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Subdivision in Warrenton faces challenge

A 15-lot project near Clear Lake

By KATIE FRANKOWICZ
The Astorian

WARRENTON — A 15-lot subdivision planned near Clear Lake faces a challenge.

Will Caplinger, a former planning manager for Clatsop County, has filed an appeal to the City Commission on behalf of Rod Gramson against the developer, Gramson's brother and former Warrenton mayor, Gil Gramson. The brothers have battled over land use and development issues before.

In his notice of appeal, Caplinger contends there are a number of issues with the project: potential damage to wetlands the city has deemed "locally significant;" impacts to wildlife on land Rod Gramson sold to the North Coast Land Conservancy; and determinations the Planning Commission made in approving the application that appear to run counter to the city's own rules and standards.

Property owners at the nearby Smith Lake subdivision have their own concerns if development goes forward at Clear Lake, including possible impacts on drainage. But they were located outside of the city's required notice area and did not participate in public hearings in front of the Planning Commission.

Representatives of the group met with Kevin Cronin, the city's community and economic development director, on Monday to discuss their concerns. Cronin does not expect Caplinger's appeal to reach the City Commission until mid-June, but if commissioners decide to open up a fresh

See Subdivision, Page A8

Woman accused of murder takes the stand

Blamed in death of Newport man

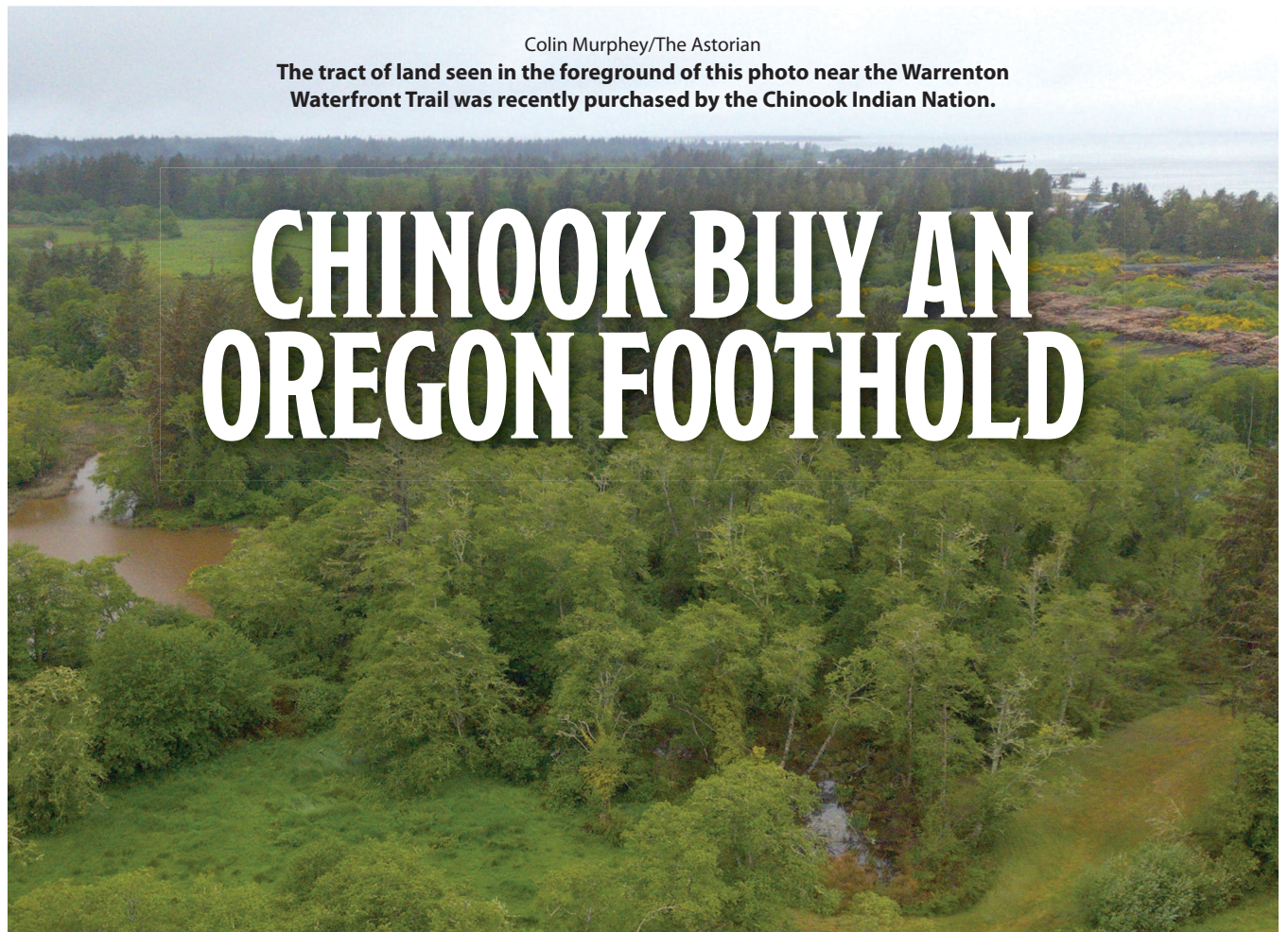
By EDWARD STRATTON
The Astorian

The defense attorney for Adeena Copell, the woman accused of helping her boyfriend kill a Newport man, painted her on Friday as a victim trapped between the killing of a friend and the love for his murderer.

