Pot: U.S. attorney says he will 'not make broad proclamations of blanket immunity'

Continued from Page 1A

In a memo released Friday, Williams said his office has five priority areas of enforcement:

• Marijuana overproduction, interstate trafficking and diversion of Oregon-grown marijuana across state lines. "Notably, since broader legalization took effect in 2015, large quantities of marijuana from Oregon have been seized in 30 states, most of which continue to prohibit marijuana," he said.

• Threats to public health, including minors' access to

marijuana. • Cannabis violations that involve firearms, violence or other threats to public safety.

• Organized crime. · Protecting public lands and natural resources from environmental damage caused by pesticides or water use.

The priorities will guide prosecutors' charging decisions

However, Williams said that he would "not make broad proclamations of blanket immunity from prosecution to those who violate federal law'

Williams also said that

his office would "strategically consider" and use civil law enforcement mechanisms such as asset forfeiture and civil litigation.

In early January, Sessions rolled back Justice Department guidelines issued during the administration of former President Barack Obama.

The so-called memo" guided prosecutors in states where marijuana was deemed legal under state law to focus on prosecuting organized crime and trafficking versus low-level marijuana activity and personal use.

Although Sessions has rescinded the memo, in a speech to the Federalist Society at the Georgetown University Law School in March, Sessions said that U.S. attorneys would not be pursuing "small marijuana cases," citing lack of resources to do so.

The guidelines also come more than three months after Williams convened a gathering of public officials, industry representatives and law enforcement in Portland to discuss cannabis issues in the state.

Williams has maintained that the state produces far more marijuana than Oregonians can consume, and that much of it gets diverted across state lines.

Williams also said he was encouraged by the passage of Senate Bill 1544, a state law to create a grant program to boost local law enforcement efforts to stem illegal cultivation and distribution.

Williams Nonetheless, said his office would continue to enforce the federal law.

"At the same time, however, and especially to the extent major enforcement or state regulatory oversight gaps persist, we will not hesitate to act as the law and facts warrant," Williams wrote.

The Oregon Liquor Control Commission is stepping up enforcement efforts as well. A recent state audit found that its licensing and tracking systems for cannabis have weaknesses that could allow illegal activity to fly under the radar.

Gov. Kate Brown issued a statement supportive of Williams' priorities.

"Today's announcement from U.S. Attorney Williams confirms our cooperative approach to cannabis regulation and reflects Oregonians' priorities to keep cannabis in our state and out of the hands of children. A focus upon those breaking state law through illicit market production and trafficking only serves to bolster lawful Oregon-grown businesses," Brown said.

"I look forward to continued collaboration with our federal partners as we work to ensure our regulations address the needs of this growing market."

Donald Morse, chairman of the Oregon Cannabis Business Council, said Friday that he didn't think Williams' priorities were anything new.

"I mean, we've known this all along," since Sessions rescinded the Cole memo earlier this year, Morse said.

Morse said he hopes to see Williams and law enforcement team up to address marijuana production outside of the state-legal system, which he says undermines the legal market.

Cannabis has become more mainstream in recent years. There appears to be growing support in Congress to legalize the drug.

The Capital Bureau is a collaboration between EO Media Group and Pamplin Media Group.



Leticia Campos, an instructor in the Juntos workshop.

EDP: Juntos helps students, families

Continued from Page 1A

The Juntos class took place at Seaside High School, and dinner and childcare were offered. Attendance varied each Tuesday evening during the workshop, but Rosario Alcantar, of Seaside, was a consistent participant.

Alcantar has a son in 11th grade at Seaside High School, as well as an older daughter. When her daughter graduated a few years ago, Alcantar felt she was unprepared to assist and support her, so she signed up for the Juntos class to be better informed this time around

When asked what was the most important information she'd learned, Alcantar, who was translated by Campos, replied, "everything." To elaborate, she added she learned where to apply for financial aid; the importance of visiting various universities before selecting one; and the higher education opportunities available to Dreamers or undocumented students.

