

Alaska becomes third state with legal marijuana

By MOLLY DISCHNER
Associated Press

JUNEAU, Alaska — Smoking, growing and possessing marijuana becomes legal in America's wildest state Tuesday, thanks to a voter initiative aimed at clearing away 40 years of conflicting laws and court rulings.

Making Alaska the third state to legalize recreational marijuana was the goal of a coalition including libertarians, rugged individualists and small-government Republicans who prize the privacy rights enshrined in the state's constitution.

But when they voted 52-48 percent last November to legalize marijuana use by adults in private places, they left many of the details to lawmakers and regulators to sort out.

Meanwhile, Alaska Native leaders worry that legalization will bring new temptations to communities already confronting high rates of drug and alcohol abuse, domestic violence and suicide.

"When they start depending on smoking marijuana, I don't know how far they'd go to get the funds they need to support it, to support themselves," said Edward Nick, council member in Manokotak, a remote village of 400 that is predominantly Yup'ik Eskimo.

Both alcohol and drug use are prohibited in Nick's village 350 miles southwest of Anchorage, even inside the privacy of villagers' homes.

But Nick fears that the initiative, in combination with a 1975 state Supreme Court decision that legalized marijuana use inside homes — could open doors to drug abuse.

Initiative backers promised Native leaders that communities could still have local control under certain conditions. Alaska law gives every community the option to regulate alcohol locally. From northern Barrow to Klawock, 1,291 miles away in southeast Alaska, 108 communities impose local limits on alcohol, and 33 of them ban



In this Feb. 20 photo, Peter Lomonaco, co-founder of the Alaska Cannabis Club, and CEO Charlo Greene share a joint at their medical marijuana dispensary in Anchorage, Alaska.

it altogether. But the initiative did not provide clear opt-out language for tribal councils and other smaller communities, forcing each one to figure out how to proceed Tuesday.

November's initiative also bans smoking in public, but didn't define what that means, and lawmakers left the question to the alcohol regulatory board, which planned to meet early Tuesday to discuss an emergency response.

In Anchorage, Alaska's largest city, officials tried and failed in December to ban a new commercial marijuana industry. But Police Chief Mark Mew said his officers will be strictly enforcing the public smoking ban. He even warned people against smoking on their porches if they live next to a park.

Other officials are still discussing a proposed cultivation ban for the wild Kenai Peninsula. But far to the north, in North Pole, smoking outdoors on private property will be OK as long as it doesn't create a nuisance, officials there said.

While the 1975 court decision protected personal marijuana possession and a 1998 initiative legalized medicinal marijuana, state lawmakers twice criminalized any possession over the years, creating an odd legal limbo.

As of Tuesday, adult Alaskans can not only keep and use pot, they can transport, grow it and give it away. A second phase, creating a regulated and taxed marijuana market, won't start until 2016 at the earliest.

And while possession is no longer a crime under state law, enjoying pot in public can bring a \$100 fine.

That's fine with Dean Smith, a pot smoker in Juneau who has friends in jail for marijuana offenses. "It's going to stop a lot of people getting arrested for nonviolent crimes," he said.

The initiative's backers warned pot enthusiasts to keep their cool.

"Don't do anything to give your neighbors reason to feel uneasy about this new law. We're in the midst of an enormous social and legal shift," organizers wrote in the *Alaska Dispatch News*, the state's largest newspaper.

BRIEFLY

3 children hit and killed, woman hurt in busy street

SPRINGFIELD (AP) — A pickup truck hit and killed three children and critically injured a woman in the same busy Oregon intersection where a pedestrian was fatally struck two months ago and then carried on the roof of the fleeing car for 11 blocks.

Police say the four people hit Sunday were in or near a crosswalk on Springfield's Main Street. Police say the driver cooperated, and no charges have been filed.

Police are notifying relatives and haven't named the victims or described their relationship.

The Eugene Register-Guard reports the street is 60 feet wide, and the intersection is in a stretch that's seen numerous deadly accidents.

In the December crash, police say the driver took a 67-year-old man's body off her car roof and left him in the street. She's accused of manslaughter.

2 teens die after Honda hit by Jeep with large bumper

WEST LINN (AP) — The Washington State Patrol says two teens on their way to a hike with some friends in the Columbia River Gorge died after their vehicle was rear-ended by a Jeep with a large after-market bumper.

The Oregonian reports the crash killed West Linn High School juniors Cooper

Hill and Antonio Caballero as they were on their way to a hike at Dog Mountain on the Washington side of the gorge. They were in the back seat of a Honda that was rear-ended by a Jeep.

Washington State Patrol Trooper Will Finn says the Jeep bumper intruded into the rear of the Honda's passenger compartment.

Finn said the Jeep driver did not see the Honda stopping. He was cited for negligent driving.

Most West Coast ports bustling after labor deal

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP) — Nearly all West Coast seaports began the work week with crews hustling to load and unload cargo ships that were held up amid a months-long dispute over a new contract for dockworkers.

