



# Cottage Grove Sentinel

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## New Breed Seed making plans to revolutionize marijuana industry

Owners hope to be in operation by the end of the month

BY JON STINNETT  
The Cottage Grove Sentinel

A much-discussed construction project off Row River Road in Cottage Grove should soon be in operation, and its owners hope that their new venture can revolutionize the marijuana industry.

Harold Frazier said he was growing and selling onions in Washington when marijuana was legalized for recreational use, and the opportunities provided by legalization have led him and several business partners to found New Breed Seed, with headquarters located be-

hind Subway.

"We're interested in the opportunity to provide quality seed to home growers," Frazier said. He said his father, Sandy Frazier, had long been acquainted with Territorial Seed founder Tom Johns, and while Johns is quick to point out that the new venture has "nothing to do with Territorial Seed," Frazier said the building owned by Johns that his new business currently occupies helped convince the group that it was "a good place and time to start something new."

"We knew about the current state of the quality of marijuana seeds, and we knew we could use our knowledge and experience to produce quality, lower-cost seeds that will germinate for the home grower," Frazier

said.

The new greenhouse is expected to serve as a sort of proving ground for new strains of marijuana that can be propagated from seed as opposed to cloning. Frazier said he believes New Breed Seed can also breed and select plants that perform well in the presence of common diseases, plants that could one day be free of diseases and not require the use of pesticides.

"We don't feel there's any reason marijuana couldn't be seed-propagated," he said. "It should be much cheaper, and it may end up a much healthier crop."

Marijuana is typically grown using clones, Frazier said, because the genetics of the plant have not been stabilized enough to grow the plant from seed. As

such, marijuana seeds are very expensive (about \$8-12 per seed, as opposed to about \$1 per seed for tomatoes).

"It doesn't have to be that way," Frazier said. "It's not that hard to make seeds."

Frazier added that he's not aware of any other company specializing in seed propagation of marijuana in this fashion.

"This is an unprecedented opportunity in the breeding of cannabis," he said.

New Breed Seed is expected to be a small operation, and Frazier hopes to get to work at the end of this month, assuming the Oregon Liquor Control Commission, which regulates the production of recreational marijuana, signs off on his operation. It was the OLCC, he said, that required the black fencing



photo by Jon Stinnett

Harold Frazier said legalization has offered an "unprecedented opportunity" to reimagine how marijuana is grown.

around the business that has gotten the town talking about what's happening there. The Cottage Grove City Council approved the design review for the new business last fall, and Frazier said the City has been great to work with.

The new company's products, however, will only be available

to other licensed recreational marijuana retailers.

"We'll be selling small packages of seeds to other retailers for resale," Frazier said. "It will only be available to other operations licensed by the OLCC, and there can be no interstate commerce."

## Zone change for two properties must wait

Purported use of one property earns a 'nay' vote

BY JON STINNETT  
The Cottage Grove Sentinel

The Cottage Grove City Council will revisit zone change applications at its Monday, April 25 meeting for two properties on Lane Street after the changes came one vote short of unanimous passage.

Glen Taylor and Eric Scully submitted applications to change the zoning on their properties at 115 and 125 N. Lane Street, respectively, from C-2 Central Business District to C2-P Community Commercial, a change that was recommended for approval by the Planning Commission in March.

At its April 11 meeting, the Council conducted a public hearing at which no one stood up to speak, and City Manager Richard Meyers told the group that the two zonings are actually very similar.

"The C-2 zoning didn't require that the property owners add parking," Meyers said. "But the properties are now disconnected from Main Street because of the closing of Lane Street. There's room now to add parking, and (City) planning recommends the change."

Meyers added that since the Planning Commission had already approved the zone change application and the notice of the City Council's intent to review the application had been available to the public for a week, the Council could adopt the change in one meeting with a unanimous vote.

Councilor Garland Burback asked what the property owners intended to use their properties for, and Meyers deflected the question.

"The zone change is content-neutral," he said. "Whatever they're doing, it doesn't matter. They can do horticulture or other uses, but they do have to add the parking."

City Planner Amanda Ferguson and Community Development Director Howard Schesser had said that Scully had been forthright with the City regarding his intention to operate a marijuana grow site on his property, an allowable use with the C2-P zoning. (Scully could not be contacted by the Sentinel for this article). Taylor, meanwhile, declined comment on plans for his building on Monday.

At voting time, Burback cast a 'nay' vote that ensured the application would be reviewed again, and during closing remarks by the Council, he indicated that the intended use of the property had been the reason for his vote in opposition.

"That's the reason I voted no on the change in zoning, because they're going to do a marijuana grow thing over there," he said. "I'm really unhappy about this. It just isn't right, I don't think. There needs to be a limit."



## Community's use

### Pool report talks public programs

BY JON STINNETT  
The Cottage Grove Sentinel

For those who do not visit often, one look at the schedule of Cottage Grove's Warren H. Daugherty Aquatic Center should make it obvious that the pool is a very busy place.

One of the few pools in Oregon under the ownership of a school district, the facility hosts mandatory swim lessons provided for area youngsters, and officials boast that not one graduate of these programs has drowned since the pool was built in the 1950s.

The pool also hosts community programs such as adult

water fitness classes, family lap and recreational swims and pool rentals, and at its Monday, April 11 meeting, the Cottage Grove City Council heard from the pool's manager, Carrie McCasline, about those programs and the expenses they entail. Mayor Tom Munroe also read a proclamation proclaiming April as Drowning Prevention Month.

For the past several years, the City has contributed about \$50,000 to pay for community offerings at the pool, a contribution that comes under scrutiny each spring as the City's budget committee hammers

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## Clearing the camps, part II: One woman's story

BY JON STINNETT  
The Cottage Grove Sentinel

When Cottage Grove police officers recently began visiting an illegal campsite on the southern end of town, they came into contact with 53-year old Roberta West, who said she's used the police directive to leave the camp to end a harrowing chapter of homelessness here.

"I started putting everything I own into a storage unit when the cops said we were going to have to move," West said. "I had never been homeless before. It's shocking and humbling, especially not knowing where to get answers or go for help."

By the first part of May, West said she plans to find herself in Arizona, where she will have her own address for the first time in years. This will not be her first new start, however.

"I've started over three or four times," she said. "Everything I've gone through has been new to this 53-year old."

West said she first came to Cottage Grove in



photo by Jon Stinnett

Roberta West said she believes eight out of 10 people who are homeless have mental health issues.

2007 and worked at Liberty Lanes. She brought her beloved cat here from southern California — who she still lives with and many refer to as the "camp cat" — while fleeing a man who had broken her jaw.

West worked at the bowling alley for two

years before leaving Cottage Grove. She came back about three years ago.

"It's a small town, and I thought it would give me the mental peace I needed," she said. "It's kind of like Mayberry here, but it's not."

West soon discovered how little like an idyllic television scene Cottage Grove could be, as the person she came back to live with "turned out to be a twaker."

"I've been kicked out of places because I told guys no," she said. "I lost a trailer at Saginaw Trailer Park — someone literally backed up to it and took it away."

West said she has returned to her tent and found someone else occupying it. She's had her bike — which she said she uses to ride at least 10 miles a day — stolen three times and three backpacks taken. Her ATM card has also been swiped, likely in an attempt to nab the Social Security funds she receives.

Over time, however, West said she's learned to access help that's available locally, including

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