

Bill seeks reversal of Oregon GMO preemption

Local agencies could regulate biotech crops

By MATEUSZ PERKOWSKI
Capital Bureau

SALEM — Biotech critics are calling on Oregon lawmakers to overturn a prohibition against local government restrictions on genetically engineered crops because statewide regulations haven't been enacted.

In 2013, the Legislature passed a law that preempted cities and counties from setting their own rules over seeds, which blocked most local ordinances banning genetically modified organisms, or GMOs.

Groups that opposed the preemption law say state inaction since then has justified the passage of House Bill

2469, which would carve out an exemption allowing local GMO regulations.

"Oregon farmers can't wait another four years to protect themselves from this harm," said Amy van Saun, a legal fellow at the Center for Food Safety nonprofit group.

Van Saun said measures are needed to prevent cross-pollination of conventional and organic crops with biotech genes, which threatens markets for those farmers. The federal government doesn't regulate GMO crops once they've been approved for commercial use.

"We're probably going to see even more lax regulation," van Saun said.

Oregon's seed preemption law doesn't apply to Jackson County, which was already set to vote on a GMO ban ballot initiative when the state legislation passed.

Voters approved the Jackson County ordinance, creat-



EO Media Group

Critics of GMO crops are proposing legislation that would turn back Oregon's preemption on local government regulation of genetically engineered crops.

ing a "GMO-free seed sanctuary" where seed crops can be produced without the threat of cross-pollination from biotech varieties, said Elise Higley, director of the Our Family Farms Coalition, which sup-

ported the GMO ban. "We're in this unique economic opportunity," she said.

Local control

Supporters of HB 2469 haven't given up on state-

wide GMO regulations but they hope the bill will provide local control over biotech crops until the state Department of Agriculture or lawmakers decide to take action, said Ivan Maluski, policy director of the Friends of Family Farmers nonprofit.

"We have no expectation the state of Oregon will move forward on these types of policies," he said.

Oregonians for Food and Shelter, an agribusiness group that supported the preemption law, is disappointed that biotech critics are still trying to regulate what crops farmers are allowed to plant, said Scott Dahlman, its policy director.

Cities and counties aren't equipped to regulate crop production, which is the province of the Department of Agriculture, he said.

The state hasn't determined specific rules are necessary for GMOs, which the fed-

eral government deregulates after determining they pose no greater risk than conventional crops, Dahlman said.

Lawmakers never committed to statewide regulations when passing the preemption law, he said. "There were no promises I was aware of at the time."

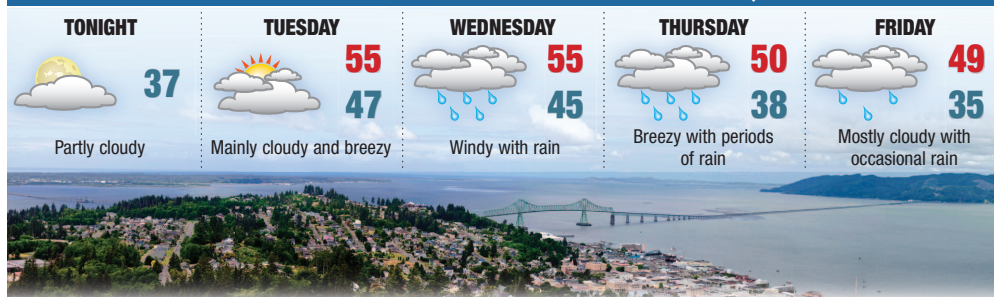
Other crops

Dahlman noted that the seed preemption law passed in 2013 not only protects GMOs from a patchwork of local regulations, but also precludes such rules for other crops that may become unpopular in the future.

Many of the same lawmakers who voted in favor of the preemption law four years ago still hold office, so Dahlman said he's hopeful they won't support HB 2469.

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

FIVE-DAY FORECAST FOR ASTORIA AccuWeather.com



ALMANAC

Astoria through Sunday.

