

Hammond fisherman jailed, makes bail

Bail was set at \$1 million

By JACK HEFFERNAN
The Daily Astorian

A Hammond fisherman who allegedly committed sex crimes and bribed and threatened a young woman has posted bail after he was sent back to jail Friday.

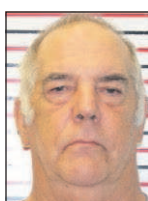
Dennis Lee Sturgell Sr., 65, violated the terms of his release pending trial and returned to jail Friday. Circuit Court Judge Paula Brownhill set bail at \$1 million. Hours after being taken to jail, he posted \$100,000 and was released.

Sturgell allegedly committed several sex crimes against the woman while she was incapacitated in August 2015. James Herbert Cunningham, 47, of Astoria, was also allegedly present and committed similar crimes, including rape.

Oregon Assistant Attorney General Erin Greenawald is prosecuting the case, along with Clatsop County Deputy District Attorney Dawn Buzzard.

Sturgell was charged with 13 sex crimes in November, including first-degree sodomy and first-degree unlawful sexual penetration. He then posted \$50,000 bail and was released.

In February, prosecutors added two counts of brib-



Dennis Lee Sturgell Sr.

ing and two counts of tampering with a witness. They alleged that Sturgell indirectly offered the victim money and threatened to “hire a dream team of attorneys” to “dig up dirt on her” during an encounter with her father.

In April, Brownhill ordered that the first bail payment be forfeited after Sturgell was found in violation of his release agreement for a separate incident. He was ordered to pay \$75,000 bail. He then was booked and posted the second bail payment that same day.

On Friday, Brownhill revoked Sturgell’s agreement again after he failed twice to charge his ankle monitor — a requirement imposed in the April release agreement. She also ordered that the \$75,000 bail be forfeited, bringing the total to \$125,000.

“Somehow, you need to make it clear to Mr. Sturgell that he needs to follow all requirements of his release agreement or he’s going to lose his money,” Brownhill told Jason E. Thompson, Sturgell’s Salem-based attorney.

Sturgell’s next hearing is scheduled for July.

A very Scandinavian weekend



Photos by Gary Henley/The Daily Astorian

From left to right, Miss Sweden Madalyn Hellberg, Miss Scandinavia Kourtney Tischer, Junior Miss Finland Cheyenne Sutton and Miss Norway Kaitlyn Bakkensen enjoy a little dancing around the midsummer pole Saturday. The Astoria Scandinavian Midsummer Festival took place at the county fairgrounds over the weekend.



Two combatants go at it during a Viking battle demonstration.



Sisters, left to right, Kara Dowaliby, Meg Dowaliby and Mara Dowaliby dance around the midsummer pole during Saturday’s festivities.



Perry Browning, aka, the Astoria Troll, greets a young admirer.



Grand Marshal Sven Sundstrom of Astoria, who took part in the first Scandinavian Festival in 1968, sings the national anthem of Sweden for Saturday’s flag raising.

Astoria man robbed at gunpoint in his home

The Daily Astorian

An Astoria man was robbed at gunpoint in his house Friday night.

The man returned to his home on Alameda Avenue just after 7:30 p.m. and found a strange man inside. When confronted, the man pointed a gun directly at him. The victim then ran to a nearby restaurant and called police.

Police searched the house and set up a perimeter but were unable to find the man, who had left with some of the

victim’s property.

About four hours later, a Clatsop County Sheriff’s Office deputy located a man who fit the description of the suspect near the New Youngs Bay Bridge. Michael Todd Warner, 42, was allegedly found in possession of a stolen handgun and arrested and charged with felon in possession of weapons and possession of a firearm. He was later charged with first-degree burglary and first-degree robbery after the victim’s property was found.

Oregon Democrats blast ‘shameful’ Trump immigration policy

Associated Press

SHERIDAN — Democratic members of Oregon’s congressional delegation visited a federal prison Saturday where immigrants from Latin America have been transferred and blasted the Trump administration for separating parents from children.

U.S. Sen. Ron Wyden said that “what we saw over the last hour demonstrates that the Trump ‘zero tolerance’ policy makes zero sense and shows zero understanding of American values.”

U.S. Sen. Jeff Merkley and U.S. Reps. Suzanne Bonamici and Earl Blumener also toured the facility in Sheridan.

“I think this is a shameful moment. It’s outrageous.

We are criminalizing people who are persecuted,” Blumener said.

Bonomici said children were being taken from their parents’ arms because of federal policies.

About 120 immigrants from Mexico and Central America are reportedly being held at the prison in Sheridan, near Salem.

The administration is sending more than 1,600 immigrants — including some parents whose children were taken from them by U.S. officials — to federal prisons because other jails lack space.

Authorities say immigrants there entered the U.S. illegally.

Attorney General Jeff Sessions recently announced a zero-tolerance policy

involving people crossing the border illegally. As a result, more children are expected to be separated from their parents.

Attorneys seeking to represent the detainees in Oregon have said that they aren’t being given legal representation.

The Oregonian reported that some lawyers were able to meet with detainees on

Thursday but not on Friday.

Carissa Cutrell, a spokeswoman for Immigration and Customs Enforcement, said the agency is working to ensure that detainees have appropriate access to lawyers.

The Bureau of Prisons denied an AP request to visit the medium security facility to access the conditions faced by the immigrants.

Cutrell said ICE is committed to connecting family members as quickly as possible after separation so parents know where their children are and have regular communication with them in accordance with ICE policies and detention standards.

Earlier this month, Merkley said he tried to enter a federal facility in Brownsville, Texas, where immi-

grant children are being held, but police were called and he was told to leave.

Merkley was accused of grandstanding by the Department of Health and Human Services’ Administration for Children and Families.

The agency said concerns about the safety, security and dignity of the children led to Merkley being kept from the Texas facility.

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