ is owned by Cresco Yeltrah out of Chicago, and co-founder Charlie Bachtell says there is good reason you don't see marijuana plants at the dispensary.

"In Pennsylvania, the flower and edibles are not part of the products that are available," he said.

The company just harvested its first crop of marijuana at its Brookville, Pa., plant and is processing it into the products they do sell.

"Pills, tinctures, topical lotions, and transdermal patches," says Bachtell. "It's very similar to traditional medicine and over-the-counter medicines."



First Medical Marijuana Dispensary In Pittsburgh Area Set To Open

FEB 1 2018

(EST.) MONTHLY VISITS: 2.93M

(EST.) COVERAGE VIEWS: 5.42K

DOMAIN AUTHORITY: 87

f 570



# Channel 4 Action News: Medical marijuana dispensary opens in Butler

FEB 2 2018

(EST.) MONTHLY VISITS: **2.2M**

(EST.) COVERAGE VIEWS: **10.5K**

DOMAIN AUTHORITY: **66**



**73**



Home > Culture > Will 2018 Bring a Weed Watershed?

CULTURE LEADERSHIP

# Will 2018 Bring a Weed Watershed?

Keep a Keen Eye on the Cannabis Catalysts

By Nick Phillips - Jan 25, 2018 5358 0

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We are just a nanosecond into the New Year, and the cannabis industry is seeing some monumental changes.

Attorney General, Jeff Sessions, has declared a war on cannabis, and Vermont has defiantly responded by becoming the first state to legalize marijuana via the legislature as opposed to a ballot initiative. New Hampshire and New York are following closely on its heels. Cannabis stocks did take a tumble following the Sessions announcement that he would repeal the Cole Memo, but are expected to see strong gains in 2018, modeling Canadian cannabis stocks which gained an estimated 250% as a group in 2017.

Marijuana movers and shakers are making tremendous gains towards stabilizing an industry that has been on the brink for close to a decade. In fact, 2018 may very well go down in history as a cannabis coming of age.

Keep a sharp eye on the following influencers and companies who have quietly, (and tirelessly), worked to shape this burgeoning industry.

### Media: The Voice of the Industry

Journalists have been reporting on the cannabis space for a long time, but few have managed to capture and hold the attention of mainstream America. These media veterans have become the go-to voices and the ones to be followed closely in 2018.

**David Downs (@davidrdowns)** – David Downs is an award-winning journalist and best-selling author who covers cannabis policy and legalization as the cannabis editor at the *San Francisco Chronicle* where he runs [GreenState.com](http://GreenState.com). Downs is the co-author of the new crop science book *Marijuana Harvest* (2017). He has guest lectured at Loyola Law



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Jason Sander - Mar 9, 2018

# Will 2018 Bring a Weed Watershed? | The Marijuana Times

JAN 25 2018

(EST.) MONTHLY VISITS: 107K

(EST.) COVERAGE VIEWS: 11.9K

DOMAIN AUTHORITY: 37

f 190



Home > Advocacy

### Former Pro Athletes in Pittsburgh for 2018 World Cannabis Conference



J by Jack\_Hair Feb 1

Professional sports ambassadors from Athletes For CARE, a national not-for-profit organization, will headline a panel.

Former National Football League (NFL) players Marvin Washington and Eben Britton, National Hockey League (NHL) stars Darren McCarty and Riley Cote, alongside undefeated UFC Middleweight champion Frank Shamrock will lead a comprehensive discussion on medical cannabis in professional sports at 4 p.m. on Friday, April 13.

Jim McAlpine, founder of the 420 Games, a national tour of athletic events, and the New West Summit conferences will moderate the sports and cannabis panel.

Founded by pro athletes, Athletes For CARE is dedicated to raising awareness for important health issues facing both professional athletes

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Jack\_Hair Feb 1 2 weeks 1

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davehint 3 weeks

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# The Weed Blog

FEB 1 2018

(EST.) MONTHLY VISITS: 465K

(EST.) COVERAGE VIEWS: 3.19K

DOMAIN AUTHORITY: 51

# 8 Former NFL Players Share Their Thoughts on Cannabis

By Javier Hasse

February 2, 2018



Sergey Nivens

I'm meeting up with a huge—massive, actually—former National Football League player. He's smiling, clearly doing fine, not in acute pain. We're here to talk about weed, maybe even share a joint. "Thanks for meeting me," he says. "We really need to get this story out there. The best way to get things done is through a collaborative effort."

