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Freres not just lumbering along

Company unveils innovative mass plywood panel

JUSTIN MUCH
STAYTON MAIL

They have the raw material. They have the tools. They've been inventing and testing the product for some time.

Once the patents are in place and the production equipment is built, Lyons-based Freres Lumber Company hopes its latest innovation will revolutionize construction.

On Friday, Oct. 21, Freres unveiled "Mass Plywood Panel," a new-to-market, veneer-based wood product engineered, tested and refined in partnership with Oregon State University.

"It's pretty exciting, I've got to say,"

said Freres Executive Vice President Rob Freres, who said they've worked on developing the panel for more than a year.

"It's a major innovation – maybe the first veneer-based product of this size and scale that's been proposed to the marketplace," Freres said. "It is a large investment...but that's what it takes to differentiate yourself, add value and stay on the cutting edge of innovation and technology."

A spokesperson for the company said Freres will share the news with industry peers during the North American Wholesale Lumber Association's annual Traders Market tradeshow, Oct. 26-18 in Las

Vegas.

Freres Vice President of Sales Tyler Freres described the Mass Plywood Panel as a massive, large-scale plywood panel with dimensions up to 12-feet wide, 48-feet long and 24-inches thick. The panels are customizable to fit specific projects.

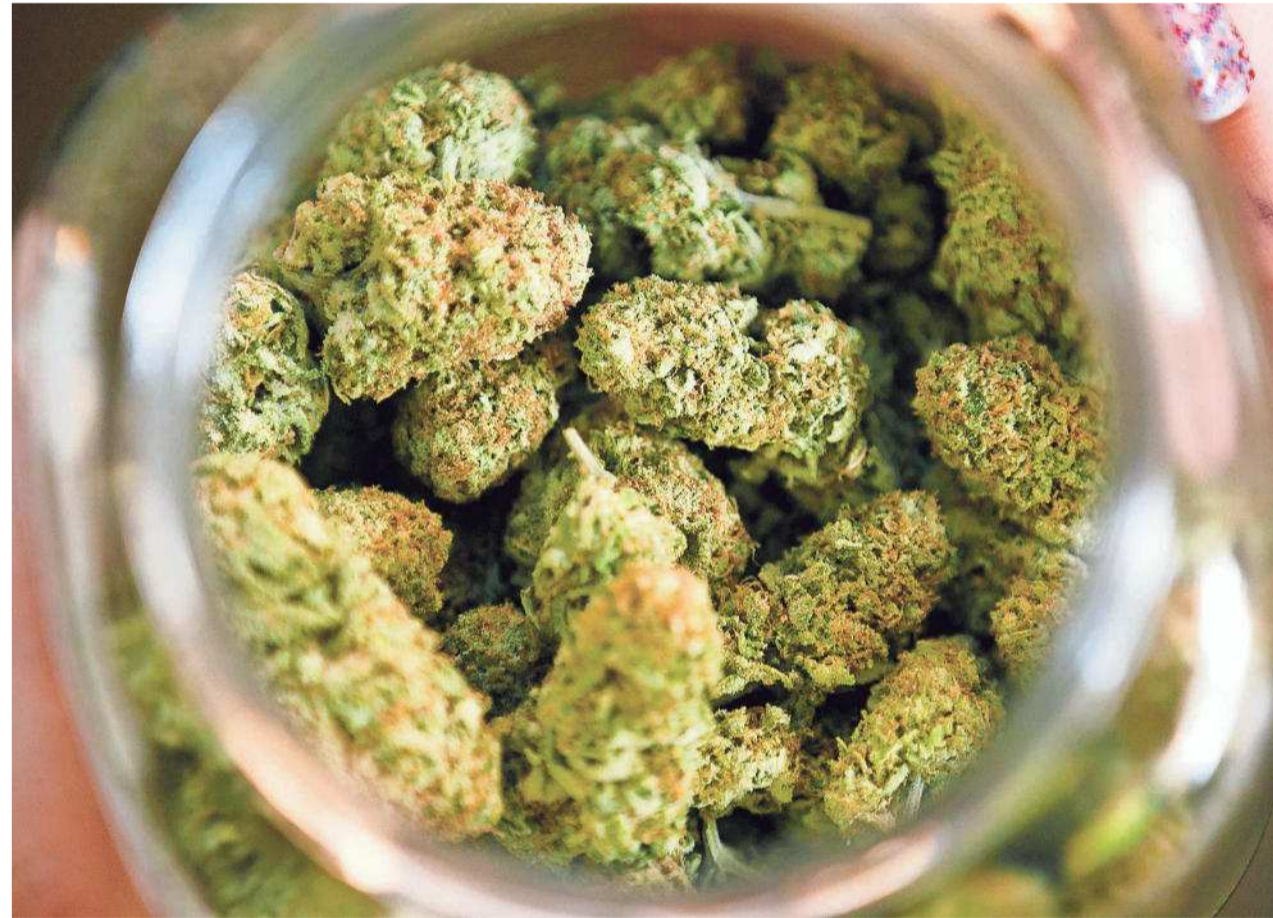
Mass Plywood Panel is designed as an alternative to Cross Laminated Timbers, which is an engineered panel that allows wood products to be used for multi-story buildings while also speeding up construction. Freres said the two products are differentiated in that Mass Plywood Panel uses engineered veneer and cus-

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MATTHEW SWAIN, SPECIAL TO THE STAYTON MAIL
Tyler and Kyle Freres look forward to showcasing the company's new product, Mass Plywood Panel (MPP).

