

Court to hear cop-shooter verdict

Washington Supreme Court to review Pacific County shooting

By NATALIE ST. JOHN
EO Media Group

OLYMPIA, Wash. — The Washington State Supreme Court has agreed to review the case of Martin Jones, the former Seaview resident who is accused of shooting Pacific County Sheriff Scott Johnson.

Jones, Johnson and others involved in the case have been waiting for two years to learn whether the state's highest court would agree to review Jones' contested 2011 conviction for first-degree attempted murder.

Now the justices have taken the case, they'll have to wait some more for an actual ruling of the merits of the appeal.

State court officials are still trying to get the hearing on the calendar — no easy feat, Washington Courts spokeswoman Lorrie Thompson said. It could be anywhere from a few months to a year or more before the nine Supreme Court justices hear the case. The hearing itself will be short, and participants will only discuss a limited number of very specific legal questions from the judges. But once it's over, several more months will pass while the justices study the case and write their decision, Thompson said.

Case started in 2010

Martin Jones was convicted of shooting Johnson (who was a

Washington state trooper at the time) in 2010, in the aftermath of a traffic stop of Jones' wife, Susan Jones.

Jones successfully appealed his conviction on the grounds that the trial court had deprived him of his right to an open trial by conducting some routine business while court wasn't officially in session. In 2011, a state appeals court dismissed his conviction, but Jones remains lodged in a state prison in Walla Walla.

In late 2013, the state Attorney General's office asked the state Supreme Court to reconsider the case. Instead of announcing a decision, the Supreme Court justices in February 2015 took the somewhat unusual step of "staying" the case, saying that they wanted to delay any action on Jones until they

settled another case with similar legal questions, State vs. Unters Lewis-Love.

The Love case involved a Spokane property manager who was accused of stealing \$1,200 from a potential tenant. Like Jones, Love had also successfully appealed on the grounds that his verdict should be thrown out because he was excluded from some court proceedings.

Jones gets his appeal

In July, the Supreme Court decided that Love did have a fair and open trial, and affirmed his conviction. It took another five months for the Supreme Court to agree to hear Jones — a decision that signals that the justices may have believed the legal issues raised in the Jones case were unique enough to merit their own hearing.



Martin Jones



Sheriff Scott Johnson

For Jones, who has always maintained that he is innocent, the announcement means another long interval of waiting in legal limbo, and the chance that the court could reinstate his attempted murder conviction. When contacted by email, Susan Jones declined to comment.

Johnson, who still maintains that Jones committed the crime,

said Dec. 4 that he is "pleased that it's moving forward," but also weary of waiting for a resolution.

"I know it takes a long time for things to work their way through the court. I'm just hoping for a positive outcome," Johnson said. "I'd just like them to affirm the Pacific County Superior Court ruling and get this over with."

SHOP HISTORIC



DOWNTOWN ASTORIA

this Holiday Season

This year, many downtown Astoria businesses will be open Fridays until 7 p.m. More time to shop for your holiday gifts!

Adagio

1174 Commercial Street 503-717-3717
Open 11 am-5 pm, sometimes later!

Bikes & Beyond

1089 Marine Drive 503-325-2961
Monday-Friday 10 am-6 pm, Saturday 10 am-5 pm,
Sunday 11 am-4 pm

Cargo

240 11th Street 503-325-8067
Visit us for many unique gift ideas!

City Lumber Company

2142 Commercial Street 503-325-4511
Monday-Friday 7:30 am-5:30 pm,
Saturday 8 am-5 pm, Sunday 9 am-4 pm

Custom Threads

1282 Commercial Street 503-325-7780
Tuesday-Saturday 10 am-5 pm

de la Salandra

Clothes, wool shoes & mohair toy shop
1145 Commercial Street 503-325-7644
Open daily at 11 am through Christmas.

Erickson Floral Company

1295 Commercial Street 503-325-4831
Monday-Thursday 9 am-5 pm, Friday 9 am-7 pm,
Saturday 9 am-4 pm, Sunday noon-4 pm

Holly McHone Jewelers

1150 Commercial Street 503-325-8029
Monday-Friday 10 am-6 pm, Saturday 10 am-5 pm,
Sunday 11 am-4 pm

Forsythea Home & Garden ARTS

1124 Commercial Street 503-325-2189
Monday-Saturday 11 am-5:30 pm, Sunday noon-4 pm

Four Seasons Clothing

1405 Commercial Street 503-325-8200
Sunday 11 am-3 pm, Monday 11 am-4 pm, Tuesday 11 am-
5:30 pm, Wednesday-Sunday 10 am-5:30 pm

Imogen Gallery

240 11th Street 503-468-0620
Monday-Saturday 11 am-5 pm, Sunday 11 am-4 pm, closed
Wednesdays

Interior Style

109 9th Street 503-325-4766
Thursday, Saturday-Monday 10:30 am-5:30 pm, Friday
10:30 am-7 pm during the holidays

Jonathon's LTD

332 12th Street 503-325-7600
Tuesday-Sunday 10:30 am-4:30 pm

Old Town Framing

1287 Commercial Street 503-325-5221
Monday-Friday 9:30am-5:30 pm, Saturday 10 am-5 pm.
Extended hours Sunday.

Phog Bounders Antique Mall

892 Marine Drive 503-338-0101
Monday-Saturday 10 am-5:30 pm, Sunday 10 am-5 pm

Purple Cow Toys

1380 Commercial Street 503-325-2996
Mon.-Tues. 9 am-6 pm, Wed.-Thur. 10 am-6 pm,
Fri. 10 am-7 pm, Sat. 10 am-5 pm, Sun. 11 am-3 pm

Rogue Public House

100 39th Street 503-468-0923
Sunday-Thursday 11 am-9 pm, Saturday 11 am-10 pm

Sea Gypsy Gifts

1001 Commercial Street 360-510-2488
Sunday-Thursday 11 am-5 pm, Friday-Saturday 11 am-6 pm

Street 14 Cafe

1410 Commercial Street 503-325-5511
Open daily 6:30 am-5 pm, Dinner: Thursday-Saturday 5
pm-9 pm, Happy Hour: Thursday-Saturday 4 pm-5 pm

Sweet Relief Natural Medicine

1444 Commercial Street 503-468-0881
Open daily 9 am-7 pm

Vintage Hardware

101 15th Street on the River Walk 503-325-1313
Monday-Saturday, 10 am-5 pm, Sunday 12 pm-4 pm

What-Nots & Whimsy

1292 Commercial Street 503-325-7333
Monday-Thursday 10:30 am-5 pm, Friday 11 am-7 pm,
Saturday 11 am-5:30 pm, Sunday 12:30 am-5 pm

Shop Local with your Family and Friends