

# First month's pot tax take higher than other states

Too early for conclusions, economist says

By PARIS ACHEN  
Capital Bureau

SALEM — Oregon's first month of tax revenue from recreational marijuana sales was greater than the first take of any other state so far where recreational sales have been legalized.

The Oregon Department of Revenue reported Thursday that the agency collected about \$3.48 million in recreational cannabis taxes in January.

Although each state's tax structure differs, Oregon's tax receipts exceeded even state economists' expectations, boosted in part by an already robust medical marijuana industry and a three-month period of sales before the tax took effect. State economists had projected \$2 million to \$3 million in tax revenue for the first year, after subtracting the cost of regulating the market, said Mazen Malik, senior economist with the Oregon Legislative Revenue Office. His office has yet to calculate the overall cost of regulation, he said.

"It is probably too early to make the conclusion on what is the overall picture out of this first month," Malik said. "Visibility will improve as we go on. It might be that this is the trajectory of these things and we would end up with more money than we thought."

Colorado and Washington were the only states to precede Oregon in collecting taxes on recreational marijuana. Alaska, the only other state where recreational sales are legal, is still writing regulations for the industry.

Washington collected less than \$1.1 million in tax revenue in its first month of recreational sales in July 2014, according to figures from the Washington Liquor and Cannabis Board and the Washington Department of Revenue. The state levied an excise tax of 25 percent at every level of sale from producer to consumer when the recreational program started in 2014. The tax rate now stands at 37 percent only at the consumer level.

Colorado's first month of tax receipts on recreational marijuana in January 2014

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Mazen Malik

senior economist, Oregon Legislative Revenue Office

totalled more than \$2 million. That state charges an excise tax of 15 percent at the wholesale level and a 12.9 percent sales tax on other recreational marijuana transactions.

While Oregon's revenue on recreational marijuana exceeded expectations, Oregon allowed sales for three months before charging the tax, which might have given the industry more time to adjust, Malik said.

Oregon taxes recreational marijuana at the point of sale. Medical marijuana dispensaries were allowed to start selling recreational marijuana on a temporary basis in October. In January, the tax took effect at a rate of 25 percent. The tax will be reduced to 17 percent when the licensed recreational retailers take over sales sometime in early 2017.

Out of Oregon's 309 dispensaries, 253 made payments to the revenue department in January.

Joy Krawczyk, spokeswoman for Oregon Department of Revenue, said the agency is reaching out to dispensaries that didn't submit a payment to make sure owners are aware of the regulations.

The federal ban on marijuana has prevented some Oregon dispensaries from being able to obtain financial services from banks and credit unions. As a result,

those dispensaries deal only in cash. The revenue department carved out a special office with security and surveillance cameras to receive cash payments for tax bills, Krawczyk said. Dispensary owners who can't submit a payment by check or money order have to travel to Salem to pay the tax bill in cash.

Mark and Cindy Cusick of Salem's Herbal Grasslands are among those who paid their taxes in cash.

The couple delivered \$8,400 in cash to the revenue department in early February to pay their January tax bill, Mark Cusick said.

"I've carried that much cash before," he said. "Obviously, it's not the most comfortable feeling in the world."

He said the taxes were about what he expected.

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

## Hispanic council, trust to host meeting on grant programs

The Daily Astorian

The Lower Columbia Hispanic Council is partnering with Meyer Memorial Trust to host a meeting Friday to introduce Meyer's new Building Community, Healthy Environment, and Housing Opportunities grant programs.

The meeting is from 10 a.m. to noon in Columbia Hall Room 219, Clatsop Community College, 1651 Lexington Ave.

Meyer announced new funding opportunities this month for each of the programs, and the meeting is an opportunity to learn about the opportunities, ask questions, and meet Meyer staff working in the new programs.

To attend the meeting, RSVP at <http://bit.ly/1VuZkAa>

## Portland man dies in crash on Hwy. 101

The Daily Astorian

A 63-year-old Portland man died in a single-vehicle crash Saturday night on U.S. Highway 101 near Cannon Beach.

Paul Raymond Kipp was traveling southbound in his Volvo sedan around a curve when he lost control, crossed

the oncoming lane and went off the shoulder, according to the Oregon State Police. The car went into a ditch, where it crashed into a set of trees. The car came to a stop between the trees, where it was overturned on the driver's side.

Kipp was pronounced dead at the scene. No passengers

were in the car.

Cannon Beach Police and Fire and Rescue initially responded at about 8 p.m. Oregon State Police, Seaside Fire and Rescue, Medix and Oregon Department of Transportation units assisted at the scene.

The Oregon State Police is continuing its investigation.

