

IN BRIEF

Seaside man sentenced to prison for domestic violence

A Seaside man was sentenced Tuesday to almost two years in prison for domestic violence.

Saturnino Romero Martinez, 32, was arrested last June for crimes related to domestic violence, including attempted murder.

He pleaded guilty to strangulation and his other charges were dismissed.

After the arrest, he was the subject of a detainer by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

Astoria police seek information about attempted robbery

Astoria police are seeking information about an attempted robbery that occurred Tuesday near Second Street and Marine Drive.

Police were called about 2:30 a.m. and spoke to a man and a witness who were reportedly walking in the area when they were approached by a man who brandished a knife.

The suspect demanded the man's cellphone and threatened to hurt him if he did not comply.

Another person in the area intervened and the suspect fled on foot.

The suspect is described as a white male with shoulder length blond hair. He was wearing a white checkered jacket and a dark colored bandana.

Anyone with information or video of the suspect in the area is asked to contact Detective Nicole Riley at 503-741-6118 or at nriley@astoria.or.us.

Authorities track down potentially dangerous dog after escape

Authorities located an aggressive and potentially dangerous Chow Chow that escaped from Clatsop County Animal Control on Tuesday morning.

Officials say the dog escaped at about 9 a.m. An extensive effort was made by animal control, the Warrenton Police Department and the Clatsop County Sheriff's Office to capture the dog.

The dog was found on Wednesday morning and was taken back to animal control.

— The Astorian

Washington state nixes Kalama methanol plant

OLYMPIA, Wash. — Officials in Washington state denied a key permit for a large proposed methanol plant Tuesday, saying the project that aims to send the chemical to China to be used in everything from fabrics and contact lenses to iPhones and medical equipment would pump out too much pollution.

A significant increase in greenhouse gas emissions and inconsistencies with the Shoreline Management Act were the main reasons the permit was rejected for the project planned on the Columbia River, the state Department of Ecology said in a news release.

The \$2 billion Northwest Innovation Works plant proposed in Kalama would take natural gas from Canada and convert it into methanol. It would then be shipped to China to make olefins — compounds used in many everyday products.

— Associated Press

DEATH

Jan. 17, 2021

HENDRICKSON, Jay Donald, 75, died in Payson, Arizona. Messinger Payson Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements.

ON THE RECORD

Assault

• Chase Daniel Rusinovich, 24, of Astoria, was arrested Saturday on Bond Street in Astoria for assault in the fourth degree and harassment.

Robbery

• Jeremy Grochow, 31, of Astoria, was arrested Friday at Walmart in Warrenton for robbery in the second degree and theft in the third degree.

Criminal mischief

• Desiree Laymon, 33, was arrested Tuesday in Warrenton for unlaw-

ful possession of methamphetamine, interfering with a police officer, offensive littering, criminal mischief in the second degree, resisting arrest and disorderly conduct.

DUII

• Ricardo Benjamin Carvajal, 32, was arrested Monday on U.S. Highway 26 in Seaside for driving under the influence of intoxicants.

• Joann Kysar, 48, of Long Beach, Washington, was arrested Saturday on U.S. Highway 30 for DUII.

PUBLIC MEETINGS

THURSDAY

Astoria School District Board of Directors, 5:45 p.m., special meeting, (electronic meeting).

Seaside Transportation Advisory Commission, 6 p.m., (electronic meeting).

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EXPLORERS CLUB



TOP: Ulises Tadeo Hernández Castelan navigates a remote-controlled model sailboat around the pond outside the Barbey Maritime Center. **LEFT:** Columbia River Maritime Museum volunteer Renee Fruht works with Hudson Sandel and Izabellah Paris while they paint ideas to decorate the sail of their future miniboat. With many students not attending in-person classes during the pandemic, the Columbia River Maritime Museum created the Explorers Club to provide local students with learning activities through the miniboat program.

Photos by Hailey Hoffman/
The Astorian



A rendering of the proposed Jordan Cove liquefied natural gas terminal in Coos Bay.

Federal regulators deliver potentially fatal blow to Jordan Cove LNG project

By TED SICKINGER
The Oregonian

Federal energy regulators on Tuesday upheld Oregon's decision to deny a water quality certification for the proposed Jordan Cove liquefied natural gas export terminal in Coos Bay and its feeder pipeline, the Pacific Connector, another sign that the massive energy project may be on its last legs.

The project's owner, Calgary-based Pembina Pipeline Corp., did not respond to a request for comment. But the decision prompted an enthusiastic response from opponents of the project, as well as politicians such as Gov. Kate Brown and U.S. Sen. Ron Wyden.

"At every stage of the regulatory process, I have insisted that the Jordan Cove LNG project must meet Oregon's rigorous standards for protecting the environment, or it cannot move forward," Brown tweeted. "I'm pleased that the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission validated that approach today."

Oregon's Department of Environmental Quality originally denied the permit, without which backers cannot move forward, in May 2019. It did so partly for procedural reasons: To avoid unintentionally waiving the state's authority as a deadline loomed

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Gov. Kate Brown

for making a decision and the company's application was still deemed incomplete.

The agency said at the time that it was denying the application because there "is insufficient information to demonstrate compliance with water quality standards, and because the available information shows that some standards are more likely than not to be violated."

But it denied the application without prejudice, leaving the company free to reapply.

Pembina appealed the decision to federal regulators, arguing that the agency had failed to make a decision in a timely fashion. In a unanimous decision Tuesday,

commissioners at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission disagreed, effectively arguing that the state had never received a completed application.

"The order finds that Jordan Cove and Pacific Connector never requested certification with respect to the commission authorizations for the Jordan Cove Energy Project and that the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality could not have waived its authority to issue certification for a request it never received," the commission said Tuesday in a summary of its findings.

"The evidence in the record was clear, FERC had no choice other than to deny

Pembina's request to waive Oregon's 401 water quality authority," Stacey McLaughlin, a Douglas County landowner, said in a news release from the project's opponents. "Any approach to seeking approval of its Pacific Connector Pipeline and Jordan Cove Energy Project without proper permits compromises the safety of Oregon's landowners. Pembina is proving it cannot be trusted — this is not a characteristic seen in a 'good neighbor.'"

Company can reapply

Tuesday's decision still leaves the company free to reapply to the Department of Environmental Quality for the certification. But 15 years after the controversial LNG terminal and pipeline were originally proposed, backers face a daunting set of obstacles at the state level.

Last February, the Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development determined that the project was not consistent with land use laws under the Coastal Zone Management Act. In its decision, it said the "adverse effects from the project will be significant and undermine the vision set forth by the Oregon Coastal Management Plan and its enforceable policies."

See LNG, Page A3