

UMATILLA: ‘This will allow the area ... to develop the way we think the community wants’

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categories of businesses are allowed outright, which are allowed with some restrictions and which require a conditional use permit. Business categories not listed in the zone’s rules are not allowed at all.

Neighborhood commercial zones, for example, are “intended for small-scale commercial developments ... offering goods and services purchased frequently.” The zone allows for 70 categories of commercial use ranging from convenience stores to tax preparation but excludes less residential-friendly categories like freight trucking and amusement parks.

Each commercial zone also has “property development standards” concerning landscaping, pedestrian walkways, storm drainage and other features.

City planner Bill Searles described Umatilla’s old commercial zone rules as a “wild west” with few regulations.

“This will allow the area inside the zone to develop the way we think the community wants it to develop,” Searles said.

He said the downtown and neighborhood commercial zones are the most restrictive, while the highway commercial zone allows “just about anything you can think of.”

Some categories come with greater restrictions. Marijuana dispensaries or retailers must not be located at the same address as a grow site and cannot be located within 1,000 feet of a school, library, city park or existing dispensary. Adult entertainment businesses cannot be located within 1,000 feet of a school or 600 feet of a similar adult-oriented business.

During the public hearing

on the new rules, Umatilla resident Steve Rodarte asked the commission to consider allowing medical marijuana dispensaries to operate downtown. He argued that the zones where dispensaries are allowed are mostly undeveloped land and it didn’t make sense to make would-be dispensary owners go through the expense of buying land and building a shop when they could move into one of downtown’s many empty storefronts.

The commission declined to make a change, however.

“What we tried to do with this is balance business owners and folks who want to open up here with the desires of the general population,” Sharp said, noting if most people in Umatilla had their way, dispensaries would be banned from the city altogether.

Moratoriums on adult entertainment businesses and marijuana dispensaries have been in place while the city crafts the new rules. Once the new ordinances are adopted and the bans are lifted, however, the city’s strip clubs could see some competition.

City staff reported that even with the publicly announced moratorium in place they received requests from two different parties interested in opening a new strip club in town.

The city council plans to discuss the planning commission’s recommendations during its May 5 meeting at 7 p.m. at Umatilla City Hall, 700 Sixth St. The meeting will include opportunity for public comment. The proposed commercial zone rules and zone changes can be viewed online at <http://bit.ly/1bVEeZ1>.

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RED ELK: Dress has 200 bells

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shuffle step and stay close to the ground. Contemporary jingle dancers like Red Elk use fancier footwork — the same basic moves, but “with more pizzazz.”

“It’s expressive — a lot like an Irish river dancer. It’s all footwork,” Red Elk said. “You keep your upper body firm. You glide all over the ground.”

Jingle dancers wear dozens of metal cones or bells sewn to their dresses — Red Elk’s dress has 200. To Red Elk, it is the sound of healing.

“My dress speaks,” she said.

Red Elk competed with about 80 other dancers in

her division who competed Friday and Saturday nights.

Acosia means “Young Swan Rising,” a fitting name for the graceful and successful dancer. On Saturday night, Red Elk learned she had risen to the top once again. She had won \$3,000, a jacket and bragging rights for another year.

Red Elk said she enjoyed the victory, but also simply loved feeling connected to people from all corners of Indian Country.

“The Gathering of Nations attracts 3,000 dancers from all over the world,” she said. “Inspiration is all around.”

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Vote on medical pot restrictions postponed

By HILLARY BORRUD
Capital Bureau

SALEM — Lawmakers moved a step closer Wednesday night to tightening regulations on Oregon’s medical marijuana program, despite vocal opposition from some people in the medical pot industry.

The legislative committee tasked with implementing Oregon’s new recreational marijuana system voted to include a proposal to limit the size of medical pot grows in a bill that could come up for a vote as soon as Monday.

Amendments added to the bill Wednesday also call for the state to track medical cannabis, impose residency requirements on growers and allow regulators to inspect medical cannabis gardens. The amendments passed Wednesday night include a provision that specifies patients only growing marijuana for personal use would not be subject to inspections.

Lawmakers want to rein in the medical system ahead of the launch of legal recreational pot July 1, because medical pot has been diverted into the black market. They originally planned to hold a vote Wednesday night on whether to move the bill out of committee, but they pushed that vote off until at least Monday after they received hundreds of phone calls and emails from people concerned about the proposed changes.

