

**CONTACT US**  
 Rebecca Sedlak | Weekend Editor  
 rsedlak@dailyastorian.com

# WEEKEND BREAK

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# 2016

The tragic shooting of a police officer in the line of duty. The collapse of a \$6 billion liquefied natural gas project. Guilty verdicts in horrific child murders. A housing crunch that touched people of all income levels. These are some of the stories that dominated the North Coast in 2016.

**GOODDING, LNG, HOUSING AMONG TOP NORTH COAST STORIES OF THE YEAR**

## SGT. GOODDING'S DEATH



In a week in February that saw six police officers shot across the nation, the death of 13-year police veteran Jason Goodding had tragic resonance in Seaside. Goodding was shot trying to apprehend Phillip Max Ferry — who had an extensive criminal record — on an arrest warrant. Ferry was shot and killed by Goodding's fellow officer, David Davidson.

Goodding's death brought an outpouring of grief and support for his wife, Amy, and two daughters. At his funeral at the Seaside Civic and

Convention Center, attended by law enforcement officers from throughout the country, Gov. Kate Brown presented Amy Goodding with the Medal of Ultimate Sacrifice. Jason Goodding was remembered with love, humor and affection in remarks by Clatsop

County Sheriff Tom Bergin, Seaside Police Chief Dave Ham and state Sen. Betsy Johnson, among others. In subsequent months, Goodding was honored by his high school with the renaming of their athletic field and as The Oregonian's Person of the Year. Local dispatchers received recognition for their work the night of the shooting and in its aftermath.

Joshua Bessex/The Daily Astorian  
**Members of the ceremonial honor guard kneel in front of Sgt. Jason Goodding's casket during the presentation of the flag at the memorial service in February.**

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Jamie Lee Jones, the man linked to the weapon Ferry fired, was sentenced to five years in prison for his involvement.



Danny Miller/The Daily Astorian  
**Students, community members and voters in support of the Seaside schools bond measure march around downtown reminding voters to turn in their ballots before Election Day in Seaside.**

## ELECTION CHANGES

In Astoria's election, Bruce Jones, a retired U.S. Coast Guard commander, won a decisive victory over Cory Pederson for an east-side seat on the City Council. Jones replaces City Councilor Russ Warr, who decided not to run for re-election after serving three terms.

Jones will be joined by Tom Brownson, the new south-side representative who ran unopposed.

Brownson, a retired contractor, replaces former City Councilor Drew Herzig, who moved with his partner to Massachusetts in September before completing his first term in Ward 2. For almost four months, the council has had four members.

The closest election in Clatsop County this year happened in Warrenton, where City Commissioner Pam Ackley prevailed over challenger Ryan Lampi, a planning commissioner, by six votes after a recount.

The recount ended several weeks of uncertainty in the Position 1 race. At the close of Election Day, Lampi had a one-vote lead over Ackley, who was appointed last year to fill a vacancy.

Seaside voters in November overwhelmingly approved a \$99.7 million bond to move three schools out of the tsunami inundation zone.

In its second go-around before voters, the scaled-down package moves students from endangered Gearhart Elementary, Seaside High School and Broadway Middle School to a location in the southeast hills adjacent to Seaside Heights Elementary School. A \$128.8 million plan failed in 2013.

Tsunami preparedness was also an issue in a Seaside City Council election. Tom Horning, a geologist who ran on a platform of tsunami safety, ousted Don Johnson, the council president.

In Cannon Beach, Matt Brown, a golf pro, defeated Bob Shortman, a property manager, for mayor. Brown replaces Dianne Widdop, who had served on the City Council for two decades and — as mayor — had survived a recall attempt in 2014.

In Cannon Beach, two fresh faces were elected to the City Council, former Cannon Beach Gazette Editor Nancy McCarthy and previous Planning Commission Chairman Brandon Ogilvie. A citizen initiative to prohibit retail marijuana shops in Cannon Beach was narrowly defeated in November.

