

# THE DAILY ASTORIA

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ONE DOLLAR



## Couple accused of murder seek bail



Christian J. Wilkins



Adeena M. Copell

### Suspected in death of Newport man

By JACK HEFFERNAN  
*The Daily Astorian*

A Clatsop County couple accused of murdering a Newport man last fall may be released from prison before their trial.

Christian J. Wilkins 37, and

Adeena M. Copell, 40, allegedly killed Howard Daniel Vinge, 71, and dumped his body off U.S. Highway 30 about 3 miles east of Astoria. Vinge died from blunt force trauma to the back of his head, an autopsy later revealed.

The couple then allegedly stole Vinge's white 1993 Allegro Bay motor home with a dark maroon 1991 Lincoln Continental attached on a trailer.

They are being charged with murder, second-degree abuse of a corpse and two counts of unauthorized use of a vehicle. Copell is also facing a hindering prosecution charge.

#### Possible bail

Lawyers for the couple called for the hearing at arraignments in December. They are scheduled to appear in court Friday for a pretrial

release hearing. Circuit Court Judge Cindee Matyas will determine how much bail each defendant would need to post, if bail is set at all.

Matyas' ruling will be based on the strength of the state's case, though it does not necessarily indicate whether or not a conviction is likely, District Attorney Josh Marquis said.

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## Concern and collaboration



Luke Whittaker/EO Media Group

Left to right: Keynote speakers Kendall Sawa, CEO of Seaside Providence Hospital, and Erik Thorsen, CEO of Columbia Memorial Hospital, discussed the challenges, uncertainties and collaboration among area hospitals Wednesday night in Seaside.

### Area hospitals bind services, resources

By LUKE WHITTAKER  
*EO Media Group*

SEASIDE — Two Clatsop County health care heavyweights weighed in Wednesday night at the Seaside Civic and Convention Center. It wasn't a boxing match, instead it was an evening of celebration, collaboration and a little uncertainty at the fifth-annual Clatsop

Economic Development Resources business awards, where keynote speakers Erik Thorsen, CEO of Columbia Memorial Hospital, and Kendall Sawa, CEO of Providence Seaside Hospital, discussed the current state of affairs at their hospitals.

Rising health care costs and staffing struggles are among the chief concerns facing rural hospitals. Despite having 600 employees — the second most in Clatsop County — Thorsen is calling for more staff to address a growing need.

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Approximately 160 people representing various Clatsop County businesses attended the event held at the Seaside Civic and Convention Center on Wednesday night.

### 2017 CEDR AWARD WINNERS

**Entrepreneurship – Small Business:** The Wine Shack & Provisions 124 in Cannon Beach, Steven Sinkler, owner

**Outstanding Customer Service:** Hillcrest Inn in Seaside and Ruth Swenson, manager

**Visionary Award:** Astoria Coffee House and Bistro/Cargo/Carruthers, Jim DeFeo, owner.

**Business Service to the Community – Small Business:** Kathleen Deland Peterson of Seaside

**Technological Advancement:** Gustafson Logging of Astoria, Mark Gustafson, owner

**Business Service to the Community – Large Business:** Coaster Construction in Cannon Beach, John Nelson, general contractor

**Job Creation:** Pelican Pub and Brewery of Cannon Beach, Jim Prinzing, CEO

**Entrepreneurship – Large Business:** LEKTRO of Warrenton, Eric Paulson, owner

**Economic Impact:** Martin Hospitality of Cannon Beach, Ryan Snyder, CEO

## Warrenton wants Port's help with levee money

### Kujala hopeful about obtaining state funds

By EDWARD STRATTON  
*The Daily Astorian*

Warrenton is hoping the state will help fund a geotechnical study as part of the city's efforts to federally certify the levees separating the city from Youngs Bay and the Columbia River.

Warrenton Mayor Mark Kujala has asked for the Port of Astoria Commission's support on a piece of legislation that could provide \$10 million statewide for levee projects.

Kujala said he recently returned from Salem after testifying in favor of House Bill 5025, which would fund the Oregon Business Development Department, also known as Business Oregon, for the next biennium. He was also in Salem to stump for Senate Bill 5530, which would increase the amount of lottery bonds going to Business Oregon's Special Public Works Fund. The bill includes a \$10 million set-aside for levee projects statewide.

Warrenton has been trying to prove to the Federal Emergency Management Agency that the 80-year-old, 14-foot levees surrounding the city can protect from a 100-year flood event. Accreditation by FEMA means the properties behind the levees would no longer be considered in the flood plain, lowering flood insurance rates and easing restrictions on development.

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Mark Kujala



Edward Stratton/The Daily Astorian

Warrenton has been trying to get the levees separating the city from Youngs Bay and the Columbia River accredited by the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

## Clatsop County will take the Blue Sky challenge

### Money would go toward promoting area energy efforts

By JACK HEFFERNAN  
*The Daily Astorian*

Clatsop County will seek to become the second county in the nation to receive a designation from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for its promotion of renewable energy.

The Clatsop County Board of Commissioners voted unanimously to enroll in Pacific Power's program. As part of the company's Blue Sky Community Challenge, the county will pay an extra 10 percent on its monthly electric bill. That money will then go toward renew-



Cameron Moore



Dan Gaffney

able energy projects.

The county will spend an additional \$2,700 this year for the project.

Residents and businesses are also eligible for the program. If all of Clatsop County reaches 3 percent participation in the program by the end of the year, Pacific Power will fund a 1-Kilo-

watt solar generating station at a government building. The county's current participation sits at 2.85 percent.

Completion of these two goals would make the county eligible for a Green Power Partner designation from the EPA.

"I think that's a pretty powerful statement," County Manager Cameron Moore said.

In other business Wednesday, commissioners:

- Appointed Dan Gaffney to lead a feasibility study that will determine how to best fund a universal preschool program in the Clatsop and Tillamook counties.

The county received a \$350,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Education to study the feasibility of a pay-for-success model of funding,

along with other models. Gaffney will receive a \$90,000 contract and hire an assistant for \$30,000. Both salaries will be funded by the grant. Representatives from the local Way to Wellville will also work on the study. The pay-for-success model, if eventually approved, would involve an investor funding a preschool in the area. Money then saved by the county with more children attending preschool — fewer social or law enforcement issues, for instance — would be paid back with interest. Commissioners tabled the contract at a meeting two weeks ago, expressing concerns about preschool privatization and lack of familiarity with the study.

Wednesday's meeting continued to highlight commissioners' concerns,

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