

# Seaside businesses object to proposed sales tax

By NANCY MCCARTHY  
The Daily Astorian

SEASIDE — Local business operators said during a meeting Thursday they may not be able to keep their doors open if a sales tax is adopted to help fund a \$31 million expansion of the Seaside Civic and Convention Center and construction of a parking structure.

"I've gone door-to-door in the Gilbert District, and 90 percent of the businesses are against it," local graphic artist Kathleen Peterson said. "They don't want to be taxed."

In addition, Peterson said, the construction project, which would double the size of the convention center and add a multistory 500-space parking structure, would further impact the community's economy, which is just now recovering from a long recession.

"They're hanging on, hoping to recover, and they feel it will be another blow to them," Peterson said.

Peterson's comments came during the Seaside Downtown Development Association's regular

Thursday morning breakfast meeting. The room was packed with business owners — many who do not usually attend the weekly breakfasts — who wanted to hear a presentation by Russ Vandenberg, the convention center's general manager.

Although the construction project and financing proposal are still in the development stage, the issue is expected to come before the City Council this year. It will not be subject to a public vote.

This was Vandenberg's second presentation; he spoke to the Seaside Chamber of Commerce Jan. 30. Since then, opposition to a proposed sales tax and a bump in lodging taxes has gained momentum.

Vandenberg said the convention center faced the loss of groups that had rented the center for conferences for years but had grown too large for the center, which can handle only 200 people, to accommodate. The groups consisted of school administrators, student councils, ham radio operators, bridge and chess players. Events, such as Iron

Chef Goes Coastal, also were finding larger venues and moving out of the center, Vandenberg said.

In addition to more break-out and meeting room space, the 40,000-square-foot expansion would expand the center's current 4,000-square-foot ballroom to 10,000 or 12,000 square feet. This would enable the center to bring in groups of 500 to 600 more people and to provide dining space for everyone. As it stands now, dining is limited to 300 people, Vandenberg said. The expansion's cost is estimated at \$25 million.

Expansion would occur on the center's west side and would remove at least 40 parking spaces. To make up for that loss, and to provide more needed parking in the city, a \$6 million parking structure, possibly four stories high and containing 500 spaces, is being considered.

To pay for the \$31 million project, which would require payments of \$220,000 a month, the latest of several studies commissioned by Vandenberg suggests three options: A joint agreement between Seaside, Cannon Beach and Astoria to raise lodging taxes by 2 percent, with the proceeds to go to the convention center; a 6 percent increase in lodging taxes, which would bring Seaside's total lodging taxes to 15 percent; or a combination of a 2.75 percent "business improvement district" tax on restaurants, retail sales, gas and groceries — "everything that's sold in Seaside," Vandenberg said — along with a 2 or 3 percent bump in lodging taxes.

"These were options presented to us," Vandenberg told the business operators. "Nothing has been decided."

The business owners, however, asked Vandenberg who is suggesting the expansion and how it would benefit Seaside. Vandenberg replied that most business operators believe the current center has had a positive impact on the city's economy. If the expansion were to occur, it would, in 10 years, bring 20,000 more people a year to town and add \$20 million more to the economy. Vandenberg, however, did not say

how the estimates were derived.

But those attending asked about how the additional cars would affect traffic flow, whether there were enough hotel rooms and whether the popularity of conventions overall was decreasing. If Seaside had a population of 300,000, the impact could be spread out, they said, but Seaside is too small to absorb it.

Gregg Boat, owner of Del Sol in downtown Seaside, said he would have to eliminate at least one job, just to cover the proposed sales tax.

Val Perry, of Trendwest Resorts, worried that the project and the proposed financial scheme would "drastically change" the character of the community where businesses and residents, who would also be subject to the sales tax, would have to "pay for the right to live and work in this town."

"Why would people come to Seaside when they have to pay 6 percent more for lodging and more for sales tax?" Perry asked. "You're switching funds from visitors to residents, and that changes the paradigm."

