

Port gives up lease tied to LNG project

Agency had leased property on Skipanon Peninsula

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Daily Astorian

The Port of Astoria Commission on Tuesday voted to relinquish the agency's lease of more than 90 acres on the Skipanon Peninsula that was planned for an LNG project.

The Port had been leasing the property in Warrenton from the Department of State Lands since the mid-2000s. The agency subleased the property to Oregon LNG, a subsidiary of New York-based holding company Leucadia National Corp.

Earlier this year, Oregon LNG abandoned a highly controversial liquefied natural gas terminal planned for the peninsula. A lawyer for the company sent the Port a letter in April requesting the Port terminate its sublease. The request said Oregon LNG was winding up its affairs and had paid for the sublease on the peninsula through November.

Jim Knight, the Port's executive director, said the agency's first lease payment of \$129,000 on the property would be due Nov. 1. "I have met with the head of DSL, and they would

be willing to accept a last-minute termination without penalty," he said.

Commissioner Bill Hunsinger, the lone "no" in the 4-1 vote on the motion to terminate the lease, described the peninsula as "perfectly good property that has not been maintained."

He said the commission has been asking staff for months to investigate whether Oregon LNG had allowed the land to go to seed, violating an agreement to return it in a similar condition as when the lease started.

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The Daily Astorian/File Photo
The Port Commission on Tuesday voted to relinquish its lease of more than 90 acres on the eastern side of the Skipanon Peninsula from the Department of State Lands.

'OVERLOOKED ASTORIA'

Historian says preservation a matter of values and vigilance

By ERICK BENGEL
The Daily Astorian

Astoria, the oldest American settlement west of the Rocky Mountains, prides itself on historic preservation, but it takes considerable dedication to keep this reputation.

At Tuesday's Historic Landmarks Commission meeting, local historian John Goodenberger gave a presentation titled "Overlooked Astoria" that highlighted the history embedded in every corner of town — and made clear that the community has much to lose if it isn't careful.

Alongside the obvious assets worth preserving — such as Victorian homes and other specimens of antique architecture — are relics that even locals fail to notice.

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John Goodenberger



Photos by John Goodenberger/For The Daily Astorian

ABOVE: The John Hobson House, built in 1863, on Bond Street was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1978. BELOW: The Union Fishermen's Cooperative Packing Co. Net Loft (a.k.a. "Big Red") is a remnant of the Columbia River's salmon fishing and canning industry, and a place of interest for local preservationists.



Cannon Beach charter school wins board OK

Academy could open next fall

By KATHERINE LACAZE
For The Daily Astorian

SEASIDE — The Cannon Beach Academy saw its goal of opening next year move closer Tuesday night when the Seaside School District Board of Directors approved the organization's charter application without conditions.

Nearly four years after a group of residents initiated an effort to create a charter school in Cannon Beach, the organization reached a significant milestone with the approval of its charter. With that piece resolved,



Lyra Fontaine/The Daily Astorian

Cannon Beach Academy board members Kellye Dewey, Patti Rouse, Kimm Mount and Barb Knop at a July board meeting.

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Control of dam remains murky

Water district and Warrenton could meet

By DERRICK DePLEDGE
The Daily Astorian

WARRENTON — The clash over control of the Eighth Street Dam took another turn Tuesday when an attorney for Warrenton acknowledged the federal government may have an ownership interest.

Akin Blitz, a Portland attorney hired by the city to research the dam's history, had presented a fact-finding report to the City Commission in September that concluded the city owned the dam based on a 1938 Circuit Court ruling on the title of nearby land. The attorney argued that the Skipanon Water Control District, which has operated the dam since it was built on the Skipanon River with the help of the federal government in 1963, forfeited a city easement to use the property by removing the tide gates.

But Blitz said Tuesday that based on recent correspondence with federal authorities, the dam likely remains a federal asset tied to the city's levee system. The riverbed underneath the dam, he said, is owned by the Department of State Lands.

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RODENT TRIAL

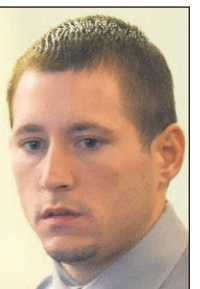
Pathologist asserts that toddler died of infection

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Daily Astorian

The defense of accused killer Randy Roden presented a key medical witness Tuesday as it tries to prove a flesh-eating bacterial infection killed 2-year-old Evangelina Wing.

Roden, 28, has been charged with murdering his ex-girlfriend Dorothy Wing's daughter and abusing her two sons, now 3 and 7, in a Seaside apartment the two shared two years ago. He faces the death penalty if convicted.

The couple called 911 on Dec. 20, 2014, after discovering Wing's daughter unresponsive. Her two sons were also found injured and taken into protective custody. Prosecutors believe the children were tortured, burned, bitten and caged in the months before Evangelina Wing's death, in one of the worst cases of child abuse in Clatsop County's history.



Randy Roden

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