

E-recycler owners sentenced to prison

By GENE JOHNSON
Associated Press

SEATTLE — The future of one of the Northwest’s largest electronics recyclers is uncertain after a judge sentenced its founders to prison for what prosecutors described as the largest known fraud of its type in the nation: a seven-year scheme to ship dangerous waste to Hong Kong, rather than safely handling it in the U.S. as promised.

Total Reclaim Inc., based in the Seattle suburb of Kent, recycles electronics as well as refrigerants and other toxic materials from government and private organizations in Washington, Oregon and Alaska.

It held itself out as a leader in environmental stewardship, promising to safely dispose of items such as mercury-containing flat-screen television monitors for clients who included the cities of Seattle and Juneau, Alaska; the University of Washington; and Oregon and Washington state’s E-Cycle programs.

Instead, as the independent watchdog group Basel Action Network discovered by tracking Total Reclaim’s shipments, the company was secretly selling the monitors to another business, which was then sending them to Hong Kong to be dismantled by low-wage workers without proper health protections. The company sent 430 shipping containers carrying more than 8 million pounds of monitors overseas, putting workers and their families at risk of organ damage and



Craig Lorch, right, walks towards a federal courthouse with his attorneys.

mental impairment.

Total Reclaim’s owners, Jeff Zirkle and Craig Lorch, falsified hundreds of documents to cover it up when confronted, as they acknowledged in plea agreements and in statements to the court as they were sentenced to 28 months in prison Tuesday. Both addressed the court, saying they were ashamed of what they had done.

“You only stopped because you got caught,” U.S. District Judge Richard Jones told them. “Why did you have to do this? You had a successful business.”

Assistant U.S. Attorney Seth Wilkinson described the motive as greed: Total Reclaim wasn’t prepared to recycle the flat-screen monitors it began accepting around 2008. Rather than invest the millions of dollars it would take to develop that capacity, he said, Lorch and Zirkle decided they could

keep the money they were receiving from their clients and make additional profit by selling the monitors to the company that shipped them to Hong Kong.

“The calculation was this: ‘We can save millions of dollars, and we can make millions of dollars, by exposing other human beings to a substance we know to be poison,’” Wilkinson said.

There was no evidence about any workers who suffered health problems from handling the monitors; the defendants acknowledged only that they placed the workers at risk.

Prosecutors sought a five-year sentence. Defense attorneys asked for six months each, plus 500 hours of community service.

John Wolfe, an attorney for Lorch, said it wasn’t greed. The flat-screen recycling constituted less than 3% of Total Reclaim’s busi-

ness, and the revenue from that would not have much affected the roughly \$8 million Lorch and Zirkle paid themselves during the scheme.

Instead, Wolfe suggested, the men chose the easy path instead of the right one, and once they had done so, they didn’t know how to come clean.

In determining the sentence, the judge was tasked with balancing the fraud against the history of the defendants — neither of whom had ever before been in trouble with the law. Dozens of their supporters wrote letters to the court on their behalf, noting good works such as Zirkle providing monthly financial support to a firefighter friend.

Lorch helped start the nonprofit Bike Works, which recycles and sells used bicycles, and serves on the board of the Village Bicycle Project, which ships bikes to Ghana and Sierra Leone.

Meg Watson, the organization’s operations director, was one of dozens of supporters who packed the courtroom Tuesday. She said Lorch had provided storage space for bikes before they’re sent from Seattle — something the Village Bicycle Project otherwise can’t afford.

“The loss for us if he’s gone from our community — I can’t estimate how that would be for us,” she said.

But the judge noted that it was, in part, Lorch and Zirkle’s cheating in business and potentially poisoning foreign workers that allowed for their charity.



Astoria Warehousing includes several warehouses along the waterfront.

Rules: ‘The fundamental interest is to maintain the relationship — intimate, individual — with the river’

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At the lengthy meeting Tuesday that included four public hearings, most of them dealing with changes to city codes, the commissioners felt they needed more time.

