

Oregon may join national popular vote compact

By **PARIS ACHEN**
Capital Bureau

SALEM — A bill introduced in the Legislature Monday would enlist Oregon in the National Popular Vote Compact contingent on voter approval in November.

By joining the compact, states agree to cast their Elec-

toral College votes only for presidential candidates who win the national popular vote.

A national popular vote would have changed the outcome of the 2016 general election, which put President Donald Trump in office.

Since 2009, state Senate President Peter Courtney has blocked similar pro-

posals four times in Oregon. Last year, the Salem Democrat said he would support a bill to join the compact, only if the decision was endorsed by voters.

"I would be open to ... sending the question to the ballot," Courtney said in May. "If you believe in the popular vote, then let the popular vote

decide the issue."

This year's bill, filed by the Senate Rules Committee, meets that condition: It requires voters to approve or reject a referendum to enact the national popular vote.

Ten states — including Washington and California — and the District of Columbia have already signed the com-

compact. They represent 30.7 percent of electoral votes.

The agreement takes effect when enough states have joined to cumulatively make up a majority of the electoral votes.

The popular vote movement took on new life after Trump won election by a 77-vote margin in the Elec-

toral College, but lost the popular vote to Hillary Clinton by almost 3 million votes.

Rep. Bill Post, R-Keizer, said he opposes the bill. Any attempt to obligate votes to the national popular vote would likely face a challenge in court and be overturned.

"Are you kidding? No, it is unconstitutional," Post said.



Westport Winery

New site of the Westport Winery in Seaside.

Westport Winery gets OK for new tasting room

Venue to open in Seaside

By **R.J. MARX**
The Daily Astorian

SEASIDE — Westport Winery moved ahead with a new retail location in the Salmonberry Square building Monday night.

A winery sales license approved by City Council allows direct sales of beer and wine to consumers.

"We've had a commitment to not only the quality of our products, but also responsibility to our public and employees as well," winemaker and co-owner Dana Roberts said in addressing the council. "We're incredibly excited to be here."

The winery, based in Aberdeen, Washington, launched in 2008. Its success led to a satellite tasting room in Cannon Beach, which closed earlier this month.

The Seaside venture brought co-owners Blain and Kim Roberts out of retirement after the sale of a commercial building in Hawaii, Kim Roberts said before the meeting. "It all kind of coalesced in Seaside. We looked in Cannon Beach but couldn't find anything affordable there. We looked in Seaside and found 810 Broadway. It provided us greater visibility, greater space and parking — the gold standard of retail."

Seaside's tourism industry provided a draw, she added. "We're a year-round business and we really want to be involved in a year-round community."

The location will replicate the Washington state tasting room, featuring fine wines, a line of oils and vinegars and gourmet food items. The winery will

occupy one portion of the building. Three other shops will be available for rent. A parking lot on Oceanway is also owned by the winery.

The two-story, 10,500-square foot Salmonberry Square retail and office building, transferred this month for \$868,000, was constructed in 1965 and renovated in 2006, according to county records.

Two full-time employees from the Cannon Beach tasting room, Brian Hammock and Ben Hunter, will continue at the Seaside location.

The upstairs is rented to the nonprofit FosterClub. Kim Roberts said she hopes to team with other nonprofits in the community.

"Our family's been really devoted to nonprofits in our community here," she said. "We've been able to donate \$400,000 to local nonprofits in 10 years."

In reviewing the floor plan, Seaside Detective Corporal Bill Barnes observed an alcove by the front door in which there is not a clear line of sight for servers to see who is consuming alcoholic beverages. He suggested either eliminating this area for seating or taking precautions such as a security mirror or video surveillance.

"It's not a disqualifier, but there was concern about it," Police Chief Dave Ham said.

City councilors unanimously endorsed the application.

"On behalf of the council, I want to welcome you to Seaside," Mayor Jay Barber said. "Your organization has a great reputation and it's going to be great to have you on Broadway and see the Salmonberry thriving again."

The tasting room is scheduled to open with an 11 a.m. Saturday ribbon-cutting.

University of Washington groups work to keep indigenous languages alive

Informal classes are a labor of love for volunteers

By **KATHERINE LONG**
Seattle Times

SEATTLE — When Alyssa Johnston and members of her tribe speak to one another in Quinalt, they are often moved to tears by the knowledge that, at the turn of the century, the language was all but dead.

The last person who spoke fluent Quinalt passed away in 1996. By using recordings of those who spoke the language in the 1960s, a handful of people in the Olympic Peninsula tribe are slowly and painstakingly piecing it back together — and teaching it to a new generation.

Last year, Johnston was the first person in recent memory to earn a world-language credit at the University of Washington by showing she had achieved "intermediate low-level proficiency" in that language.

"It's everything to me," Johnston said of the importance of reviving her tribe's native tongue. "Language is culture," she said, and the tribe "right now is literally making history" by bringing it back.

That history is also being written on the UW's Seattle campus.

Every two weeks, two separate groups gather around a table in one building or another to practice one of two indigenous languages: Southern Lushootseed, the common tongue of the Native American tribes that lived in this region, and Hawaiian, the native language of the indigenous people of Hawaii.

