

Seaside: Marijuana taxes are expected to reach \$15,000



Don Frank/Submitted Photo

A \$15 million renovation of the Seaside Civic and Convention Center could begin in March.

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experienced a bump from \$5.8 million to \$6.4 million, Winstanley said.

The city budget lists 30 funds overall, among them, public works, the downtown maintenance district and public safety, with a budget of \$5.7 million. Comprised of fire, police, lifeguards and Municipal Court, this year's public safety fund stood at \$4.3 million.

Marijuana taxes, included for the first time as a public safety budget line, are expected to reach \$15,000. Liquor taxes are budgeted at more than \$100,000 in revenue.

Health, medical and dental costs are going up across the board. The police department will see a rise of 13 percent, with retirement costs escalating about 8 percent. Similar numbers are seen in other departments.

While Seaside does not participate in the state's Public

BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

- **Seaside Library:** An 11 percent increase in the book-acquisition budget
- **Fire:** Addition of a fourth paid fireman and implementation of a water rescue program.
- **Building Department:** Possibility of two large projects — convention center renovation; new motel/hotel.
- **Public Works:** Acquisition of a new garbage truck and the repair of the public works building roof.
- **Library Trust:** Acquisition of a generator for the library.
- **Capital improvement and maintenance:** community center renovation.
- **Convention center:** \$15 million renovation starting 2018.

Employees Retirement System, the city's two employee retirement plans are also facing rising costs, Winstanley added.

Holding the line

Councilors Dana Phillips, Steve Wright, Seth Morrisey and Randy Frank, along with Mayor Jay Barber, voted to approve the budget. Councilors Tom Horning and Tita Montero were absent.

"It really holds the line in

terms of our expenditures," Barber said after the meeting. "I know the budget committee was trying to hold steady rather than to make any big jumps. Overall, it's a very moderate budget and I think it speaks well of the council and particularly our city manager."

Following the budget vote, councilors also approved a bid process for a construction manager-general contractor for the convention center construction project.

Pet love: 'It's all in good fun. We have some big decisions to make'

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event after she noticed tension mounting in the waning two weeks of this year's legislative session.

Lawmakers are squabbling over new taxes and the components of a transportation package, and emotions can rise and sink with the fate of each bill in front of them.

"One of the things I noticed is when we have schoolchildren (in the House chamber), the dynamic changes," Bynum said.

She mentioned her observation to Mandi McGowan, administrative assistant in the Chief Clerk's Office, and suggested bringing babies into the Capitol to calm legislators.

McGowan told Bynum that the Oregon Humane Society sometimes brings cats and dogs into workplaces during the stressful Christmas season and pitched the idea of doing the same at the statehouse.



LEFT: Marc Miller, legislative director for Rep. David Brock Smith, R-Port Orford, holds Christopher Walken, an 8-week-old puppy up for adoption at the Oregon Humane Society, during a Snuggle Express at the Oregon Capitol in Salem Monday. The event was meant to reduce stress in the waning days of the legislative session. **RIGHT:** Rep. Janelle Bynum, D-Clackamas, holds Spotlight, a 9-week-old kitten up for adoption at the Oregon Humane Society, during a Snuggle Express at the Oregon Capitol in Salem Monday. Bynum organized the event as a way to reduce stress in the waning days of the legislative session.

Pups and kits

"Who doesn't love puppies and kittens?" McGowan said. "A lot of people get cocktails after work to relieve stress."

Holding a puppy or kitten can provide the same soothing effect, she said.

"And hopefully, the animals find homes. Everyone benefits," she said.



Paris Achen/Capitol Bureau

Bynum said she knew people at the Capitol needed the stress relief, but she was surprised there was "a lineup like a rock concert" for the event.

The Oregon Humane

Society provided the event for free at the Capitol. The program costs businesses a \$1,000 donation fee during the Christmas season, but off-season the organization will

provide the service without the fee in certain cases, said David Lytle, a spokesman for the humane society. Participants were asked to give a donation to help homeless animals during Monday's event. A final tally of how much was raised for the organization was unavailable Monday afternoon, Lytle said.

