

THE DAILY ASTORIAN

145TH YEAR, NO. 158

DailyAstorian.com // THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2018

ONE DOLLAR

Audit finds problems with pot tracking

Not enough inspectors

By **CLAIRE WITHYCOMBE**
Capital Bureau

SALEM — Oregon's systems for licensing and tracking recreational marijuana have weaknesses that could allow illegal activity to fly under the radar, state auditors found.

The recreational marijuana program also lacks important security measures that could protect sensitive information and IT infrastructure from being compromised.

The Oregon Liquor Control Commission helps regulate the recreational marijuana program, including issuing licenses to producers, retailers and others in the recreational marijuana business. The agency also runs the seed-to-sale tracking program that is intended to track marijuana on its journey to market.

Among other issues auditors found, data in the cannabis tracking system is self-reported by cannabis businesses, raising auditors' concerns about its reliability.

There aren't enough trained compliance inspectors to adequately keep an eye on recreational marijuana activity. And auditors also found that the liquor commission lacks an overall IT security management plan for the agency and a disaster recovery plan for its information.

Wednesday's audit report comes as there's renewed attention on marijuana, especially in states that have legalized the drug.

In early January, Attorney General Jeff Sessions issued guidance to U.S. attorneys in states that have legalized marijuana saying they may use their discretion when it comes to prosecuting marijuana cases. Marijuana remains illegal under the federal Controlled Substances Act.

U.S. Attorney Billy Williams in Oregon said at a marijuana conference he hosted last week that Oregon produces far more marijuana than residents can consume, and that product is leaking into the black market.

Oregon voters approved recreational marijuana in a November 2014 ballot measure. Recreational marijuana became legal on July 1, 2015.

The popularity of the program is greater than state officials had expected.

Through November, the state had collected about \$115.5 million in state marijuana taxes since retail sales began in January 2016, according to the audit.

Oregon Liquor Control Commission Executive Director Steve Marks said in a written response to the audit that the agency "is actively following up on all aspects of the audit" and wants to get more money to move forward on the technology issues raised by the review.

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

OLD BECOMES NEW DOWNTOWN



Aleesha Nedd sets out baked goods in the display case of The Naked Lemon.

Colin Murphey/The Daily Astorian

Several storefronts receive face-lifts

By **EDWARD STRATTON**
The Daily Astorian

A children's store has turned into a boutique bakery. A longtime donut shop transformed into a to-go lunch counter. A former office supply store is being remade into a miniature mall modeled after a Roman courtyard.

As some older businesses close along Commercial Street, worrying some of an emptying downtown, an influx of replacements has been changing the fabric.

Eryn Tomlinson and Jackson Boone started out in a small cart on 11th Street near City Hall, until their location went up for sale. The couple was hesitant, but took the leap in November and built out a new storefront for Nourish Juice Bar at the eastern edge of downtown inside the Astor Hotel Building, next to a new housewares shop called Chariot.

"I didn't know how we were going to do in the cart throughout the winter," Tomlinson said. "I think it would have been rough. Here, it's been kind of a nice place for people to come get out of the rain."

Locals were distraught when Lindstrom's Danish Maid, a staple since 1986,



Edward Stratton/The Daily Astorian

After local standby Lindstrom's Danish Maid Bakery closed, Daniel and Heidi Dlubac moved into the storefront and opened Good to Go, a to-go lunch counter.

closed in 2015 after the hospitalization and eventual death of co-owner and baker John Lindstrom. The shop's replacement, Good to Go, has seen a positive response and a strong showing since opening six months ago, said owners Heidi and Daniel Dlubac.

People have to remember that even Lindstrom's replaced previous businesses, Heidi Dlubac said.

"I feel like the new businesses have



Colin Murphey/The Daily Astorian

Eryn Tomlinson grabs fresh fruit to create one of the concoctions at Nourish Juice in downtown Astoria.

helped fill a need," she said of new shops like the juice bar. "These are businesses that cater to the tourists and locals."

Since Lindstrom's closing, two new boutique bakeries have opened along Commercial Street, including Table 360 Bakery & Bistro in the former Curious Caterpillar children's store, and Aleesha Nedd's shop The Naked Lemon in the Spexarth Building on the west end of downtown.

Nedd, 27, who grew up in Astoria, moved away for college and came back, said there's a lot more going on downtown now than when she was a teenager.

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ELECTION 2018

Jewell farmer files for county commission seat

Gladwin aiming for Thompson's position

By **JACK HEFFERNAN**
The Daily Astorian

Jewell farmer Susana Gladwin has filed for a Clatsop County Board of Commissioners seat held by Lianne Thompson.

Gladwin, 71, has served on the county Planning Commission along with Thompson, who has expressed her desire to seek re-election. Thomp-

son represents District 5, which covers most of South County — including Cannon Beach, Arch Cape, Elsie, Jewell and parts of Seaside.

"I think I have a lot of knowledge of that area — Seaside, Arch Cape, Cannon Beach — to be a good commissioner," Gladwin said. "I study things carefully. I like being a team player. I have a lot of



Susana Gladwin

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Astoria land use consultant to run for county commission

Wev announces for Clement's position

By **JACK HEFFERNAN**
The Daily Astorian

Pamela Wev, an Astoria land use planning consultant, has announced she will run for a Clatsop County Board of Commissioners seat held by Lisa Clement.

Wev, 70, applied for a Port of Astoria Commission vacancy created last year when Robert Mushen resigned

due to health reasons. The commission eventually tapped retired Coast Guard Capt. Robert Stevens of Warrenton.

Clement, part-owner of Clement's Seafood, has said she is undecided about whether she will seek re-election in District 3. Peter Roscoe, the former Astoria city councilor and owner of Fulio's Pastaria, has filed for the position.



Pamela Wev

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