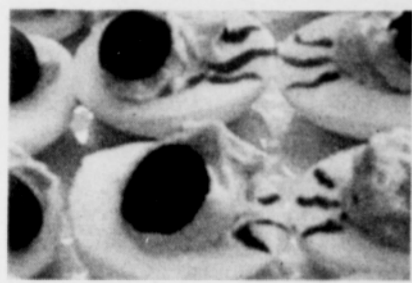


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What's on your list today?

LOCAL NEWS

'Love for Linda' Benefit Concert

Community comes together as soul diva battles cancer

An all-star cast of blues, soul and R&B artists will come together for a "Love for Linda" benefit for Portland soul diva Linda Hornbuckle at Jimmy Mak's, on Sunday, Nov. 11.

Hornbuckle, recently diagnosed with kidney cancer, has taken a sabbatical from work

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PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Soul sister Linda Hornbuckle at a 2009 performance on Northeast Alberta Street. Portland's music community is coming together for a benefit Nov. 11 concert to support Hornbuckle as she takes a sabbatical from work and her band to undergo treatment for kidney cancer.

New Laws for Cannabis

BY CARI HACHMANN

Oregon voters will be asked to legalize marijuana and industrial hemp with Measure 80, the Oregon Cannabis Tax Act, in the Nov. 6 vote-by-mail election. Washington and Colorado have similar initiatives on the ballot.

If passed, Measure 80 would permit Oregon adults 21 and over to grow and possess marijuana without interference of the state. Adults could sell marijuana in state-run stores where the plant would be taxed and regulated under the creation of a new committee, the Oregon Cannabis Commission.

The commission would determine the pricing, quality and potency of cannabis in adult-only stores, where 90 percent of profits from sales would go to the state general fund; 7 percent for drug treatment programs, and 1 percent each for drug education in public schools.

Current medical marijuana and driving under the influence

laws would remain unchanged.

If voters say yes, marijuana consumption of all forms would be allowed, but the law bans consumption in public, except where permitted by signs. It also bans sales to possession by minors.

Measure 80 would also prohibit the regulation of hemp, giving Oregon farmers the right to grow hemp to be sold for use as food, fiber, biofuel and textiles.

Ending the prohibition on cannabis has been a controversial debate in Oregon and country-wide for decades attracting a variety of critics and supporters. Will Oregonians vote to loosen marijuana laws?

Oregon lawyers in favor of Measure 80 say marijuana's inclusion in the government's "war on drugs" does more harm than good. More than 800,000 people are arrested for marijuana each year while Oregon spends about \$60 million each year to enforce existing marijuana laws, according to Measure 80 backers.

Advocates say regulating versus criminalizing the drug would save the state millions of dollars and make consumption safer outside of current black markets and organized crime. Supporters say cannabis taxes and revenue will create a significant income stream for the state, create new jobs and refocus law enforcement priorities in favor of increased public safety.

Oregon law enforcement officials oppose the measure. A group of local sheriffs say the anticipated tax revenue for state-run sales of marijuana will not cover the annual states costs for prevention treatment and recovery. They also say marijuana, its production and delivery, negatively impacts communities and is strongly associated with criminal behavior.

A group of Oregon police chiefs say Measure 80 poses risks of increased marijuana use among youth, more impaired

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