

# State unprepared to accept, store pot tax cash

By HILLARY BORRUD  
Capital Bureau



EO Media Group

**Beginning in January the state will begin collecting taxes from legal marijuana businesses, most of which will be paid in cash. The Department of Revenue has not yet made infrastructure changes necessary to accept and store as much as \$1 million a month the taxes are expected to generate.**

hearing that “time is not on our side here.” Galvin said lawmakers only moved responsibility for marijuana tax collection from the Oregon Liquor Control Commission, which regulates the new recreational pot market, to the Department of Revenue in late May.

The department had a security assessment scheduled with the Oregon State Police, and “our facilities

team at the department has begun work creating a secure environment,” Galvin said. “They’ve had a structural analysis done for the safe. They’re starting to order cameras.”

Currently, adults age 21 and older can purchase limited marijuana products tax-free — seeds, dried leaves, flowers and non-flowering plants — at medical dispensaries, under

an early sale law passed by the Legislature. A temporary 25 percent sales tax on these limited, early sale products takes effect Jan. 4, and stores can keep 2 percent of the tax to cover administrative costs, Galvin said. This will change to a permanent 17 percent sales tax, also with a 2 percent administrative hold back for stores, when licensed recreational marijuana retailers open in late 2016. There is no tax on pot for medical marijuana patients.

The Department of Revenue will also likely ask the Legislature for more money in the 2016 session to collect recreational marijuana taxes, Legislative Fiscal Office analyst John Borden said during the hearing. Borden said the Legislative Fiscal Office found the Department of Revenue might need more resources to collect the taxes, but could also streamline its operations and might be on the cusp of hiring employees for duplicative and potentially unnecessary jobs.

*This story first appeared in the Oregon Capital Insider newsletter. To subscribe, go to oregoncapitalinsider.com*

## BRIEFLY



### Lowell school officials to hear guns in classrooms proposal

LOWELL (AP) — The Lowell School Board may soon be considering changes to a districtwide ban that prohibits teachers from carrying firearms in classrooms.

The Register-Guard reports the director of Lowell’s Mountain View Academy charter school, Laurie Cardwell, is expected to ask the board Monday to allow teachers who hold state concealed weapons permits to carry firearms at school.

Cardwell has previously brought the proposal to Lowell School District Superintendent Walt Hanline, who opposes having guns on campus. Cardwell is bringing the issue up again following last month’s shooting at Umpqua Community College, where a gunman killed nine people before turning the gun on himself.

Hanline says there are better ways schools can improve classroom safety than arming teachers. He says the board will discuss different safety plans at Monday’s meeting.

Huff says he plans to sue because city officials won’t provide him with a clear reason for why they are imposing a tax on medicine.

La Pine City Manager Rick Allen says the council plans to review the opinion from the Office of Legislative Counsel at its meeting next month.

### Jail for man who beat woman for not getting In-N-Out burgers

MEDFORD (AP) — A Medford man who beat his girlfriend because she didn’t bring In-N-Out burgers home for dinner pleaded guilty to assault and was sentenced to 60 days in jail.

The Mail Tribune reports 21-year-old Christian Berry was also put on probation for five years.

In-N-Out opened its first Oregon location on Sept. 9 in Medford.

Police dispatched to a hospital early the next day found a woman with a lump on her face and extensive bruising. She said her boyfriend punched her, kicked her, struck her with a cane and ordered her to sleep on the floor.

The 6-foot-2, 300-pound Berry told detectives it was because she didn’t bring the burgers.

The victim on Monday asked Judge Timothy Barnack to lift a no-contact order, saying she misses Berry and they want to get married.

The judge said he’d let a probation officer decide whether to allow contact after Berry takes anger management classes.

# Rebuffed OFW appointees confirmed by Senate

By HILLARY BORRUD  
Capital Bureau

SALEM — The Oregon Senate voted this week to confirm two members of the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission whom Gov. Kate Brown reappointed in April.

The move was a reversal from earlier this year, when the Senate Committee on Rules delayed action on the two reappointments over concerns that commissioners had failed to adequately oversee the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife budget. The sport fishing industry and cattle ranchers had also called for the governor to appoint commissioners who represented their perspectives. Commissioners are appointed to represent Oregon’s congressional districts.

The Senate voted 22-8 on Wednesday to confirm the two

re-appointees, Holly Akenson of Enterprise, and Michael Finley of Medford. Akenson is a wildlife biologist, manages a tree farm with her husband and is an archery and rifle game hunter, according to the Department of Fish and Wildlife’s website. Finley is president of a grant-making foundation, and previously served as superintendent of Yellowstone, Yosemite and Everglades national parks. He is also a hunter and angler.

