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11/06/2014
THE NEWPORT DAILY (R.I.) NEWS

NATION&WORLD

BRIEFS

Photos possibly linked to murder

PORT ORCHARD, Wash. — Authorities are searching for a man suspected of killing his 30-year-old live-in girlfriend in Washington state after graphic photos posted online appeared to show her body hours before it was discovered.

David Kalac is suspected of second-degree murder in the death of Amanda Lynn Coplin, according to court documents from Kitsap County.

Photos posted on websites appeared to be of the deceased woman and the inside of the home, according to a probable cause document. The person who posted the photo commented on how the woman was killed and wrote of planning to be fatally shot by police.

Police say they found Coplin's body in a bedroom. Near her head was her driver's license with the word "dead" written on it. On the blinds were the words "bad news."

Pope mulls ending annulment charges

VATICAN CITY — Pope Francis on Wednesday denounced the hardships Catholics can face when seeking marriage annulments, revealing he once fired an official who tried to charge thousands of dollars for one.

Francis told participants at a Vatican course for officials dealing with annulments that as bishop of Buenos Aires, he was dismayed to learn that some faithful needed to travel hundreds of miles and lose days of work to reach church tribunals.

He also recalled sacking an unidentified church tribunal official, possibly a lawyer, who told someone: "Give me \$10,000 and I'll take care" of the annulment process.

Francis said he was considering requests, made at a recent Vatican meeting of bishops about families, to make annulments cost-free.

Dutch: Don't pee on the royal palace

AMSTERDAM — If you're caught short on Amsterdam's historic Dam Square, the Dutch government has a message for you: Don't pee on the palace.

The Dutch royal family uses the stately Royal Palace in downtown Amsterdam as a working palace, not a residence. But the building's dark arches provide a favored spot for urination, often at night, out of sight of police who regularly patrol the palace vicinity.

After a multimillion-euro renovation ended in late 2011, people began urinating against the palace's sandstone facade. That prompted authorities to put up a fence.

◆ Associated Press

ELECTION 2014

Marijuana is legalized in D.C., Oregon, Alaska

SEATTLE (AP) — Marijuana advocates, fresh off victories for legal recreational pot in Oregon, Alaska and the nation's capital, are already preparing for their next target, and it's a big one: California.

They are aiming to ask voters in the nation's largest state to legalize marijuana for recreational use in 2016, hoping to draw on a more liberal and larger electorate during a presidential election to help them avoid a repeat of their 2010 failed pot measure.

The victories in Oregon, Alaska and the District of Columbia came in a midterm election that saw a low turnout and a conservative electorate hand Republicans back control of the U.S. Senate for the first time since 2006.

"This is a Republican wave year, so we're excited for our prospects," said David Boyer, who is leading Maine's legal pot effort for 2016. "In a tough midterm, we gained steam."

The results emboldened them — even from a loss in Florida, where a medical marijuana proposal earned 58 percent of the vote, just shy of the 60 percent required to pass.

Legalization opponent Kevin Sabet called the votes "a bit of a wake-up call before 2016," noting that drug policy groups had spent millions on the legalization campaigns, vastly outspending opponents.

"This is going to make our side redouble our efforts to find donors who can put forth real money," said the president of Smart Approaches to Marijuana, adding that if they can get the resources to get their message out, voters could make informed decisions.

Sabet pointed to the result in Florida as well as votes in five Colorado cities banning marijuana dispensaries in saying, "I think we've slowed the legal marijuana freight train."

The pot votes were considered by many to be the first real test of marijuana reform's popularity since Washington state and Colorado passed the nation's first legal pot laws in 2012, boosted then by the higher turnout among young people typical of presidential election years.

"It was an extraordinary day for marijuana and criminal justice reform, and all the more remarkable on a night the Democrats were getting beat up so bad," said Ethan Nadelmann, executive director of the Drug Policy Alliance, a major legalization backer.

