

# Oregon officials struggle to ID which pot sites are legal

By ANDREW SELSKY  
Associated Press

SALEM — An Oregon sheriff and district attorney on Tuesday blasted efforts to regulate legalized marijuana, saying the state is allowing black market operations to proliferate.

The issue is especially sensitive because U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions recently allowed federal prosecutors more leeway to pursue federal anti-marijuana laws in states like Oregon that have legalized pot. The top federal attorney in Oregon, Billy Williams, earlier this month warned of a crackdown, saying Oregon produces more marijuana than it consumes, with the overproduction feeding the black market.

Marijuana grow sites have flourished in many parts of the state, including in Deschutes County, Oregon's fastest-growing county which sprawls over high desert and the snowy peaks of the Cascade Range.

Deschutes County District Attorney John Hummel and Sheriff Shane Nelson announced charges stemming from an illegal grow site that deputies discovered accidentally — and sharply criticized state regulatory efforts as basically nonexistent.

"Our state has no regulation for the marijuana industry," Nelson said at a news conference in the district



AP Photo/Andrew Selsky, File  
In this 2016 file photo, Deschutes County District Attorney John Hummel stands in front of the county courthouse in Bend. Hummel has announced criminal charges arising from an illegal marijuana growing operation, which sheriff's deputies stumbled across in Deschutes County while searching for something else.

attorney's offices in Bend. "In order to have regulation an agency has to have enough resources to be effective at enforcement of the regulations. Oregon does not have this."

The Oregon Health Authority, which regulates medical marijuana, and the Oregon Liquor Control Commission, which regulates recreational marijuana, did not immediately respond to requests for comment on Tuesday's assertions.

Hummel and Nelson complained in a Feb. 7 letter to the health authority that local law enforcement officers often can't tell whether medical marijuana grow sites are legal or illegal because the agency hasn't provided a list of authorized sites.

"Unfortunately, our hands are often tied when it comes to enforcing manufacturing and cultivation laws," they wrote to Carole Yann, the agency's manager of the

medical marijuana program. They asked for a list of all registered medical marijuana grow sites in Deschutes County, but said they have not received a response.

Hummel told reporters the health authority conducted no inspections in Deschutes County in 2017, and said it is "ridiculous" that the agency provides a 10-day written notification of an inspection to growers.

Jonathan Modie, a spokesman for the health authority, said it is reviewing the letter and plans to respond soon. He confirmed that a 10-day notice is given for routine inspections but that for "complaint inspections," staffers may make an unannounced visit.

In the news conference, Nelson complained that the Oregon Liquor Control Commission has only 23 inspectors for more than 1,200 marijuana grows and retail outlets.

"Citizens must demand that the governor's office increase and fund more inspectors," he said.

The sheriff said he respects voters' wishes to legalize marijuana in Oregon but threatened to try to halt the establishment of more recreational marijuana businesses in the county.

"I have taken a stance. No more recreational commercial marijuana grows in Deschutes County," Nelson said. "The state needs to take a time out and assess the

oversupply that is more than likely going into the black market."

Nelson also said county officials are also concerned that the state will impose land use regulations for marijuana on the county, adding: "The state has no business in determining that."

Hummel said he is going to "work within the system" but that if the health authority doesn't provide a list of licensed growers he may speak with Gov. Kate Brown or lawmakers about further action.

Taking a back seat in the news conference was the announcement of criminal charges against Blake Pyfer, 27, of La Pine.

Hummel said deputies were searching with a warrant for a stolen snowboard in Pyfer's home when they found 98 mature marijuana plants growing in a room and 63 immature marijuana plants in a separate space. He is charged with unlawful manufacture of marijuana and unlawful possession of marijuana.

Hummel said Pyfer is a medical marijuana patient and was an authorized grower for one other patient, meaning he could legally possess 12 mature plants and 24 immature plants.

It was unclear if Pyfer had an attorney. He had no listed telephone number, and did not immediately respond to a reporter's message to a person with that name on Facebook.

## BRIEFLY

### Oregon child molester sentenced to 12 years

PORTLAND (AP) — A judge sentenced a convicted child molester to 12 1/2 years in prison despite a 17-year-old Portland girl recanting her story of sexual abuse.

Multnomah County Circuit Judge Leslie Roberts on Friday sentenced Hassan Mohamedhaji Noor to prison after discovering two months ago that the girl was under pressure from family and others in her Somali American community not to speak out, *The Oregonian*/OregonLive reported.

The 17-year-old girl called 911 last year to report the sexual abuse.

"There is no point in arguing that it didn't happen," said Roberts, directing her comments to the girl and an audience of more than 30 Noor supporters. Some cried as Noor was sentenced.

Noor's attorney, Christopher McCormack, asked for 6 1/4 years. He said Noor, who maintains his innocence, has done a lot of good as a hard-working father of six.

