

# City chooses to 'opt out' of pot sales

## Council votes to ban dispensaries in John Day

By Nancy McCarthy  
Blue Mountain Eagle

JOHN DAY — Those who are considering opening a medical or recreational marijuana dispensary in John Day will have to reconsider.

The John Day City Council has given its final approval to an ordinance that would prohibit marijuana dispensaries, producers, processors, wholesalers and retailers.

The city joins five counties and 10 cities throughout Oregon that have officially notified the Oregon Liquor Control Commission that they are banning dispensaries.

However, residents still will be permitted to grow up to four marijuana plants on their property and to possess up to eight ounces per residence of recreational marijuana for personal use, as allowed by Ballot Measure 91, approved in a statewide election last November.

City councilors voted 6 to 1 on Aug. 11 to approve the ordinance. Louis Provencher opposed it.

Under House Bill 3400, signed by Gov. Kate Brown in June, cities and counties can "opt out" if at least 55 percent of the county's voters opposed the measure.

The Grant County Court has

not yet considered whether the county will opt out of the measure, but County Judge Scott Myers said the question will be considered within the 180-day deadline given to jurisdictions to decide.

While 65 percent of Grant County voters voted against the measure, 35 percent approved it, which Provencher called "not an insignificant amount." A majority of Oregonians also approved it, Provencher said, and the city should respect the statewide decision.

By ignoring a public vote, he added, citizens' individual rights are threatened.

"Passing this ordinance is

not going to solve the marijuana use problem," said Provencher, who noted that he voted against the ballot measure. "This law provides a false sense of security."

While Councilor Donn Willey agreed that an ordinance wouldn't solve the drug problem, "We're saying our town doesn't need a storefront," he added.

Arguments that the city would lose potential tax revenue, additional businesses and additional jobs by banning dispensaries could be countered, Mayor Ron Lundbom said.

"Cities that have banned (the dispensaries) are more attractive than those who haven't," he said.

Local voters can put an initiative on the ballot if they want the city to allow dispensaries, Lundbom noted.

Those who voted against the measure "don't want to see a Portland in downtown John Day," said Police Chief Richard Gray.

Urging the council not to approve the ordinance, Raymond Cox, of John Day, said it would be "playing into the hands of drug dealers."

"My thought is, if we have a place where someone can purchase marijuana, and it is legal, and everyone knows who they are, then we can get the drug dealer out of the equation," Cox said.

Without some control over

drug dealers, he said, "the system is just going to get worse. Arresting and throwing a guy in jail doesn't work."

But Judy Schuette, of John Day, wondered whether tourists would come to town if they knew marijuana dispensaries were allowed.

"It's not something we want to be known for," she said.

Finding a dispensary elsewhere wouldn't be difficult, Schuette added.

"We go out of town all the time for groceries and medical appointments. I don't think going out of town to buy marijuana would be a hardship. I just don't want to see a facility like that in John Day."

## WHAT'S HAPPENING

The deadline for What's Happening items is 5 p.m. Friday. Call Cheryl at the Eagle, 541-575-0710.

### THURSDAY, AUG. 27

#### Prairie City community potluck

• 6 p.m., Prairie City School cafeteria  
The community is welcome to a meet-and-greet potluck for new Prairie City School staff members. The district will provide the main dish; guests are asked to bring a side dish.

### SATURDAY, AUG. 29

#### Beekeepers Open Hive field day

• Noon, Diamond Hitch Ranch near Kimberly  
The subject of the field day will be evaluating queen bees with a focus on winter preparation, discussion on feeding and combining hives, sampling for mites and other late summer/fall activities. This is a good opportunity for interested beginners to learn some basics and for advanced beekeepers to share experience and knowledge. Those attending should bring a snack and any extra equipment they can share. Some additional protective equipment will be available. The ranch is on State Route 19 between mileposts 107 and 108. Contact Matt Allen or Liz Lovelock, 541-934-9101 or apricotapiaries@gmail.com.

### TUESDAY, SEPT. 1

#### Prospector kick-off potluck

• 6:30 p.m., Grant Union Junior-Senior High School, John Day  
All are welcome to meet the Grant Union coaches and students at the annual kick-off potluck. Beverages and dessert will be provided; those attending should bring a side dish.

### THURSDAY, SEPT. 3

#### Library Foundation public meeting

• 6-7:30 p.m., Grant County Library front lawn, John Day  
The Grant County Library Foundation will hold a public meeting regarding the new library building plans. Foundation board members will be at the meeting, and architect David Straus will discuss ideas for the structure. Input from the community will be welcome. All current and future library patrons are encouraged to attend. Refreshments will be provided. The library is at 507 S. Canyon Blvd.

