

MEXICO MOVES TO LEGALIZE DRUGS

New law will undermine U.S. enforcement efforts

Remarkably, Mexico, in the middle of a drug war that has begun to spill over into the United States, lacks only the signature of President Felipe Calderon to sign into law a bill that would legalize a variety of drugs in Mexico for recreational use, according to Fox News in Houston.

The bill, which was slipped through the Mexican Congress at the height of the swine flu scare, would legalize possession of 5 grams of marijuana, 500 milligrams of cocaine, 40 milligrams of methamphetamine, and up to 50 milligrams of heroin.

The bill does not require violators to enter treatment to avoid jail.

Instead, the bill waives jail time altogether, as long as those caught stay within the drug limits, recommending rather than mandating treatment options.

Fox News has reported since 2006 that Mexico's Congress has

been attempting to pass legislation that would decriminalize possession of small amounts of marijuana, ecstasy, cocaine and heroin for personal use.

Evidently, the thinking in Mexico is that since the nation shows no sign of being able to beat the drug cartels, why not just join them?

The move is certain to strain relations with the United States.

WND has repeatedly reported on the "Merida Initiative" under which the U.S. Congress at the urging of the Bush administration allocated in December 2009 some \$197 million of the \$500 million authorized under a planned \$1.6 billion program.

The Merida Initiative aims to provide U.S. military assistance in the form of training and equipment to the Mexican military to help it combat drug

cartels.

Earlier in 2008, Congress funded \$99 million under the Merida Initiative to Mexico through the Defense Security Cooperation Agency.

Will the Obama administration remain equally enthusiastic about helping Mexico's military fight the drug war if Mexico makes recreational drug use legal?

The Department of Justice National Drug Intelligence Center, or NDIC, revealed in its National Drug Threat Assessment 2009 that Mexican drug cartels are "the greatest drug trafficking threat to the United States," reporting that Mexican drug cartels now distribute drugs in 230 U.S. cities.

"Mexico and U.S.-based Mexican drug traffickers employ advanced communication technology and techniques to coordinate their illicit drug

trafficking activities," the NDIC reported. "Law enforcement reporting indicates that several Mexican drug trafficking organizations maintain cross-border communication centers in Mexico near the U.S.-Mexico border to facilitate coordinated cross-border smuggling operations."

In the last two years, the Mexican drug war has resulted in an estimated 8,000 deaths in Mexico.

The picture should be familiar to all Americans: images from Mexico of kidnappings, murders of law enforcement officers who take the drug war seriously, caches of confiscated weapons including automatic weapons and mountains of cash.

If Mexico thinks legalizing drugs will take the profits from the cartels, the country probably should give the matter a second thought.

Regardless of which drugs Mexico legalizes, the cartels undoubtedly will produce more potent and exotic varieties.

Red Alert would not be surprised to see the cartels make an attempt to control any companies Mexico authorizes to manufacture and distribute the illegal drugs.

If Mexico legalizes drugs, perhaps U.S. drug users will decide it is safer to move south of the border to enjoy their drug habit.

"Could Mexican cities become Latin Amsterdams, flooded by drug users seeking penalty-free tokes and toots?" the Los Angeles Times mused.

The Times tried to justify Calderon's possible reasoning arguing that: "It makes sense to distinguish between small-time users and big-time dealers, when re-targeting major crime-fighting resources away from the

consumers and toward the dealers and their drug lord bosses."

At any rate, the law could easily become a decided advantage for those cartels that pay workers in drugs instead of cash.

Besides, since the law does not appear to apply drug penalties below the specified limits for under-age users, the drug cartels might just use the law to expand their marketing by making it easier to hand out samples freely, including to children.

Red Alert has already warned that the Obama administration might join Mexico in supporting legislation to legalize drugs in the United States, while simultaneously moving to restrict the Second Amendment, so as to restrict the number of U.S. guns the Obama administration believes get in the hands of the Mexican drug cartels.

Fireworks pose dangerous risks, especially to children

CHICAGO - With planning for Fourth of July celebrations already in full swing, Prevent Blindness America, the nation's oldest eye health and safety organization, is urging the public to refrain from purchasing or using fireworks. In 2007, approximately 6,300 Americans were treated in emergency rooms across the country due to fireworks-related injuries around the Independence Day holiday, according to the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC).

