



Seaside City Councilor Tom Horning points toward evidence of an ancient tsunami embedded in a wetland near Seaside.

Colin Murphey/The Daily Astorian

Bridges: 'We can't afford to wait'

Continued from Page 1A

Raising the lodging tax to pay for infrastructure improvements has been contested by hoteliers and the Oregon Restaurant & Lodging Association. The lodging association, for example, sued Bend over the city's use of tourism tax money for road repairs, and a judge sided with the association.

But proposing lodging tax dollars for a project intended to protect both residents and tourists in an emergency could be a first.

"If we have challenges from the lodging industry, I would say this is about saving the lives of their clients," Horning said. "And I'm prepared to hammer on that point."

Building bridges

Making Seaside's aging bridges more earthquake-resistant has long been on the city's agenda. In the past 15 years, bridges at East Broadway,

First Avenue and two on 12th Avenue have been replaced to withstand a major earthquake, City Manager Mark Winstanley said.

The city has applications out for grants and Oregon Department of Transportation funding to rebuild bridges at Avenues S, U and G, all of which were originally built to the standards of the early 1960s.

But Seaside often falls through the cracks when applying for grant money, Winstanley said. The city is either too small to compete for projects or has too healthy of a budget to qualify for need-based grants intended for smaller, rural communities.

"Our bridges rate low enough to qualify for application, but there's a lot of communities out there with bridges that are a whole lot worse," Winstanley said. "And when they look at us, and see we've been able to build four bridges in 15 years, they think

"it doesn't look like you need money."

That's part of the appeal for Horning's call for a lodging tax hike. It would be a way for the city to raise money and complete projects more quickly than traditional funding mechanisms would allow. Winstanley says it's not uncommon for it to take eight or nine years to complete a bridge from beginning to end.

"We can be put on lists, but we can't afford to wait," Horning said.

Tourism promotion

State law requires 70 percent of all lodging tax revenue be used for tourism promotion or property. Horning argues Seaside's bridges should be considered a tourism facility, which in the statute is defined as "property that has a useful life of 10 or more years" and has a substantial purpose of supporting tourism.

Jason Brandt, CEO of the state's lodging association,

said anything beyond an access road — like to a specific campground or a park — would fall short of the state attorney general's definition of supporting a tourism facility, and that repairs for roads, streets and bridges are still expected to be paid for from general fund resources.

"I think it's far-fetched to believe (rebuilding bridges) is a legal use of restricted tourism tax dollars," Brandt said.

But Horning disagrees, arguing that in Seaside, the only way to access the beach — the town's main tourist attraction — almost always includes crossing a bridge. Horning said he wants to hear the thoughts and concerns of local lodging operators.

"If you took out our bridges, I think you would hear shrieks from the lodging industry about people not being able to get to their hotels," Horning said. "If you can't get to the beach, then you aren't accommodating tourist activities."

Hotel: Hearing date not yet set

Continued from Page 1A

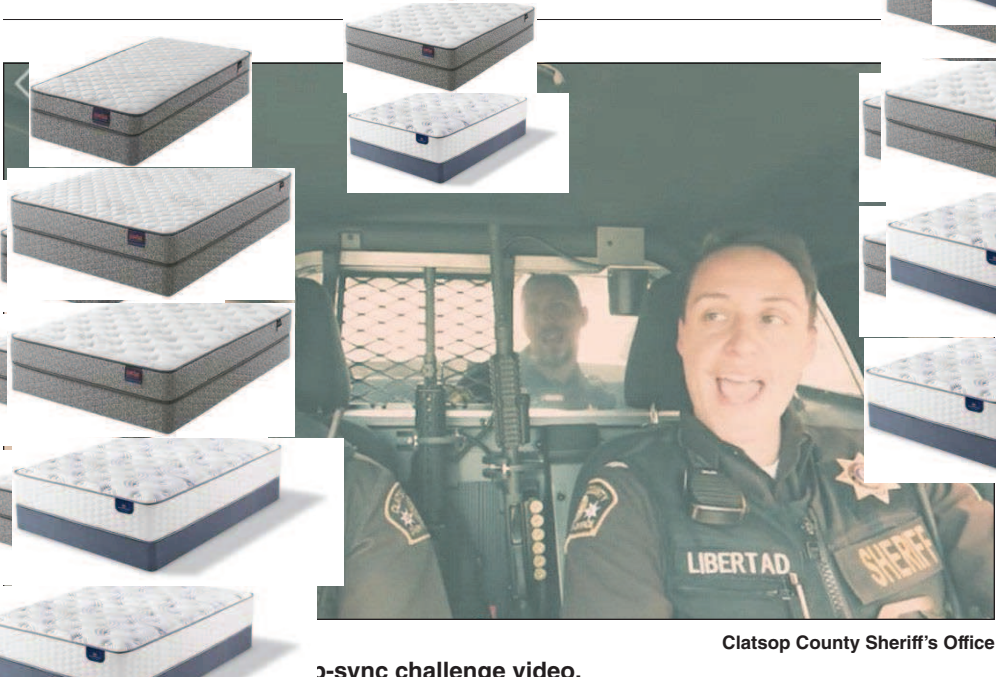
In their reports to the city boards, city staff had not recommended either approving or denying the hotel project, but each report came with a list of recommendations, raising questions and issues that needed to be addressed.

The developer was also criticized by members of both city boards for the state of the property where The Ship Inn and another former restaurant, Stephanie's Cabin, are located. Since Hollander Hospitality purchased the lots, the landscaping has become over-



A developer is interested in building a new hotel on Astoria waterfront.

g... of the weeds. The... sent Hollander Hosp... code enforcement let... len told Estes Th... the work would be...



Deputies: Sheriff Bergin challenged the Astoria and Seaside po...

Continued from Page 1A

In a response on Facebook, Bergin, who appears in the video, wrote that it shows that "we, as law enforcement, are people, too. It also shows a kinder side, especially to kids, the news often fails to show."

"We do a job most folks would never consider, such as dealing with death, suicide, drugs, burglaries, child molestation, rape, abuse and

the list goes on and on... our brave men and women want to put their hair and show the public human too, then I have issues with it."

Over the summer, i... County... te their...

America's MATTRESS Oregon's Largest Serta iComfort Retailer
LARGEST MATTRESS SELECTION • QUALITY COMFORT & SUPPORT • LOW PRICE GUARANTEE

BELLAGIO
AT HOME™ by SERTA®
Enjoy the COMFORT of HOTEL EXTRAVAGANCE
SUMMER SALE & CLEARANCE
JUNE 22 - JULY 30
50% OFF
ALL Bellagio Mattress Models
2014-2018 WOMEN'S CHOICE AWARD™
AMERICA'S MOST RECOMMENDED
Mattress • Pillow • Box Spring

FAMILY OWNED AND OPERATED
WARRENTON • 503-861-6085
Located next to Big 5 and Fred Meyer
HOURS: MON-FRI 10-7; SAT 10-6; SUN 11-6
The Sleep You Need Guaranteed

50% OFF
UP TO \$999 & UP
Per Purchase
50% OFF
\$1999 & UP
QU... YOU... RY
QU... COIL
Adjustable Sets

Twin Copperwood Mattress ONLY
\$94 EACH
FREE FINANCING
UP TO **5 YEARS**
APPLY ONLINE AT **AMERICASMATTRESS.COM**
out our 5★ Google Reviews!
Google
Reviews ★★★★★
100s more on Google!

www.americasmattress.com
8 convenient Oregon locations
NEWPORT | LINCOLN CITY | WARRENTON | COOS BAY | FLORENCE | TILLAMOOK | ALBANY | LEBANON