

MARIJUANA: Recreational marijuana has brought in more than \$60M in state revenue

Continued from 1A

Americans believe cannabis should be legal.

"I do believe you'll see greater enforcement of it," Spicer said in response to a reporter's question at a White House briefing Thursday, Feb. 23. He suggested enforcement would target only recreational marijuana, as Congress has passed laws to protect medical use.

"I am hoping they come to their senses because you know with the recent election cycle that put Trump in office it also put marijuana in place in a number of states, including in California, which is the sixth largest economy in the world," Burdick said of the administration.

Spicer's comment conflicts with the administration's claim that it favors state rights, said U.S. Sen. Jeff Merkley, D-Oregon. For instance, the administration announced a day earlier it would allow states to decide the issue of transgender restroom access.

"I urge the Trump administration to follow its own rhetoric on 'state's rights,' and to respect the voters of Oregon and the many other states who have decided at the ballot to legalize recreational marijuana use," Merkley said.

Oregon Attorney General Ellen Rosenblum said she would explore options for protecting voters' decision to legalize recreational pot

and work with attorney generals in other states with similar laws.

She said she would prefer to focus Oregon's limited law enforcement resources on more dangerous drugs and crimes of violence.

U.S. Sen. Ron Wyden, D-Oregon, echoed that sentiment during a visit to Medford Thursday.

"Wasting taxpayer dollars and burdening our law-enforcement agencies to go after law-abiding recreational marijuana users distracts from going after criminals and threats to our safety. I will fight hard against ridiculous federal government intrusions into our state," Wyden said via text message to the Pamplin Media Group/EO Media Group Capital Bureau.

In Pendleton, where voters legalized marijuana sales in November, four recreational dispensaries are in the licensing process, including Kind Leaf Pendleton.

Kind Leaf co-owner Brandon Krenzler said he watched the Spicer press conference but remained confident that Oregon's legal marijuana market will remain untouched.

"I think it's a scare tactic more than anything," Krenzler said.

Krenzler noted that the Trump administration has yet to rewrite a U.S. Department of Justice memorandum that eased marijuana enforcement on states that

legalized cannabis, a move that would elicit more concern from him.

In the meantime, Krenzler said Kind Leaf's owners plan to continue their efforts to open the store within the next couple weeks.

Just days ago, a bipartisan team of U.S. representatives, including Oregon Democrat Earl Blumenauer, formed the nation's first "Congressional Cannabis Caucus." The caucus formed with the intent of reconciling federal law with state laws that permit medical and recreational use of marijuana.

Earlier this month, Republican Rep. Dana Rohrabacher of California introduced legislation that would shield people from marijuana-related prosecutions under the federal Controlled Substances Act, provided that they complied with state laws.

Oregon voters created a medical cannabis program through Ballot Measure 67 in 1998. Voters legalized recreational use of the drug with Measure 91 in 2014.

Recreational marijuana has brought in more than \$60 million in state revenue since the state started taxing sales in January 2016. The revenue is distributed to public education, Oregon State Police, cities and counties and health-related programs. Some cities and counties have assessed an additional local tax on recreational pot. Medical marijuana is exempt.

CASCADIA: Seattle and Portland alone represent \$450B in annual economic activity

Continued from 1A

on geological evidence of past quakes over 2,000 years, scientists say that in the next 50 years there is a one in three chance that a partial slip of the Cascadia subduction zone will cause an earthquake of at least an 8.0 magnitude, while there is a one in 10 chance of a full slip that would cause an earthquake 9.0 or higher.

But they also know they must act on the knowledge they have. If the odds are against us and Cascadia hits sooner rather than later, preparation will save lives. And after the time for saving lives is over, preparation could also help save the economy.

More than 8 million people live west of the Cascades in the Cascadia zone, which stretches from northern California to southern British Columbia. The region is home to major companies including Nike, Amazon, Boeing and Microsoft, and data centers for tech companies like Facebook and Google dot the region.

Seattle and Portland alone represent \$450 billion in annual economic activity, according to the Cascadia Rising exercise scenario, and billions more are generated through coastal ports that will most certainly be destroyed by a major earthquake and tsunami.

The state estimates that if Cascadia happened now it would take three to five years to rebuild all the roads and bridges that collapsed during the earthquake.

The economic impact of such destruction would be felt across the country. When Japan experienced a magnitude 9.0 earthquake in 2011, one year later the *Japan Times* reported that 644 companies had gone into bankruptcy because of the earthquake, leaving behind \$8 billion in liabilities and shedding 11,412 jobs.

