

Knappa, Jewell Fall Sports Previews

PAGES 10 & 11A



Take a hike, pup!

COAST WEEKEND

THE DAILY ASTORIAN

143rd YEAR, No. 47

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2015

ONE DOLLAR



Protesters use signs to shield themselves from the rain during a rally before the Oregon LNG permit public hearing at the Warrenton Community Center Wednesday.

LNG opponents turn out in force

Public hearing to resume Thursday

By ERICK BENGEL
The Daily Astorian

WARRENTON — A crowd of concerned citizens sporting red anti-LNG shirts and protest buttons packed the Warrenton Community Center Wednesday evening to oppose Oregon LNG's plans to develop a pipeline and terminal on the Skipanon Peninsula.

Before the public hearing on the company's land use permits could begin, city police officers asked that several dozen people leave the room, which is designed to hold only 135.

The folks who stayed watched intently as attorneys, consultants and impassioned locals traded arguments for and against Oregon LNG's proposed \$6 billion project.

The speakers made their case before Daniel Kearns, a Portland land use attorney appointed by the city to decide whether the company's permit applications satisfy the standards outlined in the city code.

The project design includes a facility to liquefy natural gas, two storage tanks, a loading terminal for ocean-borne tankers and a new 87-mile pipeline that would connect to an existing nat-



It was standing room only during the Oregon LNG permit public hearing at the Warrenton Community Center Wednesday. People were asked to leave the building before the hearing because the number of people attending the hearing exceeded the maximum occupancy.

ural gas pipeline in Washington state.

Supporters cast the project as a boon to the city, an opportunity to provide well-paying jobs, stimulate the local economy and increase tax revenues by millions of dollars. Opponents, on the other hand, cast it as a hazardous undertaking that could, among other problems, hold up traffic, drive down property values, disrupt fishing activities, pollute the environment and amplify

the dangers posed by a Cascadia Subduction Zone earthquake and tsunami.

Because of the overwhelming turnout, the public hearing has been extended to 5 p.m. Thursday.

After the hearing, Kearns will leave the written record open for two weeks, then Oregon LNG will have time to prepare a final rebuttal. Kearns will review the staff report and testimony and issue a written decision, which is expected to arrive between late October

and early November.

Once the city mails Kearns' decision to parties of record, a two-week appeal period will begin. If Kearns' decision is appealed, the Warrenton City Commission will likely hold a public hearing on the appeal sometime in December. And, if the commission's decision is appealed, the case may come before the state Land Use Board of Appeals.

See LNG, Page 12A

See BATTLES, Page 7A

Mays steps up

Commissioners select interim county manager

By DERRICK DePLEDGE
The Daily Astorian

Rich Mays, the former city manager of Cannon Beach, will serve as interim Clatsop County manager.

The county Board of Commissioners unanimously decided at a special meeting Wednesday night to select Mays to steer the county while commissioners search for a permanent replacement for Scott Somers, who has resigned to become city manager in College Park, Md.

Mays will earn \$11,500 a month and has pledged not to seek the top job, a requirement commissioners had set for the interim position. He will start before Somers leaves on Sept. 18.

"He certainly has the experience and he knows the players better than any of the other applicants and could hit the ground running a little faster, which is what you need in an interim, is just somebody holding steady until you've selected who is going to be your manager," County Counsel Heather Reynolds said of Mays.

See MAYS, Page 7A

Red Building lease changes hands

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Daily Astorian

The Port of Astoria Commission on Tuesday voted to transfer the property lease for the Red Building in Uniontown from Union Fish Properties to Troutdale developer Dale Lomasson.

Lomasson approached the Port Commission late last month and said he was buying the building for \$1.7 million from Mark Cary and Shawn Helligso, partners in Union Fish Properties.

Mike Weston, the director of operations and business development at the Port, said the parties had agreed to transfer the existing



The Bridgewater Bistro is one of the businesses in the Red Building.

lease without modifications. Lomasson had previously sought a perpetually renewing lease or to buy the prop-

erty from the Port, which leases it to Union Fish.

See LEASE, Page 12A

Summer First Friday Nights

First Friday on the Plaza
Music, Movies, Food, and Fun!
Music by Rhythm Culture

Friday, Sept. 4th • 7:00 Music • 9:00 Movie

Hands-on activities and games for all ages, gather your lawn chairs and blankets for a 9:00 pm showing of the movie, *Beetlejuice*. Food vendors (cash only).



Columbia River Maritime Museum

First Friday Summer Nights
are free of charge