

Trump inclined to back ending pot ban

Despite Sessions' war on marijuana, he says he'll 'probably' favor bipartisan bill against federal prohibition.

By EVAN HALPER

WASHINGTON — President Trump said he would probably support a congressional effort to end the federal ban on marijuana, a major step that would reshape the pot industry and end the threat of a Justice Department crackdown.

Trump's remarks put him sharply at odds with Atty. Gen. Jeff Sessions on the issue. The bill in question, pushed by a bipartisan coalition, would allow states to go forward with legalization unencumbered by threats of federal prosecution. Sessions, by contrast, has ramped up those threats and has also lobbied Congress to reduce protections for medical marijuana.

Trump made his comments to a gaggle of reporters Friday morning just before he boarded a helicopter on his way to the Group of 7 summit in Canada. His remarks came the day after the bipartisan group of lawmakers proposed their measure.

One of the lead sponsors is Sen. Cory Gardner (R-Colo.), who is aligned with Trump on several issues but has tangled with the administration over Justice Department threats to restart prosecutions in states that have legalized marijuana.

[See Marijuana, A8]



ETIENNE BUTTERLIN Associated Press

AN INNATE CURIOSITY

Anthony Bourdain films a segment for his CNN series Monday in Colmar, France. The globe-trotting chef, author and TV host was known for exploring cuisine, culture and the connections between them.

ANTHONY BOURDAIN, 1956 - 2018

Renegade chef elevated the culinary underdog

By ANDREA CHANG AND STEPHEN BATTAGLIO

For all his gastronomic globe-trotting, Anthony Bourdain remained, in his words, "a man of simple needs."

When he would return to Los Angeles from his far-flung adventures, he'd hit up his favorite haunts: Olvera Street for taquitos drenched in avocado sauce, Myung In Dumplings in Koreatown for pillowy *mandu*, In-N-Out for greasy cheeseburgers.

"There it is: my favorite restaurant in Los Angeles," Bourdain once said of the fast-food chain. "A city with many fine

Ambassador from cook to customer

Anthony Bourdain broke down barriers between kitchen culture and the well-fed, Jonathan Gold writes. **PAGE A6**

Friendly face in 'Parts Unknown'

Succeeding where TV often failed, Bourdain respectfully made the foreign familiar, Robert Lloyd says. **CALENDAR, E1**

restaurants, by the way. Just — I'm a cheap, nasty, low-down, trailer-park burger slut."

The outspoken chef, author and television host brought to the table a relatability and innate curiosity about the world, a quality he called "my only virtue." His legions of fans benefited — through his writing and his many television and online shows, Bourdain transcended mere food celebrity to become an adept storyteller who weaved together tales on cuisine, culture and the connections between them.

Bourdain, known to friends as Tony, died Friday in an apparent suicide. He was 61.

[See Bourdain, A6]

Lasseter out after long Disney career

Force behind mega-hits that helped reinvent film animation was accused of improper workplace behavior.

By DAVID NG AND RYAN FAUGHNDER

In a dramatic unraveling of one of the most storied careers in animation, Walt Disney Co. is ending its relationship with John Lasseter, the chief creative officer of Pixar and Disney Animation Studios.



DOMINIC LIPINSKI PA Photos

JOHN LASSETER will assume a consulting role until the end of the year.

dios, after allegations that he engaged in inappropriate workplace behavior.

Disney said Friday that Lasseter would leave the company at the end of the year and would assume a consulting role until then, a precipitous fall for one of the most influential figures within the Burbank-based entertainment giant.

"John had a remarkable tenure at Pixar and Disney Animation, reinventing the animation business, taking breathtaking risks, and telling original, high quality stories that will last forever," Walt Disney Co. Chairman and Chief Executive Robert Iger said in a statement. "We are profoundly grateful for his contributions, which included a masterful and remarkable turnaround of the Walt Disney Animation Studios."

Lasseter, who has been on a leave of absence from Disney since November, spearheaded numerous Pixar hits including the "Toy [See Lasseter, A7]"



KENT NISHIMURA Los Angeles Times

CRICKETT SALES, left, who lived on Venice Beach after being kicked out by her daughter, hugs caseworker Rachel Estrada at her new shared home in South L.A.

