

Town hall: Mitchell panned for climate vote

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"I don't think we should be arguing whether this multimillion-dollar company will be seriously impacted by an extra \$500,000," she said. "Oregon can't let one company, that is one of the largest polluters in the state, regulate our decision-making."

One person in the audience urged her to "listen to Clatsop County, not to Portland," to applause.

Others questioned her votes for a plastic bag ban and housing protections for renters, including limits on rent hikes and evictions.

"If I campaigned on those things and was elected on those positions, I think it stands to reason that the vast majority of the constituency support the things we've done," Mitchell responded.

Bob Shortman, the

chairman of Clatsop County Republicans, saw the town hall as a way to build enthusiasm for the party's base.

"I would really like to thank you, because our membership is increasing amazingly," Shortman said. "We're having standing-room meetings. We're very looking forward to next year for a candidate, and spirited debates."

On that, at least, the two divergent sides could agree.

"Spirited is a great term," Mitchell said after the town hall. "After the lightning rod (HB) 2020 session, I think it's a good thing to bring out people with different opinions. Polling shows there is a divide. The tenor of the discussion would make you think the divide is much larger than it actually is."

Trails: Bikes bring bucks

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coming in already from out of town and immediately we have this commonality, rapport — and that's such a nice thing to have."

Contributing to the organization's quick success is partnerships with the Oregon Coast Visitors Association, Clatsop

County and Greenwood Resources, among others.

The trail alliance received a grant of \$4,400 from Seaside's Tourism Grant Program, announced this spring.

"When leaders invest in outdoor recreation, the result is healthier communities, healthier economies," he said.

Surf Camp: Everybody, let's get into the water!

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Her friend Abbie agreed: "It's like riding a skateboard down the biggest hill you've ever been on."

She described the intense focus and effort she feels motivated to maintain when out in the water.

The annual Learn to Surf Camp — which has four more sessions scheduled for July 25 and Aug. 8, 22, and 29 — transports campers to the serenity and unaffected beauty of Short Sand Beach in Oswald West State Park.

"It connects them with nature," camp leader Mike Kadi, the district's aquatic coordinator and swim coach, said.

The experience spurs people to get outdoors into the fresh air and wilderness, helping them detach from television screens, smartphones and other distractions.

Jesse Parker, who works as a lifeguard in Cannon Beach and assists the recreation district with several aquatic programs, added, "You kind of can't think of anything else when you're out there."

The six one-day summer surf camps are designed for beginners. The day starts with a safety lecture and dry land instruction to help teach the campers the fundamentals. Once armed with a base knowledge and skillset, they are led into the ocean for further water instruction that emphasizes paddling, turning the board around, turtle diving through the waves, and standing up on the surfboard. From there, they get to spend the next couple hours practicing and having fun.

The magic of the ocean

For many campers, Kadi said, the accomplishment of riding their first wave is addictive.



Katherine Lacaze

Instructor Mike Kadi heads into the ocean with a camper named Anna, from Bend, during a Learn to Surf camp session July 11.

"Once they get up, it's over," he added. "They just keep coming back."

The camp is open to individuals of all ages, as long as they can swim. Campers can choose to attend a single day camp or multiple.

Lindsey said she was uncertain about surfing the first time around, having been encouraged to attend the camp by her friend. Now, she's happy she did it. "It's kind of cool to pass the torch," said Kadi, who has run the camp since joining the district in 2014 and instructed more than 100 young people in the process. "I'm getting older, and I'm happy I can teach these kids the skill of surfing."

Originally, the camp was held at Indian Beach in Ecola State Park, but then Kadi moved it to Short Sand, as it is "one of the best learning beaches" and provides a safer, comfortable environment for beginners. Parked added that when his mother visited from Arkansas, she was able to catch a wave even as a newbie.

IF YOU GO

What: Sunset Empire Park and Recreation District Learn to Surf Camp

Where: Short Sand Beach (meet at the recreation district)

When: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. July 25 and Aug. 8, 22, and 29

Details: Cost to participate is \$65 per person, or \$50 for resident. To register, call Sunset Empire Park & Recreation at 503-738-3311 or visit sunsetempire.com.

Additionally, at Short Sand Beach, campers get an opportunity after their lunch break to go explore the tide pools and waterfall and formations surrounding the water.

"There's something magical about the ocean," Parker said. "It's like it's got a life force of its own."

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IF YOU GO

The grand opening takes from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Klootch Creek Park on U.S. Highway 26, about 2½ miles east of Seaside. Ribbon-cutting by Mark Morgans of Greenwood Resources and announcements take place at 11:30 a.m. There will be shuttles to Twin Peaks for riders and nonriders to see the expanse of the property and the view down into Seaside. Lunch and refreshments will be served from 1 to 3 p.m.

Josh Fry: For artist, 'Life is long, paint is cheap'

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found Fry high to the point of drooling on paint fumes. "He had a serious talk with me about carcinogens and safety. If I was going to do this seriously I needed to do it correctly."

Four years ago he took the leap to quit his chef job to become a full-time artist.

"So far I haven't had to go back," he said. "It's an amazing life that I never could have dreamed about those years ago in that coffee house. I have a sincere hope that someone sees one of my Boba Fett paintings one day and says, 'That sucks, you could do way better.'"

Fry's work is on permanent display at Hold Fast Tattoo on Broadway. "They took a chance on me and asked me to hang my artwork when I had no business being in a gallery," he said. "They say all the time how cool it has been to watch me develop as an artist and that means a lot coming from such talented artists as Jen, Brandy, and Jeremiah."

Besides exhibiting his work at Hold Fast, Fry isn't



"Batman vs. Joker," by Josh Fry.

hung up on showing his work in galleries. His work has been shown at the Astoria Art Walk and the Bridge & Tunnel Bottle Shop & Tap Room on Duane Street in Astoria as well as at the Westport Winery during Seaside Art Walk. He maintains a Facebook page, Subtle Shades, and a page on Instagram. Another way to view his work is online at SubtleShades.net.

As a contemporary artist whose work is inspired by comic books and graphic

novels, he said it's a consequence of the social media age that it is just as easy for him to get his artwork in front of eyes that way as it is to show in a gallery.

"I've had some of my best artwork in prominent windows on Broadway and Holladay in Seaside for many years now," he said. "It's been seen by millions of people. I sell maybe one piece every year that way. On the other hand, I really do appreciate getting my art work in front of eyes."

In the right circumstances, exposure can be just as valuable as a sale, he said. "That's why I'm more likely to set up exhibits or a temporary show. It's not always about selling my artwork; it's more about selling myself to my community. People usually come back to me for multiple projects after we first meet."

His website SubtleShades.net includes not only a spectacular online gallery of his images, but links to his YouTube videos and tutorials on how he makes his art. Fry also blogs on how to make stencils; how to create an online store; and how to use SquareUp. In addition to his stencil art, he also does freelance design and graphic work.

His work is also very affordable with many paintings selling for under \$200.

"I love living and working on the Oregon Coast," Fry said. "You can find me rattling spraypaint cans or throwing paint on to canvases at my studio. I welcome commission work and special projects. Thanks for looking."

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