

Royal wedding on schedule for Saturday

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AP Photo/Frank Augstein

A carriage is driven through the streets of Windsor, England, during a rehearsal for the procession of the upcoming wedding of Britain's Prince Harry and Meghan Markle, Thursday. Preparations are being made in the town ahead of the wedding of Britain's Prince Harry and Meghan Markle that will take place in Windsor on Saturday.

WINDSOR, England — Ending days of speculation, Meghan Markle said Thursday that her father will not be able to attend her wedding to Prince Harry due to health problems. The news came as British military personnel rehearsed for a gala procession through Windsor that will follow Saturday's ceremony, which will be televised live around the world.

Thomas Markle had been scheduled to walk his daughter down the aisle when she weds her prince Saturday in St. George's Chapel at Windsor Castle.

No replacement for him as been officially named but it's possible that Doria Ragland, the bride's mother, could fill that role instead. The bride may also choose to walk down the aisle by herself.

Harry and Markle, who have remained out of the public eye in recent days,

were spotted being driven onto the grounds of Windsor Castle on Thursday afternoon.

On the streets of Windsor, military personnel rehearsed their procession

through the town, watched by thousands of enthusiastic royal fans.

The wedding day festivities will include a 25-minute carriage ride outside the grounds of Windsor Castle

by the newlyweds after the ceremony. More than 2,600 members of the public have been invited onto the castle grounds to watch the procession.

Thursday's practice ses-

sion aimed to work out the precise timings of Saturday's procession. The British pride themselves on carrying off complex parades with aplomb, and it would not do for the couple to arrive at their wedding reception even a few minutes late.

"It's very important to have a dress rehearsal, for everyone involved. It gives the guys a sense of timings for the day, how fast they need to move, how slow they need to move. It also helps the horses themselves, showing them the environment," said Adam Blackmore-Heale, a member of the Household Cavalry.

A large military contingent is taking part in the procession, reflecting Harry's years of military service, including tours in Afghanistan.

The church service will be conducted by the Rev. David Conner, the dean of Windsor. He said Thursday that Harry and Markle are deeply committed to each other.

BRIEFLY

'Major, major game-changer': Ebola spreads to big Congo city

KINSHASA, Congo (AP) — Congo's Ebola outbreak has spread to a crossroads city of more than 1 million people in a troubling turn that marks the first time the vast, impoverished country has encountered the lethal virus in an urban area.

"This is a major, major game-changer in the outbreak," Dr. Peter Salama, the World Health Organization's deputy director-general of emergency preparedness and response, warned on Thursday.

A single case of Ebola was confirmed in Mbandaka, a densely populated provincial capital on the Congo River, Congo's Health Minister Oly Ilunga said late Wednesday. The city is about 150 kilometers (93 miles) from Bikoro, the rural area where the outbreak was announced last week.

Late Thursday, Congo's Ministry of Health announced 11 new confirmed Ebola cases and two deaths tied to cases in the country's northwest, including one in a suburb of Mbandaka.

A total of 45 cases of Ebola have now been reported in Congo in this outbreak: 14 confirmed, 21 probable and 10 suspected, the ministry said, after results from lab tests returned Thursday.



Trump

President Trump defends 'animals' remark, says he'll always use it

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump on Thursday defended his use of the word "animals" to describe some immigrants who enter the country illegally, saying he would continue to use the term to refer to violent gang members in spite of a sharp rebuke from Democratic leaders.

Answering a reporter's question during a meeting with NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg, Trump said his comment a day earlier had clearly been directed at members of the MS-13 gang.

"MS-13, these are animals coming onto our country," Trump said, repeating his language from Wednesday. He added: "When the MS-13 comes in, when the other gang members come into our country, I refer to them as animals. And guess what? I always will."

Trump has been under fire for comments he made Wednesday while railing against California for its so-called sanctuary immigration policies. Trump was speaking at a roundtable with local California officials when he responded to a comment that had referenced MS-13.

"We have people coming into the country, or trying to come in — and we're stopping a lot of them," Trump said after Fresno County Sheriff Margaret Mims complained about state restrictions that limit cooperation with federal immigration authorities. "You wouldn't believe how bad these people are. These aren't people. These are animals."