They were considering a proposal that originated with the City Council to drop the allowed building heights down to 28 feet. But some commissioners were concerned the maximum square footage still allowed in Bridge Vista could lead to the development of low, long buildings that were just as effective at blocking river views as taller buildings.

Following a suggestion by Moore, commissioners opted to separate these parts of the code amendment from others that dealt with more routine

design questions or definitions and were meant primarily as simple house-keeping changes.

The Planning Commission unanimously recommended approval of the more straightforward amendments.

“These two issues of height and mass ... are the two obviously outstanding important issues,” Commissioner Patrick Corcoran said. “The fundamental interest is to maintain the relationship — intimate, individual — with the river.”

But, with the proposed height limit, “what we’re finding is kind of ‘careful what you ask for’ because there may be unintended consequences,” he added. He believes there are creative ways for commissioners to address the issue.

Committee: Port’s credibility ‘needs to be a major focus of this strategic plan’

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timely, proactive review of the Port’s finances to avoid the agency repeatedly falling behind on maintenance.

“I think in general, there needs to be a better understanding of every dollar the Port spends and where it goes,” said Jeremy Davis, the chief financial officer for Englund Marine & Industrial Supply and a member of the committee.

The finance committee has pushed for the Port to

better account for the maintenance costs on its buildings and properties; assess their condition and viability at least once every three years; and create a procedure for selling them off if necessary.

The committee has recommended regular reports by department heads to the Port Commission, an anonymous method for staff to provide feedback and an audit of staffing levels.

The Port has many existing leases at below-mar-

ket rates. The committee’s recommendations call for a review of leases where they can be adjusted to better represent costs. The Port should also analyze the economic benefit of below-market leases, such as job creation and payroll in Clatsop County, said Kevin Leahy, executive director of Clatsop Economic Development Resources.

Walt Postlewait, executive vice president at regional lender Craft3 and the chairman of the commit-

tee, said sharing that story is key to improving the public’s perception of the Port.

“You read all this crap in the newspaper about all the bad things the Port has done,” he said. “Let’s talk about the good things. But you have to have the data, you have to have the right tool to share that. Because that’s why the Port exists. That’s why we’re sitting around this table trying to figure out, ‘How do we make this Port sustainable and resilient?’”

The committee has looked at whether the Port should sell off some buildings but keep the land underneath. Its recommendations call for a thorough review of marketability, repair needs, financial impact and opportunity cost if sold.

So far, the Astoria Riverwalk Inn, Chinook Building and former Seafare Restaurant, all arrayed around the West Mooring Basin, have risen to the top of potential moneymakers to help with maintenance.

The committee’s meeting Tuesday ended on the importance of finishing a strategic plan. David Harlan, a former Port employee and now ports manager for the Oregon Business Development Department, was in attendance and said the strategic plan needs to make the case for the state investing in the Port.

“Credibility is in short supply for the Port of Astoria, and I think that needs to be a major focus of this strategic plan,” he said.