This footballer's story goes something like this: At one point during his career, he suffered a serious injury that required surgery. His coach wanted him to get back on the field as soon as possible, so he opted for a shorter rehabilitation period than the one recommended. He asked his doctor for strong painkillers to deal with the "discomfort."

"Strong painkillers," of course, is a synonym for prescription opioids, which are now at the center of a national health crisis. Opioids do help curb pain, but relief comes at a high cost. They're addictive and have side effects that range from vomiting to respiratory depression. They also take between 15,000 and 20,000 American lives from each year.

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- North Carolina
- Kentucky
- UCLA
- Duke
- Kansas

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(EST.) MONTHLY VISITS: **4.2M**

(EST.) COVERAGE VIEWS: **10.1K**

DOMAIN AUTHORITY: **83**



**340**





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### World Medical Cannabis Conference & Expo Returns to Pittsburgh

The expo will take place April 12-14 and is expected to draw crowds of up to 6,000 attendees and hundreds of exhibitors from across the country.

February 16, 2018

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[State by State: Pennsylvania](#)

PITTSBURGH – [Compassionate Certification Centers](#), a physician-owned national medical cannabis healthcare network, announces the return of the [World Medical Cannabis Conference & Expo](#), April 12-14, 2018, at the David L. Lawrence Convention Center in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, according to press release.

Nearly 6,000 attendees are expected at the large-scale expo, including hundreds of exhibitors and high-profile medical, financial, sports and cannabis industry speakers.

For tickets or information, call 1-888-316-9085 or visit [www.compassionatecertificationcenters.com](http://www.compassionatecertificationcenters.com).

The multi-faceted conference will showcase the latest in cannabis education, research, technology, cultivation, dispensary management, industrial hemp, CBD products, licensing and ancillary business that support the industry.

Keynote presentations include the Suit Against Sessions where plaintiffs U.S. Army Combat Veteran Jose Belen and Super Bowl winner Marvin Washington will discuss their federal lawsuit against Jeff Sessions in favor of the legal cannabis industry.

Medical Cannabis in Sports will be discussed with former professional athletes, including: NFL player and Super Bowl winner Marvin Washington; NFL player Eben Britton; NHL player Riley Cote; and undefeated UFL Middleweight champion Frank Shamrock.



### LEGISLATIVE MAP



Cannabis Business Times' interactive legislative map is another tool to help cultivators quickly navigate state cannabis laws and find news relevant to their markets. [view more](#)

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Poll: Cannabis 2019 Cultivation Conference

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(EST.) COVERAGE VIEWS: **7.27K**

DOMAIN AUTHORITY: **39**



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February 16, 2018

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State by State: Pennsylvania

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(EST.) MONTHLY VISITS: **760**

(EST.) COVERAGE VIEWS: **213**

DOMAIN AUTHORITY: **16**



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CONTESTS

# World Medical Cannabis Conference & Expo Returns to Pittsburgh

Published: Friday, February 16th 2018, 7:05 pm GMT  
Updated: Friday, February 16th 2018, 7:05 pm GMT



The Expo is Expected to Draw Record-Breaking Crowds of Up to 6,000 Attendees and Hundreds of Exhibitors from Across the Country

PITTSBURGH, PA / ACCESSWIRE / February 16, 2018 / Compassionate Certification Centers, a physician-owned national medical cannabis healthcare network, announces the return of the World Medical Cannabis Conference & Expo, April 12-14, 2018, at the David L. Lawrence Convention Center in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

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Medical Cannabis in sports will be discussed with former professional athletes, including: NFL player and Super Bowl winner Marvin Washington, NFL player Eben Britton, NHL player Riley Cote, and undefeated UFL Middleweight champion Frank Shamrock.

New this year will be onsite Pennsylvania medical cannabis evaluations and [continuing education courses](#). Healthcare providers, certified public accountants, and attorneys will be able to receive CME, CPE, and CLE credits.

Organizers aim to unite businesses and entrepreneurs from all industry sectors with more than 30 in-depth educational courses and hands-on [workshops](#).

