

Voting 'yes' could cost Cannon Beach tax revenue

Uncertain future for pot sales

By R.J. MARX
The Daily Astorian

CANNON BEACH —The future of cannabis in Cannon Beach has a number, and it's not 420. Measure 4-179 prohibiting the sale of recreational marijuana in Cannon Beach is officially on the November ballot, with the question: "Shall recreational marijuana producers, processors, wholesalers, and retailers be

prohibited in Cannon Beach?"

"Language was approved for the ballot," Cannon Beach City Manager Brant Kucera said Wednesday. "This bill is to disallow."

A separate vote initiated by the city, Measure 4-182, will ask residents if a 3 percent tax should be applied to recreational marijuana sales.

Measure 91, which legalized recreational marijuana in Oregon for people 21 and older, was approved by 63 percent of Cannon Beach voters in 2014.

In early July, the City Council voted 4-1 to adopt an ordi-

nance with time, place and manner restrictions for medical and recreational marijuana businesses. Zones are downtown from Ecola Creek on the north to Washington Street on the south, midtown from Harrison Street on the north to Elliot Way on the south, and Tolovana Park from Delta Street on the north to the northern boundary of Sand Castle Condominiums on the south.

Later that month, a group of residents successfully submitted a petition with 155 certified signatures to put an initiative on the ballot asking voters

if recreational marijuana shops should be banned. Jeremy Randolph, Marlene Laws, Nancy Giasson, Gary Laws and Molly Edison formed the committee that brought the opt-out initiative to the city.

The ballot measure is summarized on the county Board of Elections website. "State law allows operation of licensed recreational marijuana producers, processors, wholesalers and retailers," reads the summary. "State law also provides that the citizens may put forth an initiative to the voters to prohibit the estab-

lishment of any of those facilities within the city's boundaries. The citizen petitioners have put forth such an initiative to the voters of Cannon Beach in this election."

If approved, the city will be ineligible to receive distribution of state marijuana tax revenue and unable to impose local cannabis taxes or fees.

Under state law, a city that adopts an ordinance prohibiting the establishment of one or more types of marijuana facilities in the city may not impose a local tax on the sale of marijuana items.

The city's separate local tax measure imposing a 3 percent tax on the sale of recreational marijuana would become operative only if the tax measure is approved by voters and the measure prohibiting marijuana facilities fails.

The tax would be collected at the point of sale and remitted by the retailers.

Apparently cannabis retailers are waiting until after the election before applying for a business license. "I've had maybe two calls in the last six months," Kucera said.

In Jewell, a license to grow

State approves commercial marijuana grow operation

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Daily Astorian

The state has approved Clatsop County's first commercial marijuana grow operation.

The Oregon Liquor Control Commission recently approved Greenworks Farms, located in Jewell and run by husband and wife Joe Anderson and Cathleen Harwood.

"The process, it's lengthy for sure," he said. "There's a lot of documents. You need to have all your ducks in a row."

Greenworks Farms is authorized to grow cannabis on up to 5,000 square feet of indoor production. Anderson said he spent months and about \$20,000 getting a 1,000-square-foot, state-approved grow facility. Requirements include a security system and surveillance video that can be backed up for 90 days. "There's no place you can go in the facility that's not on camera," he said.

Greenworks' marijuana will be tagged and tracked

from seed to sale. Anderson said it prevents marijuana from being diverted to the black market.

Despite the difficulties in applying, he said the state was supportive throughout the process.

"The OLCC seemed very helpful," he said. "They don't want to stand in the way of this."

Anderson, a former cabinet maker who injured his back and started using marijuana as pain medicine, has been growing medical marijuana since 2001. He and his wife have grown for other medical patients.

Anderson said he is proud to be part of the Oregon movement beyond prohibition. He also hopes Greenworks Farms will prove a lucrative business.

Waiting on buyers

But Greenworks Farms, like other approved commercial growers, is waiting on buyers.

A state law passed last year allowed medical marijuana dispensaries to sell marijuana to recreational customers through December. As of next year, medical dispensaries will again be limited to members of the Oregon Medical Marijuana Program and their caregivers.

The state Liquor Control Commission started taking applications for recreational marijuana stores in January and aims to have them operational by the end of the year. "We all right now are in the waiting game, waiting on the OLCC to review all the applications, and waiting for confirmation to go forward," said Gary Reynolds, co-owner of Sweet Relief Natural Medicine.

The dispensary, the first to open in the county, now has two locations in Astoria and one each in Tillamook, Scappoose and St. Helens. Reynolds said the company has applied to go recreational at all but one of its five locations.

Other grow sites

Reynolds said Sweet Relief is also one of the companies trying to establish its own commercial growing operation outside city limits.

The state has received six applications so far from groups wanting to grow marijuana commercially in the county, including Greenworks Farms, and six more applications from medical dispensaries wanting to go recreational.

The Astoria Planning Commission has signed off on two commercial grow operations within city limits.

Warrenton woman sentenced for stealing from her father

Took money and a truck

By KYLE SPURR
The Daily Astorian

A 35-year-old Warrenton woman was sentenced to five years in prison Wednesday for stealing about \$29,000 and a pickup truck from her father while he was in the hospital.

After a trial in Circuit Court last month, a jury found Kaili Jo Roberts guilty on eight counts. The charges include three counts of first-degree criminal mistreatment, aggravated first-degree theft, two counts of first-degree theft, second-degree theft and first-degree forgery.

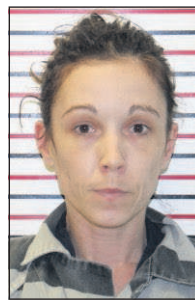
Roberts could have received a shorter sentence, but it was discovered that she lied while testifying during trial. She claimed a large amount of the money she stole was in a safety security box at a bank. When the box was searched, it was completely empty.

Instead of a separate charge for perjury, Roberts received an enhancement on her sentence.

Roberts' defense at trial

was that her father told her to go ahead and use his credit card accounts and his money to shop and buy items. Her father, James Roberts, testified at trial that he turned the power of attorney over to her to make sure she paid his rent and car payments, not to go out and spend his money. The crimes occurred between February and April 2015.

"She used the authority



Kaili Jo Roberts

the power of attorney gave her for her own gain," Deputy District Attorney Beau Peterson said.

James Roberts spoke at the sentencing hearing Wednesday, and expressed his love and support for his daughter, despite what she did to him.

"I love you a lot. I'm sorry this happened," he said.

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