

# Relaxed Oregon hemp rules headed for state House vote

## Bill would allow growers to use greenhouses, cuttings

By **MATEUSZ PERKOWSKI**  
Capital Bureau

SALEM — Oregon hemp growers would be free to propagate the crop from cuttings under a bill that's headed for a vote in the state House.

Under current law, hemp can only be seeded directly outdoors in fields at least 2.5 acres in size, which was intended to facilitate industrial production but proved too inflexible for growers.

At the time Oregon lawmakers originally legalized hemp production in 2009, they enacted these restrictions with

the expectation the crop would be used for oilseed and fiber instead of human consumption.

Since then, the state Department of Agriculture found that many hemp producers were more interested in growing the crop for cannabidiol, a compound used for medicinal purposes, than for such traditional products.

To this end, they wanted to use greenhouses, clone desirable plants and produce the crop on a smaller scale.

Under House Bill 4060, which was passed by a key legislative committee, the minimum 2.5 acre field requirement would be scrapped and



EO Media Group file

**Hemp growing in the Willamette Valley in 2015. A bill in the state Legislature would make indoor cultivation of hemp legal, and make other changes in rules regulating the crop.**

hemp farmers would be given the same flexibility in production and propagation methods as growers of other crops.

The Oregon Farm Bureau is supporting H.B. 4060 because it wants hemp treated like other crops.

The bill was approved 8-1 by the House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources on Thursday after a last-minute amendment that clarified hemp would be subject to the same Department of Agriculture water and pesticide regulations as other crops.

The amended version of the bill, which will soon be subject to a vote on the House floor, also clarifies that growers can cultivate all varieties of hemp and that the crop won't be considered a food adulterant, among other provisions.

Growers can also send crop samples to accredited laboratories for required testing, which is expected to be cheaper than using state staff and facilities.

During the hearing Thursday, the committee also unanimously approved House Bill

4007, which creates a new way to form rangeland protection associations, which fight wildfires.

Landowners must currently win approval from the state Board of Forestry to create such associations, but the bill would also allow them to be approved by county governments.

Currently, 20 rangeland protection associations staffed by volunteers protect 4.6 million acres in Eastern Oregon.

New associations organized by counties would still have to submit annual budgets to the Board of Forestry and enter into cooperative agreements with the state Department of Forestry.

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

## Man guilty of burglaries in Astoria, Seaside

### Attorney calls crimes 'eight months of bad choices'

By **KYLE SPURR**  
The Daily Astorian

A man who burglarized businesses and residences in Astoria and Seaside was sentenced Thursday in Clatsop County Circuit Court.

Dustin Allen Forsman, 31, of Seaside, was sentenced to 120 days in jail and four years probation. If his probation is revoked, he would face four years in prison.

"Given the number of victims, the number of charges, I think this is a reasonable punishment," Judge Cindee Matyas said.

Forsman pleaded guilty last week to four counts of second-degree burglary, unlawful possession of heroin, second-degree escape and first-degree failure to appear. The crimes occurred between December 2014 and last August.

In December 2014, Forsman reportedly stole an employee's laptop from the Shilo Inn in Seaside. Four days later, he hid in the bathroom of Tokyo Teriyaki in Seaside until the restaurant closed and stole money and a key.

In February 2015, he stole an iPad from the Chevron gas station in Astoria. Three days later, he broke into the basement of an Astoria apartment and stole a bicycle, staple gun and vacuum cleaner. He was in possession of heroin.

Forsman resisted arrest and was charged with escape in July. He failed to appear in court in August. At the time, he left town for Montana and had to be extradited back to Clatsop County.

Defense lawyer Temojai Inhofe described Forsman's actions as eight months of bad choices. She said he has been drug-free since last fall, and has a job, a girlfriend and place to live.

"He has claimed responsibility and wants to take care of everything," Inhofe said. "He sincerely seems affected by this process and, hopefully, he would like to change."

Prosecutor Dawn Buzard said drugs played a large role in Forsman's actions. She hopes his time in jail and on probation will be a wake up call for him.

"I'm sure he would be much happier if he could stay clean and stay on this positive course that he started," Buzard said.

As part of his sentence, Forsman was ordered to have no contact with the victims or businesses.

He will be required to pay restitution, once the total amount is calculated.

## Two join Warrenton School Board

The Daily Astorian

WARRENTON — Dan Jackson and Joe Talamantez were appointed to fill two vacancies on the Warrenton-Hammond School Board on Wednesday.

Jackson, the manager of Safekeeping Storage Center in Warrenton, replaces Dennis Warren at Position 7. Warren, a former teacher and board member, cited health issues for his resignation. Jackson had joined the district's budget committee this school year and said he wants to serve in the district he and his kids have attended.

Talamantez, financial

manager at Tongue Point Job Corps Center, replaces Adam Neahrng at Position 4. Neahrng, a project engineer for Bergerson Construction Inc., recently moved out of the district. Neahrng's colleague, Bergerson Construction co-owner and President

Greg Morrill, also serves on the school board. Talamantez had been on the school board until June 30, after he was defeated by Warren in a May special election.

Talamantez will face election in 2017, and Jackson in 2019.



Dustin Allen Forsman

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