

Stop!



Joshua Bessex/The Daily Astorian

A car stops Monday at the new stop sign at the intersection of Irving Avenue and Eighth Street. The sign, installed Friday, was approved by the Astoria City Council in November after some residents complained the intersection was dangerously confusing.

Oregon LNG confirms end of project funding

Company has ceased operations

By ERICK BENDEL
The Daily Astorian

WARRENTON — Oregon LNG confirmed Monday that a \$6 billion terminal and pipeline project on the Skipanon Peninsula was scrapped because Leucadia National Corp., the New York-based holding company that financed the project, decided to cease funding.

“Oregon LNG thanks all those in the project area who supported its 12-year effort to bring good jobs and tax revenues to Warrenton and Clatsop County by building a liquefied natural gas terminal and associated pipeline,” the company said in a statement posted on its website.

“Oregon LNG will have no further comment.”

Company representatives had told Warrenton city officials Friday that funding was the reason behind the decision to end operations, but the company did not publicly make a formal announcement until Monday.



Joshua Bessex/The Daily Astorian

Robert Clark, of Astoria, wears a salmon hat during a rally against the Oregon LNG project in Warrenton in September.

Dick Hellberg, a former Warrenton city commissioner who favored the project, is sorry to see the company go.

“I don’t know how many millions of dollars that Leucadia put into that project, but that was insanity in itself, to have to put that much money out to go through a dead-end procedure,” he said. “Very disappointed in the whole thing.”

“Anyway, it is what it is, and I had nothing to gain and, really, nothing to lose — other than, sorry to see the economy of the area go down,” he added.

Brett VandenHeuvel, the executive director of Columbia Riverkeeper, the Hood River-based environmental group that fought the project, said liquefied natural gas is “the wrong direction and locks us into dirty fuels.”

“The world is moving more rapidly towards clean energy. The United States and Asia and many other countries are rapidly developing clean energy, and we can’t lock ourselves into these giant terminals that are not moving (us) forward towards clean energy.”

CHIP-in event for Earth Day at Tapiola Park on Saturday

The Daily Astorian

In honor of Earth Day on Friday, the next Astoria Parks and Recreation Department Citizens Helping Improve Parks event is from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday at Tapiola Park.

This event is also hosted by SOLVE, a statewide nonprofit organization that helps keep Oregon clean and green.

The CHIP-in is a family-friendly event. Volunteers

will pick up trash, pull weeds, put in new bark mulch, clean playground equipment and prune shrubs.

T-shirts, snacks and tools are provided for volunteers at the

park. Those wishing to participate should feel free to stop by any time during CHIP-in to help.

For questions, or to volunteer, email CHIP-in@astoria.or.us or call 503-741-5965.

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City to hold hearing on property sale

Debate could reopen old controversy

By DERRICK DEPLEDGE
The Daily Astorian

Reopening a politically sensitive debate over property sales, the Astoria City Council in early May will consider whether to sell city land off Alameda Avenue to Bruce Conner, a travel agency owner and cruise ship marketer.

A split City Council voted 3-2 Monday night to hold a public hearing on the sale. But questions were again raised about Steven Weed, the appraiser the city hired to evaluate the property.

Weed valued the 0.32 acres of city land at \$47,000. Conner, who approached the city about the sale, has agreed to the price.

Some residents have second-guessed Weed’s appraisal

and have claimed that the city, under former Mayor Willis Van Dusen, sold city land to the well-connected at bargain prices.

Shel Cantor, a retired engineer who has served on the city’s budget committee, told the City Council that his analysis suggests the property off Alameda should be priced closer to \$100,000.

Cantor questioned whether Weed, either on his own or by “illegitimate direction from someone else,” has based his appraisals on the prospective buyer rather than the property.

City Councilor Drew Herzig said residents are not opposed to selling city property, but question a process that does not involve bidding.

Conner, Herzig also noted, is a prominent resident who has been involved with the sister city committee.

“And this looks like doing favors, even though it’s not,”

Herzig said. “The city needs to avoid the appearance of favoritism in this sort of operation.”

Asked by City Councilor Zetty Nemlowill whether Weed is undervaluing the Alameda property, City Manager Brett Estes said: “I am not a certified appraiser, nor am I a certified engineer. So I don’t practice engineering and I don’t practice being a surveyor.”

“We rely on our professionals to do that work for us, to be able to provide their professional opinion.”

Estes took exception to Cantor’s suggestion that someone might have directed the appraiser. “I find that highly offensive,” he said of any sort of collusion.

Nemlowill, Mayor Arline LaMear and City Councilor Russ Warr voted to schedule a hearing on the property sale to Conner, while Herzig and Councilor Cindy Price voted against the hearing.

Dancing with themselves



Joshua Bessex/The Daily Astorian

An air dancer waves on the roof of CMH Field’s grandstands. The Astoria School District borrowed the concept from the Port of Astoria to help keep seagulls away. The Port has used air dancers to scare sea lions at the East End Mooring Basin.

A Life Remembered

Heaven's Honor Roll
February of 2016

- 1 Clara Lum 96
- 2 Norman Jefta Koljonen 69
- 2 Sandra Lee Sarin 72
- 2 Nancy Jean Miller 63
- 2 Dennis John Grotz 58
- 7 Prentice Lloyd Wallace 90
- 9 Thomas James Hughes 80
- 16 William Jackson Russell 79
- 18 Michael Kingsley Beck 60
- 18 Anthony John Thorne 47
- 20 Barbara Diane Minard 68
- 22 William Henry Ojanen 87
- 22 Larry Glenn Samson 76
- 22 Dallas Roger Miller 80
- 23 Jack Dennis Hogan 68
- 25 Merle Douglas Hall 90
- 26 Marian Jean Hall 78
- 28 Dr. Robert Donald Neikes 98
- 29 Leah Rae Steinke 75

A Life Remembered

Heaven's Honor Roll
March of 2016

- 2 Lee Ann Jones-Kelly 73
- 5 Marjorie May Aho 85
- 6 Freida Ann Piippo 98
- 8 Grace Frances May 65
- 8 David Richard King Jr. 66
- 9 Michael John Meno 70
- 10 Richard Raymond Davis Sr. 82
- 10 Jon Alan Aho 65
- 13 William Junior Middleton 92
- 14 James Mack Craft 87
- 15 Carl Iver Asplind 67
- 19 Steven Walter Escola 68
- 20 Patricia Ruth Abrahams 86
- 24 Robert Douglas Lindstrom 54
- 25 John McKibbin 69
- 25 Irene Kazuko Mustain 64
- 27 Michael Thomas Sopko 66
- 28 Daniel Duane Thompson 37
- 31 Allen Rayman Shockley Jr. 76
- 31 Tamie Jean Duyck 57

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