

Burn ban boots battles

Civil War living history continues with prices dropped

By ERICK BENGEL
The Daily Astorian

No muskets will be fired, nor cannons blasted; no candles lit, nor campfires kindled at the Civil War re-enactment, to be held over Labor Day weekend at Fort Stevens State Park. The ongoing open fire ban in place at state parks and throughout Clatsop County is to blame.

This means that, for the first time in the Northwest Civil War Council's history, the event won't feature battle re-enactments, which traditionally have been the highlight.

"They will probably do some drilling, but the battles themselves will not happen," council President Scott Ingalls said. "It's a pretty big chunk of our event."

An artillery demonstration and a speed-loading contest have also been canceled. Re-enactors won't be able to cook meals over open fires, either.

The council knows the burn ban will decrease the expected number of attendees and participating re-enactors. But the group understands that firefighting resources are tied up throughout the state as men and women continue to battle blazes on several fronts.

"We wholeheartedly support this decision on the part of the parks and the county," Ingalls said. "We don't want to be the ones that start a fire there are no firemen to fight."

He added that the re-enactors will make do with flashlights and Coleman stoves.

"Sure, it's an inconvenience for us, but big deal," he said. "I think it's absolutely the best decision."

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Hugh McKenna/Daily Astorian File
Christopher Baker washes a pitcher during the Civil War re-enactment at Fort Stevens State Park.

THE CLASH OVER LNG



Cliff Owen/AP File

In 2014, federal regulators concluded that Dominion Energy's proposal to export liquefied natural gas from its Cove Point terminal on the Chesapeake Bay in Maryland would pose "no significant impact" on the environment.

Astoria may take sides on Oregon LNG

City has no regulatory say over project

By DERRICK DePLEDGE
The Daily Astorian

In a symbolic gesture, the City Council will likely back a resolution opposing the Oregon LNG project as a potential threat to the North Coast.

Astoria does not have any regulatory oversight over the \$6 billion project, but many residents believe a terminal and pipeline pose risks to the environment, public safety and the quality of life.

The resolution is timed for the opening of a hearing in Warrenton Wednesday on development permits for the project and public meetings later this month at the Clatsop County Fairgrounds on the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's draft environmental review.

"I think it's important that we go out and put ourselves on the line regarding the LNG project," Mayor Arline LaMear said. "To me, the primary responsibility that the City Council has is to protect the health and safety of the citizens."

"And I think that this project could threaten our health and safety."

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Arline LaMear

Warrenton staff gives OK to LNG permits

Public hearing scheduled for Wednesday

By ERICK BENGEL
The Daily Astorian

WARRENTON — Warrenton's planning staff will recommend the approval of Oregon LNG's land use permits to develop a liquefied natural gas terminal on the Skipanon Peninsula and a natural gas pipeline to serve the terminal.

The recommendation is contingent on the energy company satisfying the city's conditions to offset the impact of the project on traffic and public works.

Planning Director Skip Urling will present the recommendation to hearings officer Daniel Kearns, a Portland land use attorney, at a public hearing at 5 p.m. Wednesday at the Warrenton Community Center. If necessary, the hearing may continue Thursday.

After Urling's testimony, members of the public and interested parties may voice their opinions. To ensure everyone gets a chance to speak, Kearns may limit the amount of time each person has to testify.

"I think that the opposition's pretty well organized," Urling said. "I think they're going to have a lot of people."

A rally outside the community center is planned for 4:15 p.m., said Laurie Caplan, co-chairwoman of Columbia Pacific Common Sense, a local group opposing the LNG project.

The project

Oregon LNG, a subsidiary of Leucadia National Corp., a New York-based holding company, hopes to build an export terminal near the

IF YOU GO

5 p.m., Wednesday
Warrenton Community Center
170 S.W. Third St.

Columbia River on land the company has leased from the Port of Astoria and the Oregon Department of State Lands.

The project design includes a facility to liquefy the natural gas by cooling it, two large storage tanks, a loading terminal for tankers and additional support facilities. The new 87-mile pipeline, which would connect to an existing pipeline in Woodland, Wash., would carry natural gas primarily from Canada to the proposed terminal in Warrenton.

The company estimates the project will cost more than \$6 billion.

For the terminal, the city's permit actions include site design review, two conditional uses, a wetland hardship variance, a fence-height variance and large-scale development review.

For the pipeline, the permit actions include a conditional use permit, a wetland hardship variance and large-scale development review.

Order of operations

After the hearing, Kearns will likely keep the record open to written comments for one week. Oregon LNG will have one week to submit a final written argument.

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Wyden comes to Seaside to help foster kids

What happens when kids age out of foster care?

By R.J. MARX
The Daily Astorian

SEASIDE — Young people leaving the foster care system are falling through the cracks, in terms of housing, health care and basic necessities.

U.S. Sen. Ron Wyden came to Seaside Monday to show support for a Senate proposal to expand funds available for foster care families. The legislation expands reimbursement to provide parenting skills, family counseling, mentoring

programs and services to stabilize families in crisis.

"It looks like this fall we're going to be able to advance this bill," Wyden, D-Ore., the ranking member of the Senate Finance Committee that oversees foster care, said. "In a tight budget environment, it would be very hard to provide direct financial support, but the idea is that we provide young people ways to finance college, ways to secure housing and health care."

Wyden, whose wife, Nancy, joined him, chose Seaside to debut his foster care finance reform package because the city is home to FosterClub, the Seaside-headquartered national network for young people in foster care.

Nancy Wyden's father and aunt had both been in foster care; her father from age 5 to 12 and her aunt from 13 to 15, she said.

"I want you guys to pretend you're in my shoes," Sen. Wyden said. "I'd be interested in hearing what you would be working with you if you were in my shoes."

Royce Markley, 22, who spent nine years in Oregon and Washington state foster care systems, said he had received little or no information on financial aid before entering Linn-Benton Community College. "That put a lot of strain on my life and my education," he said.



R.J. Marx/The Daily Astorian

Celeste Bodner of FosterClub in Seaside receives a visit from U.S. Sen. Ron Wyden, D-Ore., Monday.

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