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BATTER UP!

GU gets sweet revenge in doubleheader at home

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JD seeks ban on medical pot shops

As a backup, city drafts limits on operations

By **Scotta Callister**
Blue Mountain Eagle

JOHN DAY — The John Day City Council is considering a two-pronged approach to controlling medical marijuana businesses as its one-year moratorium on the pot shops comes to a close.

The council, at its meeting March

20, reviewed a draft ordinance to limit the hours, location and manner of operation of such businesses.

The council decided to go a step farther, however, and look at an outright ban on medical marijuana dispensaries within the city limits.

The council is expected to take public comment and vote on the ban at its next meeting, on Tuesday, April 14.

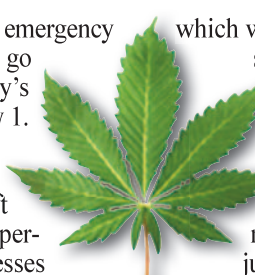
Passage would be as an emergency measure, allowing it to go into effect before the city's moratorium runs out May 1.

However, while the council is leaning toward a ban, the draft measure regulating operation of such businesses won't be for naught.

The council is looking at also adopting the business regulations,

which would exist as a fall-back position should the ban be repealed in the future.

John Day is one of several cities in Grant County — and 142 across the state — that adopted the one-year moratoriums on medical marijuana businesses last year, after the Legislature gave them that option.



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OSU expert: Farmers would swamp pot market

Growers already produce more than state uses

By **Eric Mortenson**
EO Media Group

Oregon's conventional farmers would swamp the market if they turned their skill, equipment, land and infrastructure to marijuana production, an Oregon State University expert says.

Seth Crawford, who teaches a pot policy class at OSU, said Oregon already produces far more high-quality cannabis than the state consumes, and could meet the state demand on 35 acres of farmland in Southern Oregon.

Crawford said Oregon's growers could supply the total U.S. cannabis market on just 5,000 acres.

"Throw in another 500, and you'd cover Canada, too," Crawford said.

He said Oregon now grows the best pot in the country at reasonable prices, and quality would decline if large growers jumped into the business. Existing growers have refined their techniques over 20, 30 or 40 years, in some cases, he said.

"There's a difference between large-scale agricultural producers and these marijuana producers," he said. "They're still small scale compared to a 10,000-acre wheat ranch. The way the Oregon market evolved was thousands of small growers producing high quality products and unique products. You couldn't do it on an industrial scale."

There don't appear to be any conventional farmers clamoring to jump into the market. And for now, seeding the back 40 with sativa isn't legal.

The Oregon Liquor Control Commission, which will regulate wholesale commercial production under Measure 91, has yet to draft specific rules.

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EGGS, EGGS and more EGGS



With her basket nearly overflowing, McKenzie Thompson, 1-1/2, keeps on hunting for more eggs.

The Eagle/Cheryl Hoefler

Little hunters capture colorful treasures

By **Cheryl Hoefler**
Blue Mountain Eagle

By most accounts, it was a successful hunting season. That is, for those with Easter eggs in their sights. Several communities in Grant County held Easter egg hunts and other festivities last Saturday, April 4.

In the Dayville City Park, 46 youngsters participated in a hunt, with the hunters divided into four age groups. Among the loot scattered in the grass were 12 golden eggs and six surprise ones.

A couple of traditional honors come with the annual event. This year, the mom who brought the most children was Desi Burrell, and the dad who came the farthest was Clint Walczyk from John Day.

At Phil Boyd Park in Mt. Vernon, in addition to the egg hunt, young participants enjoyed rides through town atop fire engines, courtesy of the Mt. Vernon Fire Department, who organized the event.

There were also two Easter egg hunts in John Day — at Seventh Street Complex, organized by the John Day Elks Lodge, and at the Grant Union High School football field, sponsored by the John Day Fire Department.

Children got to help with the preparations on Friday at the John Day Fire Department, dyeing eight cases of hard-boiled eggs for the hunt. They also had a chance to climb on the fire trucks.



The Eagle/Cheryl Hoefler
Belle Walczyk, 1-1/2, snatches a pink egg during the Easter egg hunt in Dayville Park.



The kids are off and running, while the grownups are on the sidelines coaching and cheering during the Easter egg hunt in Mt. Vernon.

Contributed photo/Colleen Clark

STUDENT ART



Meisha Meyerholz
Grade 11
Grant Union
High School
Teacher: JJ Collier

BURN TO LEARN

Fire crews will practice on FS house

The exercise is set for April 18, if conditions allow

By **Scotta Callister**
Blue Mountain Eagle

JOHN DAY — Area firefighters will get some hands-on practice with structure fire response, using a decommissioned house provided by the U.S. Forest Service at its John Day Compound.

The training is set for Saturday, April 18 — conditions

permitting — with site cleanup the next day.

The Malheur National Forest, Oregon Department of Forestry, and agencies in the Grant County Fire Defense Board have worked together to set up the training opportunity. It is intended to give firefighters a chance to battle a live house fire under controlled conditions.

The house, at 150 Government Road, is an unused 1965 ranch-style house. Unlike some other structures at the compound that date back to the Civilian Conservation Corps era, it is not considered historically significant.

Shilo Burton, forest spokeswoman, said the historical elements at the compound — buildings, rock work

and other features — are all being preserved.

She said past sales on this house have fallen through, leading to the agency's cooperative agreement with ODF for the burn operation.

In the training, crews will be able to work on roof cutting techniques, search and rescue using a smoke machine, and as a finale, live fire exercises.

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