#### Free concert in Baker City

• 6 p.m., Baker Bulldog Memorial Stadium, Baker City  
Headline acts include singer/songwriters Ryan Stevenson, Julie Turner and Desirae Bronson, and the alternative pop/rock band The Middle Eight. A tribute to local and visiting firefighters also is planned. The show begins at 6:30 p.m. Freewill donations will be accepted. The concert is presented by 91.9 KTSY.

### THURSDAY, SEPT. 10

#### Shinyribs in concert at the ranch

• 7 p.m., Diamond Hitch Mule Ranch, Kimberly  
Shinyribs brings their high-energy music to the Diamond Hitch Ranch. The Austin, Texas-based band's latest album is "Okra Candy." Tickets are \$20 a person, and camping at the ranch is \$15. Food will be provided by Monument High School's Flying Tigers — a Texas-style meal of pork ribs, coleslaw and baked beans. The Diamond Hitch Ranch is on State Route 19 between mileposts 107 and 108. Call 541-934-2140 for more information. Visit Shinyribs at <http://shinyribs.org/>.



Monument School secretary Jennie Mund checks in new students on the first day of classes, Aug. 17. Contributed photos

# What's new at school?

Blue Mountain Eagle

Here's a round-up of enrollment numbers, new staff and other changes at Grant County schools for the 2015-16 academic year.

Curt Shelley is the new superintendent for Grant District No. 3, replacing Mark Witty, who resigned after last year.

Staff numbers listed for District 3 do not include eight bus drivers, one mechanic and three cafeteria employees. Enrollment numbers for all the schools are an estimate, since students are registering for this year.

Full-day kindergarten will be required in all the schools in Grant County and throughout Oregon for the first time this year.

#### Grant Union

- 270 students, grades 7-12
- 29 teachers and staff
- New staff**
- Ryan Gerry, principal
- Curriculum, schedule changes**
- New math program for grades 7-8
- Randy Hennen will teach a new natural science course.

#### Humbolt Elementary

- 289 students, grades K-6



Contributed photos

From left, Hailee Hudson, and Parker and Brooklyn Grassl are eager for their first day of Prekindergarten, Aug. 17, at Monument School.

#### Seneca School

- 36 teachers and staff
- New staff**
- Kim Smith, principal
- Jeffrey Allen, grade 4
- Eva Vaughan, special education
- Joan Walczyk, grade 2
- Facilities**
- Newly painted hallway, with a landscape theme near the office.

#### Prairie City

- Five teachers and staff
- 140 students, grades K-12
- 25 teachers and staff
- New staff**
- Julie Gurczynski, superintendent/principal
- Paul Bartels, social studies
- Meghan Tremblay, grades 5 and 6
- Amanda Rockhill, educational assistant
- Sabrina Howard, Title 1 assistant
- Rocky Prince, maintenance
- Curriculum, schedule changes**
- Elementary grade group-

- ings: K, 1-2, 3-4 and 5-6
- New English language arts curriculum for grades 7-12

#### Facilities

- Gym floors refinished
- New carpeting in elementary wing

#### Dayville

- 47 students, grades K-12
- 21 teachers and staff
- New staff**
- Kathryn Hedrick, superintendent/principal

#### Facilities

- Playground spruced up with new thick base of wood chips under structures surrounded by plastic border timber.

#### Monument

- 34 students, grades K-8; 20 students, grades 9-12
- Five teachers, 10 other staff

**Curriculum, schedule changes**

- Several online and college classes are offered.

#### Long Creek

- 34 students, grades K-12
- Five teachers, eight other staff
- New staff**
- Julie Mennenga, high school English and social studies
- Karl Coghill, junior high and high school electives
- Facilities**
- New commercial laminate flooring in the library and main hallways.

## Healthcare With Heart

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to book your appointment.



## Strawberry Mountain Wilderness Clinic

180 Ford Rd., John Day  
541-575-0404 • [www.bluemountainhospital.org](http://www.bluemountainhospital.org)

There are some unsung heroes in our community. We would like to acknowledge these people.

For starters, we would like to acknowledge the Oregon Trail Electric Cooperative repair crews and the Oregon State Department of Transportation maintenance crews. We have seen them leaving John Day headed up the canyon about 6:30 a.m. each day and returning in the evening after dark. They even worked Sunday. Sometime, before they leave in the morning or after they return in the evening, they have to get their equipment and supplies ready for the next day.

They are putting in some long hours to get our community back to some kind of normalcy. Our community owes them a huge thank you.

We say "THANK YOU" to each one.

Tom and Sandra Sutton, John Day

Doyle & Linda Ankerman are moving to the Boise area.

Come say goodbye:

Sept. 1, 6-8pm  
at Holliday State Park

Cake will be served.