## ACCUWEATHER® FORECAST FOR ASTORIA

### Astoria 5-Day Forecast

**Tonight**  
Partly cloudy  
41°

Shown is tomorrow's weather. Temperatures are tonight's lows and tomorrow's highs

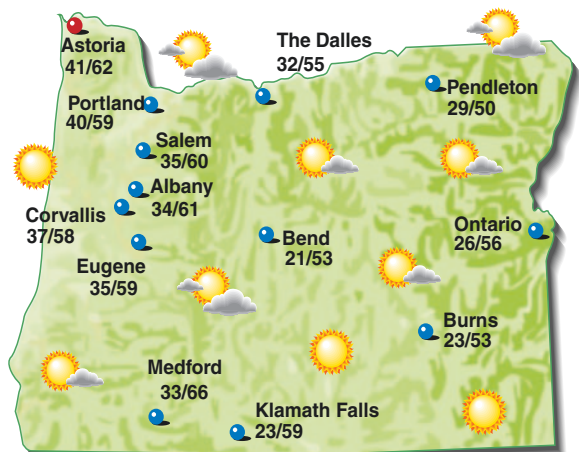
**Tuesday**  
Mostly sunny and beautiful  
62° 43°

**Wednesday**  
Mostly cloudy with a shower in places  
55° 43°

**Thursday**  
Variable cloudiness with a brief shower  
54° 41°

**Friday**  
Intervals of clouds and sunshine  
55° 38°

### Oregon Weather



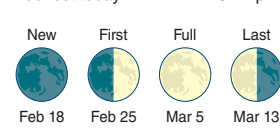
### Almanac

Astoria through Sunday.

Temperatures	
High	62°
Low	36°
Normal high	52°
Normal low	37°
Precipitation	
Yesterday	0.00"
Month to date	5.41"
Normal month to date	3.97"
Year to date	14.60"
Normal year to date	14.17"

### Sun and Moon

Sunset tonight	5:42 p.m.
Sunrise Tuesday	7:16 a.m.
Moonrise today	5:21 a.m.
Moonset today	3:24 p.m.



### Regional Cities

City	Today	Tues.
	Hi Lo W	Hi Lo W
Baker City	50 20 pc	52 21 s
Bend	48 21 pc	53 25 pc
Brookings	65 46 pc	61 45 s
Eugene	58 35 pc	59 43 pc
Ilwaco	60 42 pc	60 45 s
Klamath Falls	58 23 pc	59 27 s
Medford	66 33 pc	66 36 s
Newport	62 44 pc	61 45 s
North Bend	66 43 pc	62 46 s

City	Today	Tues.
	Hi Lo W	Hi Lo W
Olympia	57 33 pc	58 35 pc
Pendleton	48 29 pc	50 28 pc
Portland	59 40 pc	59 38 pc
Roseburg	61 40 pc	66 44 s
Salem	62 35 pc	60 39 pc
Seaside	61 41 pc	62 43 s
Spokane	47 29 pc	46 29 s
Vancouver	58 37 pc	59 36 pc
Yakima	55 28 pc	55 28 s

### Under the Sky

Tonight's Sky:  
Source: Jim Todd, OMSI

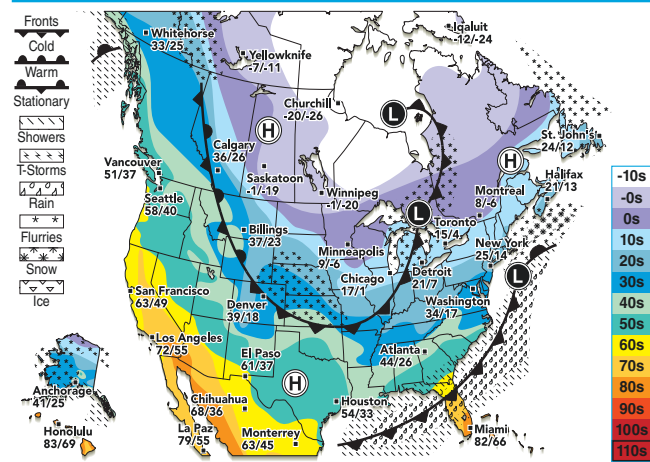
### Tomorrow's Tides

Astoria / Port Docks	Time	High	Time	Low
	12:09 a.m.	8.0 ft.	5:44 a.m.	2.4 ft.
	11:37 a.m.	9.7 ft.	6:33 p.m.	-0.8 ft.