The Oregon Resilience Plan, written by a state committee to educate legislators on what needs to be done to prepare for Cascadia, estimates \$32 billion in

Further reading on Cascadia

If you enjoyed the Cascadia Aftermath series and want to learn more, here are some of the resources used in the story that are available online:

1. The Cascadia Rising Exercise Scenario Document outlines the assumptions made as the state prepares for Cascadia.
2. The state of Oregon's Cascadia Subduction Zone Catastrophic Earthquake and Tsunami Operations Plan outline's the state's plan for responding to Cascadia.
3. The Oregon Resilience Plan was compiled for the legislature and includes an analysis of the state's readiness for Cascadia and what steps can be taken to further the state's ability to recover.
4. The website ready.gov describes steps people can take to prepare for all kinds of emergencies, and includes a section on earthquakes.
5. The Red Cross's Prepare Out Loud campaign encourages Cascadia preparedness, and the Prepare Out Loud website features resources such as an emergency kit checklist and instructions for making a family emergency plan.
6. The Pulitzer-prize winning story "The Earthquake that Will Devastate the Pacific Northwest," by New Yorker reporter Kathryn Schulz was, for many, the introduction to the idea of Cascadia and helped kick off an increased focus on earthquake preparedness in the state.
7. The OPB series Unprepared features a documentary and dozens of articles about current levels of Cascadia preparedness in Oregon.
8. The Oregon Office of Emergency Management has a business preparedness section on its website with resources for businesses that want to prepare for a natural disaster.

economic losses for Oregon after Cascadia, unless the state implements major seismic upgrades to buildings, roads, bridges, airports and utility infrastructure.

"We cannot avoid the future earthquake, but we can choose either a future in which the earthquake results in grim damage and losses and a society diminished for a generation, or a future in which the earthquake is a manageable disaster without lasting impact," the report reads. "We need to start preparing now by assessing the vulnerability of our buildings, lifelines, and social systems, and then developing and implementing a sustained program of replacement, retrofit, and redesign to make Oregon resilient to the next great earthquake."

"We know how to engineer buildings, roads, and power lines to withstand this earthquake; the hard part will be to find the will, commitment, and persistence needed to transform our state."

At a Cascadia Aftermath forum on Tuesday at Blue Mountain Community College, speakers Franel, Umatilla County emergency manager Tom Roberts and BMCC faculty member Philip Schmitz said it is critical the state continue to plan and to invest in seismic upgrades.

A \$25 million retrofitting of the Pittock Building in Portland, for example, could prevent the collapse of the 1913-era building through which all of the state's internet flows.

"This is going to potentially be one of the largest events in recorded history," Roberts told the audience. "It might not happen in our lifetimes, but it is important for all of us today to know what to expect so we can pass that information on to the next generation, so they can pass it on to the next generation, until it does happen."

Contact Jade McDowell at jmcdowell@eastoregonian.com or 541-564-4536.

BMCC: Will partner with Round-Up, city to raise money for FARM Phase II

Continued from 1A

said the project would provide more opportunities for hands-on learning with livestock.

"We have our students learn to do, and then they do to learn," Winn said. "They actually have to get in there and get their hands dirty."

BMCC currently manages its own 100-acre working farm behind the Pendleton campus, where about 20 students trudged through a cold and muddy feedlot Thursday morning to weigh cattle as part of their animal nutrition class.

Dave Grimes, a longtime rancher and lab technician for the program, said the students are in charge of everything, from mixing feed to providing basic care. Their grades will depend on how well the animals are doing by the end of the term. "This is the most hands-on school in Oregon," Grimes boasted. "We get a lot of students because of that."

Not far from the feedlot, construction workers continue to hammer away at the FARM Phase I building, which will house classrooms, offices, shops and lab space in one location. The building is scheduled to open in August.

"I'm looking forward to it," Grimes said. "It will be something to brag about."

FARM Phase II is the next

step, and BMCC recently announced it will partner with the Round-Up Association and city of Pendleton to raise money for the project's \$10 million price tag. The Umatilla County Board of Commissioners and Port of Umatilla have donated \$150,000 each.

The organizations also asked the state Joint Ways and Means Committee to support half the cost — \$5 million — through a capital construction grant when the committee met Feb. 17 in Hermiston. State Rep. Greg Smith (R-Heppner) serves as the vice co-chair of that committee, as well as budget chairman for the Oregon Republican caucus.

In an interview with the *East Oregonian*, Smith cautioned that it will be "extremely challenging" for the state to fund any capital construction project given this year's budget.

"In order to maintain services at the level they are today, the state of Oregon needs to generate \$1.8 billion in additional revenue," Smith said. "This is just one of those projects we'll have to watch carefully, and see if any dollars are available as we get into June."

Pendleton Mayor John Turner, who previously served as BMCC president, said FARM II may draw more equestrian and livestock-related events to town, which would help bolster the

local economy. Companies may also be interested in conducting research or student programs using the facility.

"Events held at the FARM II facility will benefit the economy of Pendleton, improve college recruiting and help offset the costs of managing the facility," Turner said in a statement.

Randy Thomas, spokesman for the Pendleton Round-Up, said the project fits within their mission of supporting higher education while promoting the Western lifestyle.

"We feel that the program BMCC will develop here will support the Western lifestyle in its contemporary form, with technical training for people to engage in the livestock industry," Thomas said.

