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EAST OREGONIAN

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PENDLETON

Pot tax brings in \$131,000 in first 6 months

By ANTONIO SIERRA
East Oregonian

Tax revenue from Pendleton's marijuana dispensaries has given the city more green than it knows what to do with.

According to the Pendleton Finance Department, the city has received \$131,963 thus far from marijuana taxes in the current fiscal year, which runs from July 2017 through June 2018.

The figure caught both City Manager Robb Corbett and Mayor John Turner by surprise.

"I'm surprised that it's that high," Turner said.

When city staff put together the budget last spring, they projected the city would make \$25,000 from marijuana revenue in the entire fiscal year, a conservative estimate made while staff waited to see how the local marijuana industry developed.

Pendleton has three marijuana dispensaries — High Desert Cannabis, Kind Leaf Pendleton and Pendleton Cannabis — that it receives tax revenue from. The city also receives its share of the 17 percent sales tax the state levies on cannabis retailers, in addition to a local 3 percent tax that was approved by voters in 2016.

Corbett said the local sales tax was a bigger revenue driver than the state tax.

With a six-figure windfall and more revenue coming before the fiscal year is over, the decision on how to spend the money now lies with Pendleton City Council.

Turner said the council hasn't had the chance to discuss where the money will go, but added that there's plenty of city projects and ideas in need of funding.



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Long-time Pendleton doctor Dan Marier has retired after serving patients in the area for 33 years.

So long, Doc

Dr. Dan Marier retires after 33 years of caring for Pendleton patients

By KATHY ANEY
East Oregonian

Dr. Dan Marier clearly remembers his first day of doctoring in Pendleton.

Marier had moved to Oregon from Denver to practice with Dr. Norm Sitz and two other doctors at Pendleton Internal Medicine.

"I started at 8 o'clock on Oct. 15, 1984 — the first day of bird season," Marier recalls. "There was a note on my desk from Norm

that said, 'Gone bird hunting.'"

Marier saw 20 new patients that day and 20 the next day. He was off and running and didn't slow down — until recently. The internist retired in December after 33 years in practice.

Marier said he and his then-wife, Cheryl (an obstetrician) selected Pendleton because it satisfied their list of criteria.

"We took vacations and trips all over the western U.S. investigating where to move," he said.

"We chose Pendleton because it was away from a major metropolitan area, it had four seasons and it didn't have a boom-and-bust economy."

Turns out, the town needed him.

"They had been recruiting for an internist and had given up," Marier said.

Marier said he felt at home practicing medicine in the same vein as Marcus Welby, the main character in a long-running televi-

sion show about an affable family doctor who got involved in his patients' lives.

"I could develop long-term relationships with my patients," Marier said. "I could practice the specialty of internal medicine to pretty much its full scope."

Marier, who is now 68, described himself as a science nerd who grew up in the rustbelt town of Binghamton, New York. As a

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HERMISTON

Cowboy and Indian restaurant opens

By JAYATI RAMAKRISHNAN
East Oregonian

It may look like business as usual from the outside, but those walking into the old Stockman's Steakhouse building on North First Street will be in for a surprise — it's now home to an Indian restaurant and buffet.

"We will change [the signs] within a week or so," said co-owner Gaurav Bhatia, who stood in the middle of a bustling lunch crowd on Friday, the restaurant's third day of operations. Soon, he said, the outside of the building will bear the new restaurant's name: Indian Kitchen and Steakhouse. The inside of the building, too, looks familiar, with the booths and decor still the same. Even the menus still bear Stockman's name and offer the same fare. The biggest difference is a buffet filled with eight to 10 steaming Indian dishes, from Tandoori



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Robert Leinweber fills his plate at the lunch buffet on Friday at the Indian Kitchen and Steakhouse in Hermiston.

chicken and saag paneer to chana masala and vegetable korma.

Bhatia, who opened the restaurant with his wife, Rosy Sidhu and his cousin, Raman-deep Singh Malhi, said the idea

for opening an Indian restaurant in Hermiston came together quickly.

"A lot of our customers have

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"As of lately, I've seen more variety. Especially with this place and the Hibachi place — I think people want more."

— **Otey Muniz**, Hermiston resident

Trump wants another round of Bounds for Circuit Court

East Oregonian

Ryan Bounds, an assistant U.S. Attorney for Oregon and a Hermiston native, has been nominated for a second time by President Donald Trump for a seat on the Ninth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals.

The White House announced the nomination of Bounds and 20 other justices on Friday in states it said are "suffering from judicial emergencies."

Bounds was first nominated by Trump in September to replace Appellate Judge Diarmuid O'Scannlain, who took semi-retirement senior status on Jan. 1, 2017.

Bounds' nomination was effectively blocked at the time by Oregon Sens. Jeff Merkley and Ron Wyden, both



Bounds

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