Unfortunately, more than 40 percent of all fireworks injuries were to children under the age of 15. In fact, sparklers accounted for the most injuries that required medical attention to children ages 4 and under. Some may be surprised to learn that sparklers were associated with the most number of injuries to both adults and children. According to the National Fire Protection Association, "safe and sane" fireworks caused more injuries than illegal fireworks, especially to preschool children.

The second most common injury from fireworks is to the eyes, including contusions and lacerations, debris in the eye and burns. For example, a case was reported to the CPSC regarding a 6-year-old girl who was holding a Roman candle firework. The sparks that emitted from the Roman candle entered her eye and she required immediate medical treatment from an emergency room.

"We hear the term 'safe and sane' fireworks and think that they are harmless, but a sparkler can burn at up to 1,800 degrees," said Hugh R. Parry, president and CEO of Prevent Blindness America. "Roman candles, firecrackers and bottle rockets may seem enticing, especially to children. But they can be very dangerous and that is why Prevent Blindness America wants to make sure that consumers are aware of these dangers and make sure they protect their eyes."

Tragically, fireworks can go beyond injuries and even result in death. In 2007, a 7-year-old boy was killed when a 2-inch mortar shell tipped over just

before igniting and struck the boy in the chest. And, a 4-year-old boy died after lighting fireworks he found in a closet. The intense heat of the fire in the home prevented rescuers from reaching him in time.

Prevent Blindness America urges everyone to attend only authorized public fireworks displays conducted by licensed operators. Attendees should also be aware, however, that even professional displays can be hazardous and should use extreme caution.

Prevent Blindness America offers its "First Aid for Eye Emergencies" sticker in both English and Spanish, free to the public, and recommends the following should an eye injury occur:

- If there are specks in the eye,
 - DO NOT rub the eye.
 - Use an eye wash or let tears wash out specks or particles;
 - Lift the upper eyelid outward and down over the lower lid;
 - If the speck doesn't wash out, keep the eye closed, bandage and see a doctor or go

to the emergency room.

If the eye or eyelid is cut or punctured,

- DO NOT wash out the eye with water.
- DO NOT try to remove an object stuck in the eye.
- Cover the eye with a rigid shield without pressure. The bottom half of a paper cup may be used. See a doctor or go to the emergency room immediately.

Prevent Blindness America also offers a free brochure, "Safe

Summer Celebrations" with creative ideas for the family on how to celebrate the holiday without fireworks. For a free copy of the Safe Summer Celebrations brochure, more

information on fireworks safety or to request a First Aid for Eye Emergencies sticker, call (800) 331-2020 or log on to preventblindness.org.

*Raymondville Chronicle
& Willacy County News*

1920-2009

SUBSCRIBE TODAY!

CALL (956) 689-2421

NOTICE OF STORAGE LIEN

Rudy's Towing Service, Inc. has in their possession a white 2003 Dodge Neon, Vin. #1B3ES56CX3D180648. The owner is unknown. The vehicle is being held at: 759 W. Hidalgo, Raymondville, TX 78580. After 10 days of this notice the vehicle will be sold at the same location. You may contact our office at (956) 689-2504 (24 hrs) for inquiries on this vehicle.

26-1TC

Notice of Public Hearing

The Willacy County Commissioners Court will conduct a public hearing at a meeting on July 13, 2009 to consider (1) the application of EC&R Development, LLC, for designation of certain property located in Willacy County as a Reinvestment Zone eligible for property tax abatement under Chapter 312 of the Texas Tax Code, (2) the application of EC&R Development, LLC for tax abatement, and (3) EC&R Development, LLC's proposed tax abatement agreement.

