Wasilla to revisit edibles ban

Council to reconsider rules at special meeting Wednesday

BY BRIAN O’CONNOR  Frontiersman

WASILLA — Law-abiding marijuana business owners and other responsible cannabis users think twice before using their right to have intoxicating treats — about — baked.

The two dissenting voters on the Wasilla City Council’s marijuana restrictions are set to propose changes to recently enacted marijuana laws that could restore marijuana edibles legal status.

Council members previously discussed some of the proposed changes during the passage of the ordinance in February.

They are: • Change the language concerning edible foods on ordinances, extracts, or concentrates made for personal use or sale. Edible for personal use would not longer be prohibited. • Eliminate an exception to the ban on manufacturing edibles for personal or alternate caregivers providing products to people possessing a medical marijuana card. • Ban manufacturing using a volatile or explosive gas. • Change the transportation maximum amount from 2 ounces per vehicle, to 2 ounces per person. • Edibake Nov. 26, 2015, as the sunset clause for all provisions. The ordinance will be considered Wednesday, and a public hearing on the proposed changes will be scheduled at the regular city council meeting March 23.

Councillors Brandon Wall, one of two co-owners for a cannabis company, said revisions were designed to eliminate sections that could potentially be challenged in court.

In discussions about the bills at the Feb. 23 meeting, a personnel possession limit of 2 ounces was removed because of concerns it would violate established law regarding the 1976 Raven v. Alaska decision, most of which lays

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Superior Court Judge William Cary denied a stay on Friday filed by the Alaska Department of Education in a lawsuit against the Kenai Peninsula Borough and the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District.

Cary’s ruling in the case effectively invalidates the state’s requirement municipalities hold public education. Prior to filing the lawsuit in January, the Kenai Peninsula borough put $6 million under protest. Mat-Su officials said they were waiting for state-level officials to outline issues arising from the funding and state-by-state law and education cuts proposed by legislatures. Months remain before local schools must submit their budgets to the state on July 15, pointed out Mat-Su Borough officials during a meeting Tuesday. Officials are sticking to the old funding system, Fulp said.

“We’re just going to proceed with what we’ve always done. We have a number of different possible outcomes,” officials said. A stay is a mid-step in the litigation.

Tourney time

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PAGE 10

Family tradition

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PAGE 10

Science champs

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PAGE 9

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, DR. SEUSS!

 Judge won’t stay school funding lawsuit

BY BRIAN O’CONNOR  Frontiersman

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PAGE 9

Weather

HIGH: 40

LOW: 36

Snow and rain. High around 40.

Full forecast, PAGE 2

Index

Around the Valley ... 2
Patrol ... 5, 6
Obituaries ... 8
Police Beat ... 8
Schools ... 8, 9
Sports ... 9
Comtech ... 12
Classifieds ... 13

MEAs lines, KGP upgrades on tap at Wasilla planning commission

BY BRIAN O’CONNOR  Frontiersman

WASILLA — The planning commission will receive updates on long-term transportation issues this week.

Officials from Matanuska Electric Association will be on hand to discuss an update regarding existing transmission lines around the city, and department of transportation officials will hear an update on two projects slated for Edith-Goose Bay Road.

The power lines saga in the city of Wasilla stems from the city’s rejection of the project lines from the city, along the Parks Highway on the east and the city center. The denial of the project, says Cary, was the result of both the high-voltage transmission lines should be buried, or transmits power below the existing line at the parking lot.

Economic development and population growth mean the infrastructure needs to be expanded. MEA operates at 85 percent of its full capacity. MEA spokesperson, B.J. Kiefer said, “The bottom line is that the city of Wasilla has a difficult decision to make over the future of the substations.”

Expansion of the power grid and the addition of another service area has to transfer power into the grid, it’s efficient to share the lines that aren’t already in use.

“Potentially puts the whole grid in danger.”

In addition, practical electric line design dictates that power lines loop around the service area so in the event of one set of lines fails, electricity can flow through the other end. In the event that denial of Matanuska Electric Association’s new service area Joe Kieffl laid out a series of alternatives and related costs.

For example, burying the lines would cost...

More...

PAGE 4

Wellwood fire crew seeks upgrades

BY ANDREW WELLNER

WILLOW — Local fire-fighters are advocating for change in their department, citing outdated equipment and a need for more support from the board overseeing them.

“We’ve had a board of supervisors that has not been very supportive when we’ve brought forward issues,” said OFD Lieutenant Bob Johnson.

Without the gu...