

# Medical pot businesses stand to lose under regulation

By HILLARY BORRUD  
Capital Bureau



Pamplin Media Group

**Medical marijuana businesses stand to lose money under tighter regulations being proposed in the Oregon Legislature.**

SALEM — Oregon's medical marijuana businesses stand to lose money under tighter regulations proposed by state lawmakers.

Testimony in Salem recently focused on how patients would suffer if lawmakers pass legislation to limit the size of medical pot gardens and require tracking of cannabis so it doesn't leak into the black market. Lawmakers are considering the medical program changes as Oregon prepares for the legalization of pot for all adults age 21 and older starting July 1, and the debate has revealed divisions between different cannabis business interests in the state.

Legislators claim the vast majority of marijuana produced under that program is sold by growers on the black market.

Privately, business owners who have profited from Oregon's medical marijuana system acknowledged new regulations would also impact their enterprises.

Oregon's medical marijuana program was created by voters in 1998 to help sick people. Many medical marijuana growers provide free pot to patients through arrangements that provided legal cover for large pot gardens over the years when the medical program was the only sanctioned way to grow cannabis in Oregon.

At any one time, medical marijuana cardholders can have six mature plants and 18 immature plants. Or, cardholders can hire a grower to produce the crop under the same limits. Each grower can serve four patients, but multiple growers often share grow sites.

Anthony Johnson, chief petitioner and co-author of Measure 91 which legalized recreational pot, helps growers find patients through his consulting business Duff Johnson Consulting.

"It's really a small part of Duff Johnson Consulting and hopefully over time will be a service that's no longer needed to be provided," Johnson said of the matchmaking service on Monday. Johnson said the business earns more of its money from consulting with medical marijuana clinics and organizing conferences.

Brent Kenyon, a businessman in Medford, operates 17 medical marijuana clinics and three dispensaries around the state. Kenyon did not say directly whether plant limits and the availability of legal pot for all adults would hurt his businesses.

However, Kenyon said "it's a no brainer" for people to sign up for the medical marijuana program when they can receive free marijuana from growers who sell the excess pot to dispensaries. The new recreational system means growers will no longer have to line up patients to justify large gardens, and tighter regulations on medical marijuana could further tamp down the industry.

"The problem is we have so many (medical) growers now that are gonna jump ship," said Kenyon, who also helps connect patients with growers.

Low-income patients depend on this system to obtain their medicine, patients and members of the industry said.

State lawmakers and regulators want to move the largest pot gardens in the state into the new recreational marijuana system that will legalize, regulate and tax pot for all adults under the authority of the Oregon Liquor Control Commission.

The Oregon medical marijuana program allowed huge gardens to blossom in southern Oregon, including one that served 104 patients with California addresses in 2014, The Oregonian reported in October.

Rob Prtridge, chairman of the Oregon Liquor Control Commis-

sion, has estimated as much as 75 percent of weed grown under the medical program leaks into the black market. Tom Towlslee, an OLCC spokesman, said this was based on Prtridge's conversations with unnamed medical marijuana growers.

Regulators and lawmakers have said they must take steps so that the legal recreational market can succeed and to show federal law enforcement the state is doing its best to prevent Oregon producers from feeding the black market.

The bills lawmakers are considering would limit medical marijuana grows to 24 to 48 plants outside city limits, and for the first time track the path of medical marijuana from growers to processors, dispensaries and patients.

Rep. Peter Buckley, D-Ashtland, introduced House Bill 3400 which would limit medical grows to 48 mature plants per rural grow site. Senate Bill 936, sponsored by several senators and representatives from the Joint Committee On Implementing Measure 91, would limit rural medical gardens to 24 mature plants. Both would cap pot gardens inside city limits at 12 mature plants.

Sen. Ginny Burdick, D-Portland, consulted with cannabis industry lawyer Amy Margolis during the development of Senate Bill 936. Margolis is part of the Cannabis PAC, formerly known as Grow PAC, which represents marijuana businesses across the state and is lobbying for the state to allow co-location of recreational and medical marijuana sales.

"As you know, the Cannabis PAC has taken no official position on plant counts and that was not my role in those meetings," Margolis wrote in an email Monday. Rather, Margolis wrote that her role was to provide input on the practical application of regulations.

Margolis' name was in the news recently, after it was revealed that OLCC pot czar Tom Burns was fired for lying about a regulatory proposal by members of the medical marijuana industry which Burns forwarded to Margolis.

