

Osprey play tough, but tumble

SPORTS • 4A



75 years ago in Astoria

COAST WEEKEND

THE DAILY ASTORIAN

143rd YEAR, No. 67

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2015

ONE DOLLAR

Lawmakers press FERC on Oregon LNG

Wyden, Merkley, Bonamici ask about land use dispute with Army Corps

By ERICK BENGEL
The Daily Astorian

Oregon lawmakers who represent the North Coast have sent a letter to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission highlighting that Oregon LNG's terminal and pipeline planned for Warrenton's Skipanon Peninsula conflicts with a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers easement on the land and questioning whether the project can move forward.

Without the necessary land rights, or with a challenge to the land rights still pending,

it will be difficult for the energy company's \$6 billion project to proceed, U.S. Sen. Ron Wyden, U.S. Sen. Jeff Merkley, and U.S. Rep. Suzanne Bonamici said in letter dated Friday.

"The Army Corps continues to assert its easement rights, and claims that the proposed Oregon LNG project would interfere with those rights," the lawmakers wrote.

The letter doesn't take a position on whether the LNG project belongs in Warrenton. But it does question whether Oregon LNG will ever be able to use

the land — a concern that LNG opponents have voiced in recent public meetings.

Hard questions

Wyden, Merkley and Bonamici asked how the commission handles situations where "the applicant lacks an unencumbered right to the land," even as the project is still under review.

Specifically, the Democrats asked whether the commission has encountered similar cases where an applicant doesn't have a clear right to the land, and, if so, how the com-

mission has handled it. They also questioned whether the commission has ever suspended review of a project until the property rights question is resolved.

"Throughout this process, we have urged FERC to take all possible steps to ensure that the review process is as transparent as possible and that the process incorporates

See LNG, Page 10A

RELATED STORY

FERC gives Jordan Cove project environmental OK, see Page 10A.

Hatch Oregon keeps money close to home

Small businesses can crowdsource from Oregonians

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Daily Astorian

Early this year, Oregon became the 16th state in the country to allow local small businesses to crowdsource capital through community public offerings, with Oregon residents as the investors.

Hatch Oregon, a nonprofit facilitating the new offerings, stopped at Clatsop Community College in Astoria Wednesday as part of a statewide tour promoting the new form of investment.

The new crowdfunding law created the Oregon Intrastate Offering Exemption in securities regulation, which allows entrepreneurs based in Oregon to raise up to \$250,000 in capital directly from Oregon residents, with a cap of \$2,500 a person, per company.

"This exchange is what makes the world go round, and we'd like to retain some of it, instead of sending 99.9 percent to Wall Street," said Amy Pearl, founder of the nonprofit Hatch Innovation and an architect of Oregon's public offering rules.

Traveling with Pearl was Heather Stafford, the assistant director of innovation for Business Oregon, the state's economic development agency. Stafford's position was created to help local business grow, as Business Oregon shifts its focus from out-of-state recruitment to homegrown innovation.

Stafford said outside Portland, Oregon has never been very competitive for attracting large businesses. More than 70 percent of net job creation in Oregon is from Oregon-based businesses, she said, and about 98 percent of Oregon's businesses have 100 or fewer employees.

"You get to participate in investing in companies," she said. "It's no longer relegated to the 1 percent."

See HATCH OREGON, Page 4A



ELK IN A RUT NOT IN THE MOOD

Joshua Bessex/The Daily Astorian

A bull elk looks over its shoulder while standing in Hammond. There have been numerous reports of aggressive elk recently.

Give animals wide berth as mating season brings out aggression toward people

By KYLE SPURR
The Daily Astorian

Elk are usually more aggressive in the fall when searching for a mate. But what is surprising this year is that more elk are turning that aggression toward people, which has led to injuries and property damage.

Law enforcement and wildlife officials have responded to multiple reports of aggressive elk in the past few weeks and worry that people who are feeding or taking pictures of the animals are in danger.

"This year, it is odd they actually made contact with humans and caused some injuries," Warrenton Police Chief Matt Workman said. "Every year, we get reports of aggressive elk because it's that time of the year. This is the first time I remember them making contact with humans."

The most notable incident occurred in Hammond last month when a man and teenage girl were chased by a bull elk. The man was



Joshua Bessex/The Daily Astorian

Drivers pull over to take photos of a bull elk near Sixth Street in Hammond Tuesday.

checking his mail when the elk charged at him, knocked him to the ground with its antlers and chased him back into his house. The man had scratches on his side from the antlers.

Sgt. Joe Warwick, from the Or-

regon State Police Fish and Wildlife Division, responded to the incident. He kept an eye on the elk for four days and heard from other people who said the elk was acting aggressive. After consulting with the Oregon Department of Fish and

Wildlife, Warwick had to shoot and kill the aggressive elk.

"I had him in a safe place where I could identify him 100 percent. I had to use a firearm to dispatch him," Warwick said. "The decision to remove him from the herd was not made lightly."

About a week later, Warrenton Police responded to a report of a juvenile elk blocking a teenage girl and her younger brother from going to a school bus stop in Hammond.

Workman drove up in his vehicle, which eventually scared the elk away.

"He was definitely not going to move and giving them the stare down," Workman said. "Even a young, juvenile elk is big and probably could hurt a human."

Just days later, a man was driving his Toyota Tundra pickup near Nygaard Logging in Warrenton when he claims an elk charged his vehicle, causing damage to the side of his truck.

See ELK, Page 10A

Ready, set, buy! Recreational marijuana sales begin

The Associated Press

PORTLAND — Oregon marijuana shops began selling marijuana Thursday for the first time to recreational users, marking a big day for the budding pot industry.

Some of the more than 250 dispensaries that already offer medical marijuana in Oregon opened their doors soon after midnight — just moments after it became legal to sell to anyone who is at least 21.

In Astoria, Sweet Relief Natural Medicine opened just after midnight to a line of customers.

Christopher Williams was the first customer in line to buy recreational pot at the shop. "It feels wonderful," he

said of being able to buy recreational marijuana.

At Portland's Shango Premium Cannabis, co-founder Shane McKee said the first sale to an excited customer came about a minute after midnight, with many others waiting.

"It looks like there is about 60-70 in line out front," he said in a telephone interview shortly after midnight. "They all seem extremely eager."

That first buyer, Davia Fleming of Portland, said the sales launch was important.

"I was really excited about that," said Fleming, who uses the drug for medicinal purposes. "It's the end of a prohibition."

She described the atmosphere inside the store as

"beautiful. ... very friendly; everyone is upbeat."

Store owners say they're hopeful they can avoid the shortages and price spikes that followed the start of legal sales last year in Washington and Colorado, the only other states where the drug can now be sold for recreational use. Alaska could begin retail sales next year.

Customers can buy as much as seven grams at a time of dried marijuana flower and leaf — the part that's generally smoked — plus plants and seeds. For the next year or so, marijuana infused candy, cookies, oils and lotions will be available only to people with medical marijuana cards as the state works on retail regulations involving those products.



Joshua Bessex/The Daily Astorian

Christopher Williams, left, makes a purchase of marijuana from Gary Reynolds, right, at Sweet Relief Natural Medicine just after midnight Thursday morning. Williams was the first customer in line to buy recreational pot at the shop.

