

POLICE: Measure 91 goes into effect July 1

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drop from 344 in 2013 to 285 in 2014.

Measure 91 goes into effect July 1 and allows someone 21 or older to have up to an ounce of pot in public (and 8 ounces and four marijuana plants in a residence). Hermiston police Chief Jason Edmiston said that means more people are going to be driving while high.

Beyond the obvious public safety problem, he said there also will be a greater need for drug recognition experts, or DREs in cop lingo — officers who undergo training through Oregon State Police to catch high and drunk drivers. Hermiston has two DREs now, he said, but some smaller departments have none. And there is no requirement for a department to have any.

Trying to determine if a driver is drunk, Edmiston said, is an arduous process that requires officers and suspects to jump through a lot of hoops. "It's gonna get worse from impaired drivers due to marijuana," he said.

The chances will be slim the officer who makes the stop is a DRE, he said, so that means sending the expert to help the arresting officer. Two cops for one stop eats resources, he said, and drug stops can mean waiting for search warrants for urine and blood. "It's going to get very cumbersome

very quick," Edmiston said.

And officers not citing people for possession of less than an ounce will not make this situation a wash, he said. A cop spends 30-45 minutes processing a typical possession citation, including locking up marijuana in evidence, Edmiston said, while the average stop for driving under the influence of intoxicants takes closer to two-and-a-half to three hours.

Umatilla County District Attorney Dan Primus said he also expects a spike in stoned drivers. Washington and Colorado have seen driving under the influence of marijuana increase with the implementation of their recreational pot laws, he said, and it is fair to anticipate Oregon will follow that trend.

Measure 91 also could have a teeter-totter effect in diversion programs, Primus said. Courts offer diversion for offenders dealing with a charge of possession of less than an ounce of pot, and adults will be able to have that much under Measure 91. But the increase in people driving while stoned, he said, will result in a corresponding increase in prosecutions and DUI diversions.

And beyond that, he said, no one knows what is coming because regulations for recreational pot won't be in place until 2016. There also is no bead on how much marijuana

is in the community already.

Pendleton police Chief Stuart Roberts said police usually discover grow sites when neighbors report seeing marijuana growing in someone's back yard or through calls for service at grow properties. But the Oregon Medical Marijuana Program protects growers' right to privacy and does not provide a list of grow operations. Police can call a hot line with a specific name or address, he explained, and receive a yes or no answer concerning whether or not the person/property is registered with the state. But that number works only 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Local police also do not track or map the legal grows they find. Police leaders said such a list could be valuable, but would mean violating people's rights. "Law enforcement in general is often accused of being too 'Big Brother,'" Edmiston said, "so tracking something that has been legal by the voters is not something I am willing to dedicate limited resources on."

Police said there is probably no way to measure how much pot is out here, but Measure 91 means there will be more of it.

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Staff photo by E.J. Harris
Oregon Gov. Kate Brown launches a Oregon National Guard RQ-7B Shadow unmanned aerial vehicle Friday at the Eastern Oregon Regional Airport in Pendleton.

AIRPORT: Brown has long been aware of Pendleton's need for airport hangar space

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drone business to establish a location in Pendleton.

In an interview after her speech, Brown said she has been aware of Pendleton's need for hangar space for some time.

Brown said she sat down with Steve Chrisman, economic development director and airport manager, over a beer a year ago and discussed the needs of the range.

When she assumed the governorship a month ago, Brown said putting together the finance package was one of her top priorities.

Before the speech, Brown held a brief meeting with SOAR Oregon, a nonprofit that advocates for the state's three test ranges.

According to Houk, range manager John Stevens will soon join SOAR Oregon as chief operating officer.

Stevens was employed by Peak 3 Technical Services, an Anchorage, Alaska-based company contracted by Pendleton to develop and manage the range.

Stevens is the latest Peak 3 employee involved with Pendleton's range to leave the company. Both Peak 3 Vice President Brian Prange and test range operations manager Ian Mortensen have departed for other positions in recent months.

Brown concluded the event by launching an Oregon National Guard drone into the sky.

The governor said she merely pressed the launch button while ceding control of the vehicle to a qualified operator.