The proposal came from Kenyon, Johnson and Anthony Taylor, co-founder and legislative liaison for Compassionate Oregon, which describes itself as a patient advocacy organization. The trio generated the proposal after a March 12 meeting with Prtridge, the OLCC chairman. It included an exemption from tracking for growers with 24 or fewer plants, although those growers could apply for permits to sell their excess weed to dispensaries or recreational pot stores. The group also called for the Oregon Health Authority to set up a program to help cover the cost of marijuana for low-income patients who no longer received free or reduced price pot, and the trio said they would like to form a new group with the OLCC to continue work on the issues.

It's unclear now what the OLCC and lawmakers will do with the medical pot industry's proposal, but Burdick said she expects the marijuana industry will continue to care for patients who need cannabis products.

"I think the industry has been very good at taking care of patients' needs, and I expect that to continue," Burdick said.

Burdick said lawmakers plan to move ahead soon with a bill on plant limits and tracking for medical growers.

"We expect this one to move first," Burdick said of a bill that will address those questions. Then, Burdick said lawmakers can turn their full attention back to implementing the new recreational system.

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

# Handful of tribes dig in against gay marriage

Associated Press

Even if a U.S. Supreme Court ruling this spring makes same-sex marriage the law, it would leave pockets of the country where it isn't likely to be recognized any time soon: the reservations of a handful of sovereign Native American tribes, including the nation's two largest.

Since 2011, as the number of states recognizing such unions spiked to 37, at least six smaller tribes have revisited and let stand laws that define marriage as being between a man and a woman, according to an Associated Press review of tribal records. In all, tribes with a total membership approaching 1 million won't recognize marriages between two men or two women.

Several explicitly declare that same-sex marriages are prohibited. And some have even toughened their stance.

In December, just weeks after North Carolina began issuing marriage licenses to same-sex couples, the state's Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians updated its law to add language preventing gay couples from having marriage ceremonies performed on tribal land. The resolution changing the law, which passed 8-1, says court cases around the country prompted the tribe of about 13,000 enrolled members to review its own laws.

The Cherokee Nation in Oklahoma and the Navajo Nation, with about 300,000 members each, maintain decade-old laws that don't recognize same-sex marriage. Neither tribe has shown much sign of shifting.



AP Photo/Jerry Archuleta

**In this Jan. 2014 photo provided by Jerry Archuleta, Alray Nelson, left, and Brennan Yonnie, right, pose for a photo at the flea market in Gallup, N.M. The couple has been advocating to have a Navajo Nation law that prohibits same-sex marriages repealed.**

Alray Nelson, a gay rights activist who lives with his partner Brennan Yonnie on the Navajo reservation, said the tribe's law denies same-sex couples the right to be included in decisions on a partner's health care, or to share in a home site lease. Getting a marriage license would only require a short drive to a courthouse off the reservation, but the couple — both enrolled Navajo members — would rather wait until it's allowed on the reservation.

"We are both planning to build a life here, and we want to raise a family," he said. "So it's not an option for us to remove ourselves from our community."

As with the states, opposition to gay marriage varies among tribes. At least 10 have recognized same-sex marriage, often well ahead of their surrounding states and without having judges force their hands. Many others are neutral.

The Supreme Court will hear arguments April 28 and could decide by June whether gay couples can marry in the remaining states and U.S. territories where it's not allowed. But while 27 states that allow gay marriage got dragged over the threshold by judges, the sovereign status of federally recognized tribes means a Supreme Court ruling wouldn't directly affect their laws.

Cherokee officials in Oklahoma and North Carolina say nothing in their laws

prevents members from getting marriage licenses in adjacent counties. The Oklahoma-based Cherokee Nation, which has a separate government and laws from the Eastern Band, passed its marriage law in 2004.

The Navajo Nation Council voted in 2005 to ban same-sex marriages on the 27,000 square-mile reservation that extends into Arizona, New Mexico and Utah — all states where such marriages are legal. Then-President Joe Shirley Jr. vetoed the measure, but lawmakers overturned it.

There's been no push recently among tribal lawmakers to change that, said council spokesman Jared Touchin.

The Osage Nation, bordering Tulsa, Oklahoma, passed a wide-ranging marriage law in 2012 that doesn't recognize same-sex unions.

John Hawk Co-Cke' (CO-KAY), an enrolled member of the Osage Nation who's gay, said that before reservations were created, many tribes had no problem with men who embraced their feminine side and women who lean toward their masculine side, inspiring the term two-spirit people.

Two-spirit people were sometimes given special ceremonial roles because of their ability to go into both the masculine and feminine world, he said.

The spread of Christianity starting when tribes were moved onto reservations contributed to a change in attitude that's reflected in laws that reserve marriage for heterosexual couples, Co-Cke' said.

The influence of Christianity remains strong in many tribes more than a century after an era of mass conversions on reservations.

