

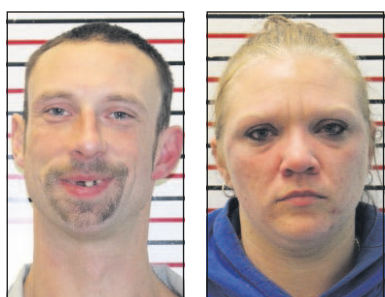
Miles Crossing burglars sentenced

By KYLE SPURR
The Daily Astorian

The burglar held at gunpoint by a homeowner in the Miles Crossing area south of Astoria in December was sentenced Monday to nearly two years in prison.

Joseph Lee Cozart, 34, Seaside, was sentenced to 21 months in prison during a hearing Monday in Clatsop County Circuit Court. On Jan. 16., Cozart pleaded guilty to first-degree burglary, felon in possession of a firearm and first-degree theft.

When the Miles Crossing homeowner entered his home Dec. 3, he was confronted by Cozart, who



Joseph Lee Cozart

Tamara Denise Painter

was leaving with a box full of stolen items, according to the Clatsop County Sheriff's Office.

The homeowner, who grabbed his firearm from his car, legally de-

tained Cozart at gunpoint, contacted the Sheriff's Office and held Cozart there until deputies arrived about three minutes later, the Sheriff's Office said.

Deputies found multiple stolen items from the residence, including two firearms and a big screen TV.

Cozart was out on a conditional release from another second-degree burglary charge from July, when he was arrested and booked for the Dec. 3 burglary.

Prosecutor Scott McCracken said Cozart's previous burglary charge, involving a stolen chain saw, is what elevated his criminal history to the level of prison time rather than jail time.

"The Burglary 2 is what made him a repeat property offender," McCracken said.

An 18-month probation sentence for the second-degree burglary was revoked as part of his 21-month prison sentence for the new charges.

Tamara Denise Painter, 29, Seaside, who was arrested along with Cozart during the Miles Crossing burglary was sentenced to 30 days in jail and 18 months probation on Jan. 31.

She pleaded guilty to first-degree theft and methamphetamine possession.

Before encountering Cozart, the Miles Crossing homeowner first saw

Painter in a van in his rural driveway. She quickly drove off, when contacted by the homeowner.

While Cozart was held at gunpoint, Painter passed through the area in her red van and was stopped by an OSP trooper who recognized the van from the homeowner's description.

Painter had two young children in the van with her, one child was 2 years old and the other child was 3, according to the Sheriff's Office.

A DHS Children's Services caseworker responded to the scene to assist with the children, who were removed and eventually given to a grandparent.

Clatsop enterprise zone would offer tax breaks for new investment

County, Astoria, Warrenton, and the Port could sponsor

By DERRICK DePLEDGE
The Daily Astorian

A Clatsop enterprise zone could lure new business investment with property tax breaks.

Scott Somers, the Clatsop County manager, is asking Astoria, Warrenton and the Port of Astoria to partner with the county on the idea as an incentive to attract industry and create jobs.

The enterprise zone, which would not amend local land use and permitting requirements, could cover Astoria's downtown corridor, the Port, Tongue Point, the North Coast Business Park and other parcels in Warrenton.

Businesses could receive property tax breaks on new plants and equipment for three to five years. The businesses would have to meet minimum employment levels and other conditions in return for the tax exemptions.

"It's really meant to be another tool in the toolbox to create investment, to hopefully create jobs," Somers told the Astoria City Council during a presentation Monday night.

Councilor Cindy Price questioned whether enterprise zones are effective beyond helping large existing businesses that are looking to expand.

She cited the Georgia-Pacific Wauna Mill, which had received property tax breaks for a new paper machine through an enterprise zone, was later disqualified for not meeting minimum employment requirements, and then challenged the mill's property tax assessments. The dispute ended in a \$2.5 million settlement with Clatsop County and other taxing districts in 2012.

Price said she would not want to give up property tax revenue "unless it can really be shown that it's going to do us great benefit."

Somers said Astoria could choose not to co-sponsor the initiative. "Clatsop County and the city of Warrenton and the Port can still move forward with that," he said. "It's up to the city. The city doesn't have to participate in this if it doesn't want to."

A public meeting on the enterprise zone with local taxing districts is scheduled for late February. Resolutions could be up for consideration by Astoria, the Port, the Clatsop County Board of

Commissioners and Warrenton in March.

An enterprise zone application is due with the Oregon Business Development Department in April.

In other action

At the Astoria City Council Monday night, councilors authorized the city to ask the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality to extend the completion date for the city's sewer improvement project to 2028.

The \$40 million to \$50 million project, which will enable the city to meet state and federal mandates to reduce raw sewage overflow during heavy rainfall, is now scheduled to end in 2022. Astoria Public Works staff does not believe the city can achieve the existing time line.

City Manager Brett Estes said the six-year extension may allow the city to lower a surcharge on water and sewer customers that helps finance the project.

The City Council chose to accept an agreement between the city and the International Association of Fire Fighters Local 696 for two cost-of-living adjustments. Firefighters will receive a 3 percent pay raise retroactive to last July and a 2.25 percent raise retroactive to January.

