



# THE DAILY ASTORIAN

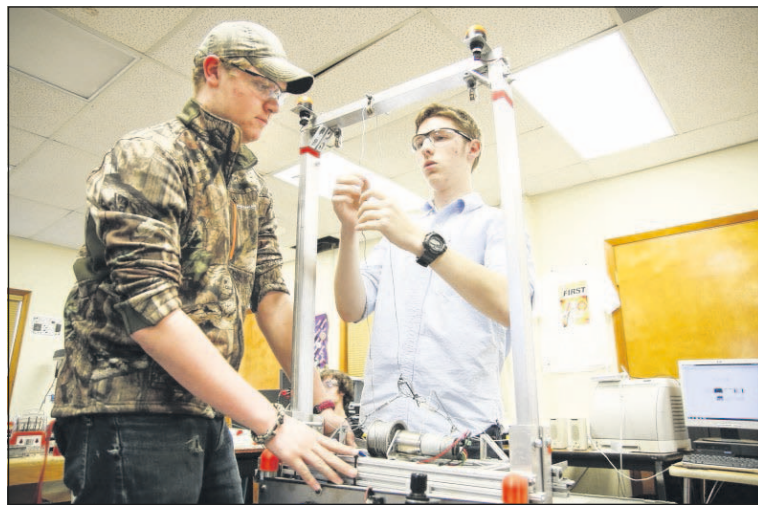
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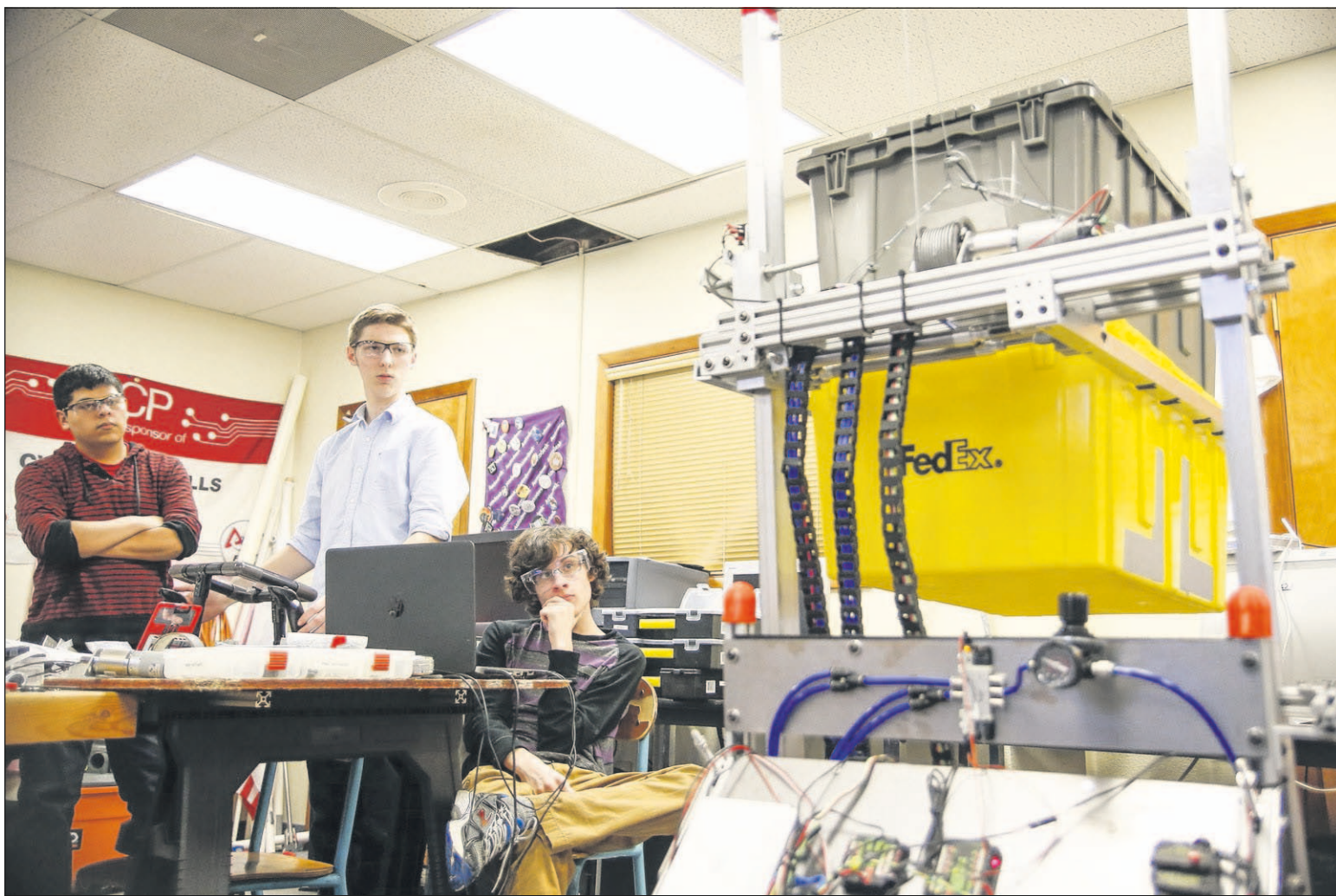
ONE DOLLAR

