

*CBS Evening News*

09/08/25

6:30:41 p.m. [TEASE]

11 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Eye on Americ]

MAURICE DUBOIS: Eye on America, the Acapulco golden years.

GAIL CRAWLEY: This is the old style of rolling a joint.

DUBOIS: More older Americans are getting high on marijuana.

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6:40:25 p.m. [TEASE]

13 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Seniors Going 'Green']

JOHN DICKERSON: Also tonight, Jim Axelrod.

JIM AXELROD: This a lot more of a certain type of customer at cannabis dispensaries these days. Turns, more seniors than ever like their weed. That story coming up on Eye on America.

(....)

6:46:59 p.m. [TEASE]

2 seconds

DICKERSON: Eye on America is next.

(....)

6:50:15 p.m.

3 minutes and 11 seconds

DUBOIS: Each night, our Eye on America takes a look at the country and tonight, we focus on one way it has changed. When the Baby Boom generation was coming-of-age, marijuana use was against the law. Well, now in much of America, it's legal. As Jim Axelrod reports some boomers are making up for lost time.

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Eye on America; High and Retired]

AXELROD: Don Searles is going to a party and doesn't want to show up empty-handed to.

DON SEARLES: That's done. In goes peanuts.

AXELROD: So, he's making peanut brittle using an old family recipe with a modern-day twist.  
[TO SEARLES] Now you got a new ingredient.

SEARLES: We added the marijuana. Yeah

AXELROD: The party Don's attending is an old school pot party although this one has a new wrinkle: It's at the Trilogy Retirement Community, an hour east of San Francisco where lately that golf course has a new competitor for popularity.

CRAWLEY: This is the old style of rolling a joint.

AXELROD: Cannabis. Gail Crawley, the host of the party, is 74 and not at all surprised about new numbers. Between 2021 and 2023 cannabis use among Americans 65 and older went up 46 percent. [TO CRAWLEY] Does that surprise you at all?

CRAWLEY: No.

AXELROD [TO CRAWLEY]: Why not?

CRAWLEY: Cannabis is a good solution to a lot of medicinal issues.

AXELROD: And, with cannabis now legal in 40 states for medical use and a 24 for recreational, the stigma is gone.

STEVE CLARK: I've never smoked a cigarette, a joint.

AXELROD: When it comes to his cannabis, Steven Clark is strictly an edible's guide. You're a cannabis guy?

CLARK: I am.

AXELROD [TO CLARK]: What is it about cannabis that you are drawn to?

CLARK: It does work on PTSD, pain issues, relaxation issues, brain disorders, heart disease.

AXELROD: That's his experience but some medical professionals think differently.

MATT SPRINGER: If they are smoking marijuana, we can be pretty confident that they're harming their cardiovascular system.

AXELROD: Professor Matt Springer at UC San Francisco has a warning. The active ingredient may carry health risks no matter how seniors get it. Smoking it, dummies, even peanut brittle.  
[TO SPRINGER] For people who get their THC through edibles what does your study suggest?

SPRINGER: It suggests they might be having an adverse, harmful effect on their cardiovascular system. If they're eating THC, they're not without risk.

AXELROD: Don't talk to Don Searles about risk. Five years after a motorcycle accident left him with chronic pain, he needs something. [TO SEARLES] So, there's a new study out, it shows a connection between cannabis use and cardiovascular disease.

SEARLES: It doesn't surprise me. I go to my doctor and he says, jeez, quit drinking milk, stay away from sugar. You know, what — what is it bad for you nowadays?

AXELROD: Despite the warnings, these seniors are happy just the way they are: high and retiring. For Eye on America, I'm Jim Axelrod in Rio Vista, California.