

Officials urge novices start slow with pot-infused edibles

Marijuana edibles become legal in Oregon Thursday

By PARIS ACHEN
Capital Bureau

SALEM — Oregon health officials are urging novice marijuana users to start slow when pot-infused edibles are introduced in the state's legal recreational market Thursday.

Since October, anyone 21 and older may purchase a limited amount of cannabis flowers, seeds and starter plants. The Legislature earlier this year added edibles, extracts and nonpsychoactive lotions, balms and oils to that list.

"We are concerned about folks who are novice users," said Jonathan Modie, spokesman for the Oregon Health Authority. "We are concerned about calls into the poison center, not just children but adults."

Health authorities adopted temporary rules last month on the sale of the new products. The rules take effect Thursday and expire Dec. 31, when the Oregon Liquor Control Commission is scheduled to take over regulation of the recreational marijuana program.

Restricted sales

Temporary rules restrict sales to one edible product and one extract per day to each customer. An edible product may contain no more than 15 milligrams of tetrahydrocannabinol, or THC, the psychoactive chemical in pot.

'For someone who doesn't smoke and is not used to ingesting marijuana, I advise eating 5 milligrams or even half of that just to see how it hits you.'

Leah D'Ambrosio
owner of Sconed in Portland

Extracts are limited to 1,000 milligrams. Customers may buy an unlimited number of topical products.

The 15-milligram limit on edibles might be too potent for some people, health officials said.

"What we are telling the industry is they should divide it up into 5-milligram servings," said Andre Ourso, manager of the state's medical marijuana program. "At that point, we would recommend that they label it and say that it contains three servings."

Proposed permanent rules, effective in January, limit serving sizes to 5 milligrams of THC. Up to 10 servings will be allowed in each package. The proposed rules also impose stricter specifications for child-resistant packaging.

"Part of the reason we chose the 15-milligram limit for the temporary rules is that labs can't test for that low of a concentration without it being very expensive and can't even give a good confidence level that, that is what it actually contains," Ourso said, referring to the 5-milligram amount. "In proposed permanent rules, the labs will test the

50 milligrams in the package but won't be required to test each serving size."

Start out slow

When eating the drug, it can take one to four hours to feel effects, he said.

"If you aren't feeling the effects after an hour, wait a couple of more hours, before consuming more," Ourso said. "We would caution people to start out slow."

The Oregon Responsible Edibles Council has launched a public education campaign designed to guide new users through eating marijuana-infused foods for the first time. The group's Try Five Campaign advises consumers to eat no more than 5 milligrams of THC for their first experience.

"Fifteen milligrams is definitely going to be too much for people who are unfamiliar with edibles, so we were really glad we were able to launch the campaign before edibles became available," said David McNicoll, council founder and owner of Dave's Space Cakes in Eugene. The council has a website and has been distributing posters to put up in dispensaries and T-shirts for so-called

"bud tenders" to wear when they're selling products.

"Everyone in the edibles industry should be behind this campaign because when there is overconsumption of edibles and people have bad effects it taints the industry as a whole," said Leah D'Ambrosio, edibles council member and owner of Sconed in Portland.

D'Ambrosio said even for some regular marijuana users, eating 15 milligrams of pot can be too much.

"For someone who doesn't smoke and is not used to ingesting marijuana, I advise eating 5 milligrams or even half of that just to see how it hits you," she said.

Decals on packages

The processor, who makes pot-infused toffee and is planning on soon debuting scones — her company's namesake — also produces edible decals. The decals are marked with a green cross and can be attached or baked onto marijuana-infused foods. The health authority already requires processors to add a symbol to packages showing that food contains marijuana, but the edible decal is meant to alert consumers that a food item contains marijuana, even after the product has been removed from its package, D'Ambrosio said. All of the Sconed sweets carry the symbol, and D'Ambrosio also is starting to market the decals to other processors.

"It's just another safeguard after the product is out of the package," she said.

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

Charges added against man accused of sexually abusing teenage girl

By KYLE SPURR
The Daily Astorian

The Clatsop County District Attorney's Office added a slew of sex abuse charges against the Moses Lake, Washington, man arrested in February for online sex abuse of a local teenage girl.

Brandon Wayne Albert Eide, 21, pleaded not guilty in Clatsop County Circuit Court Thursday to 33 sex abuse charges. The charges include third-degree rape, third-degree sodomy, luring a minor, first-degree online sexual corruption of a child and first-degree encouraging child sex abuse. The alleged crimes occurred between January 2015 and February.

Eide was originally indicted on 16 charges related to online sex abuse, but after further investigation, the District Attorney's Office added the physical

sex abuse charges.

In late February, Moses Lake Police Department arrested Eide and extradited him to Clatsop County.

