

MARIJUANA: Roberts said he has seen more pot-related DUII arrests

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in November 2016.

There is a drawback if the city decides to opt out of any of the four recreational marijuana retail categories — producer, processor, wholesaler and retailer. If just one of those categories are banned by the council or voters, the city wouldn't be able to impose a tax of up to 3 percent of local sales or have access to the state tax revenue sharing system.

Councilman Chuck Wood said medical marijuana wouldn't be taxed under House Bill 3400.

Some councilors were skeptical that taxes derived from recreational marijuana would be enough to cover the potential increased cost of public safety from marijuana-related crimes.

Police Chief Stuart Roberts said he was unsure how much funding it would take to address the issue.

"We operate with a staff level, for the most part, that's minimally adequate," Roberts said. "Any dollars are precious as far as I'm concerned. But is there enough for sufficient return

on that to make a difference? I don't know."

Councilman Al Plute said banning recreational marijuana sales would cost the city money because of a product that's already being bought and sold on the black market.

"The bulk of the state, regardless of what Eastern Oregon voted, the state voted to go forward with that," he said. "So if ... we block it, we don't get the money for the problems we're going to have anyway."

Roberts said he has seen an increase in marijuana-related DUII arrests in the month recreational marijuana has been legal. Roberts said one of his concerns was the local drug task force would lose the \$130,000 it gets from the federal government because of Measure 91's passage.

City Attorney Nancy Kerns suggested the council wait to take action until after the League of Oregon Cities releases a guide to the new marijuana laws later this month.

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FAITH: Committee provides volunteers to staff a number of city and school projects

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sensitive about separation of church and state, avoiding proselytizing and sticking to nonreligious projects like neighborhood clean-ups. But the faith of the seven committee members—which includes city councilman Rod Hardin and leaders of various local denominations — inevitably shines through. Most of Fraley's stories about the work of the committee include the words "and then he said he would pray about it and get back to me."

Fraley said he understands that some people are very sensitive about any connection between church and state, but he thinks having a committee of leaders from the faith-based community plays a valuable role in passing city information on to local congregations while also allowing the city to tap into a demographic that tends to include a high number of ready and willing volunteers.

"It's a place to touch base, where before there was no connecting point," he said.

The committee has provided the volunteers to staff a number of city and school projects, including the city's free recycling day in April.

In one of its ongoing projects, each local school was "adopted" by a local congregation. Fraley said his congregation adopted Desert View Elementary, where the church provides volunteers for events and occasionally brings treats for the staff.

"We reach out to the teachers there to one, let them know we care, two, let them know we're not there to proselytize and three, let them know they can call on us when they need anything," he said.

The committee's latest project is called Family Promise. During Tuesday's committee meeting Pastor James Lafolette of Oasis Vineyard explained that joining the national Family Promise program would provide the committee an opportunity to match trained volunteer mentors with families that are homeless or in similarly disadvantaged positions.

"What we're proposing is a mentoring program, where

"I think the longterm implications are incredibly promising for our community."

— **Craig Fraley**, chair of the Faith-Based Advisory Committee

we would take them by the hand and walk them through how to become more self-reliant," Lafolette said. "... We want to help individuals and families become independent, self-sustaining members of the community."

The committee was hoping to hire a coordinator, paid for by seed money the city recently promised the committee, by the end of July, but won't be ready for at least another month. Lafolette said the coordinator would help train volunteers on connecting families with resources and recognizing the line between helping and enabling.

Families would be in the program, which will likely begin in the spring, for about a year before ideally being able to carry on without it.

Lafollete also shared information about getting 501(c)3 nonprofit status for the program and said that Dave Hughes of Martha's House had offered free office space for the Family Promise coordinator.

Fraley said he is "absolutely jazzed" about Family Promise.

"This has so much potential for the community of Hermiston if we do it right," he said.

He said forming connections with Hermiston School District during his work on the Faith-Based Advisory Committee has really opened his eyes to the number of families in the community struggling with poverty and dysfunction.

