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Good day to our valued subscriber Bruce Anderson of La Grande

Joseph overturns ban on pot sales

■ OLCC not accepting applications, dispensary not likely until 2020

By Max Denning
The Observer

In one of the tightest races of last week's election day, the City of Joseph voted to repeal its ban on the sale of recreational marijuana within city limits. The measure passed by only 21 votes, 357-336.

Sean Flanagan, owner of The Peace Pipe, which sells smoking paraphernalia in Joseph, was the chief petitioner for the ballot measure. He said he was overjoyed by the results.

"It's a super great feeling to have it passed," Flanagan said Saturday. "I'm thankful for all the support we've had for the three to four years we've been working on this."

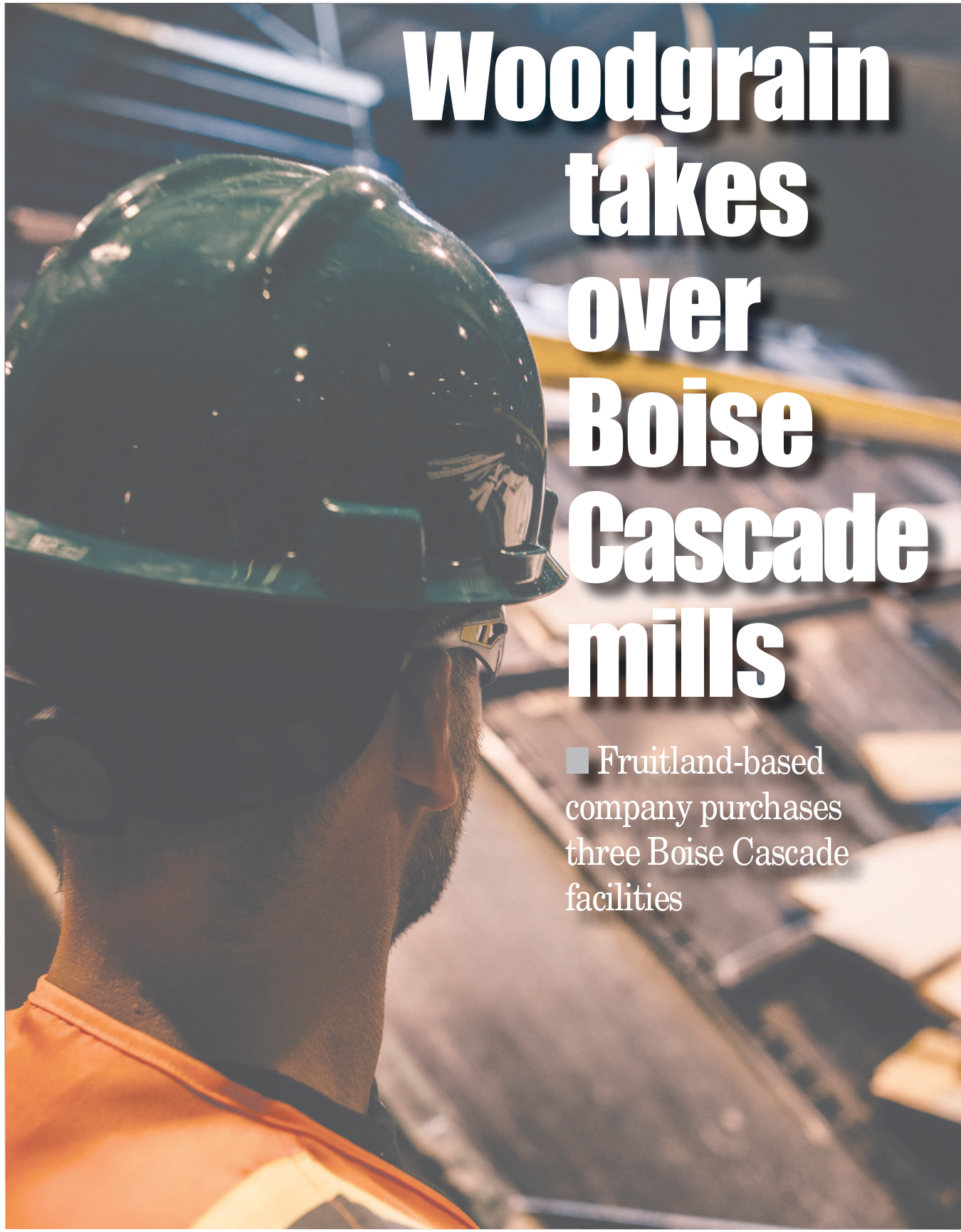
Yet, the road to having a dispensary in Joseph is still a long one. On May 30, the Oregon Liquor Control Commission, which issues permits for marijuana dispensaries, announced it would be temporarily pausing the processing of recreational marijuana license applications. Newly appointed Joseph Mayor Teresa Sajonia said the OLCC told her it would be 10 to 14 months before a license would be processed for a potential dispensary in Joseph.

