

Trump signals support for legislation easing national marijuana ban

By MICHAEL R. BLOOD
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — President Donald Trump said Friday that he was inclined to support a bipartisan effort in Congress to ease the U.S. ban on marijuana, a proposal that would dramatically reshape the nation's legal landscape for pot users and businesses.

The federal ban that puts marijuana on the same level as LSD and heroin has created a conflict with more than two dozen states that have legalized pot in some form, creating a two-tiered enforcement system where cannabis can be both legal and not.

The legislation would ensure states have the right to



AP Photo/Mathew Sumner, File

President Donald Trump said Friday that he is inclined to support a bipartisan effort in Congress to ease the U.S. ban on marijuana.

determine the best approach to marijuana within their borders, but some U.S. restrictions would remain,

including recreational sales to people under 21.

The proposal introduced Thursday has support

from members of Congress from both parties, including Republican U.S. Sen. Cory Gardner of Colorado.

"I support Senator Gardner. I know exactly what he's doing," Trump told reporters in Washington, when asked about the legislation. "We're looking at it. But I probably will end up supporting that, yes."

The president's remarks place him in conflict with his own Justice Department and U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions, an outspoken opponent of marijuana who lifted an Obama administration policy and freed federal prosecutors to more aggressively pursue cases in states that have legalized marijuana.

Walden-backed opioid package headed for debate

Congress attempts to rein in three-headed monster

By KATHY ANEY
East Oregonian

One of Rep. Greg Walden's favorite subjects these days is the opioid epidemic and what lawmakers can do to stop it.

"This is just cutting across the fabric of our state and country," Walden said Thursday by phone. "You lose more Oregonians to overdose deaths than in car accidents. That's a pretty stunning number."

As the leader of the House Energy and Commerce Committee, Walden helped craft and advance nearly 60 opioid-related bills that are scheduled to be debated on the House floor over the next two weeks. The Republican Congressman conducted multiple opioid roundtables around the state over the past several years.

The number of Americans dying of drug overdoses tripled from 1999 to 2015 and then rose another 12 percent in the next two years. Someone dies from prescription painkillers every 20 minutes. Some compare the crisis to a three-headed monster of prescription painkillers, synthetic opioids and street drugs. Opioids include illegal drugs like heroin and synthetic fentanyl as well as prescription pain relievers including oxycodone, hydrocodone, codeine and morphine.

Because of the complexity, the legislation takes a multi-pronged

approach. Some bills target the importation of illicit drugs. Others focus on treatment, non-opioid remedies for pain, new enforcement tools, monitoring, prescribing limits, changes to Medicaid and Medicare and a plethora of grant money.

"As you look at the package of bills, I would argue it is the most comprehensive focus on a national problem I've seen and it's bipartisan," Walden said. "It's been a very aggressive effort."



Walden

He said fentanyl worries him greatly. The synthetic opioid is 50 times more powerful than heroin and 100 times more potent than morphine. Sometimes fentanyl is cut into heroin. Mexican cartels and other foreign entities have been accused of trafficking the drug into the United States.

"We've got to do a better job in stopping these killer chemicals coming in from foreign nations in the postal service, which is what happens with fentanyl," he said.

Walden said the U.S. must also continue to rein in opioid prescribing.

"Clearly we've got to get to best practices on prescribing," Walden said. "I would argue that nobody got hooked on opioids that didn't start with a prescription."

Despite the huge number of bills in the package, Walden didn't promise a silver bullet.

"We'll be after this a lot of years going forward," he said.

Contact Kathy Aney at kaney@eastoregonian.com or 541-966-0810.

Walla Walla sweet onion harvest kicks off this weekend

Locati introduces new 'rosé' Walla Walla sweet

By MATTHEW WEAVER
EO Media Group

Walla Walla sweet onion farmers start harvesting this weekend, the leader of the crop's marketing committee says.

"They look good," said Michael J. Locati, farmer and chairman of the Walla Walla Sweet Onion Marketing Committee. "We're excited for a pretty good season."

Locati expects to start harvest Saturday.

About 10 to 15 farmers raise the niche onion on 500 total acres in Walla Walla County and a small part of northeastern Oregon. Walla Walla sweet onions are protected by a federal marketing order designating the legal production area.

