

## Toxic project

What a shock it is to learn that there is someone in Warrenton still singing the siren's song of jobs and dollars that liquefied natural gas (LNG) purportedly would bring in exchange for building a toxic industrial plant that would obliterate one of our few remaining estuarine wetlands, dredging away millions of cubic yards of salmon habitat, and raising water temperatures ever closer to lethality ("LNG a good thing," *The Daily Astorian*, Dec. 18).

I need not summarize the many past articulate letters, apparently missed by the writer, that have aired a litany of negative effects to the environment, and our local economy, that the proposed Oregon LNG project would cause.

Gross errors contained in the letter ("minus 2,500 degrees) and the lack of understanding of the basic physics of heat exchange do little to build confidence in the validity of other arguments made.

The question of LNG explosivity was raised — call it what you will, but most would call a rapidly expanding fire ball that can rip steel apart an explosion. An explosion in an LNG facility near Plymouth, Washington, in 2014 injured workers, required a 2-mile radius evacuation zone and sent 250-pound chunks of shrapnel flying 300 yards. One chunk ripped through the double walls of a 134-foot LNG tank.

Do you really want this in Warrenton? Can one be so blinded by dollar signs as to ignore or trivialize the inevitability of a large earthquake and resulting tsunami that will destroy the proposed facility, potentially releasing vast quantities of flammable gas and toxic substances that will further challenge post-disaster recovery?

The wetlands and salmon habitat that would be destroyed, the public open-space lost, the river vistas forever gone that characterize our region: These are our assets. Why would one choose to replace this splendid beauty for the 24-hour noise, traffic, bright security lights, alarms, and air pollution — all of which would degrade neighborhoods and property values, increase costs for emergency services, drive away tourists and their dollars, and provide little benefit to local residents.

The Warrenton LNG project is toxic whether by chemical definition or socio-economic outcome, with explosive consequences for our region's future that would be disastrous to Clatsop County's economy and character. The views, fish, wildlife, clean air, clean water will all be gone. Where will the money go? Warrenton or Asia?

CHRISTOPHER FARRAR  
Astoria

## Numbers talk

The city of Astoria now has some eye-opening numbers for developing the old Safeway block ("Sticker shock, second thoughts on library and housing project" *The Daily Astorian*, Dec. 8). It's a good time to make a pragmatic decision, take down the money pit of an eyesore Waldorf Hotel, then make a functional, maintainable library.

If there are points of interest in the old Waldorf (I'm sure there's at least one), document it for posterity then, please, bring in the wrecking ball.

BILL HARPER  
Astoria

## Support public land

Founded in Oregon, and now with membership in all 50 states and Canada, Backcountry Hunters and Anglers (BHA) applauds the Congressional three-year extension of the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) with first year funding at a higher level than in past years.

We applaud Senators Ron Wyden and Jeff Merkley for

# Oregon Motor Voter Law is coming Jan. 1

Oregon Motor Voter, the state's new voter registration law, takes effect Jan. 1. This law was created by House Bill 2177, passed by the Oregon Legislature in the 2015 session and signed into law by Gov. Kate Brown last spring. As your county clerk and secretary of state, we want to make sure you know how this program will work for Oregonians.

Oregon Motor Voter will modernize voter registration in Oregon and provide a secure, simple, and convenient way for more Oregonians to become registered voters. This innovative program is the most significant change in voting since statewide vote-by-mail was implemented in 2000. We are already seeing other states follow our lead on this pioneering program.

Here's how it will work:

Starting Jan. 1, automatic voter registration is available if you are eligible to register to vote and you apply for your original, renewal, or replacement

driver's license, permit, or ID card at the Oregon Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV). To be eligible to register to vote in Oregon you must be an Oregon resident, a U.S. citizen, and at least 17 years old.

Once you have engaged the Oregon Motor Voter process by visiting the DMV, you will receive a card and a pre-paid postage return envelope from the Oregon State Elections Office.

With this card, you have three options:

Do nothing. You will be registered to vote as a nonaffiliated voter (not a member of a political party).

Choose a political party by returning the card. Joining a political party will allow you to vote in its primary elections.

