



Mitchell's emissions cap vote takes heat at town hall



R.J. Marx
Tiffany Mitchell addresses a town hall in the Seaside Library's Community Room on Saturday.

By R.J. MARX
Seaside Signal

State Rep. Tiffany Mitchell came to the Seaside Library on Saturday to present a legislative update at her first Seaside town hall. While housing, health care, education and the environment were at the top of her legislative agenda, it was her vote for a cap-and-trade bill that drew many of the 50 or so in the audience to hear the Astoria Democrat. House Bill 2020, which would have placed a cap on greenhouse gas emissions to help counter climate change, passed the state

House but died in the Senate after a Republican walkout and doubts about Democratic support. "After the election of 2018, we realized we had the opportunity to do some amazing things, and I think we've done that," said Mitchell, who is in her first two-year term. She cited a drug take-back program for safe disposal, a \$2 billion state school fund that helps career-oriented education, a plastic bag ban and limits on rent increases, among other legislative items. People in the audience said passage of HB 2020 would have cost jobs and could have led to the loss of local industry if companies

moved out of the state as a result of tougher climate policies. "The closure of Wauna Mill would compound in the community," Frank Stuhr, a Warrenton resident, said. "We would end up paying significantly more than what the bill requires." Georgia-Pacific, which employs 750 at the paper mill, did not say it would leave the state if the bill became law. But the union that represents mill workers warned about the potential for job losses and a closure. Mitchell defended her support of the bill.

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SURF CAMP!



'THE BIGGEST HILL'

'It's like riding a skateboard down the biggest hill you've ever been on.'
— Surf camper Abbie

By KATHERINE LACAZE
For Seaside Signal

On a muggy afternoon last week, a group of young campers rested on the grainy shore at Short Sand Beach, their hair streaked with salt water after their morning surf session at one of Sunset Empire Park and Recreation District's Learn to Surf day camps. During the break, they talked about their experience surfing in the cold Pacific Ocean water atop the gentle waves at Short Sand. "The feeling of catching your first wave is amazing," said Lindsey, a local middle school student who was back for a second time July 11 after attending the first session June 27. "It's like, 'Oh my gosh, I did this.'"

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Katherine Lacaze
Campers at Sunset Empire Park and Recreation District's Learn to Surf day camp July 11 at Short Sand Beach in Oswald West State Park.



Mike Kadi

Celebrating new trails with a party

By R.J. MARX
Seaside Signal

In Oregon, \$28 million is generated from off-road travel. "Let's grab some of that," Steven Blakesley, president of the North Coast Trail Alliance, said as he addressed members of the Seaside Chamber of Commerce at the Holiday Inn Express at a June breakfast meeting. Blakesley's visit was inspired by the coming July 20 grand opening of trails designed to end in Seaside, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Klootch Creek Park on U.S. Highway 26. Lodging facilities like the Holiday Inn and others stand to profit from the business coming, which, overall, brings \$400 million into the state's economy. "Six-hundred-twenty-thousand Oregonians mountain bike — that's 15% of us, and it's growing," Blakesley said. "Start paying attention to the bikes on the backs of the cars, you'll see surfboards on top, bikes on the back."

Nationally, 45% of bike sales are mountain bikes, he said, and the American Mountain Biking Coalition estimates on an average mountain biking vacation, two people over three nights will spend an average of \$491. Started in 2015, the North Coast Trail Alliance is a subchapter of the Portland-based, 1,200-member Northwest Trail Alliance, which provides insurance and acts as a fiscal agent. "Usually to break ground takes five to 10 years," Blakesley said. "We're not even a year in under 12 months and we have already three miles of rideable trails." In late September, the North Coast Trail Alliance began clearing out future riding areas on Lewis & Clark Timberlands north of Klootch Creek County Park, six miles of downhill, single-track trail to start, with a goal of expanding to 40 connected miles over the next few years. The cyclists' goal will be to reach the top of Twin Peaks at an elevation of between 1,500 and 1,600 feet. Clatsop County initiated access to the trails and expanded the parking lot. Cyclists intend to celebrate their successes at the Saturday event and ribbon-cutting at 11:30 by Mark Morgans of Greenwood Resources, with food and refreshments to follow. "It's building a community, a whole group that meets together, works together," Blakesley said. "It's been phenomenal to be a part of that. People are

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An artist's message in Krylon

By EVE MARX
Seaside Signal

Josh Fry describes himself as "a nerd at heart" which is how he transitioned from his 20-year career as a chef to becoming a professional mixed media artist working in stencil and spray paint. Fry is a Seaside native who graduated from Seaside High School in 1998. He married his high school sweetheart Kate; they have a 10-year-old son, Olly. In 2000 the couple moved to Portland and Fry worked as a cook.

In 2013 the couple returned to Seaside, deciding that it was a better place to raise a child. One day 10 years ago Fry was meeting his brother Gil at a Portland coffee shop. "There was a good deal of artwork on the walls," he said. "As I sipped my house drip and waited for Gil's complicated drink, I wandered around looking at the art, being especially drawn to a set of Star Wars-inspired stencil art." He asked his brother, how people can make this sort of thing "just out of their brain and onto a wall like this."

To which his brother replied, "This sucks. You could do way better." Fry went out and bought \$25 worth of Krylon spray-paint, some cutting blades and painted by moonlight on his son's easel. "The moment I sprayed my first layer on top of another and saw the effect, I knew I wanted to be really good at this." His brother helped him build a spraypaint table, a contraption that pulls air through pegboard and shoots it outside, after he

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Eve Marx
Josh Fry ready for spraypaint work in his Seaside studio.