Harvest runs through the middle or end of August. Average yield is roughly 650 50-pound units per acre.

Other than a minor windstorm that battered the crop in late April or early May,

Locati said there have been no issues.

Onion sizes are trending towards jumbo size, about 3 inches and up in diameter, he said.

"The price right now is a good starting price," Locati said. "Profitability, the margins are getting slimmer with the way labor costs have gone up, especially in Washington State."

Locati is introducing a red Walla Walla sweet onion in "very limited production," less than 5 percent of the yellow Walla Walla sweet crop. He's been developing it for 10 years, he said, picking off-pigment onions during harvest and planting and raising the reddest ones.

"It's not a deep red, I call it more of a rosé Walla Walla sweet," he said. "It's just another option. It's a beautiful, kind of pinkish-hue onion, very mild. When you think of a red, you think of a hot onion. Great potential, for sure."

Walla Walla River Packing Co. begins offering organic Walla Walla sweets for the first time this year, Locati said.



Matthew Weaver/Capitol Press

Walla Walla sweet onion harvest starts this weekend, says Michael J. Locati, chairman of the Walla Walla Sweet Onion Marketing Committee.

Corrections

The June 8 story "New director turns around business center" misquoted return on investment figures attributed to the Small Business Development Center. The Oregon SBDC Network generates \$2.56 in federal revenue and \$2.49 in state revenue for every dollar invested.

The June 8 story "Fundraisers scheduled for shooting victim" left out the date of the car wash at Smitty's ACE Hardware. It is on Sunday, while the car wash on Orchard Avenue is on Saturday.

EAST OREGONIAN

— Founded Oct. 16, 1875 —

211 S.E. Byers Ave., Pendleton 541-276-2211
333 E. Main St., Hermiston 541-567-6211
Office hours: Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Closed major holidays

www.eastoregonian.com

To subscribe, call 1-800-522-0255
or go online to www.eastoregonian.com
and click on 'Subscribe'

East Oregonian (USPS 164-980) is published daily except Sunday, Monday and postal holidays, by the EO Media Group, 211 S.E. Byers Ave., Pendleton, OR 97801. Periodicals postage paid at Pendleton, OR. Postmaster: send address changes to East Oregonian, 211 S.E. Byers Ave., Pendleton, OR 97801. Copyright © 2018, EO Media Group

Subscriber services:
For mail delivery, online access, vacation stops
or delivery concerns call 1-800-522-0255 ext. 1

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

	Local home delivery	Savings off cover price
EZPay	\$14.50	41 percent
52 weeks	\$173.67	41 percent
26 weeks	\$91.86	38 percent
13 weeks	\$47.77	36 percent

*EZ Pay = one-year rate with a monthly credit or debit card/check charge

Single copy price:
\$1 Tuesday through Friday, \$1.50 Saturday

Circulation Manager:
541-966-0828

ADVERTISING

Regional Publisher and Revenue Director:
Christopher Rush
541-278-2669 • crush@eomediagroup.com

Advertising Services: Grace Bubar
541-276-2214 • gubbar@eastoregonian.com

Multimedia Consultants:
• Kimberly Macias
541-278-2683 • kmacias@eastoregonian.com

• Jeanne Jewett
541-564-4531 • jjewett@eastoregonian.com

• Dayle Stinson
541-278-2670 • dstinson@eastoregonian.com

• Angela Treadwell
541-966-0827 • atreadwell@eastoregonian.com

• Audra Workman
541-564-4538 • aworkman@eastoregonian.com

Classified & Legal Advertising

1-800-962-2819 or 541-278-2678
classifieds@eastoregonian.com or legals@eastoregonian.com

NEWS

• To submit news tips and press releases:
call 541-966-0818 or email news@eastoregonian.com

• To submit community events, calendar items and Your EO News:
email community@eastoregonian.com or call Tammy Malgesini at 541-564-4539 or Renee Struthers at 541-966-0818.