"It's a long way from your toy plane," Brown said, "but it's pretty cool."

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WATER: Hansell said Senate very supportive of the project

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by the Ways & Means Committee. Brown, who replaced Kitzhaber on Feb. 18, said the biggest hurdle to getting the development fund approved would be if the fund becomes a bargaining chip. She said she is encouraging leadership to pass the funding early in the session and let other pieces of the budget be decided from there.

State Sen. Bill Hansell (R-Athena) said the Senate is very supportive of the project and willing to carve out the dollars early, but he's not so sure about the House. He said Brown's visit east is a show of support, and he hopes that when she returns to the capitol she will help finalize the funding.

The \$51.6 million would help fund a three-phase plan developed by the Northeast Oregon Water Association that would allow farmers to pump extra water from the Columbia Basin and also fund upstream projects that would help restore native fish runs. The plan could put 200,000 acres of farmland into production in Umatilla and Morrow counties.

Richard Whitman, who served as Kitzhaber's top natural resources advisor, has continued his role in Brown's office. He traveled with the governor this week and said he has a high level of comfort in the policy that has been presented to lawmakers.

MARIJUANA: Draft ordinance prohibits dispensaries from being within 1,000 feet of the Pendleton Library

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The draft removes language prohibiting dispensaries and retailers from being within 1,000 feet of licensed daycares because daycare facilities tend to be temporary in nature.

"It's difficult to regulate a moving target," MacKenzie said.

The draft ordinance also prohibits dispensaries and stores from being within a 1,000 feet of the Pendleton Public Library and would set store hours from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

A city also provided a map showing where dispensaries and stores could be located if the draft ordinance were passed.

Areas in Pendleton where marijuana facilities could be located includes the southeastern portion of town surrounding Interstate 84, a smaller area east of Olney

Cemetery and land southeast of Highway 11.

The Planning Commission is scheduled to vote on an ordinance April 2, with a city council vote to follow on April 7. All of these votes will be ahead of the expiration of a moratorium on marijuana dispensaries.

Councilman Chuck Wood said the city could buy some time by refusing to issue business licenses to marijuana facilities because they would be in violation of federal law, a tactic he's heard many smaller cities will take.

But interim city attorney Nancy Kearns advised against investing in that strategy due to the lawsuits it could attract.

Kearns also recommended against the suggestion that city council members testify at the upcoming Planning Commission meeting, saying it would set up a conflict of interest.

To research the topic, Wood said he visited Hwy 30

Cannabis, La Grande's sole medical marijuana dispensary.

Wood said he was pleased with the store exterior and interior appearance and the owner's professionalism.

According to Wood, the owner said 135 of her regular customers came from Pendleton.

Whatever the outcome of the city's ordinance, the status of the state's marijuana laws are in flux.

Police Chief Stuart Roberts said the Oregon Liquor Control Commission won't formulate rules on recreational marijuana retailers until 2016 while the rules governing medical marijuana from the Oregon Health Authority could still be changed.

Additionally, Cave Junction's outright ban of medical marijuana dispensaries is being challenged by the state in court, the outcome of which could have bearing on statewide marijuana laws.

FOOD: Could be years before average customer can buy them

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convenient snack with its non-browning version. The company says bagged apples wouldn't have to be washed in antioxidants like they are now, a process that can affect taste. Company founder Neal Carter said Okanagan wants to see bagged apples become as prolific as bagged baby carrots.

"We know that in a convenience-driven world, a whole apple is too big of a commit-

ment," Carter said.

The apples are dubbed Arctic Apples, and Carter said he wants them to be labeled as such. The first two varieties will be Granny Smith and Golden Delicious. Carter said there won't be significant plantings until 2017.

Simplot calls its potatoes Innate and the varieties selected include Ranger Russet, Russet Burbank and Atlantic.

"We're trying to improve potatoes so everyone gets a

better experience, just like it's right out of the field," said Haven Baker, vice president of plant sciences for Simplot.

But it could be years before the average customer is able to buy one. The company has about 400 acres of Innate potatoes in storage from the 2014 harvest that it plans to deliver to growers, packers and shippers to be sent to a tightly-controlled network for use in small-scale test markets.

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