

Couple: If indicted, the suspects will be extradited here

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The couple had been suspects in the murder for several days, according to the Clatsop County Major Crime Team. A Sheriff's Office detective and Seaside Police detective flew to Arizona to gather

more information.

Wilkins and Copell were arraigned on the stolen vehicle charges in Justice Court in Flagstaff, Arizona, Wednesday morning. Their bail was set at \$150,000 each and an extradition hearing is scheduled for Friday.

Clatsop County District Attorney Josh Marquis said he filed the murder and stolen vehicle charges Wednesday. The case will proceed before a grand jury in Circuit Court, he said.

If indicted, Marquis said, the two suspects will

be extradited here.

Both Copell and Wilkins had recently struck up a relationship with Vinge prior to the murder, according to investigators.

While disposing of Vinge's body, investigators said, the suspects encountered a man

and woman in a black car. The suspects were spotted during daylight hours at the turnout east of mile marker 92 on U.S. Highway 30, near Fernhill Road east of Astoria.

Neither Copell or Wilkins have a criminal history in Clatsop County. Wilkins, an Asto-

ria resident at the time, was charged with driving while suspended and uninsured in March. Wilkins and Copell each have been in the Washington state court system. Wilkins faced theft charges in Pacific County in December, for example.

Economy: The aim is for a diversified local economy

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Community Development Director Kevin Cronin, the "Advance Astoria" project manager, said the city plans to incorporate the panel members' ideas into the development strategy.

Diversify

Astoria — whose economy was once wedded to fishing and logging and is now entrenched in tourism — must be careful not to depend on a small basket of industries, particularly those subject to booms and busts.

Cities like Roseburg and Ashland offer cautionary tales in this danger, Busse said.

Busse grew up in 1970s Roseburg, which was famous as the timber capital of the nation.

"It was a really great time to be a Roseburg-ian," he said. "There was money there, and you didn't have to come from money to make money."

As the timber industry diminished, however, the city never found a "second act," he said.

Ashland, where Busse later lived, has a monoculture of a different sort: tourism, "which is a great business to have when the economy is good, and it's a terrible business to have when the economy is bad," he said.

The lesson is that a local economy should be diversified enough to withstand market shocks.

Shared vision

Knight, executive director of the Port of Astoria, said the city will need community partnerships to help create a vision



Jim Knight, executive director of the Port of Astoria, urged more community partnerships to create a vision to rally around, as Kinesis CEO Shawn Busse listens.

Astorians can rally around.

A successful economy, he said, will allow the market to choose its direction. But, although it is natural to aspire to grow bigger and wider, this activity should not occur at the expense of the community's quality of life, which it can market and pass on to descendants, he said.

For example, a great deal of property along the waterfront, he noted, is undeveloped.

"And there's good reasons for it. Some of that development probably should not take place because of a desire for view corridors and the pres-

ervation of the Astoria Riverwalk, or the preservation of the quality of life that people come to this area for — to see the beauty of the Columbia River, to see the grandeur of nature that surrounds us."

The challenge for Astorians will be to figure out how to balance the two pressures: the pressure to let industry expand, and the pressure to preserve what makes the city unique and livable.

Personal story

Zimmerman of Craft3 said Astoria must be able to tell a clear and compelling story

about itself and its business trajectory — a narrative that will attract outside industry — regardless of how many different components make up the entrepreneurial scene.

"What you have to be able to do is tell a story that gets people's attention," he said, "and it has to be a pretty cogent story about who you are and where you want to go."

In addition, the sort of people — namely, 20- to 40-year-olds — who drive the economy and bring in new kinds of



Danny Miller/The Daily Astorian
Clatsop Community College President Chris Breitmeyer spoke about the college's role in training the workforce.

industry must be able to picture themselves actually living in the town. That's one reason why brew pubs are so important: They help create the sort of atmosphere that prevent young folks from fleeing, he noted.

Fundamentals

Certain background conditions must be in place for entrepreneurs with families to want to move into a town, Knight pointed out.

Ideally, the roads must be smooth, the sidewalks clean, the environment secure, the transportation reliable, the education robust, the health care strong and emergency services first-rate. Where these areas need improvement in Astoria, the community should work to improve them.

"The way that we support entrepreneurship, and the way that we retain good people in our community, is that the community itself comes

together to ensure that our infrastructure is sound, that it's safe, that it can improve," Knight said. "If we don't have that, then we're probably going to end up with a revolving door of entrepreneurs and businesses."

And near the top of Astoria's priority list, in Knight's view, should be the creation of more housing options, the scarcity of which touches all income levels, affecting six-figure earners and low-wage employees.

Meanwhile, part of Clatsop Community College's role, Breitmeyer said, is to respond to the needs of burgeoning businesses by training the workforce they require.

"What I would hope to see is, as we develop this economic plan and figure out what's next, that we would play a central role in being able to say, 'Yes, we can do that — we can train folks,'" he said.

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