

OPELIKA-AUBURN NEWS

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WASHINGTON

US TO LOOSEN MARIJUANA RULES



CARLOS BARRIA, REUTERS

A man passes a joint April 20, 2022, during the 420 Hippy Hill festival at Golden Gate Park in San Francisco.

Move does not legalize drug, but will likely reshape industry

ANDREW GOUDSWARD AND BHARGAV ACHARYA
Reuters

The Department of Justice said Thursday it will loosen restrictions on some marijuana products and reclassify the drug as less dangerous, in one of the biggest changes to U.S. drug policy in decades.

The move does not legalize marijuana across the United States, but it is likely to reshape the \$47 billion industry, which has faced continued barriers at the federal level, even as all but two U.S. states legalized it in some form for medical use and almost half legalized it for recreational use as well.

State-regulated medical marijuana products now would be moved from a group of drugs classified as highly addictive, such as heroin, to a less restrictive category for products that have a low to moderate potential for abuse, including common painkillers, ketamine and testosterone. Marijuana products approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration also would be moved to that category.



ADAM GRAY, REUTERS

Enthusiasts mark the informal annual cannabis holiday April 20, 2024, at Dazed Cannabis dispensary in New York.

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THAIER AL-SUDANI, REUTERS

Tehran, Iran, is seen April 16 amid a ceasefire.

Iranians expect no respite from Tehran after war

With economy in tatters, people fearful of new government clampdown

PARISA HAFEZI AND ANGUS MCDOWALL
Reuters

DUBAI — Iranians striving to maintain a semblance of normal life after weeks of U.S. and Israeli bombing and a deadly crackdown on protesters in January remain daunted by the future as damage from airstrikes and internet cuts take a toll.

With Iran and the U.S. wrangling over a truce extension and an agreement to end the conflict, shops, restaurants and government offices stayed open. On sunny spring mornings, city parks are busy with

family picnics and young people playing sports while others gather at streetside cafes.

Behind such peaceful scenes, Iran's economy is in tatters and people are fearful of a new government clampdown and angry about the destructive airstrikes.

The difficulties that spurred mass unrest in January look likely to worsen.

"The war will end, but that's when our real problems with the system begin. I'm very afraid that if the regime reaches an agreement with the United States, it will increase pressure on ordinary people," a 37-year-old named Fariba, who took part in the January unrest, told Reuters by phone from Iran.

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