

Task force: State should pay for pot research

By **PARIS ACHEN**
Capital Bureau

CORVALLIS — A task force created by the Legislature is unanimously recommending that the state fund an independent institute to research the medical benefits of marijuana.

“The whole idea behind this as I understand it is we would make a research institute, that unlike universities that have to be in compliance with all federal laws, leverages the fact that Oregon no longer feels obligated to be in compliance with federal cannabis laws,” said Mowgli Holmes, chairman of the Oregon Cannabis Research Task Force.

Both Oregon’s medical marijuana program, which started in 1998, and its recreational sales, legalized by voters in 2014, violate federal law. On top of the federal government’s prohibition of cannabis, federal restrictions have stymied research on marijuana’s medical properties, especially at publicly funded universities.

Final meeting

During its final meeting last week at Oregon State University, the task force agreed to a series of recommendations to overcome those obstacles and increase



Joshua Bessex/EO Media Group

Jars of marijuana sit in a display case at Sweet Relief in October. An Oregon task force has recommended the state fund an independent institute to research the medical benefits of marijuana.

marijuana research in the state.

The recommendations, which will be reported to the Legislature in February, create an outline for establishment of the institute and some ideas for governance structure. Determining funding sources for the institute and research program and selecting a governance structure will be up to lawmakers.

According to the task force’s vision, the institute would award grants and provide administrative support for research projects that cannot be performed at universities because of federal restrictions. The projects could include preclinical, clinical, observational, public health and plant sciences research. A scientific advisory review

board would be responsible for screening applications and selecting projects for funding.

“I am picturing the institute as a grant making body that reviews grant applications and channels out whatever money it can get from the state or anywhere else,” said Holmes, who serves as chief scientific officer for Phyllos Bioscience in Portland.

Several options

Lawmakers could consider a state-run institute, a public corporation research institute such as Oregon Health Science University or a semi-independent state agency such as the Oregon Wine Board, said task force member Peter Gendron, a marijuana grower in Josephine County. The wine board is a nonprofit that can accept state funds.

Grant money could come from state coffers, private donations and public-private partnerships. Holmes said the institute would need to be cautious about structuring public-private partnerships for research to avoid bias in studies or the appearance of bias.

“There are tons of advantages to collaborating with companies, and funding is only one of them, but it brings up some really thorny issues,” Holmes said.

“I think this institute would be under a higher level of scrutiny.”

Most of the obstacles to doing research come from marijuana’s federal classification as a Schedule 1 drug — one that is at high risk for abuse — and the Controlled Substance Act of 1970.

Clinical studies on humans require time-consuming and complicated applications and approval from

an institutional research review board at a university, the Federal Drug Administration and the Drug Enforcement Administration. Researchers may use only research-grade cannabis provided by the National Institute on Drug Abuse.

Bound by drug laws

Universities are bound by these drug laws or risk losing grant funding and other financial assistance from the federal government.

California, Colorado and Minnesota already have medical cannabis research programs that do either clinical or observational studies, according to a review by Oregon State University on behalf of Oregon Health Authority. Washington state also is considering legislation to start a state-funded research program.

The Legislature created the 15-member task force. State Sen. Chris Edwards, D-Eugene, who helped craft the bill that established the task force, is one of the members.

The task force convened over the past two months to examine barriers to research and craft recommendations.

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

ACCUWEATHER® FORECAST FOR ASTORIA

Astoria 5-Day Forecast

Tonight
Mostly cloudy with a shower in the area
42°

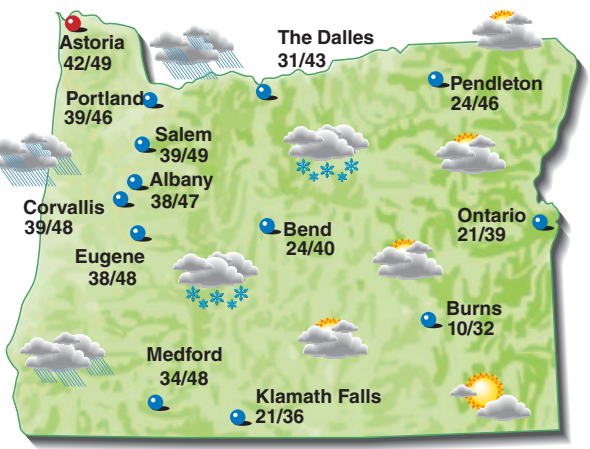
Wednesday
Rain at times
49° 44°

Friday
Mostly cloudy
56° 44°

Thursday
Cloudy
54° 44°

Saturday
A little a.m. rain, then a shower or two
53° 40°

Oregon Weather



Forecasts and graphics provided by AccuWeather, Inc. ©2016

Almanac

Astoria through Monday.