Place the welcome mat

Couple house homeless, one building at a time

By DOUG SMITH

Ouedia came by bus from Westlake. A friend brought Crickett from Venice Beach. Patricia and Linda drove in the cars they'd been sleeping in. Mona was dropped off by her daughter.

By the end of the day, the homeless women had met their new roommates, signed their rental agreements, washed and put

away their clothes and fought back tears reading the welcome notes waiting for them on their new beds.

Along with its emotional pull, the day marked a hopeful step into the unknown for a Venice couple who are trying to show what individuals can do, with only marginal help from the government, to house the homeless.

The 20 women and eight men now living in the newly constructed apartment

building in South Los Angeles are all paying their own rent. Aside from Social Security, the primary income for most of them, they receive no subsidies.

Their landlords, Heidi Roberts and John Betz, were at the building that day to hand out keys and work out payment schedules. Roberts and Betz are mom-and-pop investors who own apartments on the Westside [See Welcome, A10]

Trump wants Russia back in G-7

His idea for Moscow's reinstatement falls flat at economic summit, further straining relations with allies.

By ELI STOKOLS AND JACKIE CALMES

WASHINGTON — Escalating his confrontation with American allies, President Trump came to the summit of the Group of 7 major economic powers in Canada on Friday with a stunning proposal: that Russia be reinstated into their ranks, four years after its expulsion for its global transgressions.

"Now I love our country. I have been Russia's worst nightmare," Trump told reporters at the White House before departing for Joint Base Andrews for the flight to Quebec. "But with that being said, Russia should be in this meeting. Why are we having a meeting without Russia being in the meeting?"

Russia was expelled from what was then the G-8 in 2014, after Moscow's annexation of Crimea. Subsequently, U.S. intelligence agencies concluded that Russia interfered in the 2016 presidential election, and Trump's campaign is now under criminal investigation for possible collusion with Russia. Britain, a G-7 member, this year charged Russia with using a nerve agent to nearly kill two Russian exiles in an English town.

European Council President Donald Tusk, who wrote in the New York Times this week that the G-7 nations must stay together despite Trump's "unfortunate and worrying" actions on trade and other issues, splashed cold water on his call to reinstate Russia, during a news conference in Quebec prior to Trump's arrival.

"Let's leave seven as it is," Tusk said. "It's a lucky number."

British Prime Minister [See Trump, A4]

Manafort faces new indictment

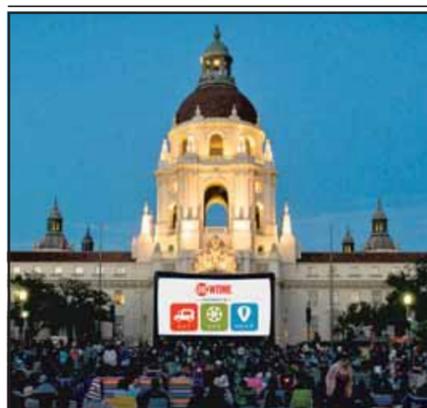
The special counsel in the Russia investigation increases pressure on Trump's former campaign manager, accusing him of witness tampering. **NATION, A5**

More fake bank accounts found

A federal regulator that has fined Wells Fargo more than \$500 million has found evidence of sales practice problems at other large and midsize banks. **BUSINESS, C1**

Weather
Mostly sunny.
L.A. Basin: 81/62. **B6**

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Los Angeles Times



Couple invest in housing for the homeless

[Welcome, from A1] and in Long Beach. They also have long been active with homeless-services groups.

Last year, they brought the two pursuits together after buying a property near Manchester Boulevard and Main Street from a builder who was leveling an abandoned house to make room for a small apartment building.

"Ten years ago, John and I were jumping up and down saying, 'Housing, housing, housing,' and they just never seem to get housing done," Roberts said. "So that's why John and I said, 'Screw it. Here's housing.'"

Roberts, an advertising strategist, said she and Betz, a pilot at the Port of Los Angeles, aim to house 108 homeless people by the end of the year, a goal tied to her personal lucky number, but also what they think is doable.

They are now in escrow on two more buildings. Their plan to lease the four-unit building exclusively to homeless people may be daring, but it isn't meant as charity. Betz said he expects to turn a profit, though possibly a more modest one than the couple's other investments have produced.

The key to their financial plan rests with a Culver City nonprofit called SHARE, which stands for Self Help and Recovery Exchange. The organization places extremely low-income people into market-rate housing by matching renters two to a bedroom. The group has about 400 tenants in 51 locations in the L.A. area, mostly single-family houses.

