



Jeremy Nelson works the counter at Hi Casual Cannabis in Astoria.

Colin Murphey/The Daily Astorian

Proposed hotel gets lukewarm welcome

Issues raised about design, exterior, size

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Daily Astorian

Hollander Investments received a mostly cold shoulder, but also thanks for providing a chance for public input at a forum Monday on a Fairfield Inn and Suites the company has proposed next to The Ship Inn on the Astoria waterfront.

The company, based in Bellingham, Washington, has built and operates properties in Puyallup, Everett, Tacoma, Seattle and Portland. It bought the properties formerly occupied by The Ship Inn and Stephanie's Cabin restaurants over the past couple of years.

It recently submitted plans for a four-story, 66-room hotel, repurposing The Ship Inn building as a lobby, kitchen and part of a dining area.

Attendees filled half of The Loft at the Red Building meeting hall. Many took issue with the style and boxy design of the nearly 45-foot-tall hotel and how it would block views of the Columbia River and Astoria Bridge. Several hoteliers and business owners in tourist-related industries voiced support.

The Bridge Vista portion of the city's Riverfront Vision Plan limits shoreline development to 35 feet, or 45 feet with

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OREGON COAST HIGH ON MARIJUANA SALES

Clatsop County sold \$8 million in pot products in the past year

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Daily Astorian

With their lower populations and higher rates of tourism, North Coast counties sold some of the most marijuana per capita in Oregon last year.

The 14 licensed marijuana retailers in Clatsop County sold more than \$8 million in products last year, part of the nearly \$520 million sold statewide. The industry has grown to employ more than 12,000 people, while the state has raked in more than \$100 million in tax revenue.

There were six marijuana retailers in Astoria, four in Seaside, one in Cannon Beach, two along U.S. Highway 26 and one in Westport — more than 1 for every 2,800 people. Combined sales equaled \$208 per person, the sixth-highest rate in the state during the first full year of recreational sales regulated by the Oregon Liquor Control Commission.

Tillamook County ranked fifth, selling \$5.6 million in marijuana products, equal to \$214 per person. Lincoln County came in third, at \$13.6 million, \$284 per person.

Stephanie Schlip, who manages Oasis Cannabis locations in Newberg, Monmouth and Seaside, said her sales on the Oregon Coast will often outstrip those in the Willamette Valley by 25 percent in the summer and lag behind in winter.

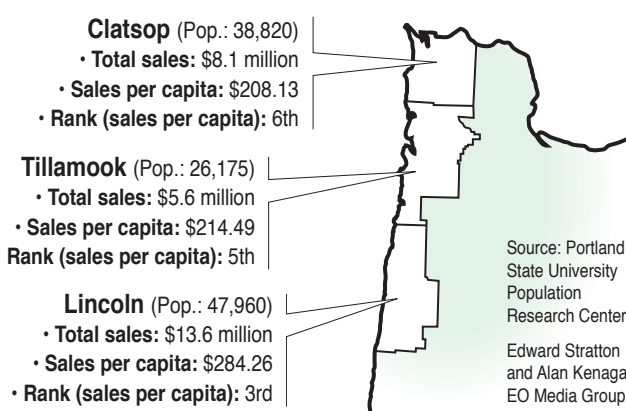
"I would say about 1 out of every 20 customers say they're from another state, and they've never been in a dispensary," she said.

Many were Californians before that state recently legalized recreational sales, she said. Many were from Idaho, the only state bordering Oregon where recreational marijuana is illegal.

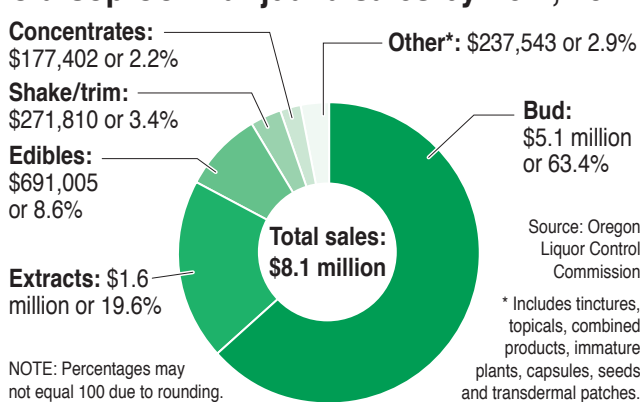
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North Coast marijuana sales, 2017

Counties in Northwest Oregon rank among the highest statewide for per capita sales of marijuana and related products.



Clatsop Co. marijuana sales by item, 2017



Kujala to seek seat on county commission

Former Warrenton mayor stepped down last year

By JACK HEFFERNAN
The Daily Astorian

Former Warrenton Mayor Mark Kujala will run for a Clatsop County Board of Commissioners seat.

Kujala was the city's first elected mayor in 2014 after being appointed to the post in previous years. He served as a city commissioner and mayor for 12 years before stepping down last year.

He was recently appointed to state Department of Fish and Wildlife Fish Passage Task Force and serves on the Oregon Community Foundation North Coast Leadership Council.



Mark Kujala

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'I THINK SALES ARE GOING TO INCREASE, AND THEY'LL CERTAINLY GET A LOT HIGHER AS WE TAKE AWAY FROM THE BLACK MARKET.'

Don Morse | director of the Oregon Cannabis Business Council, a trade association

City Council approves zoning change for Astoria Co-op

Concerns over traffic persist

By KATIE FRANKOWICZ
The Daily Astorian

Amid concerns about traffic, a majority of the Astoria City Council on Monday upheld a Planning Commission decision to rezone the site in Mill Pond where the Astoria Co-op Grocery plans to expand.

The decision moves the grocery store along to the next steps before it can break ground. The project still must undergo design review.

Mayor Arline LaMear was the only "no" in the 3-1 vote Monday. City Councilors Tom Brownson, Bruce Jones and Cindy Price voted to amend the zoning at the 1 acre site from mixed use, where retail is permitted as a conditional use, to local service, where retail is permitted outright. Councilor Zetty Nemlowill, the grocery store's marketing director, cited a conflict of interest and sat in the audience during the hearing and vote.

Jennifer Bunch of Wickiup Consulting, representing the landowner, argued the zoning is a natural progression from commercial to residential. The site, located off Marine Drive

near 23rd Street, is bordered by a more industrial zone to the west and the Mill Pond residential area to the east.

But some Mill Pond residents and property owners are unhappy about the Astoria Co-op's plan to use Steam Whistle Way, a narrow street that runs behind the site connecting 23rd Street to 29th Street, as an access road to the store's parking lot. Despite the co-op's commitment to widen the street, residents said it still may not be wide enough.

Under the co-op's plans now, people would turn off Marine Drive, onto 23rd Street



Astoria Co-op Grocery

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The Astoria Co-op Grocery wants to expand to Mill Pond.