The exception Monday was the Port of Oakland, where problems persisted three days after negotiators for the dockworkers' union and for employers reached a tentative agreement covering all 29 West Coast ports. Those ports handle roughly one-quarter of U.S. international trade, an amount worth about \$1 trillion annually.

Operations at the other West Coast ports from Seattle to Southern California appeared to be back to normal. The job of restoring the free flow of goods will take at least two months — more like three at the Port of Los Angeles.

Federal probe of Kitzhaber and Hayes is broad and far-reaching

Capital Bureau

SALEM — John Kitzhaber's political career may be finished, but investigations into the activities of the former governor and former first lady Cylvia Hayes will continue into the foreseeable future.

That is clear by the breadth and length of the subpoena served by the U.S. attorney on the same day Kitzhaber announced his resignation.

The broad federal investigation is likely aimed at potential violations of public

corruption laws, including bribery and tax evasion. Nor is it limited to the activities of Kitzhaber and Hayes during the governor's tenure. The feds are seeking records related to a state probe of a contract Hayes received from the state Department of Energy prior to Kitzhaber's return to office in 2011.

The federal inquiry is in addition to two other investigations that were already underway. One was a criminal investigation by the Oregon Department of Justice, and the other — now suspended

by state law until the criminal investigation is completed — was of ethics-law complaints filed with the Oregon Government Ethics Commission.

One lawyer who is not involved in any of the current investigations, but is familiar with the scope of state and federal investigatory powers, says: "This isn't going to go away (for Kitzhaber) anytime soon," even if none of them eventually result in criminal or civil charges.

The federal subpoena covers 11 state agencies and 17 people —

Kitzhaber and Hayes — and interactions involving them and Hayes' consulting business, 3E Strategies.

Among other things, the subpoena asks for materials dating back to Jan. 1, 2009. That's more than two years before Kitzhaber took office for a nonconsecutive third term as governor on Jan. 10, 2011 — and it covers a previous state investigation involving Hayes.

During Kitzhaber's 2010 campaign, Hayes — then his girlfriend — surfaced in connection with an investigation

by the Oregon Department of Justice. Its focus was whether employees at the Oregon Department of Energy committed any wrongdoing in attempting to steer work financed by a federal grant away from a Washington state firm and to Hayes.

Although the state investigation did not appear to

focus on Hayes, the federal subpoena seeks records of all previous civil and criminal investigations — including the 2010 matter.

In addition to visitor logs, and other communications, the federal subpoena seeks Hayes' income tax returns and any statements of state credit-card usage.

Corrections

The *East Oregonian* works hard to be accurate and sincerely regrets any errors. If you notice a mistake in the paper, please call 541-966-0818.

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AccuWeather.com Forecast

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Plenty of sunshine	Mostly sunny	Cloudy with a shower or two	Rather cloudy, showers around	Mostly sunny and chilly

PENDLETON TEMPERATURE FORECAST				
Today	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
55° 29°	50° 36°	47° 36°	45° 29°	41° 21°

HERMISTON TEMPERATURE FORECAST				
Today	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
57° 28°	53° 34°	50° 34°	50° 28°	45° 21°

ALMANAC

PENDLETON
through 3 p.m. yesterday

TEMPERATURE	HIGH	LOW
Yesterday	45°	19°
Normals	49°	31°
Records	66° (1921)	7° (1894)

PRECIPITATION
24 hours ending 3 p.m. 0.00"
Month to date 0.77"
Normal month to date 0.94"
Year to date 1.49"
Last year to date 2.17"
Normal year to date 2.32"

HERMISTON
through 3 p.m. yesterday

TEMPERATURE	HIGH	LOW
Yesterday	49°	15°
Normals	51°	30°
Records	67° (1947)	14° (1928)

PRECIPITATION
24 hours ending 3 p.m. 0.00"
Month to date 0.61"
Normal month to date 0.79"
Year to date 1.05"
Last year to date 1.58"
Normal year to date 2.07"

SUN AND MOON
Sunrise today 6:43 a.m.
Sunset tonight 5:34 p.m.
Moonrise tonight 10:04 a.m.
Moonset today none

	First	Full	Last	New
	Feb 25	Mar 5	Mar 13	Mar 20

REGIONAL FORECAST

Coastal Oregon: Mostly sunny today; pleasant in the south.

Eastern Washington: Partly sunny today.

Eastern and Central Oregon: Plenty of sunshine today; not as cool in the south and near the Cascades.

Cascades: Mostly sunny today; not as cool in central parts. Mainly clear tonight.

Western Washington: Partly sunny today. Clearing tonight. Mostly cloudy tomorrow.

Northern California: Plenty of sunshine today; milder in the interior mountains. Mainly clear tonight.

