

Ballots are out

Lane County residents registered to vote should have received their ballots in the mail for the special May 16 election. Ballots were mailed out last week.

If you have not yet received your ballot and believe you are registered to vote in Lane County, please contact the Lane County Clerk at (541) 682-4234.

Voters will have the chance to weigh-in on school board seats locally as well as the jail levy (for complete story please see page 7).

Once residents have completed their ballot, it can be returned to any of the drop boxes throughout the city or mailed in the self-addressed envelope it arrived in. The county is reminding voters to view both sides of their ballot.

For further details on the May 16 election, please visit lanecounty.org.

NYC musician returns to Axe and Fiddle

By Caitlyn May
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Danny Fingers is coming to town. The New York resident is the first half of Danny Fingers and the Thumbs, a band that plays "narrative-based art pop" and he'll be marking his second stop at Axe and Fiddle in nine months, tomorrow.

"I really love the Axe and Fiddle and the stage. It seems like a bar that really focuses on its performers," he said. "It's an awesome venue."

This show won't be featuring the Thumbs, three other band members who limit their touring to the east coast. According to the lead vocalist and songwriter, Danny, the other members stick to tours in Washington D.C., Philadelphia, New Jersey and other east coast venues. Danny, however, travels between New York City and Bend, Oregon.

"I wasn't trying to be in a band," he said of his start. "I was a stand-up comedian."

It was while he was procrastinating writing jokes that his roommate, a producer, suggested they record a song. The result was his first album, "What's Normal is Weird." It was also, his big break.

"I handed it to Rufus Wainwright outside of the Chelsea Hotel



and two months later he was talking about it on BBC Radio," he said. The artist went on to promote Danny and the Thumbs in Canada and soon enough, the band found itself on several "top pop group" lists thanks to the CD they shoved into Wainwright's hand outside of a New York City hotel.

Since then, Danny's put out a second album, the band has opened for Wainwright in Portland and Seattle and he continues to tour while working on a third album.

The show starts at 8:30 p.m. tomorrow, May 4 at Axe and Fiddle on Main St.

Medical users still outspend recreational pot users

Despite the increase in recreational sales for April 20

By Caitlyn May
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They were calling it "dispensary hopping," going from dispensary to dispensary, presumably purchasing marijuana at each location. The new practice went hand-in-hand with a 'holiday' that has moved from cult-classic sects to the mainstream with the legalization of marijuana in 26 states across the country: 4/20.

Apothecaria was one of the stops on the new holiday route through the city.

"We had a line of people in the lobby at one point, it was hectic. People didn't want to bother going into Eugene," said Shenna Whitlock. As manager of the Apothecaria dispensary, she's tasked with insuring the facility maintains its compliance with state laws and keeps potential customers at arm's length until their "21-and-older" status can be verified; hence the lines in the lobby.

Diana Lee of Mandy's Sugar Shack dispensary also had a line out the door on April

20 and the receipts to prove it. She took in just over \$3,000 for the day but notes she didn't make a profit.

"4/20 is about the people and I got back what I put in for the day," she said.

A full house on April 20 does not demand a stretch of the imagination but according to a recent report by New Frontier Data, medical marijuana users spent more on the plant than the more publicized recreational crowds last year. On average, the recreational user spent approximately \$50 per transaction while medical users spent \$136.

"This is helping people," Whitlock said. "We had a little old lady come in who could barely walk with her walker and was on opiates and medications. Now she comes in and uses marijuana and she's active again."

Marijuana may be helping medical users but it's also aiding municipalities' coffers. In November, Cottage Grove residents passed Ballot Measure 20-245, which established a tax on recreation marijuana sales within the city. Retailers are now required to col-

lect a three percent sales tax at the point of sale, added the existing 17 percent state tax on the sale. Forty percent of the state's cut goes into the common school fund while 20 percent is given to the mental health, alcoholism and drug services account. The state police get 15 percent, local law enforcement on the city and county level receive 10 percent each and the Oregon Health Authority sees five percent for alcohol and drug abuse prevention and treatment services. The state of Oregon has garnered just over \$60 million in tax revenue from marijuana sales in 2016.

Apothecaria management said it would not release financial records to the press due to the small Cottage Grove market but said it "definitely made a profit." The city has four dispensaries, two of which were willing to go on the record.

"It's hard for people in a small town," Whitlock said. "I've seen people pull up and run from their car to the door. They don't want anyone seeing them come in here."



Apothecaria employee measures out an order on April 21. Local dispensaries have seen an uptick in business, mirroring national statistics.

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