

Business & Ag

Halfway's proposed dispensary

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In July of 2015, Oregon followed in the footsteps of Colorado and Washington, changing state law to legalize recreational marijuana. The Oregon law allows individual households to have up to four marijuana plants.

As cities around the state have discovered, feelings regarding the growth, processing and use of marijuana continue to run high. As of September 29, 2016, 89 cities and counties around Oregon have opted to prohibit either the production, processing, wholesaling or retail sales of recreational marijuana.

Sales of recreational marijuana are taxed in Oregon. As of January 4, 2016, a 25% sales tax was imposed on recreational marijuana sales at medical dispensaries.

The 25-percent tax wasn't permanent, however. When OLCC-licensed recreational marijuana stores began to open, the charge dropped to a 17-percent state sales tax, with local municipalities able to tack on up to an additional 3 percent — bringing the maximum to 20%.

The Oregon Department of Revenue explains how the tax monies will be used:

- 40% will go to Oregon's Common School Fund
- 20% will go to Oregon's Mental Health Alcoholism and Drug Services Account
- 15% will go to Oregon State Police
- 10% will go to participating cities' law enforcement offices
- 10% will go to participating counties' law enforcement offices
- 5% will go to the Oregon Health Authority for alcohol and drug abuse prevention, early intervention and treatment services.

This distribution of the tax monies is for the 17% Oregon State tax. The additional amounts, up to 3% as decided by local city councils, will remain in the locale in which the sales were made.

2015 reported total tax revenue in Colorado

netted about \$69 million from marijuana taxes in the fiscal year that ended June 30. The tax rates vary by locality, making it difficult to extrapolate to Oregon's projected revenue, but Washington state had a similar revenue, \$70 million taxes received for 2015 (the first year of legalized sales.)

Halfway, Oregon, 52 miles from Baker City and with a population of 288 (2010 census), is currently in the process of deciding whether or not to allow a marijuana dispensary to open its doors downtown.

The prospective owners, Derek and Amy Olley, moved to Halfway with their large, blended family just a few months ago. Derek, a former football player for Boise State, (1997-2001) had been experiencing severe pain resulting from his years in football.

His physician had been prescribing increasingly stronger doses of opiate pain medications.

The resulting addiction to the pain medications was taking its toll, not only on Derek's body but on his emotional and psychological health.

His family was becoming concerned about his mood swings on the opiates. As he explained, "I discovered the kids would ask Amy when they came home from school 'What's Dad's mood?'"

He also found meeting the requirements of his career at Simplot more difficult.

Finally Derek and Amy, his wife, decided that the damage had gone far enough. She began researching alternative forms of therapy, and she, Derek, and their children began their journey to health. After experimenting with a number of alternatives, Amy found a supplier in Washington state who could provide Derek with the salves that finally brought his pain under control. These salves utilized CBD oil, derived from marijuana.

They travelled to Prosser, Washington from their home in Boise on a regular basis. During their travels they explored different



Submitted photo.

As of October 1, 2016, this symbol is required on all marijuana products being sold in Oregon, including marijuana plants, seeds, usable marijuana and cannabinoid products, as outlined in OAR 333-007 in the labeling rules.

parts of Oregon, including Halfway. Both had grown up in small, rural communities and the ambiance and beauty of Halfway itself and the surrounding areas appealed to them both.

Their children were growing up in a city, but both parents wanted to offer them the safety and sense of community only found in smaller towns.

The success Derek had experienced using the marijuana-based medications gave them the idea to share what their family had found, and open a dispensary.

The Olleys did their research before buying their home in Halfway; they met with the City Council to see if their proposal to open a marijuana dispensary would find approval. Amy spoke to Sheriff Ash about their plans, and they spoke to everyone they came across to discover the prevailing attitudes toward a dispensary opening in downtown Halfway. With the consensus being that the City Council was supportive and the community members seemed, in general, positive, the Olleys found a storefront downtown and settled into their home in the hills outside the edge of town. They began moving forward with their plans to open "H2H," or Halfway to Happy.

Their market research showed that, within a short time of opening, they would be able to hire a large number of employees from the local workforce. The process of growing,

processing, manufacturing and selling marijuana in various forms is labour-intensive and time consuming. Their projected plans include, as Amy exclaims, "hiring local people who are, due to transportation, health or family issues, unable to easily leave Halfway to find work."

In late June the Olleys found that a ballot for an initiative petition had been filed with the Baker County Clerk on June 23rd. This petition states, "Prohibits certain marijuana registrants and or licenses in Halfway, Oregon.

"The initiative would, if passed, ban all marijuana activity including medical marijuana producers, processors and dispensaries and also all recreational marijuana producers, processors, wholesalers and retailers within city limits."

The petition does not clarify how enforcement will be provided, nor a funding method to do so.

