

IN BRIEF

Teenage sex abuse suspect arraigned on additional charges

A teenager who was arrested in October on charges of sexual abuse in the Forest Rim neighborhood in Warrenton was arraigned Monday on additional charges.

The 15-year-old male suspect was arraigned in November after allegedly sexually abusing three children who live in the neighborhood. Since then, investigators have identified two more victims and the suspect was arraigned on additional charges.

People who have information are asked to contact Detective Tyler Johnston at the Warrenton Police Department at tjohnston@ci.warrenton.or.us or call him at 503-325-8661.

Mail thefts reported in Astoria

Several mailboxes were reportedly broken into on Friday and Saturday in the area of Lyngstad Heights Lane, Jefferson Lane and Orchard Lane in Astoria.

People with any information about the mail thefts are urged to call Sgt. Bruce Scott at the Clatsop County Sheriff’s Office at 503-325-8635, extension 2442, or email him at bscott@co.clatsop.or.us.



Astoria Co+op
The new Astoria Co+op is scheduled to open at 10 a.m. on Wednesday.

New Astoria Co+op opens Wednesday

The Astoria Co+op will close Monday and Tuesday in advance of a grand opening at the new location on 23rd Street and Marine Drive at 10 a.m. on Wednesday.

The new 12,000-square-foot building is four times larger than the current co-op at 14th and Exchange streets. The co-op is holding a moving sale to liquidate inventory.

“Shoppers with any dietary restriction or preference will be able to find something they love,” Matt Stanley, the co-op’s general manager, said in a news release. “My busy family will be trusting the organic produce and quality meats we use in the deli when making dinner can’t happen.”

— The Astorian

DEATHS

Dec. 1, 2019 ADAMS, Gertrude, 86, of Seaside, died in Seaside. Hughes-Ransom Mortuary is in charge of the arrangements.	Nov. 27, 2019 WOLFGGRAM, Gordon L., 90, of Beaverton, former longtime Astoria resident, died in Portland. Springer & Sons was in charge of the cremation arrangements.
---	--

MEMORIALS

Dec. 7, 2019
COMINS, Yvonne Starr — Celebration of life at noon, First United Methodist Church, 1076 Franklin Ave.

ON THE RECORD

Assault

- Patricia Marie Hill, 32, of Seaside, was indicted Tuesday on two counts of assault in the third degree, fleeing or attempting to elude a police officer, two counts of recklessly endangering another person, reckless driving, resisting arrest and criminal mischief in the second degree. Hill was arrested on Nov. 25.

Unlawful entry

- Eric Hunter, 37, of Astoria, was arrested Monday near Maritime Memorial Park in Astoria for attempted unlawful entry into a motor vehicle.

Weapons, unlawful entry

- Timothy Matthew Littlefield, 43, of Elma, Washington, was arrested Tuesday on Basin Street and W. Marine Drive for felon in possession of a restricted weapon, unlawful entry into a motor vehicle, unauthorized use of a motor vehicle and carrying a concealed weapon.

DUI

- Karma Dianne Smith, 47, of Seaside, was arrested Tuesday on U.S. Highway 26 and Crowder Road for driving under the influence of intoxicants. Her blood alcohol content was 0.16%. Police say when attempting to turn left into her driveway, Smith missed and her vehicle fell into an embankment. The car landed on the passenger side and she was able to get out without injury.

- Robert Leeling, 47, of Ridgefield, Washington, was arrested Monday on the 1500 block of Whispering Pines Drive in Seaside for driving under the influence of intoxicants.

PUBLIC MEETINGS

THURSDAY Sunset Empire Transportation District Board, 9 a.m., Astoria Transit Center, 900 Marine Drive.	Seaside Parks Advisory Committee, 6 p.m., City Hall, 989 Broadway.
---	---

Oregon releases draft plan for managing westside forests

Plan includes Clatsop State Forest

By CASSANDRA PROFITA
Oregon Public Broadcasting

The Oregon Department of Forestry has released a draft of a new management plan for hundreds of thousands of acres of state forestland on the west side of the state.

The Western Oregon State Forest Management Plan is the state’s guide to achieving the “greatest permanent value” from its forests, as required by law. It aims to balance the economic, environmental and social benefits of 613,000 acres of state forestland that includes the Tillamook, Clatsop and Santiam state forests.