Use the card to opt-out and decline to register to vote.

Once registered, you will receive a ballot and voting instructions in the mail about two weeks prior to Election Day. When you vote, your ballot is secret and

your choices cannot be matched up with your name.

Oregon has a proud tradition of trailblazing. It's in our state's DNA. In addition to the simple registration methods already available to Oregonians — like online voter registration — Oregon Motor Voter will help expand access to voting and help us put a ballot in the hand of nearly every eligible voter in the state. As we work toward making voter registration more secure and accessible, we are setting an example for civic engagement that can become the model for the nation.

For more information contact us at the Clatsop County Clerk's office at 503-325-8511 or visit [www.oregonmotorvoter.gov](http://www.oregonmotorvoter.gov)

VALERIE CRAFARD  
Clatsop County clerk

Astoria  
JEANNE P. ATKINS  
Oregon secretary of state  
Salem

their efforts to make this fund permanent. Over the 50-year history of this tax-free fund, over \$300 million LWCF dollars has helped ensure access to our public lands in Oregon. It also helps fuel a robust \$10 billion outdoor economy that employs approximately 100,000 people, according to Travel Oregon estimates.

The LWCF is especially important to rural areas where the economy lags. Headwaters Economics studies show the closer a rural community is to public lands, the better the economy. While the recent extension included in the year-end Omnibus bill is encouraging, BHA will continue to support full and permanent funding of this law which has overwhelming bi-partisan support.

Full and permanent funding was held up primarily because of one elected official — Congressman Bob Bishop of Utah, who wants to restructure and redirect LWCF funds. LWCF expired in September because of Bishop. Had it not been for the insistence of Senators Wyden and Merkley and others, this three-year extension would not have happened.

It's time for all those who love and support public lands tell Congressman Bishop to take a hike. He may find something worthy of support if he takes that hike in public lands.

BRIAN JENNINGS  
Bend

## Help her visibility

I was saddened when reading about the elderly lady who was hit while riding in her electric wheelchair in a crosswalk. I was then sickened to read about all the other times she had been injured while riding in her chair ("At an Uppertown adult foster home, a crash course in responsibility," *The Daily Astorian*, Dec. 14).

I can only imagine how liberating her chair feels to her and applaud her for getting out and about. How my mother-in-law would have loved being able to explore the neighborhood around her assisted-living home instead of having to stay within the walls all day.

Without knowing all the details about this woman's situation, I have to wonder whether there is anything like a flag or flasher or light on her chair. A young man in my neighborhood can be seen in his electric chair riding up and down the street because of the pole with brightly colored flags attached. Cars can see him from a few blocks away and get into another lane, or lightly beep their horn at him so he can move.

I am sure someone in the community can do something to help this poor woman to continue her treks safely.

SUE POSO  
Alta Loma, California

## Congratulations!

Open letter to Catherine Sautner ("Job Corps student tackles the U.S. Senate," *The Daily Astorian*, Dec. 21): Congratulations on your internship with U.S. Sen. Ron Wyden. I am a great supporter of Job Corps. Job Corps volunteerism is a great asset to



our community and, of course, creates a promising future for young career seekers.

Your remark, "I discovered that everyone in Washington, D.C., makes people in Oregon look like hippies" could only come from a 25-year-old starting to experience the real world. You have differentiated why people love Oregon and hate Washington, D.C.

You go, girl. Put on your tasteful, professional attire, kick some D.C. butt, and when you come home, I'll bet you're going to be a wiser and better citizen.

LARRY ALLEN  
Astoria

## Smiling at lights

A lot of things make me smile. But today I went around the block and got to smile twice, because Danish Maid Bakery had its Christmas display in the window. Thank you.

BETTY HOGAN  
Astoria

## Fortunate

Thanks to Steve Forrester and *The Daily Astorian* for publicizing the details of the Clatsop County Cultural Coalition/Oregon Cultural Trust grants awarded Dec. 10 at the Liberty Theater, and printing an editorial supporting donations to the Oregon Cultural Trust ("We exemplify the goals of the Oregon Cultural Trust," Dec. 14).

