

Law

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retailer, and when the retailer sells it to the customer.

It is one of two marijuana-related ballot initiatives that passed this week. Amendment 64 in Colorado will amend the state

his state and presumably Washington state must still navigate federal laws before citizens can legally buy and sell cannabis.

And germane to the Washington and Colorado initiatives, the Drug Enforcement Administration issued a statement Wednesday morning saying its "enforcement of the Controlled Substances Act remains unchanged."

"In enacting the Controlled Substances Act, Congress determined that marijuana is a Schedule I controlled substance," the DEA said. "The Department of Justice is reviewing the ballot initiatives,

and we have no additional comment at this time."

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Washington and Colorado must still navigate federal laws before citizens can legally buy and sell cannabis

constitution to legalize and regulate the production, possession, and distribution of marijuana for persons ages 21 and older.

But Colorado Gov. John Hickenlooper warned after his state's vote that it's too soon to "break out the Cheetos," because

Bales

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penalty if convicted.

Several soldiers testified that Bales returned to the base alone just before dawn the morning of the attacks, covered in blood, and that he made incriminating statements such as, "I thought I was doing the right thing."

Prosecutors say he also made a mid-massacre confession, returning to the base to wake another soldier and report his activities before heading out to the other village. The soldier testified that he didn't believe Bales and went back to sleep.

The Army held nighttime sessions of the hearing on Friday, Saturday and Sunday for the convenience of the Afghan witnesses.

They were as young as Robina, just 7, who wore a deep-red head covering and a nervous smile as she described how she hid behind her father when a gunman came to their village that night.

The stranger fired, she said, and her father died, cursing in pain and anger.

One of the bullets struck her in the leg, but she didn't realize it right away.

Robina's friend Zardana, 8, sipped from a

pink juice box before she testified. She suffered a gunshot wound to the top of her head, but after two months at a military hospital in Afghanistan and three more at a Navy hospital in San Diego, she can walk and talk again.

Zardana's brother, Quadratullah, recalled that he and others scrambled when the gunman attacked, yelling "We are children! We are children!" The man fired anyway.

Afghan witnesses recounted the villagers who lived in the attacked compounds and listed the names of those killed. The bodies were buried quickly under Islamic custom, and no forensic evidence was available to prove the number of victims.

None of the Afghan witnesses were able to identify Bales as the shooter, but other evidence, including tests of the blood on his clothes, implicated him, according to testimony from a DNA expert.

Bales sat quietly throughout, betraying no

Bales faces 16 counts of premeditated murder and six counts of attempted murder. He could face the death penalty if convicted

reaction to what he heard. Sometimes he watched testimony on a large monitor in the courtroom, and other times he lowered his head and watched on a laptop computer in front of him.

Bales, 39, an Ohio native and father of

there might have been more than one shooter.

"There's no way it was one person," Maj. Khudai Dad, chief of criminal techniques with the Afghan Uniform Police, opined Sunday night.

But Dad offered no evidence to support his speculation, and the vast majority of other testimony pointed to there being a single gunman. A video taken from a surveillance blimp also captured a sole figure returning to the base.

It wasn't immediately clear how soon any court-martial might be held. But if and when it is, military prosecutors say, the Afghan witnesses won't have to testify through a screen any more. It will be face to face, as the military would fly the witnesses to Joint Base Lewis-McChord for court-martial testimony.

Associated Press Writer Mirwais Khan in Kandahar contributed to this report.

Pets

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during the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina prompting Congress to pass the Pets Evacuation and Transportation Standards Act in 2006, which requires that state and local disaster plans include pets in their procedures.

Most recently, Super Storm Sandy has displaced what looks to be thousands of pets. According to the American Humane Association, some 15 million dogs were in the storm's path. Search and rescue operations and temporary emergency shelters for pets lost in the storm are in full effect to help reunite families with their animals.

Last month, the Seattle Animal Shelter unveiled the Pet Emergency Trailer-Seattle (PETS). Funded by a grant from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, the unit is intended to contain all supplies necessary to pop-up a pet shelter during an emergency. Pet shelters can then be co-located with human shelters so the whole family unit can stay together in the same area. This allows staff, volunteers and owners to provide care throughout the day. Up to 40 animal groups

can be sheltered by the PETS unit at one time.

"As Hurricane Katrina and Super Storm Sandy demonstrated, even if you have emergency supplies for you and your pets it's not always safe to shelter in place," said Kara Main-Hester, manager of volunteering and fundraising for the Seattle Animal Shelter. "Previously, pet sheltering was not one of the services we could provide residents during and after an emergency. Now we're

Most recently, Super Storm Sandy has displaced what looks to be thousands of pets

able to offer pets a safe place near the rest of their family should they be forced from their homes."

When making a plan for your pets, think first about the basics for their survival, particularly food and water. Consider two kits

– in one, put everything you and your pets will need to stay where you are; the other should be a portable version that can be taken along during an evacuation. Download a complete pet preparedness checklist at TakeWinterByStorm.org.

"Pets are family, and just like any other member of the family, you need to make sure that you think about their safety and well-being in an emergency," said Dr. Gene Mueller, manager of Regional Animal Services of King County (RASKC). "Never leave your pet behind if you have to evacuate your home, and be sure your pet is wearing a license, identification tag, or is microchipped. That way, if you do get separated, it's much more likely that you will be reunited after the emergency is over."

Simple steps such as creating an emergency kit, making a plan for emergencies and staying informed can keep families and pets safe during bad weather and emergencies.

Speak Out!



PHOTO BY SUSAN FRIED

King County Council Chair Larry Gossett, Washington State Legislator Cindy Ryu, Executive Director of ACLU Pennsylvania Reggie Shuford and Seattle Human Rights Commissioner Chris Stearns heard testimony about racial profiling and its effects on national security, immigration enforcement and criminal justice. Speak Out! Racial Profiling in the Northwest was held Nov. 12 in the Bertha K. Landes Room at City Hall and was part of the 2012 Rights Working Group National Meeting which took place in Seattle on Nov. 12-13 at the Westin Hotel.

BE PREPARED

The Take Winter By Storm website, TakeWinterByStorm.org, is a one-stop emergency preparedness information hub that includes safety tips and regional resources related to high winds, heavy rain, snow, freezing conditions, power outages, flooding and more.

The public is encouraged to take the following actions in preparation to be storm ready:

Create an emergency preparedness kit with at least a three-day supply of non-perishable food and water for your home and office. Kits prepared for vehicle road travel and winter weather evacuation go-kits are also advised.

Make an emergency plan and practice it with your family and those who depend on you – including animals.

Stay informed and monitor the weather approaching so you are prepared for whatever Mother Nature throws our way.