Ahead of the vote Wednesday, Senate Republicans said they had been under the impression Brown would reconsider the reappointments.

The Senate voted in May to confirm two other controversial appointees to the commission, Astoria resident Bruce Buckmaster who has ties to the commercial gillnet fishing industry and former state lawmaker Jason Atkinson of Jacksonville.

“You cannot continue to load the board with philosophical people that represent the big cities,” said state Sen. Fred Girod, R-Stayton. “It does not work ... The legislature deserves a lot of the credibility for this agency going down the toilet, and the governor deserves a lot of credibility for this agency going down the toilet. I urge a ‘no’ vote.”

Girod’s language displeased Senate President Peter Courtney, D-Salem.

“Sen. Ted Ferrioli, try not using the word toilet, please,” Courtney said, as the Senate minority leader from John Day prepared to speak.

Ferrioli said the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife’s budget trouble is an indication the commission has not fulfilled its fiduciary responsibility.

“But there’s another issue here, and that is the credibility of the governor

and the credibility of the appointments secretary,” Ferrioli said. “Members who voted unanimously (in committee) for the last round of appointments to ODFW did so on the assurance there would be consideration of a sport fishing member and a landowner. That did not happen. That to me is a breach of confidence and a sort of a disconnect between credibility of the governor and the expectation that her asks will be respected.”

Sen. Lee Beyer, D-Springfield, said Akenson and Finley do represent hunters and anglers.

“I think the two people you have in front of you today to vote on are incredibly qualified,” Beyer said. “One of them indeed is a property owner and an agricultural person. Perhaps small scale, perhaps not the one people wanted, but she does meet that qualification.”

### La Pine’s medical pot tax expected to face lawsuit

LA PINE (AP) — The city of La Pine’s tax on medical marijuana might be illegal.

Attorneys representing the Oregon Legislature said in a Nov. 13 letter that a law adopted by the Legislature earlier this year prohibits local government from taxing medical pot.

La Pine enacted the tax earlier this year on the two dispensaries in town. Randy Huff co-owns one of them, and says he’s been paying the city about \$500 dollars a month.

## 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
Snow and rain at times	Mostly sunny, breezy and cold	Plenty of sunshine, but cold	Sunshine, but cold	Mostly sunny and cold

### PENDLETON TEMPERATURE FORECAST

35°	25°	35°	15°	32°	13°	32°	14°	32°	16°
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### HERMISTON TEMPERATURE FORECAST

40°	33°	37°	14°	35°	15°	34°	15°	32°	17°
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### ALMANAC

**PENDLETON**  
through 3 p.m. yesterday

TEMPERATURE	HIGH	LOW
Yesterday	27°	24°
Normals	45°	31°
Records	75° (1933)	-12° (1985)

**PRECIPITATION**  
24 hours ending 3 p.m. 0.00"  
Month to date 0.84"  
Normal month to date 1.09"  
Year to date 7.47"  
Last year to date 10.36"  
Normal year to date 11.08"

**HERMISTON**  
through 3 p.m. yesterday

TEMPERATURE	HIGH	LOW
Yesterday	30°	28°
Normals	47°	31°
Records	68° (2011)	-11° (1985)

**PRECIPITATION**  
24 hours ending 3 p.m. 0.00"  
Month to date 0.58"  
Normal month to date 0.89"  
Year to date 5.16"  
Last year to date 6.25"  
Normal year to date 8.17"

### SUN AND MOON

Sunrise today	7:06 a.m.
Sunset tonight	4:17 p.m.
Moonrise tonight	3:55 p.m.
Moonset today	5:18 a.m.

Full	Last	New	First
Nov 25	Dec 2	Dec 11	Dec 18

### REGIONAL FORECAST

Coastal Oregon: Mostly cloudy today; a little rain; however, dry across the north.  
Eastern and Central Oregon: Cloudy; snow, 1-3 inches in central parts and near the Cascades; snow and rain, 1-2 inches across the north. Rain in the south.  
Western Washington: A little rain today; in the morning in central parts, any time across the south.  
Eastern Washington: Morning snow, then a rain or snow shower toward the Cascades and snow and rain across the south.  
Cascades: Colder today with occasional wet snow, accumulating 1-3 inches.  
Northern California: Rain today; heavy snow, accumulating 4-8 inches in the interior mountains.