Although committee co-chair Sen. Ginny Burdick, D-Portland, said earlier in the week that lawmakers had already vetted and held hearings on every element of the legislation, the committee changed course and took testimony from lobbyists and other representatives of the cannabis industry and local governments.

“We have one more chance if there are further tweaks,” Burdick said Wednesday night. “Our plan at this time is to move the bill out (of committee) on Monday.”

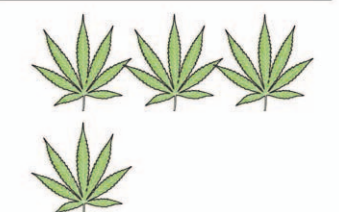
Jonathan Manton, a lobbyist for Oregon SunGrown Growers Guild and political action committee, described his clients as “family farmers” who are “patient driven” and “very distrusting of government, as a lot of us are.” Manton said the growers he represents want the ability to charge patients for all of the costs they incur including labor, something that is not currently allowed but would be under the new proposal. The growers oppose limits on the size of marijuana gardens.

Lawyer Amy Margolis, of Oregon Cannabis PAC, described bill as amended Wednesday night was a good piece of legislation because of changes such as the allowance for growers to charge for their labor and other costs they cannot currently recover. Margolis said her group also supports a provision in the bill that would prevent cities

How much marijuana?

Legal limits of individual pot possession explained

Oregon is preparing to launch its legal recreational pot system July 1, when adults age 21 and older can possess marijuana. At first, people will have to grow their own marijuana because stores will not open until sometime in 2016. Oregon’s medical marijuana program already allows people with certain conditions to possess much larger amounts of pot.

Oregon Medical Marijuana Program cardholders (Per individual basis)	Program	Recreational users under Measure 91 (Per household basis)
 24 oz.*	Usable marijuana quantity allowed (Ounces)	 8 oz. An individual can carry up to 1 ounce in public. However, public consumption is not permitted.
 Six plants	Mature plants (Home-grown only)	 Four plants
 18 seedling plants	Seedling plants (Home-grown only)	No provision for additional seedling plants. However, each household can possess: • Up to 72 ounces of liquid product such as soda. • Up to 16 ounces of solid product such as candy. Individual adults can have up to 1 ounce of marijuana extract.

* Usable marijuana is defined as the dried leaves and flowers of the plant Cannabis family Moraceae and any mixture or preparation thereof, which includes extracts, edibles, concentrates, etc.

Sources: Oregon Liquor Control Commission; Oregon Health Authority

Hillary Borrud and Alan Kenaga/EO Media Group

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— Sen. Ginny Burdick, D-Portland, committee co-chair

and counties from taxing marijuana and regulating medical pot, except for reasonable restrictions on the time, place and manner of retail sales.

“We hope that part stays in here,” Margolis said.

Rob Bovett, a lawyer and lobbyist for Association of Oregon Counties, asked lawmakers not to preempt local regulations on marijuana businesses. Bovett said other states with legal marijuana have opted against such preemption provisions because it reduced the chances that local governments would challenge pot laws in federal court.

Anthony Johnson, chief petitioner

and co-author of Measure 91, said he hopes lawmakers will slowly phase in the proposed limits on the size of medical marijuana grow sites.

The amendments added to the bill Wednesday would limit growers at sites registered with the Oregon medical marijuana program after Jan. 1, 2015 to 12 plants in residential zones inside cities and 48 plants per garden in other areas.

The amendments would grandfather in higher limits for grow sites already registered in the Oregon medical marijuana program on Jan. 1, 2015. They would cap the size of these gardens at 24 plants in city residential zones and 96 plants at all other areas, both rural and urban.

That is double the number of plants that would have been allowed at medical grows under the most generous bill lawmakers had previously considered, which would have allowed pot gardens with up to 48 plants outside city limits.

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PERS: 14 retirees named in the main lawsuit

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changes.

The unions argued that cost-of-living increases — and the formula that determines them — are part of the contract between government employers and workers. The state argues they are not.

There are two related lawsuits; the lead plaintiff is Everice Moro of Portland, a retired school employee who is among 14 named in the main lawsuit.

The out-of-state retirees argued that discontinuance of the extra payments to them violate state and federal constitutional guar-

antees of equal protection under the law.

Those suits were filed by Michael Reynolds, who retired in 2003 and is living in Seattle, and George Riemer, who retired in 2006 and is living in Arizona. Reynolds is a former solicitor general, the official who represents the state in

state and federal appellate courts. Riemer worked for the Oregon State Bar, and is executive director for the Arizona Commission on Judicial Conduct.

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