He said focusing on getting some of those families into a more stable position in the community is his top priority for the Faith-Based Advisory Committee right now.

"I think the longterm implications are incredibly promising for our community," he said.

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JAPAN: Group will depart from Oregon August 18

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host families.

The relationship between the two cities started in 1998 when they began hosting each other's exchange students. Pendleton took a break in 2011 after a magnitude 9 earthquake unleashed a tsunami that killed more than 18,000 people and damaged a nuclear facility in the Fukushima Prefecture where Minamisoma is located.

A contingent of six Pendleton students returned recently from Minamisoma with stories to tell. For those, be sure to read next week's story in the *East Oregonian*.

On the Japanese students' first day in the Round-Up City, the Pendleton police hosted them at the department's training range near the airport. Besides shooting a Taser gun, the students watched canine officer Jon Lehman put a drug-detecting dog named Lucy through her paces. They observed officers training in a use-of-force scenario. They shot a beanbag gun. They learned how to use a baton, first practicing on a rubber dummy named "Bob" and then facing Officer J.D. Lambert, who wore a padded body suit. The students attacked him one by one. One of the girls, apologized before she commenced.

"I'm sorry," she told Lambert. "I'm sorry."

The contingent from the Far East spent the first part of the morning at the Pendleton Woolen Mills. They donned headphones and walked into the world of weaving. The hum of high-speed looms enveloped them as guide Lacie Schilling described



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Ena Kanazawa, an exchange student from Pendleton's sister city of Minamisoma, Japan, uses a foam baton to strike a practice dummy while learning about police tactics at the Pendleton Police Department's firing range on Thursday in Pendleton.

what they were seeing as they followed the process from wool to yarn to blanket. Schilling stopped every few sentences to let the group's leader and translator, Tak Haneda, paraphrase what she had just said.

At 11 a.m., the students trooped into the Pendleton City Hall for a formal welcome by city councilors. On the way in, most stopped in the hallway near the City Council Chambers to look at a framed letter from Minamisoma Mayor Katsunobu Sakurai and the formal sister city agreement.

In the chambers, City Councilor McKennon McDonald read a letter of welcome from Hiroshi Furusawa, of the Consul General Consular Office of Japan in Portland. He advised them to express appreciation for "this precious opportunity" and said "people from Oregon

were some of the first people to go to the Tohoku (region where Minamisoma is located) area after the earthquake and tsunami four years ago to volunteer and offer support."

After statements of welcome, the teens introduced themselves, one by one. One of them, 16-year-old Akari Yamazaki, said, "I'm very happy. I love Pendleton."

City Councilor Jane Hill alluded to the somber anniversary of the U.S. dropping an atomic bomb on Hiroshima, Japan, 70 years ago to the day. She said she preferred to remember another anniversary - 20 years ago when the first formal contingent from Pendleton, that year's Round-Up Court, visited Minamisoma.

This year, Pendleton students delivered a gift to Minamisoma leaders

of a crystal vase bearing the Round-Up logo. On Thursday, Haneda bestowed Minamisoma's gift to Pendleton, a carving of a samurai horseman.

The first day also included lunch and video games at Big John's Pizza, ride-alongs with Pendleton police officers, a cool drink at the Great Pacific, a stroll down Main Street with historian Keith May, a visit to the Pendleton Center for the Arts and selfies with the "Sisters in Spirit" statue.

In the coming days, the group will visit Walla Walla, stay in cabins at the Bar M Ranch and explore more of Pendleton. Before their Aug. 18 departure, they will visit Multnomah Falls, the Nike World Headquarter and the Oregon Zoo.

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DEBATE: Bush defended his call for path to legal immigration

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of the contenders standing alongside him clamored for their piece of the spotlight without engaging him directly. They quarreled over immigration, terrorism and gay marriage, each casting himself as the strongest to take on Democratic front-runner Hillary Rodham Clinton. They also assailed President Barack Obama and his nuclear deal with Iran.

The closest former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush, a favorite of the party's moderate, establishment wing, came to tangling with Trump was a gentle critique of the businessman's over-the-top rhetoric.

