

## MARIJUANA: Large-scale operations in conflict with rural values

*Continued from page 17*

Kathy Escott, secretary of the Williams Grange. "And the greenhouses they're building, with concrete or gravel floors, are literally like paving over farmland."

For many residents, the increased traffic generated by these grow sites on rural roads poses a danger to children.

"Usually it's newcomers that just don't get it," Escott said. "They're not part of the community."

Escott said the fences have become a problem for wildlife, particularly deer that cross roads to get to creeks and now find barriers blocking their way.

A licensed recreational grow known as ShadowBox Farms has been a lightning rod for neighbor complaints.

Six months ago, the grow site was criticized because of noise from its fans, said Dani Jurmann, chief executive officer of Shadowbox.

When new fans were installed, the complaints shifted to the long fence, he said. Trees have been planted in front of the fence, and in a few years they will obscure the fence from view.

"We've done everything we can possibly do," Jurmann said. "I really do believe in a couple of years, we will be all but forgotten."

Right now there is a lot of truck traffic delivering materials for drying sheds and other buildings. Once they're completed, he said, the traffic will be less than 10 percent of what it is now.

Jurmann said he and three families invested in the cannabis enterprise and bought 32 acres zoned exclusive farm use. They have two 40,000-square-foot greenhouse operations on two separate tax lots. Under Oregon law, farmland is allowed to generate noise, dust and other issues that may bother neighbors. Surrounding Jurmann's farm are properties zoned rural residential.

He said the families invested close to \$1 million for the property and spent far more than \$250,000 into the operation, which he said pumps a lot of money into the local economy. He said he doesn't want to see any rules that sharply curtail the ability to operate a successful agricultural venture on farmland.

"I lose sleep about the 70 or 80 people who will lose their jobs," he said.

Jurmann said he personally wouldn't vote for a moratorium that would block certain activities of new cannabis businesses.

"My feeling is it is a lost

cause," he said. "I think it's an interesting concept if a town like Williams wants to change state law. It's a noble pursuit."

But he said farmers can't be deprived of the essential tools needed to succeed.

"Greenhouses are a part of farming, and fans are a part of greenhouses," he said.

Mika Smith, vice chair of the Williams Town Council and Community Advisory Committee, said his community would like to develop local controls and local solutions to deal with the impact of this style of agriculture.

"We want reasonable regulations so when people come here they know what to do," Smith said. "People care about the land and quality of life out here and are concerned about the industrialization of our farmland."

Some of the friction has developed because large-scale growers don't take into account the impact of their operation on surrounding property owners.

One large-scale grower removed a series of berms that prevented water from flooding a neighboring property, Smith said.

He said at least two lawsuits have been filed over these neighbor disputes.

Other issues could be resolved by improving state regulations. While many growers have wooden fences, Smith said it's possible to get approval from the state to install deer fencing, which many find more attractive. He said these options need to be clearer for prospective growers.

Smith said he is working with legislators to develop some regulations that could help Williams and other communities.

Some local business owners have seen a surge in customers from large commercial grow sites, but not others.

Rebekah Rumery, owner of Takubeh Natural Market & Agricultural Supply, said the big conglomerates that are behind some of the large grow sites have not become part of the community.

Rumery said her store hasn't seen a big influx of business from the large grows, though one of her customers does have a large grow site.

"It is challenging for us to see, because those big corporations are not supporting small business," she said.

