

Seaside: Mayoral hopefuls clashed on short-term rentals

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Horning said. “The most important thing to do is to take care of our evacuation infrastructure.”

“If we have to choose priorities for projects in Seaside, building bridges is first and foremost in my mind,” he said. “All of our bridges need to be earthquake-proof.”

Horning estimated the cost of replacement at \$5 million for each of seven at-risk bridges. Upgrades could be financed by five-year city bonds, he said. “The first thing I would do is call a community gathering and come up with a design scenario,” he said.

Johnson said voters should

not only consider tsunamis, but remember storms that come “even more frequently.”

“Prepare for the big one, but be ready for the other ones coming through,” Johnson, who serves as council president, said. “I think we’re doing a great job of getting ready as best we can with the limited resources we have available to us.”

Johnson pointed to his 16 years of experience and past leadership of the budget committee, Planning Commission, and other civic and fraternal organizations. “We are a city run by committees and decisions,” Johnson said. “I take their input very seriously and will keep doing that if I am elected.”

Both candidates are lifelong Seaside residents.

Gearhart mayor

Gearhart’s mayoral candidates Matt Brown and Bob Shortman clashed on issues of short-term rentals, tsunami preparedness and housing.

Brown, a PGA professional at Highlands Golf Club, said he supported Gearhart’s new short-term rental ordinance. “I talked to a lot of residents to get their feedback,” Brown said. “I was in favor of a true compromise, one where there were common-sense regulations like there are in other coastal communities. But I was also in favor of a compromise to grandfather in short-term rental owners.”

The city ordinance, which was put into law at the city’s last council session, could relieve the rental housing shortage in Gearhart, Brown said. “There just aren’t any long-term rentals,” he said. “If that number through attrition goes down over time, that will create a market for more long-term rentals.”

Shortman, who is head of the Clatsop County GOP, said Gearhart was “founded on the daddy trains.”

“I don’t agree with the law that was passed,” Shortman said of Gearhart’s short-term rental rules, which require registration and inspection of short-term rental properties. “Our town was founded on short-term rentals.”

Shortman said many residents never received the opportunity to share their opinions, and those who did were not heard by councilors. “Nobody from the mayor or council has personally talked to the people I talked to,” he said. “I don’t think these people should be painted with the scarlet letter.”

The new rules will not add to the stock of workforce housing, Shortman said. “These houses are going for half-a-million dollars. The people who have these houses are pretty rich. They live in Portland and Seattle. They want to come down and use these houses. These houses are not going to rent for \$900. People are alienated and I don’t like that.”



Under the Sea: ‘You don’t always see this level of engagement’

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to retrieve one of the seven missing carronade short-barrel cannons of the USS Shark, a schooner that wrecked at the mouth of the Columbia River in 1846. Do it all in 66 minutes or less.

One cannon found by mail carrier George Luce in 1898 is a namesake of Cannon Beach. Two more USS Shark carronades were found by a 12-year-old girl walking the beach with her father near Arch Cape in 2008. The cannons were restored and are now displayed at the Maritime Museum.

B.A.D.

After receiving some basic instructions Wednesday, students from Keri Domer and Jillian Wood’s classes split off in teams of two and three, and left on their own to finish their robot and retrieve a carronade within 66 minutes. Bryce Yeager, Aria Larsen and Darby McCleary nicknamed their submersible B.A.D. in an acronym of their first names.

“For once, we’re in control,” McCleary said, excited at the prospect of students being left to fend for themselves.

She and her partners sketched a quick mock-up of their submersible. The workshop at the maritime center Wednesday was bustling with teams scurrying in between their workstations and supply totes, snapping together PVC pipe segments and joints, figuring out how to arrange their engines and deciding how best to buoy and balance their submersibles.

Teams tested their robots in a backyard pool the museum erected in the breezeway of the center. Teams dunked their robots, the electric motors tethered to controllers, into the pool to try to grab the cannons — green PVC pipes laying on the bottom of the pool, waiting to be snagged like prizes in an arcade claw machine.

