

Pot's legal – but still not a good idea

As of Wednesday, marijuana is legal to possess in Oregon without a prescription.

For years now, personal use amounts were nearly decriminalized in this state, a poorly-regulated medical program was put in place, and an omnipresent black market allowed recreational users avenues to access the drug.

But this is real-deal legalization. No more fake medical conditions. No more hiding grow rooms in moldy basements, or grow sites on out-of-the-way land. No more buying from a shady dealer down the street. If you are 21 years of age and on private property, you can possess four marijuana plants or eight ounces of the ready-to-use portion. And you can toké up in front of your mother, the mayor and the chief of police – just not in public.

Hooray? We're in favor of reducing the black market, increasing state tax dollars and ending the wasteful, hypocritical and often racist drug war. We also think this is a good chance for freedom fighters and personal liberty supporters to put their money where their mouth is, and maybe open the eyes to the benefits of such freedom to people

on the other side of the political spectrum.

But that doesn't mean we're in favor of using marijuana.

The drug is helpful to some, harmless to most, and a real drag to a few. But so are Big Macs, whiskey, tobacco, video games and motorcycles, which can be just as addicting and debilitating. Those too raise issues of personal choice and personal acceptance of danger.

Just because it's legal doesn't mean a Big Mac-a-day habit is a good one. It's the same with marijuana. Just because pot is legal now doesn't mean you should become a habitual or even a casual user.

Where and if marijuana shops can open in our area remains up for debate. The state legislature, which dragged its feet on making important decisions on this matter until well past the eleventh hour, is still trying to decide.

But that doesn't mean we have to put off those decisions about our own habits. Spend your money elsewhere. Pick up a book, go outside, bake an old-fashioned brownie. Don't use marijuana, but be happy knowing we will no longer be wasting public money and energy cracking the skulls of those who do.

Heedless people take blame in some fires

Nearly everyone who lives in Eastern Oregon knows that lightning starts most of our wildfires. But that doesn't make the occasional human-caused fire an inconsequential thing. In fact, those fires are the most regrettable – because we have the power to prevent them.

Fire officials, alarmed at the continued drought and early heat wave, are calling attention to the unusually high number of early-season, human-caused fires. We have to put the causes of a bunch of those blazes into the just-plain-stupid category.