After the wins in Colorado and Washington, a coalition of activists considered rushing a tax-and-regulate measure to this year's ballot in California. Their polling showed solid support, but they remained

Republican Congress to confront legal pot

WASHINGTON (AP) — The national marijuana legalization debate is moving into the backyard of a Republican-controlled Congress, now that the District of Columbia has voted to legalize growing, possessing and sharing small amounts of pot.

While states with legalization out West enjoy both autonomy and distance, federal lawmakers have the power to quash any District law they don't like. And with legalization getting a foothold on the East Coast for the first time, the District's initiative could force Congress to make decisions affecting the future of legal pot nationwide.

"Members of Congress are literally going to be witness to these changes," said Ethan Nadelmann, executive director of the Drug Policy Alliance, which spent heavily to push all three ballot initiatives. "It's a form of educating the members of Congress in a way that some members would not get educated, depending on the states that they're from."

All laws in the nation's capital are sent to Capitol Hill for review. Congress rarely invokes that power, but when members do want to block District policies, they can attach amendments to unrelated, omnibus legislation too critical to be vetoed. Congress routinely bars the spending of local tax dollars on abortions for poor women using this strategy, and delayed medical

marijuana in the District for more than a decade.

The District voted 69-31 percent Tuesday to approve the growing, possessing or sharing of up to two ounces of pot and up to three mature marijuana plants for personal use. Months earlier, a decriminalization law took effect, limiting the penalty for possession of a personal-use amount to a \$25 ticket.

But it could take months at least before pot-smoking is totally OK in the District. Elected officials and advocates can't even agree whether the Congressional review period lasts 30 days while the House and Senate are both in session, or 60.

Also, the initiative doesn't provide for the legal sale or taxation of marijuana.

Democratic mayor-elect Muriel Bowser said Wednesday that she won't let it take effect until the D.C. Council implements rules that she said could be "similar to how we tax and regulate alcohol."

D.C. Cannabis Campaign chairman Adam Eidinger vowed to challenge any delay, which he said could thwart the will of the voters for years. Colorado allowed home cultivation for more than a year before its first marijuana dispensaries opened, he noted.

"Three plants or less doesn't need to be taxed and regulated," he said. "They don't regulate people who brew their own beer."

chastened by 2010, when a legalization proposal there polled well but fell short.

Early this year, given the huge expense of a serious statewide campaign in California, they opted for what they considered a safer bet: waiting until the presidential election year in 2016, with its anticipated bumper crop of younger voters.

The Marijuana Policy Project, which was heavily involved in Colorado's campaign, has formed a committee to begin fundraising in California, where it again plans to urge voters to regulate marijuana like alcohol.

"This year's election was a large step forward, but the 2016 election will be a huge leap toward ending marijuana prohibition in this country once and for all," Rob Kampia, the organization's executive director, said in a written statement. Activists also hope to bring

legal pot to Massachusetts, Maine and other states.

Tuesday saw voters in the District of Columbia approving the possession of up to two ounces of pot and up to three mature marijuana plants for personal use, but the proposal did not provide for the legal sale of marijuana. That's left up to the D.C. Council.

The measures in Oregon and Alaska follow Colorado and Washington state in setting up regulation and taxation systems.

Advocates, opponents and the U.S. government have closely watched Washington and Colorado to gauge the impact on the black market, drug use among teens and impaired driving, among other areas.

In both states, adults over 21 can purchase marijuana, including potent extracts and edibles, at state-licensed dispensaries.



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PUBLIC MEETING
NAVAL STATION NEWPORT
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MEETING

Wednesday, November 19, 2014
Courtyard Marriott, Middletown
9 Commerce Drive, Middletown, RI
Meeting begins at 6:30 pm

You can meet fellow citizens and representatives from the Navy, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management, and you can help plan studies and restorations of cleanup sites.

For additional information and our schedule, go to the RAB Internet Web Site at www.rabnewportri.org. Additional information is available at the Navy's Internet Web Site at <http://www.navfac.navy.mil>.

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