## CYBORG SEAGULLS ARE READY TO RECYCLE

### Students finish robot for state competition



JOSHUA BESSEX — The Daily Astorian  
Devin Howard, left, and Austin Milliren work on the cable system of their SARA robot during the CYBORG Seagulls robotic team meeting. The robot uses a pulley system to raise cargo boxes and recycling cans.



JOSHUA BESSEX — The Daily Astorian  
From left, Pedro Martinez, Austin Milliren and Connor Adams, test out their SARA (Stacking Agile Robot Assembly) robot during the CYBORG Seagulls robotic team meeting. The robot is designed to pick up recycling cans and cargo boxes and move them. The team will use SARA to compete in Recycle Rush, a robotics game based on recycling Thursday through Saturday.

By EDWARD STRATTON  
The Daily Astorian

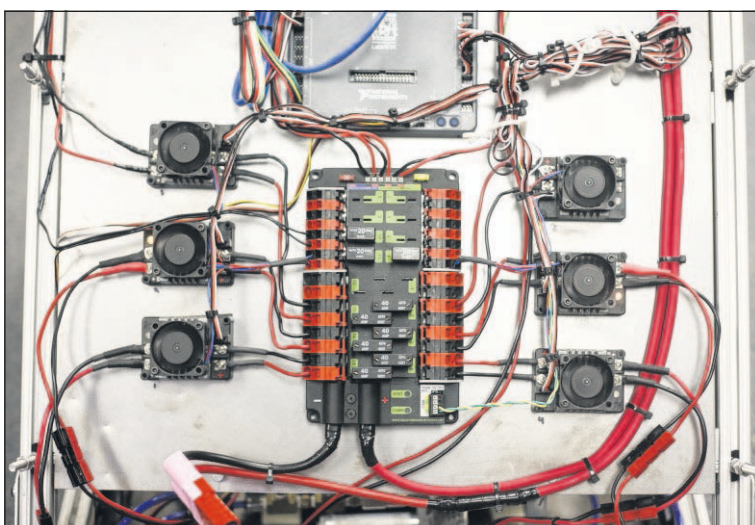
SEASIDE — Seaside High School's student-built robot SARA is in the bag and ready to recycle.

The robot-building season for 25 Seaside and Astoria students on the CYBORG Seagulls robotics team ended Feb. 17. Now the team prepares to send 15 students to compete against 31 other teams in the divisional qualifier of the FIRST Robotics Competition starting Thursday in Oregon City.

The competition and its teams are chock-full of acronyms, including Seaside's team name (Creative Young Brains Observing and Redefining Greatness, or CYBORG) and the league they compete in (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology, or FIRST).

#### Building SARA

The CYBORG Seagulls, now in their fifth year of the competition, had from Jan. 4 to Feb. 17 to build and



JOSHUA BESSEX — The Daily Astorian  
Wires and the control panel are seen on the SARA robot.

program SARA in their workshop. The converted portable classroom outside Seaside High School is littered with spare parts and the team's other robots, including a T-shirt cannon, a robot with a stool students can sit on and drive with their phones and

other Frankenstein creations from years past.

SARA, which stands for Stacking Agile Robot Assembly, was built based on the theme of this year's competition, Recycle Rush, in which it will have to stack totes, recycling bins

#### MORE INFO

For more information on the CYBORG Seagulls and the FIRST Robotics Competition, visit [www.team3673.org](http://www.team3673.org)

and Styrofoam pool noodles standing in as litter.

