

# Oregon Senate tries new strategy to tighten medical marijuana limits

By HILLARY BORRUD  
Capital Bureau

SALEM — Oregon lawmakers are trying a new strategy to push through tighter limits on medical marijuana, after a joint House-Senate committee working on the issue declared an impasse earlier this week.

Senate President Peter Courtney, D-Salem, announced Wednesday the creation of a new Senate committee to work on the issue.

Lawmakers want to cut off diversion of medical marijuana into the black market, and they spent the last month working on legislation to track and regulate production of medical cannabis. The House-Senate committee is tasked with making any legislative fixes necessary to prepare for the July 1 legalization of recreational pot for adults in Oregon under Measure 91 which voters approved in November.

However, the joint



Pamplin Media Group

**Leaders in the Oregon Senate are trying a new strategy to push through tighter rules on medical marijuana.**

committee has not yet passed any bills and it deadlocked Monday night over a provision to allow city councils and county commissions to ban medical marijuana dispensaries and processors. House Democrats supported an amendment that would automatically refer any ban to voters, while House Republicans and senators from both parties cast their votes for an amendment that would set out a citizen

initiative process for voters to challenge the bans.

The opt-out provision is important to Republican lawmakers and lobbyists for city and county governments. Twenty-six counties and 142 cities in Oregon have adopted moratoriums on medical pot dispensaries, but those expired May 1 under the law that authorized dispensaries. The new Senate committee created Wednesday is comprised of

the five senators from the House-Senate committee: Sen. Ginny Burdick, D-Portland, Sen. Ted Ferrioli, R-John Day, Sen. Lee Beyer, D-Springfield, Sen. Floyd Prozanski, D-Eugene and Sen. Jeff Kruse, R-Roseburg.

Burdick and Kruse already introduced a bill Monday that could soon be assigned to the committee. Senate Bill 946 is essentially the same bill the joint committee crafted to regulate medical marijuana, but it contains the city and county opt-out proposal which the senators and House Republicans support.

So far, the Oregon House does not plan to form its own separate committee to work on medical pot regulations. Lindsey O'Brien, a spokeswoman for House Speaker Tina Kotek, said she expects the House-Senate committee will still meet as scheduled on Monday evening to discuss other policy issues related to Oregon's new recreational pot system. That is the same time the Senate committee might meet.

# Judge to consider proposals for Hanford's future

RICHLAND, Wash. (AP) — A federal judge has agreed to consider all three proposals to modify a court-enforced cleanup agreement for Hanford, which was signed in 2010.

The U.S. Department of Energy and the states of Oregon and Washington asked the federal court to intervene in the case in fall 2014, *The Tri-City Herald* reported.

Judge Rosanna Malouf Peterson of Spokane said in an order filed Monday that all three parties showed conditions had significantly changed, and that warrants modification of the consent decree.

She will look at the specific requests from each agency and likely will schedule an evidence hearing.

The consent decree was signed in 2010 to resolve a lawsuit brought by Washington state against the Energy Department over deadlines it looked like the department would not be able to meet.

The Energy Department has 56 million gallons of radioactive waste in tanks left from the past production of weapons plutonium. It plans to turn much of the waste into a stable glass form for disposal at the vitrification plant.

But "almost immediately after the consent decree was entered," the Energy Department gave notice that one or more of the new deadlines were at risk, Malouf Peterson said in the court order.

The consent decree discussed the possibility of changed conditions, including unforeseen technical and safety concerns that might affect the schedule. But the specific conditions that changed were not listed.

While some of the changes could have been foreseeable, Washington did not show that the Energy Department anticipated them, the judge found.

Construction has stopped on key parts of the vitrification plant while technical issues are resolved.

# Baker County inmate died when meth baggie burst in stomach

BAKER CITY (AP) — Oregon State Police say an autopsy conducted by the state medical examiner's office shows that a 28-year-old man brought to the Baker County Jail died of a methamphetamine overdose after a plastic baggie apparently ruptured in his stomach.

Police said Tuesday that toxicology tests showed a high level of meth in Joshua Pantle's system.

The Baker City man was arrested Saturday for investigation of criminal

trespass and placed in a holding cell pending booking at the jail. Within a couple of hours, he fell ill and was taken by ambulance to a hospital, where he was soon pronounced dead.

In Salem, a Marion County Jail inmate was found unresponsive Tuesday afternoon in his single cell. Medics pronounced him dead. Sheriff's Lt. Chris Baldridge did not immediately identify that inmate.

The Linn County sheriff's office will investigate that death.