• To submit engagements, weddings and anniversaries:
email rstruthers@eastoregonian.com or visit www.eastoregonian.com/community/announcements

• To submit sports or outdoors information or tips:
541-966-0838 • sports@eastoregonian.com

Business Office Manager: Janna Heimgartner
541-966-0822 • jheimgartner@eastoregonian.com

COMMERCIAL PRINTING

Production Manager: Mike Jensen
541-215-0824 • mjensen@eastoregonian.com

AccuWeather Forecast

TODAY A few morning showers; cooler

SUNDAY Mostly cloudy, a shower; breezy

MONDAY Partly sunny and beautiful

TUESDAY Mostly sunny and warmer

WEDNESDAY Partly sunny

AccuWeather
DOWNLOAD THE APP

PENDLETON TEMPERATURE FORECAST	
64°	46°
65°	46°
70°	42°
79°	51°
84°	53°

HERMISTON TEMPERATURE FORECAST	
70°	50°
71°	49°
76°	42°
84°	54°
89°	57°

ALMANAC

PENDLETON

through 3 p.m. yesterday

TEMPERATURE	
HIGH	LOW
81°	48°
76°	51°
Normals	76° 51°
Records	102° (2015) 35° (1910)

PRECIPITATION

24 hours ending 3 p.m.	0.00"
Month to date	Trace
Normal month to date	0.45"
Year to date	6.07"
Last year to date	10.04"
Normal year to date	6.96"

HERMISTON

through 3 p.m. yesterday

TEMPERATURE	
HIGH	LOW
83°	58°
Normals	77° 52°
Records	105° (2015) 40° (1979)

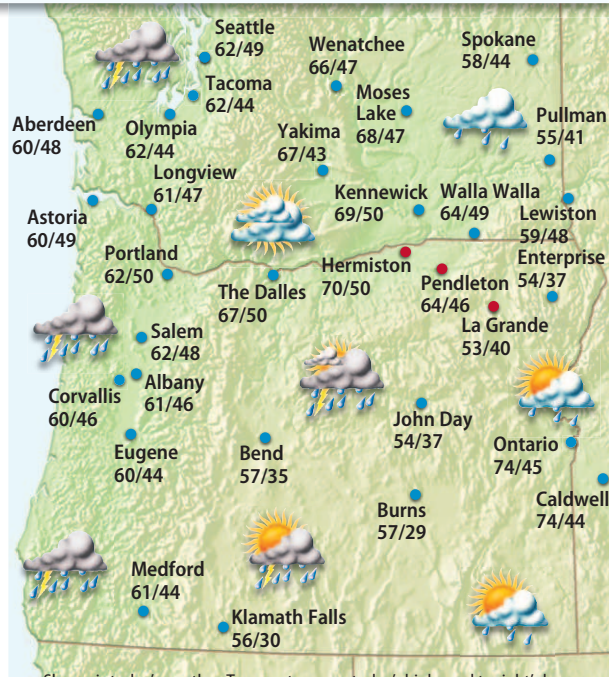
PRECIPITATION

24 hours ending 3 p.m.	0.00"
Month to date	0.00"
Normal month to date	0.21"
Year to date	4.96"
Last year to date	6.54"
Normal year to date	5.32"

SUN AND MOON

Sunrise today	5:06 a.m.
Sunset tonight	8:43 p.m.
Moonrise today	2:52 a.m.
Moonset today	3:52 p.m.

	New	First	Full	Last
	June 13	June 20	June 27	July 6



REGIONAL FORECAST

Coastal Oregon: Rather cloudy today with a couple of thundershowers. A couple of showers tonight.

Eastern and Central Oregon: A passing shower or two today, but a couple of thundershowers in central parts.

Western Washington: Mainly cloudy today with a couple of thundershowers. A shower tonight. Showers tomorrow.

Eastern Washington: Mostly cloudy today; a brief shower or two.

Cascades: A shower or two this morning, then showers. A shower tonight; cold in the south.

Northern California: Clouds limiting sun today; a morning shower in the interior mountains.