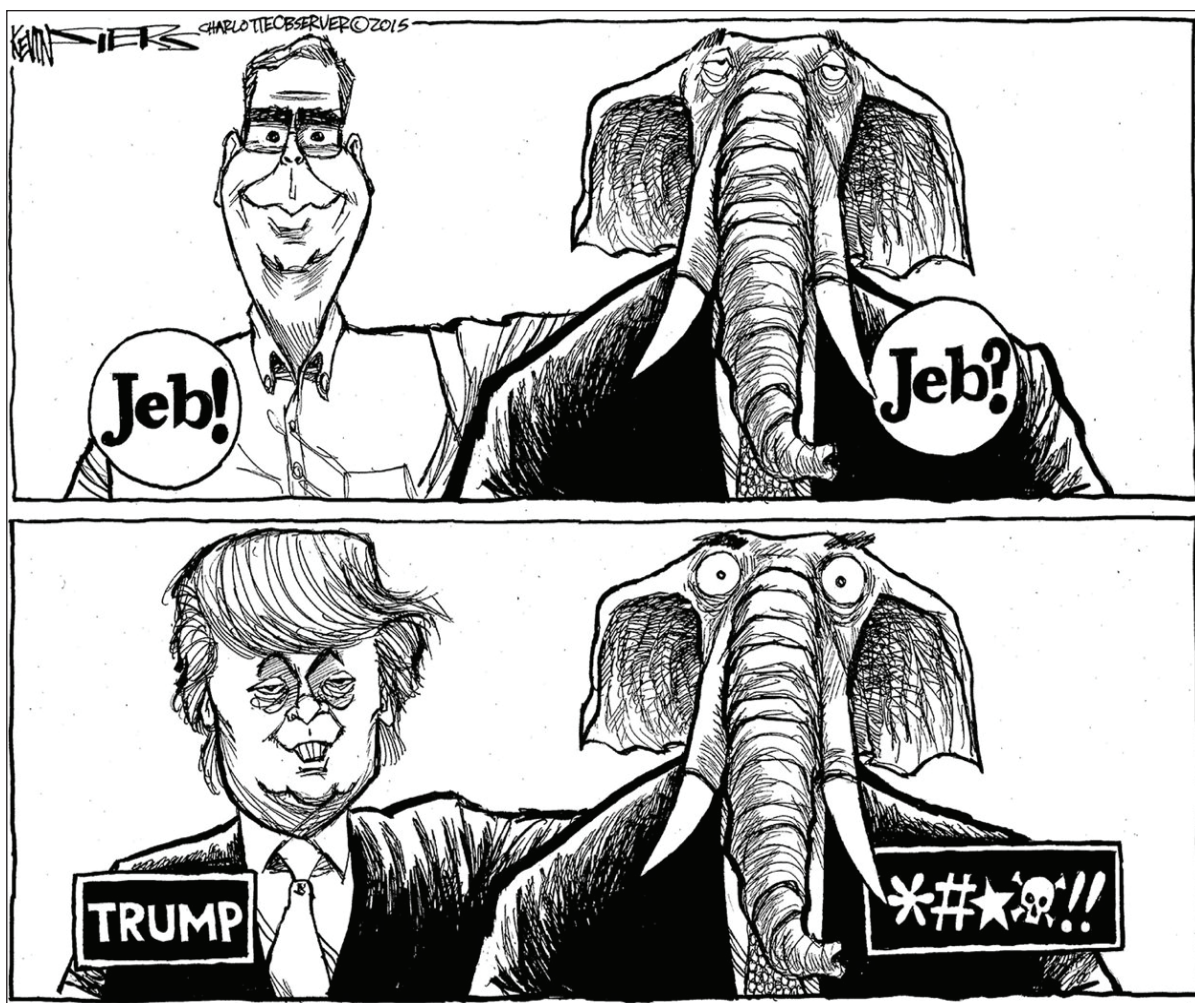
Tom Fields, Oregon Department of Forestry fire prevention coordinator, last

Thursday noted the trend, tallying some 80 human-caused fires so far this season in the state.

"We have had three fires related to target shooting just in the last week," he said. "One of those fires burned 67 acres and cost over \$80,000 to put out."

Fire officials are urging people to think twice about any activity that might spark a fire, and to heed the local restrictions. After all, one person's selfish or thoughtless behavior could put everyone's treasured forests and rangeland in jeopardy.

If the need for caution puts a crimp in someone's holiday weekend plans, we suggest they grow up and get over it.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Killers running amok

To the Editor:
In our society, we have animals who are killers. These killers sit down to a dinner table and eat a meal with a knife and fork. Now, when one of those killers takes a life, our society will leave no stone unturned until that killer is taken out of our society and either meted a death penalty or incarcerated to where he or she can do society no further harm.

In our society, we also have killers who sit down to a dinner table with tooth, claw and fang, and are allowed to keep killing on and on and on. They are not being taken out of the equation in near enough numbers. These killers are destroying the wildlife that has been a part of our society for years and years and are a huge economic factor in many of our communities.

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife wants and needs to sell hunting licenses and tags. There is not much need to buy these tags if there is nothing to hunt, and our deer herd is to the point where it is almost shameful to kill one of them.

Would it be too much to ask of the ODFW people to use some of the money they spend on helicopters to count the deer we don't have, and instead spend it on helicopters to remove some of the tooth, claw and fang diners from their dinner tables? There is no doubt that we would find an increase in the number of animals that are necessary to sustain our deer and elk numbers for viewing, as well as making hunting seasons worthwhile.

There is absolutely no reason to allow these killers to run amok as they are currently doing. It is way past time to do something about it.

