

**Casper Star Tribune of April 9, 2016: "Hemp producers see promising future." Wyoming Tribune Eagle of April 7: "Hemp oil [*sic*] is taking off."**

I recently visited a Colorado company that's been on my radar for some time. CBDRx manufactures capsules of CBD in health-enhancing combinations of coconut oil and cannabinoids extracted from hemp.

CBD has shown remarkable results in children with epilepsy—so much so, the Colorado law authorizing its use was named Charlotte's Web after a very young patient. Likewise, Utah's Charlie's Law was named after a girl who died just weeks prior to the state's CBD legalization. Wyoming's legislature followed the example of these two states, without, however, legalizing hemp agriculture, as did our two neighbors.

My youngest son contends with narcolepsy, a sleep disorder that causes small seizures in the daytime as well as at night. His muscles turn slack for thirty seconds or more, during which time he is unable to move or speak. As education manager for a Silicon-Valley company's line of audio equipment, he can ill afford these mini-lapses; still, the medical remedies his physician prescribes have serious side effects.

"They make me so hyper, I can't sleep at night," he tells me.

Hence, he avoids them. In California he has ready access to cannabis products, yet he remains confused and uncertain. His dad, a lawyer and Republican for whom right was right and wrong was wrong, adamantly opposed cannabis consumption.

I visited CBDRx's Research & Development quarters on its five-acre farm in Longmont, Colorado. There, genetics research, crossbreeding, and tissue culture operations are carried out. Its corporate headquarters are located in Boulder.

Managing Director Tim Gordon showed me around a residential home and outbuildings hastily converted to fit company needs. Its farm and cloning facility in Pueblo produces large-scale outdoor hemp cultivation and cloning. There the soil, supplemented with local organic compost and watered by mountain springs, make hemp plants thrive "in the most nutrient-rich environment possible." It enabled the company to gain USDA approval for organic production of hemp.

"The industry is moving fast," said Mr. Gordon. "Our company developed in 18 months of growth spurts—and growing pains."

Regrettably, educating the public lags behind, he said. For example, many physicians are unaware that no prescription is necessary for the product: CBD can be purchased over the counter.

CEO Marc Brannigan has been in the cannabis industry for many years. "I have seen the benefits of cannabis and how it increases the quality of life," he said via email. "When I learned of the advantages of growing hemp for CBD, I knew this was the direction I wanted to go. Hemp CBD allows people to benefit from cannabis without the concern of getting high. We have noticed a broader range of people accepting cannabis in the form of hemp CBD vs marijuana and THC. CBDRx was created to bring CBD hemp to the nation and possibly the world. The need for CBD continues to grow."

He added that his company maintains websites and distributors "who could work directly with doctors or states if needed."

In November 2014, Mr. Brannigan started out in his facility in Pueblo with one single cultivar. By the time planting season arrived in May 2015, he had cloned 100,000 plants from cuttings. That year, according to The National Hemp Association, CBDRx produced 50,000 pounds of hemp. Colorado's Department of Agriculture reports that, statewide, 165 companies planted 3,546 acres of hemp.

Mr. Brannigan's one female plant supplied the in-house seed preference for the cannabinoid-rich stock he deems best. All company plants are low in THC, which is continually checked via lab tests. Besides USDA

organic certification, the company is GMP compliant, abiding by nationally recognized standards of Good Manufacturing Practices.

Alexis Korybut, President and Head of Sales, had this to say: "We are proud to be at the forefront of the emerging organic hemp industry, producing the widest spectrum of cannabinoids available in flower and oil forms for wholesale distribution."

The company ships to any state and country where hemp products are legal to sell. "Already we have established a clientele in England."

I contacted the Wyoming Medical Society with my findings. Communications Director Tom Lacock struck a hostile stance, only but emailing the organization's Position Paper. It states that WMS "opposes legalization of medical marijuana outside the regulatory process of the US Food and Drug Administration," noting, "the recreational use of marijuana has a deleterious effect on the health of individuals, particularly on the developing brains of adolescents and the direct effects of smoke and secondhand smoke."

WMS member Dr. David Wheeler, however, a neurologist practicing in Casper, acknowledged that some of his patients use CBD, though adding that it's difficult to assess just how much they are helped by it.

In Wyoming, a patient's process to qualify is lengthy and difficult. Application fees are high. "Besides, CBD is expensive," he said. Insurance companies will not cover CBD treatment.