

# STUMBLE IN

*Sometimes you need a little blacklight* BY MIKE BIVINS

**L**et me pose a scenario: You stumble through a doorway near the University of Oregon bookstore, possibly extremely baked. Because sometimes you need somewhere to go when going to class a little glassy-eyed is not a good idea.

Once inside, your bloodshot eyes first notice the large, delicate-looking glass rigs that are meant for smoking — but only if you know what you are doing — situated just out of reach behind a long glass countertop. Resting on the countertop is a jar with a sign declaring that the jar accepts “green” donations.

You’ve stumbled upon Bree’s Way, where you’ll find the standard smoke shop fare: pipes and tie-dye T-shirts, as well as more esoteric items such as crystals and essential oils.

But as weedy as Bree’s seems, you’ll have to find cannabis elsewhere.

For me, what sets this shop apart from other smoke shops is its 3-D poster- and tapestry-adorned blacklight room where, if you ask nicely, you can borrow a pair of 3-D glasses and trip out with the lights dimmed — possibly finding inspiration for your own room. Glyphs, representations of Eastern gods, Alice in Wonderland and, naturally, Jimi Hendrix feature heavily.

If the building Bree’s Way resides in seems familiar, it’s because the location was formerly home to the Eugene iteration of Jambo World Crafts, which was purchased by longtime store manager Bree Crane in September 2017, then rebranded and restocked with items appealing to Crane’s sensibilities.

Crane, 46, says she has been in the retail industry since the age of 16 and has previously done “lots of big-box work.”

“It’s really cool, and I enjoy it a lot,” Crane says of the experience of owning her own store, and adds that she digs the increased flexibility ownership provides.

On hand to help is Renee Burshek, who started working at the shop last October.



“When I came here everything was really new to me,” Burshek says of the laid-back, pro-weed environment of the shop, and also of Eugene in general.

Burshek, who hails from North Dakota — a state where conservative politics rule and yet where in 2017 voters approved medical marijuana — says she arrived in Eugene after meeting someone online.

For the stoned shopper, Bree’s Way also features a low-cost, weed-themed event called the Smokin’ Dice Game, which will only set you back the cost of a mid-priced gram of weed: \$7.

The packaging says the game is to be played with “grass” from the front lawn, but we know better.

Smokin’ Dice appears simple: You roll the four dice provided and follow the instructions indicated by the dice — instructions that will always include ingesting weed. If you’re still looking for something to do and don’t have a lot of money, and you’ve got a friend or two, then this simple dice game may be it.

And as for the jar that accepts “green donations,” Burshek says, “Sometimes people do put buds in the jar.” ■

# A BEACON OF GREEN FOR IDAHO

*The legalization of pot in a tiny Oregon town is followed by more drug seizures in Idaho*

BY TAYLOR PERSE

**I**n Eastern Oregon, where marijuana dispensaries are scarce, a shop called 420ville sits quietly in the town of Huntington as an oasis for out-of-state customers.

In the last few years, 420ville has grown into a popular destination and provided a small economic boost for the town of about 440 people, all because it is a 23-mile drive from Huntington to Weiser, the nearest town in Idaho — where selling marijuana remains illegal.

Candy Howland, the mayor of Huntington, has seen a few problems arise because of the location of the dispensary. Howland says the city had to step up its law enforcement due to the dozens of customers coming from Idaho.

She says the majority of people buying marijuana in Huntington “are Idaho people.” She adds, “You just show your age and then you buy. It doesn’t matter which license.”

Although Huntington is small and rural, Baker County District Attorney Matt Shirtcliff said that an increase in traffic and travelers has played a major role in increased work for law enforcement.

“The sheriff’s department is using more resources because

of more traffic,” Shirtcliff says. He says the dispensary’s presence means “there is more of a need for law enforcement.”

Howland and Shirtcliff agree that 420ville has remained compliant with the city’s laws.

“They follow the rules,” Howland says.

In Baker County, each municipality has the authority to decide whether to allow dispensaries. Huntington hosts two of the four total marijuana shops in the county.

Howland, though, has seen pushback from some citizens in Huntington. “Fifty percent want them here and 50 percent don’t,” the mayor says.

Howland says she has not encountered any issues with law enforcement in Idaho because Huntington is not close enough to the border.

Idaho State Police Public Information Officer Tim Marsono said the possession of marijuana in Idaho remains illegal. He said, though, that people are still crossing into states bordering Idaho and purchasing cannabis products. In 2017, he said, the Idaho State Police seized nearly 1,400 pounds of marijuana — more than in the previous three

years combined.

“The police are aggressively supporting Idaho laws,” Marsono says.

Although 420ville is a popular cannabis shop for Idahoans who live near Eastern Oregon, Marsono says it is difficult to tell which states are more responsible for the increase in marijuana seizures.

“We are just getting more neighboring states legalizing, so there is an overflow across borders,” Marsono said.

Shirtcliff said that he was not a proponent of legalizing marijuana in Baker County because of the risk that more of the drug would find its way into the hands of minors. He says that problem has increased since legalization.

“The whole legalization issue the dispensaries create is that more marijuana is used and being used by kids,” Shirtcliff says. “I think overall it is still going to hurt society.”

420ville declined to comment for the story.

“Boss said no,” a worker said. “Every time we did an interview our words would get twisted and they would not say what we say. So, no.” ■