**BRIEFLY**

**Kenyan airstrikes hit suspected militant camps**

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP) — Kenyan warplanes bombed militant camps in Somalia, officials said Monday, following a vow by President Uhuru Kenyatta to respond "in the fiercest way possible" to a massacre of college students by al-Shabab extremists.

The airstrikes Sunday and Monday targeted the Gedo region of western Somalia, directly across the border from Kenya, said Col. David Obonyo of the Kenyan military.

The al-Shabab camps, which were used to store arms and for logistical support, were destroyed, but it was not possible to determine the number of casualties because of poor visibility, he said.

The Somalia-based militant group claimed responsibility for Thursday's attack at Garissa University College in northeastern Kenya in which militants killed 148 people.

Airstrikes and other conventional military operations have hurt al-Shabab, but analysts say better intelligence is needed to thwart an extremist group that has proven effective in infiltrating civilian populations and carrying out attacks on so-called "soft" targets in urban areas.

Arriving at the summit with a deal to reopen embassies in Washington and Havana would create goodwill for the U.S., particularly after it issued new sanctions on selected Venezuelan officials last month that prompted protests from left-leaning countries.

Negotiators on both sides said they are confident they will be able to strike a deal to reopen embassies in the coming weeks but not necessarily before the summit.

Asked Monday about the latest on the embassies, White House spokesman Josh Earnest told reporters that "when you have a country that has essentially been ostracized by the United States for five decades ... it's going to take a little bit of time to re-establish some trust."

**Cuba-United States warming held up by listing of Cuba as terror sponsor**

HAVANA (AP) — American hopes of opening an

**Bisnett Insurance**  
Main Street Service  
Where One Call Insures it all

Safeco Insurance • Allstate  
Mutual of Enumclaw • Chubb • Travelers

121 S. Main, Pendleton, OR  
541-276-1418 • 800-303-0419

• Farm • Business • Home • Health  
• Ranch • Auto • Life • Crop

www.bisnett.com

Office locations: Pendleton • Baker City • Milton-Freewater  
• Medford • John Day • Hood River • Lake Oswego  
• Ketchum, ID • Scottsdale, AZ

The Chamber means business!

**PENDLETON**  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

**UPCOMING CHAMBER NEWS**

**APRIL CHAMBER LUNCHEON**

**Organize Your Business:**  
"What you can do to prepare for your taxes next year"

with Sherri Brown, Perfect Balance LLC & Cheryl Post, Traveling Bookkeeping & Small Business Development Consultant

Wednesday, April 15th  
11:45 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.  
Hamley Slickfork Salon

Tickets  
\$13 Chamber Members \*Paid by April 10th\* \$16 Non-Members  
Call (541) 276-7411 to purchase!  
Visit www.pendletonchamber.com/luncheon

**NEW MEMBER Welcome**

**The Shop**  
Ron & Jennifer Dirkes, Owners  
238 SW Court Ave, Pendleton  
(541) 276-8949  
theshop1@eotnet.net

**Mac's Bar & Grill**  
Andy McAnally, Owner  
1400 SW Dorion Ave, Pendleton  
(541) 276-5531  
andrewmcanally@yahoo.com

**Echo Bike & Board LLC**  
Stephanie Myers, Owner  
253 S Main St, Pendleton  
(541) 376-8500  
echobike@live.com

**The Pendleton Coffee Bean & Bistro**  
Paula Dirks, Owner  
241 S Main St, Pendleton  
(541) 379-3663  
pcb97801@gmail.com

See you at the...  
**Morning Buzz**

Hosted by NEIGH-bors  
Horse Motel and Bed & Breakfast  
543 NW 21st St

Wednesday May 6th  
7:15 to 8:00 a.m.

Coffee Sponsored by Starbucks Southgate

**ROB MERRIMAN PLUMBING & HEATING, INC.**

NEW CONSTRUCTION • REMODEL • REPAIRS  
DRAIN CLEANING • CAMERA & LOCATOR • BOILERS

4354 Westgate Pendleton, OR 97801

541-276-7221  
HERMISTON 541-564-6393

CCB #60927 #30-54PB #899-2216

FAX 541-966-1199

**HAIRPINS on 6th**

Tues - Fri 9am - 5:30pm  
Saturday & Evening by Appointment

311 SW 6th • Pendleton  
541-278-8099

We're waiting for you at...  
**Kick it Up After 5**  
Business After Hours Event

hosted by  
**Airport Antiques & The Furniture Lady**  
1816 NW 51st Street, Pendleton  
Thursday, April 9th • 5:30 to 7:00 p.m.  
Celebrating 15 Years of Business!

**KUMA Coffee Hour**

April 27th  
8:30 am • 12:00 AM

Join Butch and Gail with special guest **Todd Davidson** of Travel Oregon!

