

Assistance for the helpers



Photo by Jeanne Smith/Spruce Up Warrenton

Spruce Up Warrenton received some help last week from the Pacific Northwest Chief Warrant and Warrant Officer Association. The group presented a check for \$3,500 to the nonprofit grassroots group, which is focused on improving the downtowns of Warrenton and Hammond. Pictured are, left to right, association President Dean Johnston, Vice President Barbie Ogo, Treasurer Kevin Joseph, and Spruce Up members Lucinda Davis, Brenda Hoxsey, Ken Davis, Mike Moha and Rick Newton.

Conviction upheld for couple who killed Newport man

The Oregon Court of Appeals on Feb. 16 affirmed the conviction of a couple accused of killing a man and dumping his body on the side of Highway 30.

Adeena M. Copell, 43, and Christian J. Wilkins, 40, were convicted following her 2019 jury trial in Clatsop County Circuit Court for murder, second-degree abuse of a corpse, and auto theft. She was found guilty during the



Copell



Wilkins

trial; he pleaded guilty to the charges after the trial.

In 2016, the couple befriended 71-year-old Howard "Dan" Vinge of Newport, killed him

inside his recreational vehicle, dumped his body on Highway 30 in the Fern Hill area and his RV on Highway 26, then drove the victim's Lincoln Continental to Arizona. They were arrested driving the car near Flagstaff on Oct. 5.

Both Coppell and Wilkins were sentenced to life in prison.



Vinge

WHS sends 11 wrestlers to state tournament

Warrenton High School's wrestling teams have wrapped up the season, finishing 6-1.

The team won the unofficial league dual title, which put it in good position for the district tournament at Yamhill-Carlton on Feb. 19.

"Our league is tough as usual, with eight total teams and five of the top 10 in the state," Coach Corey Conant said. "We won the district tournament for the second

year in a row."

Senior Jorge Lopez pinned last year's state finalist, earning a spot in the finals and a second trip to state. Junior Raul Molina came from behind in the third period to pin a three-time qualifier in the third-place match.

Eleven students qualified for state: Grace Thoma, Brayden Greenawald, Austin Atwood, Jorge Lopez, Raul Molina, Parker Greenawald,

Max Smith, Alex Tapia, James Mickelson, Josh Smith, and Kaison Smith.

The girls state tournament was on Thursday, Feb. 24, at Culver High School. The boys state tournament is Saturday, Feb. 26, at La Pine High School.

Conant was named district coach of the year along with coaches Lennie Wolfe, Trent Klebe, Mallory Volner, and Steve Stratton.

Deadline nears for May 17 election

The Columbia Press

As the deadline to file for a seat on the County Commission nears, the Clerk & Elections Office announced a change in voter precincts.

Three of the five seats on the Clatsop County Commission will be decided by voters in the May 17 election. Measures to raise funds for fire equipment in Warrenton and a new fire station in Gearhart also will be on the ballot.

Open are the County Commission seats held by Mark Kujala in District One, which serves most of Warrenton; Pamela Wev in District Three, which serves most of the city of Astoria; and Lianne Thompson in District Five, which serves Cannon Beach, the southern half of Seaside and all the unincorporated parts of the south county.

All three incumbents have filed for re-election. The deadline to file to run against the incumbents is 5 p.m. March 8.

Meanwhile, the Elections Office has changed the numbering of the voter precincts in Clatsop County.

Following last month's approval of the district boundaries by the County Commission, county staff worked to update mapping and other databases to reflect the new boundaries and numbering. Changes were necessary based on Census data.

Among the changes:

- Precincts are now numbered 101 through 125.
- Precincts were changed to follow the new commissioner boundaries where appropriate.

The new precincts can be viewed on the county's online Webmaps app with the "Precinct" layer selected.

Voters will receive new voter notification cards in the mail around the beginning of March. The card will have the new precinct number and commissioner district number for the voters' registered residence.

Filing for precinct committee persons also will be accepted until March 8 for the new precincts. The filing forms are available from party chairs or on the county's election page.

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