# Future of Geology Dept. rests on DAS review

By STEVE FORRESTER  
Capital Bureau

SALEM — The future of the state Department of Geology and Mineral Industries (DOGAMI) waits on a review by the Department of Administrative Services. The results of that investigation are expected Friday.

In the wake of the departure of Executive Director Vicki S. McConnell, suspicions of fiscal mismanagement arose. McConnell left for a position in Colorado as executive director of the Geological Society of America.

"We kept having to cut staff," said Larry Givens, chairman of DOGAMI's governing board, of Milton-Freewater. "When Vicki left, Acting Executive Director Ian Madin discovered some issues we couldn't overcome. I told



Givens

**"We had DOGAMI staff upset and concerned, and some staff has resigned because they want more assurance of their paycheck."**

— Larry Givens, chairman of DOGAMI's governing board

Ian we needed a complete audit."

Allison Ryan, information specialist at DOGAMI, described the problem.

"Operators of smaller mining sites provide cash bonds to ensure reclamation of land," she said. "Those funds have all been held in the main pot for our Mineral Land Regulation & Reclamation program, instead of going into a separate pot. Steps are being

taken to correct this as part of the DAS review that's in progress."

A legislator close to the DOGAMI issue suggests that McConnell spent funds that were in reserve — paid by minerals companies as a bond against performance on their permits.

Compounding the agency's difficulties was receiving only one year's funding in Gov. John Kitzhaber's final biennial

budget.

"We had DOGAMI staff upset and concerned, and some staff has resigned because they want more assurance of their paycheck," said Givens, who is also a Umatilla County commissioner.

Rich Angstrom is president of the Oregon Concrete and Aggregate Producers Association and represents Oregon mining interests.

"It is disappointing that the agency didn't communicate with the legislature or the industry about dipping into either of those accounts to fund an unrelated program," Angstrom also represents mining interests within Oregon.

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**AccuWeather.com Forecast**

**TODAY** An afternoon t-storm in spots  
**FRIDAY** An afternoon shower  
**SATURDAY** Mostly cloudy with a few showers  
**SUNDAY** Cloudy with a passing shower  
**MONDAY** Couple of thunderstorms

**PENDLETON TEMPERATURE FORECAST**  
67° 48° 70° 47° 68° 47° 68° 45° 73° 50°

**HERMISTON TEMPERATURE FORECAST**  
71° 48° 76° 47° 72° 48° 72° 46° 78° 49°

**ALMANAC**

**PENDLETON**  
through 3 p.m. yesterday  
**TEMPERATURE**  
HIGH LOW  
Yesterday 58° 46°  
Normals 70° 46°  
Records 96° (1931) 30° (1903)

**PRECIPITATION**  
24 hours ending 3 p.m. 1.02"  
Month to date 1.06"  
Normal month to date 0.49"  
Year to date 4.19"  
Last year to date 6.13"  
Normal year to date 5.60"

**HERMISTON**  
through 3 p.m. yesterday  
**TEMPERATURE**  
HIGH LOW  
Yesterday 60° 48°  
Normals 72° 46°  
Records 100° (1993) 33° (2004)

**PRECIPITATION**  
24 hours ending 3 p.m. 1.16"  
Month to date 1.21"  
Normal month to date 0.49"  
Year to date 3.00"  
Last year to date 3.77"  
Normal year to date 4.48"

**SUN AND MOON**  
Sunrise today 5:26 a.m.  
Sunset tonight 8:18 p.m.  
Moonrise today 3:32 a.m.  
Moonset today 4:23 p.m.

**Regional Forecast**

Coastal Oregon: Clouds and sun today with a couple of showers. Partly cloudy tonight.

Eastern Washington: Sun today. A storm in the north, near the Idaho border and in the mountains; a shower at the Cascades.

Cascades: Clouds and sun today. A couple of showers; arriving in the afternoon across the north.

Northern California: Mainly cloudy today with showers around.

Eastern and Central Oregon: A thunderstorm in spots today, except a shower in spots in the south.

Western Washington: Partly sunny, a thunderstorm in spots this afternoon.