Also, her son was leaning toward attending a university, she said, but after taking the workshop, they're more seriously discussing community college as an option. The same applies to Alcantar's daughter, who plans to go back to

For those parents on the fence about participating in a Juntos program, she said, she would encourage them to "think about their child's education, because education

starts at nome. Juntos, which translates as "together" is Spanish, started at North Carolina State University in 2007. In 2012, Oregon State adopted the program and adapted it for Oregon communities. Its mission is empowering families around education by providing culturally relevant activities and workshops for eighth- to 12th-grade students and parents. Juntos coordinators work directly with school districts and other community partners to implement programs locally.

American Rancher Red Steagall

Oregon State recently expanded Juntos to coastal, central and eastern areas in Oregon, and Sande Minnich Brown, the curriculum director for the Seaside School District, was instrumental in bringing the program to the community and handling logistics. A pilot version of Juntos' college readiness workshop was offered at a couple of sites in Clatsop County last school year.

In addition to the six-week workshop, Stanley said, the Juntos program includes follow-up monthly or bimonthly family nights to promote family and community engagement; college visits; and advisement throughout the college application and financial aid process.

"It's a sustainable program throughout the year that families can call on for assistance,"

This year, the college readiness class has been offered in Seaside, Tillamook, Newport and Lincoln City. A joint class for the Astoria and Warrenton school districts started in late April at the Warrenton Grade School. The class, facilitated by Amanda Casian-Marquez, a grade school teacher, and Andrea Gonzalez, with the Lower Columbia Hispanic Council, runs from 5:30 to 8

At the conclusion, participants from both that workshop and the Seaside workshop will travel to Corvallis for a tour of Oregon State. High school students, parents and siblings are invited along, as "one of the biggest parts of the program is the whole family is involved,"

Stanley said. As a benefit, students of all ages get a glimpse of what's possible and realize going on to higher education is an obtainable goal, he said. A nice side effect is many parents are also inspired to pursue further education, whether it be acquiring a GED or working toward a college degree.

"Education is something no one can take away from you," Stanley said.



Edward Stratton/The Daily Astorian

A legal battle over the wetlands filled for the new Walmart continues as the national retailer prepares to open next month at the North Coast Retail Center.

Walmart: 'The Corps can't just say, Oh; it's small, so we can wash our hands'

Continued from Page 1A

"The Corps can't just say, 'Oh; it's small, so we can wash our hands," Anuta

Judge Michael Mosman asked whether the case is moot, with Walmart scheduled to open next month.

The Corps could order the fill at the Walmart site

removed after the fact or require more mitigation, Anuta said, and an analysis of the cumulative impacts of filling wetlands could require future projects in the area to do more compensatory mitigation. He specifically pointed out 32.92 acres of wetlands just east of 19th Street slated to be filled.

"If it's a little tiny wet-

Red Steagall (N) Horse Master

land and we just keep ignoring little tiny wetlands, we'll end up with a completely dysfunctional ecosystem because we've not taken into account the cumulative impact of destroying each

little wetland," Anuta said. Reached by phone after the hearing, Anuta said a decision from the appeals court could take anywhere

from two weeks to 18 months. Anuta is also challenging a wetland fill permit granted by the Department of State Lands for a Walmart on behalf of Citizens for Responsible Development in The Dalles.

The group has been waiting roughly two years for an answer from the appeals court, he said.

THE DAILY **ASTORIAN**

CHEDULE

Evening listings MONDAY

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45 HIST			American Pickers	'Hello Jell-O"	American Pickers "		American Pickers	,		(:35) Pawn Stars (N)		(:35) Pawn Stars
46 A&E									Waco Madman "Night 2" The Mount Carmel raid turns into a 51-day stand-off. 2/2 Think You Are "Laverne Cox" (N) (:05) Think You Are "Jon Cryer"			
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65 SYFY		(5:00) The Grapes of Wrath (:15) ★★★★ Casablanca ('42) Ingrid Bergn ★★★★ Faster (2010, Action) Billy Bob Thornton, Maggie Grace, Dwayne Johnson.							/(:45) ★★★ Deadline, USA ('52) Humphrey Bogart. Movie ★★ Mad Max: Beyond Thunderdome ('85) Mel Gibson.			
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