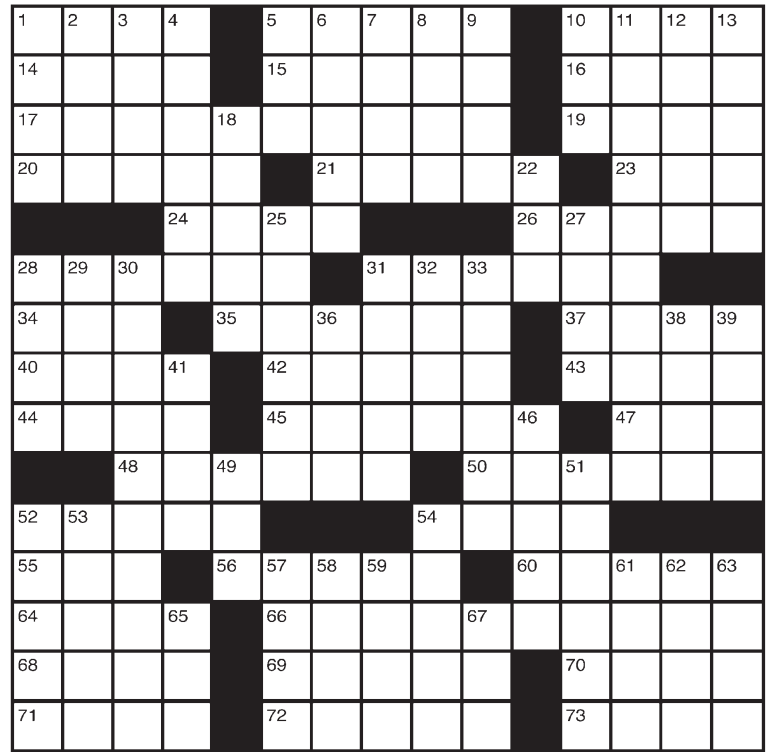
Instead, many of the big operations order their equipment from large supply houses and have them delivered by semi-truck, Rumery said.

She said Williams is particularly concerned about these issues that also affect many areas of Oregon because many of the local residents are active environmentalists and take pride in living in a community that exists with nature.

# The Nugget Newspaper Crossword

By Jacqueline E. Mathews, Tribune News Service

- ACROSS**
- 1 Underwear, for many
  - 5 Swamp
  - 10 Actor Sandler
  - 14 Wild feline
  - 15 Accuse
  - 16 Salami shop
  - 17 Unproven accusation
  - 19 Twirl
  - 20 Singer Reddy
  - 21 Uneasy feeling
  - 23 Blushing
  - 24 Laugh loudly
  - 26 \_\_\_ up; shares one's feelings
  - 28 Deep gulfs
  - 31 Ploy
  - 34 Geologic period
  - 35 Get away
  - 37 Present
  - 40 Filbert & pecan
  - 42 Stomach woe
  - 43 For \_\_\_; on the market
  - 44 Journey
  - 45 Elevates
  - 47 Soothing drink
  - 48 Concrete
  - 50 Earnest plea
  - 52 Haughtiness
  - 54 Make indistinct
  - 55 Drink like Fido
  - 56 Get stuck
  - 60 Fissures; splits
  - 64 Western state
  - 66 Rustic; not sophisticated
  - 68 Location
  - 69 Tater or yam
  - 70 Leafy cabbage
  - 71 Garden tools
  - 72 Grin
  - 73 Worry; fret
- DOWN**
- 1 Feeling \_\_\_; in a funk
  - 2 Contemptible
  - 3 Gift for a little girl
  - 4 Derisive smiles
  - 5 Advanced deg.
  - 6 Sanctuary table
  - 7 Weather forecast
  - 8 Air pollution
  - 9 Egg producers
  - 10 Billboards
  - 11 Go down in value
  - 12 Martian, for one
  - 13 Obeys
  - 18 Misshapen folklore fellow
  - 22 Tricycle rider
  - 25 Give confidence to
  - 27 Sty dwellers
  - 28 Penny
  - 29 Period of time
  - 30 Look for with expectation
  - 31 Understood, though not spoken
  - 32 Hairy beasts
  - 33 Breakfast order
  - 36 Extended family group
  - 38 Wingless insect
  - 39 Greenish-blue
  - 41 Drove fast
  - 46 Reject with scorn
  - 49 Blanc or Allen
  - 51 Pokes with a pinpoint
  - 52 Luxurious
  - 53 Numerical comparison
  - 54 Slanted edge
  - 57 Chooses
  - 58 Instrument for Ringo
  - 59 Asian desert
  - 61 Italian auto
  - 62 Story
  - 63 Killed
  - 65 "\_\_\_ got the whole world in His hands..."
  - 67 Anger



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews 7/12/17

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