

Warrenton man gets probation for placing fake bomb on plane

Passenger wanted to look like a hero

By STEVEN DUBOIS
Associated Press

PORTLAND — A Warrenton man who placed a fake bomb in a restroom during an international flight — and then reported it to look like a hero — has avoided a prison term.

Instead, U.S. District Court Judge Michael Mosman sentenced Sean Davies to five years on probation and ordered him to pay restitution to KLM Royal Dutch Airlines. Prosecutors recommended the sentence because the 23-year-old has no prior arrests, has been received treatment for alcoholism and also landed a steady job as a salesman at a jewelry store in a Portland suburb.

"I do want you to understand that this arrest and this conviction really are an arrow in life pointing you to a terrible place," Mosman warned. "And only by your own actions can you get off that path."

KLM Flight 569 was 3½ hours into a flight from Amsterdam to Kilimanjaro, Tanzania, when Davies told a member of the cabin crew there was a strange wire coming out of a cabinet in the restroom, leading to an electrical socket.

The flight captain eventually inspected the miniature wine bottle with some cables attached to it and figured it was probably a prank. But after consulting with KLM security, the plane was diverted to Cairo, Egypt.

The NL Times, which provides English-language news about the Netherlands, reported at the time of the October 2014 incident that 271

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Judge Michael Mosman
U.S. District Court, Portland

passengers were aboard the flight and there was no panic.

Egyptian authorities interviewed Davies because the flight crew suspected him of planting the device. Davies denied involvement and he continued with the trip.

Davies returned to the U.S. from Africa in December 2014. Dutch police interviewed him while he changed planes in Amsterdam. Davies told them he made frequent trips to the bathroom during the Octo-

ber flight because he is an alcoholic and has kidney stones, and that he no longer had his iPhone charger because it burst into flames while in Africa.

The FBI and Port of Portland police met him when he returned to U.S. soil. He initially agreed to take a polygraph test and then declined. The polygrapher told him the test wasn't necessary, because it was obvious he was lying.

Davies then confessed, saying he

built the fake bomb with a wine bottle, an e-cigarette battery, water, soap, an iPhone charging cord and the earphones distributed on the flight. He said he had been feeling down about himself and wanted to appear heroic.

Davies pleaded guilty in February to conveying false information concerning a device which could destroy or damage an aircraft.

He apologized Thursday to the airline, the passengers, the U.S. government and his family. Davies said he's no longer the irresponsible "boy" who committed that act.

"They say you never learn if you don't make mistakes," he said. "While my mistakes have been a little larger than what I would like, I needed to have this kick so I could realize the path I was headed on."

KLM calculated its losses from the incident to be \$85,330. Davies has already paid half the money.

State lands to hold hearings on dredging, leasing on water

The Daily Astorian

The Department of State Lands will hold two hearings on maintenance dredging and waterway rules Wednesday in Astoria and Tillamook.

From 5 to 6 p.m. Wednesday in Suite 209 of the Port of Astoria's newer offices, 10 Pier 1, the state will discuss and take public comment on the issue of maintenance dredging, specifically about creating a removal-fill permit for routine dredging of existing marinas, boat basins, terminals and access channels for navigational access.

From 4 to 6 p.m. Wednesday in the Tillamook County Commissioners Conference Rooms A and B, the state will cover waterway programs, specifically about leases, licenses and registrations for structures and uses of state-owned submerged and submersible land. The meeting will also cover the submerged lands enhancement fund enacted by the state Legislature last year. The fund allows the state to seize buildings or other structures over state-owned lands, if the Department of State Lands determines they

are abandoned or derelict. The fund can also be used to clean up marine debris.

People who cannot attend the meetings can email comments to rules@dsl.state.or.us, or mail them to: Sabrina Foward, Rules Coordinator, Department of State Lands, 775 Summer Street NE, Suite 100, Salem, Oregon 97301-1279. Comments are accepted until May 31 on maintenance dredging, and until June 7 on waterway rules.

For more information on the rule-making, visit <http://tinyurl.com/gth4zx9>

Budget committee decides on rate increases

7 percent hike for water, 6 percent for sewer

By ERICK BENDEL
The Daily Astorian

WARRENTON — The Warrenton Budget Committee decided at a Thursday meeting to raise the city's water and sewer rates.

