

Macaw poses in man's mug shot after unlucky courtroom appearance

Tropical parrot now a jail bird

By GILLIAN FLACCUS
Associated Press



Washington County Sheriff's Office Bird, a 4-year-old macaw, in a booking photo with his owner.

"Very distraught."

Bird was 30 feet up the tree, Ray said, and it was getting dark and rainy. Temperatures were in the low 40s.

Deputies realized there was no way Bird — a tropical parrot — would survive overnight, but he would not come to them.

They eventually brought Buckner outside and removed the restraints from one of his hands.

Bird immediately flew down to Buckner and landed on his shoulder.

The macaw stayed with deputies for several hours and feasted on peanuts until they reached a friend who could pick Bird up.

While they waited, deputies let Buckner's feathered friend sit on his shoulder in a set up booking shot, just for kicks.

They also took a real booking photo of Buckner without Bird — but the macaw still managed to photo bomb it with a few of his colorful feathers, Ray said.

"It's quite funny," he said. "How can you resist that?"

The department is proud of how it landed the Bird, even if it did take extra time on a busy day, Ray said.

"We're not all robots. We're humans, we love animals and we want to do the right thing," he said.

"For the animal, and for Mr. Buckner too."

Oregon eases up on new rules for marijuana testing

Businesses warned of drop in tax revenue

By ANDREW SELSKY
Associated Press

SALEM — The state on Friday temporarily eased up on testing requirements for marijuana, two days after business insiders warned that new rules would cause a drop in state tax revenues, an increase in black-market sales and layoffs in the industry.

The Oregon Health Authority said its temporary rules take effect immediately and would provide relief for the industry while maintaining public health protection.

"The governor has been clear about the importance of the marijuana industry to Oregon's economy," Jeff Rhoades, marijuana policy adviser for Gov. Kate Brown, said in the health authority statement. "This approach keeps Oregonians employed, prevents marijuana product from slipping back into the illegal market,

and continues to protect public health and safety."

The authority, which is responsible for adopting testing standards for marijuana products for public safety, said it is cutting three process validation tests to one control study; allowing a processor to combine samples into one composite sample; removing alcohol-based solvents from testing requirements; and allowing samples from multiple batches to be combined for the purposes of testing for THC — the element that provides the "high" — and cannabinoids if the batches are the same strain.

Samples from multiple batches, even if they're from different strains, may be combined to test for pesticides if the total weight of the batches does not exceed 10 pounds, the health authority said.

Furthermore, the authority increased the amount of homogeneity variance in edibles and said the THC and cannabinoid amounts required to be on a label must be within plus or minus 5 percent of the value calculated by the laboratory.

Beau Whitney, an economist and marijuana businessman, said in a study published Wednesday that more stringent rules imposed by the health authority in October, as mandated by the Legislature, resulted in products taking two to three weeks to be completely tested in the state's few certified labs, with the product often failing. He noted a drop of supplies of cannabis products in both the medical and recreational markets as there was a bottleneck at the labs.

His report said black market activities would consequently increase to a projected \$187.5 million per year. He predicted Oregon tax revenues would decrease by at least \$10 million in the fourth quarter. Over a fifth of 72 respondents to his business survey indicated that they were going out of business.

The new temporary rules are "a good first step," Whitney said, but added that he needed to analyze them more. He expressed doubt they would relieve the bottleneck at the labs, citing "a huge backlog of tests samples to process."

Crash kills two on Highway 26

The Daily Astorian

SEASIDE — Oregon State Police investigators say they believe speed might have been a factor in a crash that killed two young women near Seaside.

Two Cornelius women died after a crash on Highway 26 Saturday night, while two Seaside residents were taken to the hospital.

Preliminary investigations show that about 7:30 p.m., a 2006 Chevy Equinox driven by Anali Aguilar Gaona, 21, was traveling eastbound on Highway 26 near Camp 18 when it crossed the centerline and struck a 2012 GMC pickup. Gaona and her passenger, Marilyn Manriquez Gutierrez, 23, were both pronounced dead at the scene.

The driver of the GMC,

Michael J Heuvelhorst, 63, and passenger Linda J Heuvelhorst, 69, were transported to local hospitals for injuries.

Highway 26 was closed or partially closed for more than five hours during the investigation.

State police were assisted by the state Department of Transportation and Hamlet Rural Fire Protection District.

Craft beer industry slows, but opportunities exist

Associated Press

PORTLAND — Oregon's craft beer industry is slowing down after a decade of explosive growth, but a state economic analyst says the outlook is good for neighborhood microbreweries.

Josh Lehner, of the Oregon Office of Economic Analysis, gave that outlook in remarks to the annual meeting of the Oregon Brewers Guild in Portland last week, the Capital Press reported.

The number of breweries in Oregon jumped from 76 in 2006 to 218 this year, and there's fierce competition for a limited number of tap handles and shelf space. Flagship Oregon beers such as Deschutes' Black Butte Porter, Widmer's Hefeweizen and Ninkasi's Total Domination IPA can be found in bars and restaurants all over the state, Lehner

said, but the state's five largest breweries now sell only 20 percent of their beer in Oregon.

He said demand remains strong, and there are still many parts of the state and country

that are lacking in neighborhood brewpubs.

"For these smaller breweries, I think the outlook is bright," Lehner said. "The brewpub model works."

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