

WEED

Continued from Page A1

Two more details were still being clarified.

Proponents and the cities and county first heard that it would require what amounts to a double majority for the initiative to pass, but the double majority requirement was banned in Oregon in 2008. That ban, however, was on the requirement of a double majority for property tax issues.

The vote to lift the marijuana bans is not a property tax issue. So, the 50 percent voter turnout followed by a majority "yes" vote could still be required.

The state has advised Sandy Lathrop, Wallowa County Clerk, that "in the event that the Elections Division receives questions from city or county elections officials about electoral initiated petitions to control marijuana retail licenses, we should direct you to your counsel about the specific petition requirements of ORS 475B.325 as they may be different from a city or county charter."

The second unresolved issue is how the "10 percent of state tax money to cities" can be spent. The League of Oregon Cities, in its marijuana information packet, advises that state tax money to cities must be spent "to assist local law enforcement in performing its duties" under Measure 91. This would mean that the often-mentioned benefit to cities of new parks, highway repair or other amenities would not happen with the state tax portion.

However, the Oregon Department of Revenue recently advised Lathrop that "House Bill 3470 (2017) removed the limitations on how cities and counties can use their 10-percent of state marijuana tax revenues, which means localities can use the money they receive as they see fit."

The share in state taxes is fairly small and based on the population of the city in which

the marijuana dispensary sits. For small cities, that may amount to less than \$20,000.

A much larger pot of money is available through a city tax. Cities may assess an additional three percent tax on recreational dispensaries (not on medical dispensaries) within city limits and that money can be spent as the city sees fit. That tax must also be approved by voters during a general election.

How much money that might bring to either Joseph or Enterprise is difficult to estimate.

The tiny town of Huntington (pop. 435) is often cited as an example of the riches a city can reap from recreational marijuana dispensaries (there are two in the town).

Huntington is the first available legal pot point of sale for 600,000 residents of Boise.

"What we get mainly are Idaho drivers, hundreds a day," said Huntington's Mayor Candy Howland.

Wallowa County, with a resident population of approximately 7,000, has an estimated visitor count of 805,000 per year.

Huntington's experience does aid in understanding how a small city can get the biggest bang from marijuana dispensary bucks.

Huntington's share of the \$850,000 the state distributed to cities has come to about \$12,000, Howland said.

The city maximum three percent city tax on recreational marijuana is a far bigger boost to the local budget.

Howland said that the city took the first quarter city tax payments, averaged them out over the year, and wrote an expected \$200,000 from the local marijuana tax into their budget.

"Our usual total city budget was \$135,000 to \$175,000 a year," Howland said.

The city plans to spend what may be a windfall wisely. Most of the new money funneling into city coffers will be spent on infrastructure and emergency services, Howland said.

Enterprise Library receives \$5,000 gift

Enterprise Public Library has received a generous gift of \$5,000 from Col. Daniel Boyd of Ashland, Ore. Boyd has long-time connections to Wallowa County.

"Every year at Christmas, Col. Boyd sends the library a card with \$100 in it," said Denine Rautenstrauch, City of Enterprise Librarian. "His mother was involved in our library when he was a kid. This year he sent his Christmas card, and I opened it and there was a check for \$5,000."

The gift was apparently inspired when Boyd visited the

library last summer and spoke with Rautenstrauch.

"One of the things I'd talked to him about was the John Harlan Horner Papers," she said.

John Harlan Horner is not to be confused with Oregon Historian John B. Horner. The Wallowa County John H. was a bachelor who lived in the county and wrote a four-volume set of books about Wallowa County.

"It's a fantastic thing, but it's 1,500 pages," Rautenstrauch said. "We created an index for it, and what I want to

do is make it a machine-readable document that is word-searchable that will be on the library's database."

Dale Potter of Enterprise owns the copyright for the huge document and has already stated he will grant permission for the library to do the project.

"The books really are truly fantastic, lots of historical information, but if you don't want to read 1,500 pages, they're difficult to use," said Rautenstrauch. "If they're scanned in and you can just type in a name or a place

name — it's going to pull it up. I think it's pretty cool. I'm excited."

The Horner Papers project will not take the entire \$5,000 donation so Col. Boyd has agreed that the balance will be spent on new shelving for children's books.

"When they built those shelves in 1914, children's books were all smaller," said Rautenstrauch. "A lot of the (newer) kids books have to sit over sideways and some don't fit at all. I explained that to Col. Boyd and he was thrilled with this idea."

