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The News-Review

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Winston, Reedsport to vote on cannabis

Winston decides whether to allow dispensaries to open; Reedsport voting on additional taxation

SCOTT CARROLL
The News-Review

Residents in Winston will be voting on whether to ease restrictions on cannabis shops in the city and, if so, whether to tax them locally, while in Reedsport, where such

shops are already allowed, voters will weigh in on whether to add a local tax to those shops.

The question of whether to allow dispensaries in Winston has been a topic of debate for several years.

After recreational marijuana was legalized, Winston didn't ban the product outright like some local governments in Oregon did. Instead, the city implemented more stringent buffer zone laws than the state.

For example, Oregon law requires dispensaries to be in a commercial zone and at least 1,000 feet away from schools, daycare centers and other dispensaries. Winston requires them to be 500 feet from churches and 200 feet from properties zoned residential and parks/public reserve. That left virtually no

properties available to open a dispensary.

In 2019, the Winston City Council discussed whether to ease restrictions on where dispensaries could be located, but ultimately decided to put the matter to voters. At the time, City Manager Mark Bauer said he thought each dispensary could generate between

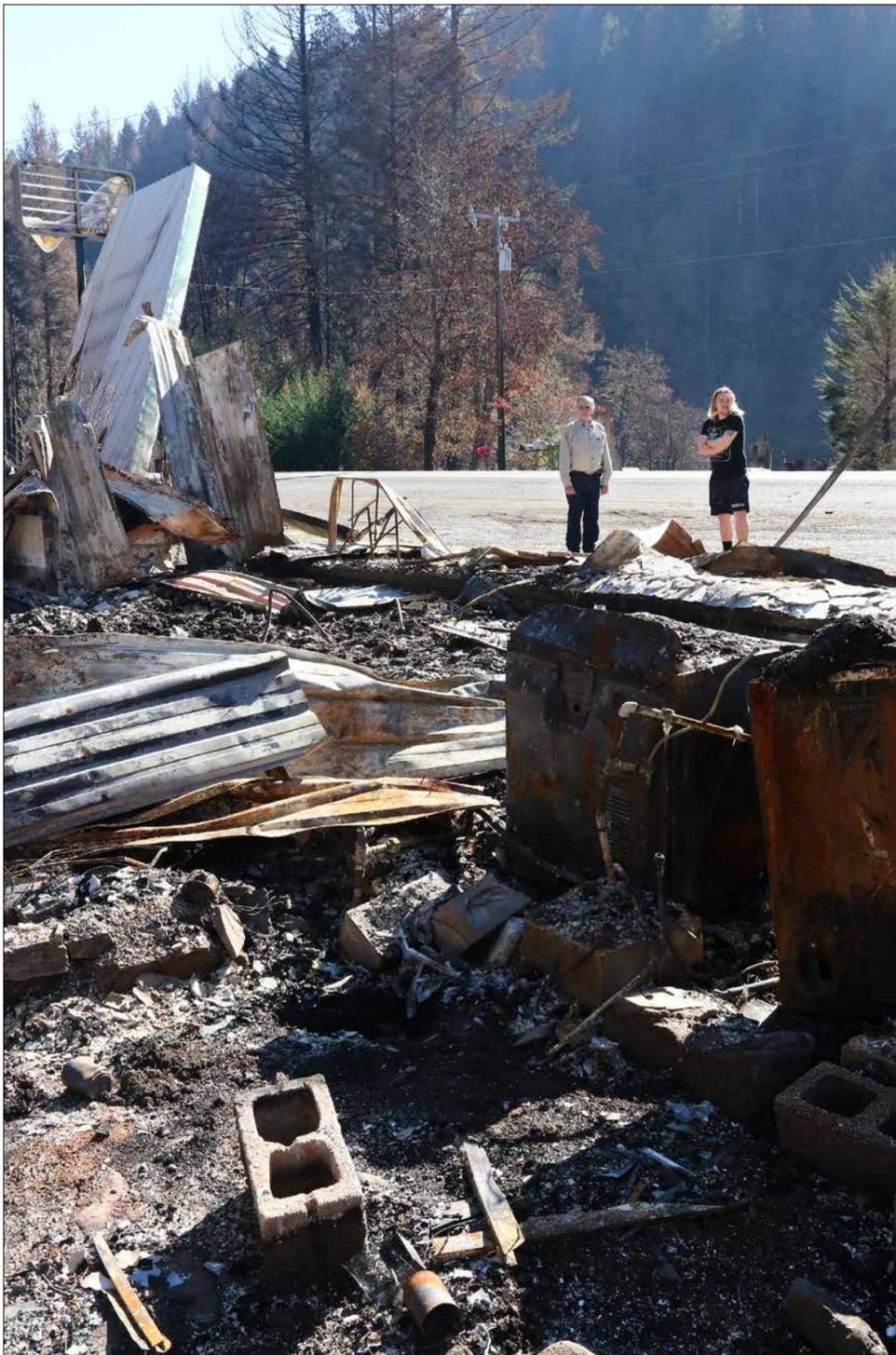
\$20,000-\$40,000 per year in tax revenue for the city.