### National Cities

City	Today	Tues.
	Hi Lo W	Hi Lo W
Atlanta	50 31 r	44 26 c
Boston	17 7 s	22 13 sn
Chicago	17 6 pc	17 1 c
Denver	35 17 sn	39 18 pc
Des Moines	31 11 pc	20 0 pc
Detroit	11 1 pc	21 7 sf
El Paso	69 43 pc	61 37 s
Fairbanks	29 15 c	29 3 pc
Honolulu	82 69 pc	83 69 s
Indianapolis	19 7 sn	25 6 c
Kansas City	29 18 c	27 5 c
Las Vegas	75 46 s	68 46 s
Los Angeles	73 56 s	72 55 s
Memphis	33 18 i	35 19 c
Miami	75 66 s	82 66 pc
Nashville	32 12 sn	32 15 c
New Orleans	75 38 r	51 35 c
New York	19 15 s	25 14 sn
Oklahoma City	38 22 c	31 26 c
Philadelphia	21 16 pc	30 14 sn
St. Louis	28 12 sn	27 6 c
Salt Lake City	49 26 pc	51 32 pc
San Francisco	69 50 s	63 49 s
Seattle	57 39 pc	58 40 s
Washington, DC	23 20 sn	34 17 sn

### Tomorrow's National Weather



Shown are noon positions of weather systems and precipitation. Temperature bands are highs for the day. Forecast high/low temperatures are given for selected cities. Weather (W): s-sunny, pc-partly cloudy, c-cloudy, sh-showers, t-thunderstorms, r-rain, sf-snow flurries, sn-snow, i-ice.

## OBITUARIES

### Barbara (Albert) Gustafson Seaside

Feb. 8, 1930 — Feb. 7, 2015

Barbara loved people. Whether she shared a cup of coffee with them at Holladay Drug Store, taught their 4- and 5-year-old children and grandchildren in Sunday School at Seaside Baptist Church (now known as North Coast Family Fellowship), or shared their love of the Portland Trail Blazers, she enjoyed hearing about their lives and praying for them.

Barbara was a member of North Coast Family Fellowship for 50 years, and enjoyed going to church every Sunday. She was blessed to have many friends from the church who would pick her up and take her every Sunday, and also take her to wherever she needed to go.

Born on Feb. 8, 1930, in Medford, Ore., to Ernest Leroy Albert and Edna Violet (Jacks) Albert, she began her life's journey in Butte Falls, Ore., where her father was a logger and a carpenter, later moving to Seaside, Ore., where she graduated from Seaside High School in 1948. She married

Arthur Reinhold Gustafson on March 2, 1957. She enjoyed being a homemaker and mother. Later she enjoyed being a grandmother, and spending time with her grandkids.

She was preceded in death by both her parents, her husband Art, her brother Robert Albert, her infant son Gary Gustafson, her daughter Georgia Gae Sheehan, and her grandson Michael Spivey.

Barbara is survived by her daughter Pam Johnson of Astoria; her sons David and daughter-in-law Linda Gustafson of Seaside, and Robert Gillette of Warrenton; grandchildren Renee Case, Brandon Gillette, Elizabeth and Corey Johnson, Shiloah (Nathan) Hopkins and Joshua Gustafson; and great-grandchildren Kiera Ciano, Tiffany Spivey, and a great-granddaughter due in April.

A Celebration of Life service will be Thursday, Feb. 19, 2015, at 1 p.m. at North Coast Family Fellowship church, located at 2245 N. Wahanna Road in Seaside, Ore.