THE DAILY ASTORIAN

TV

SCHEDULE

Evening listings
WEDNESDAY

WEDNESDAY EVENING										APRIL 24									
A	L	6 PM	6:30	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	11 PM	11:30						
2	KATU	(2) KATU News at 6 (N)		Jeopardy! (N)	Wheel of Fortune	The Goldbergs	Schooled	Modern Family	Single Parents	Whiskey "Hearts and Minds" (N)		News (N)	(35) Jimmy Kimmel						
5	KOMO	(4) KOMO 4 News at 6pm (N)		Wheel of Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	The Goldbergs	Schooled	Modern Family	Single Parents	Whiskey "Hearts and Minds" (N)		KOMO4News (N)	(35) Jimmy Kimmel						
6	KING	(5) NBC News (N)	KING 5 News (N)	KING 5 News (N)	Evening	Chicago Med "Never Let You Go" (N)	Chi.Fire "Until the Weather Breaks" (N)	Chi.Fire "Until the Weather Breaks" (N)	Chicago "What Could Have Been" (N)	Chicago "What Could Have Been" (N)		KING 5 News (N)	(35) Tonight Show						
6	KOIN	(5) NBC News (N)	Evening News (N)	Extra	Ent. Tonight (N)	Survivor: Edge of Extinction (N)	Race "Knock the Newbie Out of Us" (N)	Race "Knock the Newbie Out of Us" (N)	SEAL Team "Medicate and Isolate" (N)	SEAL Team "Medicate and Isolate" (N)		KOIN News/ 11 (N)	(35) Colbert						
6	KIRO	(7) KIRO 7 News (N)	Evening News (N)	KIRO 7 News (N)	Ent. Tonight (N)	Survivor: Edge of Extinction (N)	Race "Knock the Newbie Out of Us" (N)	Race "Knock the Newbie Out of Us" (N)	SEAL Team "Medicate and Isolate" (N)	SEAL Team "Medicate and Isolate" (N)		KIRO 7 News (N)	(35) Colbert						
8	KGW	(5) KGW News at 6:00 p.m. (N)		Tonight Cassidy	Inside Edition	Chicago Med "Never Let You Go" (N)	Chi.Fire "Until the Weather Breaks" (N)	Chi.Fire "Until the Weather Breaks" (N)	Chicago "What Could Have Been" (N)	Chicago "What Could Have Been" (N)		News (N)	(35) Tonight Show						
9	KRCW	(3) Modern Family	Modern Family	The Goldbergs	The Goldbergs	Riverdale (N)	Jane the Virgin "Chapter Eighty-Six" (N)	Jane the Virgin "Chapter Eighty-Six" (N)	News (N)	Friends Pt. 1 of 2		Two and a Half	Two and a Half						
10	KOPB	(10) Journeys in Japan	Business (N)	PBS NewsHour (N)		Nature "Sex, Lies and Butterflies"	Nova "Saving the Dead Sea" (N)	Nova "Saving the Dead Sea" (N)	Breakthrough "The Airplane" (N)	Breakthrough "The Airplane" (N)		How We Got to Now "Time"							
12	KPTV	(12) 6 O'Clock News (N)		Family Feud (N)	Family Feud (N)	Empire "Never Doubt I Love" (N)	Star "Square One" (N)	Star "Square One" (N)	10 O'Clock News (N)	10 O'Clock News (N)		News (N)	Page Six TV						
13	KPDx	(12) Mike & Molly	Mike & Molly	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	8pm Prime News (N)	9pm Prime News (N)	9pm Prime News (N)	Big Bang Theory	FamilyGuy 1/2		American Dad!	The Game						
13	KCPQ	(13) Seahawks: Draft Day (N)		Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Empire "Never Doubt I Love" (N)	Star "Square One" (N)	Star "Square One" (N)	Q13 NEWS AT 10 (N)	Q13 NEWS AT 10 (N)		News (N)	The Simpsons						
20	TBS	(20) Family Guy	Family Guy	Bob's Burgers	Bob's Burgers	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Full Frontal		Conan (N)	Full Frontal						
22	KZJO	(22) Black-ish	Black-ish	Pre-match		MLS Soccer San Jose Earthquakes at Seattle Sounders FC (L)		Post-match (N)	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory		Two and a Half	Two and a Half						
