



Life in the Valley of Riches

By DAN MANCUSO, Publisher

I love politicians. Seriously, I do. For me, following local politics is sometimes the same as reading the comics when I was a kid.

One recent head-scratcher was caused by county commissioner Keith Heck

The Humane Society of the United States and The Humane Society Wildlife Land Trust are offering a reward of up to \$5,000 for information leading to the identification, arrest and conviction of the person or persons responsible for illegally shooting a fawn in Douglas County, Ore. This reward adds to an existing reward from the Oregon Hunters Association.

Heck said in an April 24 general discussion meeting that people who were raising the reward were wasting their time

on a nonsense issue. Seriously? Wanting to prosecute someone who illegally killed Bambi is a waste of time? As a lifelong deer hunter, I find the act of killing a fawn nearly on par with child abuse.

Since Commissioner Heck is so concerned with wasting time on nonsense, why is he spending time in a meeting even talking about this? Now, that is spending time on nonsense. Maybe he could spend some time finding a way to keep a key for the county building in Cave Junction so that we don't have to travel to Grants Pass to pick one up.

Now, I can't leave our own Cave Junction City Council out of my little diatribe. In a move that some laud as prudent, the city council has decided to ask a federal judge to rule whether the city can violate federal law regarding marijuana. That move comes at the urging of an attorney that will charge the city upwards of \$16,000. Really? Is this really a wise way to spend our tax dollars? Why not just pass a moratorium until a larger city like Bend or Portland figure things out.

Thank you for picking up this week's paper, enjoy \sim djm

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Jacobson then opened the discussion to those present in council chambers and Robert A. Graham, Jr. an attorney who practices in Grants Pass specializing in medical marijuana issues stepped to the podium. He pointed out that dispensaries will be highly regulated.

"It will be far more regulated than pharmacies that handle opiates," he said. "Buyers must present I.D. and the Oregon Health Authority will know who they are. The dispensaries must have cameras every 15 feet. What pharmacy has that?"

Given the small size of the city, Graham estimated that there would at most be two dispensaries, one at one end of town and one at the other.

Graham also pointed out that, "T've yet to see a dispensary built out under less than \$125,000 to \$150,000 – they look like doctor's offices and the only people allowed to be there are those with medical marijuana cards."

Graham also said, "You could pass an ordinance requiring a \$5,000 tax every year. You're free to regulate the time, place and manner."

Graham also questioned how Cave Junction has the grounds for a lawsuit.

"Where's your injury?" he asked. "You must be sure you have a claim that can be pursued in court. There's no possibility of liability for the city and anyone who says so is fear-mongering regarding the Controlled Substance Act."

In advance of the regular meeting on Monday, Susan Hayes, who wants to open a dispensary, submitted many pages of information to City Recorder Ryan Nolan which were included in the informational packets; but the council's decision on her request to allow a dispensary on a trial basis was postponed. In other city business, voting on an ordinance to amend the city's requirements for the sewer system, essentially updating the grease trap program, was postponed and Nolan asked that citizens interested in the issue come to city hall to read the entire ordinance.

A decision was also made to postpone discussion of an updated code of ethics for city councilors until the July 14 meeting.

Nolan also announced that Gardiner and ODOT planner Dan Dorrell will be available to take public comments on where sidewalks need to be installed and whether Hwy. 199 traffic lanes need to be changed to one lane in each direction in order to create more parking. The presentation will take place at the C.J. branch of Josephine Community Libraries during Second Friday ArtWalk on May 9.

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