

# Room tax hike could pay for convention center upgrades

## Councilors don't want to compete with school bond vote in November

By R.J. MARX  
The Daily Astorian

SEASIDE — With a Seaside School District bond vote likely in November, city officials steered away from bringing another capital project to the voters.

At a City Council and Seaside Civic and Convention Center Commission workshop last week, City Manager Mark Winstanley provided options to bring a nearly \$15 million convention center upgrade to fruition. By the end of the evening, councilors recognized the need and appeared to be leaning for an increase in hotel room tax to fund it.

"If 1 or 2 percent would cover it, and we think the hotel properties are on board with that, why would we go with anything else?" Councilor Randy Frank asked.

With a land gift of 80 acres from Weyerhaeuser Co., the school district is planning a bond referendum to create a new high school campus east of South Wahanna Road in Seaside. While a previous bond



Steele Architects rendering of the Seaside Civic and Convention Center's southeast corner.

vote of \$128.8 million failed with voters in 2013, the district is considering a project on the donated land. Costs have not been presented.

### Center needs more space

At this week's convention center workshop, the center's General Manager Russell Vandenberg said without center expansion the city risked losing convention traffic. "It's not so much about bringing larger, bigger groups, as it is about keeping the groups we have," he said.

The No. 1 reason a group does not return to Seaside's convention center, Vandenberg said, is because of insufficient

space. He said there are groups now using the facility — including the Oregon Chess Federation, Sectional Bridge Tournament, and American Fisheries — requiring more convention space. The expansion, he said, will meet the needs of 60 percent of the organizations within a 300-mile radius of Seaside. "By building this renovation, we'll increase our market penetration by 20 percent," Vandenberg said.

The Steele Associates Architects' plan seeks to bump out the existing Necanicum Ballroom and support larger, more diverse events. Drawings also call for mid-size meeting room size increases and quality improvements. The renovation would

be confined to the existing property. The center would remain open during construction.

The project would be done in phases, Vandenberg said, to allow operation of the facility with "the least amount of impact" to visiting groups.

The ultimate price tag is \$14.6 million, he said. "That would be the out-the-door facility renovation."

### Who will pay?

Funding of the project is not only financial, Winstanley said. "It's also political."

Winstanley provided options including a bond sale, formation of an urban renewal district, a voter referendum to raise property taxes or room



R.J. Marx/The Daily Astorian Councilors Tita Montero and Don Johnson listen during a presentation on renovations to the convention center. Seaside City Manager Mark Winstanley is in the background.

tax. "There are downsides to this," he said. "You're telling people you're going to raise their taxes." Convention center costs could raise taxes \$195 per year on the cost of a \$250,000 home.

"You have a school district that's going out on the ballot in November to build a new school," Winstanley said. "You're going to be competing for tax dollars with them. It probably won't be very popular with the school district, and you may be having some impact on the psyche of the voter at that time also. Some voters may look at that and say, 'Jeez, everybody's looking for money for something,' or others might say, 'This one's a lot

cheaper than that one.' Voters make decisions for all kinds of reasons."

The convention's last expansion in 1991 was funded by an increase in the room tax from 5 to 6 percent, and later, 6 to 7 percent, Winstanley said. "Part of that was for the cost of expansion," he said. "Room tax is also an integral part of the convention center."

"I don't see why we wouldn't want to use an increase in room tax," Councilor Dana Phillips said. "Those are people coming to use the convention center. Then we are not competing with the schools. Why wouldn't it be a win-win to go after the room tax?"

"I would not want to be on the ballot with the school district," Councilor Jay Barber added. "I would be in favor of a combination of revenue bonds and a room tax increase."

A 2-percent increase would be "about the most" hotel owners could afford, Vandenberg said, perhaps phased in incrementally.

A future workshop will determine the council's final direction. The council will return in a workshop "to narrow this down," Winstanley said. "I need you to say, 'I like this,' or 'we don't need this at all.' I'm not sure there are many people who would say, 'By golly, I'm not staying in Seaside because of a 2 percent room tax increase.'"

