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## SCIENCE CAMP

A butterfly lands on Aisha, 11, during a visit to the Tropical Butterfly House at the Pacific Science Center, part of the 26th Annual Ron McNair Camp-In Saturday Nov. 10. Boys and girls ages 8 to 12 and their adult chaperones got to enjoy a private overnight stay at the Science Center, where they had the opportunity to explore the exhibits, attend workshops, see live science shows, see Tutankhamun: The Golden King and the Great Pharaohs and spend the night at the center.



PHOTO BY SUSAN FRIED

## Pot Cases Dropped

Two prosecutors say they're upholding new marijuana law

By Greg Morrison Of CNN

(CNN) — The prosecutor's offices for two Washington counties — including the one that contains Seattle — announced Friday they will dismiss 175 misdemeanor marijuana possession charges, days after the state's voters legalized the drug.

The dropped cases all involve arrests of individuals age 21 and older for possessing one ounce or less of marijuana.

Washington state voters passed Initiative 502 on Tuesday, thus legalizing and regulating the production, possession, and distribution of cannabis for people ages 21 and older.

The initiative is set to take effect Dec. 6, though King County Prosecutor Dan Satterberg decided to act before then.

"There is no point in continuing to seek criminal penalties for conduct that will be legal next month," Satterberg said in a news release.

The King County Sheriff's Office subsequently announced that, in light of the county prosecutor's decision, its deputies "will not be directed to arrest or charge individuals caught with one ounce or less of marijuana."

This decision affects efforts only in the unincorporated part of the county, with the sheriff's office noting that leaders in 12 municipalities in the county will decide how deputies act between now and Dec. 6 in their locales.

Mark Lindquist, the prosecutor for Pierce County in Washington state, said his office will dismiss simple marijuana possession cases as well. But cases in which a person is charged with other crimes, in addition to marijuana possession, will still stand, Lindquist said.

The Washington referendum called for a 25 percent tax rate imposed on the product three times - when the grower sells it to the processor, when the processor sells it to the

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## Afghans Hope for U.S. Justice

Robert Bales faces possible death penalty in Mideast murders

Gene Johnson The Associated Press

JOINT BASE LEWIS-McCHORD, Wash. (AP) — Through a video monitor in a military courtroom near Seattle, Staff Sgt. Robert Bales saw young Afghan girls smile beneath bright head coverings before they described the blood-bath he's accused of committing.

He saw boys fidget as they remembered how they hid behind curtains when a gunman

killed 16 people in their village and one other.

And he saw dignified, thick-bearded men who spoke of unspeakable carnage — the piled, burned bodies of children and parents alike.

From the other side of that video link, in Afghanistan, another man saw something else — signs that justice will be done.

"I saw the person who killed my brother sitting there, head down with guilt," Haji Mullah Baraan said Monday in an interview with The Associated Press.

"He didn't look up toward the camera."

Baraan was one of many Afghan witnesses who testified in Bales' case by live video link over the weekend.

"We got great hope from this and we are sure that we will get justice," Baraan said.

Prosecutors say Bales, 39, slipped away from his remote base at Camp Belambay to attack two villages early on March 11, killing 16 civilians, including nine children. The slayings drew such angry

protests that the U.S. temporarily halted combat operations in Afghanistan, and it was three weeks before American investigators could reach the crime scenes.

Bales faces 16 counts of premeditated murder and six counts of attempted murder. The preliminary hearing, which began Nov. 5 and is scheduled to end with closing arguments Tuesday, will help determine whether he faces a court-martial. He could face the death

## Make Emergency Plans for Your Pet

King County officials urge disaster preparedness for Fluffy too

Torrential downpours and saturated earth are typical of winter weather in Western Washington and so is flooding. In fact, flooding is the most common and costly weather-related disaster in Western Washington, according to the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Major flooding situations can often result in communities needing to evacuate and take steps to protect their families and prop-

erty.

Pets and animals in our care may seem like secondary concerns when in the midst of a flood situation; however, having an emergency plan that includes pets and animals is a critical part of being prepared for floods and decreases the likelihood of the need for emergency rescues, which also put first responders in harm's way.

"In King County alone there have been 12

presidentially-declared flood disasters since 1990," said Julia Patterson, chair of the King County Flood Control District. "That's an average of a major event every other year. That's why we urge everyone to prepare for flooding. Because it is not a matter of if it will happen, but when."

Animal welfare gained national attention

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