Councilors also agreed to adjust the salary range for the deputy fire chief who, because of the pay raises for firefighters, would have made less than a fire lieutenant.

The adjustment sets a 7 percent pay differential between the deputy fire chief and a fire lieutenant and a 7 percent pay differential between the deputy fire chief and the fire chief. The pay differential between the deputy fire chief and the fire chief had been 16 percent.

A similar pay adjustment was made last year for the Police Department.

The council also approved a new three-year contract between the city and the Chauffeurs, Teamsters and Helpers Local 58 that includes 2.5 percent annual pay raises retroactive to last July.

The deal switches health insurance coverage to a Teamster health plan — workers have been covered through City County Insurance Services — and creates HRA Voluntary Employees' Beneficiary Association accounts that offer tax-free benefits.

The City Council also adopted a new wage and salary schedule that places the parks and recreation director in the same salary range as the Public Works director and the finance director, which will give the parks director a pay raise.

Chinese principal visits Astoria

Zhang Yonghe, principal of the Xi'an University of Science and Technology Affiliated Middle School in China's Shaanxi Province, recently visited the Clatsop Community College's Marine and Environmental Research and Training Station (MERTS) campus to learn about workforce training programs.

Yonghe toured the college's Fire Response and Research Center, observing an ongoing class of high school students. He was also able to see the college's new Electronic Chart Display and Information System (ECDIS) for navigation in operation on its vessel the Forerunner.

Rainier School District Superintendent Michael Carter hosted Yonghe as part of a two-week cultural exchange that brought 12 Chinese school administrators to Oregon. While spending the day in Astoria, Yonghe and Carter also toured the Astoria Column and the Columbia River Maritime Museum.



Submitted photo

Chinese principal Zhang Yonghe and Superintendent Michael Carter of the Rainier School District toured Clatsop Community College's Fire Response and Research Center at its Marine and Environmental Research and Training Station (MERTS) campus.

"We were proud to welcome Principal Zhang Yonghe to Clatsop Community College," said Kristen

Wilkin, dean of workforce education and training at CCC.

"He was sincerely inter-

ested in the training Clatsop Community College provides to our students and community."

Health enrollment assistance offered

A Health Insurance Enrollment and Re-Enrollment

Event is being held in two locations this week, offering assistance from a certified community partner or agent to apply or reapply for the Oregon Health Plan or for a plan through the federal marketplace. No appoint-

ment is needed at either location.

The first opportunity is from 10:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. Friday in the Coho Room at the Columbia Memorial Hospital Community Center, 2021 Marine Drive in Astoria; the second is from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Providence Seaside Hospital Education

Center (lower level), 725 S. Wahanna Road in Seaside.

Those attending either event should bring the following information: letters or notices received from the Oregon Health Authority; birth dates and Social Security numbers for anyone applying for coverage; employer and income in-

formation, including self-employment deductions; policy number(s) and plan name(s) for any current health insurance; information about health coverage available through an employer; and if possible, email accounts and passwords.

For information, call 503-884-1175.

Bus to stop at Senior Center, Astoria Recreation Center

The Sunset Empire Transportation District has announced a new bus stop location in Astoria, starting today, at the Astoria Recreation Center (ARC) and the temporary Astoria Senior Center, both located at 1555 W. Marine Drive (the

old yacht club location).

"Adding this stop was discussed at our last board of commissioners meeting," said SETD Executive Director Jeff Hazen, "and the board expressed their desire to make it a priority to provide this new bus

stop to assist all those wanting to utilize these needed local services."

The new stop will be added to the Route 10 bus, which serves the Astoria area Monday through Friday, and will provide hourly drop off and pick

up services at the combined facility. Fare cost will depend on each rider's pick up and drop off zone.

For information, see all SETD route schedules at www.ridethebus.org or contact Elisabeth Pietila at 503-861-5372.

Reserve booth for upcoming Rotary sale

SEASIDE — The Rotary Club of Seaside is sponsoring its fifth annual Community Indoor Yard Sale at the Seaside Civic and Convention Center from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Feb. 14, and from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Feb. 15, and opportunities to reserve a spot to sell items at the event are available.

Booths can be secured for \$30 each, and will be assigned; adding electrical power is an additional \$20, if needed. Each booth includes an 8-foot table and two chairs. Vendors can set up from 7 to 9 a.m. Feb. 13 or 14.

To reserve a booth, call 503-440-9357. Reservations will be confirmed following payment to the Seaside Rotary, P.O. Box 413, Seaside, OR 97138. Confirmation, along with booth number or numbers, will be made by email or phone.

For information or questions, contact Alan Evans at 503-440-9357 or a.evans@helpinghandsreentry.org

Collin Raye featured at Column fundraiser

A concert featuring country singer Collin Raye is being held at 3 p.m. Sunday at the home of Eric Paulson, 195 W. Kensington Ave. Tickets cost \$100 per person, and the proceeds will benefit the Astoria Column.

For information, or to buy tickets, contact Grant North at Lektro at 503-861-2288. Checks should be made payable to Friends of the Column.



Collin Raye

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