

Family friend pleads to rape, sex abuse charges

Minimum sentence is 25 years in prison

By KYLE SPURR
The Daily Astorian

The 30-year-old Astoria man accused of sexually assaulting a 10-year-old girl last year, pleaded no contest Tuesday to rape and sex abuse charges. The incident resulted in the girl and her mother having to travel two hours to Legacy Emanuel Medical Center in Portland to get a rape kit performed.

Nicolas Blas Martinez pleaded no contest to two counts of first-degree rape and two counts of first-degree sex abuse prior to a scheduled trial Tuesday in Clatsop County Circuit Court.

Martinez was originally indicted July 24 for 25 counts of rape, sex abuse and tampering with physical evidence. The

remaining charges were dropped and the two-day trial was canceled as a result of his no contest plea.

A sentencing hearing has been set for 2 p.m. May 1.

Martinez is facing a minimum of 25 years in prison and a maximum of 50 years, according to Prosecutor Dawn Buzzard.

Had the case gone to trial, Buzzard said, the prosecution had enough evidence where Martinez could have faced life in prison. The prosecution had DNA evidence and reports of the mother of the child coming home to find Martinez, who is the mother's friend, and the girl having intercourse.

On July 20, the mother called Astoria Police who began to investigate. Officers

discovered it was not the first time a rape had occurred.

According to the indictment, the charges of rape and sex abuse dated back to Aug. 1, 2013.

At the time, the case highlighted the fact that Clatsop County does not have a certified Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE), who is qualified to examine children. Anyone younger than 15, and sometimes adults, in Clatsop County are referred to Portland for treatment after a sexual assault.

Astoria Police drove the young girl and her mother to Portland, waited for them and brought them home.

"That's the really difficult thing. It's a real problem because we're victimizing the victim all over again," Astoria Police Chief Brad Johnston said in July. "It's unconscionable. And it has become a significant issue over the last several months."

Baha'is screen documentary in Seaside

SEASIDE — At 7 p.m. Saturday, local citizens will join in the launch of the international Education is Not a Crime campaign, with a free screening of Maziar Bahari's new documentary film, "To Light a Candle," at the Seaside Public Library community room, 1131 Broadway in Seaside.

Baha'i communities in Clatsop County are sponsoring the screening of this documentary as part of an effort to draw local attention to the constructive response of the Baha'i community to the Iranian government's systematic denial of university education to young Baha'is in that country.

Since the Islamic Revolution of 1979, the Baha'i community in Iran has been the target of systematic state-sponsored repression. Forbidden from attending or teaching at universities, the community established the Baha'i Institute for Higher Education (BIHE) in 1987. Through BIHE, the Baha'i community has championed equality and nonviolence, garnering support from educators around the world. Yet, its students and teachers still face enormous obstacles: classes are held in people's homes and the threat of arrest is part of daily life.

The film and campaign are aimed at exposing social injustice and religious intolerance through personal stories and rare footage, often smuggled out of Iran at great personal risk.

For additional information, contact Robert McClelland, director of Clatsop Community College's TRIO precollege programs, at 503-894-0187. The official campaign website can be accessed at educationisnotacrime.me, which will feature voices of support from citizens around the world.

Astoria man accused of abusing 18-month-old girl

By KYLE SPURR
The Daily Astorian



Alan Marquez-Mondragon

A 22-year-old Astoria man pleaded not guilty Tuesday to allegedly abusing an 18-month-old girl.

Alan Francisco Marquez-Mondragon is charged with first-degree assault (class A felony) and first-degree criminal mistreatment (class C felony).

He was indicted by a grand jury Friday and appeared via video link from the Clatsop County Jail Tuesday for an arraignment hearing in Clatsop County Circuit Court.

The charges against Marquez-Mondragon allege that between Jan. 1 and Feb. 13, he "did unlawfully and knowingly cause serious injury,"

to the child, while assuming care and custody.

Astoria Police received a report from Columbia Memorial Hospital that a child, later identified as the victim, was admitted with a fractured arm, which had been fractured for at least five days.

The child was transferred to Legacy Emanuel Medical Center in Portland for further treatment. She was placed in state protective custody.

Upon investigation, police arrested and booked Marquez-Mondragon Feb. 13.

In court Tuesday, Judge Paula Brownhill set Marquez-Mondragon's bail at \$500,000 and ordered no contact with the victim.

Marquez-Mondragon is scheduled for an early resolution conference at 9 a.m. March 27.

WHS Key Club donates funds

WARRENTON — On Saturday, members of Warrenton High School's Key Club traveled to Doernbecher Children's Hospital in Portland for "Thank Kiwanis Day" and donated \$300 to the hospital's foundation.

In addition, the Key Club donated \$300 locally to the WHS Trading Post, which provides clothes and personal hygiene products to students in need.

Finally, the club donated to the International Eliminate Project, which vaccinates women and children around the world from tetanus.

The majority of the monies were earned selling concessions at WHS's wrestling tournament. Key Club President Jeryd Lewis, Lt. Gov. Ryan Laforteza, member Asia Lambert,



Submitted photo

Members of Warrenton High School's Key Club made a trip to Doernbecher Children's Hospital, where it donated \$300 to the foundation. Pictured from left to right are Hailey Furr, Ivy McCargish, Alyssa Herrera, Esmeralda Alvarez, Maggie Cote, Jeryd Lewis, Ryan Laforteza and adviser Kate Gruetter.

her colleague Neva Gruner adviser Kate Gruetter and were the main fundraisers.

Mr. AHS competition is Friday

Astoria High School's Key Club is sponsoring the Mr. AHS pageant at 7 p.m. Friday in the school auditorium. Young men of AHS will compete in this Holly-

wood-themed pageant, raising money for Doernbecher Children's Hospital. The pageant costs \$5 for the public, or \$3 with a school ID.

Astoria schools will be closed Monday

All Astoria School District schools will close Monday for a scheduled in-service day for teachers and administrators. Staff will participate in a number of professional development

activities to best serve students and maximize student learning.

Training will be provided in the assessment of students, Google technology, K-12 content area

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