

# Bill would allow dispensaries to sell recreational pot

By HILLARY BORRUD  
Capital Bureau

SALEM — All adults in Oregon could purchase limited amounts of pot from medical marijuana dispensaries starting Oct. 1, under a bill on its way to the state Senate.

The marijuana industry pushed for lawmakers to allow earlier dispensary sales, since Oregonians age 21 and older can legally possess recreational marijuana starting on Wednesday. The state's new recreational marijuana system will not launch until sometime in 2016, so

lawmakers have been searching for an interim solution to encourage people to stop buying pot on the black market.

But lawmakers on a House-Senate committee said they could not guarantee that the full House and Senate would pass the bill, if the start date for the temporary recreational sales from dispensaries were earlier than Oct. 1.

Senate Bill 460, which passed out of the committee Thursday, would allow recreational customers to purchase cannabis seeds, plants that are not flowering and up

to one-quarter ounce of marijuana flowers or leaves.

Also on Thursday, the Oregon House passed a bill to replace the harvest tax on pot in Measure 91 — the initiative voters passed in November to legalize marijuana — with a 17 percent sales tax intended to generate roughly the same amount of revenue. A state economist said last week the change could result in cheaper marijuana, because the tax would not factor into markups, and might ultimately raise more tax revenue than the harvest tax.

The bill dealing with recreation-

al pot sales at dispensaries calls for the Oregon Health Authority to adopt rules to implement the temporary sales.

Cities and counties could opt out of the early sales, even if local officials decided not to ban pot businesses in the long run.

Sam Chapman, a marijuana lobbyist and business consultant, pleaded with lawmakers on Thursday morning to allow medical pot dispensaries to sell to recreational customers as soon as a bill would pass the Legislature.

Between medical marijuana

patients and designated caregivers, more than 100,000 Oregonians can already purchase products — including the full array of marijuana laced sodas, baked goods and candies — from medical marijuana dispensaries and Chapman said they will face increased pressure from their friends to illegally share these products starting July 1.

"It's a dangerous situation for patients," Chapman said.

The Capital Bureau is a collaboration between EO Media Group and Pamplin Media Group.

## Mather shines at Miss Oregon

The Daily Astorian

SEASIDE — Miss Clatsop County Alexis Mather won two scholarships during the Miss Oregon preliminaries.

On Wednesday, Mather won \$250 in the lifestyle and fitness preliminary. On Thursday, she was one of two contestants to win \$500 in the preliminary talent competition.

Miss Oregon will be crowned on Saturday night at the Seaside Civic and Convention Center.



JEFF TAR HAR — For The Daily Astorian

Alexis Mather, left, Miss Clatsop County, is off to a strong Miss Oregon pageant.

## Groups clash in court over salmon plan

By GOSIA WOZNIACKA  
Associated Press

PORTLAND — Federal authorities have defended their latest plan for mitigating damage to salmon and steelhead impeded by hydroelectric dams in the Columbia River Basin.

In oral arguments in U.S. District Court this week, the government argued its approach is resulting in more salmon surviving at dams, juvenile fish migrating faster to the ocean and record numbers of fish returning to restored habitat.

But conservation and fishing groups, Oregon and the Nez Perce tribe, which challenged the plan in court, said it's deeply flawed. They said it won't lead to the recovery of wild fish populations, because many have not achieved the promised benefits and are barely hanging on. Most of the returning fish were arti-

cially bred in hatcheries.

Thirteen species of salmon and steelhead are listed as endangered or threatened under the Endangered Species Act in the Columbia River Basin.

The plan's various iterations have been litigated in court for more than two decades. The most recent plan — known as the biological opinion — was issued in 2008 to cover a 10-year period through 2018, and a supplemental plan was added in 2010. It was struck down in court in 2011 for depending too much on habitat improvements whose benefits are unknown. The plan's latest version was issued in January 2014.

The groups in court clashed over which standard of recovery should be used to measure success. The federal government argued it can't cause additional risks or harm to the fish, and it has met that standard.

The plan, said federal attorney Michael Eitel, isn't a plan for recovery. Rather, it asks whether fish will be "trending toward recovery." This means one year's returns must outnumber the previous year's, regardless of whether that eventually leads to recovery or when.

But the plaintiffs argued the government has set the bar too low. They said because energy-producing dams are the main cause of fish mortality, the plan must do more to protect and recover them.

"A growing species is not the same as a recovered species," said Todd True, an attorney with Earthjustice who represents environmental groups in the court case.

## Road work on tap next week

The Daily Astorian

The Oregon Department of Transportation continues work next week on three projects. Because of the Fourth of July holiday, there are no lane closures from noon Thursday through midnight July 6.

The Astoria Bridge project continues, and involves recoating the steel above the bridge deck on the southern side of the Columbia River bridge along U.S. 101 north of Astoria.

The scheduled work includes prepping and painting the steel above the bridge deck along with miscellaneous touch-up painting throughout the bridge structure.

Flaggers control single-lane traffic. Lane delays of up to 20 minutes are allowed at any time.

At Manzanita Avenue on U.S. Highway 101 (milepost 43.00 to 43.34), ODOT is replacing an existing culvert at Neahkahnie Creek with a tunnel structure, enhancing of the stream bed, and relocating and improving the highway alignment along U.S. Highway 101 near Manzanita.

Also, turning lane movements into

downtown Manzanita are being enhanced.

Work includes installation of temporary shoring.

Minor delays can be expected when flaggers need to occasionally control single-lane traffic.

No lane closures will occur from noon Thursday through midnight July 6.

Bridge rehabilitation work is being performed at both the Old Youngs Bay and Lewis & Clark River bridges along U.S. Highway 101 Business (mileposts 4.78 and 6.89).

Work includes reconstruction of the Lewis & Clark River Bridge, which is now closed until Sept. 4 to facilitate construction activities. A detour route is currently designated with signing.

The scheduled work at the Old Youngs Bay Bridge includes rehabilitation of the electrical and mechanical systems.

Minor delays can be expected when flaggers need to occasionally control single-lane traffic.

The Oregon State Police enforces the speed limit through the work zone areas.

For information, call 5-1-1 or go to [www.tripcheck.com](http://www.tripcheck.com) or [www.odotproject.info](http://www.odotproject.info)

## Movie, TV production a boost to Oregon

Associated Press

PORTLAND — An industry study shows that movie and television production in Oregon accounts for more than 18,750 jobs and \$256.3 million in wages.

The Oregonian reports that the Motion Picture Association of America, Inc.'s report says that TV series such as "Grimm," "Portlandia" and "The Librarians" helped keep more than 1,450 businesses going in the state.

MPAA released the data in support of trade promotion authority legislation, which Congress is still considering, along with the Trans-Pacific Partnership, a trade pact involving Pacific Rim nations. MPAA says that trade agree-

ments will create even more jobs in Oregon and elsewhere.

The MPAA is the organization that advocates for the U.S. movie, TV, and video industries, with offices in Los Angeles and Washington, D.C.

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