The practice of rooming strangers together is not just a means to economize, said Jason Robison, the group's program director. It's a homeless model distinct from the growing trend of what is generally called shared housing — placing

several people in a multi-bedroom apartment, one to a room.

Robison sees shared living as an alternative to the mainstream model that, in his words, dictates "every person deserves their own space — 350 to 400 square feet and that's theirs."

For those with the kind of disability that self-help groups are meant for, isolation is part of the problem, Robison said.

"They go into that bedroom, they lock the door and they don't come out," he said. "When they share a bedroom, they use the whole house and they develop the relationships that support them."

Emphasizing community over clinical treatment, SHARE asks its tenants to attend two self-help groups each week and supports them with what it calls peer-bridgers, case managers who are in recovery themselves.

That maverick outlook attracted Roberts, who said she was growing jaded after working for years with mainstream homeless-services providers to get people off Venice's streets.

Roberts said she learned of the organization about four years ago while volunteering one day a week at the front desk of PATH, or People Assisting the Homeless, an East Hollywood agency.

"People would walk in and I would try to find them someplace to go," she recalled. "No surprise, there was nowhere for them to go — just the missions down on skid row."

One day someone dropped off a SHARE flier offering same-day housing. She made a couple of referrals and was surprised that they worked out.

The group has also been endorsed by L.A. City Councilman Mike Bonin, who put up \$50,000 of his office funds for a pilot program to find



JOHN BETZ rolls a refrigerator down Wall Street as he and Heidi Roberts set up two duplex units to rent to homeless individuals in South Los Angeles. They aim to house 108 homeless people by the end of the year.



PATRICIA WILSON, right, is welcomed by Roberts, who said her new tenants are "just like me. They're just women who have had some financial struggles."

housing for 15 people in his Westside district.

Bonin, who views the nonprofit's model as one of many approaches needed to address homelessness, praised Roberts and Betz for adopting it in their business plan. "I love that it is from the neighborhood up," he said. "It's people independently getting involved in a solution."

Last week Bonin introduced a motion calling for a report on how the city could fund an expansion of the program.

For the couple, the deci-

sion to team with SHARE opened an intimate connection to what would have been just a building. They named it Weller House after their heroes, the late Rev. Steven Weller and his wife, Regina, who ministered to Venice's homeless.

They memorialized the Wellers with inscriptions written inside the walls.

As move-in day approached in April, Roberts made trips to Ikea for the essentials, and Betz drove a U-Haul to pick up refrigerators, washers and assorted chairs donated by friends.

Donated pictures were hung on every wall.

Friends joined them to make up 28 beds and write a welcome card for each.

"Dear Weller House resident, welcome to your new home," read the card Patricia Wilson picked up off her new pillow. "We wish you love, peace and joy in your new home. Peace."

Wilson broke into tears. "They didn't have to do this," she said. "They didn't have to go out of their way to do this for us."

By the end of opening day, 18 of the beds were taken. SHARE had sent seven new tenants straight off the street, eight from shelters and three from other SHARE homes, Robison said.

Several of the women had only recently become homeless. Ouedia Coln said she was evicted in March by the new owners of a hotel where she had lived 11 years when she couldn't document her Social Security income to their satisfaction. She lived in motels until her money ran out, then spent one miserable night walking the streets of downtown.

Crickett Sales said she lived two weeks on Venice Beach after her daughter in Connecticut kicked her out.

At the end of the day, Roberts, who wasn't involved in selecting the tenants, had expected them to look more down-and-out.

"To be honest, they're just like me," she said. "They're just women who have had some financial struggles."

After the first impressions had passed, a more complicated picture emerged. In the days that followed, peer-bridger Rachel Estrada assessed the new tenants for physical or mental disabilities. Eight of the 20 women scored as highly vulnerable.

Estrada, who has 122 clients in nine houses, said she would stop by at least twice a week to work on the tenants' "plans for success" and participation in self-help groups, both staples of SHARE's program.

One afternoon, several of the women sat with Estrada on a sunny porch speaking almost giddily of their good fortune. So far they had only one suggestion for Roberts and Betz: individual closets.

"If you build another one, you ought to keep in mind we're females and we need closets," Sales said. "I have dresses, very frilly stuff."

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