

Top court affirms attempted murder ruling

Former Seaview man will continue long prison term

By NATALIE ST. JOHN
EO Media Group

OLYMPIA, Wash. — Despite a yearslong effort to get his conviction reversed, former Seaview resident Martin Arthur Jones will stay in prison.

The Washington Supreme Court reinstated Jones' 2011 first-degree attempted murder conviction in a decision last week.

Jones was accused of shooting of Sheriff Scott Johnson, who was a Washington state trooper at the time, in the aftermath of a 2010 traffic stop. He

was sentenced to serve about 50 years, and has been incarcerated in a state prison in Walla Walla since 2011.

Jones family responds

Jones and his family have always maintained that he did not shoot Johnson. In an email, his wife, Susan Jones, said the family was disappointed, but "not really surprised" by the outcome, because the state's highest court only considered very specific legal issues having to do with procedures during the trial, rather than the quality of the criminal investigation or the facts of the case. The family plans to continue fighting the conviction.

"Fortunately, with that process now behind us, we enter a new stage. Other options for challenging the conviction that were not previously avail-

able, now present themselves. While an appeal is limited to the trial record, in a post-conviction petition, a prisoner may submit new evidence," Jones wrote. "With information that has come forth since the trial, Marty Jones and family remain optimistic of an eventual favorable outcome."

History of the appeal

Jones successfully argued in the state Court of Appeals that he was deprived of his right to an open trial, when a court official drew a name for an alternate juror during a court recess. The appeals court dismissed his conviction, but in 2013, the State Attorney General's Office asked the Washington Supreme Court to reconsider the case. The justices heard oral arguments in February.

The Supreme Court focused

on just two questions: Was Jones denied his constitutional right to a public trial? And should Jones' conviction be reversed, due to his claim that was he was denied his right to be present for all critical stages of the trial?

The justices weigh in

The Supreme Court justices concluded that nearly every procedure related to selecting jurors had happened on the record, and in Jones' presence.

When the court official selected the alternates during an eight-minute break, only the jurors were explicitly instructed to leave the room. When court staff announced

the results, Jones and his attorney didn't seem concerned.

"There is no indication that anyone expressed any surprise, confusion or objections ...," the justices wrote.

It was not until a week after the verdict, when Jones filed a motion for a new trial, that he raised concerns about violations of his constitutional rights.

In conclusion, the justices wrote, "While it might be the best practice to conduct such a drawing in the presence of the defendant and the public, it is not constitutionally required."



Martin Jones

Johnson's reaction

"I didn't really have a

whole lot of reaction. There are no winners in this," Johnson said. "It's taken a long time — six years, two months, one week and four days, I think."

Johnson said he was "relieved" but knows the case could end up in court again.

"Potentially this could be something I have to deal with the rest of my life. That's why I try not to get excited about it," Johnson said. "But at least this particular chapter is over — for now."

Johnson remains as convinced of Jones' guilt, as Jones' family members are of his innocence.

"There's no doubt about it. I know who shot me. There's no question about that. I looked him the eye. I was 2 feet from the man," Johnson said.

National Park visitors bring \$15 million to North Coast

The Daily Astorian

Lewis and Clark National Historical Park had 270,411 visitors in 2015 who spent \$15.4 million in communities around the North Coast, according to a recent report from the National Parks Service.

"Lewis and Clark National Historical Park welcomes visitors from across the country and around the world," Superintendent Scott Tucker said. "We are delighted to share

the story of this place and the experiences it provides."

National park tourism is a significant driver in the national economy, according to Tucker, returning \$10 for every \$1 invested in the National Park Service.

The visitor spending report was conducted by economists Catherine Cullinane Thomas of the U.S. Geological Survey and Lynne Koontz of the National Park Service.

The 2015 report shows \$16.9 billion of direct spend-

ing by 307.2 million park visitors in communities within 60 miles of a national park. This spending supported 295,000 jobs nationally; 252,000 of those jobs are found in these gateway communities.

