

BUFFER

Continued from page 1A

"It's nice to get new businesses here, but I feel really strongly that we should kind of look at locating them in the outlying areas," Darlene Burbuck said. "We have a wonderful industrial park area, and there are other locations."

Many of the facility's neighbors also attended the Council's May 23 meeting to express their desire for marijuana-free "buffer zones," with Pattingale leading the way. Resident Kyle Miranda echoed that sentiment.

"We're trying to make our schools safer, but what about all the other areas?" Miranda said, adding that, "family atmosphere is part of what makes this town so special."

"We don't have to let them go wherever they want," Sherry Adams said of marijuana businesses. "This is future shock. Our culture has gotten ahead of our laws. We could have new zoning codes around parks. You have the power to do that."

Mayor Tom Munroe quickly responded, however, that the City of Cottage Grove is bound by state law that dictates much about the operation of marijuana-related businesses. Medical marijuana dispensaries, which are overseen by the Oregon Health Authority, began popping up in Cottage Grove in 2014, and there are currently four such licensed dispensaries in Cottage Grove. Under state law, dispensaries may not be located less than 1000 feet from each other and cannot be located within 1000 feet of a school. These dispensaries are also temporarily allowed to sell recreational marijuana, though many have also applied to become retail outlets with the Oregon Liquor Control Commission, which oversees recreational retail sales. Measure 91, which legalized recreational consumption and possession, specifies that recreational retail outlets not be located within 1000 feet of a school, though it does not regulate locations near parks,

and it may be largely up to local municipalities to enact stricter codes restricting the location of recreational facilities if they choose to do so.

City Planner Ferguson recently told the Sentinel that as long as a potential business fits the zoning for its location, the City would not be able to object. She said the City treats the growing of marijuana as light horticulture similar to any other plant that may be grown.

At its most recent meeting, the Council also voted to place a three-percent tax on recreational marijuana purchases on the November ballot.

"We tend to go to the Wild West a bit on marijuana, but I hope we don't in this case," Karen Munsell said. "It's a new thing. There could be benefits, but I feel strongly that this should be decided by the voters."

Councilor Garland Burbuck said that buffer zones would be "a good idea to discuss." City Manager Richard Meyers re-

sponded that, should buffer zones be enacted with city code, marijuana businesses that are already located in the zones would be "grandfathered in" and thus exempt from exclusion there in the future.

City Councilor Jake Boone, who opposes the tax on recreational marijuana and has opposed other regulatory efforts, said that he would "like to see data to see if buffer zones do anything useful."

"They appear to do nothing," Boone said. "In theory, these businesses are not doing business out in the front yard, and whether the nondescript building across from the park is processing marijuana or knitting socks, its effect on the children is exactly the same."

Still, Connelly promised the Council a report on what other communities in Oregon have decided with regard to buffer zones and whether Cottage Grove can pursue similar tactics.

CHICKENS

Continued from page 7A

Additional tips to protect young plants include: rotating chickens through different areas of the yard, placing stones around plant bases or creating tepee-like structures over young plants.

Natural weed and insect control

In addition to fertilizer and soil aeration, chickens can help control weeds and insects in your garden and lawn.

"Chickens love a lot of the things that gardeners do not - like weeds and insects," Biggs says. "They forage for seeds and bugs, eat small plants and clean up fallen fruit and green leaves."

Since chickens love many different types of plants, Biggs recommends creating a diverse plant ecosystem that includes layers of plants. Layering should include these types of plants: cover, lush and shade. Plant layers may include trees, shrubs, perennials, ornamental grasses,

annuals, vines, edible plants and ground cover.

"Well-planned plantings can provide soil stability and help filter rainwater runoff," he says.

Considerations for cover plants are butterfly bushes, which grow fast, provide shade and are not eaten by chickens; and hawthorne, which has edible berries and leaves that chickens tend to avoid.

When it comes to toxicity, chickens will typically avoid poisonous plants. However, consider removing plants like

poison ivy, boxwood, honey-suckle, nightshade, monkshood, oleander, tobacco and yew.

Raising free-range chickens

Consistency is important for chickens allowed to free-range in the garden. Training birds to know specific cues will help them return to the coop at night or during storms and maintain a balanced diet.

Biggs emphasizes the importance of a complete feed in addition to garden treats.

LORANE COUNTRY NEWS

BY LIL THOMPSON
For the Sentinel

This is a very busy week full of events. Tonight, Wednesday, June 1 is Crow Middle/High School senior recognition night at 7 p.m. in the gym.

On Thursday, June 2, Lorane Grange meets for its monthly meeting. Grangers will discuss plans for their Lane County Fair booths and the women

will serve the men in honor of Father's Day.

Everyone come out on June 3 at 6 p.m., especially all former 1967 students, to watch the unveiling of the time capsule. This will take place in the front yard, where it was planted and has remained untouched for 50 years. Enjoy hot dogs off the grill as you see this happen.

Then, a new time capsule will be planted.

The CHS Baccalaureate will take place on Sunday, June 5 at 6 p.m. in the Crow Nazarene Church. Graduation for all Crow High School seniors will be Friday, June 10 at 7 p.m. Everyone is welcome to come share in their celebration.

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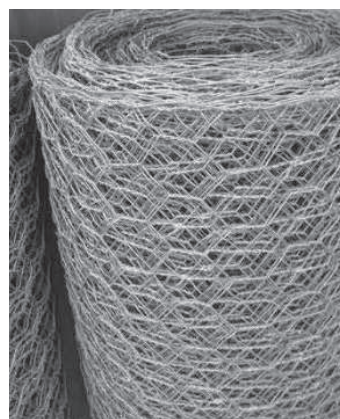
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