The Clatsop County Sheriff's Office said Eide was known to the teenage girl as a family friend. Eide allegedly used a social networking site to help nurture a yearlong relationship with the teenager starting in December 2014, and met with the girl — who was 14 when the abuse began — at her home and at public locations in Washington state.

The Sheriff's Office conducted the investigation with the FBI in Portland. Federal charges have also been filed against Eide since the alleged crimes crossed state lines.

Eide is due back in Circuit Court next month for an early resolution conference. He remains in custody on \$250,000 bail.



Brandon Wayne Albert Eide

Seaside man gets five years for theft, child porn

By KYLE SPURR
The Daily Astorian

A Seaside man was sentenced to five years in prison Friday for stealing a trailer and filling it with stolen construction equipment while possessing two cellphones filled with multiple images of child pornography.

Frank Benjamin Brelin II, 48, was sentenced in Clatsop County Circuit Court after pleading no contest to four counts of first-degree encouraging child sex abuse and pleading guilty to two counts of first-degree theft.

Seaside Police arrested Brelin in December. He stole a utility trailer in October and went to different homes and job sites to steal ladders, scaffolding and other construction equipment.

The stolen trailer and equipment was valued

at more than \$4,000. Most of the materials have been recovered and returned to the various owners.

Police found a cellphone with the stolen items that contained the sexually explicit material. The same images were found on another cellphone that Brelin was carrying with him, according to police.

Brelin collected the illegal images between January and October 2015, according to the indictment.

As part of his sentence, Brelin is required to register as a sex offender.



Frank Benjamin Brelin

Study finds more acidic ocean harms crab

Researchers say findings likely to apply to outer coast

By MATT WINTERS
EO Media Group

ILWACO, Wash. — A new study suggests Dungeness crab on Washington state's outer coast may be harmed by ongoing changes in ocean chemistry in the same ways young oysters are impacted.

Carbon dioxide is increasing in the atmosphere from the combustion of fossil fuels. When some of this CO2 is absorbed by the ocean, seawater shifts slightly toward being more acidic. This in turn may slow development and reduce survival of the larval stages of Dungeness crab, NOAA Fisheries' Northwest Fisheries Science Center in Seattle discovered in recent research. Previous research has focused on harm caused to young oysters by acidification.

Dungeness crab are a key component of the Northwest marine ecosystem and generate \$84 million annually in Washington state. They are particularly important to the

economy in Pacific County, home to the state's most productive crabbing grounds. The crab fishery also generates annual income of \$48 million in Oregon and nearly \$67 million in California.

"I have great faith in the resiliency of nature, but I am concerned," said Jason Miller, lead author of the research, which was part of his dissertation. "Crab larvae in our research were three times more likely to die when exposed to a pH that can already be found in Puget Sound, our own backyard, today."

Study results apply to coast

While the specific research concerned Puget Sound crab, Miller said in an email that "there aren't, to the best of my understanding, any significant genetic differences between outer coast and Puget Sound dungies. (Last I heard, there is work being done on this question, though)."

Miller and Paul McElhany,

a NOAA Fisheries research scientist and senior author of the paper, both said more research and monitoring is needed on the outer coast to determine how changing acidity levels — known by the scientific abbreviation pH — might impact crab.

"Regardless of where they are hatched, when larvae are exposed to low pH, their bodies are being forced to cope with it," Miller said. "The results of our research translate to the outer coast. Only time will tell how hard the Dungeness are hit and if, hopefully, they can acclimate in numbers great enough to maintain their population and in turn the fisheries."

Average ocean surface pH is expected to drop to about 7.8 off the West Coast by 2050, and could drop further during coastal upwelling periods.

"The Columbia River plume itself has an effect on pH (tending to make it lower), but ... not exactly sure how that effects things. We have a pro-

posal to test crabs from different regions to see if there is a different response, but we have not yet started those experiments," McElhany said.

Findings in Puget Sound

Scientists collected eggs from Dungeness crabs in Puget Sound and placed them in tanks at the Montlake Research Laboratory. The tanks held seawater with a range of pH levels reflecting current conditions as well as the lower pH occasionally encountered in Puget Sound when deep water wells up near the surface. Larvae also went into tanks with the even lower-pH conditions expected with ocean acidification.

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Speakers to Include:
Dr. Althea Rizzo, Geologic Hazards Program Manager | Oregon Emergency Management
Tyree Wilde, Warning Coordination Meteorologist | National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration
Patrick Corcoran, Coastal Natural Hazards Specialist | Oregon State University, Oregon Sea Grant
Neal Bond, Protection Unity Forester | Oregon Department of Forestry

A question and answer period will immediately follow each presentation. A final question and answer period will be available at the conclusion of the evening. Tables with handouts, printed materials and examples of emergency preparedness tools and kits will be available in the Lobby.

City and County Emergency Management and Response personnel will be available to answer questions and provide information.