After a four-day trial in December, the judge found Noor guilty of sexually abusing three girls in his tight-knit

immigrant community, which numbers about 8,000 in Portland.

### Student asks lawmakers to help pay for Salem shelter

SALEM (AP) — A Salem high school student has asked Oregon lawmakers to help him open a shelter for homeless youth.

*The Statesman Journal* reports that McKay High senior Raul Marquez said in a letter that he has raised about \$125,000 for a shelter in the capital city, and needs another \$275,000.

Marquez noted the death of a homeless girl named Taylor, who he says died on the streets of Salem because she didn't have a warm place to sleep.

Jon Reeves, executive director of the Mid-Willamette Valley Community Action Agency, confirmed that a girl died, but declined to say what caused her death.

Marquez addressed his letter to Senate President Peter Courtney, D-Salem, and Rep. Nancy Nathanson, D-Eugene. They co-chair the Joint Committee on Ways and Means.

The shelter's proposed site is a former center for at-risk Latino youth that's now up for sale.

## In-state tuition for noncitizens steps closer

By PARIS ACHEN  
Capital Bureau

SALEM — Pushing back on federal policies on immigration, the Oregon Senate on Monday passed a bill that would give in-state college tuition to noncitizens who have graduated from an Oregon high school.

The bill was designed to address the Trump Administration's plan to eliminate the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program.

However, the bill also offers in-state tuition to noncitizens who never received DACA.

"These children are our children," said Senate President Peter Courtney, D-Salem, in a speech on the Senate floor Monday. He said children who were brought to the United States by their parents had no choice in the

matter and should not be penalized for their lives.

The Senate passed the bill 17-to-10, with support from 16 Democrats and one Republican, Sen. Alan DeBoer of Ashland. Ten other Senate Republicans voted against the bill.

Under existing law passed in 2013, undocumented students have to apply for an official federal identification document to be eligible for resident tuition at Oregon's public universities. The removal of DACA makes those documents impossible to obtain. The bill essentially removes the requirement to submit an official federal identification document

to receive in-state tuition. Instead, students only have to show that they graduated from an Oregon high school. That mirrors eligibility requirements for U.S. citizens in Oregon.

The bill also makes noncitizens eligible for scholarships, grants and other financial aid from public universities, community colleges and more.

Sen. Fred Girod, R-Stayton, said he opposed the legislation because it reneged on a bipartisan agreement when the 2013 law was passed to make noncitizens eligible to receive in-state tuition but not state financial aid.

## Corrections

Pilot Rock city recorder Teri Porter wrote the action plan to address deficiencies in the city's accounting practices. *The East Oregonian* ran inaccurate information in a 3A story Saturday. The *EO* sincerely regrets the error.

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TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
31° 19°	33° 16°	39° 31°	42° 29°	43° 33°

**PENDLETON TEMPERATURE FORECAST**  
31° 19° 33° 16° 39° 31° 42° 29° 43° 33°

**HERMISTON TEMPERATURE FORECAST**  
35° 22° 39° 19° 40° 34° 48° 30° 48° 34°

**ALMANAC**  
**PENDLETON**  
through 3 p.m. yesterday  
**TEMPERATURE**  
HIGH 33° LOW 12°  
Yesterday 33° 12°  
Normals 48° 30°  
Records 69° (1982) 7° (1957)  
**PRECIPITATION**  
24 hours ending 3 p.m. 0.00"  
Month to date 0.58"  
Normal month to date 0.82"  
Year to date 2.17"  
Last year to date 3.06"  
Normal year to date 2.20"

**HERMISTON**  
through 3 p.m. yesterday  
**TEMPERATURE**  
HIGH 37° LOW 17°  
Yesterday 37° 17°  
Normals 50° 29°  
Records 67° (1982) 16° (1955)  
**PRECIPITATION**  
24 hours ending 3 p.m. 0.00"  
Month to date 0.51"  
Normal month to date 0.69"  
Year to date 1.61"  
Last year to date 2.69"  
Normal year to date 1.97"

**SUN AND MOON**  
Sunrise today 6:48 a.m.  
Sunset tonight 5:30 p.m.  
Moonrise today 9:53 a.m.  
Moonset today 11:59 p.m.

First Full Last New  
Feb 22 Mar 1 Mar 9 Mar 17

**REGIONAL FORECAST**  
Coastal Oregon: Mostly cloudy today; a stray shower across the north. Partly sunny in the south.  
Eastern and Central Oregon: Times of clouds and sun today; a snow shower.  
Western Washington: Cloudy today; a couple of afternoon showers at the coast.  
Eastern Washington: Considerable cloudiness today, but increasing cloudiness in the north.  
Cascades: Mainly cloudy and chilly today; a couple of snow showers in the south.  
Northern California: Clouds and sun today.

