

Man sentenced for downtown knife fight



James Edward Hahn

By **KYLE SPURR**
The Daily Astorian

The man who sliced another man with a knife on 11th and Commercial streets in downtown Astoria in March was sentenced Friday to nearly six years in prison.

James Edward Hahn, 38, Seaside, was found guilty of

second-degree assault and not guilty of first-degree robbery after a two-day trial in December.

Prosecutor Dawn Buzzard said the second-degree assault conviction comes with a mandatory sentence of 70 months in prison. The sentence was set at a hearing Friday in Clatsop County Circuit Court.

Hahn's defense attempt-

ed to challenge the mandatory sentence, but was declined by Judge Cindee Matyas.

"In this case, the victim has his finger permanently damaged," Buzzard said. "The testimony from witnesses was Mr. Hahn was going after the victim. It was not just some accidental cut, according to the witnesses."

Astoria Police responded to a report of a fight involving a knife on March 1. The victim, Kenneth McGregor, 40 at the time, was found with a cut to his hand. McGregor, who was transported to Columbia Memorial Hospital for his injuries, told police Hahn was responsible for the wound.

Hahn approached McGre-

gor and reportedly demanded money that McGregor owed. He then cut the man. The incident occurred in front of Silver Salmon, where there were several witnesses.

Hahn's defense claimed he had mental problems and was too drunk to know what he was doing. He blew a 0.20 blood alcohol content after the incident.

Another sea turtle stranded on Long Beach Peninsula

Cold sea turtle treated at Seaside Aquarium

SEASIDE (AP) — Another sea turtle that washed ashore on the Long Beach (Wash.) Peninsula is being treated at the Seaside Aquarium.

The turtle was found Friday and stabilized at the aquarium.

It will be taken to the Seattle Aquarium for rehabilitation.

The first turtle was found Dec. 21 on the coast of southwest Washington and is recovering at the Oregon Coast Aquarium in Newport.

Some officials believe currents and winds are carrying turtles into the cold Northwest waters.



Courtesy of Tiffany Boothe

The strong south, southwesterly winds drive warm currents farther north; sea turtles often follow these warm water currents and when they dissipate, the sea turtles find themselves in water that is too cold for them. They get hypothermic and end up on the beach.

Video of pursuit training in Texas wins Coast Guard honor

Snapshot of guard life was finalist

The Daily Astorian

A video of high-speed pursuit training in Texas won the Coast Guard's video of the year competition.

A time-lapse video of guard life in the Columbia-Pacific was one of the top 10 contenders.

The winning video, announced by the Coast Guard on Monday, depicted tactical law enforcement training in Texas.

Second place went to a video of a leatherback turtle rescue by Station Cape May in New Jersey.

Third place was awarded to a video of a rescue by Station Bellingham in Washington of two men whose canoe had overturned.

Watch the winning videos: <http://1.usa.gov/1zOGV2A>

Recology plans to pick up Christmas trees Jan. 13

Recology Western Oregon holds its annual one-day Christmas tree recycling pickup for residents within the city limits of Astoria Jan. 13, at no extra charge.

Trees must be at the closest street corner by 7 a.m. and meet the following criteria: be free of flocking and all decorations;

and trees that are over 5 feet in height, or have trunks with a diameter over 5 inches, must be cut up into smaller pieces.

For details, or other tree disposal and recycling options, contact Recology Western Oregon at 503-861-0578 or toll free at 866-908-1183, or email RWInfo@recology.com

Engineering firm selected for FEMA flood map review

By **KYLE SPURR**
The Daily Astorian

The three local entities hoping to challenge a recent Federal Emergency Management Agency flood study have hired the engineering firm, Coast and Harbor Engineering from Edmonds, Wash.

Coast and Harbor Engineering, a division of the national firm Hatch Mott MacDonald, was the lone bidder for the project to review 1.3 terabytes of disputed FEMA flood data.

