

Local / Sports

Marijuana dispensaries

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Chief Lohner began by talking of House Bill 3460 passed in 2013 that enables medical marijuana dispensaries to operate with in cities. "However, there was considerable opposition in a majority of cities throughout the State of Oregon," Lohner said. "As it was trying to be resolved the Senate went back and passed another bill that allowed for moratoriums to go into effect. 159 Oregon cities out of 242 including Baker City passed a moratorium to ban marijuana dispensaries for the year duration of the moratorium. Our City Council voted unanimously for this moratorium in our community. The Legislature also indicated they were going to back and readdress this, try to figure out where they wanted to go next with Medical Marijuana dispensaries. They never did that. In 80 days our prohibition, with the medical marijuana moratorium is up and people can begin submitting applications to open dispensaries in Baker City."

Last fall, Measure 91 was passed that not only legalized the use of recreational marijuana but also allows for commercial operations by producers, processors, wholesalers and retailers to open up shops.

"The majority, by land mass not voters because obviously the measure passed, voted against the measure. Every county east of the Cascades aside from Deschutes County voted against measure 91 with a Baker City statistic of 58% voting against the measure," said Lohner.

He provided council with a copy of a document called, "The Legalization of Marijuana in Colorado: The Impact, Volume 2." It was produced in August of 2014. Lohner read a few excerpts from the summary "to give council a better understanding as to why law enforcement feels that having marijuana more accessible in our communities is not a good thing."

Lohner read, "Traffic fatalities involving those testing positive for marijuana have increased 100% from 2007-2012. Youth marijuana use is 39% higher and adult use is 51% higher in Colorado than the national average."

"Emergency Room marijuana admissions, hospitalizations related to marijuana have increased 82% from 2008 to 2013. Marijuana related exposure for children ages 0-5 on average have increased

268% from 2010 - 2013."

Chief Lohner stressed that what he and other law enforcement persons are most in opposition to is not the use of recreational marijuana but the commercial operations.

According to Lohner the legislature did write into measure 91 that they will allow local communities to vote and decide whether they want to allow these commercial operations.

The problem is that applications will be taken in January of 2016 and the local vote will not happen until November of 2016.

"That allows in essence an 11-month loophole and my concern is that if you give something an opportunity to get a foothold and it is really hard to back-track," he said.

The Council then heard from citizens both in favor of dispensaries and against with both sides being well represented.

Among those present were representatives from the Baker County Prevention Coalition Coordinator, CEO of New Directions Northwest, and the South Baker Intermediate Principal, all of whom spoke in support of upholding the moratorium of banning dispensaries.

Garth Johnson represented the Ministers Association and provided Council with a document signed by many of the churches in the community. Johnson said, "Many of us work with or have worked with people who have used marijuana, for 10 years we have had two teams that go the prison, working with the men out there we have ministered, counseled and mentored hundreds and it's rare to find anyone that says marijuana was not the one of the doors that opened to the next thing. We would ask that you vote to continue this moratorium."

Al Free addressed the council stating, "You have nothing to fear from marijuana. I started smoking in 1970 and I've smoked with hundreds of people. 98% of them were good people. I started in college with college kids, they didn't cause anybody any problems because they were busy going to college. After college I smoked with families with small children. They didn't cause anybody any problems because they had children to raise. And now I smoke with grandmas and grandpas. I'm glad the insanity of marijuana prohibition is ending and I think the best way to thwart the black market is to approve a marijuana store."

Shawn McKay, co-owner of Eastern Oregon Analytical, a testing facility located in La Grande spoke next. He said, "Rather than going with an all-out ban, you have a unique opportunity under the moratorium to set up a structured system that allows you to regulate these facilities within your town. House bill 3460 coupled with senate bill 1531 allows local oversight by cities to control things such as place, time of operation, signage, and possibly even products sold on the shelves."

"Medical marijuana users account for about 4% of the population in Baker County, that is a small number but it is still a group that deserves safe access to this product in a regulated system where patients know that they can get a tested medicinal grade product free of pesticides and molds and mildews."

Marvin Sundean also commented saying, "One of the dirty little secrets in American History was that Prohibition came a lot closer to working than most people believe. The U.S. Government finally realized how many tax dollars they were losing, just a fact for you."

Sundean did go on to make his point in opposition of allowing dispensaries in our city.



Chief Wyn Lohner (right) seated with Doug Schwin.

Brent Smith, City Attorney advised Council regarding sales. In his opinion, it would not be in the best interest of the city to outright ban dispensaries, "that would be in violation of State law. But it would be incorrect for me to say there is absolutely no room to argue about local rule vs. State authority."

Smith did offer suggestion as to ways to regulate dispensaries that included land use codes.

Smith said, "State law allows cities to moratorium certain types of developments, not allowing for certain types of things to happen while we spend time updating our land development code, so it addresses a new type of business that wasn't anticipated under the current land development code. What

passing a moratorium does is it gives the city 120 days to make amendments to the land use development code that addresses the new types of businesses."