In May, Dawn McIntosh, an attorney and former prosecutor, won a three-candidate race for Circuit Court judge. McIntosh replaces Judge Philip Nelson, the county's longest-serving elected official, who is retiring after 24 years on the bench.



Danny Miller/The Daily Astorian  
**Jesus Morales, fiancé Jessica Jacobsen, and son Daniel Morales stand outside their apartment in the Emerald Heights complex in October in Astoria. "No one wants to move, so there are never any openings anywhere," says Jacobsen.**

## AFFORDABLE HOUSING

In the fall, The Daily Astorian ran a weeklong series on Clatsop County's housing crunch. The series explored how each city in the county is confronting the issue, and featured profiles of families and individuals dealing with the shortage in different ways.

The housing crunch touches all income levels, from low-wage workers to six-figure executives, from renters just starting out to would-be homeowners looking to plant roots.

And the effects are felt at every rung of the employment ladder — from small retail operations to midlevel breweries to large health care agencies. The situation is frustrating the workforce and also limiting it.

Most experts do not believe market forces alone will solve the problem. Rather, it will require a combination of market activity, development code changes and community consensus to make the creation of new housing a priority.



Joshua Bessex/The Daily Astorian  
**Protesters use signs to shield themselves from the rain during a rally before the Oregon LNG permit public hearing at the Warrenton Community Center in 2015.**

## LNG IS A DONE NO-DEAL

Oregon LNG withdrew a proposed \$6 billion terminal and pipeline project from Warrenton's Skipanon Peninsula in April when the New York-based holding company behind the project decided to stop bankrolling the effort.

The move ended a decade of acrimony over a liquefied natural gas project that galvanized residents to protect the Columbia River and caused political upheaval in Clatsop County.

A hearings officer had already denied the terminal portion of the project. Oregon LNG pulled out before an appeal could be heard by the City Commission.

The company had argued that the project would be an economic boon for Warrenton and Clatsop County, providing jobs as well as tax revenue to local governments.

But a coalition of residents, environmentalists and fishermen attacked the project as misguided and potentially dangerous. Activists had previously fought an LNG project at Bradwood Landing east of Astoria, which collapsed in 2010 after hitting financial and political roadblocks.

## GUILTY VERDICT IN SEASIDE TODDLER MURDER

In one of the worst recorded cases of child abuse in Clatsop County's history, Randy Roden was sentenced in November to nearly 40 years in prison for the abuse and murder of 2-year-old Evangelina Wing in Seaside. Roden was found guilty by a 12-person jury in October of murder by abuse, felony murder, manslaughter, criminal mistreatment and assault in the death of Evangelina in 2014, along with the abuse of her two surviving brothers. He avoided the death penalty, the first proposed in a county case in more than a decade.

Dorothy Wing, Evangelina's mother, was also sentenced to 15 years in prison for first-degree manslaughter and criminal mistreatment related to her daughter's death. She testified against Roden in exchange for a lesser sentence.

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's death. Blood spatter was discovered around the apartment.



Danny Miller/The Daily Astorian  
**Randy Roden exits the courtroom after his verdict is read Oct. 31 at Clatsop County Circuit Court in Astoria.**



Danny Miller/The Daily Astorian  
**Jessica Smith attends a hearing on July 7 at Clatsop County Circuit Court in Astoria. She will serve a minimum of 40 years in prison for aggravated murder and attempted aggravated murder.**

## LIFE SENTENCE FOR SMITH

In August, Jessica Smith was sentenced to life in prison for drowning her toddler, Isabella, and slashing her teenager, Alana, at the Surfside Resort in Cannon Beach in July 2014. The Vancouver, Washington, woman pleaded guilty and will serve a minimum of 40 years in prison for aggravated murder and attempted aggravated murder.

The murder rattled Cannon Beach, which had not had a homicide for almost 50 years. Police Chief Jason Schermerhorn and former Assistant Fire Chief Frank Swedenborg were the first to respond.

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 TOP PHOTOS ON PAGES 4C-5C**