The Winston vote on easing restrictions for cannabis shops is considered "advisory" and therefore not binding, meaning the City Council has the power to override the decision of voters.

CANNABIS, A8

'Unprecedented'

Archie Creek Fire started small and quickly grew out of control



MICHAEL SULLIVAN/THE NEWS-REVIEW

Dogwood Motel owner Norman Call, left, and Casey Conemac stand near a home and garage structure next to the motel east of Idleld Park on Friday that was destroyed in the Archie Creek Fire. Conemac and his mother were residing in the home before the fire. Both were able to evacuate to safety.

DONOVAN BRINK
The News-Review

On Saturday, Sept. 6, the National Weather Service issued a "Red Flag" warning for much of western Oregon.

Extremely dry fuels, high temperatures and low relative humidities are always a cause for concern in the summer months. But this warning included potentially dangerous winds out of the east.

East winds? On Labor Day Weekend? Those are historically

reserved for October, commonly referred to as "chinook winds."

Those east winds arrived, as predicted. Only four days later, a vast portion of the western Oregon landscape was changed – likely for decades.

In the early morning hours of Tuesday, Sept. 8, firefighters responded to a grass fire on the north side of the North



Umpqua River near Glide.

Crews from the Douglas Forest Protective Association, with the assistance of helicopter support and bulldoz-

ers, were working to slow the growth of the French Creek Fire. By mid-morning, air support was called further east as two separate fires near Susan

ARCHIE CREEK, A3

County reports seven new cases of coronavirus

Officials: It's important for people to get back on track with prevention measures

DONOVAN BRINK
The News-Review

Seven new people have tested positive for the coronavirus, according to the Saturday update from the Douglas County COVID-19 Response Team.

This makes 28 new total cases (27 positive and one presumptive) since last Sunday, for a total of 315 with COVID-19.

"We know we keep reiterating this message, but our primary focus is to do everything we can to protect the health, safety and well-being of our residents," the COVID-19 Response Team said in its Saturday update. "With the onset of cold and flu season, holiday happenings on the horizon,

people yearning for social activities and parents already expressing remote teaching fatigue, it's important that everyone get back on track with COVID-19 prevention measures."

Three Douglas County residents are being cared for in local facilities, one is being cared for outside of the county, and one non-county resident is also being hospitalized locally. Forty-six county residents are currently being cared for in isolation, and an additional 129 suspected contacts are in self-quarantine.

The county has seen 127 total cases since Sept. 13.

COVID-19, A8

Indigo Pack not affected by wildfires

Douglas County's gray wolf pack still residing in eastern side of county

JON MITCHELL
The News-Review

Much of Douglas County's wildlife, in one way or another, has been affected or displaced by the effects of the Archie Creek Fire east of Glide.

But what about the gray wolves on the eastern end of the county?

"It really didn't affect them that much," said Sam Dodenhoff, Southwestern Oregon wolf biologist for the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, said of the Indigo Pack of wolves. "They've just been hanging around the Diamond Lake and Crescent Lake areas and in some instances, they've been just a little bit south of Toketee Falls."

The Archie Creek Fire

did, in fact, put the Indigo Pack in danger when it spread close to the pack's activity area, which has extended west of Clearwater but has remained mostly near the county lines separating Lane, Douglas and Klamath counties. But it never extended enough to move the pack, which has grown slightly since the ODFW's most recent count earlier this year.

The Indigo Pack remains one of three gray wolf packs in western Oregon along with the Rogue Pack, which has stayed primarily around the Jackson and Klamath county borders, and the White River Pack, which has an area of

WOLVES, A8



INSIDE, A2
Golfers come together for a good cause

HIGH: 73
LOW: 55



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