Pendleton Chamber Membership Committee and Columbia State Bank Presents:

**Business Basics Workshop Spring Symposium**

"Building a Successful Business Toolbox"

April 23, 2015 • 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.  
Pendleton Center for the Arts • Bamboo Room

FREE for 2015 Chamber Members! Non-Members \$20  
All Business Owners Welcome!  
Registration is Required.

Sponsored by Columbia Bank

Seating is Limited! RSVP by 5pm April 21st  
membership@pendletonchamber.com • (541) 276-7411

**PENDLETON ART+FRAME**

"Cowgirls in Cahoots"!!  
New works by Janene Grande and Connie Spurgeon...  
Opening Reception Thursday, April 9th 5-7:30  
Artist Demonstration: Friday Noon - 4 pm  
WE ARE NOW OPEN WEDNESDAYS

36 SW Court Ave, Pendleton • 541-276-3617  
Open Mon-Sat

Imagine Better Health...  
**CHI St. Anthony Hospital**

2801 ST. ANTHONY WAY, PENDLETON, OR 97801

**Stay Connected!**

Find us on Facebook! facebook.com/pendletonchamber  
@PendletonCC & @TravelPendleton on Twitter

Visit Our Website! pendletonchamber.com  
Subscribe to Quick Notes! pendletonchamber.com/sub

Tune In! 1290 KUMA Coffee Hour April 27th at 8:30 a.m.

Download the App! Search for "Travel Pendleton"

**Upcoming Ribbon Cuttings**

**Sister's Cafe**  
400 S Main St, Pendleton  
Thursday, April 9th at 4:30 p.m.

**Echo Bike & Board LLC**  
253 S Main St, Pendleton  
Friday, May 1st at 12:15 p.m.

**Rocky Mountain Colby Pipe**  
4950 McKennon Road, Pendleton  
Friday, April 10th at 12:15 p.m.

**Center for Excellence in Dermatology**  
2450 SW Perkins Ave, Pendleton  
Friday, May 8th at 12:15 p.m.

**Legislative Teleconferences**

with Senator Bill Hansell and Representative Greg Barreto

**Blue Mountain Community College**  
Pioneer Hall Board Room  
April 2nd & 16th • 7:00 a.m.  
Open to the Public

Brought to you by the Pendleton Chamber of Commerce Governmental Affairs Committee and Blue Mountain Community College

**Marla June's CLOTHING COMPANY**

**Spring is Arriving Daily!**  
Clothes, Shoes, Jewelry, Handbags

Brighton Spring Sales Thurs Fri Sat  
Open late Thursday

217 SE Court, Pendleton • (541) 274-0778 • www.marlajunes.com

**Pendleton Book Co.**

**Super Sale**

3rd Saturday of every month!

125 S. Main, Pendleton, OR 97801  
(541) 276-9292 • penbkco@eotnet.net

**THE COLOR DASH**  
MAY 30 • ROY RALEY PARK

TITLE SPONSOR **CHI St. Anthony Hospital**

REGISTER NOW AT CD5K.COM!

A TRAVEL PENDLETON EVENT  
**TRAVEL PENDLETON**

**Twilight Sale**  
Celebrating 15 years!  
April 17th & 18th

Extended hours:  
April 17th 10:30 am - 8:00 pm  
April 18th 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

**Airport Antiques & The Furniture Lady**

Tues - Fri 10:30AM - 6:00PM  
March - Oct 11 & 12 Sat 10am - 3pm  
1816 NW 51st St, Pendleton  
541-278-0141  
www.pendletonfurniturelady.com

Cake, Goodies, Special Sales, Drawings

**PGG PETROLEUM**

Contact Pendleton Grain Growers, Inc. for all your agricultural transportation, agricultural and residential energy and grain marketing needs today.

**PENDLETON GRAIN GROWERS, INC.**  
pggcountry.com • (800) 422-7611

**Elite Guns & Bows, LLC**  
213 S.E. 2nd St. - Pendleton, OR 97801

Jeff Bradbury, Owner  
P 541-276-1243  
F 541-276-1253

We aim to please  
www.elitegunsandbows.com

Highest quality at LOWEST PRICES IN TOWN  
Excellent product knowledge • Friendly Service

**PENDLETON ATHLETIC**

1980 35 YEARS 2014

249 S. Main, Pendleton • 541-276-6988  
Cari Broker  
www.deansathletic.com

**Thai Crystal**

Truly Authentic THAI CUISINE  
Contemporary STYLE  
Distinguishable FLAVORS TASTE

Mon. - Fri. 11am - 9pm • Sun. - Sat. 12pm - 9pm

541.278.4182  
210 S.E. 5th St. Pendleton OR 97801 • 2514