Chris Teuton, chair of American Indian Studies at the UW, hopes students eventually will be able to learn both those languages in for-credit courses, joining the 55 other languages already taught by the university.

In the meantime, the informal classes are a labor of love for the volunteers who teach them. Nancy Jo Bob, a member of the Lummi Nation, and Tami Kay Hohn, of the Puyallup Tribe, both drive up from Auburn every month to offer several hours of language instruction, using a system they devised that helps students think and speak in complete sentences from the outset.

Lushootseed was revived by Upper Skagit author, teacher and linguist Vi Hilbert, who died in 2008 at the age of 90. Hilbert taught Lushootseed for credit at the UW until her retirement in



Alan Berner/The Seattle Times

Joe Concannon, left, Holly Shelton, Ashley Mocerro Powell, and Ken Workman practice Lushootseed, the common tongue of the Native American tribes that lived in the region, at the Burke Museum in Seattle.

1988, and it has been taught intermittently at the university since then, along with Navajo and Yakama.

Lushootseed's sentence structure is different from English, and includes sounds that don't exist in English.

"It's like my tongue is tap-dancing," one speaker marveled during a recent language table session.

Sentences start with a verb, rather than a subject, and the form the verb takes, gives information about the manner and time of action, said UW English Professor Colette Moore, who is taking part in the language table.

"By the time a speaker gets to the subject in a Lushootseed sentence," she said, "he or she has already given a lot of other information."

The language's history in the Puget Sound area dates back thousands of years. English, in contrast, has been spoken around here for fewer than 250.

"Sometimes it can be a perspective shift for students to see English as an immigrant language," Moore added, "but, of course, it is."

Forced English

America's past is threaded with a long, ugly history of white settlers separating Native Americans from their languages and cultures. In the 1900s, many Native American children were sent to boarding schools, where they were forced to speak only English.

Johnston, of the Quinalt tribe, says her grandfather spoke the language, and her mother asked him to teach it to her. But he refused — the older generation feared their children wouldn't be successful if they spoke a Native American language, she said.

"By revitalizing languages, that's part of the healing process," said Teuton, who is Cherokee and began learning that language at the University of North Carolina, where he taught before he came to the UW. "We are trying to recover from that colonial history."

Native American knowledge, he said, "is really grounded in our language — the grounding of stories, our storytelling traditions, our words for the natural world, words that describe our social relations."

Language is also a vital cultural connection for many Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders, said Manuhua Bar-cham, a UW lecturer who helped organize the Hawaiian language table. Bar-cham hopes to also start one for Samoan and Chamorro, which is spoken in Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands.

Both Pacific Islander and Native American populations have low levels of enrollment in higher education, and part of the goal of teaching languages is to make the UW "a more open and friendly space for our youth and our community," he said.

Among the state's other higher-education institutions, Lushootseed has been taught at Pacific Lutheran University and at the UW Tacoma, as part of a summer institute. Wenatchee Valley College in Omak teaches Salish; the Northwest Indian College in Bellingham teaches Native American languages.

Credit requirement

Johnston learned Quinalt from Cosette Terry-itewaste,

a linguist who is her tribe's most fluent speaker, and who was able to administer the test that allowed Johnston to get UW credit for knowing that language.

The UW requires entering students to have completed two years of a foreign language in high school, and to take a third quarter while in college — or to demonstrate that they have acquired "intermediate low-level proficiency" in a language other than English.

The university had to create a new way to test proficiency in languages that are not commonly taught.

"This provides an academic incentive and establishes it as an equal language, a world language," said Russell Hugo, a linguist in the UW's language learning center. "Hopefully more students can do this, so we can build stronger ties of support and recognition" for local indigenous languages.

Because she lives on the Olympic Peninsula and works full time with two young children at home, Johnston earned her undergraduate degree from the UW mostly online. She's certified as a language apprentice, and she will be helping the Quinalt tribe launch family language classes in January.

While some tribal members grew up knowing the Quinalt words for colors and other nouns, these language classes aim to teach them how to have simple conversations.

"It's amazing how it's been almost lost," Johnston said. "I can feel it getting back to normal, and that's a really sacred thing."

Feds make over \$2 million available to reduce bycatch

Associated Press

Federal ocean managers are making more than \$2 million available to try to help fishermen catch less of the wrong fish.

"Bycatch" is a long-standing issue in commercial fisheries, and fishermen have long sought solutions to the problem of catching rare species when seeking exploitable ones. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration says it is providing about

\$2.4 million for "projects that increase collaborative research and partnerships for innovation" in reducing bycatch.

The agency says it is prioritizing projects such as gear modifications, avoidance programs and improved fishing practices. NOAA also says it wants to learn more about possible reduction of mortality of fish that are released.

The agency is looking for pre-proposals by Jan. 31 and full proposals by March 30.

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Deadline to enter is Thursday, January 25th at 5pm
Entries will be printed in The Daily Astorian on January 31st.
Human babies only please!