Dean Elliott
Canyon City

Kudos to committee

To the Editor:
The city council of the city of Mt. Vernon extends its hearty appreciation to the members of the Mt. Vernon Cinnabar Mountain Rendezvous Committee.

They have painted and brightened up the "MV" on the hillside above Mt. Vernon. We don't have the names of the individuals who worked so hard to do this, but the "MV" looks better than it has in years and is greatly appreciated.

The Rendezvous Committee has done more for the city of Mt. Vernon than most people hear about and realize in more ways than one.

These people take to heart how much our little town means to all of us. So again, kudos to one and all. You are appreciated more than you realize.

Mayor Andy Anderson, Councilors Eva Dougharity, Jan Lowry, Wayne Saul and Mike Cearns
Mt. Vernon

Stand together against tyranny

To the Editor:
Why should a ranch family which has been a crucial part of Grant County history for over 100 years have to be a supplicant to an agency whose presence has only been here for half that time? Why would local political subordinates, who believe they are omnipotent in their elected positions, obviously support that agency against the local citizens?

The J.C. Oliver Ranch is legendary in our area and they are now being forced to justify an objection to massive road closures instigated by the Forest Service on the Wolf Project in southern Grant County

which will affect access to an allotment they have utilized for many years. Closures which have the appearance of being supported by the lower levels of the County Court whose loyalties have been severely in question for a considerable amount of time.

The Forest Service has blatantly ignored the disabilities of two members of the Oliver family which necessitate motorized access to their allotment, and has deliberately proposed road closures that will negate a long established tradition in livestock management. Why were the access issues collaborated in Burns by the Harney County Collaborative and why did the Harney County Open Roads Coalition – a Harney County Collaborative member – give its approval of roads and access issues in Grant County? Why was the Grant County sheriff's objection removed from this process when he clearly informed Steve Beverlin of the Grant County Ordinance 2013-01 on Jan 20, which affects all road and access issues in Grant County?

The Forest Service references redundant and scientifically unsubstantiated reasons for road closures. They refuse, or are unable, to offer any of their referenced environmental documents which they claim support past road closures. With arrogant narrow-minded determination, the Forest Service is attempting to destroy our lifestyle, tradition, and livelihood. It is our land and it is time we stood together against tyranny that our government has foisted on us in the form of a dictatorial land management agency that has over stepped its authority granted by the Constitution of the United States.

Jim Sproul
Canyon City

CORRECTION

Dean Elliott was misidentified in a photo caption in the June 17 issue

of the Eagle with our coverage of the June 11 meeting on the fumes situa-

tion in southwest John Day. We apologize for the error.

WHERE TO WRITE

Washington, D.C.
The White House, 1600 Pennsylvania Ave. N.W., Washington, D.C. 20500; Phone-comments: 202-456-1111; Switchboard: 202-456-1414.

U.S. Sen. Ron Wyden, D — 516 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington D.C. 20510. Phone: 202-224-5244. Email: wayne_kinney@wyden.senate.gov Website: http://wyden.senate.gov Fax: 202-228-2717.

U.S. Sen. Jeff Merkley, D — 313 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington D.C. 20510. Phone: 202-224-3753. Email: senator@merkley.senate.gov. Fax: 202-228-3997. Oregon offices include One World Trade Center, 121 S.W. Salmon St., Suite 1250, Portland, OR 97204; and 310 S.E. Second St., Suite 105, Pendleton, OR 97801. Phone: 503-326-3386; 541-278-1129. Fax: 503-326-2990.

U.S. Rep. Greg Walden, R — (Second District) 1404 Longworth Building,

Washington D.C. 20515. Phone: 202-225-6730. No direct e-mail because of spam. Website: www.walden.house.gov Fax: 202-225-5774. Medford office: 14 North Central, Suite 112, Medford, OR 97501. Phone: 541-776-4646. Fax: 541-779-0204.

Pending Bills: For information on bills in Congress, Phone: 202-225-1772.