CLINIC: Facility will offer Methadone and Suboxone drugs

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The new clinic will offer a way out. Methadone and Suboxone are two drugs that help people escape the grip of opioids.

Owen said methadone clients will arrive at the clinic at 118 S.W. 20th each morning for their daily doses. As they prove their commitment and reliability, they earn the right to take doses home instead of having to return each day. Dispensing will take place between 5:30 and 9:30 a.m.

"The idea is to get you moving in your day and get to work or school or wherever you need to go," Owen said.

The staff will include a primary care doctor, a doctor of osteopathy, counselors and nurses.

Clients generally take two to five years to totally break away from opioids, but it depends on the individual. Some choose to stay on a low maintenance dose for years. Owen gave the example of a business owner in Southern Oregon.

"She had a wild hair in the '70s and got into heroin," he said. "She has been on methadone ever since. She takes medication every day and she's not interested in getting off. We're not going to push someone out of treatment."

Owen said the Oregon Health Authority encouraged his group to open a clinic in Pendleton in order to fill a niche in rural Northeast Oregon. Owen could see the need — the company's Bend clinic often gets calls from the Pendleton vicinity. He said the closest options for methadone treatment are in Bend, Portland and Boise. Oregon Recovery and Treatment Center will receive about \$1.28 million to expand opioid treatment in Pendleton, Klamath Falls and Newport, along with the current three locations. The Targeted Response to the Opioid Crisis grant covers such things as training and outreach efforts. Financing comes from the Mental Health Services Administration.

"In 2015, only seven counties had at least one opioid treatment program, and six of those were on the I-5 corridor, despite a high need for services in rural Oregon," said Saerom England, spokeswoman for the Oregon Health Authority.

Owen said the location in a strip mall near Walmart is ideal because of proxim-

ity to a Kayak Public Transportation stop, Interstate 84 and ample parking. The building is one-story and ADA accessible.

Pendleton has one other facility geared to helping people kick opioids. Psychiatrist Joel Rice, who runs the Grande Ronde Recovery Center, prescribes Suboxone, with active ingredients buprenorphine and naloxone, to help addicts break free. Though Suboxone is also addictive, addicts' brains clear and they can start getting their lives in order as they wean off the drug.

The new clinic will also offer Suboxone as an alternative to methadone. Which medication is prescribed, Owen said, depends on the client, the depth of his or her addiction and other factors. Sometimes people simply feel more comfortable with one therapy than another.

Methadone clinics have gotten a reputation as magnets for crime, but several studies, such as one conducted by the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, suggest the reputation is undeserved. Owen said he anticipates "reduced criminality in the community."

He and program director Amber Latham met with some community health leaders in November to introduce the coming treatment center. Umatilla County Public Health Administrator Jim Setzer attended the session and got a good vibe.

"I am glad to see them coming to Pendleton and Umatilla County," Setzer said. "We currently have an acute shortage of treatment facilities and options for the large number of people in our county who could benefit greatly from the kind of therapy and treatment this facility will offer."

Owen said he can't predict the number of clients the new clinic will attract. It's not a simple matter of an area's population.

"We've learned you don't really know until the doors open," Owen said. "Springfield opened April 23 and has about 80 clients. Bend (which opened several years ago) hovers between 260 and 285. Grants Pass (open for a year and a half) has well over 300 and is still growing even though it is the smallest community."

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PANEL: 'It's sorting itself out'

Continued from 1A

Roberts has long warned that overproduction of legal marijuana would fuel the black market instead of hinder it, but Krenzler took a more optimistic view.

Krenzler cautioned that some of that 1 million pounds were trimmings and stems used for extraction for other marijuana products rather than smoking, but he anticipated the lower prices that resulted from oversupply would be "the new normal."

He acknowledged that some farms were prone to selling their surplus on the black market, but predicted that more professional grow operations would eventually replace the offending farms once their licenses were revoked.

Lower marijuana prices haven't caused Kind Leaf to shrink its operations. Purchase said Kind Leaf employs 19 full-time positions, three part-time positions and is short-staffed by about two to three people.

Roberts spoke about how the cannabis market has affected public safety.

He said it was difficult to quantify the effect, but he noted a few general trends.

Roberts said police have found more marijuana paraphernalia at the elementary school level and cannabis edibles in the middle school and high schools.

