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Wev, Thompson retain county commission seats

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Incumbents Pamela Wev and Lianne Thompson will retain their seats on the Clatsop County Commission after receiving large majorities in their races against political newcomers.

With just a third of all ballots counted early Wednesday, Wev and Thompson each had received more than 61 percent of the vote against Nathan Pinkstaff and Steve Dillard, respectively.

Wev represents county District 3, which includes most of Astoria. Thompson represents county District 5, which covers the southern portion of Seaside, Cannon Beach, and Arch Cape.

Mark Kujala of Hammond ran unopposed for his District 1 seat on the commission, which primarily represents Warrenton.

In other races, Gearhart's bond levy to build a new fire and police station was losing with just a 34 percent ap-

See 'Election' on Page 2

Engineering marvels head to world championships

Editor's note: This article was written by the WHS Underwater Robotics Team as a component of their recent competition.

Warrenton High School's Underwater Robotics Team, The Rays, won the regional MATE ROV competition in Lincoln City on May 7.

The win allows the team to proceed to the MATE ROV World Championships in Long Beach, Calif., June 19-26.

ROVs are remotely operated vehicles, and the ROV built by The Rays is designed to conduct tasks underwater.

The Rays team consists of students Dwayne Wallace, chief executive officer, chief software developer, and tether specialist; Adam Barbic, design engineer, pilot, and chief safety officer; Connor Moha, marketing specialist and mathematician on deck; and Jessica Newton, hydraulic specialist and editor. Coaches are Heidi Lent and Craig Battles.

At the world championships, The Rays will compete alongside teams from around the world. We understand that we'll be representing Warrenton High School, our city, Clatsop County, Oregon, the Pacific Northwest, as well as the United States. We take this responsibility very seriously and are prepared for this part of the competition.

Annually, the MATE ROV competition challenges the students' abilities to learn and apply science, technology, engi-

See 'ROV' on Page 4



Above: Dwayne Wallace works the controls for the team's remotely operated vehicle.

Right: Team members Dwayne Wallace, Adam Barbic, Connor Moha, and Jessica Newton.

Warrenton High School



Chance to rehab old gas station will take some thought

BY CINDY YINGST
The Columbia Press

The property across from City Hall could have potential. It's in the heart of downtown and many hours have been spent sprucing it up.

But its former usage poses problems for its future uses.

The old 76 gas station is one of 450,000 so-called brownfield properties in the United States. The sale or redevelopment of 238 S. Main Ave. is complicated by the presence of underground tanks and probable

soil contamination.

An engineer who specializes in brownfield properties spoke to city leaders recently after being contacted by a representative of the property owner, the Alice Ann Codd Living Trust.

"There is interest in divesting that property," Keith Ziobron said. "Is the city interest in purchasing it or receiving it as a donation?"

Commissioners were silent, but pensive.

"I think the thing we have to be concerned about is any pollution

left there and any liability if we do take it," Commissioner Tom Dyer said Wednesday. "We don't want to do something unless it's got a signoff from DEQ (Department of Environmental Quality) or there's funds to take care of it."

Dyer spent many hours gathering volunteers and leading the effort to remove abandoned cars and mechanical debris scattered throughout the high-profile property. His motivation has been to help improve downtown and find a better

See 'Brownfield' on Page 5