

Polk County
Itemizer-Observer

Volume 141, Issue 3 www.Polkio.com January 20, 2016 75¢

Recreational marijuana OK'd in Polk

Board of Commissioners define where marijuana may be grown, processed, sold in county limits

By Jolene Guzman
The Itemizer-Observer

DALLAS — The Polk County Board of Commissioners approved amendments to the county's zoning ordinance to allow production, process and sales of recreational marijuana.

The amendment, which designates the zones in which each type of activity can take place passed by a 2-1 vote Jan. 13 following a public hearing.



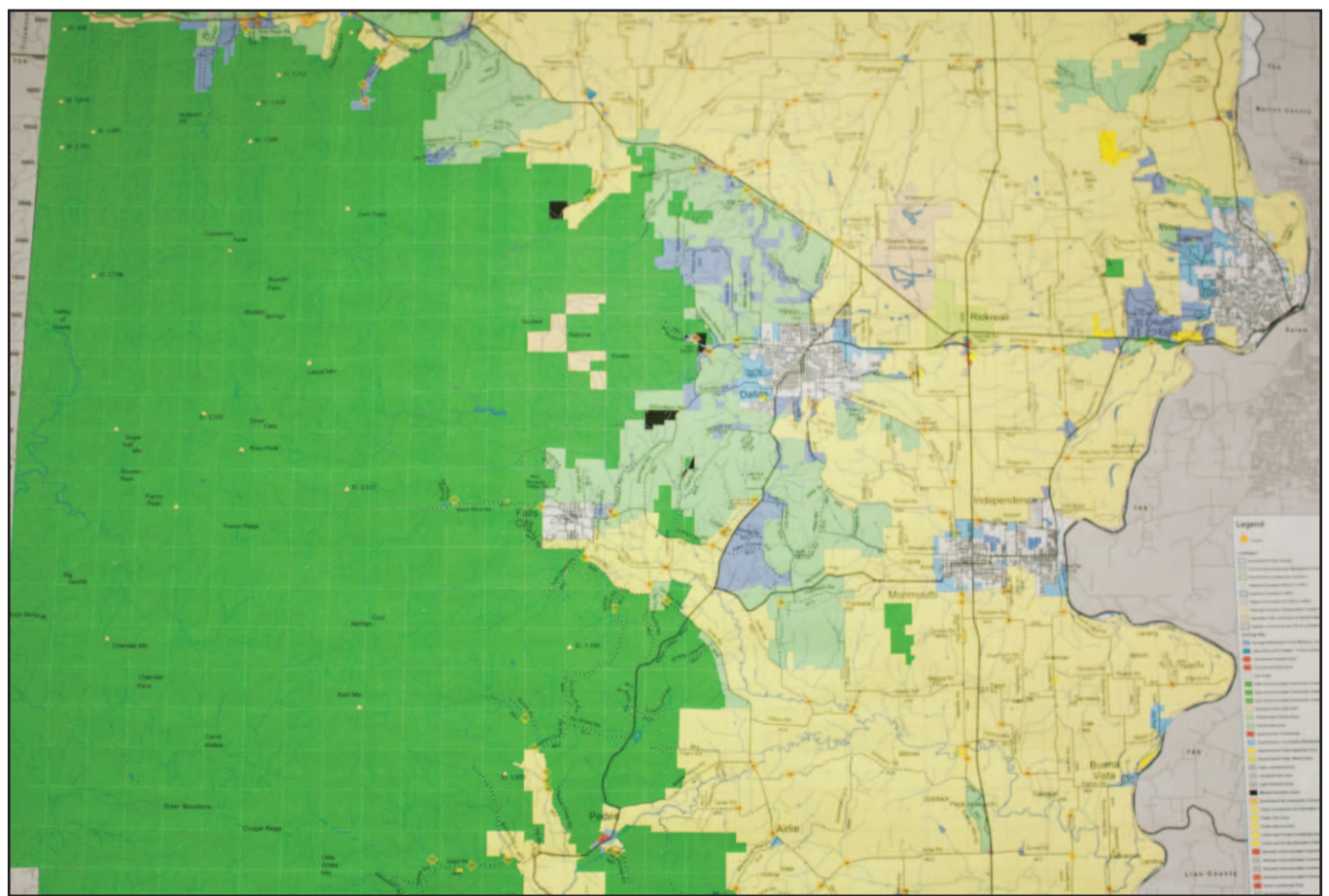
Ainsworth
Mike Ainsworth voted "no."