The engineering firm was hired for \$19,400, which will be split between the cities of Warrenton and Astoria and Clatsop County.

The Port of Astoria has shown interest in joining the other entities and is looking at grant funding to help with the cost. The

Port may join at a later stage. The lead engineer from Coast and Harbor will be Dr. Vladimir Shepsis, who was suggested by other cities.

"Vladimir has been recommended by several other municipalities that had him work for them," Warrenton Mayor Mark Kujala said. "He is one of the few that know how to unravel the years and years of data FEMA used in the modeling."

Warrenton — the lead agency — discovered a difference in findings last year between FEMA's mapping of Columbia River flood levels and the city's own engineering study.

FEMA completed its new flood study along the coastline and in the Columbia River estuary to develop new flood insurance rate maps. Preliminary maps

will be released in the spring. Each local jurisdiction has concerns with the data in FEMA's study.

FEMA's mapping includes a data point that the local governments consider an anomaly, since it would raise the base flood elevation from 12 feet to 13 feet along the Columbia River and in unincorporated areas along Youngs Bay, Youngs River and the Lewis and Clark River.

Kujala said his city was never able to get a straight answer from FEMA about the 1-foot difference until recently when the agency submitted piles of data that could fill multiple filing cabinets.

Coast and Harbor has previously done work along the Columbia River and has worked with FEMA. The engineering firm will help the

local entities interpret FEMA's data.

The expert review will help the local entities decide what action to take such as filing an appeal, once FEMA issues its preliminary maps in the spring.

"Dr. Shepsis will review the information and also prepare us. He will tell us if there are flaws or not and prepare us to go forward if we have to take action," Warrenton City Manager Kurt Fritsch said.

The local entities have a tentatively scheduled meeting with FEMA in early February, when the expert review is expected to be complete.

"There is a date set in the first week of February that could be moved back," Fritsch said. "That is our estimate for a deliverable response from our consultant."

Highway 101 takes a bath

After the heavy North Coast rains that lasted late Sunday through early Monday, more than 4 inches of rain accumulated on U.S. Highway 101, two miles south of Seaside, which is "really good" compared to past flooding events on that stretch of highway, Oregon Department of Transportation Public Information Officer Lou Torres said.

"We had an awful lot of water in a short period of time," Seaside Public Works Director Neal Wallace said.

ODOT's flood mitigation project, completed in summer 2013, "has been really preventing the situation from getting a lot worse," he said. The project involved removing earthen berms on wetland property owned by the North Coast Land Conservancy adjacent to the highway. This allowed allowing water to move into its natural area and disperse more easily rather than concentrate much of it onto the highway.

The department knew from the very beginning that, once finished, the project "wouldn't totally eliminate high water there," especially in cases where heavy rains and high tides coincide, Torres said. But the project has reduced the severity and frequency of the flooding.

Instead of 5 to 6 inches of water on the road, it could have been 15 to 20 inches of standing water absent the project, and ODOT would have had to close the highway. Since the project was finished, there have been no flood-related closures on Highway 101, he said.

ODOT is "pleased with how

the project worked out," he said. "It lessened the impact (of the flooding), so that's good," Wallace said.

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The North Coast Chapter of ABATE of Oregon, Inc. sincerely wishes to thank the following contributors and supporters of our 2014 events. Your generous support will result in providing assistance in 2015 for the local food banks supporting families in Clatsop County that need the assistance to put food on the table. We so greatly appreciate your caring support!!

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NORTH COAST CHAPTER

HAPPY 100TH
— birthday to —
Marie Petrina Henderson!
(maiden name, Gjovik)

Born in Astoria, January 6th 1915 to Peter and Margreth Gjovik. Raised in Astoria with brothers Walt, Olaf, Henry and Harold Gjovik. Marie is an Astoria High graduate of 1932. She lives with her son and daughter-in-law in Clackamas, OR. She has two granddaughters with one living in SW Portland and the other in Austin, TX.

