

Warrenton walks warily on LNG; Astoria pounces

Two cities navigate contentious project

By ERICK BENDEL and DERRICK DePLEDGE
The Daily Astorian

While Warrenton city commissioners are carefully taking steps to insulate themselves from public opinion on Oregon LNG so they can

remain unbiased, the Astoria City Council has come out against the \$6 billion project.

City commissioners have been advised by legal counsel not to open or read LNG-related emails and, if they do, to forward the messages to City Manager Kurt Fritsch so staff can collect them.

Warrenton Mayor Mark Kujala said Tuesday night that he has ignored the emails so far, and has

politely told people when they approach him in person that he wants to remain objective.

Warrenton's planning staff has recommended that Oregon LNG's permit applications be approved with conditions to offset the impact of the terminal and pipeline project on traffic and public works. Public hearings wrapped up last week, and the decision by Daniel Kearns, a Portland land use attorney appointed

by the city to review the applications, is widely expected to be appealed to the City Commission.

"We know this is something that might come to us, and more than likely will come to us," Kujala said. "We can anticipate an appeal in this, regardless of the decision that the hearings officer makes."

The commissioners' "ultra-conservative approach," as Kujala put it, is in contrast to the Astoria City

Council, which had been silent on LNG for the past decade.

Sending a message

The Astoria City Council, which has no regulatory role over Oregon LNG, voted 4-1 Tuesday night to oppose the project and urge local, state and federal decision-makers to deny the terminal and pipeline.

See LNG, Page 10A

Warrenton sees uptick in students



Edward Stratton/The Daily Astorian

Kids line up to load on buses at Warrenton Grade School, which has grown by 154 students between 2006-07 and last school year.

Schools face ebb and flow of enrollment

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Daily Astorian

Principal Lynn Jackson and the staff of Astoria High School greeted students Tuesday morning, as school started back up across Clatsop County.

Jackson has about 20 percent fewer kids to greet than when he started as vice principal at Astoria seven years ago.

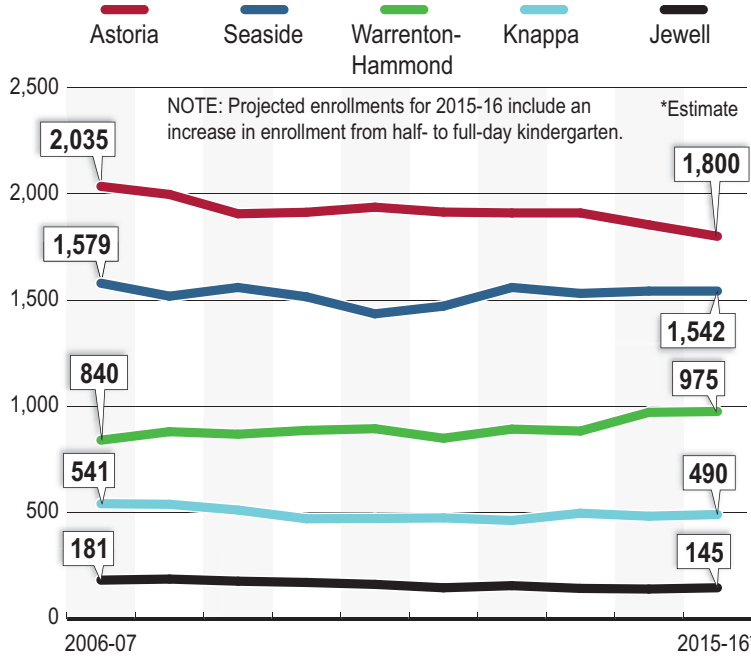
Over the last nine years, Astoria School District has shrunk by more than 10 percent, while Warrenton-Hammond School District has grown by 16 percent.

Countywide, all districts besides Warrenton have experienced a drop in enrollment, from a nearly 20 percent drop in Jewell over the past nine years, more than 9 percent in Knappa and a 2 percent decline in Seaside. The trends might point to a movement of families to cities.

Ebb and flow

Nowhere has the trend of decreasing enrollment been more

Enrollment changes for Clatsop County School districts



stark than at Astoria High School, which has lost 176 students between counts in 2007 and last year, nearly a quarter of its student population.

Much of the change in enrollment, Jackson and Superintendent Craig Hoppes said, can be ex-

plained by the ebb and flow of larger and smaller class sizes moving through school. Last year's seniors numbered 158, while juniors were at 131, and sophomores numbered 165.

Jackson, vice principal since 2007 and principal since 2012, said

he expects an even further drop, as middle-school classes numbering between 130 and 150 work their way into high school. Then come last year's second- and third-graders, who numbered 161 and 152, respectively.

"I think some of that is ebb and flow, but there is also a decrease in enrollment" over time, Jackson said.

When looking at economic data, Jackson said, he looks at how it affects the opportunities of impoverished Title X students who face homelessness, transiency, rather than how it affects enrollment.

"I know the demand for affordable housing in Astoria is really high," said Jackson, a former landlord in Astoria. A teacher he recently hired, Jackson said, had to find a place in Seaside because of how tight the housing market is.

"We have a lot of teachers who live in Warrenton," Jackson said, adding a lot of homes in Astoria are often being purchased by retirees who can afford increasing prices.

Growing in Warrenton

Warrenton Grade School Principal Tom Rogozinski oversees kids leaving late Tuesday afternoon. He has four new classrooms to watch

See STUDENTS, Page 10A

'David and Goliath' on the beach

Al fresco dining experience leads to neighbor clash

By DANI PALMER
EO Media Group

CANNON BEACH — Wayfarer Restaurant's new outdoor patio is crowded with diners despite a Cannon Beach order to stop serving outside.

Cannon Beach City Planner Mark Barnes sent a letter revoking the Wayfarer Restaurant and Lounge's outdoor dining approval on July 2, informing the restaurant that it "should not seat diners on the lower porch area."

In subsequent letters, officials levied a \$400 per day fine on



Submitted Photo

A view of the Wayfarer Restaurant and Lounge's new patio from neighboring property owner Nick Sears' duplex.

See CLASH, Page 10A

Complex and emotional

Like many land-use questions, however, the issue is complex, and like most proposals for commercial uses near residential neighborhoods, emotional.

Built as a single-family home in 1923, the Josie Peper Building has been used as a day care center, offices and a law firm. The historic building is named for the former student, who now lives in Alderbook, who had pressed the college for the day care center.

See RENTALS, Page 10A