29	ESPN	(29) MLB Baseball (L)				SportsCenter (N)		SportsCenter With Scott Van Pelt (N)	SportsCenter (N)	SportsCenter (N)		SportsCenter (N)							
30	ESPN2	(30) Hey Rookie	Hey Rookie	Madden Bowl (N)	SportsCenter Special "NFL Nation Mock Draft"			The Draft	The Draft	NFL MatchUp	NFL MatchUp	SportsCenter	SportsCenter						
31	NICK	(31) The Loud House	The Loud House	Double Dare (N)	Dude Perfect (N)	SpongeBob	SpongeBob	SpongeBob	SpongeBob	The Office	The Office	Friends	(35) Friends						
32	DISN	(32) Jessie Pt. 2 of 3	Coop & Cami	Jessie	Sydney to the Max	Coop & Cami	Jessie	Jessie	Sydney to the Max	Coop & Cami	Andi Mack	Raven's Home							
34	FAM	(34) (4:00) The Parent Trap Lindsay Lohan.	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	Pretty Little Liars "Lost and Found" (N)	★★★ Shrek (2001, Animated) Voices of Eddie Murphy, Cameron Diaz, Mike Myers.	★★★ Shrek (2001, Animated) Voices of Eddie Murphy, Cameron Diaz, Mike Myers.	The 700 Club	The 700 Club									
35	FMC	(35) (5:30) The Purge: Election Year ('16) Frank Grillo.		(45) The Purge: Election Year ('16) Frank Grillo.					Mechanic: Resurrection ('16) Jessica Alba, Jason Statham.	Mechanic: Resurrection ('16) Jessica Alba, Jason Statham.	(55) FXM Presents								
36	LIFE	(36) Celeb Wife "Judy Gold/ Penn Jillette"		Celebrity Wife Swap		Hoarders "Patricia" Patricia makes extra money selling things.			(05) Hoarders "Dale" Dale must clean up his Alaskan property.	(05) Hoarders "Dale" Dale must clean up his Alaskan property.									
39	ROOT	(39) Mariners Access	MarinersPre-game	MLB Baseball Seattle Mariners at San Diego Padres Site: Petco Park -- San Diego, Calif.					Post-game	Mariners Access	Edgar Martinez	Edgar Martinez							
39	FS1	(39) 5:30s Crowned	Fair Game	Inside PBC Boxing (N)		MLB Whiparound (L)		TMZ Sports (N)	Fair Game	Skip and Shannon: Undisputed Opinions on the biggest sports topics of the day.									
43	SPIKE	(43) Mom	Mom	Mom	Mom	Dirty Grandpa (Unrated) (2016, Comedy) Zac Efron, Julianne Hough, Robert De Niro.		South Park	South Park	Dirty Grandpa (Unrated) ('16) Zac Efron, Robert De Niro.									
44	COM	(44) (15) South Park	(50) South Park "Handicar"	(25) South Park		South Park	South Park	South Park	South Park	South Park		The Daily Show (N)	(35) South Park						
45	HIST	(45) Forged in Fire "The Cinquedeas"		Forged in Fire "Hollywood Edition"		Forged in Fire "The O-Katana"		Forged "General Yamashita's Gunto" (N)	(05) Forged/Fire "The Javanese Kris" (N)	(05) Forged in Fire "The Smallsword"									
46	A&E	(46) Live PD: Patrol	Live PD: Patrol	Live PD: Patrol	Live PD: Patrol	Live PD: Patrol	Live PD: Patrol	Live PD: Patrol	Live PD: Patrol	Live PD: Patrol		My 600-lb Life "Chad's Story"							
47	TLC	(47) My 600-lb Life "LaShanta's Story"				My 600-lb Life "Cillas' Story" Cillas' food addiction may cost him his family. (N)		Dr. Pimple "Popping Popeye" (N)	Dr. Pimple "Popping Popeye" (N)	My 600-lb Life "Chad's Story"									
48	DISC	(48) Exp. Unknown "The Vanished Empire"	Exp. Unkn. "Hunt for the Metal Library"			ExUnknown "Mystery of Jesus" (N)		ExUnknown "Mystery of Jesus" (N)	ExUnknown "Mystery of Jesus" (N)	ExUnknown "Mystery of Jesus" (N)									