### FIVE-DAY FORECAST FOR ASTORIA

AccuWeather.com

TONIGHT	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
56	68 / 55	69 / 55	67 / 54	67 / 54
Partly cloudy with a shower in the area	Times of sun and clouds	Partly sunny	Mostly cloudy	Some sun

### ALMANAC

Astoria through Sunday.

**Temperatures**  
 High/low ..... 75°/50°  
 Normal high/low ..... 65°/51°  
 Record high ..... 85° in 2006  
 Record low ..... 41° in 1976

**Precipitation**  
 Sunday ..... 0.00"  
 Month to date ..... 2.00"  
 Normal month to date ..... 2.32"  
 Year to date ..... 39.22"  
 Normal year to date ..... 35.93"

### SUN AND MOON

Sunset tonight ..... 9:11 p.m.  
 Sunrise Tuesday ..... 5:27 a.m.  
 Moonrise today ..... 1:01 a.m.  
 Moonset today ..... 1:26 p.m.

Last New First Full  
 June 27 July 4 July 11 July 19

### UNDER THE SKY

Tonight's Sky: Low in the southeast is Antares of Scorpius.

Source: Jim Todd, OMSI

### TOMORROW'S TIDES

Astoria / Port Docks

Time	High	Time	Low
8:14 a.m.	6.6 ft.	2:26 a.m.	1.5 ft.
8:48 p.m.	8.5 ft.	2:16 p.m.	1.1 ft.

### NATIONAL CITIES

City	Today	Tues.
Atlanta	90 73 t 85 69 t	
Boston	82 66 pc 80 66 t	
Chicago	90 61 s 72 56 s	
Denver	89 60 t 88 61 t	
Des Moines	90 63 pc 81 60 pc	
Detroit	92 62 s 74 53 pc	
El Paso	93 73 t 89 72 t	
Fairbanks	66 54 pc 74 56 c	
Honolulu	83 73 sh 86 72 pc	
Indianapolis	90 66 s 78 56 s	
Kansas City	91 67 pc 85 63 pc	
Las Vegas	112 88 pc 110 86 pc	
Los Angeles	90 65 pc 92 63 pc	
Memphis	92 75 t 94 72 pc	
Miami	89 78 pc 91 77 t	
Nashville	88 71 t 92 66 pc	
New Orleans	94 79 t 86 77 t	
New York	83 69 pc 80 68 t	
Oklahoma City	93 72 pc 90 69 t	
Philadelphia	86 70 pc 85 70 t	
St. Louis	96 72 pc 86 64 s	
Salt Lake City	101 72 s 100 73 pc	
San Francisco	74 56 s 73 55 s	
Seattle	84 58 s 81 55 s	
Washington, DC	87 72 s 89 70 t	

### REGIONAL WEATHER

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

### REGIONAL CITIES

City	Today	Tues.	City	Today	Tues.
Baker City	92 52 s 89 51 s		Olympia	83 52 s 81 52 s	
Bend	86 54 s 87 53 s		Pendleton	94 63 s 95 60 s	
Brookings	68 54 s 69 56 s		Portland	88 59 s 84 59 s	
Eugene	88 53 s 86 52 s		Roseburg	87 57 s 85 58 s	
Ilwaco	65 56 pc 64 56 pc		Salem	88 56 pc 86 55 pc	
Klamath Falls	87 52 s 90 54 s		Seaside	66 56 pc 65 56 pc	
Medford	93 61 s 93 60 s		Spokane	89 62 s 91 62 s	
Newberg	86 53 s 84 53 pc		Springfield	86 52 s 85 51 s	
Newport	65 52 pc 64 51 pc		Vancouver	86 58 s 82 57 s	
North Bend	67 55 pc 67 54 pc		Yakima	96 61 s 98 63 s	

### TOMORROW'S NATIONAL WEATHER

Shown are noon positions of weather systems and precipitation. Temperature bands are highs for the day.