"Mr. Trump's language is divisive," Bush said. "We're not going to win by doing what Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton do every day — dividing the country."

On immigration, one of the main topics of the night, Bush defended his call for a path to legal status for some of the people living in the U.S. illegally, an unpopular position among some Republican voters who equate legal status with amnesty.

Trump in particular has pushed the issue of immigration throughout the summer, drawing criticism for saying Mexican immigrants are rapists. He said Thursday that he had been told that by border patrol agents, and he took credit for immigration being an issue in the campaign.

Trump's blunt style was in line with the approach he's taken to his campaign throughout the summer, appealing to voters frustrated with career politicians and perplexing his rivals. He entered the first debate leading the polls in a field filled with governors and senators.

Seventeen Republicans

FACT CHECK GOP candidates veer from the truth in 1st debate

WASHINGTON (AP) — Some of the claims in the Cleveland debate and how they compare with the facts:

DONALD TRUMP: "If it weren't for me, you wouldn't even be talking about illegal immigration."

THE FACTS: Republicans have been talking about immigration for at least 30 years, including former President George W. Bush and the Republican field in the 2008 and 2012 presidential elections. In 2013, an immigration overhaul seeking to address illegal immigration passed the Senate with strong Republican support, although the House never took it up. And Republican debate about immigration has only intensified in the wake of President Barack Obama's sweeping executive action shielding from deportation millions of immigrants in the U.S. illegally.

JEB BUSH, on his goal of 4 percent economic growth: "We can do this."

THE FACTS: Most economists say the U.S. under any president is unlikely to grow consistently at even close to 4 percent, largely due to the difficulty of overcoming decades-long trends.

Current forecasts put growth averaging half the rate of Bush's goal. To grow the economy faster, the country must either add more workers or increase their efficiency so their time on the job generates more income. The retirement of the baby boom generation will shrink the number of workers in the economy, making a huge increase of new employees unlikely.

Only four of the 16 presidential terms since World War II have experienced annual economic growth averaging more than 4 percent after inflation, according to research published last year by Princeton University economists Alan Blinder and Mark Watson.

BUSH: "You get rid of Obamacare and replace it with something that doesn't suppress wages and kill jobs."

THE FACTS: According to the Labor Department, the unemployment rate was 9.9 percent in March 2010, when Obama signed the Affordable Care Act. In June of this year, it had fallen to 5.3 percent. The economy has added more than 12 million jobs since March 2010.

While the health care law doesn't seem to have had a major impact on jobs, some lesser consequences are likely. The Congressional Budget Office projected that having government subsidized health insurance will prompt some people to leave the labor market, since they can get coverage without a job.

And although Republicans may be able to repeal Obama's law, it's unclear if and how they would replace it. The party has yet to rally behind a plan of its own, partly because of internal ideological differences. Some Republicans say it would be the 2016 presidential nominee's job to forge a consensus.

TRUMP: "We're giving them (Iran) \$150 billion plus" in sanctions relief under the nuclear deal.

THE FACTS: That might be an exaggeration.

Treasury Secretary Jacob Lew has said Iran has \$100 billion in foreign reserves that it's been unable to access. After sanctions relief, Treasury estimates that Iran will be able to freely access about half of that \$100 billion. He said more than \$20 billion is inaccessible because it is committed to projects with China and tens of billions of other restricted funds are in non-performing loans to Iran's energy and banking sector.

are seeking the party's nomination, but only 10 were invited by debate host Fox News to participate in the main event based on their showing in recent polls. The remaining seven were relegated to a pre-debate forum.

On stage in his home state, Ohio Gov. John Kasich

sought to raise his profile by striking an optimistic tone on the economy, saying all Americans need an opportunity to "share in this great American dream." He said that while he favored traditional marriage, he had recently attended a same-sex wedding and would support

his children if they were gay.

A raucous crowd cheered the candidates on throughout the debate in Cleveland, the same city where Republicans will nominate their general election candidate next summer. No Republican has ever won the presidency without winning Ohio.

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