The property designated by EC&R Development, LLC is intended for use as a wind power generation facility, electrical substation, associated transmission facilities and lines, and operations facility by EC&R Development, LLC, and consists of:

The real property in Willacy County, being all of the Lots in the Withers Tract Subdivision; all of the Lots in Blocks 83, 82, 81, 80, 79, 78, 77, 76, 75, 74, 73, 72, 71, 70, 69, 68, 63, 62, 61, 60, 5, 9, 58, 57, 56, 55, 54, 53, 52, 51, 50, 49, 48 of the Gulf Coast Irrigation Company's Subdivision; Lots 5, 6, 7, 8 of Block 67 of the Gulf Coast Irrigation Company's Subdivision; Lots 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 13, 14 of Block 64 of the Gulf Coast Irrigation Company's Subdivision; Lots 1, 2, 7, 8, 9, 10, 16 of Block 47 of the Gulf Coast Irrigation Company's Subdivision; all of Lots in Hardin & Gill Subdivision out of Share #16; all of Lots in Hardin & Gill Subdivision out of Share #61; all of Lots in Hardin & Gill Subdivision out of Share #64; all of the Lots in Blocks 1, 2, 3, 4, of the E. F. Hubmer Subdivision; all of the Lots in Share #64; all of the Lots in Share #34; all of the Lots in the Sombbrero Ranch Subdivision out of Share #64; all of the Lots in Blocks 1, 2, 3, 4 of the E. H. Beise Subdivision; all of the Lots in Blocks 1, 2, 3, 4 of the Raymondville Subdivision; all of the Lots in the Engleman #1 Subdivision; all of the Lots in the Engleman #2 Subdivision; all of the Lots in the Nile Orchard Subdivision; and Lots 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34 of the Wetzel Subdivision.

In determining whether to designate the Reinvestment Zone, the Commissioners Court will consider whether such designation would contribute to the retention or expansion of primary employment or would attract major investment in the Zone that would benefit the land to be included in the Zone and would contribute to the economic development of the County.

If created, the property would become "Magic Valley Reinvestment Zone No. 1." The public hearing will take place at 9:00 AM on July 13, 2009, at the Commissioners, Courtroom of Willacy County

All interested persons may appear and present testimony regarding designation of the Reinvestment Zone. If further information is needed, please contact the office of the County Judge, Willacy County, 576 West Main Street Raymondville, Texas: (956) 689-3393.

FIREWORKS ORDINANCE NO. 05-06-13

AN ORDINANCE BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LYFORD, TEXAS, PROHIBITING THE SALE, OR FIRING, SHOOTING, BURSTING OR EXPLODING OF ANY FIRE WORKS IN THE CORPORATE LIMITS OF THE CITY OF LYFORD, TEXAS, AND PROVIDING PENALTY FOR VIOLATION

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY OF LYFORD, TEXAS:

SECTION 1. IT SHALL HEREAFTER BE UNLAWFUL TO SELL, HAVE POSSESSION FOR THE PURPOSE OF SALE, OR FIRE, SHOOT, BURST OR EXPLODE, ANY FIRE CRACKERS, SKYROCKETS OR OTHER SIMILAR EXPLOSIVES, WHICH ARE DESIGNED, MADE, MANUFACTURED, SOLD AND USED FOR NOISE MAKING PURPOSES, WITHIN THE CORPORATE LIMITS OF THE CITY OF LYFORD, TEXAS.

SECTION 2. THE CITY OF LYFORD SHALL BE EXEMPT FROM SAID ORDINANCE FOR ANY CITY RELATED CELEBRATION.

SECTION 3. ANY PERSON OR ANY BUSINESS WHO SHALL VIOLATE ANY OF THE PROVISIONS OF THIS ORDINANCE, SHALL, UPON CONVICTION THEREOF, BE PUNISHED BY A FINE IN ANY SUM NOT TO EXCEED ONE HUNDRED (\$100.00) DOLLARS.

SECTION 4. AN EMERGENCY IS HEREBY DECLARED TO EXIST AND THE RULE REQUIRING ORDINANCE TO BE READ ON THREE SEVERAL DAYS IS HEREBY SUSPENDED AND THIS ORDINANCE IS PLACED ON ITS FIRST READING AND FINAL PASSAGE, AND SHALL BE EFFECTIVE AND IN FULL FORCE AND EFFECT FROM AND AFTER ITS PASSAGE AND APPROVAL.

**CITY OF LYFORD
HENRY DE LA PAZ, MAYOR**