With each test, team B.A.D.’s submersible became more and more stable. Within 20 minutes, they had a stable robot. For grabbing the carronades, team B.A.D. had initially gone with skeleton hands — mostly useless for grabbing, Sandel said, but good for throwing other youth off and testing their ability to distinguish looks from utility. By the third dip in the pool, B.A.D.’s submersible was stable and close to capturing a cannon with a taped-on clothes hanger.

“We are so close,” exclaimed Larson during the third pool test, her teammate Yeager inches from hooking a carronade. “Guys, we have 15 minutes left.”

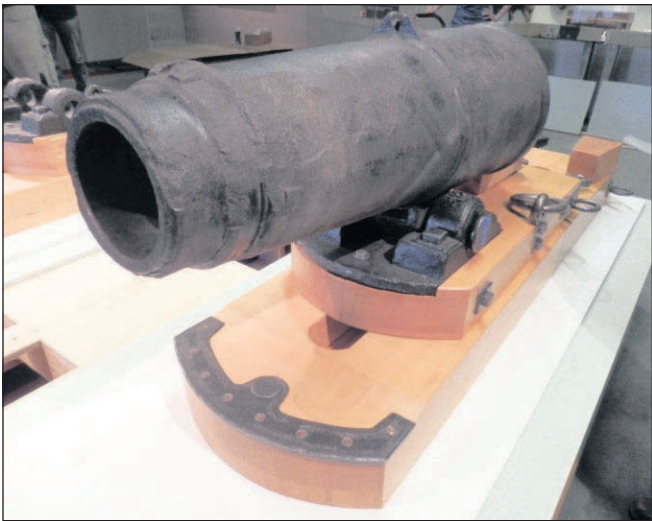
Meeting standards

“You don’t always see this level of engagement,” Domer said of her students.

She and Wood slipped in



Bryce Yeager places his group’s robot into the water to test if it works on Wednesday at the Barbey Maritime Center in Astoria.



A carronade from the USS Shark at the museum.

between the tables, observing their students from a distance, but letting them figure things out.

Only one team’s submersible retrieved a carronade Wednesday, not including B.A.D. But Wood said all the students participating in the mission met a science goal as part of the Common Core State Standards, a nationalized set of educational standards used by 42 states. The goal involves constructing a model for a specific task and testing to see if it works.

For the museum, Sandel said, it’s a more immersive way to engage students in the science behind the maritime industry, in addition to doing tours and lectures.

Full STEAM Ahead

The official Under the Sea STEM program kicked off this week, with fifth-graders from

Seattle coming to build robots and search for cannons. The museum plans to expand the program to different grades and take the program on the road.

Under the Sea STEM is part of the Full STEAM Ahead theme of programs the museum offers, including tours of the Lightship Columbia. The museum is also registering middle-schoolers for an after-school robotics club that is participating in the nationwide Marine Advanced Technology Education submersible competition, which already features teams from Warrenton High School and Clatsop Community College.

The Museum in the Schools program, which sends field educators into districts, has already reached more than 100,000 students in the region.

“We go to kids too far away to make it to the museum,”



Fifth-graders from Lewis and Clark Elementary School create underwater robots Wednesday as part of the Under the Sea STEM program at the Columbia River Maritime Museum.

said Field Educator Kelly McKenzie, who is visiting classes in nine different school districts to talk about hydroelectric dams, oil spills, commercial fishing, buoyancy and lighthouses.

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Council: Brownson plans to attend meetings through the end of the year

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Guard commander, and Cory Pederson, a conductor and music teacher, are campaigning to succeed Warr.

“I personally don’t see the urgency,” City Councilor Zetty Nemlowill said.

She recalled how she and

Price were briefed by city staff on city departments after they were elected in November 2014, and questioned why that process had to take place now with Brownson.

The City Council voted 3-1 to fill the vacancy after the election, with Price voting “no.”

Brownson said afterward that he was not disappointed. He said he plans to attend council meetings through the end of the year, sitting in the audience with the public.

“I’m going to be here anyway,” he said. “I’m going to attend. I’m going to pay attention.”

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