Sajonia said she did not want to discuss the marijuana issue further, as the council still needs to decide on the city's next steps.

Flanagan said he was "very frustrated" by the fact that it could be 2020 before there was a dispensary in Joseph.

OLCC's backlog is not the only thing keeping a dispensary from Joseph's main drag of restaurants and shops. In 2015, Joseph passed an ordinance that banned any marijuana dispensaries from being within 1,000 feet of a school, public

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Woodgrain takes over Boise Cascade mills

■ Fruitland-based company purchases three Boise Cascade facilities

By Cherise Kaechele
The Observer

Woodgrain Millwork has officially taken over three Boise Cascade mills in Northeast Oregon.

According to Tanner Dame, corporate marketing manager for Woodgrain, which has its headquarters in Fruitland, Idaho, officially began production Nov. 5 in the La Grande and Pilot Rock sawmills as well as the particle-board plant in Island City.

Woodgrain announced in mid-September that it was in the process of purchasing the three Boise Cascade operations

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Contributed photos

Fruitland-based company Woodgrain has officially taken over three Boise Cascade locations in Northeast Oregon. The transition began more than a week ago, and the company said it did not lay off employees.

Community rallies to help families

■ Office of Student Diversity and Inclusion spearheads relief efforts for Typhoon Yutu families

By Audrey Love
The Observer

Super Typhoon Yutu hit the Northern Marianas Islands on Oct. 24. The 14-island U.S. commonwealth in the western Pacific — 5,773 miles from La Grande — was ravaged by 180 mph winds in a Category 5 storm hailed as "the most powerful storm on earth this year (and) the worst to hit any part of the U.S. since 1935," according to The Washington Post.

For 21 families in Eastern Oregon and La Grande, Yutu's devastation hit home. Many Pacific Islanders in the region hail from the Northern Marianas and have family residing there who experienced either major damage or total devastation following the storm. Relief efforts on Eastern Oregon University's campus soon took shape.

"This initially started as support for students, empowering them to help their families, even from afar," said Bennie Moses-Mesubed, director of the Office of Student Diversity and Inclusion at EOU. "We found there were a lot of students not only grieving but reliving what had happened (with previous typhoons)."

The region's Pacific Islander community is also represented in EOU's student population, and many students — not just those directly affected by the disaster — felt led to act.

"There were a lot of inquiries about how we could help," Moses-Mesubed said. "We've seen so much support. It's been really wonderful to see how the community comes together — to embrace diversity this way and showcase the care of

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Imbler students salute veterans with annual assembly

By Dick Mason
The Observer

Imbler School District students closed their Chromebooks and textbooks late Friday morning and opened their hearts to 35 local veterans.

Continuing a proud tradition in their school district, the students were participating in its annual Veterans Day Assembly.

The pageantry-filled program kicked off with a procession of veterans walking from Imbler

Elementary School to the Imbler High School gym, greeted by two lines of students waving flags while the high school's band played patriotic music.

It was a scene fit for a Norman Rockwell painting.

In the gym there was a presentation of the colors, and the National Anthem was played by the IHS band. The band also played songs honoring each branch of the U.S. Armed Forces. Next, IHS seniors Karrington Troyer and

Sadie Royes, both members of IHS's Future Business Leaders of America chapter, which put on the assembly, addressed their classmates.

Troyer emphasized that the program was meant to salute all veterans.

"Today we honor our heroes that are present, but those in spirit as well," she said. "It's hard for me to express the amount of gratitude that I have for all of

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Dick Mason / The Observer

La Grande World War II veteran Leonard Morse leads a procession for Friday's Veterans Day Assembly in the Imbler School District.



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WEATHER

Full forecast on the back of B section



Tonight
24 Low
Mainly clear



Tuesday
48/29
Mostly sunny

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WEDNESDAY IN GO!

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