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WEEKEND EDITION

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SPORTS • 7A

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ONE DOLLAR



Courtesy Lower Columbia Engineering

This map shows how the donated land will be redeveloped in line with the Westport Corridor & Community Plan.

Chinook Tribe left out of school lessons

OLYMPIA, Wash. — Bay Center-based Chinook Indian Nation and state Sen. Brian Hatfield, D-Raymond, unsuccessfully sought this week to have the tribe included among those Washington state students will learn about in public schools.

The tribe sent an urgent action request to members and supporters Wednesday asking them to lobby lawmakers to include the Chinook Indian Nation in Senate Bill 5433. Under SB5433, school districts would be required include the history of the state's 29 federally recognized Indian tribes in their curriculum.

"Washington State Senate Bill 5433 has wonderful intentions — to mandate the teaching of Indian History in Washington Schools," the tribe said in its Wednesday appeal. "Each school will be responsible to teach the history of their local federally recognized tribe. Chinook is NOT federally recognized and therefore will be left out of Pacific and Wahkaikum counties school's history lessons. Imagine our local school-children not learning about the tribe who hosted Lewis and Clark!"

The Chinook Tribe has waged a decadeslong campaign to achieve federal legal status. It was granted in the closing days of the Bill Clinton administration, but withdrawn a year later by the George W. Bush administration, which said a Clinton-appointed official in the Bureau of Indian Affairs had turned a blind eye to shortcomings in the Chinooks' recognition case. Recent changes in BIA rules have provided the tribe with a glimmer of hope that they may yet overcome these issues, but nothing much has happened so far.

Hatfield offered an amendment to SB5433 that would have included tribes that still seek federal recognition, such as the Chinook Indian

See *TRIBE*, Page 8A

'IT'S A REBIRTH OF WESTPORT'

Many things old will be new again in East County town

By KYLE SPURR
The Daily Astorian

WESTPORT — Leoann Douma's fondest memories of raising her family in Westport revolve around the town's waterfront park and boat launch on the Columbia River estuary.

Douma's two children, now 48 and 45, grew up fishing, swimming and boating on the river.

"They grew up having an absolute blast biking, swimming off the dock at the boat launch and going out in little rafts. The river has always been the biggest (attraction)," Douma said.

Over the 50 years since Douma moved to Westport, the unincorporated town's waterfront has shown signs of disrepair. Local fishermen consider the boat launch unusable at low tide, and the parking lot has potholes and is inadequate during the busy spring salmon season.

However, plans are in the works to revitalize the popular park and boat launch area.

Georgia-Pacific Wauna Mill recently completed a 27-acre land donation, valued at \$230,000, to Clatsop County Parks Department that will launch the county's Westport Corridor & Community Plan.

The county's plan outlines improvements to the boat launch, park area and access to the adjacent Westport Ferry landing, which is being rebuilt to fit Wahkiakum County, Wash.'s new ferry, Oscar B.

See *WESTPORT*, Page 8A



JOSHUA BESSEX — The Daily Astorian

Part-time deckhands Mark Hoover, left, and Brian McClain, right, direct the Oscar B Ferry into the temporary landing during a test run Feb. 27.



Andrew Niemi, of Lower Columbia Engineering, speaks at a celebration event to recognize the land donation that opens the door for a new Westport park Jan. 16. As owner of the land, the county can now submit grant applications to fund the proposed parks projects.

JOSHUA BESSEX
The Daily Astorian

Everyday People



MONDAY

Counsel for kids

It's a lie! Fake IRS agents target many in scam

Tell friends: Many locals have been called, harassed

WASHINGTON (AP) — Fake IRS agents have targeted more than 366,000 people with harassing phone calls demanding payments and threatening jail in the largest scam of its kind in the history of the agency, a federal investigator said Thursday.

More than 3,000 people have fallen for the ruse since 2013, said Timothy Camus, a Treasury deputy inspector general for tax administration. They were conned out of a to-

tal of \$15.5 million. The scam has claimed victims in almost every state, Camus said. One unidentified victim lost more than \$500,000.

"The criminals do not discriminate. They are calling people everywhere, of all income levels and backgrounds," Camus told the Senate Finance Committee at a hearing. "The callers often warned the victims that if they hung up, local police would come to their homes to arrest them."

The scam is so widespread that investigators believe there is more than one group of perpetrators, including some overseas.

Camus said even he re-



AP Photo/Susan Walsh, File

This is the exterior of the Internal Revenue Service building in Washington in 2013. Fake IRS agents have targeted more than 366,000 people with harassing phone calls demanding payments and threatening jail as part of a huge nationwide tax scam that has cost taxpayers \$15.5 million.

ceived a call from one of the scammers at his home on a Saturday. He said he had a stern message for the caller:

"Your day will come." Sen. Johnny Isakson, R-Ga., said he got a similar call, but realized it wasn't a real IRS agent.

"It was a very convincing, convincing phone call," Isakson said.

So far, two people in Florida have been arrested, Camus said. They were accused of being part of a scam that involved people in call centers in India contacting U.S. taxpayers and pretending to be IRS agents.

"These criminal acts are perpetrated by thieves hiding behind telephone lines and computers, preying on honest taxpayers and robbing the

See *SCAM*, Page 8A