Salem

Gov. Kate Brown, D — 254 State Capitol, Salem 97310. Phone: 503-378-3111. Fax: 503-378-6827. Website: www.governor.state.or.us/governor.html.

Oregon Legislature — State Capitol, Salem, 97310. Phone: (503) 986-1180. Website: www.leg.state.or.us (includes Oregon Constitution and Oregon Revised Statutes).

State Rep. Cliff Bentz, R-Ontario (District: 60), Room H-475, State Capitol, 900 Court St. N.E., Salem OR 97301. Phone: 503-986-1460. Email: rep.

cliffbentz@state.or.us. Website: www.leg.state.or.us/bentz/home.htm.

State Sen. Ted Ferrioli, R — (District 30) Room S-223, State Capitol, Salem 97310. Phone: 503-986-1950. Email: sen.tedferrioli@state.or.us. Email: TFER2@aol.com. Phone: 541-490-6528. Website: www.leg.state.or.us/ferrioli.

Oregon Legislative Information — (For updates on bills, services, capitol or messages for legislators) — 800-332-2313.

Grant County

Grant County Courthouse — 201 S. Humbolt St., Suite 280, Canyon City 97820. Phone: 541-575-0059. Fax: 541-575-2248.

Canyon City — P.O. Box 276, Canyon City 97820. Phone: 541-575-0509. Fax: 541-575-0515. Email: tocc1862@centurylink.net.

Dayville — P.O. Box 321, Dayville 97825.

Phone: 541-987-2188. Fax: 541-987-2187. Email: ?dville@ortelco.net

John Day — 450 E. Main St, John Day, 97845. Phone: 541-575-0028. Fax: 541-575-1721. Email: city-jd@centurytel.net.

Long Creek — P.O. Box 489, Long Creek 97856. Phone: 541-421-3601. Fax: 541-421-3075. Email: info@cityoflongcreek.com.

Monument — P.O. Box 426, Monument 97864. Phone and fax: 541-934-2025. Email: monument@oregontrail.net.

Mt. Vernon — P.O. Box 647, Mt. Vernon 97865. Phone: 541-932-4688. Fax: 541-932-4222. Email: cmtv@ortelco.net.

Prairie City — P.O. Box 370, Prairie City 97869. Phone: 541-820-3605. Fax: 820-3566. Email: pchall@ortelco.net.

Seneca — P.O. Box 208, Seneca 97873. Phone and fax: 541-542-2161. Email: cityseneca@centurytel.net.



Blue Mountain
EAGLE

195 N. Canyon Blvd. • John Day, OR 97845
541-575-0710 • Fax 541-575-1244

USPS 226-340

Grant County's Weekly Newspaper
John Day, Oregon

MEMBER OREGON NEWSPAPER PUBLISHERS ASSOCIATION

PUBLISHER: Marissa Williams, marissa@bmeagle.com
EDITOR: Kristina Kreger, kristina@bmeagle.com
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT: Cheryl Hoefler, cheryl@bmeagle.com
EDITORIAL ASSISTANT: Angel Carpenter, angel@bmeagle.com
COMMUNITY NEWS: Kim Kell, ads@bmeagle.com
SPORTS: Lindsay Bullock, office@bmeagle.com
MARKETING REP: Lindsay Bullock, office@bmeagle.com
CUSTOMER SERVICE REP:

PUBLISHED EVERY WEDNESDAY BY:
EO Media Group

Periodicals Postage Paid at John Day and additional mailing offices.

| SUBSCRIPTION RATES (including online access) | 1 year |
|--|---------|
| Grant County | \$40.00 |
| Elsewhere in Oregon | \$48.00 |
| Continental U.S., Outside Oregon | \$55.00 |
| Outside Continental U.S. | \$60.00 |



Subscriptions must be paid prior to delivery

See the Blue Mountain Eagle on the Internet
www.MyEagleNews.com

POSTMASTER — send address changes to
Blue Mountain Eagle
195 N. Canyon Blvd.
John Day, OR 97845-1187

Copyright © 2015 Blue Mountain Eagle

