

Mayor Resigns, Accepts Position as Assistant to City Administrator

Following an extensive recruitment and selection process, the City of Vernonia is happy to announce the appointment of Josette Mitchell as its new Assistant to the City Administrator/City Recorder.

"I am extremely pleased to add Josette to our team, especially as we continue to focus on the City's growth," said City Administrator Gian Paolo Mammone. "She brings years of extensive, and intensive, hands-on City operations, having served both as its chief legislative officer (Mayor) and executive (Interim City Administrator) officer."

Mitchell, who began her third term as Mayor of the City of Vernonia in January, resigned her post to accept the new staff position following the March 2, 2015 City Council meeting. Mitchell has also served on two separate occasions as Interim City Administrator for the

City.

The City Charter does not allow for an elected official to also be an employee of the City.

"With the recent retirement of Joann Glass as City Recorder we looked at this recruitment as an opportunity to improve the organization in a way that would go beyond the position of the City Recorder," said Mammone.

City Council President Randy Parrow was selected to take over the position of Mayor at the request of the rest of the City Council at the end of the March 2 meeting. Councilor Kim Tierney was elected as the new Council President. The Council will discuss what process to use to replace Parrow on the Council at a March 30 workshop. The City Charter allows the sitting Council to appoint someone to finish Parrow's term which expires in 2016.

continued on page 6

Lady Loggers Going to State!

For full story turn to page 12.



What You Need to Know About Oregon LNG

A conversation with Dan Serres of Columbia Riverkeeper

Dan Serres is the Conservation Director with Columbia Riverkeeper, an environmental organization that works to protect the Columbia River, its fish and wildlife, and the people that depend on it. On January 29, 2015 Serres spoke at an informational meeting in Vernonia hosted by Oregon DEQ concerning the Oregon LNG and Oregon Pipeline projects. The projects would transport natural gas in a thirty-six inch pipeline from Canada across Washington and Oregon to be exported from a terminal in Warrenton. The pipeline crosses local timberland and numerous streams and rivers including Rock Creek five miles above the drinking water intake for the City of Vernonia. On February 26 Serres met with local activists in Vernonia during an organizational meeting to discuss the project. *Vernonia's Voice* met with Serres prior to that meeting to talk about the Oregon LNG and Oregon Pipeline projects.

Vernonia's Voice: Can you give us some background and the history of this Oregon LNG project?

Dan Serres: Oregon LNG came to Oregon in 2004. There had been a proposal by Calpine previous to that in Humboldt Bay in California and they were run out by commercial fisherman who didn't want an LNG terminal that would disrupt commercial fishing there. So they moved very quickly and quietly north and came to the Columbia River. They secured a sublease with the Port of Astoria. At that time they were talking about importing Liquefied Natural Gas, (LNG), and there was no pipeline, just a big terminal plunked down in the middle of Warrenton.

It was very controversial because people felt like the decision was made behind closed doors without much public knowledge. In the meantime, Calpine went bankrupt in 2007 and the project was bought

continued on page 8

St. Patrick's Day Parade!



Tuesday,
March 17th
5:15 PM

Everyone welcome
Starts at Pat Knight's House
Bridge Street & State Avenue

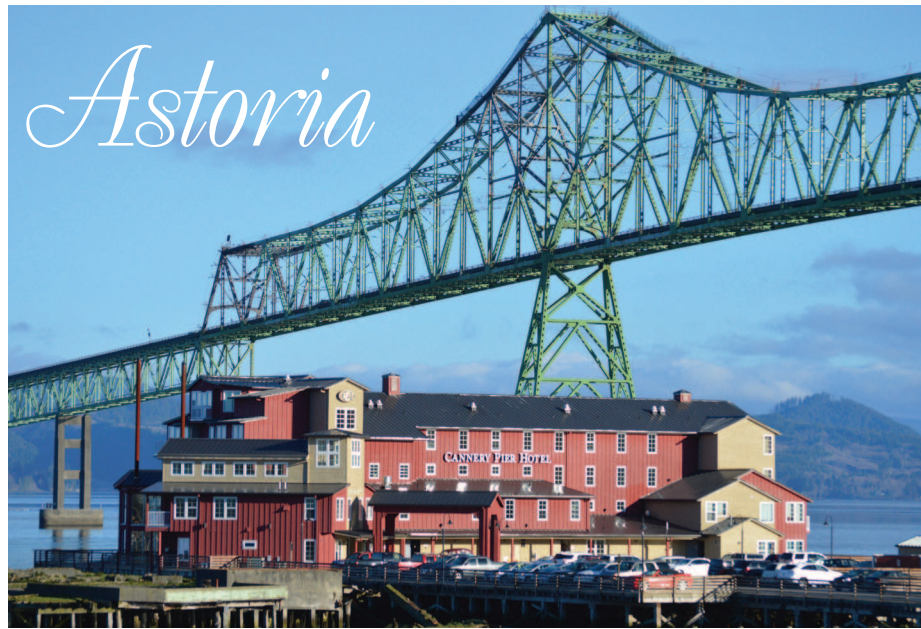
Worth the Trip ~

By Scott Laird

Steeped in history and an industrial heritage, the City of Astoria has reinvented itself as a tourist destination. Located at the mouth of the Columbia River in Oregon's far northwest corner, Astoria has found a way to blend its riverfront, coastal, and cannery cultures. Without taking itself too seriously, the town has embraced its working class roots and opened its doors and welcomed visitors to come and enjoy a relaxed and charming experience.

The region and town played a vital role in the western expansion of the United States and uses that rich history to draw and captivate visitors. It uses great restaurants, cafes, and brew pubs, and an eclectic waterfront to entice those visitors to stay. It's friendly, casual and welcoming attitude, along with year-round events, keep guests coming back.

Astoria is perfect for a day trip, a romantic overnight get away



or a weekend family vacation. Located just sixty miles from Vernonia, less from Columbia County's Highway 30 corridor, it's just down the road, yet feels like you've traveled a world away.

Astoria is the oldest American settlement west of the Rocky

Mountains. Mariners Robert Gray and James Cook passed by in the 1790s and Lewis and Clark and the Corps of Discovery established their Pacific Coast base in the region in 1805. John Jacob Astor's American Fur Company established a fort where the town now stands in the

continued on page 10

inside

3 salem update

9 small town big world

12 vhs winter sports

19 happy birthday dr. seuss