Barbara Gustafson

### On the record

#### Disorderly conduct

• At 10:37 p.m. Thursday, Astoria Police arrested Brian Scott Anderson, 30, Astoria for first-degree disorderly conduct at 1230 Marine Drive. Anderson was allegedly challenging people to a fight and trying to get into a building on

Marine Drive, police said.

#### Criminal mischief

• At 10:23 a.m. Thursday, Astoria Police arrested John Scott Fisher, 36, Astoria, for second-degree attempted theft, second-degree criminal mischief, misuse of 911 and third-degree

robbery at Columbia Memorial Hospital emergency room. Fisher was disruptive in the ER, hitting medication bottles on the counter, police said. When an officer responded, Fisher grabbed the officer's taser and began to fight before being arrested.

### Public meetings

#### TUESDAY

Sunset Empire Transportation District Special Transportation Funds Committee, 10:30 a.m. special meeting, Astoria Transit Center Conference Room, 900 Marine Drive.

Clatsop County Human Services Advisory Council, 4 to 5:30 p.m., 800 Exchange St., Room 430.

Port of Astoria Commission, 5 p.m. executive session (closed to public), 6 p.m. regular meeting, old Port offices, 422 Gateway Ave.

Astoria Historic Landmarks Commission, 5:15 p.m., Astoria City Hall, 1095 Duane St.  
Seaside School District Board, 6 p.m., Administration Building, 1801 S. Franklin St.

Shoreline Sanitary District Board, 7 p.m., Gearhart Hertig Station, 33496 West Lake Lane, Warrenton.

Astoria City Council, 7 p.m., Astoria City Hall, 1095 Duane St.

Gearhart City Council work session, 7 p.m., City Hall, 698 Pacific Way.

#### WEDNESDAY

Seaside Tourism Advisory Committee, 3 p.m., City Hall, 989 Broadway.

#### THURSDAY

Seaside Transportation Advisory Commission, 6 p.m., Seaside City Hall, 989 Broadway.

### Lotteries

#### OREGON

Sunday's Pick 4:  
1 p.m.: 7-6-9-6  
4 p.m.: 8-1-9-0  
7 p.m.: 6-3-3-2  
10 p.m.: 8-3-3-9  
Saturday's Megabucks: 06-23-32-33-39-42  
Estimated jackpot: \$10.2 million  
Saturday's Powerball: 01-24-44-45-51,  
Powerball: 28, Power Play: 2  
Estimated jackpot: \$40 million  
Saturday's Pick 4:  
1 p.m.: 8-6-0-3  
4 p.m.: 4-7-5-8  
7 p.m.: 8-4-8-0  
10 p.m.: 7-4-2-6  
Friday's Pick 4:  
1 p.m.: 6-8-1-7  
4 p.m.: 2-3-4-3  
7 p.m.: 2-9-0-7  
10 p.m.: 9-2-8-8

#### WASHINGTON

Sunday's Daily Game: 8-1-2  
Sunday's Keno: 07-09-10-15-20-23-28-29-30-38-43-49-51-53-57-60-61-64-65-69  
Sunday's Match 4: 04-06-15-22  
Saturday's Daily Game: 4-1-5  
Saturday's Hit 5: 03-16-19-22-35  
Estimated jackpot: \$190,000  
Saturday's Keno: 09-14-16-25-29-31-34-36-41-44-45-57-58-64-65-66-75-78-79  
Saturday's Lotto: 04-10-15-16-29-49  
Estimated jackpot: \$4.5 million  
Saturday's Match 4: 01-09-11-16  
Friday's Daily Game: 0-8-9  
Friday's Keno: 05-07-14-16-21-25-32-34-35-37-40-45-50-56-60-63-68-71-77-80  
Friday's Match 4: 03-15-19-20  
Friday's Mega Millions: 04-20-44-65-74, Mega Ball: 14  
Estimated jackpot: \$74 million

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