Temperatures	
High	48°
Low	35°
Normal high	51°
Normal low	38°
Precipitation	
Yesterday	0.04"
Month to date	13.75"
Normal month to date	0.26"
Year to date	13.75"
Normal year to date	10.46"

Sun and Moon

Sunset tonight	5:21 p.m.
Sunrise Wednesday	7:37 a.m.
Moonrise today	2:17 a.m.
Moonset today	12:21 p.m.
Moon Phases	
New	Feb 8
First	Feb 14
Full	Feb 22
Last	Mar 1

Regional Cities

City	Today			Wed.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Baker City	32	15	pc	32	27	c
Bend	40	24	pc	40	28	sn
Brookings	49	42	c	50	43	r
Eugene	49	38	c	48	42	r
Ilwaco	49	44	sh	49	46	r
Klamath Falls	36	21	pc	36	26	c
Medford	49	34	c	48	36	r
Newport	50	43	c	50	45	r
North Bend	52	44	c	53	45	r

Under the Sky

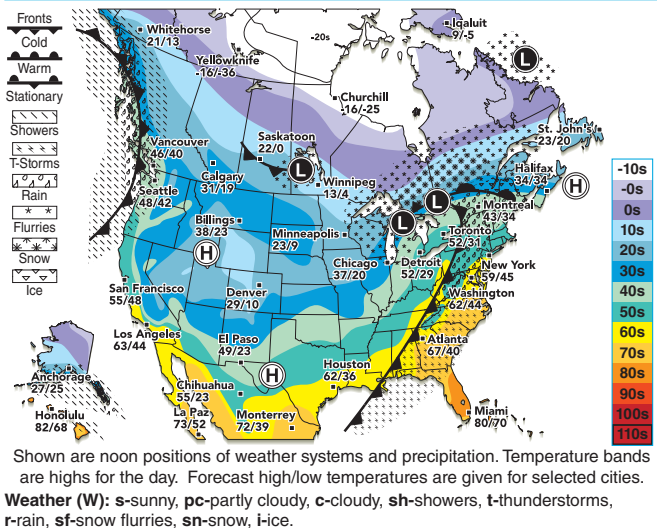
Tonight's Sky: Wednesday morning before sunrise, waning crescent moon near Saturn.

City	Today			Wed.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Olympia	49	36	c	46	40	r
Pendleton	44	24	pc	46	36	c
Portland	49	39	c	46	42	r
Roseburg	52	39	c	51	40	r
Salem	50	39	c	49	43	r
Seaside	50	44	sh	50	46	r
Spokane	36	25	pc	38	31	c
Vancouver	46	39	c	44	41	r
Yakima	42	24	pc	38	29	r

National Cities

City	Today			Wed.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Atlanta	74	62	c	67	40	r
Boston	46	35	s	52	49	r
Chicago	42	36	r	37	20	sf
Denver	27	8	sn	29	10	pc
Des Moines	38	26	sn	27	13	c
Detroit	45	39	r	52	29	c
El Paso	48	26	pc	49	23	s
Fairbanks	1	-8	s	4	-1	s
Honolulu	82	70	s	82	68	pc
Indianapolis	58	43	r	46	25	pc
Kansas City	55	26	sh	32	21	pc
Las Vegas	47	30	s	48	33	s
Los Angeles	62	41	s	63	44	pc
Memphis	75	41	t	53	30	s
Miami	80	72	pc	80	70	pc
Nashville	72	48	pc	56	31	pc
New Orleans	77	57	t	66	45	r
New York	49	41	s	59	45	r
Oklahoma City	55	28	s	46	25	s
Philadelphia	50	41	s	63	44	r
St. Louis	65	40	t	43	25	pc
Salt Lake City	29	15	c	29	18	sf
San Francisco	54	45	c	55	48	c
Seattle	49	39	c	48	42	r
Washington, DC	51	43	pc	62	44	r

Tomorrow's National Weather



Shown are noon positions of weather systems and precipitation. Temperature bands are highs for the day. Forecast high/low temperatures are given for selected cities. Weather (W): s-sunny, pc-partly cloudy, c-cloudy, sh-showers, t-thunderstorms, r-rain, sf-snow flurries, sn-snow, i-ice.

