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ONE DOLLAR

Oregon LNG pulls out of Army Corps litigation

Judge orders case dismissed 'without prejudice'

By ERICK BENDEL
The Daily Astorian

Oregon LNG has voluntarily withdrawn from litigation with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers before a federal district court judge

could officially dismiss the energy company's claims.

In late December, Magistrate Judge John V. Acosta ruled against Oregon LNG in a lawsuit the company filed against the Army Corps. Oregon LNG failed to prove, Acosta

said, that the Corps has abandoned property on Warrenton's Skipanon Peninsula where the company seeks to build a liquefied natural gas facility, and where the Corps holds a nearly 60-year-old easement to deposit dredging spoils.

Acosta's ruling still needs to be signed by Anna J. Brown, a federal district court judge, to become official.

But, with Oregon LNG choosing to void its lawsuit ahead of Brown's signature, the judgment will specify that the company's claims are dismissed "without prejudice." This means that, in theory, the company

can refile the complaint against the Corps based on the same set of facts.

Oregon LNG could not immediately be reached for comment, but opponents of the \$6 billion terminal and pipeline project welcomed the move as another setback for the company.

See LNG, Page 10A

DIGGING OUT



Joshua Bessex/The Daily Astorian

Crews work to remove soil from Heritage Square on Friday. The dirt, which is considered lightly contaminated, is being hauled off to an old quarry that the city owns off Pipeline Road. The city considers the soil removal as progress toward the eventual redevelopment of the former Safeway site.



Edward Stratton/The Daily Astorian

U.S. Sen. Ron Wyden, left, opened Saturday by honoring Seaside School District Superintendent Doug Dougherty, retiring after this year but continuing his work on a bond measure on November's ballot to build a new K-12 campus out of the tsunami inundation zone.

Wyden stresses the 'Oregon way'

Solutions, not standoffs, the senator says

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Daily Astorian

Whether addressing low graduation rates, sea lions migrating to the Columbia River or armed protesters in Harney County, U.S. Sen. Ron Wyden stressed during a Saturday town hall what he called "the Oregon way: solutions and not standoffs."

The gathering was Wyden's 759th town hall since joining the U.S. Senate 20 years ago, when he promised to visit each of Oregon's 36 counties once a year.

The Democrat started by honoring town hall moderator and Seaside School District Superintendent Doug Dougherty.

After 35 years in Seaside, Dougherty will retire this summer but continue working to pass a November bond measure to build a new K-12 campus out of the tsunami inundation zone.

Wyden said he is proud of Oregon in many ways, but not about its four-year high school graduation rate, the fourth-lowest in the country and an issue he said he will focus on in the coming year.

Wyden has applauded the recent Every Child Succeeds Act, passed by Congress in December to replace the controversial No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 covering federal oversight of K-12 education. Wyden wrote provisions in the

bill to expand apprenticeship and mentoring programs for at-risk students, while providing more funding for one-on-one counseling.

"I want to make sure during this year we're going to empower students to give us their ideas about what needs to be done to increase Oregon's graduation rate," Wyden said, introducing Astoria High School student Clay Williams, who he said will act as his Clatsop County liaison gathering students' ideas.

Solutions, not standoffs

As a member of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, Wyden said he stays in regular contact with authorities about the Malheur National

See WYDEN, Page 10A

Astoria's Keyser leads the way at Haystack Rock

Coordinator seeks outreach, education

CANNON BEACH — Melissa Keyser's passion for the environment has her out on the beach and coordinating tasks from her office as the Haystack Rock Awareness Program's leader.

She began as the interim coordinator in July, after Samantha Furber left for graduate school, then became the permanent coordinator in September.

"I love working for this program. Environmental stewardship is what I've always wanted to do. So to find a program that essentially focuses on environmental stewardship is just fantastic," she said. "It's really amazing when you actually enjoy going to work everyday."



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Mission to protect ecology

The Haystack Rock Awareness Program's mission is to protect the intertidal and bird

ecology of Haystack Rock's marine garden and Oregon Islands National Wildlife Refuge.

As coordinator, Keyser said goals include more outreach through social media outlets and more partnerships with schools and other environmental agencies. The new Cape Falcon Marine Reserve is one group she would like the Haystack Rock Awareness Program to work closely with.

She and the program's new Volunteer Coordinator Kelsey Brown and Education Coordinator Lisa Habecker are also working to extend beach hours.

See KEYSER, Page 10A



Erick Bengel/The Daily Astorian

Melissa Keyser, who lives in Astoria with her family, is the coordinator of the Haystack Rock Awareness Program.