**REGIONAL CITIES**

	Today			Fri.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Astoria	63	50	c	59	50	pc
Baker City	62	43	pc	58	39	sh
Bend	56	39	sh	61	35	pc
Brookings	58	47	c	59	47	c
Burns	59	41	t	56	36	sh
Enterprise	60	43	pc	59	43	sh
Eugene	65	47	sh	63	46	pc
Heppner	64	44	pc	67	47	pc
Hermiston	71	48	pc	76	47	pc
John Day	59	44	t	58	44	sh
Klamath Falls	58	37	sh	56	32	sh
La Grande	65	47	pc	61	45	sh
Meacham	56	39	pc	58	37	pc
Medford	66	48	sh	66	46	c
Newport	56	48	c	55	48	pc
North Bend	59	50	sh	59	49	pc
Ontario	73	52	pc	64	50	sh
Pasco	73	47	pc	79	49	pc
Pendleton	67	48	pc	70	47	pc
Portland	69	51	t	67	52	pc
Redmond	58	39	sh	64	34	pc
Salem	68	48	pc	65	48	pc
Spokane	71	51	pc	72	50	pc
Ukiah	59	40	pc	62	43	pc
Vancouver	69	49	t	66	50	pc
Walla Walla	69	50	pc	72	51	pc
Yakima	73	48	pc	79	51	pc

**WORLD CITIES**

	Today			Fri.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Beijing	81	58	pc	74	51	s
Hong Kong	91	83	pc	91	83	pc
Jerusalem	71	50	pc	76	53	s
London	54	44	r	62	49	pc
Mexico City	73	57	t	74	55	t
Moscow	64	47	pc	59	46	r
Paris	65	44	t	63	44	pc
Rome	77	64	pc	78	56	pc
Seoul	75	51	pc	73	49	pc
Sydney	65	56	s	67	58	pc
Tokyo	82	66	s	81	66	pc

**WINDS**

(in mph)	Today	Friday
Boardman	N 4-8	W 6-12
Pendleton	N 6-12	W 7-14

**UV INDEX TODAY**

1 4 6 6 4 1

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:** Rain and embedded thunderstorms will soak the northern Plains to part of the Mississippi Valley today. Rain is forecast to spread southward and inland over the West. Storms will dot Texas and Florida.

**Yesterday's National Extremes:** (for the 48 contiguous states)  
High 94° in Tallahassee, Fla. Low 22° in Brimson, Minn.

**NATIONAL CITIES**

	Today			Fri.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Albuquerque	74	48	pc	67	43	t
Atlanta	83	67	pc	78	66	t
Atlantic City	62	49	s	66	60	pc
Baltimore	72	49	s	78	60	s
Billing	65	48	pc	57	43	t
Birmingham	84	67	pc	79	66	t
Boise	72	48	pc	60	47	t
Boston	65	49	s	69	53	pc
Charleston, SC	80	63	pc	80	63	c
Chicago, IL	65	56	s	73	62	t
Cleveland	68	55	r	79	63	c
Dallas	81	67	t	79	67	c
Denver	72	48	s	66	42	t
Detroit	66	53	s	79	63	t
El Paso	86	63	s	82	59	pc
Fairbanks	76	47	pc	80	49	s
Fargo	60	44	r	69	54	pc
Honolulu	82	69	pc	84	70	s
Houston	84	71	t	83	71	t
Indianapolis	71	59	pc	83	64	t
Jacksonville	83	68	pc	80	66	t
Kansas City	72	63	r	78	65	t
Las Vegas	75	53	pc	66	51	t
Little Rock	82	66	t	83	67	t
Los Angeles	67	55	sh	65	55	r
Louisville	79	65	pc	85	67	t
Memphis	81	67	pc	85	69	t
Miami	87	77	pc	87	77	pc
Millwaukee	56	50	pc	73	58	t
Minneapolis	56	52	r	73	60	pc
Nashville	83	64	pc	81	65	t
New Orleans	86	74	c	83	74	t
New York City	72	56	s	74	61	pc
Oklahoma City	77	66	t	80	66	pc
Omaha	71	58	r	78	65	t
Philadelphia	73	54	s	74	62	pc
St. Louis	86	64	pc	75	59	t
Portland, ME	67	42	s	68	47	pc
Providence	71	46	s	73	53	pc
Raleigh	76	55	s	81	60	pc
Rapid City	70	46	pc	59	47	t
Reno	57	42	t	59	45	t
Sacramento	68	50	t	72	49	c
St. Paul	72	64	t	84	69	t
Salt Lake City	72	49	pc	61	47	t
San Diego	66	60	c	65	60	pc
San Francisco	65	51	sh	64	52	c
Seattle	67	50	pc	65	50	pc
Tucson	84	58	pc	75	55	t
Washington, DC	73	56	r	79	66	s
Wichita	80	65	t	80	65	t

**Weather (W):** s-sunny, pc-partly cloudy, c-cloudy, sh-showers, t-thunderstorms, r-rain, sf-snow flurries, sn-snow, i-ice.