



THE DAILY ASTORIAN

143rd YEAR, No. 58

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2015

ONE DOLLAR

Oregon State Police hits the road



Joshua Bessex/The Daily Astorian

Greg Garcia paints a doorframe in the new Oregon State Police's Astoria Area Command Center in Warrenton.

Officials ask to extend LNG review

Wyden, Merkley, Bonamici pen letter to FERC

By ERICK BENGEL
The Daily Astorian

Oregon lawmakers who represent the North Coast asked the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Thursday to extend the public comment period on a draft environmental review of the Oregon LNG project, explaining that residents need more time to digest the lengthy and complex document.

The \$6 billion terminal and pipeline project on the Skipanon Peninsula in Warrenton will have a major impact on the Columbia River, the lawmakers argue, and they have assured residents that the federal agency will comply with the full legal requirements of the permitting process.

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Astoria OSP offices moving to Warrenton

By KYLE SPURR
The Daily Astorian

Oregon State Police's Astoria Area Command office is moving to Warrenton.

The move marks the latest essential service to relocate to Warrenton, following the Clatsop County Sheriff's Office. The state police will also join Medix Ambulance Service and the Oregon Youth Authority that are already located in the area.

Lt. Andrew Merila, who oversees the Astoria office, said the move is a result of the state agency's push to get its coastal offices out of the tsunami inundation zone.

OSP requested support from the state Legislature to fund the move to Warrenton, citing the need to get out of the tsunami zone and improve response times. The funding was approved.

The fact the state police's lease was up this year with the Port of Astoria gave the agency added flexibility to relocate. OSP had its office in Astoria for about 17 years.

"We were in that period of renewing the lease where we are at or finding another facility. Because of the push to get us out of the tsunami zone, they choose to relocate us," Merila said.



Joshua Bessex/The Daily Astorian

Lt. Andrew Merila, right, looks out at the new shop space at the Oregon State Police's Astoria Area Command Center.

OSP was paying the Port of Astoria \$10,700 per month for its office on Gateway Avenue. The state police will be spending about \$14,000 per month at its new location at 2320 S.E. Dolphin Ave., south of Costco. The new lease is for 19 years. Much of the construction costs are built into the agreement to be spread out over the time of the lease.

Construction of the new Warrenton office is wrapping up this week. The office will open its doors for service Oct. 5.

Centrally located

Warrenton will offer the state agency a more central location to respond to calls for service, Merila said. The state police is responsible

HOW TO CONTACT OSP

The Oregon State Police is moving its local area command office to 2320 S.E. Dolphin Ave. in Warrenton. To contact the new office, call 503-861-0781.

for the state highways throughout Clatsop County, including U.S. highways 30, 26 and 101.

"It's a little more central to our patrol areas as far as responding to Highway 26. It's not a huge difference, but it's a little easier access to the highway," Merila said.

OSP looked to stay in Astoria, Merila said, but couldn't find suitable land to build on out of the tsunami zone.

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Students surpass forecast

First results arrive in Smarter Balanced testing

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Daily Astorian

Results from Oregon's Smarter Balanced exam, a new statewide assessment introduced to 280,000 third- through eighth-graders and high school juniors last spring, show much work needed for state educators to adjust to tougher Common Core State Standards in English, language arts, math and science.

State education officials said they expected about 30 to 40 percent of K-12 students on a scale of 4 to score a 3 or 4, considered on track for the expectations of colleges and many employers, in each subject on the first try.

Statewide, students largely exceeded expectations by 10 or more percent. Clatsop County students also largely exceeded state expectations, while often trailing statewide averages.

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MOMS Club harvests carrots for hungry families

Kids help plant, reap and wash

By ERICK BENGEL
The Daily Astorian

On a table in the Clatsop Community Action Regional Food Bank in Warrenton sat a 3.85-pound carrot the size of a newborn baby, the biggest specimen among a crop of unusually big carrots, so special that it deserved to be set aside and just stared at.

Meanwhile, members of the MOMS (Moms Offering Moms Support) Club of Astoria harvested the rest from the food bank's backyard production garden Wednesday for low-income resi-

dents and families in Clatsop County.

The fourth-annual carrot harvest is the main service project for the club, a nonprofit support group for local mothers with kids 15 years old and younger. From 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., 15 moms and their children reaped about 3,300 pounds of carrots from 40 raised planting beds and one large in-ground bed, hose-washed the vegetables in two modified cement mixers and loaded them into a truck.

Soon, the food bank will distribute the carrots to partner agencies: local food pantries, meal sites, group homes, and shelters. Some carrots will get delivered directly to food bank clients in



Joshua Bessex/The Daily Astorian

Jasmine Scheller of Warrenton harvests carrots, while his son, Brody Graf, plays next to her behind the Clatsop Community Action Regional Food Bank.

their mobile produce pantry.

Colleen Gilligan, with her 10-month-old daughter, Ailish, slung in a baby carrier,

worked alongside her other daughter, Charlotte, who, at 4 years old, knows that the carrots are grown to feed people

who may not have fresh food.

"That's a really important aspect for especially little kids to learn," Gilligan, board president of the Astoria MOMS Club, said. "They live in a life of 'Me,' and it's good to teach them that there's other people that need things."

Though the mothers did most of the hard work, the children, all 8 and under, helped wherever they were needed on the assembly line: pulling carrots from the earth, gathering carrot tops (which will be donated to a local sheep farmer), spraying the carrots in the cement mixer during the "spin cycle" and adding laughter and levity to the labor.

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