The public is also invited to attend an evening riverboat cruise and fundraiser for the Disabled American Veterans and Make A Wish foundations on Friday, April 13, from 6:30 – 9:30 p.m. Separate registration required.

Expo host Compassionate Certification Centers is a Pittsburgh-based company specializing in medical certifications, evaluations, and continued treatment guidance with locations throughout Pennsylvania.

About Compassionate Certification Centers™

Compassionate Certification Centers is a unique company devoted to assisting U.S. citizens who desire access to medical marijuana in a way that respects the laws and guidelines of each state law. Our approach involves convenient cannabis treatment center locations, provides nursing CBD/THC consultation and care, and proof of compliance for the respective Department of Health or Pharmacy depending on the state.

Compassionate Certification Centers goal is to create a network of care centers with a retail component in every region of the country. CCC is dedicated to serving the needs of all patients who want to take advantage of our medical cannabis, CBD products, or services. We offer a patient-friendly experience in a comfortable and supportive environment. Our team of experts will inform, educate and guide patients, from obtaining a Medical Card to an overall improved quality of life. For information, visit [compassionatecertificationcenters.com](#) or join the discussion on Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, Instagram, and Google+.

LEGAL DISCLOSURE

Compassionate Certification Centers™ does not sell or distribute any products that are in violation of the United States Controlled Substances Act (US.CSA).

SOURCE: Compassionate Certification Centers

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NEW DETAILS: Investigators release

# World Medical Cannabis Conference & Expo Returns to Pittsburgh

FEB 16 2018

(EST.) MONTHLY VISITS: **1.37M**

(EST.) COVERAGE VIEWS: **8.04K**

DOMAIN AUTHORITY: **58**



# Compassionate Certification Centers opens location in Butler

Feb 20, 2018



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BUTLER – Compassionate Certification Centers, a national medical cannabis healthcare network, recently held a ribbon cutting ceremony for its office at 127 East Cunningham St., Suite 101, in Butler.

The ceremony was presided over by Compassionate Certification Centers' co-founders Dr. Bryan Doner and Melonie Kotchey, State Rep. Brian Ellis and Butler County Board of Commissioners Leslie Osche, Kim Geyer and Kevin E. Boozel were on the guest list.

"I am a strong advocate for options, especially when it comes to healthcare decisions for individuals and families. I am honored to be a part of this ribbon cutting ceremony at CCC in Butler. We are here to usher in a new year and a new era where medical cannabis alternatives are a legal option for Pennsylvanians," said Rep. Ellis.

The office provides medical cannabis certifications and evaluations, as well as guidance and continued treatment care for eligible patients who have been diagnosed with one of 17 state qualifying conditions.

Dr. Anu Anand a board-certified specialist in physical medicine and rehabilitation, will oversee the office which received extensive renovations in the fall of 2017, before officially opening its doors in December.

"My specialty in rehab medicine puts me in front of many patients with chronic pain and neurological diseases

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(EST.) MONTHLY VISITS:	<b>146K</b>
(EST.) COVERAGE VIEWS:	<b>15K</b>
DOMAIN AUTHORITY:	<b>38</b>

QQQ	-3.37	DIA	-1.74	SPY	-1.80	TLT	+0.60	GLD	+0.24
171.71	↓ -1.36%	250.22	↓ -0.69%	276.72	↓ -0.65%	119.19	↑ +0.51%	125.78	↑ +0.19%

Tickers, Articles & Keywords

# Pot Stocks, ETFs And Top News From The Cannabis Industry This Week



Javier Hasse, Benzinga Staff Writer

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February 25, 2018 4:36pm | Comments

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The **United States Marijuana Index**, which tracks 15 of the largest marijuana stocks in the U.S., lost 7.5 percent in the four days the market was open after President's Day. The **North American Marijuana Index**, which also includes Canadian stocks, shed 4 percent of its value.

The **Horizons Marijuana Life Sciences Index ETF** ▼ HMLSF 1.68% slipped 1.32 percent, while the **ETFMG Alternative Harvest ETF** ▼ MJ 1.24% tumbled 1.33 percent.

"This was one of the slowest weeks of the year in terms of substantive news, particularly in Canada. Volumes fell across the board and prices declined," 420 Investor Alan Brochstein told Benzinga. "Canadian LPs began the year with a surge but are now trading on average only 1 percent higher than where they ended in 2017."

