

# THE DAILY ASTORIAN

145TH YEAR, NO. 201

DailyAstorian.com // TUESDAY, APRIL 10, 2018

ONE DOLLAR

## SOARING HIGH



Colin Murphey/The Daily Astorian

Christopher Avery clears the bar for Seaside during the pole vault event on Monday in the Daily Astorian Invitational track meet in Seaside. [See the story and more photos in Sports on Page 10A.](#)

## County weighs marijuana sales tax

By JACK HEFFERNAN  
The Daily Astorian

Clatsop County voters may have the option in November to place a tax on retail marijuana sales.

County commissioners will hold the first reading Wednesday of an ordinance that would impose a 3 percent tax on sales. Staff estimates the tax, applied to three dispensaries outside city limits, would generate \$50,000 in revenue annually.

County Manager Cameron Moore likened the social costs of legal marijuana to substances like alcohol and tobacco, which often have “sin taxes” applied to them. The revenue could go toward public health and safety services.

When Oregon voters legalized recreational marijuana sales in 2014, the state imposed a 17 percent sales tax and gave cities and counties the option to add an additional 3 percent if approved by vot-

ers. The county considered the tax in 2016, but no recreational dispensaries existed outside city limits at the time.

The affected dispensaries are located on U.S. Highways 26 and 30, meaning a large portion of customers are passers-by, said Nick Clark, owner of Nature’s Choice in Westport. Most cities and counties in the state have similar taxes.

“They’re not coming from out of the area for 3 percent savings,”

Clark said.

The 14 licensed marijuana retailers in the county — 11 of which are located in Astoria, Seaside and Cannon Beach — sold more than \$8 million in products last year, part of a \$520 million statewide haul.

While the taxes are fair, they can sometimes give black-market dealers an unfair advantage, said Don Morse, director of the Oregon Cannabis Business Council.

“Right out of the gate, we have

20 percent more in expenses while the guy on the black market does not,” Morse said. But, “I think the taxes in this case are put to good use. If you’re going to tax, at least it’s for the right purpose.”

If Wednesday’s hearing is continued, a second hearing would be held at a future meeting. Commissioners may then place the potential ordinance on the November ballot. If approved, he taxes would be effective 30 days after the election.



EO Media Group

A review shows where Megabucks winners bought their tickets and how they chose numbers.

## Megabucks? Try your luck in Jackson County

Not much joy on the North Coast

By PARIS ACHEN  
Capital Bureau

PORTLAND — In the past five years, 24 tickets in Oregon have won the Megabucks grand prize. In some cases, winners had to share the \$1 million or greater payout.

People who bought tickets in Jackson County had the best luck, according to a review by the EO Media Group/Pamplin Media Group Capital Bureau of addresses where winning tickets were sold.

Quick Pick tickets — in which numbers are randomly generated by a computer at the store — were more likely to win than when players selected their own numbers. Only five out of 42 winners in the past five years had manually-selected numbers. Three were unknown, and the other 37 were Quick Pick tickets.

A majority of winners — 25 — bought tickets outside of the Portland metro area. Only 17 tickets in that five-year period were sold at stores in the Portland metro area, including Portland, Milwaukie, Beaverton and Sherwood.

In the metro area, Portland — the state’s population center — unsurprisingly had the greatest number of winning tickets — nine in those five years. Beaverton had four, Milwaukie, two, and Sherwood, two.

Salem, the state’s second largest city, had five winners — one each year.

Eugene — the state’s third largest city — had no winners during that five-year period, though neighboring Springfield had one.

Interestingly, 2014 was a lucky year for Jackson County. That year, only tickets sold at two separate stores in Medford and at the Albertsons in Ashland won the grand prize.

In the five-year period, Albany,

**25**  
out of  
**42**  
Megabucks  
winners were  
bought outside  
of the Portland  
metro area.

See **LOTTERY**, Page 4A



Brenna Visser/The Daily Astorian

Emergency blankets and medical kits were offered as raffle prizes at the emergency preparedness town hall in Gearhart.

## In Gearhart, relying on neighbors after disaster

By BRENNA VISSER  
The Daily Astorian

GEARHART — As Marty McCullough scanned a table filled with makeshift toilets and water filtration systems, she couldn’t help but wish her neighbors were by her side.

McCullough was one of the dozens of people who attended an emergency preparedness town hall in Gearhart on Saturday. The event, organized by the Community Emergency Response Team at the fire hall, featured a panel of speakers who addressed topics like emergency

communications, go-bags, sanitation in a crisis and other tools.

It was the first time McCullough, who has owned a home in Gearhart for five years, had ever attended an emergency preparedness event. But after some troublesome conversations with her neighbors, she felt compelled not only to come to prepare herself, but to convince her neighborhood to do the same.

“A lot of our neighbors are older, and they’re simply not worried about (a tsunami),” she said. “I guess I just

See **GEARHART**, Page 4A



7 29467 20121 7