**REGIONAL CITIES**

	Today			Thu.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Astoria	41	28	c	43	27	c
Baker City	31	18	pc	31	8	sn
Bend	29	15	sf	26	8	sf
Brookings	48	34	pc	48	30	sf
Burns	31	14	sf	28	2	sf
Enterprise	28	17	c	28	7	sf
Eugene	41	27	c	42	17	r
Heppner	28	16	c	30	13	c
Hermiston	35	22	c	39	19	c
John Day	32	20	sf	29	8	sf
Klamath Falls	37	15	sf	34	2	c
La Grande	31	19	pc	30	11	c
Meacham	28	16	c	27	8	c
Medford	47	26	sf	45	20	c
Newport	42	31	c	43	27	r
North Bend	46	33	c	46	27	r
Ontario	35	23	c	37	14	sf
Pasco	37	23	c	40	19	c
Pendleton	31	19	c	33	16	c
Portland	40	28	c	42	21	sf
Redmond	31	15	sf	31	7	c
Salem	43	28	c	43	21	r
Spokane	25	9	c	30	9	c
Ukiah	26	13	c	24	5	c
Vancouver	40	27	c	42	21	sf
Walla Walla	33	22	c	36	20	c
Yakima	37	21	c	40	15	c

**WORLD CITIES**

	Today			Thu.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Beijing	49	24	s	49	23	pc
Hong Kong	69	58	c	64	57	sh
Jerusalem	60	47	pc	58	44	s
London	46	33	sh	42	31	pc
Mexico City	76	51	pc	76	52	pc
Moscow	13	2	c	14	0	c
Paris	41	27	pc	39	26	s
Rome	53	38	sh	51	41	sh
Seoul	38	23	pc	43	25	pc
Sydney	76	67	pc	78	69	pc
Tokyo	46	36	c	42	37	c

**WINDS**  
(in mph) Today Thursday  
Boardman WNW 4-8 N 4-8  
Pendleton WNW 4-8 NNW 4-8

**UV INDEX TODAY**  
1 2 2 2 1 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:** Rain, flooding problems and thunderstorms are forecast from Texas to New York state today. Some ice will develop on the northwestern edge of the rain. Rain and snow showers will dot California and Oregon.

**Yesterday's National Extremes:** (for the 48 contiguous states)  
High 90° in Sarasota, Fla. Low -38° in West Yellowstone, Mont.

**NATIONAL CITIES**

	Today			Thur.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Albuquerque	49	32	s	49	28	s
Atlanta	78	64	pc	80	62	pc
Atlanta City	64	47	pc	49	39	r
Baltimore	75	50	pc	51	37	r
Billings	16	-1	s	17	-2	s
Birmingham	82	65	c	81	62	c
Boston	36	25	c	37	18	sn
Boston	70	39	pc	60	32	c
Charleston, SC	80	60	pc	81	60	pc
Chicago	34	27	pc	38	31	c
Cleveland	57	28	pc	40	35	i
Dallas	40	38	r	52	44	r
Denver	30	12	pc	30	15	pc
Detroit	43	28	r	40	31	pc
El Paso	63	36	pc	63	38	s
Fairbanks	28	24	c	35	18	sn
Fargo	15	3	s	25	14	pc
Honolulu	82	68	s	81	71	sh
Houston	73	59	r	77	66	r
Indianapolis	38	34	r	47	41	c
Jacksonville	82	62	pc	80	62	pc
Kansas City	31	25	c	38	33	i
Las Vegas	51	35	s	54	38	pc
Little Rock	47	41	r	55	51	r
Los Angeles	60	45	pc	58	44	pc
Louisville	59	44	r	56	51	r
Memphis	59	47	r	62	58	r
Miami	84	72	pc	85	71	pc
Millwaukee	34	27	pc	38	34	c
Minneapolis	24	8	s	30	22	sn
Nashville	72	57	t	65	62	t
New Orleans	83	70	t	83	68	pc
New York City	72	46	pc	47	35	r
Oklahoma City	32	26	i	41	30	i
Omaha	29	21	s	33	23	sn
Philadelphia	71	48	pc	49	37	r
Phoenix	61	41	pc	61	44	pc
Portland, ME	66	31	pc	39	22	pc
Providence	68	42	pc	43	31	c
Raleigh	78	62	pc	77	57	c
Rapid City	19	-3	s	20	4	pc
Reno	41	20	pc	25	16	sf
Sacramento	56	33	pc	53	30	pc
St. Louis	53	32	i	50	43	c
Salt Lake City	35	18	pc	39	23	c
San Diego	60	51	pc	62	52	pc
San Francisco	56	44	pc	55	39	pc
Seattle	39	29	c	41	28	c
Tucson	61	37	s	59	38	pc
Washington, DC	77	54	pc	54	42	r
Wichita	31	23	i	39	26	i

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