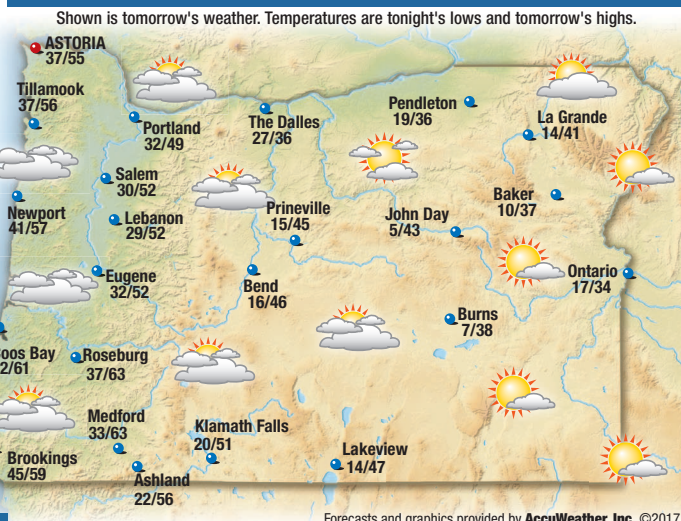
Temperatures

High/low	50°/33°
Normal high/low	51°/37°
Record high	67° in 1996
Record low	23° in 1905

Precipitation

Sunday	0.00"
Month to date	7.02"
Normal month to date	3.23"
Year to date	12.83"
Normal year to date	13.43"

REGIONAL WEATHER



SUN AND MOON

Sunset tonight: 5:39 p.m.
Sunrise Tuesday: 7:20 a.m.
Moonrise today: 8:56 p.m.
Moonset today: 8:47 a.m.

Phase	Date
Last	Feb 18
New	Feb 26
First	Mar 5
Full	Mar 12

UNDER THE SKY

Tonight's Sky: Sirius, of Canis Major, will be well up in the southeast in the early to mid-evening.

TOMORROW'S TIDES

Time	High	Time	Low
3:36 a.m.	8.9 ft.	9:41 a.m.	1.5 ft.
3:33 p.m.	8.3 ft.	9:50 p.m.	0.6 ft.

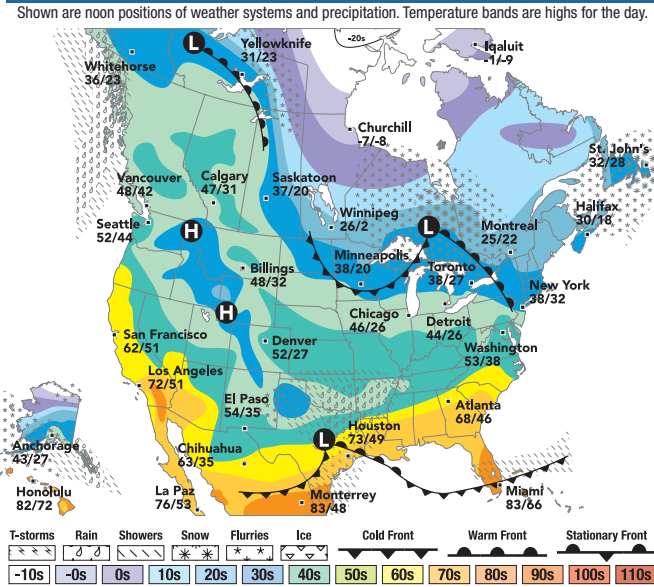
NATIONAL CITIES

City	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Atlanta	63	40	s	68	46	pc
Boston	34	21	sn	35	26	pc
Chicago	46	30	s	46	26	s
Denver	51	23	pc	52	27	s
Des Moines	53	31	s	49	25	s
Detroit	40	29	s	44	26	pc
El Paso	52	38	r	54	35	c
Fairbanks	13	6	c	28	9	sn
Honolulu	81	72	s	82	72	pc
Indianapolis	46	31	s	50	27	s
Kansas City	50	30	c	52	27	s
Las Vegas	69	49	s	69	48	pc
Los Angeles	76	56	s	72	51	s
Memphis	58	41	pc	50	40	r
Miami	82	66	s	83	66	pc
Nashville	56	34	s	51	37	c
New Orleans	71	57	pc	76	57	c
New York	39	26	pc	38	32	s
Oklahoma City	53	38	r	49	32	r
Philadelphia	43	28	s	45	33	s
St. Louis	52	38	pc	56	32	pc
Salt Lake City	41	23	s	43	26	s
San Francisco	60	48	pc	62	51	pc
Seattle	53	36	pc	52	44	pc
Washington, DC	48	32	s	53	38	s

REGIONAL CITIES

City	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Baker City	35	10	pc	37	14	pc
Bend	40	16	pc	46	28	pc
Brookings	54	44	pc	57	50	c
Eugene	51	32	pc	52	44	c
Ilwaco	53	40	pc	53	45	c
Klamath Falls	48	20	pc	51	31	c
Medford	59	33	pc	63	43	c
Newberg	52	31	pc	52	41	pc
Newport	57	41	pc	57	49	c
North Bend	59	42	pc	61	51	c
Olympia	52	29	pc	52	40	pc
Pendleton	36	19	pc	36	25	pc
Portland	49	32	pc	49	38	pc
Roseburg	59	37	pc	63	48	c
Salem	53	30	pc	52	42	pc
Seaside	52	40	pc	52	45	pc
Spokane	37	19	pc	39	22	pc
Springfield	52	31	pc	55	42	c
Vancouver	51	28	pc	50	40	pc
Yakima	39	24	pc	39	27	pc

TOMORROW'S NATIONAL WEATHER



Woman escapes Cannon Beach house fire

By R.J. MARX
The Daily Astorian

CANNON BEACH — Fire swept through a two-story North Larch Street residence Sunday afternoon in a blaze that could be seen for miles.

