

Marijuana testing poses regulatory quandaries

A barrier to entering the legal market

By **MATEUSZ PERKOWSKI**
Capital Bureau

WILSONVILLE — Marijuana testing is creating several quandaries for Oregon regulators at a time of overall uncertainty for the newly legalized crop, according to a state official.

Testing for pesticides poses one challenge, as the necessary instrumentation is expensive and complicated, said Jeff Rhoades, senior adviser on marijuana policy for Gov. Kate Brown.

While state regulators want to protect public health, testing is a large barrier to entry into the legal recreational marijuana market, he said during the Oregon Board of Agriculture meeting Wednesday in Wilsonville.

An overly strict testing regime would be a disadvantage to small growers while favoring large out-of-state companies, Rhoades said.

"It's a very delicate balance with testing here," he said.

One pesticide that's commonly used on grapes, for example, breaks down into hydrogen cyanide when set aflame, he said.

Meanwhile, marijuana is sold not just as a flower, but also in the form of vari-

ous tinctures and extracts that require specific testing methods, Rhoades said.

"It can't be just a one-size-fits-all approach," he said.

There are also no federally approved pesticides that are specific to the psychoactive crop, Rhoades said.

Oregon has 18 laboratories accredited to test marijuana, but just four are able to test for pesticides.

Other marijuana traits that are tested for include microbial contamination, solvents and potency.

Potency testing has also encountered problems since it became mandatory in October, said Rhoades.

Marijuana growers were receiving greatly variable

results from different labs, and so were flocking to those providing the highest potency ratings, he said.

"Lab shopping was happening all over the place," he said.

Regulators are now trying to create a standardized testing protocol for potency so growers can expect uniform results, Rhoades said.

Taxes from marijuana sales in Oregon are expected to be a boon to state coffers, but first the Oregon Liquor Control Commission must be repaid for its extensive work in creating a regulatory system for the crop, he said.

The state Department of Agriculture has also been heavily involved in regulations involving pesticides, food

safety and accurate scale systems, Rhoades said.

Exactly how the agency will be repaid for these efforts is currently unclear, though the issue is being discussed and will likely surface during the 2017 legislative session, he said.

Marijuana remains illegal under federal law, which has made banks leery of dealing with marijuana companies — a complication that raises additional issues, Rhoades said.

"It's an all-cash business at this point, which creates public safety concerns and tax collection concerns," he said.

Regulators in Oregon and the seven other states where recreational marijuana is now

legal were hoping for clarity from the federal government that would enable more banking involvement, he said.

With the recent election and upcoming change in presidential administrations, however, there's great uncertainty about federal marijuana policy, Rhoades said.

The Obama administration's approach — which allows recreational marijuana as long as it's kept out of the black market and away from children, among other measures — can be immediately reversed by the Trump administration, he said.

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

Former state attorney general, lawmaker dies

Myers defended physician-assisted suicide law

By **ANDREW SELSKY**
Associated Press

SALEM — Hardy Myers, a lawyer who became a politician in the Oregon Legislature in his 30s and rose to the position of House speaker, and then was elected state attorney general three times, has died at age 77.

He was remembered for defending Oregon's physician-assisted suicide law, a case that reached the U.S. Supreme Court, with Myers' Senior Assistant Attorney General Robert Atkinson successfully arguing the case in 2005. Myers also championed litigation against tobacco companies — coincidentally he himself was a smoker — that brought in millions of dollars

to Oregon, and still does.

Notes of praise and condolence poured in, including from Oregon's governor and its Senate president, after word spread that Myers had died Tuesday night in Portland from complications from pneumonia. He also had lung cancer.

Gov. Kate Brown said "Oregon lost a true statesman today," calling him "a man of unquestionable integrity and commitment to the rule of law."

Born in Mississippi and raised in the central Oregon towns of Bend and Prineville, Myers returned to his birth state to earn an undergraduate degree from the University of Mississippi. He then graduated from the University of Oregon's law school.

He was elected to the state House of Representatives in the 1974 election, representing a Portland district, and served there until 1985. He became speaker of the House in 1979.



Lori Cain/Statesman-Journal
Former Oregon Attorney General Hardy Myers died Tuesday night from complications from pneumonia.

Senate President Peter Courtney said in a statement that Myers was an inspiration.

"He taught me everything," Courtney said. "He taught me to respect the institution. He taught me to respect the process. He taught me to respect other people and other viewpoints. He was a wonderful gentleman."

Kristen Grainger, who served as Myers' legislative director and communications

director for six years, said he was very humble.

