

# Cities, counties sort out taxes, laws around recreational pot

Independence to prepare ballot measure to collect 3 percent sales tax on marijuana sales in town

**By Emily Mentzer**  
The Itemizer-Observer

POLK COUNTY — Between Feb. 1 and March 4, the Oregon Department of Revenue collected \$3.48 million in taxes on recreational marijuana.

Part of that — 10 percent to cities and 10 percent to counties — will be distributed to Polk County and its cities, based on population.

At least until July 2017, when distribution will be based on the number of licenses.

And in Dallas, where development codes prohibit

businesses that do not comply with federal law, essentially banning marijuana businesses, none of that money will come.

Dallas, Falls City, Independence and Monmouth city councils each passed a local tax on both medical and recreational marijuana in 2014 prior to Measure 91 passing, in an attempt to boost general funds and pay for additional law enforcement.

Those laws are null and void, said Mark Pettinger, marijuana spokesman with the Oregon Liquor Control Commission.

“There is an opportunity for local cities and counties that do license recreational sales to tack on a local sales tax up to 3 percent,” he said. “That has to be referred to local voters. It can’t be done automatically.”

According to the Oregon law on marijuana, a 3 percent local sales tax may be approved by voters in a general election, so cities and counties will have to wait two more years if they don’t get a measure on the ballot for November, Pettinger said.

Independence City Recorder Karin Johnson said

the city is already working on a measure for the November ballot to approve a 3 percent sales tax.

Independence has two medical marijuana dispensaries, Blackbird Indica and Healing Green, both of which have sold recreational products since Oct. 1.

At the end of the year, medical dispensaries will not be able to sell recreational products, Pettinger said, but recreational sellers will be able to offer medical-grade cannabis products.

“It is expected that many medical marijuana dispen-

saries will be converting to recreational license retail stores,” he said. “The idea is to still be able to provide medicine to folks who have a medical need for cannabis.”

The city of Monmouth has not put any restrictions on locations for either medical dispensaries or recreational stores, Monmouth City Manager Scott McClure said, noting that a shop could locate anywhere on Main Street in downtown, for example.

“A couple retailers have tried, but couldn’t work out

anything with the land owner,” he said.

Dallas has not passed an ordinance against marijuana dispensaries or retail shops, but has relied on the development code to prevent marijuana business because it does not comply with federal law.

“The fact of the matter is, until the feds change their laws and make it so it’s not against the law, it’s going to remain in place as far as the city council is concerned,” Dallas City Manager Ron Foggin said.

See TAX, Page 9A



Evangelical Bible Church  
EASTER  
Sunday, March 27, 2016  
Worship Services  
8:00 am & 10:45 am  
Everyone Welcome!  
1175 Howe St., Dallas  
503-623-2331 • www.ebcdallas.org

Welcome all to reflect and celebrate with us.  
**GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE**  
Friday, March 25 • 7pm  
**SUNRISE SERVICE**  
Sunday, March 27 • 6:45am  
**EASTER SERVICE**  
Sunday, March 27 • 10:30 am  
**DALLAS ALLIANCE CHURCH**  
775 E. Ellendale • 503-623-2265



**Easter Sunday WORSHIP**  
Trinity Lutheran Church  
320 SE Fir Villa, Dallas  
503-623-2233  
www.dallastlc.org

6:30 a.m. **Easter Sunrise Service**  
10:00 a.m. **Easter Celebration** with Holy Communion  
7:00 a.m. **Breakfast — Free will donation**  
9:00 a.m. **Sunday School Easter Egg Hunt**  
**Youth Bake Sale — Before and after worship**  
*In celebration of the day, please bring a canned food item to benefit the Dallas Food Bank.*



**First Baptist Church of Independence**  
**Easter Breakfast**  
9:30 am - 10:30 am  
**Easter Service**  
11 am  
**He isn't here!  
He has risen....Matthew 28:6**  
1505 Monmouth St., Independence, Oregon  
503-838-1001  
(across from Central High School)  
Ministries include: AWANA, youth, men, women, small groups and an active Senior's Ministry.



*You're Invited*  
**EASTER SUNDAY**  
10:30 AM  
Faith Evangelical Free Church 2290 E Ellendale Ave, Dallas  
*Coffee & Muffins served at 10:15 Activities & Egg Hunt for toddlers through 4th grade*



Come celebrate Easter with us at the  
**DALLAS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
Thursday, March 24 - Tenebrae 6:00 p.m.  
Easter Sunday - Children's Egg Hunt 10:00 a.m.  
**Easter Worship 11:00 a.m.**  
Rev. J. Quinton Kimbrow  
Childcare Provided Handicapped Accessible  
www.umcdallas.com  
565 SE LaCreole Dr. • Next to the Middle School • 503-623-2481



**GET THE WHOLE STORY**  
EASTER  
▪ Sunrise Service: 7:30 am at Salt Creek Cemetery  
▪ Breakfast: 8 am—9 am ▪ Sunday School for all ages: 9:30 am  
▪ Worship Gathering: 10:50 am  
Salt Creek Baptist Church | 15075 Salt Creek Rd | Dallas | 503-623-2976 | www.saltcreekchurch.org



**GRACE CHURCH**  
Worshipping God by Making Disciples  
**Good Friday March 25**  
5:00pm 1st Service  
6:30pm 2nd Service  
**Easter Egg Dash ~ March 26**  
10:00am - For ages 0-5th Grade  
**Egg'stra Special Egg Hunt ~ March 26**  
1:00-2:30pm - For kids with special needs  
**EASTER ~ MARCH 27**  
8:00-9:00 ~ 1st Service & Coffee Fellowship (No kids programs during 1st)  
9:30-10:30 ~ 2nd Service & Coffee Fellowship  
11:00-12:00 ~ 3rd Service  
598 E. Ellendale Ave., Dallas, OR ~ 503-623-4961



**St. Thomas Episcopal Church**  
...welcomes everyone!  
**Wednesday Tenebrae, March 23**  
7:00 PM Service of Shadows & Darkness  
**Maundy Thursday Seder Dinner, March 24**  
5:30 - 7:30 PM Reservations required for dinner. Call church 503-623-8522.  
**Maundy Thursday Service, March 24**  
7:30 PM Followed by Stripping of the Altar  
**Good Friday, March 25**  
12:30 - 3 PM Stations of the Cross followed by music & meditation and the Liturgy of the Passion from the Book of Common Prayer (Come and go as your schedule allows)  
**Easter Sunday, March 27**  
10:00 AM Easter Holy Eucharist  
Children's Easter Egg Hunt Following the Service  
1486 SW Levens St., Dallas (at the corner of Levens and Cherry)  
www.stthomasdallas.org  
stthomasdallasor@gmail.com



Please join us in worship at these times.  
**March 25 Good Friday Prayer Vigil**  
Noon - 7 pm and 8pm - Midnight  
**Good Friday Tenebrae**  
7:00 pm - Service of Darkness  
**Easter Sunday**  
7:30 am - Sunrise Eucharist  
8:30 - 10 am - Easter Breakfast  
10:30 am - Festival Eucharist  
**Faith Lutheran Church**  
200 Monmouth - Independence Hwy  
Monmouth • 503-838-3459 *The Church on the "S-Curves"*  
Pastor Dallas C.R. Dubke • www.FaithLutheranMonmouth.org