While it is correct that the local coalition made awards totaling almost \$11,000, not all funds came from the Oregon Cultural Trust; \$2,000 came from a Small Arts and Culture Grant from the Oregon Community Foundation. The Oregon Community Foundation is another partner making cultural enhancements to the North Coast area.

In addition to their grant to the Cultural Coalition, we are also aware of grants to the North Coast Symphonic Band, Astoria Scandinavian Heritage Association, and the Friday Musical Club scholarship fund (through the Patricia Friedland Fund of the Oregon Community Foundation).

We are fortunate that both

the Oregon Cultural Trust and the Oregon Community Foundation support arts and culture in Clatsop County, and that we have so many non-profit groups in the area worthy of their funding and support.

JANET BOWLER  
CHARLENE LARSEN  
Co-chairwomen, Clatsop County Cultural Coalition

## Firefighters still here

In response to "Recall needed" (*The Daily Astorian*, Dec. 8) regarding fire protection: To the communities of Falcon Cove, Arch Cape, and Cannon Beach — your protection has not been jeopardized. The dedicated group of well-trained officers and volunteer firefighters have you covered.

BOB CERELLI  
Cannon Beach Fire District Board Member  
Arch Cape

## Get ready

An inspirational thought: 'Twas the night before Jesus came, all through the house, not a creature was

praying, not one in the house.

Their Bibles were lain on the shelf without care, in hopes that Jesus would not come there.

The children were dressing to crawl into bed, not once ever kneeling or bowing a head.

And mom in her rocker with baby on her lap, was watching the Late Show while I took a nap.

When out of the east there arose such a clatter, I spring to my feet to see what was the matter.

Away to the window I flew like a flash, tore open the shutter and threw up the sash.

When what to my wondering eyes should appear, but angels proclaiming that Jesus was here.

With a light like the sun sending forth a bright ray, I knew in a moment — this must be the day.

The light of his face made me cover my head, it was

Jesus returning, just like he said.

And though I possessed worldly wisdom and wealth, I cried when I saw him in spite of myself.

In the Book of Life which he held in his hand, was written the name of every saved man.

He spoke not a word as he searched for my name, when he said, "It's not here," my head hung in shame.

The people whose names had been written with love, he gathered to take to his father above.

With those who were ready he rose without a sound, while all the rest were left standing around.

I fell to my knees, but it was too late, I had waited too long and thus sealed my fate.

I stood and I cried as they rose out of sight, oh if only I had been ready tonight.

In the words of this poem the meaning is clear, the coming of Jesus is drawing near.

There's only one life and when comes the last call, we'll find that the Bible is true after all.

ROBERT REGISTER  
Seaside

## Police should help

Why would a law enforcement dispatcher fail to send help to two women stranded in a pool of water on the roadway, especially after being told that a 71-year-old woman, with a knee injury, was in the vehicle and needed assistance getting out of the car ("Women stranded in high water," *The Daily Astorian*, Dec. 11)?

The person at the dispatch center was also told that the vehicle had stalled, and that water was coming into the passenger compartment. At this point it appears the dispatcher, with great calm, told the caller to call a tow truck, which the lady did, but apparently none responded.

Finally after some time a police officer did stop and offer them a ride. He took them to the Safeway parking lot in Seaside, told them that he had other things to do, dropped them off cold, wet, and alone, to take care of themselves from there on.

I'm dumbfounded by this. I thought the number one job for law enforcement was to protect life and property. If this is so, how could a peace officer, on a rainy cold December night, take an injured elderly woman to a Safeway parking lot and drop her and the lady who was driving the car and tell them to call a cab. I'm stunned.

It appears to me the appropriate thing to have done on a rainy and cold night would have been to take them to the Seaside Police Station, and let them make a phone call to a friend for help. Shouldn't this be part of an officers training?

SAMUEL PATRICK  
Astoria

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## What are your New Years Resolutions for 2016?

Tell us in 30 words or less what your resolutions are and have them printed in The Daily Astorian on December 31st!

Call or e-mail Jamie by 5pm on Monday, December 28th at (503) 325-3211 ext. 231 or [classifieds@dailyastorian.com](mailto:classifieds@dailyastorian.com)!