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## North Coast Land Conservancy purchases Rainforest Reserve



Hailey Hoffman/The Astorian

Sunrise breaks on steep peaks in the new Rainforest Reserve above Arch Cape and Oswald West State Park.

### Reserve creates an uninterrupted conservation corridor

By KATIE FRANKOWICZ  
*The Astorian*

**T**he North Coast Land Conservancy has taken ownership of an iconic coastal rainforest above Arch Cape and Oswald West State Park.

The purchase of the 3,500-acre property — previously industrial timberland — comes at a time when a number of North Coast communities are looking at ways to protect their drinking water sources. The Rainforest Reserve includes headwater streams for five watersheds and supplies drinking water to Cannon Beach and Arch Cape. Some plants and animals at home in the

towering peaks that visually define the reserve for local communities are found nowhere else on Earth.

When combined with other neighboring protected or soon-to-be protected lands, the reserve creates an uninterrupted 32-square-mile conservation corridor that runs from the Onion and Angora peaks above Cannon Beach and Arch Cape to the nearshore ocean off Short Sand Beach in popular Oswald West State Park.

U.S. Rep Suzanne Bonamici called the purchase a “remarkable accomplishment that will significantly benefit our region in many ways.”

“As we address the climate crisis, strategic, community-driven conservation efforts like

this project can help mitigate the most serious risks to plants, fish and wildlife while preserving the ecosystems we cherish for future generations,” the Oregon Democrat said in a statement.

Ecotrust Forest Management bought the 5,000 forested acres known as Onion Peak Holdings from Stimson Lumber Co. in 2016. That same year, the for-profit subsidiary of Ecotrust entered into an agreement with the North Coast Land Conservancy to hold 3,500 acres of the property until the nonprofit could purchase the land.

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### SEASIDE

## Murderer seeks clemency

Shooting in 1997 happened on the beach

By R.J. MARX  
*The Astorian*

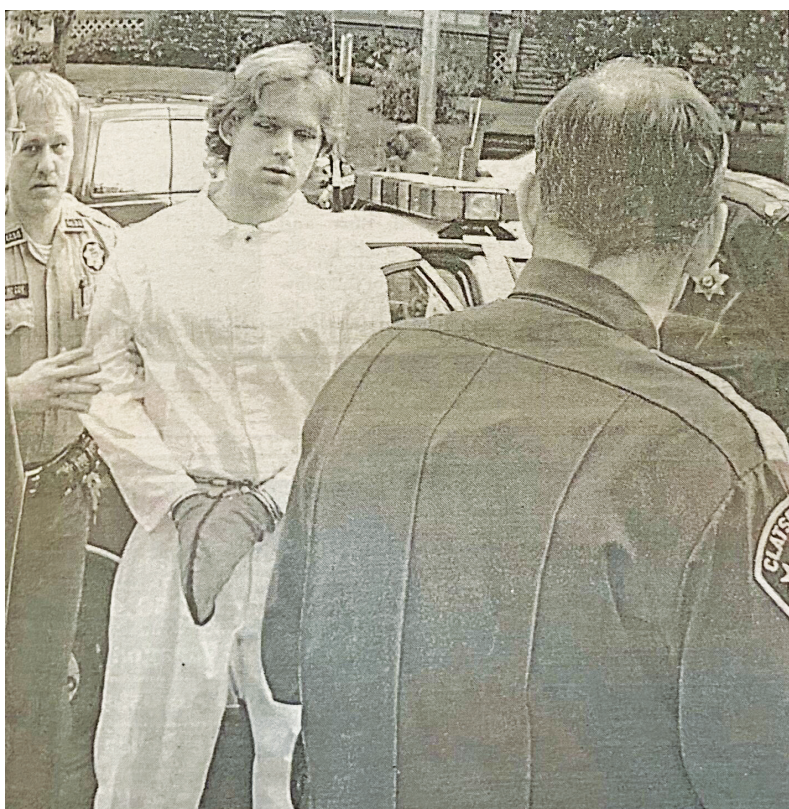
SEASIDE — In July 1997, Jesse McAllister and Bradley Price killed two people in what was described as “thrill killings” on the beach.

Frank “Kacy” Nimz, 36, was a commercial fisherman and landscaper. Gabriella “Brooke” Goza, 26, an artist, was the daughter of a prominent local family and the mother of a young child.

Now, Christian Eickelberg, an attorney, has asked Gov. Kate Brown to convert McAllister’s sentence to life with the possibility of parole so McAllister can petition the parole board and show he is capable of rehabilitation.

The petition for clemency, Eickelberg writes, “strives to tell Jesse’s life story, including what he remembers happening before, during and after his crimes, and how he has transformed into the man he is today.”

Tashae Nimz, Frank Nimz’s



Seaside Signal

Jesse McAllister in Clatsop County after being apprehended crossing the U.S.-Mexico border in 1999.

daughter, was 13 at the time of the sentencing in 1999.

She said McAllister’s request for clemency came out of left field.

“As I read through this several times, looking and searching

for any inclination of remorse or empathy towards the family, and not just from Jesse’s part but on all of his family members and friends

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## Hood to Coast polishes message

Approaching the last year of a contract with Seaside

By R.J. MARX  
*The Astorian*

SEASIDE — City Manager Mark Winstanley was at a country inn in Tuscany when he met a family from Oregon who had run Hood to Coast.

“Even when you’re on vacation, you can run into people who have been to the same event you have been to two weeks ago. It’s really pretty amazing, the impact that Hood to Coast has around the world,” he said of his encounter in Italy. “We’re pretty lucky to have it here.”

City Councilor Tita Montero said she had a similar experience while traveling in London.

Closer to home, though, the annual relay has a bit of an image problem. Several residents took to social media after the event returned from a pandemic hiatus in August to complain about rude runners and a lack of coronavirus protocols.

At a City Council meeting on Monday, Dan Floyd, Hood to Coast’s chief operating officer, presented a check for almost \$29,000 to the city from the

event. In a typical year, the relay earns almost \$1 million for the Providence Cancer Institute.

“We had another great year,” Floyd said. “I do want to acknowledge we need to get better every year, to make sure we remain welcoming visitors to the community.”

The 198-mile relay from Mount Hood to the Prom brought thousands of people to the coast.

Before the City Council meeting, Hood to Coast CEO Jude Huber met with city staff. Social media was the No. 1 concern for Montero.

“I paid a lot of attention to what was going on on Facebook,” she said. “And there were some very awful people saying very awful things. And one of my policies is, ‘Don’t tell me something’s happening if you didn’t see it happen.’”

Montero suggested greater marketing efforts from Hood to Coast and making it easier for the public to register complaints with race officials, possibly via a Quick Response code with a weblink to relay officials, or signage on vans.

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