"In the U.S., it is clear that traders have left many of the speculative penny stocks."

*Related Link: Wonder Women Of Weed: Jodie Emery, The Entrepreneurial Rebel With A Cause*

Here are some of the top marijuana stocks in U.S. exchanges and how they performed this week:

- **22nd Century Group Inc** ▼ XXII 3.31% : down 11.9 percent.
- **Aphria Inc** ▼ APHQF 1.8% : down 1.7 percent.
- **Aurora Cannabis Inc** ▼ ACBFF 2.97% : up 3.5 percent.
- **Cannabis Sativa Inc** ▲ CBDS 3.28% : down 3.4 percent.
- **CannTrust Holdings Inc** ▲ CNTTF 3.46% : down 0.7 percent.
- **Canopy Growth Corp** ▼ TWMI 2.01% : in 4.2 percent

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(EST.) MONTHLY VISITS: **3.02M**

(EST.) COVERAGE VIEWS: **9.79K**

DOMAIN AUTHORITY: **77**



130



6

# Pot Stocks, ETFs And Top News From The Cannabis Industry This Week

FEB 25 2018

(EST.) MONTHLY VISITS: **167M**

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(EST.) COVERAGE VIEWS: **30.4K**

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DOMAIN AUTHORITY: **99**

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**5**

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News > Press Releases

# Pot Stocks, ETFs And Top News From The Cannabis Industry This Week

SMG, TTRST, GWPBV, PMAP, USUN, TWEED, MSRT, C.THC, T.ACB, FRLF, TAPH, V.CRON, T.LEAF, C.TGIF, NUGS, T.HMMJ.U | February 25, 2018

The **United States Marijuana Index**, which tracks 15 of the largest marijuana stocks in the U.S., lost 7.5 percent in the four days the market was open after President's Day. The **North American Marijuana Index**, which also includes Canadian stocks, shed 4 percent of its value.

The **Horizons Marijuana Life Sciences Index ETF** (OTC: HMLSF) slipped 1.32 percent, while the **ETFMG Alternative Harvest ETF** (NYSE: MJ) tumbled 1.33 percent.

"This was one of the slowest weeks of the year in terms of substantive news, particularly in Canada. Volumes fell across the board and prices declined," **420 Investor** Alan Brochstein told Benzinga. "Canadian LPs began the year with a surge but are now trading on average only 1 percent higher than where they ended in 2017.

"In the U.S., it is clear that traders have left many of the speculative penny stocks."

*Related Link: [Wonder Women Of Weed: Jodie Emery, The Entrepreneurial Rebel With A Cause](#)*

Here are some of the top marijuana stocks in U.S. exchanges and how they performed this week:

- **22nd Century Group Inc** (NYSE: XXII): down 11.9 percent.
- **Aphria Inc** (OTC: APHQF): down 1.7 percent.
- **Aurora Cannabis Inc** (OTC: ACBFF): up 3.5 percent.
- **Cannabis Sativa Inc** (OTC: CBDS): down 3.4 percent.
- **CannTrust Holdings Inc** (OTC: CNTTF): down 0.7 percent.
- **Canopy Growth Corp** (OTC: TWMJF): up 4.2 percent.
- **Cronos Group Inc** (OTC: PRMCF): down 2.9 percent.
- **GW Pharmaceuticals PLC- ADR** (NASDAQ: GWPH): down 11.8 percent.
- **India Globalization Capital, Inc.** (NYSE: IGC): down 11.9 percent.
- **MedReleaf Corp** (OTC: MEDFF): down 10.5 percent.
- **Scotts Miracle-Gro Co** (NYSE: SMG): down 0.3 percent.
- **THC Biomed Intl Ltd** (OTC: THCBF): down 3.5 percent.
- **Zynerba Pharmaceuticals Inc** (NASDAQ: ZYNE): down 5.9 percent.

### In The News

**GW Pharmaceuticals** plummeted after the company reported discouraging results for its Phase 2a study evaluating the efficacy and safety of GWP42006 for the treatment of focal seizures in adult patients. The cannabidiol, or CBDV-based pipeline compound did not meet its primary endpoint, according to the report.

"The decline in GW Pharma sure seemed like a big overreaction to me," Brochstein said. "While it was disappointing to have a pipeline setback, CBDV for focal seizures in adults is not something that analysts had built into their models as a significant source of revenue."

