

RETREAT: Volunteers will help sustain and grow program

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an active farm by learning sustainable agriculture practices and growing food on the property. Food grown on the property will be used to feed veterans in the home, with excess donated to local food banks. The group is currently partnering with OSU Extension Service and researching agriculture methods such as holistic management and permaculture. Every piece of the project contains a way for veterans to get involved, be productive, and regain a sense of purpose.

The organization has received many pro bono services, from architects to The Home Depot donating building supplies. Long-term funding opportunities are being sought out with agencies such as USDA, Oregon Housing Community Services, the Veterans Innovative Projects fund, and Farmer Veteran Coalition, among others.

Two grant writers are actively working on grants, and the group will start a vigorous capital campaign to pay off the \$400,000 property within two years. They

are seeking financial contributions from the community to help build and sustain the effort.

With approximately 20,000 veterans throughout the tri-county (Deschutes, Crook, and Jefferson) area, there is a large population to be served — including a population here in Sisters Country. The ranch will need community support and funding to help with programs the government doesn't help with. Volunteers, including eager veterans, are actively approaching the organization and Perry believes more will continue to come to help, teach, and support this program.

She foresees eventually building tiny homes or cabins around the property where veterans can come for a "working retreat," a break from their lives for decompression and restoration; to be alone if that's what they need to heal, engage in community, or take advantage of supportive housing if they are near the end of their lives. Perry sees this ranch as the community's gift to those who have served.

For information, to donate, or to volunteer contact COVR at 541-706-9062 or go to www.centraloregonveteransranch.org.

Lawmakers seek tax code change for pot

By Gosia Wozniacka
Associated Press

PORTLAND (AP) — Two members of Oregon's congressional delegation plan to introduce bills that would allow marijuana businesses operating in compliance with state law to take federal deductions on taxes like other small businesses.

U.S. Sen. Ron Wyden and Congressman Earl Blumenauer say the legislation would alter a section of the federal tax code that prohibits anyone selling controlled substances from getting tax breaks. At a press conference on Thursday, the two legislators said they would introduce the bills next week.

Marijuana possession, sale, and cultivation continue to be offenses under federal law.

Congress prohibited anyone selling controlled substances from getting tax breaks in 1982, after a drug dealer claimed his yacht and weapon purchases as legitimate business expenses.

But Wyden and

Blumenauer said times have changed, and federal law hasn't caught up.

Last fall, Oregon joined Colorado, Washington state and Alaska and made pot legal for anyone over 21 to grow, buy, and possess. Oregon is also one of more than 20 states to allow the use of medical marijuana, which in many cases is sold through dispensaries.

"This is about having equitable treatment for legitimate businesses and putting them on an equal footing," Blumenauer said.

The Republican-led Congress has largely opposed marijuana legislation, and President Obama, at a town hall in Jamaica, said: "I do not foresee anytime soon Congress changing the law at a national basis."

There are over 200 medical marijuana dispensaries in Oregon. Recreational possession and growing will start in July.

Wyden and Blumenauer said the IRS rules are unfair and burdensome to marijuana business owners, who face tax rates of 70 to 90 percent.

CITY COUNCIL: Position will be open at end of April

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and fourth Thursdays of the month at 7 p.m. Workshops are held on the first and third Thursdays of the month at 8 a.m. and second and fourth Thursday of the month at 6 p.m. Meetings are held at City Hall.

Womack told *The Nugget* that he is resigning to focus on his young family.

For more information contact City Recorder Kathy Nelson by email at knelson@ci.sisters.or.us or call 541-323-5213.

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