

# MARIJUANA

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In Deschutes County, the sheriff and district attorney in February went public with their frustrations, saying the state was allowing black market operations to proliferate through lack of oversight. They asked the health authority to provide a list of medical marijuana grow sites, but the agency refused, telling the sheriff and prosecutor in an April letter that it is prevented from doing so by statutory confidentiality provisions. The agency could only respond on a case-by-case basis.

The health authority reiterated its position in a statement Thursday, but added it's exploring ways to work more closely with law enforcement to ensure medical marijuana grow sites are operating legally.

"Those locations should be made available to law enforcement," Deschutes County Sheriff Shane Nelson told The Associated Press on Friday in reaction to the report.

The report cited "inadequate funding and staffing resources to meet the demands of robust regulation," as one of its many challenges.

"More than 40,000 Oregonians depend on medical marijuana to treat their qualifying medical conditions,"

Allen said.

The medical marijuana program also lacks reliable, independent tools to validate grow site locations, relying on inconsistent county databases, the report said.

Oregon recently began requiring medical marijuana growers of more than a dozen plants to enter a comprehensive seed-to-sale tracking system run by Oregon's recreational marijuana regulatory agency. That agency, the Oregon Liquor Control Commission, is adding around 20 staffers, including inspectors and data analysts, to handle the increased workload, said liquor commission spokesman Mark Pettinger.

The review noted a sharp decline in the number of medical marijuana dispensaries since adult-use recreational shops began opening in January 2017. That month, there were 172; by December 2017 there were only 19 as many medical marijuana businesses switched over to the recreational side.

Those with medical marijuana cards obtained with a physician's statement can buy their products at recreational shops, tax free. Recreational users pay a 17 percent state tax, plus any local add-on taxes.

Deschutes County District Attorney John Hummel commended Allen for commissioning the study.



(Photo courtesy of Dallion McGregor for the Illinois Valley News)

Robert Hirning (left) and Kenny Houck discuss the days activities along with SunStar volunteer firefighters.

# WATER ...

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The plant currently operating was built in 1998 and although it has been sufficient to absorb the increase in population over the years, the plant needs to be able to keep its federally mandated standards for treated water discharge.

When asked what their No. 1 problem is in

processing waste water for the city, both Robbins and Larsen are in agreement. "Grease!" they chimed. "We'd like to encourage people to cut down the amount of grease they put down the drain by wiping it out of the fry pan into the trash or using less in the first place. Grease is a big problem for us. It's expensive to have a crew go into the sewer system regularly to steam out the globs of congealed grease and clear the pipes," said Robbins.

# HUMBUG ...

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Riderville was located on the north fork of Humbug Creek, about one and one quarter miles above the forks. By the summer of 1852 it was abandoned. In 1859, another store and saloon were built here and the town grew. It was first called Plugtown, after old Dr. Nichols who wore a plug hat. Later it was named Riderville after W.G. Ride, a miner on Rider Gulch. At one time the town boasted 60 cabins and a town hall. By 1866, it was nearly deserted.

Near the top of Humbug divide in the 1850s, a stage station and saloon with Hurdy Gurdy girls was established. This locale provided miners with entertainment and a place to spend their gold dust.

Imagine what it might have been like to live there during this era. Much of the area along the creek was deforested by the miners

who cut down the trees to build their cabins. It would have been a much more open forest than today. At that time, living in the camps of Humbug City and nearby Deadwood, famous poet and bard of the Mt. Shasta region, Joaquin Miller, immortalized the Howlin' Wilderness Saloon. In his book, "Life Amongst the Modocs," Miller describes a day in the life of a miner and Humbug City which was crowded Saturday nights and Sundays with throngs of jovial frolicking miners, gamblers and roughs. He wrote the following.

"Now the smoke from the low chimneys of the log cabins began to rise and curl through the cool, clear air on every hand, and the miners to come out at the low doors; great hairy, bearded, six foot giants, hatless and half-dressed. They stretched themselves in the sweet, frosty air, shouted to each other in a sort of savage banter, washed their hands and faces in the gold-pan that stood by the door, and then entered

their cabins again, to partake of the eternal beans and bacon and coffee, and coffee and bacon and beans.

There was a town, a sort of common centre, called The Forks; for here three little streams joined hands, and went down from there to the Klamath together. Our cabin stood down on the main stream, not far from the river.

The Forks had two butcher shops' and each of the rival houses sent up and down the streams two mules each day, laden with their meats.

The principal saloon of The Forks was the "Howlin' Wilderness;" an immense pine-log cabin, with higher walls than most cabins, earth floor, and an immense fire-place, where crackled and roared, day and night, a pine-log fire, that refreshes me even to this day to remember.

It is true the Howlin' Wilderness was not high-toned, was not even first-class in this fierce little mining camp of The Forks;

but it was a spacious place—always had more people in it and a bigger fire than other places, and so was a power and centre in the town. Besides, all the important fights took place at the Howlin' Wilderness, and if you wanted to be well up in the news, or to see the Saturday evening entertainment, you had to have some regard for the Howlin' Wilderness.

The proprietors, who stood behind the bar, had bags of sand laid up in a bullet-proof wall inside the counter, between them and the crowd, so that when the shooting set it, and men threw themselves on the floor, fled through the door, or barricaded their breasts with monte-tables, and wooden benches, they had only to drop down behind the bags of sand, and lie there, pistols in hand, till the ball was over."

Humbug Creek has been mined off and on for over 150 years. After early placer mining tapered off, gold-bearing quartz veins were found. Estimates range upwards

of over 600,000 ounces of gold recovered from the mining district. Some locals believe a mother load still waits to be discovered along the creek.

To find the plaque take Hawkinsville-Humbug Road just north of Yreka off Highway 263, and head west. Stay to the right and go up the hill. At the top bear left. You will go down to the bridge. Cross the creek and in seven-tenths of a mile you will discover the rock monument on the left hand side of the road. It is about 6.6 miles from the 263 highway.

Bill Wensrich serves on the E Clampus Vitus Board of Directors. His recently published guide book for the ECV Transierra Roisterous Alliance of Senior Humbugs titled *The Trail to Sailors' Diggin's from Paragon Bay is available for purchase from the non-profit Del Norte County Historical Society at their Museum located at 577 H Street in Crescent City, California.*

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