The board approved allowing marijuana production — growing and primary processing — in the exclusive farm use (EFU), farm/forestry (FF), farm/forestry overlay (FFO) and timber conservation (TC) zones.

Austin McGuigan, the county's community development director, said House Bill 3400, the legislation regulating recreational marijuana and making changes to medical marijuana laws, specifically allows marijuana production on EFU lands and other zones in the county.

The bill gives local jurisdictions the discretion to decide the "time, place and manner."

"We, at the staff level, took and identified every zone by similar uses," McGuigan



The Polk County Board of Commissioners approved regulations that would allow farmers to grow marijuana in exclusive farm use (light yellow), timber conservation (dark green) and farm/forest (light green) zones in the county.

said. "The idea is we are looking at these land-use activities to make sure that these are compatible with uses that you would expect on similarly zoned properties."

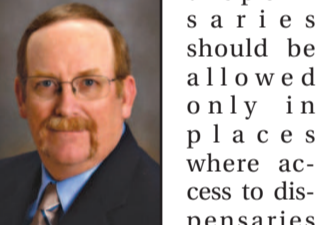
He said the Polk County Planning Commission thought growing marijuana was a compatible use to other activities taking place in the FF, FFO and TC zones.

"Our policies and our comprehensive plan really are to encourage both agri-

culture and forestry in those zones, both of those activities," he said. "They found that, for those reasons, it was appropriate to identify all those primary (resource) zones for marijuana production."

He added in looking at the issue in its totality, the Polk County Planning Commission took geography and available infrastructure in to account in deciding where processing, wholesaling and retail and medical sales should take place.

McGuigan said for sales, the planning commission believed retail and medical



Pope
would be difficult.

Therefore, the commission identified only the

dispensaries should be allowed only in places where access to dispensaries located in urban areas

Northwest Polk County Community Commercial zone, near the unincorporated communities of Grand Ronde, Fort Hill and Valley Junction, for dispensaries and retail outlets. For marijuana processing wholesaling activities, the commission selected light industrial zones and the Rickreall unincorporated community industrial zone. Light industrial zones are located within city urban growth boundaries.

See POT, Page 6A

IN YOUR TOWN

DALLAS
Calmlee's Bookstore brings paperbacks to downtown, with plans for comic books.
»Page 5A

FALLS CITY
Falls City needs to make repairs to its wastewater system.
»Page 7A

INDEPENDENCE
The city of Independence can now be accessed on your smartphone through the IndyWorks app.
»Page 5A

MONMOUTH
Monmouth City Council debates extending waterline to property outside city limits.
»Page 2A

SPORTS
Falls City's girls basketball team hopes to prove it belongs with the Casco League's top teams.
»Page 10A

Owner located for found pigs

DALLAS — The Dallas Fire and Police Departments located the owner of two pigs on Tuesday.

The ambulance service received an unofficial call on Sunday night at 7:21 p.m. about two pigs in the area of Oakdale and Hayter streets.

Responders on duty arrived along with three police officers to corral the pigs, who appeared to be well-maintained fed and not wild.

The pigs were kept on a farm where they are being fed and maintained until the owner was located.

A description of the pigs was required.

The Fire Department responded to another animal-related call on Jan. 12.

Responders received a call around 2:15 p.m. concerning a horse that had become stuck in the side door of its trailer near the intersection of Orchard View and Laura Lane.

Four firefighters responded to the call.