## Bulk carrier runs aground in shipping channel

The Daily Astorian

CATHLAMET, Wash. — The U.S. Coast Guard is closely monitoring a bulk carrier that ran aground in the main shipping channel of the Columbia River just after midnight today near Cathlamet.

Pollution responders from the Coast Guard alerted local and federal agencies and established an incident command with the Washington Department of Ecology and Oregon Department of Environmental Quality.

"The positive news so far is that responders have not observed any oil in the water," Capt. Dan Travers, commander of Sector Columbia River, said in a statement.

"The vessel quickly activated its plan and all federal, state, and county responders mobilized immediately. This is a joint effort with both states and hopefully will just turn out to have been an exercise in mobilizing pollution response resources."

The cause of the grounding is under investigation. The bulk carrier — the Sparna — was outbound, fully loaded with grain, and heading west in the Columbia with a river pilot still on board when it ran aground. The vessel is also filled with more than 218,000 gallons of high-sulfur fuel and more than 39,000 gallons of marine diesel.

The Maritime Fire & Safety Association and Clean Riv-

ers Cooperative deployed response vessels, booms and personnel. The tugs PJ Brix and Pacific Escort are on scene to keep the Sparna stabilized. The Coast Guard has not closed the river channel.

## ACCUWEATHER® FORECAST FOR ASTORIA

### Astoria 5-Day Forecast

**Tonight**  
Cloudy with a little rain  
42°

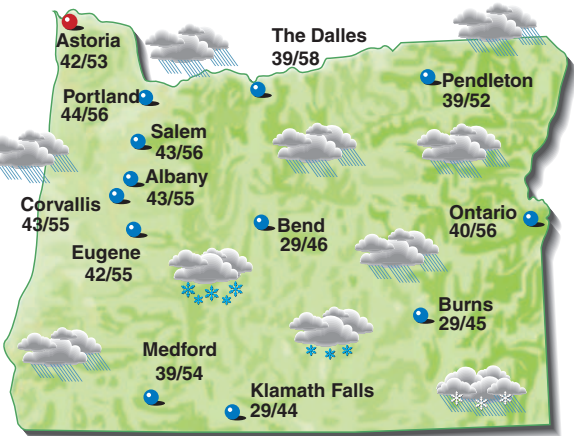
**Tuesday**  
Mostly cloudy with a few showers  
53° 44°

**Thursday**  
Mostly cloudy, a shower or two; breezy  
51° 41°

**Wednesday**  
Breezy; a shower in the morning, then rain  
53° 43°

**Friday**  
Mostly cloudy with a couple of showers  
51° 39°

### Oregon Weather



**Almanac**  
Astoria through Sunday.  
Temperatures  
High ..... 57°  
Low ..... 47°  
Normal high ..... 54°  
Normal low ..... 39°  
Precipitation  
Yesterday ..... 0.43"  
Month to date ..... 10.01"  
Normal month to date ..... 4.95"  
Year to date ..... 32.29"  
Normal year to date ..... 22.59"

**Sun and Moon**  
Sunset tonight ..... 7:30 p.m.  
Sunrise Tuesday ..... 7:14 a.m.  
Moonrise today ..... 6:02 p.m.  
Moonset today ..... 6:30 a.m.

Full Last New First  
Mar 23 Mar 31 Apr 7 Apr 13

### Regional Cities

City	Today			Tues.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Baker City	54	30	sh	46	27	sh
Bend	47	29	sh	46	25	sf
Brookings	52	44	r	53	41	sh
Eugene	54	42	r	55	40	sh
Iliwaco	53	45	r	52	46	sh
Klamath Falls	43	29	sh	44	23	sf
Medford	53	39	r	54	36	c
Newport	53	44	r	52	44	sh
North Bend	55	45	r	55	43	sh

City	Today			Tues.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Olympia	54	39	r	55	41	sh
Pendleton	57	39	sh	52	37	c
Portland	55	44	r	56	43	sh
Roseburg	55	42	r	55	40	sh
Salem	54	43	r	56	41	sh
Seaside	53	45	r	52	46	sh
Spokane	55	37	c	48	34	c
Vancouver	53	43	r	55	43	sh
Yakima	58	34	c	61	33	c

