

22 of 74 DOCUMENTS



St. Petersburg Times (Florida)

February 20, 2011 Sunday  
4 State / Suncoast Edition

## REEFER MADNESS?

**SECTION:** BUSINESS; THE MARKETPLACE; Pg. 1D

**LENGTH:** 201 words

Every time the Times asks readers for ideas on how to fix the economy, legalizing marijuana comes up. But just how much would Florida save in law enforcement costs each year if the wacky tobacky went legit nationwide?

- \$269.3 million. That's the number the eggheads at the Cato Institute kicked out after crunching police, court and prison budgets. Employing phrases like "numerous assumptions" and "ballpark figures," the team also calculated that Florida could add \$175 million in tax revenues. That's a net gain of nearly

- \$450 million a year. Alas, the report concluded it would be "politically painful" to lay off police officers, prosecutors and prison guards. On that, they aren't blowing smoke.

\* \* \*

THE WEEK THAT WAS

WINNER: IBM engineers

Their computer, Watson, whipped the two best Jeopardy! champions. IBM's stock price rose sharply the morning after Watson won. Coincidence?

LOSER: John Wheat

In perhaps a case of "it doesn't always pay to reach for the brass ring," the No. 2 executive at TIA was ousted from his \$212,000 job as part of new director Joe Lopano's organizational review. Wheat applied for the top job that Lopano got.

Looking ahead: Existing home sales numbers are released Wednesday.

**LOAD-DATE:** February 21, 2011

**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH

**GRAPHIC:** GRAPH - McClatchy-Tribune: Whom we owe PHOTO (2)

**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newspaper

Copyright 2011 Times Publishing Company

All Rights Reserved