Smith explained, "The City would have to provide written notice to The Department of Land Conservation and Development with its intent to have the moratorium 40 days prior to the final public hearing if the moratorium is to be considered. If the city decides to go this route we can provide the proper notice to The Department of Land Conservation and Development immediately. I've already prepared a draft should the city chose to go this route."

For nearly an hour Mayor Mosier and Brent Smith sparred over whether or not an outright ban on dispensaries was going to be a good or bad decision for Baker City.

Smith argued that a ban could bring about a lawsuit, similar to one currently on appeal from the City of Cave Junction to which Mosier felt we could then back off if need be based on the final outcome of that case.

Upon further discussion and favorable noting of the land use idea Mayor Mosier brought up the city business license application wording as another possibility for keeping undesirable business out of our community.

She asked for a special session where Council can discuss language changes in City issued business licenses that will not allow a business in violation of Federal Law to operate with Baker City.

"I have been looking at the language and felt it needed to be updated for quite sometime anyway," she said in response to Smith advising that the changing of business license application wording now may seem a little too much like simply another way to ban dispensaries.

Wrestlers head to Pendleton, Heppner

Submitted by Brandon Young

Pendleton. We didn't match up very well with Pendleton with them Forfeiting many of the lower weights and Baker forfeiting many of the upper weights. This is what is going to hurt us going into the Regional Tournament is that we don't have kids in the upper weights. If we could have gained more fall athletes we would have had a better shot. Now we have to focus on getting our wrestlers into the Regional Finals matches and winning most of our matches by fall in order to have a shot at winning the tournament. Also, LaGrande rolled over for Mac-Hi as Mac-Hi won the dual 51 to 29 over LaGrande to claim the GOL League Dual Championship. Baker finished 2nd, LaGrande 3rd, and Ontario 4th. Mac-Hi has the numbers this year which has really paid off. Out of those numbers they also have a handful of some of the best wrestlers in the state. The GOL is going to still be a tight race and the difference in team points is going to get even closer at the state tournament.

- 106-Dawson Dollarhide (BK) Won by Forfeit
- 113-Jace Hays (BK) Won by Forfeit
- 120-James AhHee (BK) Won by Forfeit
- 126-T. Holcomb (PN) won by Fall over Logan Valentine (BK)
- 132-B. Badola (PN) won by Maj Dec 15-1 over Nick Blair (BK)
- 138-Marco Vela (BK) Won by Fall over S. Chambers (PN)
- 145-M. Holcomb (PN) Won by Fall over Sean Stanford (BK)
- 152-R. Skeen (PN) Won by Decision 6-3 over Dylan Feldmeier (BK)
- 160-M. Bliss (PN) Won by Forfeit
- 170-T. Platt (PN) Won by Fall over Peter Baker (BK)
- 182-S. Bliss (PN) Won by Forfeit
- 195-M. Taylor (PN) Won by Forfeit
- 220-Double Forfeit
- 285-Will Goodwin (BK) Won by Fall over J. Priester (PN)

Exhibition Matches:
132-Nick Blair (BK) Won by Fall over J. Townsley (PN)
170-A. Gear (PN) Won by Fall over S. Harper (BK)

Final Score:
Baker 30, Pendleton 43

Next up is Heppner this Saturday. We will be taking about 3/4 of the team and giving the rest the weekend off to get healed up for Regionals at Mac-Hi next Saturday the 14th.

Heppner. We took about half of our team to the Bank of Eastern Oregon Tournament in Heppner on Saturday. We bumped Jace Hays to 120 to get him some much needed competition and he delivered by pinning his first opponent and then defeating Mac-Hi's Riley Chester 5-1 to reach the finals against AJ Rockwell from Riverside. The first round was close but after that Rockwell was on the attack and was able to defeat Hays.

Freshmen Sam Harper had another great weekend earning two falls to finish with 6th place. Sam did everything right. Wrestling 170-195 pounds for a freshman is a tough deal, but Sam has kept a good attitude and continued to improve throughout the season!

Will Goodwin also had a great match against Hendrix of Culver. Hendrix is the top returning heavy weight in the 2A division. Hendrix built a 1-0 lead going into the final period and was able to get a reversal and then the fall. That was the hardest I have seen Will go after someone!

Dawson Dollarhide earned a big win over league opponent Zerba of Mac-Hi. The two had not met this season and Zerba had a good shot for the number 2 seed at Regionals. But, Dawson had something to say about that. The match was pretty close with the two going back and forth until Dawson was able to earn the fall over Zerba.

The team is looking like they are ready to compete next Saturday at Regionals. We have high expectations for ourselves and plan on setting a new school record for the most kids ever sent to the state tournament which is 8. Realistically we could send at least 10 kids to the state tournament and if we wrestle to our full potential even more.

Regionals is now only going to be a one day tournament. It will be on Feb. 14th in Milton-Freewater. Wrestling begins at 10 a.m.

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or experienced, email News@TheBakerCountyPress.com with "Random Acts of Kindness" in the subject line. We'll be sure to include your story.

• This one is from us here at The BCP: We

are thankful for the subscriber who sends little inspirational notes with her correspondence, and always seems to focus on what she likes rather than what's wrong with the world. She tends to make the day brighter just when it's needed!