### Under the Sky

Tonight's Sky: Messier Catalogue published (1781).  
Source: Jim Todd, OMSI

### Tomorrow's Tides

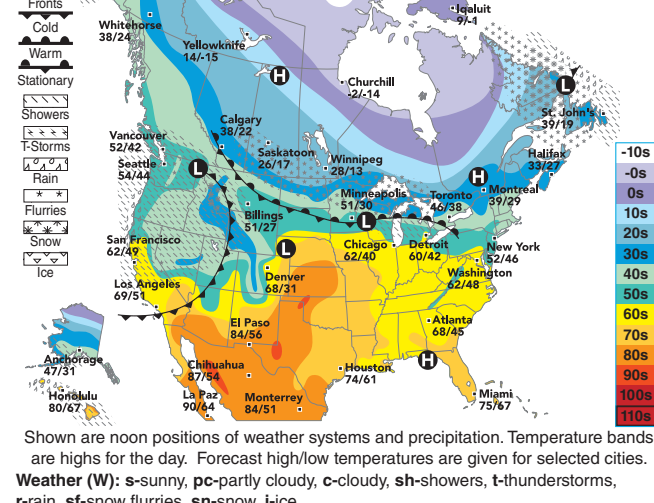
**Astoria / Port Docks**

Time	High	Time	Low
1:42 a.m.	8.5 ft.	7:47 a.m.	1.2 ft.
1:44 p.m.	8.3 ft.	8:05 p.m.	0.4 ft.

### National Cities

City	Today			Tues.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Atlanta	57	37	s	68	45	s
Boston	39	30	sn	47	40	s
Chicago	48	40	pc	62	40	pc
Denver	71	39	pc	68	31	pc
Des Moines	59	46	pc	69	49	pc
Detroit	47	34	pc	60	42	c
El Paso	80	52	s	84	56	pc
Fairbanks	35	9	pc	36	11	pc
Honolulu	82	67	sh	80	67	t
Indianapolis	51	39	pc	62	50	s
Kansas City	63	48	s	75	57	sf
Las Vegas	83	58	pc	70	50	s
Los Angeles	69	52	pc	69	51	pc
Memphis	59	42	s	67	55	s
Miami	69	57	pc	75	67	pc
Nashville	56	38	s	67	50	s
New Orleans	61	45	s	71	61	s
New York	49	34	pc	52	46	s
Oklahoma City	67	48	s	78	58	s
Philadelphia	50	31	pc	56	46	s
St. Louis	59	45	s	71	55	s
Salt Lake City	69	43	c	47	35	sh
San Francisco	63	51	sh	62	49	c
Seattle	54	43	r	54	44	c
Washington, DC	53	35	pc	62	48	pc

### Tomorrow's National Weather



## BIRTH

**Feb. 21, 2016**  
CARRIERE, Alanna and Oscar, of Astoria, a boy, Bronx Raymond Carriere, born at Columbia Memorial

Hospital in Astoria. Grandparents are Connie and Terry McCleary of Astoria and John and Julie Carriere of Hammond.

## DEATHS

**March 18, 2016**  
ESCOLA, Steven Walter, 68, of Clatskanie, died in Clatskanie. Caldwell's Luce-Layton Mortuary in Astoria is in charge of the arrangements.

**March 20, 2016**  
ABRAHAMAS, Patricia Ruth, 86, of Swensen, died in Astoria. Caldwell's Luce-Layton Mortuary in Astoria is in charge of the arrangements.

## PUBLIC MEETINGS

**MONDAY**  
**Astoria City Council**, 6 p.m., City Hall, 1095 Duane St.

**TUESDAY**  
**Clatsop Care Health District Board**, noon, Clatsop Care Center, 646 16th St.  
**Warrenton City Commission**, 6 p.m., City Hall, 225 S. Main Ave.  
**Seaside Airport Committee**, 6 p.m., City Hall, 989 Broadway.  
**Astoria Library Board**, 5:30 p.m., Astoria Public Library Flag Room, 450 10th St.  
**Astoria Planning Commission**, 6:30 p.m., City Hall, 1095 Duane St.

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Obituaries may be edited for spelling, proper punctuation and style. Death notices and upcoming services will be published at no charge. Notices must be submitted by 9 a.m. the day of publication.

Obituaries and notices may be submitted online at [www.dailyastorian.com/forms/obits](http://www.dailyastorian.com/forms/obits), by email at [ewilson@dailyastorian.com](mailto:ewilson@dailyastorian.com), placed via the funeral home or in person at The Daily Astorian office, 949 Exchange St. in Astoria. For more information, call 503-325-3211, ext. 257.

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IN NETWORK WITH THE FOLLOWING INSURANCE PLANS:

**The Daily Astorian**  
Established July 1, 1873  
(USPS 035-000)

Published daily, except Saturday and Sunday, by EO Media Group, 949 Exchange St., PO Box 210, Astoria, OR 97103 Telephone 503-325-3211, 800-781-3211 or Fax 503-325-6573. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Daily Astorian, PO Box 210, Astoria, OR 97103-0210

[www.dailyastorian.com](http://www.dailyastorian.com)  
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Circulation phone number: 503-325-3211  
Periodicals postage paid at Astoria, OR

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