REGIONAL CITIES

	Today			Wed.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Astoria	54	41	s	53	45	c
Baker City	53	22	s	52	28	c
Bend	56	24	s	50	29	c
Brookings	60	41	s	59	43	pc
Burns	57	22	s	53	27	s
Enterprise	54	26	s	48	31	s
Eugene	59	33	s	55	42	c
Heppner	57	28	s	52	35	pc
Hermiston	57	28	s	53	34	pc
John Day	55	27	s	50	31	s
Klamath Falls	56	18	s	55	25	s
La Grande	55	27	s	52	33	s
Meacham	53	24	s	46	28	s
Medford	61	30	s	59	33	s
Newport	55	42	s	53	46	c
North Bend	59	40	s	56	46	c
Ontario	52	27	s	56	35	pc
Pasco	57	26	pc	53	34	pc
Pendleton	55	29	s	50	36	s
Portland	56	36	s	52	43	c
Redmond	59	22	s	52	29	c
Salem	60	35	s	53	44	c
Spokane	45	26	pc	46	31	s
Ukiah	56	26	s	49	32	s
Vancouver	56	34	s	51	42	c
Walla Walla	53	31	s	51	37	s
Yakima	58	27	s	56	33	pc

WORLD CITIES

	Today			Wed.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Beijing	45	27	s	41	18	s
Hong Kong	74	68	t	74	68	c
Jerusalem	59	43	sh	54	39	pc
London	47	39	pc	52	45	pc
Mexico City	78	49	s	77	45	s
Moscow	38	24	c	35	24	pc
Paris	48	36	pc	47	40	pc
Rome	57	45	r	55	44	r
Seoul	43	25	s	48	31	c
Sydney	80	69	t	78	69	t
Tokyo	51	44	sh	50	43	c

WINDS

(in mph)	Today	Wednesday
Boardman	WSW 6-12	WSW 4-8
Pendleton	W 7-14	W 6-12

UV INDEX TODAY

0 2 3 2 0 0

8 a.m. 10 a.m. Noon 2 p.m. 4 p.m. 6 p.m.

0-2, Low 3-5, Moderate 6-7, High; 8-10, Very High; 11+, Extreme

The higher the AccuWeather.com UV Index™ number, the greater the need for eye and skin protection.

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NATIONAL WEATHER TODAY

Shown are noon positions of weather systems and precipitation. Temperature bands are highs for the day.

National Summary: Snow and ice will slide across the South today with rain from Florida to coastal Texas. Snow will mark the arrival of more cold air in the North Central states. Rain and snow are in store for the Southwest.

Yesterday's National Extremes: (for the 48 contiguous states)
High 85° in Tamiami, Fla. Low -36° in Land O Lakes, Wis.

NATIONAL CITIES

	Today			Wed.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Albuquerque	45	26	sn	53	28	s
Atlanta	46	32	c	42	34	r
Atlanta City	25	15	s	33	19	s
Baltimore	25	15	s	36	15	pc
Billings	50	33	pc	35	10	sn
Birmingham	47	29	c	42	28	sn
Boise	52	29	s	53	34	s
Boston	17	14	s	32	10	pc
Charleston, SC	39	30	sh	50	38	r
Charleston, WV	34	19	pc	35	14	sf
Chicago	30	8	sf	20	9	s
Cleveland	21	13	sf	17	1	pc
Dallas	43	30	c	49	31	r
Denver	42	24	pc	39	13	sn
Detroit	22	8	sf	20	0	sn
El Paso	66	39	sh	65	40	s
Fairbanks	32	10	pc	22	1	pc
Fargo	22	-3	sf	5	-12	pc
Honolulu	83	71	pc	82	70	pc
Houston	48	41	r	55	33	r
Indianapolis	26	11	c	28	11	pc
Jacksonville	55	46	sh	57	46	r
Kansas City	42	23	pc	40	12	sn
Las Vegas	61	39	pc	66	43	c
Little Rock	43	26	c	42	26	pc
Los Angeles	72	50	pc	74	54	s
Louisville	32	21	pc	37	20	pc
Memphis	39	27	pc	41	25	pc
Miami	83	63	pc	81	71	s
Millwaukee	31	7	sf	16	4	s
Minneapolis	28	3	sf	14	-3	pc
Nashville	40	22	pc	42	23	pc
New Orleans	54	45	r	52	38	r
New York City	23	20	pc	35	16	sf
Oklahoma City	45	22	c	52	25	s
Omaha	40	23	pc	29	6	sn
Philadelphia	24	19	s	36	16	sf
Phoenix	69	47	pc	72	48	pc
Portland, ME	16	11	pc	32	7	sf
Providence	17	14	s	33	9	pc
Raleigh	33	25	sn	47	30	pc
Rapid City	51	27	pc	31	0	sn
Reno	57	28	s	62	31	s
Sacramento	64	38	s	66	41	pc
St. Louis	36	20	pc	36	18	pc
Salt Lake City	45	31	s	51	32	s
San Diego	68</					