OBITUARIES

LaVern "Vern" J. Berezay Astoria, Oregon Nov. 20, 1920 — Jan. 25, 2016

LaVern (Vern) J. Berezay, 95, passed away peacefully on Jan. 25, 2016, at his home in Astoria, Oregon, surrounded by family. He was born Nov. 20, 1920, in Cardston, Alberta, Canada, to Eugene

ings during his life. He and Irene served a mission for the church (1987-89) in the Arizona Phoenix Mission. Vern was a people person with a great sense of humor and witty personality. He lived his



LaVern "Vern" J. Berezay

life serving others, and loving family, friends, church and country. Most of all he loved his savior Jesus Christ. He will be missed by all. Vern and his wife, Irene, moved to Astoria, Oregon, in September 2014. The funeral services and burial will take place in Astoria on Saturday, Feb. 6, 2016. He will be buried in the Greenwood Cemetery in Astoria. Vern is survived by his wife Irene; daughters Donna (Jack) Piippo, Seeley Lake, Montana, Laveme (Tony) Norton, Nampa, Idaho, Lorie (Dave) Posey, Sandy, Utah; and sons Dave (Janet) Berezay, Manteca, California; Rick (Wendy) Berezay, Astoria, Oregon; and 24 grandchildren and 40 great-grandchildren (and many others through marriage); his brothers Lloyd (Lorraine) Berezay, Yuma, Arizona and Dean (Enola) Berezay, Magrath, Alberta, Canada and sister Marie Watson, Billings, Montana.

He married the love of his life (of nearly 70 years) Irene Grace Henry on June 29, 1946, and they had five children. He worked on ranches and in the oil fields in Canada and Montana until moving his family to Missoula, Montana, in 1952. He worked for the Missoula County Road Department and was the road supervisor when he retired in 1983. For many years, Vern had a home-insulation business to help support his young growing family. He was a strong believer in good hard work ethics and taught his children and grandchildren those values.

Vern served with the Calgary Highlanders, 2nd Division, in France, Belgium, Holland, and Germany during World War II and was seriously wounded in Holland. He was at Normandy (D-Day plus 30), and because of his distinguished service, he was awarded the Belgian Croix de Guerre with Palm (equivalent of the Purple Heart), as well as several additional medals.

Arrangements are provided by Caldwell Mortuary in Astoria. Services will be Saturday, Feb. 6 at 12:00 p.m. at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 350 Niagara Ave., Astoria, Oregon.

Vern was a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and served in many call-

DEATHS

- Feb. 1, 2016**
LUM, Clara, 96, of Astoria, died in Astoria. Caldwell's Luce-Layton Mortuary in Astoria is in charge of the arrangements.
- Jan. 30, 2016**
AARNIO, Walter John, 98, of Svensen, died in Warrenton. Caldwell's Luce-Layton Mortuary in Astoria is in charge of the arrangements.
- Jan. 28, 2016**
MILLER, Elmer Mannie, 85, of Prineville, formerly of Astoria, died in Bend. Caldwell's Luce-Layton Mortuary in Astoria is in charge of the arrangements.

ON THE RECORD

- DUII arrest**
• At 9:08 p.m. Sunday, Oregon State Police arrested Tylor V. Perry, 22, of Astoria, for driving under the influence of intoxicants on U.S. Highway 101 milepost 15. Perry's blood alcohol was measured at 0.11 percent, according to police.

PUBLIC MEETINGS

- TUESDAY**
Port of Astoria Commission, 5 p.m., workshop, old Port offices, 422 Gateway Ave.
Clatsop Care Health District Board, 5:30 p.m., Clatsop Care Memory Community, 2219 S.E.
- WEDNESDAY**
Dolphin Road, Warrenton.
Miles Crossing Sanitary Sewer District Board, 6 p.m., 34583 U.S. Highway 101 Business.
Seaside Planning Commission, 7 p.m., City Hall, 989 Broadway.
- Gearhart City Council**, 7 p.m., City Hall, 698 Pacific Way.
Seaside Improvement Commission, 7 p.m., City Hall, 989 Broadway.

LOTTERIES

- OREGON**
Monday's Pick 4:
1 p.m.: 9-3-6-9
4 p.m.: 4-3-5-1
7 p.m.: 3-7-6-4
10 p.m.: 7-1-4-4
Monday's Megabucks: 03-09-13-15-28-47
Next jackpot: \$6.5 million.
- WASHINGTON**
Monday's Daily Game: 0-4-4
Monday's Hit 5: 21-26-31-38-39
Next jackpot: \$120,000
- Monday's Keno:**
01-04-05-06-09-18-24-28-31-38-41-45-58-64-65-66-67-69-73-75
Monday's Lotto: 04-11-12-21-24-48
Next jackpot: \$5.7 million
Monday's Match 4: 03-19-23-24

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