Responders used extraction tools to help remove the horse from the trailer in a little under an hour.

The horse did not suffer injuries.

Schellenberg named to Farm Bureau's Hall of Fame

By Jolene Guzman
The Itemizer-Observer

POLK COUNTY — Near the conclusion of the agenda, Don Schellenberg, a longtime member of the Polk County Farm Bureau (PCFB), finally figured out why he was sent to Oregon Farm Bureau's (OFB) annual meeting in December.

That's when OFB Barry Bushue and Executive Vice President Dave Dillion announced the organization was inducting Schellenberg into its hall of fame. Schellenberg also had worked for OFB as a lobbyist for almost 30 years.

Schellenberg said the announcement was a surprise, but admits to being suspicious about being selected to attend on behalf of the Polk County branch's board, of which he is a member.

He had to skip a meeting last year and found out afterward the board had voted to send him to the annual meeting.

"I figured out what happened," he said. "You miss a meeting and you are selected for an award."

In decades of service to local and state farm bureau organizations, Schellenberg did a lot more than miss a meeting. To be nominated, hall of fame candidates must have at least 35 years of active involvement. "This year's nominee comes with

a record of service that far exceeds 35 years," Bushue said. "Don joined Farm Bureau in the late 1960s and wasted no time making an impact, winning the Young Farmers & Ranchers Discussion Meet in 1968."

Schellenberg has farmed his entire life, working his father's land before purchasing his own outside Dallas in 1970. That 30-acre prune orchard grew into a 300-acre farm producing prunes, grain, sheep and wheat.

In 1980, Schellenberg decided to take on a different kind of challenge, becoming OFB's first lobbyist.

During his career, Schellenberg was on a team that helped craft legislation to create Oregon's farm property tax and land-use regulations.

His work on behalf of farmers extended beyond Oregon. He traveled to Kyrgyzstan after the breakup the Soviet Union to help farmers there organize a representative group. Schellenberg also served on the OFB's century farm and ranch committee and served three terms as PCFB's president.

When presented with honor last month, Schellenberg deflected praise to others.

"Farm Bureau's members are the heart of the organization — and the democratic, grassroots policy development process is its soul," he said. "Those two things make Farm Bu-



Don Schellenberg, left, speaks to a group of people in front of the Capital building in Salem in 2007. Schellenberg was a lobbyist for the Oregon Farm Bureau for decades and was recently named to its hall of fame.

reau the best agriculture organization in Oregon."

That said, learning he would be inducted was an emotional experience.

"I worked for 28 years at the state level and my whole life at the local level," Schellenberg said. "It's been a privilege to be recognized for that work."

THE NEXT 7 DAYS PLANNING FOR YOUR WEEK

wed Join St. Thomas Episcopal Church for its "Brew and BS" series discussing the Old Testament. Bring your own brew. 7 p.m. Free.	thu Dallas Lions Club will host an American Red Cross disaster preparedness introduction at its meeting today. 11:30 a.m. Free.	fri Learn how you can help the Willamette Valley Hospice in a free volunteer training for people of all ages. 8 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Free.	sat Independence Heritage Museum will present "Stories of the Farm Worker" at the Indy civic center today. 1:30 p.m. Free.	sun Make someone smile today in honor of National Compliment Day. It gives them a boost, and makes you feel good, too.	mon Come out and play with the Willamette Valley New Horizons Orchestra. All skills levels are welcome. 6:30-8:30 p.m. \$25 monthly fee.	tue James2 Community Kitchen offers free meals for all who are hungry at St. Philip Catholic Church. 4:30-6 p.m. Free.
 Showers Hi: 49 Lo: 44	 Rain Hi: 51 Lo: 45	 Showers Hi: 51 Lo: 41	 Showers Hi: 48 Lo: 38	 Showers Hi: 48 Lo: 39	 Rain Hi: 47 Lo: 45	 Rain Hi: 50 Lo: 45

0 94922 61652 4