



ILCAAAP

Illinois Church Action on Alcohol & Addiction Problems

## Marijuana Alert February 17- 2022



### Marijuana Alert

#### **Police: Ex-'American Idol' star took marijuana before crash**

Marijuana was involved in a deadly South Carolina crash in which a former “American Idol” contestant has been charged with driving under the influence, according to an arrest warrant.

Caleb Kennedy, 17, ran over a man with his pickup truck Tuesday after driving up a residential driveway, authorities said. Kennedy told deputies after the crash that he had taken a “deep draw” from a vaping device and then felt its effects while driving, a prosecutor said in court Wednesday.

Kennedy’s lawyer, Ryan Beasley, said no alcohol was involved. [Read](#)

#### **Southland marijuana outlets planned, but timing of licenses an issue**

While new recreational marijuana dispensaries are planned in the Southland, how soon they might open is a matter of debate, as Illinois’ doling out of dispensary licenses is now tied up in the courts.

New dispensaries are planned in Oak Forest and Tinley Park, and officials in New Lenox, which had initially prohibited dispensaries, recently approved changes to village rules which could allow such businesses. For now, multiple lawsuits are pending that challenge Illinois’ fairness in the dispensary licensing process. Until they are resolved, new licenses are being held up. [Read](#)

#### **Smoking weed long-term damages lungs differently than tobacco, study says. What to know**

**Julia Marnin**

Fri, February 11, 2022,

Rick Bowmer/AP

It's established that smoking tobacco harms the lungs and poses the risk of people developing conditions such as lung cancer — but what about weed users who've been blazing the plant over the years?

Long-term marijuana smoking can also damage a person's lungs but in a way that's different from tobacco's effects, a recent study suggests on the "controversial" topic. Typically, it's been assumed both substances would impair lung function similarly, according to one of the lead researchers.

"The research found that prolonged cannabis use led to over-inflated lungs and increased the resistance to airflow to a greater extent than tobacco," study co-author and professor Bob Hancox of the University of Otago in New Zealand, said in a Feb. 3 news release. [Read](#)

## **\$6,000 stolen in 2 minutes: cannabis industry sounds alarm after string of thefts**

Cannabis shops in Washington state have been hit hard in a recent spate of robberies, prompting those affected to ask federal lawmakers to address their safety concerns over running mostly cash businesses. [Read](#)

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