Currently Halfway benefits from the part time services of a Baker Deputy Sheriff, paid for by Idaho Power. Additional hours for enforcement may prove problematic to fund.

Currently unable to move forward until after the vote November 8th, Derek and Amy Olley have enrolled their children in Pine Eagle Charter School, Halfway's K-12 school, and Amy's sister has moved from out of state to join them. The family remains hopeful that the voters will support their plans but, either way, say they don't regret moving to Halfway.

The Sycamore Tree to change owners

Jackie Adams, owner of The Sycamore Tree on Main Street has announced that as of December 31 of this year, she and her husband, Lance will no longer operate the business.

The store has been sold to new owners Rob and Josey Gaslin who will take over operations in 2017.

Adams said in an email to vendors and customers, "Thank you for nine won-

derful years of service—and in some cases a great friendship."

Adams will oversee one final fall open house and

Christmas preview starting November 3.

For more details, please turn to the advertisement on page 14.




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The doctor speaks Spanish— El doctor habla Español.

— WEEKLY HAY REPORT —

Friday, October 21, 2016 — Eastern Oregon

Prices trended generally steady compared to week ago prices. Most demand lays with the retail/stable hay. According to some producers, horse owners are starting to prefer lower sugar, higher protein hay. Recent rainstorms throughout the state have slowed movement.

Tons Price Range Wtd Avg
No new sales confirmed.

Last week:

Alfalfa — Large Square Supreme
113 140.00-140.00 140.00
Alfalfa — Large Square Good / Premium
500 150.00-150.00 150.00
Alfalfa— Large Square Good
400 115.00-115.00 115.00

USDA Market News Service—AMS.USDA.gov

— CATTLE MARKET REPORT —

Wednesday, October 19, 2016

Vale, Oregon

Cattle sold through the auction: 1,035

Steer Calves

300-400# Bulk 125.00 - 135.00 Top 140.00
400-500# Bulk 110.00 - 133.00 Top 136.00
500-600# Bulk 100.00 - 113.00 Top 117.00

Heifer Calves

300-400# Bulk 110.00 - 118.00 Top 122.00
400-500# Bulk 94.00 - 113.00 Top 119.00
500-600# Bulk 95.00 - 103.00 Top 105.00

Yearling Steers

600-700# Bulk 90.00 - 107.00 Top 110.25
700-800# Bulk 89.00 - 105.00 Top 108.25
800-900# Bulk 87.00 - 100.00 Top 101.00
900-1,000# Bulk 80.00 - 91.00 Top 93.50

Yearling Heifers

600-700# Bulk 89.00 - 94.00 Top 97.50
700-800# Bulk 87.00 - 92.00 Top 96.00
800-900# Bulk 85.00 - 95.00 Top 99.00
900-1,000# Bulk 76.00 - 85.00 Top 87.50

Thin Shelly Cows 42.00 - 53.00
Butcher Cows 54.00 - 62.00
Butcher Bulls 49.00 - 64.00
Pairs Young 1300.00 - 1475.00
Hfretts. 75.00 - 95.00
Stock Cows Young - N/A

ProducersLivestock.com
541-473-3136

— LOG PRICE REPORT —

Price per 1,000 board feet: Northeast Oregon

Currently the local log market is flooded with fire salvage logs. The log buyer for Malheur Lumber Co. stated they have all the logs they need under contract and are not accepting any new purchases. BCC/LLC of La Grande has receive so many burned fire salvage logs they are no longer accepting logs at the La Grande log yard. Any additional pine logs have to be delivered to the Elgin Log yard cut in plywood lengths and to a 8 inch top. For these pine logs cut in plywood lengths, BCC is offering \$280.00/mbf. They are also paying \$420.00/mbf for Doug Fir & Western Larch. For White Fir they are offering \$325.00/mbf. At the Pilot Rock Saw Mill BCC is offering \$360.00/mbf for a 12 to 15 inch top, for 16 to 19 inch top \$400.00/mbf & offering \$425.00/mbf for 20 inch plus top

Courtesy of Arvid Andersen,
Andersen Forestry Consulting

— PRECIOUS METALS REPORT —

Price per ounce, USD

Gold: \$1,274.30

Silver: \$17.77

Platinum: \$964.50

Palladium: \$634.50

Bloomberg.com

— AG COMMODITIES —

Corn: \$349.25/bu/USD

Wheat: \$404.25/bu/USD

Soybeans: \$1002.25/bu/USD

Oats: \$212.00 bu/USD

Rough Rice: \$9.84/cwt/USD

Canola: \$513.70 CAD/mwt

Live Cattle: \$99.00/lb./USD

Feeder Cattle: \$103.70/lb./USD

Lean Hogs: \$44.63/lb./USD

Bloomberg.com