There is no objective way to accurately determine if someone is driving under the influence of marijuana, but Roberts said that city law enforcement has seen an 11

percent increase in the number of drivers who answer affirmatively when police ask them if they've consumed marijuana in the past 24 hours. But he also added that smoking marijuana in the past day doesn't mean their driving is affected by it.

Roberts said they also deal with people who are smoking marijuana in public, which is prohibited by Oregon law.

Purchase said the state could solve that problem by legalizing marijuana lounges, indoor public spaces where people can smoke marijuana in a social setting.

Kind Leaf frequently advises customers that they can't smoke cannabis publicly, Purchase said, but people who shop at Kind Leaf from outside the area often don't have a place to consume what they buy.

Not wanting to get high before they drive, Purchase said some of these customers go down to the nearby levee to smoke their joint.

Marijuana lounges would give these customers a place to smoke the cannabis they purchased, with Krenzler adding that ventilation and filtration systems prevent these business from becoming dense with marijuana smoke.

Cress, the city planner, said Pendleton zoning rules for marijuana businesses would need to change if the state incorporated lounges into the mix.

Cress has only been on the job for a few months, but he was working for the city

of Forest Grove when it went through its own legalization process.

Although public hearings about marijuana businesses can get contentious, Cress said there doesn't appear to be a need to limit the number of dispensaries in town.

Pendleton has three cannabis retailers (the city planning commission approved a fourth store, but it has yet to open), and Cress said they don't have any other applications coming down the pike.

"It's sorting itself out," he said.

Cress didn't know of any businesses that have moved out of town because of the marijuana industry, and even if they did, they wouldn't have very many places to go.

Oregon already has 151 cannabis retailers across the state, and marijuana sales are also legal in Washington, California and other western states.

Cress said the mayor of Forest Grove used to tell him that marijuana got more votes than he did when they were on the ballot together, meaning it was an issue cities needed to deal with.

It's not a straight comparison, but a similar event happened in Pendleton.

While Pendleton Mayor John Turner was elected during the lower turnout primary election in May rather than the general election November, both 2016 ballot measures to legalize medical and recreational marijuana sales received more votes in 2016 than Turner did for mayor, even as he ran unopposed.

ELECTION: Voter turnout higher in Pendleton

Continued from 1A

"I did go door-to-door in Pendleton and Hermiston," he said. "I felt those were the two areas I was probably weakest."

He said he knew more people in the northern part of the county, both in his hometown and in the Milton-Freewater area. But he said he did not have the name recognition of a three-term commissioner.

He noted that while Hermiston — where Givens got more votes — is a larger city, the voter turnout is lower there than in Pendleton.

He said now that he's been elected, the work begins.

"I need to work 10 times harder as a commissioner than I did as a candidate," he said. "I want them to get to know me and trust me. Once I have your trust, I want to keep your trust."

Givens said he also hadn't looked at the precinct results yet, but that his campaign message was the same countywide.

He said Pendleton resi-

dents may have perceived that they weren't getting as much benefit at the county level as those on the west side, but didn't have further comment on the breakdown of votes by precinct.

He said he felt the loss was reflective of a statewide desire for change rather than dissatisfaction with a specific candidate.

"We had a number of incumbents unseated, myself included," he said. "It tended to be all about change. The voice was saying, 'We want change, we don't care what kind of change. We just want change.'"

He said he noticed that Shafer had criticized him for his involvement in statewide and federal organizations, such as the Association of Oregon Counties and the National Association of Counties.

"Incumbent commissioners across the state had the commonality that they had all been heavily involved in those kinds of issues," he said, wondering if the loss of

many of those incumbents had to do with a distrust of government at the state and federal level.

In the three-way race for County Commissioner Position 1, incumbent George Murdock did not command the 50 percent of votes necessary to avoid a runoff in November. Murdock, who received 45.5 percent of the vote, will face challenger Rick Pullen, who earned 30.5 percent of the vote, in the November election. Tom Bailor came in third with 23.8 percent.

Though the race is not over, the primary was less competitive in voter distribution than for Position 2. Murdock won all but four of the county's 45 precincts. Pullen took four precincts, all from various corners of the county.

In some precincts, Bailor was able to garner more votes than Pullen, but didn't approach Murdock's lead.

Murdock's largest lead was in West Hermiston, with 134 votes over Pullen in one precinct.