There were no reported injuries.

"One individual was in the house at the time," Cannon Beach Fire Chief Matt Benedict said. "She got out and then we showed up and got Gearhart, Seaside and a bunch of other units here to extinguish the fire."

In the fire's early phases, there was risk of it spreading, Benedict said, until firefighters used a water hose and extinguished the blaze from the outside in.

"We have two ladders here, Seaside and ours," Benedict said. "We used ours from up top to squirt down — most of it was on the second story of the house."

Firefighters did not enter the building because of the risk of collapse. "If you look at the wall from the other side, you can see that it's bowing out," Benedict said. "We're not



Sam Steidel/For The Daily Astorian
Flames in downtown Cannon Beach threatened to spread to nearby buildings.

going to put anyone in there in that danger to put it out."

Astoria man dead after crash in Alderbrook

The Daily Astorian

An Astoria man is dead after a single vehicle crash in Alderbrook early Sunday.

Brandon Allen Getten, 29, was traveling east near 43rd Street and Lief Erikson Drive

when his 2016 Cadillac CTS left the roadway, struck trees and went over an embankment, the Astoria Police Department said. Police and fire responded at 2:33 a.m. and found the driver had died from blunt force trauma.

Police are still investigating the accident, Deputy Police Chief Eric Halverson said. Anyone with information about the accident can call Sgt. Andrew Randall at 503-325-4411 or email him at arandall@astoria.or.us.

Body of missing woman found

The Daily Astorian

The body of a woman who went missing in Elsie in January has been found in the Nehalem River.

Deputies recovered the body of Brianna Renne Judge, 23, near Riverbend Road in rural Clatsop County on Saturday evening, the Clatsop County Sheriff's Office

announced. The county medical examiner did not detect any signs of foul play, and an autopsy has been scheduled to determine the cause of death.

Judge was last seen leaving a residence in Elsie on the night of Jan. 10. Residents located a pair of boots believed to belong to Judge, but several other searches did not produce additional clues.

BIRTH

Feb. 2, 2017

WOODS, Natasha, and HANSEN, Alec, of Westport, twin boys, Aiden Joshua and Carter James Hansen, born at Oregon Health & Science Uni-

versity Hospital in Portland. Grandparents are Mike Hansen of Longview, Washington, Angela Tobinnes of Clatskanie and Donald and Kathryn Woods of Westport.

DEATHS

Feb. 11, 2017

CLOUTIER, Lionel Richard, 64, of Seaside, died in Seaside. Caldwell's Funeral & Cremation Arrangement Center in Seaside is in charge of the arrangements.

THIERRY, Margaret A., 78, of Astoria, died in Astoria.

Ocean View Funeral & Cremation Service of Astoria is in charge of the arrangements.

WILCOXEN, Marjorie Ruth, 96, of Sandy, formerly of Warrenton, died in Gresham. Caldwell's Luce-Layton Mortuary of Astoria is in charge of the arrangements.

PUBLIC MEETINGS

MONDAY

Cannon Beach Rural Fire Department Board, 6 p.m., Fire-Rescue Main Station, 188 Sunset Ave.
Seaside City Council, 7 p.m., City Hall, 989 Broadway.

6 p.m., City Hall, 225 S. Main Ave.

Lewis & Clark Fire Department Board, 7 p.m., main fire station, 34571 Highway 101 Business.
Warrenton-Hammond School Board, 6 p.m., Warrenton High School library, 1700 S. Main Ave.
Clatsop Community College Board, 6:30 p.m., Columbia Hall Room 219, 1651 Lexington Ave., Astoria.

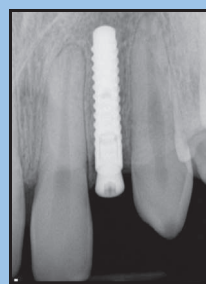
TUESDAY

Cannon Beach City Council, 5:30 p.m., work session, City Hall, 163 E. Gower St.
Warrenton City Commission,

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