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Harvest season: know the law

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Harvest time is here and for those involved in the cannabis industry, this means more potential interactions with the police. One in ten Cave Junction residents holds a medical marijuana card and the percentage throughout the Illinois Valley's 17,000 residents is likely similar.

"If people do what's legal and limit the number of plants grown to what the Oregon Medical Marijuana Program (OMMP) legally allows, don't sell marijuana for profit, only transport and possess the amount they're allowed for and don't drive impaired, then they'll be fine," said Oregon State Police (OSP) Captain Robert Edwards.

Regardless of one's views on marijuana and the fast-changing laws governing its cultivation and use; due to the climate, Southwest Oregon and Northwest California have become major growing regions, and by all indications, the industry is here to stay.

"The only people that are supposed to be involved with possession and manufacturing of marijuana are those who hold their patient, growers or care provider cards," Edwards said. "Regarding trimmers driving to and from work, that's really not that big of an issue, as long as they're authorized to manufacture or possess marijuana under OMMP. But without proper documentation, trimmers have no business being in possession of any amount of marijuana, processed or otherwise."

Attorney Paul Loney, with 20-plus years experience in legal issues related to marijuana, and now, OMMP, says whether people are involved in the cannabis industry or not, it's a good idea to know your legal rights.

"There's some basic dos and don'ts that can minimize complications when interacting with the police," Loney said. "If pulled over, be courteous and cooperative. Hand over your license, proof of registration and insurance, but beyond that, it's best not to engage the officer in conversation. And, it's better not to answer questions. However you must specifically state you're exercising your right to remain silent; because if you don't, your silence might not be protected by law and could result in legal repercussions."

After the officer has finished examining peoples' documents, they should ask if they're under arrest or if they're free to leave. And if arrested, they should remain silent, except to ask to speak to a lawyer, Loney said.

While minor traffic violations like speeding, broken tail-lights, expired registration or damaged plates are not probable causes for vehicle searches - probable cause may develop once people are pulled over, he added.

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That's some Sweet Corn



(Photo by Dan Mancuso, Illinois Valley News)

Rocky Jones of Cave Junction shows off his three-eared, Sweet Corn plant. According to Dan Drost, Utah State University Professor, Extension Vegetable Specialist, most Sweet Corn varieties will have one to two ears per plant, because they mature rapidly and are generally short statured plants.

Pot, teachers, GMO and illegal's among ballot measures

By
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A wide variety of Oregon ballot propositions will be decided on November 4. Those that are not currently registered to vote have until October 14 to exercise their rights.

To register to vote or update current registration, voters may go online at www.oregonvotes.org or pick up a paper form at the DMV, Josephine Community Libraries or other public buildings. Voting rights are restricted to those who will be at least 18 years old on November 4, are U.S. citizens and current residents of Oregon.

Two ballot measures are referrals from the Oregon State Legislature. Measure 86 creates access to higher education for students

in need by creating the Student Opportunity Fund and authorizes the state to issue bonds for the fund without raising taxes. Oregon has seen some of the highest tuition hikes in the nation and supporters say this is one step in addressing the national trillion dollar student debt crisis.

The other state legislature referral is Measure 87 which allows judges to be employed by the National Guard and state public universities as teachers. It also allows school employees to serve in the legislature.

The five other measures, 88 through 92, are citizen initiatives. Measure 88 allows access to a four-year, limited purpose, limited duration driver card for those who can provide proof of living in Oregon for at least one year and can pass a driver's test. According to the U.S. Department of Labor, about half the

people growing and harvesting America's food are "not authorized to work," meaning they're undocumented immigrants.

Illegal immigrants are willing to accept the low wages and hard working conditions and supporters argue that they need to drive to work whether they're licensed or not. Boosters say the measure offers a common sense solution to ensuring all drivers understand the rules of the road, especially the critical workforce needed for Oregon's \$1 billion per year agricultural industry.

Measure 89 amends the Oregon Constitution to prohibit state and local governments from discriminating based on gender. Opponents of the measure charge that it's redundant to Article 1, Section 20, the constitution's currently existing protection. They assert it could put others who experience

discrimination at risk; including gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people or people of color. Advocates suggest this measure could help with challenging gender discrimination such as wage gaps and hiring practices.

Measure 90 creates a top-two primary system and allows all voters to vote on all primary candidates, regardless of party affiliation. California and Washington have similar systems. Only the two candidates with the most votes would proceed to the general election. Opponents charge that this measure will increase the overall cost to run for office and favor candidates with more access to money. Advocates believe third party candidates will be helped by being given equal access to spring primaries.

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Jacobson and Dalegowski run unopposed for city seats

By
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Of three Cave Junction city official's seats that are up for re-election in November, two will be uncontested: those of current mayor, Carl Jacobson Jr, and current city councilor, Daniel Dalegowski. At interviews, both Jacobson and Dalegowski lamented the dearth of candidates, recognizing that a strong democracy requires an active electorate.

"I would like to see more people get involved," said Jacobson. "Everybody's idea is important. It's easier to complain and say the city

doesn't know what's going on, than to actually find out what's going on."

Dalegowski echoed the sentiment. "Lots of people have a very negative view about government in general. And people can be afraid to go to city hall because that's where you only go, for instance, when you have a traffic ticket."

Both Jacobson and Dalegowski were proud of what they have accomplished in office. They each mentioned the playground at Jubilee Park. While a local community group initiated and carried out the project, the city helped by providing some crucial funds.

The city also played a role in the construction of the new Jubilee skateboard park, by administering the

grants that paid for the project.

"The city was a real central partner," explained Dalegowski. "The whole council was behind it. It was one of those win-win situations."

Asked to name his personal accomplishments, Jacobson opted instead to praise the city employees he has worked with.

"It's the employees, their work ethics, that are responsible. I learned a lot about how to provide guidance to people. Listening to your employees. You've got to trust them."

Dalegowski spoke of his involvement when the state was threatening to shut down the Illinois River Forks State Park. He personally developed an economic impact analysis that showed how important

the park is for the local community.

Looking into the future, Jacobson provided a wish list of things he would like to accomplish. At the top was the Cave Junction swimming pool. Jacobson explained that a natural aqueduct that runs under the pool means it would be prohibitively expensive for the pool to ever become operational again. And there are two impediments to finding an alternative use for the facility. The first is money. The city simply does not have the funds at this time. Second, any repurposing of the facility would have to be approved by the National Park Service, as that agency was the donor of the original funding for the pool.

Dalegowski spoke of challenges facing the Cave Junction

community.

"I would like to see us with some kind of 24/7 law enforcement response," he said. "But affording that is completely related to economic issues that affect us."

Dalegowski expressed one idea for increasing city revenues: establishing a municipal forest.

"The city contracts with someone to harvest portions of the forest. A city committee would oversee the harvesting. Some of the income goes to the city and some to buying more forest land."

Jacobson will be running for his third term this year, and Dalegowski for his second.