

Joseph Dispensary Committee meets for first time

By Steve Tool
Wallowa County Chieftain



(L to R) Joseph City Council members Marty Hamilton and Pearl Sturm are also the sole members of the city's Marijuana Dispensary Committee. The committee is looking for community members to add to its ranks.

The Joseph Marijuana Dispensary Committee met for the first time Wednesday, Dec. 19, to discuss the way forward for the city after residents on Nov. 6 voted to lift a ban on dispensaries.

City council member Marty Hamilton chairs the committee. The other committee/council member at this time is Pearl Sturm. About a half-dozen people, including mayor Teresa Sajonia, attended the 10 a.m. meeting.

Hamilton said that the committee was interested in the revenue stream that marijuana could bring into the city's coffers, as well as facilitating the process for potential retailers to get to that level.

According to Hamilton, the committee is seeking more members, especially those not currently involved in city council.

"This is an opportunity to bring the community in and get them involved," he said. "To me that's a good thing."

Hamilton emphasized that he does not have a personal stake in any dispensary, and he wants the committee to appear objective both to the public and possible dispensary applicants.

"I'm trying to create an environment where everyone gets a fair shake at it," he said. "That's all I'm trying to do."

He also hoped to address a concern, expressed by Sturm, that the city might end up with a dispensary on every corner.

"There isn't enough business," he said. "It's not going to happen that way."

New and established businesses prepare for 2019

Word on the street is that in a few short weeks several entrepreneurs will have news for me to share. It's hard not to spill the beans, but a well-planned opening is important.

I know about a couple of these businesses because I took the NEOEDD business school again last fall and there were some amazing entrepreneurs in that class. Two of them are already well along in their business development and I've written about both.

That's my pitch for the NEOEDD business class. I found it very educational my first time through and went the second time when life plans changed the direction of my business idea. I recently met a fellow developing a business in Wallowa County who told me he went to the class and then wrote and rewrote his business plan over and over till he got the right plan. So, don't think you have to know everything before you begin. It's a process.



Kathleen Ellyn

You'll have a plan by the end of the class, but you can tinker with that till you feel it's right, or you can decide it needs to go on the back burner for a year, or you can rethink the whole thing and completely change direction. Whatever your next step is, you'll be a lot better prepared and you'll know some other entrepreneurs in the county and be able to observe their process.

I highly recommend that class, which is free to qualifying Wallowa County residents. Keep your eye on the NEOEDD website at neoedd.org for announcements of business development courses.

One new business I've been meaning to mention is Ashley Aschenbrenner's

La Petite Salon, 419 Golf Course Road in Enterprise. Last time I tried to get a haircut here in Enterprise I found myself on a two-month waiting list, so having another stylist in town was good news to me. I gave Ashley a try and I'm very pleased with the results and the products she uses.

Ashley has been cutting hair for five years and is a graduate of Phagans School of Cosmetology in Bend. She carries Joico and Redken products. She provides all of the usual salon services and her hours are Monday through Friday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.. Walk-ins are welcome or you can call for an appointment: 541-398-1263.

I love it when a Main Street business location fills and so I noticed when Jay Connolly of Jay's Place computer repair started moving from SW First Street into new digs at 113 E Main in the EM&M Building block across the street from the Wallowa County Courthouse. That's where Phyllis Johnson had her salon "PJ's Cutting Edge" until she

retired earlier this year.

Jay opened in the new location Dec. 17.

Jay's been in business in Wallowa County since 1996 and was last located at 103 SW First Street. The new space gives him a lot more room, he said, and that's got him excited because now he can display all of his guitars. Some of those guitars are for sale and he also carries guitar strings, drumsticks, music books and a few other necessities for the musician.

"There are a surprising number of musicians in Wallowa County," Jay observed.

Jay carries wireless peripherals for computers; does computer repair; sells new custom-built computers and refurbishes and sells used computers. He also can act as a computer consultant for your home business, super-gaming station, or storefront business. Just ask.

Jay will be open in the new location from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. You can call him at 541-426-0108.

Wallowa County Prevention

Holiday stress can be a trigger for someone with a gambling habit



Don't let the delivery of all those presents stress you out. Help is free and confidential, 24/7.

Visit OPGR.org or call the toll free help line at 1-877-MY-LIMIT



Building Healthy Families

541-426-9411 • oregonbhf.org



FREE DELIVERY to Wallowa County!

START THE NEW YEAR OFF WITH A BRAND NEW KITCHEN

Wishing you a Healthy and Happy New Year!

ELGIN ELECTRIC CO.

43 N. 8th • Elgin

541-437-2054

Open Mon. - Fri. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Sat. by appointment