

# Regarding marijuana growing in Dunes City

Dear Dunes City Residents:  
The city has recently received a number of inquiries regarding Dunes City residents who have submitted applications to the state to grow marijuana.

First, please understand that the licenses to grow are issued by the state, not Dunes City. State Measure 91, which allows possession, manufacture and sale of marijuana in Oregon, passed by a 51 percent margin among Dunes City voters.

Neither the City Council nor the voters of Dunes City placed a local ban on the November 2016 ballot. As a result, these marijuana licenses are legal within the city.

Indeed, in November 2016, the city voters voted to implement a tax on marijuana retail sales.

Additionally, the city does not enforce federal criminal laws. To the extent the activities of a marijuana licensee might be illegal under federal law, the licensee

takes that risk on their own. For now, the federal government has decided not to enforce federal criminal laws related to state-licensed marijuana business.

Marijuana is an agricultural product. Dunes City Code permits agricultural activities under certain conditions.

Except for certain reasonable times, places and manner regulations allowed by state law, the city does not have the authority to treat marijuana differently from other agricultural crops.

When asked to provide the Land-Use Compatibility Statement (LUCS) for the state permit, state law requires the city complete the form within 20 days. Failure to do so results in an automatic approval of the LUCS. The city can — and does — provide conditions that must be met such as:

- Marijuana grows must pro-

vide evidence to the city of where the water source comes from. Water under the Dunes City Shared Domestic Water Supply is not allowed to be used for marijuana grows. In fact, most state

permits and certificates do not allow much in the way of irrigation. Also, a commercial grow must get a commercial well drilled.

## Letter to Dunes City residents

By JAMIE MILLS  
DUNES CITY ADMINISTRATOR

• Each marijuana grow operation must submit a detailed site plan to the state for issuance of a permit. That site plan must be reviewed by Dunes City as well to ensure requirements are met as to set-backs, environmentally sensitive lands, lot coverage percentages, building height restrictions, etc.

The LUCS process is an administrative process, meaning the city's review is based on objective criteria. In other words, the criteria are basic yes/no questions and do not take into account discretionary factors. The city does not have the ability to reject the LUCS simply because of community objections.

• Marijuana grows must comply with all Dunes City nuisance codes, including odor, noise, lights, etc.

• Marijuana grows must comply with all Dunes City building codes, including fencing requirements/limitations and set-back requirements.

- Marijuana grows must com-

ply with all Dunes City codes, so they are prohibited from using phosphate containing fertilizers or pesticides and further prohibited from allowing waste water from running off their property (it must be captured).

You can look up licensed facilities online at Oregon.gov/olcc/marijuana/Documents/Marijuana\_licenses\_approved.pdf.

While at the OLCC website, you can also peruse the regulations and restrictions imposed upon grows by the state that are over and above Dunes City's regulations.

I hope this clears up some of the misconceptions and misunderstandings I have been hearing. Please feel free to give me or the City Council member of your choice a call for additional clarification.

—Jamie Mills  
Dunes City Administrator

## Letters from 4A

### CONCERNED WITH OCHS ISSUES

Regarding the front page article in the Aug. 12 edition of the Siuslaw News ("Past and Present Volunteers, Board Members Clash Over Care"), I have concerns about the Oregon Coast Humane Society. These concerns came about recently when I went to the shelter to adopt a cat. I have adopted four cats from OCHS.

Going into the cattery was depressing due to the crowded conditions and the odor.

However, my biggest concern was that information I received about the cat I wanted to adopt was conflicting. It seemed difficult to get the right information.

I understood that she was not ready to go; she had been nursing a litter and was a recent arrival. I was told she was spayed.

When I went back days later to visit with the cat, I was told she had not been spayed and that they have trouble finding enough veterinary care. I was astonished when I was told they need to take them to a Veneta veterinarian.

Is this true or misinformation? Staff I spoke with seemed almost uninterested in my concerns, which included the cat's drippy eyes and questions about her health.

What has happened to all the money that was bequeathed to the OCHS? How will these issues be resolved?

The board seems dysfunctional from what I read. While people disagree and let their egos get in the way, homeless animals do not get the care they need. Homeless animals often have been traumatized and neglected before arriving at the shelter. They deserve to be well cared for.

Good management, a responsible board and good training of staff and volunteers can benefit these animals and the community, and I understand that constant fundraising is necessary for success.

But not everyone cares about homeless animals. Those of us

who do, need to speak up and help where we can.

—Linda Kanter  
Deadwood

### KEEP THIS IN MIND ABOUT KKK, ANTIFA

A Twitter friend in Finland sent me this. They have experience in these things and we would do well to keep this in mind:

"In reality, the difference is that #KKK attacks people who look different and #Antifa attacks people who think differently."

—Dave Peck  
Florence

### STEVEN'S GOOD NAME

Steven Leskin was treated poorly by the Port and by Siuslaw News.

He was the Port Manager and came to do the work the port needed him to do. But when it came time to collect fees, they turned against him.

Collecting fees and taxes was part of Steve's job, but since several people on the board own boats, they were not interested in paying the bills. Instead, they turned against the man they hired to do the job.

But no one knows that because Steven's side of the story was never included in the articles that appeared in Siuslaw News.

It doesn't look like the newspaper even reached out to Steven to hear his side.

The port used dirty words and ugly accusations against him that ended up in the newspaper. This included accusation from an angry board member telling Steve he needed anger management class, and a sexual harassment story that was proven wrong.

These accusations are not news and they don't belong in the newspaper. They hurt the name and reputation of the person and can destroy his future ability to find a good and decent job. Unless proven right, there is no room in the paper to publish speculations.

I feel both the port board and our newspaper owe Steve an apology for all the damage that was done to his career and his name.

Please act responsibly and don't play with a man's reputation.

—Liat Meller  
Florence

### LOST BET

Seven months ago, on or about Jan. 25 of this year, I made a bet with myself — which I now have to concede I have lost.

At that time I made a bet with myself that after Donald J. Trump won the presidential election in our country, the Democratic National Committee, many democrats and the left-wing media would do everything possible to disrupt his presidency for the next six months in order to take him off his stated agenda.

Well, it is now seven months later and they are still out there full

scale trying to do exactly that.

I have now placed myself another bet. Never mind my previous six-month bet; this one is going to continue until the next election in November 2020 — or possibly until November 2024 if President Trump is re-elected.

If we can get the election process cleaned up and voter ID installed, I feel he stands a good chance for re-election no matter how many lies and distortion of truths I see being cooked up against him by the DNC and left-wing media.

It's clear to me they will go after him regardless of what he says or doesn't say, regardless of what he does or doesn't do.

A prime example is the recent episode regarding the KKK attempting to march down south

and the opposition it met, which prompted our president to issue comments regarding same.

I have seen and heard numerous statements by the president disavowing any agreeing with — or supporting of — that radical group. Yet the left-wing false media and democrats seem to just keep distorting what he said into something other than what he meant.

And I expect this to continue.

So, to my fellow conservative Republicans (that excludes senators Lindsey Graham, John McCain and the likes), I say prepare for a non-ending continuation of the previous seven months of bad mouthing by the liberal false news media and the DNC.

—Tony Cavarro  
Florence

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Get involved  
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