Many animals find their new homes during the Snuggle Express, he said. The humane society maintains a web site with photos of all of the pets available for adoption.

Buzz about the event spread to the Senate wing of the Capitol, where at least one senator and his staff member expressed jealousy that the Senate wasn't invited, Bynum said.

"It's all in good fun," Bynum said. "We have some big decisions to make before the end of the session."

New cyberattack causes mass disruption globally

Ukraine hit hard by intrusions

By RAPHAEL SATTER
Associated Press

PARIS — A new and highly virulent outbreak of malicious data-scrambling software appears to be causing mass disruption across the world, hitting companies and governments in Europe especially hard.

Officials in Ukraine reported serious intrusions of the country's power grid as well as at banks and government offices, where one senior executive posted a photo of a darkened computer screen and the words, "the whole network is down." The prime minister cautioned that the country's "vital systems" hadn't been affected.

Russia's Rosneft oil company also reported falling victim to hacking and said it had narrowly avoided major damage, as did Danish shipping giant A.P. Moller-Maersk.

"We are talking about a cyberattack," said Anders Rosendahl, a spokesman for the Copenhagen-based shipping group. "It has affected all branches of our business, at home and abroad."

The attack was confirmed to have spread beyond

Europe when U.S. drugmaker Merck, based in New Jersey, said its systems had also been compromised.

The number of companies and agencies reportedly affected by the ransomware campaign was piling up fast, and the electronic rampage appeared to be rapidly snowballing into a worldwide crisis.

There's very little information about what might be behind the disruption at each specific company, but cybersecurity experts rapidly zeroed in on a form of ransomware, the name given to programs that hold data hostage by scrambling it until a payment is made.

"A massive ransomware campaign is currently unfolding worldwide," said Romanian cybersecurity company Bitdefender, where analyst Bogdan Botezatu said that it appeared to be nearly identical to GoldenEye, one of a family of hostage-taking programs that has been circulating for months. Some analysts were calling the new form of ransomware Petya.

It's not clear whether or why the ransomware has suddenly become so much more potent, but Botezatu said that it was likely spreading automatically across a network, without the need for human interaction.

Such self-spreading software, often called "worms," are particularly feared because they can replicate rapidly, like a contagious disease.

"It's like somebody sneezing into a train full of people," Botezatu told The Associated Press. "You just have to exist there and you're vulnerable."

The world is still recovering from a previous outbreak of ransomware, called WannaCry or WannaCrypt, which spread rapidly using digital break-in tools originally created by the U.S. National Security Agency and recently leaked to the web.

"Data breaches and cyber hacks are one of the biggest risks facing business worldwide," said Michelle Crorie, a partner at law firm Clyde & Co. who specializes in cybersecurity issues. "The WannaCry attack and now Petya clearly demonstrate that hackers do not discriminate which type of business they are targeting."

This particular variant of ransomware leaves a message with a contact email; several messages sent to the address were not immediately returned.

Associated Press writers Vladimir Isachenkov in Moscow and Jan M. Olsen in Copenhagen, Denmark, contributed to this report.



Team members: Jason, Jeania and Christie

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Number of people using Facebook reaches 2 billion

Associated Press

MENLO PARK, Calif. — Facebook is reaching another milestone, announcing that it now has more than 2 billion users.

CEO Mark Zuckerberg says the new marker was reached early Tuesday and in a Facebook post said that he's

proud of the role his company is playing in connecting people around the world.

Facebook says more than 175 million people declare they "love" something on the site daily and an average of more than 800 million people hit Facebook's like button.

Facebook users will likely

see a personalized video celebrating the milestone in the next few days.

The Menlo Park, California, company is putting more emphasis on creating virtual communities within the site while it also works to reduce violent, hateful and misleading content on the service.