REGIONAL CITIES

	Today			Sun.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Astoria	60	49	t	60	48	sh
Baker City	57	37	sh	58	33	c
Bend	57	35	sh	58	35	pc
Brookings	56	46	t	59	48	pc
Burns	57	29	t	56	29	pc
Enterprise	54	37	sh	53	36	c
Eugene	60	44	t	63	44	c
Heppner	60	44	t	62	43	c
Hermiston	70	50	sh	71	49	c
John Day	54	37	t	57	36	c
Klamath Falls	56	30	t	60	34	pc
La Grande	53	40	sh	57	39	c
Meacham	53	39	sh	54	38	c
Medford	61	44	t	67	47	pc
Newport	57	47	t	57	48	c
North Bend	58	49	t	61	51	c
Ontario	74	45	pc	65	42	pc
Pasco	68	49	sh	70	45	c
Pendleton	64	46	sh	65	46	c
Portland	62	50	t	63	51	sh
Redmond	60	34	sh	61	35	c
Salem	62	48	t	63	47	c
Spokane	58	44	sh	60	42	sh
Ukiah	53	37	t	55	35	c
Vancouver	62	50	t	61	49	c
Walla Walla	64	49	sh	64	47	c
Yakima	67	43	c	66	40	c

WORLD CITIES

	Today			Sun.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Beijing	75	57	sh	82	60	pc
Hong Kong	89	80	sh	90	81	pc
Jerusalem	86	65	s	87	65	s
London	71	57	pc	74	54	pc
Mexico City	79	58	pc	77	58	pc
Moscow	58	42	pc	57	43	c
Paris	80	62	t	78	62	t
Rome	77	60	pc	81	63	s
Seoul	85	62	t	78	60	sh
Sydney	61	54	sh	63	54	sh
Tokyo	84	67	c	71	66	r

WINDS

(in mph)	Today	Sunday
Boardman	SW 10-20	WSW 10-20
Pendleton	WSW 8-16	WSW 10-20

UV INDEX TODAY

1	1	2	3	2	1
---	---	---	---	---	---

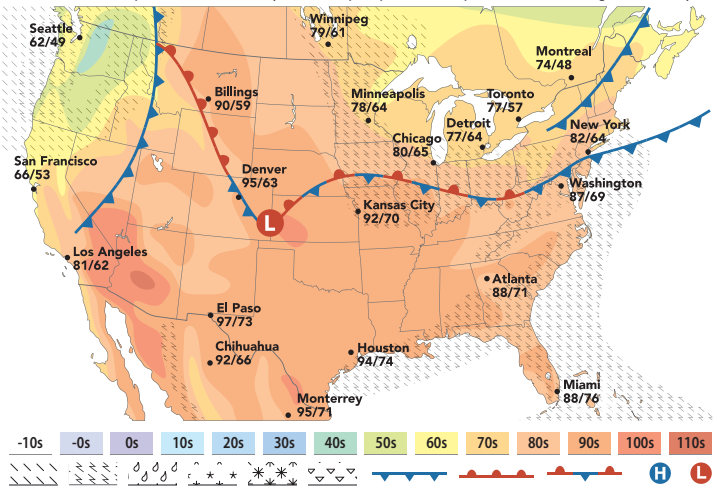
8 a.m. 10 a.m. Noon 2 p.m. 4 p.m. 6 p.m.
0-2, Low 3-5, Moderate 6-7, High; 8-10, Very High; 11+, Extreme

The higher the AccuWeather.com UV Index™ number, the greater the need for eye and skin protection.

Forecasts and graphics provided by AccuWeather, Inc. ©2018

NATIONAL WEATHER TODAY

Shown are noon positions of weather systems and precipitation. Temperature bands are highs for the day.



National Summary: Showers and thunderstorms are expected today from the Upper Midwest to the mid-Atlantic, some of which could bring flash flooding. Otherwise, thunderstorms will be in the Northwest.

Yesterday's National Extremes: (for the 48 contiguous states)
High 107° in Needles, Calif. Low 25° in Bodie State Park, Calif.

NATIONAL CITIES

	Today			Sun.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Albuquerque	92	66	s	94	64	s
Atlanta	88	71	pc	89	71	t
Atlanta City	75	64	t	69	60	sh
Baltimore	83	66	t	75	60	sh
Billings	90	59	pc	71	45	pc
Birmingham	91	69	pc	89	70	s
Boise	76	45	pc	63	43	sh
Boston	78	58				