

Seaside voters to decide on fate of cannabis tax initiative

Question goes on November ballot

By R.J. MARX and DAVE FISHER
The Daily Astorian

SEASIDE — A ballot initiative that proposes a 3 percent tax on the sale of marijuana products by Seaside recreational marijuana retailers was approved unanimously by the Seaside City Council on Monday.

As a result, voters will have

one more question to decide this November.

Retail sales would be subject to the tax. State law mandates local taxes may not be imposed on medical marijuana patients or caregivers.

Last fall, Seaside city councilors approved retail sales at licensed medical marijuana dispensaries. Highway 420, Cannabis Nation and Oasis Cannabis retailers are licensed within the city and regulated by the Oregon Health Authority and Oregon Liquor Control Commission.

Oregon now charges a temporary 25 percent state tax on retail sales of recreational marijuana from medical marijuana dispensaries. The state tax will be reduced to 17 percent once regulatory controls are in place.

Of state tax revenue from the retail sale of cannabis, 10 percent will be transferred to cities to “assist local law enforcement in performing its duties.” After July 1, 2017, revenues will be distributed proportionately based on the number of

licenses issued in each city. Fifty percent of revenues will be distributed based on the number of production, processor and wholesale licenses issued in the city, and the other 50 percent will be distributed based on the number of retail licenses issued in the city.

If a city adopts an ordinance prohibiting the establishment of any registered or licensed marijuana activities, it will not be eligible to receive state marijuana tax revenues.



Edward Stratton/The Daily Astorian

Jeremy and Keri Towsey-French will open Reville Ciderworks next to the developing Reach Break Brewing in the Astoria Station at 1343 Duane St. Building owner Warren Williams will keep a small office along Duane Street.

Hard cider to mix with beer in Astoria

Another feature in Astoria Station project

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Daily Astorian

Don't prefer beer?

The Astoria Planning Commission on Tuesday approved a new hard cider house downtown.

Jeremy Towsey-French and his wife, Keri, will open Reville Ciderworks inside 684 square feet of the Astoria Station, a next-door neighbor to the developing Reach Break Brewing.

Towsey-French, speaking on behalf of his project, said he and his wife had a conversation two years ago about how she doesn't like beer. He said the conversation eventually turned to opening a cider house.

“I am a person who likes to work with his hands,” said Towsey-French, a beer aficionado and former program manager in the technology industry.

Reville Ciderworks is named after the French term for a bugle call used to wake military personnel, prisoners, boy scouts and other groups at sunrise. Towsey-French said he got his inspiration after waking one morning and hearing an epiphanic call toward his new profession.

“Astoria's always been a

home away from home,” he said. The city reminds him of the grittier, more authentic version of the Portland he moved to in 1997, he said, and of the similarly sized town of Blackfoot, Idaho, where he grew up.

Towsey-French knew Larry Cary, owner of Pilot House Distilling across Duane Street from Astoria Station, and inquired about space. Cary put him in touch with Warren Williams, owner of Astoria Station. Along with the brewery and cider house, Williams

also wants to put food carts in the lot.

Towsey-French said he hopes to open Reville by October, with a 7-barrel cider house, a capacity he hopes will double within a year. The cider house will receive juices from growers in the Hood River Valley, fermenting and conditioning them over a three- to four-week period.

Reville will have a tap room with two of its own varieties, four other guest ciders from throughout the region and some on-site bottling. Opening with Belgian and India pale ciders on tap, Towsey-French said he is looking to experiment and make many unique small batches, along with a nonalcoholic variety.

“In the lab, I've got a peach blend,” he said. “We're definitely doing some fruit blends.”

“Our goal is to help Astoria have more access to cider,” he said.

Port fined by the state over stormwater

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Daily Astorian

The state Department of Environmental Quality has fined the Port of Astoria \$36,916 for failing to conduct required stormwater monitoring at the Port's central waterfront and north Tongue Point facilities during the 2014-15 monitoring year and for failing to timely file required reports in violation of stormwater discharge permits.

In a release Tuesday, the department said it “issued the penalty because monitoring stormwater discharge is essential for DEQ to determine whether the Port's stormwater treatment technology is adequate to control pollutants. Without monitoring data, DEQ cannot analyze potential harmful envi-

ronmental consequences from stormwater discharge.”

At a meeting earlier this month, Port Executive Director Jim Knight said testing was performed at North Tongue Point, but there were errors in the information reported to the state.

“On the face of it, we will want to challenge this,” he said. “We have provided them the reports. They were aware of the issues.”

The state previously penalized the Port in 2013 and 2015 for failing to comply with stormwater monitoring requirements. In determining the penalty amount, the state considered the Port's efforts to correct the reporting violations by submitting the required reports.

The Port of Astoria has until Aug. 11 to appeal the penalty.

Food and beverage carts permitted at Astoria Airport

By ERICK BENDEL
The Daily Astorian

WARRENTON — The City Commission approved an ordinance Tuesday permitting mobile food and beverage carts to do business in the general industrial zoning district and serve people at the Astoria Regional Airport.

The code amendment is expected to make life easier for people who work in the area — including U.S. Coast Guard servicemembers and employees of Lekro and Recology — and may not have time during the day to leave their workplace, drive into town, buy a meal, enjoy it and drive back.

The decision will also allow The Lunch Wagon, an existing food cart that sells sandwiches, to remain in place. The cart — which opened in the spring and is growing by word of mouth — currently operates on a temporary variance.

Though the Planning Commission didn't take action on the amendment before kicking it up to the city commissioners, several members expressed concern that food carts would enjoy an unfair advantage over brick-and-mortar establishments that have more overhead and pay more taxes. Some balked at the very idea of food carts, fearing that allowing them would cause them to multiply and become unsightly.

At a City Commission meeting earlier this month, however, Coast Guard officials and representatives from Lekro and the Port of Astoria, which owns the airport, testified to the benefit of having such vendors in the district. City staff supported the concept and recommended the commission adopt the ordinance, which will go into effect 30 days from passage.

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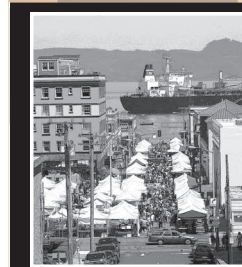


PHOTO CREDIT: PETER GEARIN

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Q: How many vendors are at Astoria Sunday Market?

A: The Market has about 200 spaces including the Food Court. Typically between 155 and 165 vendors fill up 175 of those spaces during the height of the season. Each week between 10 and 20 of our vendors are part-time or new so there is always something fresh and different to see each week.



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A: At CBH, we offer substance use treatment that ranges from education, to outpatient, to intensive outpatient services. We are able to provide referrals to withdrawal management (detox) programs as well as inpatient programs throughout the State of Oregon. The level of care required for each participant is determined by ASAM criteria. Our outpatient program consists of group curriculum, individual counseling, and case management where appropriate. In addition to traditional addiction services, we also provide treatment for gambling addiction.

Call 503-325-5722 Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., to inquire about clinic and open access hours and the referral process.



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Q: What does Alligator taste like?

A: The best way I would describe its flavor and texture is as a melding of Pork and Sturgeon. Not only is it tasty, but it's a highly concentrated source of protein, and low in fat. For over 2000 years the Chinese have believed it has medicinal value to the immune system. Alligator can be substituted for meat, chicken or seafood in all your favorite recipes and is considered fully cooked when white all the way through. We sell leg and body meat, as well as Alligator tenderloin, which comes from the tail.



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