It resembles a bare bones forklift with pneumatically powered tines to close around the objects and a cable-driven forklift that lifts or lowers them into place.

From the top, the tread on its wheels creates an X shape. By applying force to each wheel and using trigonometry vectors, SARA moves forward, backward, diagonally and sideways inside the tight confines the team will have to operate in.

"That is really one of the things that I love about this program, is that instead of doing 30 more problems

See ROBOT, Page 12A

## Busy bridge

### Narrow traffic artery poses challenges for traffic enforcement

As the Astoria Bridge nears its 50th birthday and lengthy renovation work begins again this spring after halting for the winter, here is Part 2 of an ongoing series about our region's most famous structure. Look for more stories about the bridge and the work being done on it in future issues of The Daily Astorian.

By KATIE WILSON  
EO Media Group

The white pickup, its bed piled high with full garbage bags, and the state patrol car that had just pulled it over took up most of the southbound lane on the rising slope of the Astoria Bridge's main span.

It was late afternoon, the end of January, so only a few cars were on the bridge, heading to Oregon from Washington. Each car slowed, stopped and then carefully, hesitantly, edged into the northbound lane around the vehicles and the trooper who had just stepped out, ticket book in hand.

See BRIDGE, Page 7A

## Seaside council takes heat

### Locals object to no public bid on wastewater project

By KATHERINE LACAZE  
EO Media Group

SEASIDE — The city of Seaside is underway with a nearly \$800,000 public works project using a California-based engineering and contracting firm that has some people questioning whether the project, which was not put up for public bid, could have been done for less.

On Monday, the Seaside City Council unanimously approved a resolution to authorize a loan from the special public works fund through a financing contract with the Oregon Infrastructure Finance Authority of the Business Development Department. The same resolution was brought before the council at its meeting earlier this month, but the vote was split 3-3, requiring it be voted on again.

The resolution authorizes City Manager Mark Winstanley to execute a contract to obtain financial assistance of no more than \$800,000 with an interest rate of 3.7 percent per year to be repaid over 10 years.

The funds will be used to fulfill a contract with BioEngineering Associates to build a rock retaining wall to stabilize the riverbank along the north side of its wastewater treatment plant. The contract was for \$781,445, and the city already paid \$140,660.

See SEASIDE, Page 3A

## Free conference gave local woman WINGS

### One-day session helps women who want to go back to school

By ANDREW R. TONRY  
For EO Media Group

A victim of childhood sexual abuse, destabilizing reverberations echoed into Nichole Soares' adult life. At 31, after leaving an abusive partner, she moved into government subsidized housing with her children, aged 4 and 8.

After moving into her home, Soares received a flier for an upcoming event. It read: "WINGS: Women Interested in Going to School."

"That started my journey," she said. It's been four years since.

Last December, Soares, who lives in

Clatsop Plains just north of Gearhart, earned her bachelor's degree in liberal arts with double minors in sociology and anthropology from Eastern Oregon University. Two years earlier, she finished her associate's degree in liberal arts with honors at Clatsop Community College.

No longer in subsidized housing, Soares now volunteers at The Harbor, in Astoria, a support center for victims of abuse, as well as at the Crisis Line. She plans to earn a master's degree in social work while focusing on rehabilitating children, juveniles and other victims of physical and sexual abuse.

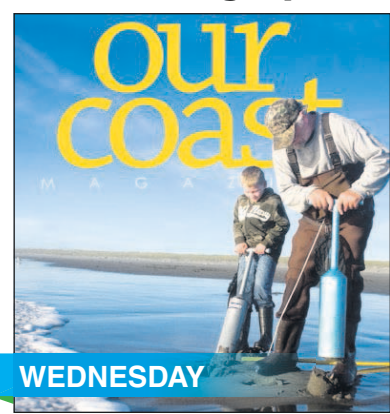
"WINGS 100 percent got me here," Soares said. "That really was something that changed my life. In that one moment, in that one day, it changed my life completely."

See WINGS, Page 12A



Submitted  
Nichole Soares, who holds son Philip, says she turned her life around after attending a one-day WINGS conference four years ago.

#### Coming Up



WEDNESDAY

