



Lydia Ely/The Astorian

Many Cannon Beach businesses opposed the sales tax on meals.

Vote count narrows on Cannon Beach food tax

By KATIE FRANKOWICZ
The Astorian

CANNON BEACH — A food tax that has divided the community is hanging by a thread.

The margin narrowed significantly since last Tuesday night's vote count. The ballot measure was passing by 23 votes on election night. Now the measure is holding on by two votes — 369 to 367 — according to an update released by Clatsop County last Thursday.

A gap that narrow — 50.14% to 49.86% — would trigger an automatic recount.

Only 100 ballots remain to be counted for the food tax and a Knappa school bond measure, according to County Clerk Tracie Krevanko.

Most of the remaining ballots are ones that could not be read by the county's voting machines because they were damaged, among other reasons. A few other ballots did not pass the

county's signature verification process. Letters went out to those voters and people will have until Nov. 16 to cure their ballots.

Krevanko expects to certify the election results on Nov. 22.

Besides the possibility of an automatic recount, people have until Dec. 7 to request a recount of their own. They just have to pay for it. The cost comes to \$15 per precinct, and Cannon Beach is a single precinct. Anyone demanding a recount would also need to pay some additional fees associated with county expenses, such as bringing in workers to do the recount.

On election night, with the vote so close, Fire Chief Marc Reckmann said he expected the results will be challenged.

The fire district is considering a levy in May if the food tax fails. Funded through property tax dollars and grants, the district is in dire need of increased, stable funding, Reckmann has said.

The food tax has been controversial. The measure would levy a 5% tax on prepared food purchased at restaurants and similar businesses and is expected to raise an estimated \$1.7 million annually. The revenue would be split between the fire district and the city, which intends to use its share to fund a new City Hall and police station and other infrastructure.

Proponents say the tax is a way to target visitor dollars and spread the burden of paying for city and emergency services without raising property taxes for residents. Calls for emergency services have increased in the past two years, with most of the calls generated by visitors.

But opponents questioned the timing of the ballot measure, saying it will hurt businesses that are already struggling to recover amid the coronavirus pandemic. Others have expressed distrust with the city and how it will spend

its cut of the revenue.

The City Council had considered passing the measure as an ordinance, but a majority moved to send it to voters instead. City Councilor Brandon Ogilvie was the deciding vote at that meeting in July. He changed his mind on the ordinance and shifted to the ballot measure.

Though he fully supported the food tax, Ogilvie said he ultimately felt it would be best for the community to decide. It was also possible that even if the City Council had favored an ordinance, citizens could petition to force an election, he noted.

He knows the tax has been divisive, but he does not regret changing his vote.

"I need to do the job that I was elected to do," he said. "It's a little difficult to bring people together that completely disagree on an issue. That it's this divided doesn't make it any easier. But my main goal is to try to get the city's business done."

Man treated for burns after North Wahanna fire

Seaside Signal

One man was transported to a burn unit and two people were displaced after an early morning fire at 525 North Wahanna Road last Friday morning.

According to officials, Seaside Fire and Rescue responded to a report of a structure fire at 5:25 a.m. Crews arrived on scene a short time later. Gearhart and Cannon Beach fire departments also

responded. Hamlet Fire Department covered with mutual aid at U.S. Highway 26.

The patient with burns was taken to Columbia Memorial Hospital before being flown to the Legacy Emanuel Medical Center burn unit in Portland.

The Red Cross is assisting other tenants displaced by the fire.

The fire is under investigation. Contact Seaside Police at 503-738-6311 with information.



Seaside Fire and Rescue

Fire at 525 North Wahanna early last Friday morning.

PUBLIC SAFETY LOG



Oct. 30

12:45 a.m., 2100 block S. Edgewood: A disturbance is reported.

11:07 a.m., 1600 block Huckleberry: A deceased person is reported.

Oct. 31

9:27 a.m., Avenue G and Holladay: An intoxicated male is given a courtesy ride home.

4:26 p.m., 700 block S. Lincoln: Police responding to a reported disturbance say the parties had already separated; one man is warned not to drive or be arrested for DUII.

8:14 p.m., Avenue E and Edgewood: A caller reports his car was stolen; he is advised it was towed after being marked as abandoned.

Nov. 1

7:48 a.m., 10th and Necanicum: A disturbance is reported.

3:05 p.m., 2200 block N. Wahanna: An assault is reported.

4:50 p.m., Police headquarters: A person came in to registers as a sex offender.

6:48 p.m., 1100 block Avenue

E: A caller wants to report her daughter as a runaway.

Nov. 2

11:00 p.m., 400 block S. Roosevelt: A disturbance is reported.

Nov. 3

6:35 a.m., 800 block Necanicum: A transient reported sleeping in a laundry room is advised they can't sleep there.

11:23 a.m., Avenue C and Roosevelt: A person reported having a lot of trash around his parked vehicle says he will clean it up.

11:26 p.m., Avenue G: Caller reports a tenant across the street seen crawling under the reporting party's car and the tenant's room. The behavior is reported suspicious.

Nov. 4

9:09 a.m., 800 block Fifteenth Avenue: Caller wants to report windows of their residence being shot out by a BB gun.

3:06 p.m., N. Holladay: Caller is upset a customer is calling her and insulting her and leaving bad reviews about her business on websites.

2:11 p.m., Avenue G: Sex crimes are reported.

9:31 p.m., S. Jackson and Avenue K: A person is arrested on a warrant.



1:09 a.m., 500 block S. Edgewood: Structure fire.

12:05 p.m., Clatsop Spit: Water rescue.

11:54 p.m., Forest Drive: EMS call.

Nov. 2

9:12 a.m., 1200 block Avenue A: EMS call.

9:13 a.m., 300 block N. Prom: EMS call; an assault is also reported and an officer requested.

5:18 p.m., 1900 block S. Roosevelt: EMS call.

Nov. 3

9:44 a.m., 900 block Fourth Avenue: Fire investigation.

2:04 p.m., 1800 Spruce Drive: EMS call.

Nov. 4

10:08 a.m., 400 block First Avenue: EMS call.



Injury crash

A crash with injuries was reported Nov. 3 at 6:15 p.m. on U.S. Highway 101, milepost 18 southbound. Investigation ascertained a white van traveling north failed to yield right of way and turned into a tan SUV traveling south; the SUV crashed into the van and the driver of the van was taken to the hospital for possible injuries. Both cars were towed from the scene.

Hit-and-run
A hit-and-run was reported Nov. 3 at 7:22 p.m. on U.S. Highway 26 at milepost 6.5 westbound. Troopers say it was reported as a pedestrian/vehicle incident but on arrival the reporting party said they were not struck by a car. The person was taken to the hospital by ambulance but no injuries were discovered. The 50-year-old Warrenton man was given food and resource information before being released from the hospital.

Crash report

Troopers responded to a crash reported Nov. 4 at 12:11 a.m. on U.S. Highway 26 in the vicinity of milepost 8. On arrival the described vehicle was gone. The caller said a man and a woman were removing items from a silver Buick. Police saw a burning road flare and muddy tire tracks.

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