



Guide to North Coast nonprofits

Pumpkin carving in Cannon Beach



INSIDE

FRIDAY EXTRA • 1C

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ONE DOLLAR

## 'Pathway of desire'

### Dan and Sue Stein build private park for public pleasure

By ERICK BENDEL  
The Daily Astorian

If you find yourself scaling the steep sidewalks of the Skyline Avenue neighborhood, Sue and Dan Stein invite you take ten in their side yard.

No, really — just swing by, catch your breath, rehydrate and take in the view of downtown Astoria and the Columbia River.

Their place is pretty easy to spot: It's the one with the multi-level mini-park on the corner of Skyline and West Grand avenues. And it has become a neighborhood novelty impossible to overlook.

With a refurbished drinking fountain, two patios at different elevations and large rocks to perch on, the Steins' parkette-in-progress is designed to give passers-by a place to cool off, socialize or simply Zen out before moving on.

"It's such a public space anyway," Sue said.

The couple plans to install benches this spring, but the project — which is half residential park, half ornamental garden and occupies about half an acre — is largely finished.

"It is private property, but people are welcome to enjoy it," Dan said. "It's for short stays — 15, 20 minutes."

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TOPTO BOTTOM: Sue and Dan Stein and their dogs Olive Oil, left, and Herb sit in their parkette located on Skyline Avenue.



One feature of the parkette, a working water fountain, helps quench the thirst of passing visitors.

The parkette offers a view of downtown Astoria and the Columbia River. The Steins plan to eventually install benches.

Photos by Joshua Bessex  
The Daily Astorian



## FALL BACK



### Daylight Saving Time

ends on **Sunday at 2 a.m.** when clocks are turned backward one hour to **1 a.m.** Sunrise and sunset will be earlier, which means more light in the morning.

## LNG, Corps tiff OK with FERC

### Commission's review can proceed during land dispute

By ERICK BENDEL  
The Daily Astorian

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission is well aware that the land on Warrenton's Skipanon Peninsula where Oregon LNG wants to build a liquefied natural gas facility is the subject of a property dispute between the company and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Does the dispute affect the commission's decision on whether to authorize Oregon LNG to move forward with the proposed \$6 billion terminal and pipeline project? No.

The commission said as much to U.S. Rep. Suzanne Bonamici in response to a letter the congresswoman and U.S. Sens. Ron Wyden and Jeff Merkley sent FERC last month stressing that Oregon LNG's design plans collide with a nearly 60-year-old Army Corps easement.

Property disputes lie outside the commission's expertise and jurisdiction, the letter states. And, in any case, the commission does not require that an applicant, like Oregon LNG, own the project site when the application is filed.

Eventually, of course, the

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## Bridge has small span, big impact

### Irving Avenue Bridge reopens important route through city

By DERRICK DePLEDGE  
The Daily Astorian

One of Astoria's most important traffic arteries has reopened.

A new bridge on Irving Avenue near 19th Street allows drivers to once again

slice across the city, taking pressure off of Marine Drive, Commercial Street and other high-volume corridors where traffic is often a clogged mess.

The new 175-foot concrete span, which replaced a steel bridge built in 1946, is small in scope. But Irving Avenue is such a popular east-west alternative route, especially among local drivers, that closing the bridge for construction since August 2014 significantly contributed to traffic congestion.

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## Smith refuses mental health analysis

### Told jail staff she felt sick

By KYLE SPURR  
The Daily Astorian

Jessica Smith, accused of drugging and murdering her toddler and attempting to kill her teenager in Cannon Beach last year, has refused a mental health evaluation from a court-ordered psychologist.

Dr. Paul Guastadisegni attempted three times this month to evaluate Smith.

Each time, Smith, an inmate in Tillamook County Jail, told jail staff she felt like she was going to throw

up and needed to go back to her cell where she curled up in a fetal position and held tight to a rolled-up blanket.

"Smith's physical sickness and possible nausea was caused by anxiety of participating in the court-ordered evaluation," Jail Division Sgt. Brand Roberts wrote in a report.

Smith has a right to be examined. However, the Clatsop County District Attorney's Office also has a right to have a state psychologist evaluate Smith because



Jessica Smith

her attorney, William Falls, and his co-counsel plan to use a diminished-capacity defense.

The District Attorney's Office argues foregoing the state's evaluation could have legal consequences, where the judge could decide to throw out expert testimony on diminished capacity during the trial in June.

Smith is accused of aggravated murder and attempted aggravated murder

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