49	NGEO	(49) Bloods and Crips: L.A. Gangs	Drugs, Inc.			Drugs, Inc. "Meth Booms Montana"		Drugs, Inc. "The Fix "Killer Krokodil" (N)	Drugs, Inc. "The Fix "Killer Krokodil" (N)	Drugs, Inc. "The Fix "Killer Krokodil" (N)									
50	TNT	(50) (5:00) MLB Baseball	NBA Basketball Playoffs (L)			Inside the NBA (L)			NBA Basketball Playoffs	NBA Basketball Playoffs									
51	AMC	(51) ★★ The Hangover Part III ('13, Com) Zach Galifianakis, Ed Helms, Bradley Cooper.		★★★ The Expendables (2010, Action) Eric Roberts, Steve Austin, Jet Li.					(25) ★★ Under Siege ('92) Tommy Lee Jones, Steven Seagal.										
52	USA	(52) (4:00) NHL Hockey Stanley Cup Playoffs	Law & Order: S.V.U. "Institutional Fail"			Law&Order: SVU "Community Policing"	Law&Order: SVU "Maternal Instincts"	Modern Family 1/2	Modern Family 2/2	Modern Family 1/2	Modern Family 2/2	Modern Family	Modern Family						
53	FOOD	(53) Guy's Game "Food Network Star Duos"	Guy's Game "Single Shop Showdown"			Guy's Game "Clash Of The Classics"	Guy's Game "Ultimate Grocery List" (N)	Guy's Game "Ggg Winners Vs. Judges"	Guy's Game "Ggg Winners Vs. Judges"	Guy's Game "Ggg Winners Vs. Judges"		Guy's Grocery Games "Blogger Battle"							
54	HGTV	(54) Property Brothers "From Fault to Vault"	Property Brothers "Party on the Hill"			Property Brothers "Cheer-tastic Design"	Buying "Growing Boys, Grandeur House"	House Hunters	House Hunters	House Hunters		Boise Boys "Willow Tree Farmhouse" (N)							
58	FX	(58) (5:00) ★★ Guardians of the Galaxy	(14) Chris Pratt.	★★★★ Split (2016, Horror) Anya Taylor-Joy, Betty Buckley, James McAvoy.				Shadows (N)	Shadows	Shadows		Neighbors ('14)							
57	CNN	(57) Cuomo Prime Time		CNN Tonight With Don Lemon		CNN Tonight With Don Lemon		Anderson Cooper 360	Anderson Cooper 360	Cuomo Prime Time		CNN Tonight With Don Lemon							
61	FNC	(61) Hannity		The Ingraham Angle		Fox News @ Night		Tucker Carlson Tonight	Tucker Carlson Tonight	Hannity		The Ingraham Angle							
61	CNBC	(61) Deal or No Deal "It Takes Two"		Deal No Deal "Million Dollar Musical"		Beyond the Tank		Beyond the Tank	Beyond the Tank	Beyond the Tank		Paid Program	Paid Program						
63	BRV	(63) The Real Housewives "Shark Bait"		Housewives "Sleeping With the Fishes"		Wives "It's Kind of a Phone-y Story"		Wives "Birds, Broads and Breakups" (N)	Wives "Birds, Broads and Breakups" (N)	Housewives Atl. "Reunion, Part Three"		Watch What (N)	Real Housewives						
64	TCM	(64) (5:00) ★★ The Music Man ('62) Robert Preston.		(45) ★★ North by Northwest (1959, Thriller) Eva Marie Saint, James Mason, Cary Grant.					(15) ★★ Night and the City ('50) Gene Tierney, Richard Widmark.										
65	SYFY	(65) (5:25) Drive Angry (2011, Action) Amber Heard, Nicolas Cage.		★ 47 Ronin (2013, Action) Hiroyuki Sanada, Tadanobu Asano, Keanu Reeves.					Happy! "19 Hours and 13 Minutes" (N)	(55) Land of the Lost ('09) Will Ferrell.									
162	RFD	(162) Dude Ranch	Cowboy (N)	Women's Rodeo	Equestrian Nation	Total Team Roping	Rural Eve. News	WesternSport	Cash Cowboys	Dude Ranch	Cowboy Moments	Product Showcase							

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