Lockhart appointed to Joseph City Council

Michael Lockhart was appointed to the Joseph City Council at the Jan. 11 regular meeting council meeting. Lockhart was the only applicant for the city council position created by the resignation of Rodd Clark.

Lockhart continues to serve as president of the Village at Wallowa Lake and co-owns the Wallowa Lake Tram.



Mike Lockhart

Lockhart said he had been thinking of a bid for a seat on the council for some time.

"There are some things in Joseph that are of interest to me," he said. "I'd like to see

the streets repaired and look at infrastructure. City councilors have been working on this for a long time, and it's not that I have an idea how to approach (these issues), yet.

"I'll have to know more about it. I'd just like to see where I can help. I'm looking forward to helping the people on the council."

Joseph Mayor Dennis

Sands said Lockhart's background made him a good addition.

"He's got a pretty varied background with a lot of experience in several areas and it's always good to see someone who uses their knowledge for the benefit of the community and not just personal gain," Sands said. "We're very happy to have him."

SNOW

Continued from Page A1

Now for the bad news: Freeze-thaw conditions were predicted for earlier this week and then snowfall beginning on Wednesday night and continuing through Saturday, Jan. 20.

Snow was expected to be fairly light, but what kind of snow and how much "fairly light" turns out to be can make a big difference to both mushers and dogs.

"If it's soft (fluffy and dry), it can be very hard on the dogs," Trapp said.

Soft snow over freeze-thaw conditions (ice) can be an avalanche danger and additionally make descents

very dangerous for mushers. Because of the extreme gains and drops in elevation in the Eagle Cap Extreme race, mushers often have to ride their sled hooks (which act as brakes) on descents. In past years the forged steel hooks have been pulled nearly straight from use.

Runaway sleds on descents may also result in injuries.

Winds combined with fresh light snow can create white-out conditions, and teams can get lost, miss a turn in the trail and go off-trail or get stuck. All of these situations have happened during the race in past years.

Trails Crew members will remain on duty throughout the race.

IN BRIEF

Pesticide session planned Feb. 22

OSU Extension Service will offer a Northeast Oregon Private Pesticide Applicator Pre-Exam Training session 9:45 a.m. to 3 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 22 at Wallowa County

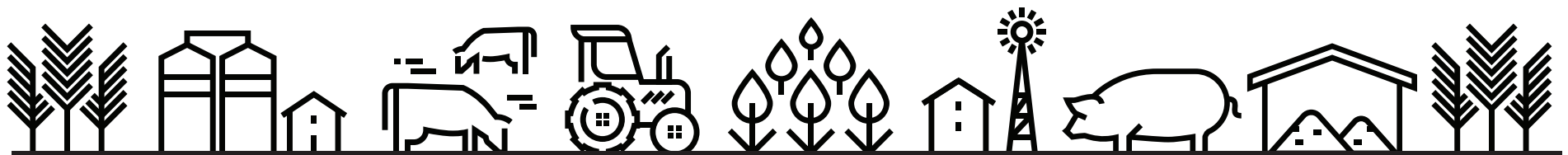
Fair Grounds, 668 NW 1st St., Enterprise

The session is designed for those preparing to take a private pesticide applicator license or laws and safety exam. Topics include laws and regulations, math for applicators, pesticide labels, toxicity and safety.

Info and registration: john.williams.1@oregon-state.edu or 541-426-3143.

OREGON CAPITAL INSIDER

Get the inside scoop on state government and politics!



Wallowa County Agricultural Resource Foundation & Wallowa County Stockgrowers Association

Livestock Producers and interested public

10th Annual Scholarship Dinner Auction!

Tuesday, January 23, 2018
Cloverleaf Hall in Enterprise

5:30 pm. Doors Open for Scholarship Dinner and Auction

6:00 pm. Prime Rib Dinner prepared by *Apple Flat Catering*

Dessert Auction and raffles to follow.

Tickets at the door: \$25 Adult, \$15 kids 7 -12 and 6 and under free

Any questions or interest in donating an item or making a cash donation may be directed to Katie Howard (425) 248-5227

**Proceeds go towards College Scholarship for Wallowa County Youth!
 Come and help further the education of our great kids.**

**The Wallowa County Agricultural Resource Foundation is a 501 (c)(3) organization.
 Donations for education are tax deductible.**