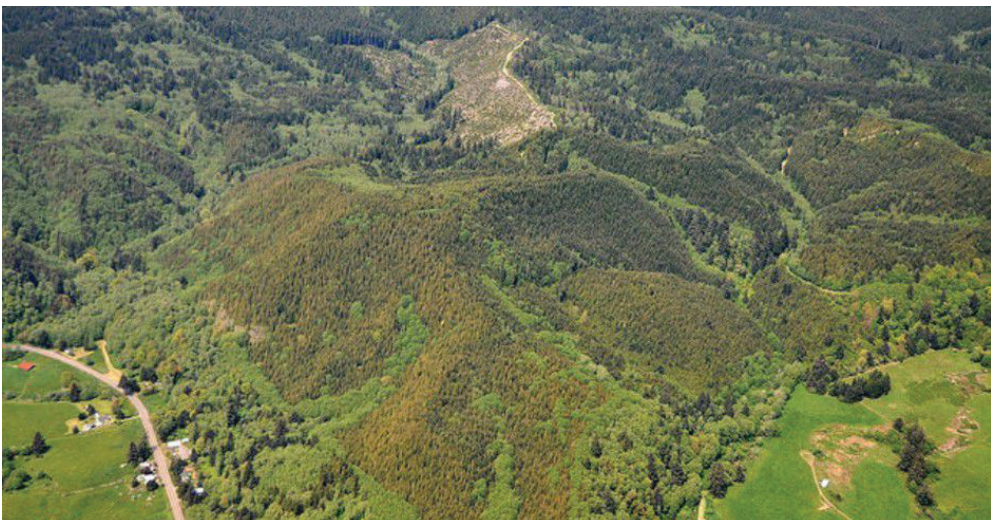
Finding the right balance of logging and environmental protection on these lands has been an ongoing struggle. Environmental groups have sued the state for allowing too much logging at the expense of threatened and endangered species, while counties that share the logging revenue have also sued the state for not logging enough.

A jury recently awarded the counties more than \$1 billion for the state’s failure to generate enough logging revenue on its forestlands. Clatsop County opted out of the lawsuit, but several taxing districts within the county are part of the litigation.

According to the draft plan, Tillamook and Clatsop state forests have little older forests compared to the other counties involved in the suit. The Department of Forestry says that is largely due to extensive fires and logging that occurred before the counties deeded the land to the state.

Although there have been large improvements in habitat diversity and quality, the plan says restoration, rehabilitation and enhancement need to continue.

Meanwhile, the agency



Oregon State University
Aerial surveys show the fungal disease Swiss needle cast is now infecting more than four times the forestland it did 20 years ago.

itself also depends on logging revenue and faces cutbacks when that revenue declines.

The agency has been working to revise the existing plan off and on since 2013.

The draft released this week includes plans to minimize the impacts of climate change on the forests and address lingering problems with Swiss needle cast and soil quality in the Tillamook State Forest. It changes the state’s goals, strategies and measurable outcomes for timber harvest, wildlife habitat and recreation, but critics say it’s unclear whether key targets for logging and for conservation have moved up or down.

Nearly all of the measurable outcomes listed in the plan call for the state to minimize some things, such as agency spending on logging and the impacts of climate change; or they call for the state to maximize other things, like stream habitat conditions and the availability of trees for future cutting so they can be milled into lumber and other wood products.

Oregon Department of Forestry spokesperson Jason Cox said the revised plan is not expected to result in increased logging.

“It has some different strategies to try to achieve the balance of economic,

social and environmental outcomes that we seek to provide in the state forests,” he said. “I wouldn’t say it is going to materially increase timber harvest levels.”

Bob Van Dyk, with the Wild Salmon Center environmental group, said the revised plan removes key targets from the current plan, such as the goal of growing 30% to 50% of the forestland into complex stands with older trees that provide valuable habitat for threatened and endangered species.

“We’re extremely concerned about the plan,” Van Dyk said. “The plan has removed the hard conservation targets for older forests and stream strategies, and it’s replaced them with broad, vague statements about possible outcomes that the department will decide on its own.”

In a statement on the plan, the Department of Forestry said the draft “encourages durable, longer-term conservation areas in state forests with a goal of 30% of the forest having a variety of plant species and ages present.”

Cox said the state expects to get a wide range of comments on the revised plan.

“Oregon is an ideologically diverse state and people have strong opinions and values about forest management and what a forest

should provide,” he said. “It takes hearing from a lot of Oregonians with a lot of opinions to make sure we’re getting that balance as close to right as we can.”

The state’s current and revised plan both follow a take avoidance strategy to avoid impacts to threatened and endangered species while logging parts of the forest.

The Department of Forestry will be taking public comments on the draft through January. The Oregon Board of Forestry is scheduled to consider the revised plan next fall alongside an alternative idea for protecting endangered species while allowing for logging on state forests.