**Canopy Growth** finally obtained a license for a new cultivation facility in Aldergrove, British Columbia. The company expects to have 1.3 million square feet of cultivation space in just a few months, becoming "the largest federally licensed cannabis site anywhere in the world," a press release said.

*Related Link: [Investing In Marijuana: Cannabis Industry Gets \\$1.2B In](#)*

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(EST.) MONTHLY VISITS: **4.18M**

(EST.) COVERAGE VIEWS: **18.2K**

DOMAIN AUTHORITY: **69**



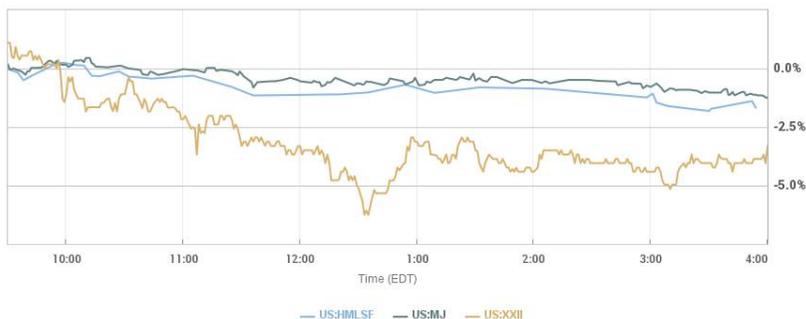
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# Pot Stocks, ETFs And Top News From The Cannabis Industry This Week

Published: Feb 16, 2018 3:35 p.m. ET



By  
**JAVIER HASSE**

After a relatively stable few days, cannabis stocks returned to the red Thursday. The United States Marijuana Index, which tracks 15 of the largest marijuana stocks in the U.S., ended the week almost flat. The North American Marijuana Index, which also includes Canadian stocks, lost 5.6 percent this week, largely on the back of Friday's 3.53 percent tumble. The Horizons Marijuana Life Sciences Index ETF **HMLSF, -1.68%** slipped 5.1 percent over the last five days. The ETFMG Alternative Harvest ETF **MJ, -1.24%** gained 1 percent. Here are some of the top marijuana stocks in U.S. exchanges and how they performed this week:

- 22nd Century Group Inc **XXII, -3.31%** : up 10.25 percent
- Aphria Inc **APHQF, -1.80%** : down 14.2 percent
- Aurora Cannabis Inc **ACBFF, -2.97%** : down 9.75 percent
- Cannabis Sativa Inc **CBDS, +3.28%** : up 5.1 percent
- CannTrust Holdings Inc **CNTTF, +3.46%** : up 5.3 percent
- Canopy Growth Corp **TWMJF, -2.91%** : down 5.0 percent
- Cronos Group Inc **PRMCF** : down 5.6 percent
- GW Pharmaceuticals PLC- ADR **GWPH, +1.74%** : up 3.9 percent
- India Globalization Capital, Inc. **IGC, +0.17%** : up 12.5 percent
- MedReleaf Corp **MEDFF, -0.42%** : up 7.05 percent
- Scotts Miracle-Gro Co **SMG, -0.20%** : up 2.7 percent
- THC Biomed Intl Ltd **THCBF, -9.70%** : up 0.5 percent
- Zynerba Pharmaceuticals Inc **ZYNE, -1.33%** : down 1.8 percent

In The News "While the Canadian LP sector had to absorb news that legal sales won't likely commence until Labor Day rather than July, the sector saw some big news," 420 Investor Alan Brochstein told Benzinga. The provincial government of Ontario announced a deal with Shorif Inc **SHRP, +1.01%**. The province will use the

## QUOTE REFERENCES

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<b>HMLSF</b> -0.25 -1.68%	<b>MJ</b> -0.41 -1.24%
<b>XXII</b> -0.09 -3.31%	<b>APHQF</b> -0.20 -1.80%

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(EST.) MONTHLY VISITS: **53.1M**

(EST.) COVERAGE VIEWS: **61.4K**

DOMAIN AUTHORITY: **92**



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# Medical Cannabis Meets Business Innovation in Pittsburgh at Upcoming World Medical Cannabis Conference & Expo

By Sponsored Content By Compassionate Certification Centers on February 28, 2018



Pittsburgh is making its mark as a cannabis industry hub for entrepreneurs, investors, and businesses with the return of the World Medical Cannabis Conference and Expo (WMCC Expo), April 12-14.

