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Voters will decide on taxing marijuana

Measure could allow city to implement 3 percent tax

Sheldon Traver
Special to the Statesman Journal

On March 7, the Silverton City Council made decisions on municipal code changes, a sales tax on marijuana, new franchise agreements and more.

In November, voters will get to decide whether or not to al-

low the city to implement a 3 percent tax on the sale of marijuana and marijuana products. The council approved a measure that will place it on the ballot. Mayor Rick Lewis expressed concern that the city didn't have the ability to revoke a business license for specific crimes.

"Potentially, someone could commit a fraudulent act, be investigated and charged with it and still operate until OLCC (Oregon Liquor Control Commission) takes action," he said. "That's a little disconcerting to me."

Oregon state law requires city to send tax requests to the voters and cannot be implemented until approved by voters in Silverton city limits.

The council had its first reading on proposed code changes within the general commercial

district. It increases the minimum level of design for new buildings within the district. Most of the available commercial property sits along North First Street near Roth's Fresh Market.

The proposed changes included a ban on bubble style awnings in favor of flat, pitched awnings, requiring decorative details on street facing roofs, restrictions on specific building materials such as glass block, poured concrete and more.

A code amendment to limit

the number of stories allowed on residential and commercial buildings was also approved. The change came after developers for the proposed Silver Place Apartments sought to build 3-story units that met the city's height restrictions. After prolonged discussions, the council asked for code changes to specify the maximum number of stories a building could be. Additionally, the city council approved new franchise agreements with WAVE Cable and Frontier Communications.

SILVERTON GIRLS WIN STATE TITLE

Marijuana dispensary opens in Silverton

Sheldon Traver
Special to the Appeal Tribune

After recently approved changes to Silverton's ordinances to allow marijuana production and sales, the city's first dispensary has opened.

On March 5, Lucky Leaf opened its doors for recreational and medical marijuana sales. The shop is co-owned by Colby Jackson and Lesta Bentley, both long-time advocates for medical marijuana use.

They first considered a shop in Silverton last summer, but the city hadn't yet approved sales in the city or decided how to zone retail and production facilities.

"We have actually talked about a facility for years," Bentley said. "In August we started looking for locations in Silverton, but had trouble finding a location outside of the expected exclusion zone and someone who would rent to us."

Eventually, they found a location at 208 Jersey Street next to the Old Oak Oven, but still had to wait for the city council to approve zoning changes and regulations before submitting a business license application.

"Once we found the location, everything else came through," Bentley said. "It seemed all of the doors opened to us."

Bentley's journey to marijuana sales started when close family members were diagnosed with disorders including ALS, also known as Lou Gehrig's disease, and seizure disorders. She was the primary caregiver for both her brother and a nephew and saw for herself the difference cannabinoid products made for them.

"I wasn't interested because of recreational use," she said. "Even if it wasn't something that would save their lives, it was a quality of life issue."

While Bentley and Jackson both own the Lucky Leaf, Bentley is the one who primarily makes recommendations on product strains and dosages to their customers be-

See MARIJUANA, Page 2A



SHELDON TRAVERS/SPECIAL TO THE APPEAL TRIBUNE

Silverton High School won the OSAA 5A state title against Springfield on Saturday, defeating Springfield 39-38.

The Silverton Foxes outscored Springfield 18-8 in the final period and scored a 39-38 win against the Millers in the Class 5A state championship game at Oregon State University's Gill Coliseum.

The Foxes finished 28-0 — the first undefeated season in the program's history. Read more, Page 1B.

Schools mourn student, teacher

Whitney M Woodworth
Statesman Journal

A community is in mourning following a fatal crash Friday near Molalla that killed a Bethany Charter School teacher and a Silverton High School student.

Grief counselors were on hand at both schools last Monday to help students and faculty cope with the deaths of Douglas Bonham, a fifth- and sixth-grade teacher at Be-



MOLLY J. SMITH/
STATESMAN JOURNAL

Community members gather for a candlelight vigil for Douglas Bonham and Matthew Albrecht at Bethany Charter School in Silverton last Monday.

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