The cumulative benefit to the U.S. economy was \$32 billion, according to the National Parks Service.

Most park visitor spending was for lodging, followed by food and beverages, gas and oil, admissions and fees and souvenirs and other expenses.

Fishing festival director resentenced after appeal

Took money, memorabilia and a dunk tank

By KYLE SPURR
The Daily Astorian

The former director of the Commercial Fishermen's Festival who stole money out of festival bank accounts, took signs and autographed memorabilia and kept a dunk tank was resentenced Thursday in Clatsop County Circuit Court.

Ronald Kay Williams, 51, was originally sentenced to more than three years in prison in 2013 after a jury found him guilty of first-degree aggravated theft, first-degree theft and tampering with a witness.

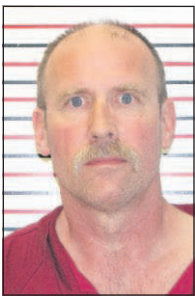
He immediately appealed the sentence, specifically claiming he never knew the person he contacted would be a witness in his trial. The Oregon Court of Appeals agreed and reversed

the tampering with a witness conviction last month. The court ordered he be resentenced.

Williams, who is serving a five-year prison sentence for other charges of tampering and bribing witnesses, appeared in court Thursday.

"This case, at best, was a civil matter and it turned into a criminal issue," he said. "I've done years of my life in prison for nothing. Nobody took a loss but me."

At the hearing, Judge Philip Nelson resentenced Williams to 34 months in prison, a year shorter than his original sentence. The prison time will be added on to his



Ronald Kay Williams

current five-year sentence.

Williams' crimes occurred between September 2011 and March 2012.

The case against Williams stemmed from his resignation in 2011 from the Fishermen's Festival after a compensation disagreement with the board. After leaving the organization, he cleared out the festival's office, taking with him autographed memorabilia that included the signatures of fishermen from the television show "Deadliest Catch."

The stolen items and cash totaled more than \$24,000. He also stole a dunk tank belonging to Warrenton Kids Inc. worth \$1,850.

States set summer and fall salmon seasons

The Daily Astorian

Oregon and Washington state fishery managers have announced the summer and fall salmon seasons for the Columbia River.

Summer Chinook fisheries begin June 16, with a daily bag limit of two hatchery Chinook. The season is expected to remain open through the summer management period, ending on July 31.

The fall salmon seasons are based on a strong projected return of 960,000 fall Chinook, and include Chinook retention through Labor Day in the popular Buoy 10 fishery, plus two additional any-Chinook retention days between Tongue Point and Warrior Rock.

As in recent years, the "boat limit" rule will be in place from Buoy 10 upstream to the Oregon-Washington border. Salmon anglers fishing from the same boat may

continue fishing until all licensed anglers have reached their daily limits.

Impacts to Endangered Species Act listed Chinook stocks remain the major constraint for all fall season Lower Columbia River fisheries.

Oregon and Washington staff will closely monitor the fishery and, if possible, may propose removing the adipose-only requirement later in the season.

Given the limitation on upriver bright fall Chinook, the area upstream of Warrior Rock will have the traditional two adult Chinook per day bag limit for the season. The forecast for the upper Columbia River is 93,000 fish, a strong return, but less than the modern record of 127,000 upriver fish last year.

Summer steelhead forecasts remain low, and to avoid closures, daily bag limits may need to be reduced at times and in some areas to keep

steelhead opportunities open through the season.

Anglers should be alert for potential modifications to steelhead bag limits and in-season changes to Chinook retention rules. Regulation updates are available on the ODFW website at <http://bit.ly/1jT61dm>



VOLUNTEER
PICK OF THE WEEK

Keela
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SEASIDE HIGH SCHOOL CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

Saturday, May 7, 2016
2:00pm-5:00pm



1916-2016

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For questions call 503-738-5586
Email: shscentennialcelebration@gmail.com
Facebook: Seaside High School Centennial Celebration

All events will take place at Seaside High School, 1901 North Holladay Drive.
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