Voters to choose: tax or ban pot sales



Pineapple Kush marijuana buds.

MOLLY J. SMITH/STATESMAN JOURNAL FILE

JONATHAN BACH
STATESMAN JOURNAL

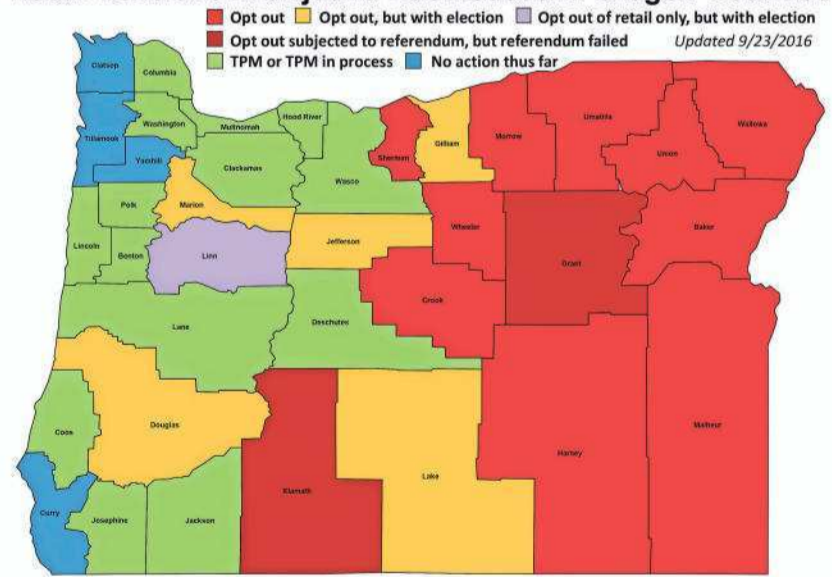
Voters in Oregon counties dotting the state will decide whether to locally tax or ban the sale of marijuana, signaling the multimillion-dollar industry could face frustration after recreational sales of the plant were made legal last year.

The local ballot measures — including those in Marion County — come at a time when legal marijuana appears to have become more palatable nationwide. A recent Gallup poll released shows record support across the nation for legalization efforts as 60 percent of Americans polled said they were in favor of the crop.

Gallup forecasts the number of people living where marijuana is le-

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Local Control of Marijuana Businesses in Oregon Counties



Town full of 'Fools' takes the stage at Silverton High School

CHRISTENA BROOKS
SPECIAL TO THE APPEAL TRIBUNE

For the last 10 of his 27 years at Silverton High School, drama teacher Doug Ousterhout has been waiting to produce the play "Fools" by Neil Simon.

"Fools" is a comic fable that's "more silly than funny," he said, as it offers up 90 minutes of entertainment with droll dialogue and unforgettably outrageous characters.

Silverton High's handpicked cast of 10 – nearly all of them upperclassmen – keeps the laughter coming with a strong does of comedic timing.

"You have to play off each other," said Carson Krause. "There are sections of scenes that are just funny."

Krause, a senior, is cast as Leon Tolchinsky, an ambitious young schoolteacher charged with educating the daughter of the town doctor, Dr. Zubritsky, in the 19th-century Ukrainian village of Kulyenchikov. His confidence in his ability is stripped away as he discovers that the entire village – from butcher to postmaster – is terribly and completely stupid. From the get-go, he is confronted with citizens who can't even remember their own names, let alone learn reading, writing and arithmetic.

"Dr. Zubritsky thinks the answer to the question, 'What is the meaning of life?' is '12,'" Krause said.

Dr. Zubritsky is played by Jonah Semmerikov, a senior whose own Russian heritage has helped the entire cast properly pronounce the play's real and fictitious Ukrainian names.

In the play, as Leon struggles unsuccessfully to education his pupil, the lovely-but-dimwitted Sophie, played by Theresa Gerig, he falls in love with her and learns that the town's collective stupidity is the result of a 200-year-old curse. Warned that he too will succumb to it, he races against time to devise a con clever enough to save everyone.

"The audience is going to enjoy the humor and the characterization in this play," Ousterhout said.

"Fools" one of Simon's few fully family-friendly plays, a good show for audiences of all ages. Originally, "Fools" played for just 40 days on Broadway in 1981. It was reincarnated

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Marion cultural grants give life to art

ANNETTE UTZ
FOR THE STAYTON MAIL

Arts are alive and kicking in the valley with the assistance of the Marion Cultural Development Corporation.

The MCDC has recently announced the recipients of \$40,800 of Oregon Cultural Trust funding for 2017 projects to 22 Marion county non-profits. Organizations receiving funds from MCDC must match the grants with their own

funds and projects must be completed during the 2017 grant cycle.

Recipients in the east Willamette Valley include: Santiam School District, Mill City, which was awarded \$2,000 for the Missoula Children's Theatre project; the Silverton Rotary Foundation, receiving \$2,000 to finish the mosaic work on the city's historic fountain; Stayton Friends of the Library was granted \$2,000 for the Oregon Author Series; the Geer Crest Foundation in Silverton re-

ceived \$1,500 for the Our Town documentary web series of storytelling in Silverton, Mt. Angel, Scotts Mills, and Stayton.

Endeavors by the organizations must promote awareness of Marion County's cultural assets and strengthen their communities by upholding diverse cultural traditions and the distinctive historic character of small towns and neighborhoods. County coalitions

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