***News Release***

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**The Southern Oregon Hemp Co-op and Green Leaf Lab Announce the Third Annual Hemp, CBD & CBG Trade Show Featuring the Golden Grow Awards**

*Grower’s Deadline for Entering Their 2021 Flower is January 3rd, 2022*

**MEDFORD, OR** December 19, 2021 --The Southern Oregon Hemp Coop, a leading local Hemp growers and brokers cooperative, today announced the third annual Hemp, CBD and CBG trade show, scheduled February 5, 2022 at the Ashland Hills Hotel and Convention Center in Ashland, Oregon. The trade show will culminate in the evening Golden Grow Awards (GGA) lunch and ceremony which celebrates the recent harvest, recognizes product excellence, and names the region’s “Grower of the Year”.

With an emphasis on educating the industry and public on the characteristics of quality hemp flower, the GGA judges, all with impressive industry backgrounds, will select cultivars for awards. This **is the only competition of its sort in the region, and organizers anticipate a lot of local interest.**

“The show is an opportunity for local growers to celebrate the recent harvest, as well as to present their Hemp cultivars to a panel of judges who will chose the award-winning varietals and select the ‘Best Northwest Grower’ of the year,” said Mark Taylor, event organizer and founding board member of the Southern Oregon Hemp Co-op. “We’ve seen a lot of changes and consolidation in the Hemp industry, alongside significant regulatory reform, and we anticipate a lot of spirited discussion around these topics on the show floor and at our awards lunch.”

Exhibitor tables are available for interested vendors at a cost of $250.00 per table.

The 3rd Annual Southern Oregon Hemp, CBD and CBG Trade Show will host the 3rd annual Golden Grow Awards lunch and ceremony as part of the Saturday event. The following speakers are scheduled to make presentations:

**Eric Cerecedes**, Hemp Industry Consultant,

**Justin Botillier,** CPA from Calyx Accounting,

**Erik Larson,** vertical integration expert,

**Jason Peterson,** Hemp Industry Consultant,

**Matt Cyrus,** from Triple C Farms,

**Andrew DeWeese** from the Green Light Law Group, and

**Courtney Moran,** Founding Principal of Earth Law, LLC

The Golden Grow Awards ceremony celebrates the recent harvest and recognizes product excellence. With an emphasis on educating the industry and public on the characteristics of quality hemp flower, the GGA will award cultivars based on cannabinoid potency, terpenes, physical characteristics and overall presentation.

The show will be emceed by two local favorites: Freeway Farrell and Jamie Colson.

A regular at local casinos, emcee Freeway Farrell began his career thirty-three years ago in high school as a Disc Jockey at a roller rink. He then hosted his own weekend time slot as a DJ at a local radio station; then he traveled the country working as an on-air personality for various radio stations, all while he maintained a regular spot in the local stand-up comedy scene.

Emcee Jamie Colson is a hilarious, Eugene-based stand-up comedian and singer. A Cannabis educator and bud-tender, this young lady knows her way around both comedy and the Cannabis industry.

Music for the show dinner and awards ceremony will be provided by “Highway Bound”. Highway Bound is a local Country Music Band. The group features Erica Flynn on Vocals. Erica is accompanied by Jimi Smith on electric and acoustic guitar, Jimi has his masters degree in music, and Alex Detweiler on drums and acoustic guitar. New member Tim Kelly, bass player, also has a masters in Music and is from the Bay area.

Southern Oregon Hemp Cooperates, Inc., the “Co-op”, was incorporated by Mark Taylor in 2019 to serve the region’s Hemp farming community with education, advocacy, networking, trade shows, real estate acquisition and a co-operative product brokerage. The organization is governed by a board of directors and is supported by its membership and outside sponsors who seek to target the local Hemp industry. The Co-op can be reached through its website contact form at <http://www.soorhempco-op.com/>; or by calling Mark Taylor at (541) 601-5130. The Co-op currently hosts The Pizza Meet Up at Wild River Pizza located at 2684 N Pacific Hwy, Medford, OR one Saturday each month for local farmers to share their own experiences and stories.

The organization’s $125.00 annual membership fee supports the many farming and sales assistance programs the Co-op provides, and also helps grow the local industry through cooperative efforts and ventures.

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