A habitat conservation plan requires federal approval and allows for some impacts to threatened and endangered species while protecting the state from lawsuits.

Van Dyk said his group supports the idea of a habitat conservation plan to guide forest management instead of a revised version of the Western Oregon State Forest Management Plan.

“I think if the state does pursue a habitat conservation plan, this plan will largely get set aside,” Van Dyk said.

Nicole Bales of The Astorian contributed to this report.

Willapa Behavioral Health to buy Klean center

By ALYSSA EVANS
Chinook Observer

LONG BEACH, Wash. — The abandoned Klean center may soon get a second chance.

Willapa Behavioral Health is planning to purchase the former drug and alcohol treatment center on Pioneer Road. If the purchase works out, the agency will open a 54-bed residential treatment facility by fall 2020.

“Our commitment is no less than 15 years,” said Adam Marquis, Willapa Behavioral Health’s chief executive officer. “This is something that’s going to be a stable aspect to this community. That’s what it needs to be.”

The agency dubbed its purchase plan, “The Last Resort Project.”

“Our goal is to do a one-stop, one-shop,” Marquis said. “It’s not some draconian or really dark message. It’s the fact that we want this to be the last place they have to go.”

Willapa Behavioral Health recently applied for over \$3 million in grants from the Washington State Department of Commerce for the building purchase.

However, Marquis said the agency has budgeted money for the project and has also raised about \$2,500 through an online fundraiser.

The agency will learn in late December whether it will be awarded the state funds.

In the meantime, Willapa Behavioral Health is completing feasibility and finance studies to ensure the purchase is doable.

“The risk tolerance is high



Alyssa Evans/Chinook Observer
The Klean drug and alcohol treatment center, which was abandoned last December, may get a new life as a residential treatment facility.

but we have to make sure we can mitigate it by these different checkpoints,” Marquis said.

The agency will know by February whether it will move forward with the purchase.

“We have competition in this area. This is not about trying to be bigger and better than our competition,” said Salina Mecham, a Willapa Behavioral Health therapist. “This is about us showing up for the fight against substance use and mental health issues ... There’s such a need.”

Klean closed abruptly in December 2018, leaving patients and employees on their own. Long Beach’s Klean location was one of many closed along the West Coast after the chain’s owners went through financial

trouble.

Since Klean closure, the facility in Long Beach has sat abandoned.

Unlike Klean, which focused solely on substance abuse treatment, the Willapa Behavioral Health facility would add services for mental health treatment, crisis stabilization and neuroscience.

“For wanting the whole spectrum of care, they’re all such important pieces but standing alone, they’re not nearly as effective as when you put them all together,” Mecham said.

All of the new center’s services would be trauma-focused.

“There’s a lot of generational trauma and substance abuse that happens in this community,” said MaryAnne Murray, a Willapa Behavioral Health nurse

practitioner.

The agency also plans on offering services for family and friends of individuals struggling with substance use disorders.

The center would also include a 16-bed detox and withdrawal management wing. Residents would be separated by gender.

“Our eventual goal is to get sober housing stood up so that we can help people step down into that level of care,” Marquis said.

Willapa Behavioral Health plans to hire at least 25 more employees to staff the center 24/7. “This organization will be one of the biggest employers in the county,” Marquis said.

Marquis expects the center will serve local residents, as well as others in Washington state and Oregon.

the Astorian

Established July 1, 1873 (USPS 035-000) Published Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday by EO Media Group, 949 Exchange St., PO Box 210, Astoria, OR 97103 Telephone 503-325-3211, 800-781-3211 or Fax 503-325-6573. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Astorian, PO Box 210, Astoria, OR 97103-0210	Circulation phone number: 503-325-3211 Periodicals postage paid at Astoria, OR ADVERTISING OWNERSHIP All advertising copy and illustrations prepared by The Astorian become the property of The Astorian and may not be reproduced for any use without explicit prior approval. COPYRIGHT © Entire contents © Copyright, 2019 by The Astorian. Printed on recycled paper
DailyAstorian.com MEMBER OF THE ASSOCIATED PRESS MEMBER CERTIFIED AUDIT OF CIRCULATIONS, INC.	
Subscription rates Effective May 1, 2019 MAIL (IN COUNTY)	
EZpay (per month).....	\$11.25
13 weeks in advance.....	\$37.00
26 weeks in advance.....	\$71.00
52 weeks in advance.....	\$135.00
Out of County Rates available at 800-781-3214	
DIGITAL	
EZpay (per month).....	\$8.00