

## Family, friends remember Jade Morgan

### Speed likely a factor in teen's fatal crash

By KYLE SPURR  
The Daily Astorian

Today, on what would have been Jade Morgan's 17th birthday, friends and family are remembering her spontaneous personality, contagious laughter and passion for the fine arts.

"Jade was always full of life, always smiling," her friend Michelle Westerlund said. "You knew something must have been really wrong if she wasn't smiling."

Morgan died in a traffic accident Saturday after losing control of her



Submitted Photo  
Jade Morgan

car on a corner of Highway 202 and crashing into a pickup truck. The driver of the pickup was treated and released from the hospital. Morgan was pronounced dead at the scene.

No cause has been determined in

#### HOW TO HELP

A fundraiser has been started on GoFundMe.com for Jade Morgan at [www.gofundme.com/wp4gb6hc](http://www.gofundme.com/wp4gb6hc). Already more than \$10,400 has been raised to help Morgan's family after the tragic traffic accident.

In addition, friends and family have set up an account at Wauna Federal Credit Union in memory of Morgan to help her father, Bob Morgan, and family with all expenses.

the crash, although speed appears to be a factor.

Astoria Police reported that just before the crash an officer stopped

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Jasmin Mabry/Submitted Photo

Students grieve at a memorial for Jade Morgan in her parking space at Astoria High School Monday.

## LNG foes ask Brown to intervene



Joshua Bessex/The Daily Astorian

Oregon LNG protesters gather outside the Clatsop County Fair and Expo Center before the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission public comment meeting Monday.

## Speakers address governor during two-part FERC hearing, rally

By ERICK BENGEL  
The Daily Astorian

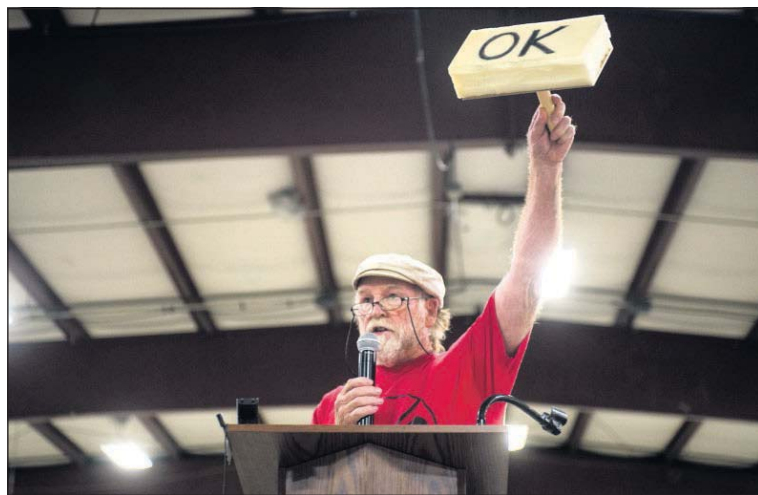
Confident that the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission will eventually issue a license for Oregon LNG's \$6 billion liquefied natural gas terminal and pipeline on Warrenton's Skipanon Peninsula, opponents are calling on Gov. Kate Brown to take a stand against the project.

The commission's environmental staff held two public comment meetings at the Clatsop County Fair & Expo Center Monday, allowing concerned citizens to weigh in on the agency's draft environmental impact statement for the Oregon LNG project. The

nearly 1,000-page draft statement, released in August, concluded that the proposed project will result in adverse environmental impacts on water quality and fish and wildlife habitat, but that the company could minimize and mitigate these impacts to less-than-significant levels.

The commission will review all oral and written comments and respond to them in the final environmental impact statement, scheduled for release in February. The commission will consider the final statement when deciding whether to authorize Oregon LNG to proceed with development in Warrenton.

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Joshua Bessex/The Daily Astorian

Calling the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission a "rubber stamp" commission, Ted Messing, of Brownsmead, holds up a giant stamp during his comments.

## Credit for knowing the score

### Revenue aided in below-rate tax credit sales

By HILLARY BORRUD  
Capital Bureau

SALEM — The Oregon Department of Energy had help from top officials at the state Department of Revenue last year, as energy employees looked for justification to allow deep discounts on energy tax credits.

Tax credit recipients wanted to sell the credits issued under the Energy Incentive Program for less than allowed under a price formula in state rules, and energy Chief Financial Officer Anthony Buckley thought he had found a section of state law that allowed the practice. Buckley consulted with employees at the Department of Revenue, and they agreed.

Specifically, the energy and revenue officials agreed that tax credit sellers and buyers could ignore a price formula called for in laws the Legislature passed to control energy tax credit prices. However, that agreement would remain secret: the Department of Revenue never formalized the agreement and it remained unwritten. Both the Department of Energy and Department of Revenue confirmed they had no written agreement on the issue.

The secrecy allowed the few people who knew about the interpretation, including tax credit brokers and certain credit recipients, a competitive edge because they could offer more deeply discounted credits.

Oregon issues tax credits to renewable energy and efficiency projects to help offset capital costs. Recipients can use them to reduce taxes, or sell them to raise cash. Energy officials' decisions to allow the discounted tax credit sales resulted in less money going to the projects the tax breaks were meant to incentivize.

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## Highway 420 goes from 0 to 60 with rec ruling

### Seaside medical dispensary gets city green light

By R.J. MARX  
EO Media Group

SEASIDE — What a difference 12 hours makes. Steve Geiger, proprietor of Highway 420 in Seaside, saw angst turned into a happy ending. After a four-year quest, he received approval from the city of Seaside to sell recreational marijuana under terms regulated by the Oregon Liquor Control Commission.

Twelve hours before, his business future seemed anything but clear. Seaside still hadn't weighed in on a state bill allowing medical dispensaries to sell recreational cannabis, and with

an Oct. 1 date looming, the clock was ticking. He feared a new moratorium, a second vote or further delay.

"I've made several attempts to get information, to find out what's going on," Geiger said Monday morning. "I will just say this to you — I'm in a very tenuous position right now."

Everything changed with a letter from Seaside Planning Director Kevin Cupples granting "the temporary sale of limited marijuana retail products from licensed medical marijuana facilities."

"I feel elated and great — like we might be able to make it after all," Geiger said. "They concluded what I asserted, that this early sales program works with the city's ordinance."

Geiger, 55, moved to the area in 2012 with his wife, Eevee. Their South Roosevelt Drive location met medical marijuana dispensary cri-

teria and the couple applied for that status in 2013.

When the city issued a moratorium on licensing medical marijuana dispensaries, the Geigers plans were stalled. The moratorium expired in June 2015 and in July, Gov. Kate Brown signed a bill into law allowing existing dispensaries to sell marijuana to all adults beginning Oct. 1.

Without word from the city, he feared further delay, a new moratorium or a second referendum.

For the Geigers, the letter from Cupples changed everything. "We have concluded that unless Seaside adopts an ordinance prohibiting the activity, a licensed dispensary can operate in accordance with the provisions established by the state," the planner wrote.



R.J. Marx/The Daily Astorian

Steve Geiger of Highway 420 is all smiles after learning he will be able to sell recreational marijuana under new state rules.

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