The proposed budget for the fiscal year that starts in July is \$32.3 million — which includes the \$28.4 million the city intends to spend, plus a \$3.8 million cushion — up from \$29.3 million this year. The bulk of the increase is from a jump in capital expenditures.

And, to compensate for years of postponing rate hikes that support the city's infrastructure, the committee is pushing for a plan that raises water rates 7 percent and sewer rates 6 percent.

The plan, which City Manager Kurt Fritsch recommended, calls for water rates to continue rising by 7 percent a year for another four years before rate hikes start to lessen. The city will have to borrow money but will be able to complete an assortment of capital improvement projects in 10 years.

Households consuming 2,000 gallons of water per month will pay a combined water-sewer bill of \$93.80, up from \$88.13, a rate study concluded.

After two years, the budget committee will reexamine the plan — not least because one major ratepayer, Pacific Coast

Seafood, is rebuilding a Warrenton plant destroyed by fire in 2013. The company's return may help boost the city's revenue stream, though the amount of water it will use is still unknown.

Tom Dyer, a city commissioner and vice chairman of the budget committee, agreed with the committee on the 6 percent sewer rate increase but opposed the 7 percent water rate increase, preferring a stricter "pay as you go" plan that required an immediate increase of 13 percent per year but that allowed for capital improvement projects to be completed sooner without the city taking on more debt.

"We're going to pay for it some way, but I'm just one of those guys that likes to pay up front," Dyer said.

Last July, Warrenton's water rates went up 15 percent, sewer rates 2.5 percent.

The proposed budget also contains a 3 percent hike in

the rate-constrained property tax collection.

If the budget is adopted, a home with an assessed valuation of \$100,000 will pay a city property tax of approximately \$204.51, which includes the city's permanent tax rate and voter-approved levies for police services and the Warrenton Community Library.

On the personnel side, Fritsch recommended adding two new positions: a police sergeant to enhance management of the department and take some work off Chief Mathew Workman's plate, and an additional harbor maintenance worker for the Warrenton and Hammond marinas.

The budget includes a contractual 2.5 percent cost-of-living wage increase.

A vote to adopt the budget will take place later this month. The City Commission — which makes up half of the 10-member budget committee — will vote in June on whether to approve the recommended budget.

Warrenton VFW raising funds to build veterans monument

The Daily Astorian

The Fort Stevens Veterans of Foreign Wars Post and Auxiliary is raising funds to build a Memorial War Veterans Monument to honor local veterans in the Warrenton and Hammond area who served since World War II.

The total cost for the monument is \$132,650. The city of Warrenton is helping the VFW Post in applying for a \$106,120

Oregon Heritage Veterans & War Memorials grant.

The VFW Post will cover the remaining cost, and do all of the leg work designing and maintaining the monument. The goal is to raise \$13,265, and collect material and service donations.

The Warrenton Urban Renewal Advisory Board recently voted unanimously to put the monument on the Warrenton Post Office park site. The monument will be placed on a seven-sided pedestal. The pedestal will

have a bronze plaque representing each armed service.

Materials needed for the pedestal, polished brown concrete for the base pedestal, a custom steel-sided mold form for the pedestal, and crane service to set the soldier monument on the pedestal.

For information on how to donate to the project, contact the VFW Post by calling 503-739-1071 or emailing vwfpost10580@gmail.com.

County Planning Commission seeks applicants

The Daily Astorian

The Clatsop County Planning Commission is inviting applicants for two open seats.

The Planning Commission is the county's committee for citizen involvement on development and land use issues, such as zoning, natural resources, transportation, natural hazards, economic development, housing, farm and forest lands and coastal zones.

The commission makes land use decisions on variances, conditional uses and subdivisions. It also makes recommendations to the Board of Commissioners on amendments to the comprehensive plan and its implementing ordinances.

The Planning Commission regularly meets at 10 a.m. the second Tuesday of each month in Astoria.

The two open positions are for terms ending June 2020.

The Planning Commission represents all geographical areas of the county, including incorporated cities. It currently does not have representatives from the Elsie-Jewell and Seaside rural planning areas. However, all interested parties are encouraged to apply.

The Board of Commissioners will consider the appoint-

ments at one of its upcoming meetings. Application forms are available from the county manager's office at 800 Exchange St., Suite 410 in Astoria, or online at www.co.clatsop.or.us. The deadline to apply is 5 p.m. June 8.

For more information, contact Jennifer Bunch, Senior Planner, at 503-325-8611 or jbunch@co.clatsop.or.us.



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