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Illinois Church Action on Alcohol & Addiction Problems

Marijuana Alert - March 24, 2022



Cresco buying rival to become largest U.S. cannabis company

The \$2 billion purchase of Columbia Care gives Cresco access to new markets and cements Chicago's place at the center of the legal marijuana industry. [Read](#)

How 'magic mushrooms' could follow in the footsteps of cannabis

Turns out marijuana really is a gateway drug — for America's statehouses, anyway. A movement to decriminalize or legalize psychedelic substances such as “magic mushrooms” is being driven by the same playbook that helped Americans not only destigmatize but politically embrace cannabis over the past decade. And much like the changing attitudes toward marijuana use, nascent research and personal stories — particularly from military veterans — are convincing some lawmakers to rethink longstanding prohibitions on these drugs. [Read](#)

More Black, Latino Chicagoans Are Dying Of Heroin, Fentanyl Overdoses. A State Plan Will Expand Strategies To Tackle The Crisis

WEST GARFIELD PARK — The state is doubling down on efforts to tackle the opioid crisis, which has hit communities of color the hardest. The state is launching the Illinois Overdose Action Plan to bolster initiatives. . That'd mean a boost to programs like the West Side Heroin and Opioid Task Force, which coordinates resources to address overdoses in West Side neighborhoods. The task force has led

overdose prevention efforts, including a Narcan training and distribution program that has taught more than 6,000 people in the area how to use the medication to reverse potentially deadly overdoses. The state's equity-focused plan will expand access to harm-reduction tools, including Narcan, and emphasize programs that address the social issues that lead to addiction, like behavioral health issues and poverty, Pritzker said. [Read](#)

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