Prosecutors, however, detailed her complicity and lack of initial effort to report the crime.

Copell faces charges of murder, second-degree abuse of a corpse and two counts of unauthorized use of a vehicle. Christian Wilkins, her boyfriend, pleaded guilty to the same charges earlier this month.

See Trial, Page A8



Colin Murphey/The Astorian

The tract of land seen in the foreground of this photo near the Warrenton Waterfront Trail was recently purchased by the Chinook Indian Nation.

CHINOOK BUY AN OREGON FOOTHOLD

Tribe has plans for property along Tansy Creek

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Astorian



Edward Stratton/The Astorian

Tony Johnson, chairman of the Chinook Indian Nation, sees the purchase of property near the mouth of Tansy Creek as one of the best chances to help keep his tribe's heritage alive.

HAMMOND — Chinook villages once flourished along the creeks running into the Columbia River. One village spread out along Tansy Creek near the foot of 13th Street along the Warrenton Waterfront Trail.

The Chinook Indian Nation, with the support of a local family, recently bought about 10 acres at the site, where they hope to create a cultural foothold for the largely disenfranchised tribe.

The heavily forested tract, home to elk, deer, otters, coyote, waterfowl and other wildlife, is divided between two lots arrayed around Tansy Creek. The village historically located there was one of many on prime land where Chinookan tribes — Clatsop, Cathlamet, Lower Chinook Wahkiakum and Willapa — were pushed off, said Tony Johnson, the chairman of the Chinook Indian Nation.

"The Clatsop folks covered this whole south shore of the Columbia, really, from around Astoria itself heading west, and then of course down the adjacent seashore all the way down to Tillamook Head, that country," Johnson said. "But all the main country people think about here in terms of Hammond, Gearhart, Seaside — that's all Clatsop territory."

The property near Tansy Point is near where, in the summer of 1851, members of all five Chinookan tribes gathered to negotiate with Anson Dart, the first superintendent of Indian Affairs for the Oregon Territory, to avoid relocation east of the Cascade Mountains. It is the only known instance when all tribal ancestors were gathered in one place, Johnson said.

See Chinook, Page A8



The Chinook Indian Nation is planning a cultural center near Tansy Point similar to the Cathlapotle Plankhouse the tribe built at Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge on the site of a former Chinookan village.

College board needs a couple of good people

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Astorian

As of Friday afternoon, nobody had announced their candidacy for the Clatsop Community College Board positions representing Warrenton and South County, leaving the spots likely to be chosen by appointment after Tuesday's election.

Outgoing board members Esther Moberg, of Seaside, and Tessa Scheller, of Warrenton, decided not to run. Both encouraged others to consider applying.

Moberg, the director of the Sea-

side Public Library who was appointed to Zone 3, Position 7 representing South County in 2015, said she was too stretched for time between a full-time job and all her other obligations. She is president of the Oregon Library Association and involved with the Oregon Complete Count Committee working on the census, along with numerous other state and Seaside committees.

"I feel like someone with a lot more time could do a lot more," she said.

Scheller, appointed to Zone 3, Position 6 representing Warrenton in 2010 and elected in 2011 and



Esther Moberg



Tessa Scheller

2015, said she had been hearing people's comments about term limits and thought it was time for someone else to contribute. During her time on the board, Scheller

has focused on supporting diversity and health on campus. She helped push for a tobacco-free campus and punch in a trail uphill to the Astoria Column.

Both candidates reached out to potential replacements, but couldn't find any takers. As of Friday, the county clerk's office had not heard from any candidates mounting a write-in campaign. The college is a rarity among many smaller sanitary, water and rural

fire protection districts that regularly have no candidates.

A write-in candidate would need at least half of all write-in votes to win. Many of the districts dependent on write-ins will end up appointing candidates after the election.

Both Scheller and Moberg admitted that the time commitment can scare many people away.

"I wouldn't discourage someone who works full-time from serving, but they need to understand the time commitment," Moberg said.

Andrea Mazzarella, appointed to the college board in January 2018 and running for election against former college board member Sara Meyer, commented at a recent candidate forum on her hesitancy to contribute, having not taken the tra-

ELECTION DAY

While it is too late for mail, voters can drop off their ballots at 820 Exchange St. until 8 p.m. on Tuesday. A full list of locations is available online at bit.ly/2W5seI5

ditional academic route or earned a degree. But other board members assured Mazzarella of the value of her contributions, she said.

Anyone who's tried to enrich their professional or personal lives at the college knows what it's about, Moberg said.

"I hope there isn't any sense of elitism, like you need a college education," Scheller said. "I would think that being a board member requires that they care about their community and care about the college. There's no degree in caring that I know of. It's not over anybody's head, really."



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