# AKC's newest breed: Meet the lively pumi

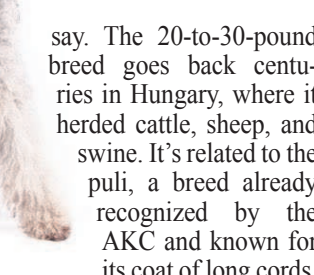
By JENNIFER PELTZ  
Associated Press

NEW YORK — A high-energy Hungarian herding dog is the latest new breed headed to the Westminster Kennel Club and many other U.S. dog shows. The American Kennel Club is announcing Wednesday that it is recognizing the pumi, the 190th breed to join the roster of the nation's oldest purebred dog registry. That means the pumi can vie for best of breed at Westminster for the first time next February.

With coats of corkscrew curls and ears that flop at the tips, the pumi (pronounced POOM'-ee) has a whimsical expression that belies its strong work ethic, fanciers

The pumi, a high-energy Hungarian herding dog, is the latest new breed headed to the Westminster Kennel Club and many other U.S. dog shows.

Thomas Pitera/The American Kennel Club via AP



say. The 20-to-30-pound breed goes back centuries in Hungary, where it herded cattle, sheep, and swine. It's related to the puli, a breed already recognized by the AKC and known for its coat of long cords.

Like many herding dogs, pumis — the proper plural is actually "pumik" — are alert and active. "They're not for somebody who's going to sit and watch TV all day long," said Chris Levy, president of the Hungarian Pumi Club of America. But if provided with enough exercise and stimulation, "the pumi can chill out."

## PUBLIC MEETINGS

**MONDAY**  
Seaside City Council, 7 p.m., City Hall, 989 Broadway.

**TUESDAY**  
Clatsop Care Health District Board, noon, Clatsop Retirement Village, 947 Olney Ave.  
Astoria Library Board, 5:30

p.m., Astoria Public Library Flag Room, 450 10th St.

**Warrenton City Commission**, 6 p.m., City Hall, 225 S. Main Ave.

**Astoria Planning Commission**, 6:30 p.m., City Hall, 1095 Duane St.

## DEATH

June 25, 2016

VIRGILLO, Marietta Ann, 73, of Astoria, died in Hillsboro. Ocean View Funeral & Cremation Service of Astoria is in charge of the arrangements.

## OBITUARY POLICY

The Daily Astorian publishes paid obituaries. The obituary can include a small photo and, for veterans, a flag symbol at no charge. The deadline for all obituaries is 9 a.m. the business day prior.

Obituaries may be edited for spelling, proper punctuation and style. Death notices and upcoming services will be published at no charge. Notices must be submitted by 9 a.m. the day of publication.

Obituaries and notices may be submitted online at [www.dailyastorian.com/forms/obits](http://www.dailyastorian.com/forms/obits), by email at [ewilson@dailyastorian.com](mailto:ewilson@dailyastorian.com), placed via the funeral home or in person at The Daily Astorian office, 949 Exchange St. in Astoria. For more information, call 503-325-3211, ext. 257.

# CANNABIS STRAIN REVIEW

### Ph.D

Exclusive specialty Strain Phenotype for Mr. Doobe's by Typhoon Yolanda

**Strain:** Indica

**Strain Highlights:**

- Sweet
- Earthy aroma
- Relaxing
- Euphoric
- Tingly

**Customers stated benefits for:**

- Insomnia
- Pain
- Stress
- Anxiety

**THC:** 4.82%  
**CBD:** 12.61%  
**Lineage:** Unknown

TESTED BY: Integrity Analytics

### Mr. Nice

Exclusive specialty Strain Phenotype for Mr. Doobe's by Quality Growers

**Strain:** Indica Hybrid

**Strain Highlights:**

- Sweet
- Earthy
- Pungent
- Relaxing
- Happy
- Strong Mellow Euphoria

**Customers stated benefits for:**

- Severe Pain
- Stress
- Insomnia
- Headaches

**THC:** 33.5%  
**CBD:** .94%  
**Lineage:** G13 & Hash Plant

TESTED BY: Confidence Analytics

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