"He was the last to take credit and the first to shoulder blame," said Grainger, who is now Brown's communications director. "Hardy embodied integrity. He viewed all aspects of public service through the lens of what best served Oregonians; what legacy the decisions he made would impart for future generations."

When Myers was running for re-election as attorney general, his campaign manager borrowed a convertible from a car dealership for Myers to ride in at a Fourth of July parade, and the candidate made his staffer return it because the Department of Justice's consumer protection lawyers investigate those types of business, Grainger recalled.

"He just didn't think it was appropriate," Grainger said. Myers is survived by his wife, Mary Ann, their sons and grandchildren.

Gay Men's Chorus concert rescheduled

The Daily Astorian

A concert featuring the Portland Gay Men's Chorus has been rescheduled.

The North Coast Chorale is hosting the visiting chorus for a special holiday concert at 3 p.m. Dec. 18 at Astoria High School.

The concert had originally been scheduled for Saturday.

The Gay Men's Chorus will perform "A Holiday Cel-

ebration," with music from Christmas, Hanukkah and solstice.

The concert will also feature new works composed by chorus members, the Locomotions dance troupe and the classical acapella ensemble Cascade.

Tickets cost \$15 for adults and \$7 for students and are available at the door. Proceeds will benefit Clatsop Community College's Performing Arts Center.

A fallen tree closes the Fort to Sea Trail

The Daily Astorian

The popular Fort to Sea Trail at Lewis and Clark National Historical Park is closed after a fallen tree destroyed a bridge about half a mile below the overlook.

The trail could be closed for another week, park staff said.

The tree fell during the high winds that hit the coast over the Thanksgiving holiday. According to park staff, the bridge is now impassable. Maintenance staff hiked out to the area on

Monday and Tuesday to begin clearing the tree, but discovered they would have to replace the entire bridge.

Park staff said this particular bridge and other older bridges in the park are slated to be updated or replaced in the coming years. In this case, the

tree forced an early look.

This effectively shuts down one section of park trails since the Kwis Kwis extension trail is also closed for selective tree felling.

On the park's Facebook page, staff recommend enjoying the South Slough trail, the Kwis Kwis loop trail or the

mellow Netul Trail as alternatives while the Fort to Sea Trail is closed.

Clatsop Post 12
French Dips and Potato Salad
Friday Dec. 2nd
4 pm until gone
\$8.00
6PM
ASTORIA AMERICAN LEGION
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1132 Exchange Street
525-5771

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Sea Trail

Haystack Holiday Traditions
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Sandpiper Square
Treats & refreshments after the ceremony.
Cannon Beach's most loved holiday event!

CANNON BEACH CHORUS HOLIDAY CONCERT
DECEMBER 9 | 7PM
Cannon Beach Community Church
Tickets \$10 for adults, 16 and under free.
Great traditional holiday music for your enjoyment!

PICTURES WITH SANTA
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10 | 1-4PM
Cannon Beach Library
Come support the Cannon Beach Library and get your picture with Santa.

CANNON BEACH IN LIGHTS & 'NAME THAT TUNE' WINDOW DISPLAY CONTEST
NOVEMBER 25 - DECEMBER 17
Holiday Lights voting open through Dec. 16 at the Chamber or online at www.cannonbeach.org

HOLIDAY WREATH MAKING
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3 | 11AM-3PM
Cannon Beach Chamber Community Hall | Cost \$15

CANNON BEACH LIBRARY HOLIDAY TEA
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3 | 1-4PM
Enjoy home baked cookies, tea and cider.
Great for the whole family!

cannon beach
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

For complete information visit
www.cannonbeach.org/explore/Holiday-Events-in-Cannon-Beach-2016
503.436.2623

COLUMBIA RIVER SYSTEM OPERATIONS

**Public Meeting
Columbia River System
Operations**

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Bureau of Reclamation and Bonneville Power Administration invite the public to help identify issues that the agencies will analyze in the Columbia River System Operations Environmental Impact Statement. The agencies will use this EIS to assess the effects and update their approach to operations of 14 federal dams and related facilities in the interior Columbia River basin.

The agencies welcome your comments, suggestions and information to help inform the scope of issues, potential effects and range of alternatives evaluated in the EIS.

Thursday, December 8, 2016
4 p.m. to 7 p.m.
The Loft at the Red Building
20 Basin Street
Astoria, Oregon

For more information about the Columbia River System Operations EIS, please visit this website: <http://www.crso.info>
Information is also available by calling 800-290-5033.

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