



EAST OREGONIAN

OCTOBER 8-9, 2016

140th Year, No. 256

WINNER OF THE 2016 ONPA GENERAL EXCELLENCE AWARD

\$1.50

Rowan, Lehnert duel for sheriff

Candidates lay out arguments for job

By PHIL WRIGHT
East Oregonian

Incumbent Sheriff Terry Rowan said in his first term, he has made the sheriff's office more professional and responsive.

Challenger Ryan Lehnert promised to use the office, should he defeat Rowan in the November election, to improve mental health treatment.

He also said he would begin working toward agency accreditation in his first 100 days in office.

The two candidates met this week with the *East Oregonian* editorial board, laying out their arguments for the job.

Lehnert expressed his passion for helping people with mental health problems. Most citizens who police deal with routinely suffer from some kind of mental health crisis or addiction, he said, and finding ways to help them is the major challenge faced by law enforcement.

Local police, emergency services and mental health providers met last week at a conference in Pendleton to help identify and close gaps in service. Lehnert said that was helpful, but large gaps remain.

Lehnert said all the suicidal people he has encountered as a

See CANDIDATES/12A



Rowan



Lehnert



Residents in the municipalities of Pendleton, Hermiston and Milton-Freewater will have the opportunity to vote on whether or not to allow both medicinal and recreational marijuana dispensaries into their communities on the November ballot.

Staff photo by E.J. Harris



Marijuana retailers near Umatilla County

A person in Pendleton would have to drive either two hours west or east to legally purchase marijuana and bring it back home with them. Retailers in Kennewick and Walla Walla are closer, but bringing the marijuana back across state lines would be a federal crime.

Voters in Pendleton, Hermiston and Milton-Freewater will decide whether to legalize marijuana sales in November.

Dispensary/location	Type
1. Evergreen Hood River — Hood River	Medical/Recreational
2. Gorge Greenery — Hood R.	Med./Rec.
3. High Winds Cannabis — Hood R.	Med./Rec.
4. Mountain View Naturals — Hood R.	Med./Rec.
5. The Gorge Green Cross — Hood R.	Med./Rec.
6. Columbia River Herbs — The Dalles	Med./Rec.
7. Green2Go — Kennewick, Wash.	Med./Rec.
8. Luscious Leaf — Walla Walla, Wash.	Recreational
9. Walla Walla Weedery — Walla Walla	Med./Rec.
10. Walla Walla Cannabis Co. — Walla Walla	Med./Rec.
11. Eagle Cap Dispensary — La Grande	Medical
12. HWY 30 Cannabis — La Grande	Medical
13. 420ville — Huntington	Med./Rec.
14. Bunker Boys — Ontario	Medical

Sources: Oregon Liquor Control Commission; Washington Liquor and Cannabis Board

Antonio Sierra and Alan Kenaga/
EO Media Group

Pendleton, Hermiston, Milton-Freewater to decide on dispensaries in November

By ANTONIO SIERRA
East Oregonian

Pendleton was within one vote of not seeing the legalization of marijuana sales on the ballot.

After initially siding in October 2015 with the majority to draft an ordinance that would ban marijuana sales outright, Councilor Chuck Wood changed his mind after receiving an outpouring of support to put the issue to voters.

Without the necessary five votes to pass an ordinance, the councilors that supported the ban reluctantly changed their vote and unanimously agreed to refer it to the ballot.

Despite playing a pivotal role in bringing the issue to Pendleton voters and having no regrets about his decision, Wood remains firm in his personal opposition to marijuana sales. He remains unconvinced that the tax money Pendleton would get from marijuana dispensaries would bring significant revenue and said he would need to see more empirical evidence that pot shops would be beneficial to the community before he could support it.

Two years after Umatilla County voters rejected Measure 91 and marijuana legalization, voters in Pendleton,

Hermiston and Milton-Freewater will get now get a chance to have their say on both medical and recreational marijuana sales in their communities.

Will the two years between Measure 91 and these local ballot initiatives represent a sea change in public opinion on marijuana, or will voters like Wood remain steadfast in their opposition to retail marijuana?

Jim Moore, a political science professor at Pacific University, leans toward the latter scenario.

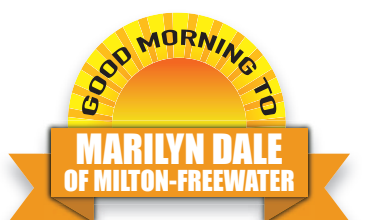
"It hasn't really become a part of the culture in the same way as the local liquor store," he said.

The fact that many local voters still aren't personally familiar with dispensaries will work against the referendum's passage, Moore said. According to a study by DHM Research, only 7 percent of people statewide have purchased recreational marijuana at a retail store.

Another factor that could work against it is a lack of campaign visibility — among the dozens of communities across the state with marijuana ballot issues, Moore said it's rare to see campaign signs for or against it.

That's certainly true of the three local cities, where signs for the

See MARIJUANA/12A



Visit the Pendleton Round-Up Gift Shop for a free keychain



Palmer deposition contradicts statements on emails

Says office had no policy on how to retain emails

By LES ZAITZ
The Oregonian

JOHN DAY — Grant County Sheriff Glenn Palmer says he "never reviewed" a state policy that he has cited as justification for destroying government emails.

In a recent deposition, Palmer also contradicted his earlier claim that it was practice in his office to print emails, file the hard copies and then delete the electronic versions. Under oath,



Palmer

he said his office has no such policy and he never told his employees to handle emails that way.

He also testified that he released cellphone records

only after redacting personal calls, including calls to people associated with a militia.

Palmer's disclosures came under questioning by a lawyer for *The Oregonian* as part of a lawsuit seeking public records. In May, *The Oregonian*/OregonLive sued Palmer and his office after he ignored or declined several requests for records dating to February. That included police reports, cellphone records, emails, his calendar and records of handgun licenses. Oregon law generally makes such material open to the public.

Palmer acknowledged in subsequent court filings that he had no electronic

versions of emails to turn over because he routinely deleted them from his primary account. He has yet to produce any hard copies of emails.

Emails have become a crucial resource for the public and the press to monitor the conduct of public officials such as Palmer. They can document how government decisions are made and who is influencing public officials.

During the deposition in late September, the sheriff asserted his Fifth Amendment right against self-incrimination 51 times when questioned about his email practices.

Palmer already is under

criminal investigation for an allegation that in 2012 he destroyed an electronic copy of a police report.

In the deposition, Palmer said:

- He considered calls to or from those associated with the occupation of the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge to be "personal" so they didn't have to be disclosed to the public.

- Records of his government-issued cellphone show "many" personal phone calls — a potential violation of state ethics law prohibits personal use of government equipment.

- He frequently

See PALMER/12A



7 29467 10002 2