Winn said the support from their community partners shows the value FARM Phase II could bring to Pendleton.

"I think the community sees the need for a strong agriculture program to teach future (farmers) for our booming agricultural economy," he said. "I think it also speaks to the possibility for economic development in Pendleton and the greater area."

Contact George Plaven at gplaven@eastoregonian.com or 541-966-0825.

TREATMENT: Hermiston and Pendleton have groups meeting twice a week for youth with addiction problems

Continued from 1A

from three drug and alcohol groups to five, including two for Spanish speakers and an English-speaking group focused on how to prevent addiction relapses. Ashton-Williams also said a third Spanish-speaking group is likely.

Hermiston and Pendleton added groups in the mornings and afternoons to better meet the needs of swing and day shift workers. The county also added a drop-in group at 8:30 a.m. in Hermiston and one at noon in Pendleton. She said these are good fits for those who are not sure they have a problem or about treatment but want to check out the possibilities.

Hermiston and Pendleton also now have groups meeting twice a week for youth with addiction problems. Ashton-Williams said there are five clients in Herm-

iston and three in Pendleton, and she is hopeful those will draw more youth in need.

"We know in our communities there are youth who have struggled with alcohol and drug use," she said, and these groups can help break those cycles of addiction.

And two human services workers learned the community model of the Parenting Inside Out program, which the prison system uses to teach parenting skills to offenders. Ashton-Williams said the community model is for parents with open cases in the Oregon Department of Human Services.

"We have a lot of clients that come to us from DHS," she said, and this program deals with parenting "from birth until they leave the home."

Ashton-Williams credited the clinicians with making the improvements while still providing stress and

anger management and other services.

And starting in March, she said her department is partnering with county public health to have an alcohol and drug prevention worker take on suicide prevention.

Umatilla County, like other local governments, is looking at a tight budget for 2016-17. Ashton-Williams said her staff know that road well and know how to do more with less.

"We've seen a small decrease in our budget from the state," she said, "but not so much that we can't continue the services that we're currently providing."

Visit www.co.umatilla.or.us/AD/index.html to find out more about the county's human services programs, or call the following offices: Pendleton — 541-278-6330; Hermiston — 541-564-9390; and Milton-Freewater — 541-938-3988.





LG V20



SAMSUNG Galaxy S7



SAMSUNG Galaxy S7 edge

PICK ANY SMARTPHONE — AND GET UP TO — \$250 BACK

There's never been a better time to be a U.S. Cellular® customer. Because now you'll get up to \$250 back on any new Smartphone.

12GB or higher plan required

Things we want you to know: Shared Connect Plan and Retail Installment Contract required. Credit approval also required. A \$25 Activation Fee applies. A Regulatory Cost Recovery Fee (currently \$2.02/line/month) applies; this is not a tax or government-required charge. Additional fees (including Device Connection Charges), taxes, terms, conditions and coverage areas apply and may vary by plan, service and phone. Offers valid at participating locations only and cannot be combined. See store or uscellular.com for details. **Device Protection+ Required:** Minimum monthly price is \$8.99 per Smartphone. A service fee/deductible per approved claim applies. You may cancel anytime. Property insurance is underwritten by American Bankers Insurance Company of Florida and provided under a Master Policy issued to U.S. Cellular. You will be the certificate holder on U.S. Cellular's Master Policy for loss/theft benefits. Service Contract Obligor is Federal Warranty Service Corporation in all states except CA (Sureway, Inc.) and OK (Assurant Service Protection, Inc.). Limitations and exclusions apply. For more information, see an associate for a Device Protection+ brochure. **\$100 Promotional Card Offer:** Offer eligible for new line activations and upgrades. New and current customers who choose a Shared Connect Plan 12GB or higher and activate a new Smartphone are eligible to receive a \$100 U.S. Cellular Promotional Card in the mail. Customers who are on a Shared Connect Plan 12GB or higher are eligible to receive an additional \$150 U.S. Cellular Promotional Card in the mail. Customers who are on a Shared Connect Plan 12GB or higher are eligible to receive an additional \$150 U.S. Cellular Promotional Card issued by MetaBank® Member FDIC, pursuant to a license from Visa U.S.A. Inc. Valid only for purchases at U.S. Cellular stores and uscellular.com. Card will be received in 6-8 weeks. Turned-in Smartphone must be in fully functional, working condition without any liquid damage or broken components, including, but not limited to, a cracked housing. Devices with cracked screens will be accepted as long as the device meets all other requirements. Smartphone must power on and cannot be pin locked. **Kansas Customers:** In areas in which U.S. Cellular receives support from the Federal Universal Service Fund, all reasonable requests for service must be met. Unresolved questions concerning services availability can be directed to the Kansas Corporation Commission Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Protection at 1-800-662-0027. Limited-time offer. Trademarks and trade names are the property of their respective owners. © 2017 U.S. Cellular