Industry professionals from across the country will converge at the David L. Lawrence Convention Center to network, engage, and learn. Open to the public, the large-scale conference will showcase the latest in cannabis research and technology with 175 exhibitors, more than thirty in-depth presentations, and high-profile speakers. General admission starts at \$49.

Part business expo, part educational symposium, and part wellness event, the three-day WMCC Expo is a multi-faceted affair designed to bring together all sectors of the cannabis community.

### High-Profile Speakers

Keynote presentations include the "Suit Against Sessions," where plaintiffs U.S. Army Combat Veteran Jose Belen, Super Bowl winner Marvin Washington, and advocate Sebastien Cotte will discuss their federal lawsuit against Jeff Sessions in favor of the legal cannabis industry. Former professional athletes will headline a "Medical Cannabis in Sports," panel, including: NFL player and Super Bowl winner Marvin Washington; NFL player Eben Britton; NHL player Riley Cote; and undefeated UFL Middleweight champion Frank Shamrock.

Forensic science consultant Dr. Cyril Wecht, who was portrayed by Albert Brooks in the critically acclaimed movie Concussion, will discuss "Cannabis and Concussions Through the Forensic Lens."

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(EST.) MONTHLY VISITS: **640K**

(EST.) COVERAGE VIEWS: **3.86K**

DOMAIN AUTHORITY: **57**



32



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## Job Seekers Invited to Cannabis Career Workshop & Fair in Pittsburgh

PITTSBURGH, PA / ACCESSWIRE / March 7, 2018 / Job seekers, college graduates, and those in career transition are invited to attend a Cannabis Career Workshop and Virtual Career Fair at the [World Medical Cannabis Conference & Expo](#), April 12-14, 2018, at the David L. Lawrence Convention Center in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Hosted by [Viridian Staffing](#), the cannabis industry's first and most experienced recruiting agency, the *Juana Career Readiness Workshop* will take place from 1-3 p.m., on Thursday, April 12.

Cost is free with the purchase of a Thursday exhibit hall or workshop ticket, and three-day access pass. Tickets start at \$49 and will be available onsite.

Viridian Staffing's signature workshop is becoming an increasingly popular feature at cannabis industry conferences across North America. It offers attendees an in-depth look into the fastest growing industry in the country and how to get involved. Benefits include:

- Overview of the state and scope of the cannabis industry.
- Current hiring trends and what positions are in demand.
- Understanding of how cannabis companies operate and how to approach them.
- How to stand out as a desirable candidate.

Viridian Staffing's co-founder David Mur t will lead the presentation, including a Q&A session. Attendees are encouraged to bring their resumes for hiring companies.

Throughout the three-day event, Viridian Staffing will be on site at Booths 118 and 120, to assist prospective candidates on their cannabis career journey.

Nearly 6,000 attendees are expected to attend the expo and 175 exhibitors from across the country. Speakers include high-profile medical, financial, sports and cannabis industry leaders.

New this year will be onsite Pennsylvania medical cannabis evaluations, ten continuing education courses, and more than 30 in-depth workshops. Additional ticket registration required.

For more information, call 1-888-316-9085 or visit [www.compassionatecertificationcenters.com](http://www.compassionatecertificationcenters.com).

### TAKE YOUR CAREER HIGHER

The Cannabis Industry's first and most experienced recruiting agency [Viridian Staffing](#) to host



#### READINESS WORKSHOP

Where: David L. Lawrence Convention Center  
Date: Thursday, April 12 | 1-3:00 p.m.

**FREE ACCESS**

with any Thursday Exhibit Hall, Workshop, or three day pass.

[www.ccregister.com](http://www.ccregister.com)



#### About Compassionate Certification Centers™

Compassionate Certification Centers is a unique company devoted to assisting U.S.

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## Job Seekers Invited to Cannabis Career Workshop & Fair in Pittsburgh - Press Release - Digital Journal

(EST.) MONTHLY VISITS: **1.72M**

(EST.) COVERAGE VIEWS: **4.62K**

DOMAIN AUTHORITY: **81**