### REGIONAL CITIES

	Today			Wed.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Astoria	48	34	c	49	32	s
Baker City	35	26	sn	32	11	sn
Bend	35	19	sn	24	7	sn
Brookings	50	38	r	51	37	s
Burns	41	23	sn	32	5	sn
Enterprise	38	24	sn	30	7	pc
Eugene	46	30	r	44	23	s
Heppner	36	23	sn	31	14	s
Hermiston	40	33	c	37	14	s
John Day	43	27	sn	29	12	sn
Klamath Falls	39	24	sn	32	11	sn
La Grande	39	27	sn	33	11	pc
Meacham	37	25	sn	31	13	c
Medford	44	34	r	42	23	pc
Newport	48	36	r	47	34	s
North Bend	51	36	r	50	32	s
Ontario	38	33	c	42	23	sn
Pasco	41	31	c	39	18	s
Pendleton	35	25	sn	35	15	s
Portland	46	32	r	46	29	s
Redmond	36	20	sn	27	7	sn
Salem	46	32	r	46	27	s
Spokane	36	23	sn	29	15	s
Ukiah	36	22	sn	26	6	pc
Vancouver	44	29	r	44	27	s
Walla Walla	37	29	sn	33	20	pc
Yakima	44	31	sn	40	16	s

### WORLD CITIES

	Today			Wed.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Beijing	25	14	sn	29	13	pc
Hong Kong	83	69	s	78	61	s
Jerusalem	65	52	s	66	55	pc
London	48	43	r	49	39	pc
Mexico City	73	50	pc	74	51	pc
Moscow	33	24	c	28	18	c
Paris	44	39	r	48	37	sh
Rome	57	41	c	55	44	sh
Seoul	48	35	c	42	23	sn
Sydney	78	64	s	86	71	s
Tokyo	65	51	pc	53	48	r

### WINDS

(in mph)	Today	Wednesday
Boardman	NNW 7-14	NNE 10-20
Pendleton	NNW 4-8	N 10-20

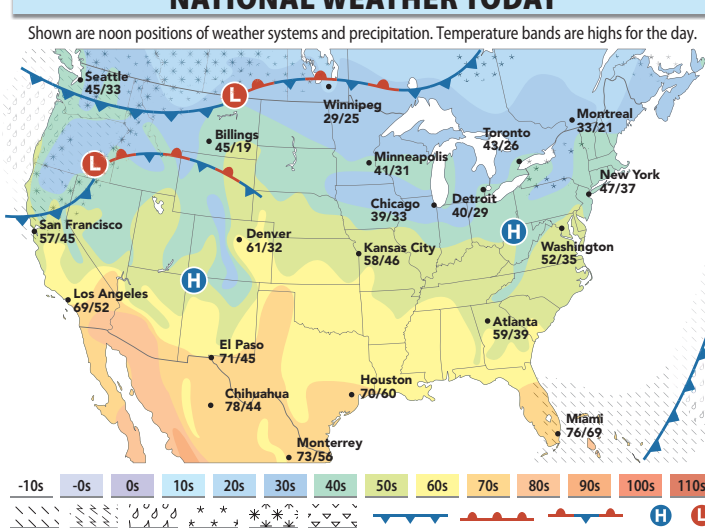
### UV INDEX TODAY

0	1	2	3	4	5
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: A storm will bring rain, snow and low snow levels to the Northwest as colder air arrives today. Meanwhile, much of the southeastern two-thirds of the nation will be sunny, except for showers in Florida.

Yesterday's National Extremes: (for the 48 contiguous states)  
High 82° in Chino, Calif. Low -6° in West Yellowstone, Mont.

### NATIONAL CITIES

	Today			Wed.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Albuquerque	60	36	s	62	43	pc
Atlanta	59	39	s	58	44	pc
Atlantic City	49	36	s	52	43	s
Baltimore	50	29	s	53	35	s
Billings	45	19	c	22	11	sn
Birmingham	60	40	c	63	50	pc
Boise	47	32	c	40	24	sn
Boston	44	32	pc	47	39	s
Charleston, SC	59	42	s	65	51	pc
Chicago, IL	59	37	s	60	38	pc
Cleveland	44	31	pc	55	41	pc
Dallas	67	59	pc	72	65	c
Denver	61	32	c	44	19	pc
Detroit	40	29	pc	49	41	pc
El Paso	71	45	s	75	55	pc
Fairbanks	30	24	sn	34	28	sn
Fargo	39	26	c	35	16	c
Honolulu	83	73	c	83	74	c
Houston	70	60	pc	76	65	c
Indianapolis	48	34	pc	55	43	pc
Jacksonville	65	55	pc	73	62	pc
Kansas City	58	46	pc	58	52	c
Las Vegas	72	51	pc	60	39	c
Little Rock	61	41	s	63	54	c
Los Angeles	69	52	pc	65	46	c
Louisville	55	38	s	60	46	s
Memphis	61	42	s	65	54	s
Miami	76	69	c	80	71	sh
Millwaukee	40	34	pc	45	41	c
Minneapolis	41	31	pc	45	29	r
Nashville	59	38	s	63	47	s