Washington man gets 30 days in jail for fleeing Seaside police

Original charges included kidnapping

By Jack Heffernan
EO Media Group

Christopher Rogich

A Washington state man who led police on a 20-minute car chase from Seaside to Astoria in April was sentenced to 30 days in jail May 18 after reaching a plea deal.

Christopher Rogich, 24, of Roy, Washington, was arrested originally on multiple charges — including kidnapping — after driving away from a traffic stop with his girlfriend and 4-year-old daughter in the car. As part of the deal reached with the Clatsop County District Attorney's Office earlier this month, Rogich pleaded no contest to coercion, attempting to elude a police officer and two counts of recklessly endangering another person.

Seaside Police responded to a disturbance call at a residence on the 1300 block of Second Avenue just after 8 p.m. on April 19. Rogich's car was spotted driving away from the area when police arrived.

When police stopped the vehicle, Rogich did not comply with officers' requests first to lower the driver's side window and then exit the car. He instructed his girlfriend to do the same. He drove away from the scene moments later.

His girlfriend allegedly called 911 and asked him to pull over during the pursuit, which led to the original kidnapping charge, Seaside Police Chief Dave Ham said. The chase ended on the Youngs Bay Bridge, where Rogich was taken into custody.

His sentence includes credit for time served in jail since the arrest and three years of probation that includes a no-contact order with his girlfriend and daughter. Any supervised visitation must be approved by a probation officer.

Rogich repeatedly referred to his religious beliefs and thanked public officials in an apology to the court.

"I hope that I am reconciled before the court and before him," he said. "I accept this rebuke."

Rogich, who originally faced up to 22 years in prison, previously had no criminal convictions. James von Boeckmann, Rogich's court-appointed lawyer, said it is difficult to understand how a young man with no criminal history would make such a decision.

"He has very strong ideas about what is right and wrong," von Boeckmann said. "If he had followed instructions and lowered his window, we wouldn't be here today."

JEFF TER HAR/FOR EO MEDIA GROUP

A single-car accident in Gearhart Friday night resulted in a woman's death.

Warrenton woman dies in accident near Gearhart

EO Media Group

A Warrenton woman died Friday, May 19, in a single-vehicle accident on U.S. Highway 101 across from Sunrise Ridge Lane.

Shortly after 11 p.m., Wendi Robinson, 42, allegedly was driving at high speeds when she lost control of her 2016 Toyota Corolla, according to a press release from the Oregon State Police. The car lost traction, drove off the southbound edge of the road, overturned and came to rest partially submerged, according to state police.

Gearhart Police Department personnel worked in over three feet of water to extricate a female driver, Gearhart Fire Chief Bill Eddy said Monday. Personnel had to dive underwater to extricate and search for any additional occupants, he said. The vehicle landed in approximately 3 feet of water upside down 50 feet from the highway, it was submerged well above the windows.

Emergency personnel removed Robinson from the vehicle but were unable to resuscitate her with CPR.

POLICE LOG

May 5

8:39 a.m., 200 block Avenue N: Caller requests welfare check on her mother whose cellphone was turned off. Officer made contact with the mother through a closed door. The mother advised the officer of her First Amendment rights, and made threatening remarks about having a firearm in the home. When informed of this information; the daughter said her mother does not have firearms, and that these kind of threats were normal behavior for her mother.

9:08 p.m., 1100 block Broadway: A parent came into the police station to report a missing child. The child was located soon after by Gearhart police.

May 6

7:10 a.m., 900 block S. Holladay: A confused person who appeared to have just suffered a seizure is persuaded by Medix personnel to go to the hospital for evaluation.

10:07 p.m., 1300 block Beach Drive: A person is arrested on an outstanding warrant.

May 7

12:25 p.m., Police station: A person comes in to register as a sex offender.

19:16 p.m., Broadway: Police respond to a report of an intoxicated female in the company of a man; the two were sighted at the Pig 'n Pancake. Caller was concerned for female's welfare. Police are unable to find subjects after searching the area.

May 8

6:58 a.m., 2300 block Beach Drive: Caller reports a hypodermic needle on the sidewalk, possibly drug related. Police pick it up for proper disposal.

11:14 a.m., 700 block 12th Avenue: Caller reports unattended toddler walking in the street. Officers make contact with the child's babysitter, who said she had fallen asleep.

2:08 p.m., Neawanna Street: Caller reports someone looking through mailboxes. Officers checking the area are unable to locate subject.

MERCHANT ALERT

Police issue a merchant alert to all merchants in Seaside that on May 15, it was reported a large sum of money in quarters was stolen from Maytag Laundry, located at 1223 South Roosevelt. Police say the theft occurred between May 15-16, sometime between the hours of 5 p.m. and 2 a.m. The suspect or suspects are unknown at this time. The Seaside police suggest businesses advise employees to be on the lookout for persons using large amounts of quarters, or trying to exchange quarters for paper money. They say that if something suspicious occurs, contact the Seaside police at 503-738-6311. They ask callers be prepared to give as much information as possible regarding any suspicious activity or behavior, including license plate information and a physical description of subject or subjects.

May 10

9:03 a.m., 1900 block Spruce Drive: A caller who has complained about her neighbor harassing her is told by police that the neighbor's actions are not criminal. The caller is advised of options.

6:05 p.m., Shore Terrace: A reported door-to-door salesperson is advised of complaints about them. They are advised of the local ordinance.

May 11

6:23 a.m., Kenai Street: Officers assist other agency in a DUII investigation.

10:45 am., 200 block Avenue U: Criminal mischief is reported.

2:55 p.m., Pacific Way and Highway 101: A person is arrested on an outstanding warrant.

11:51 p.m., Avenue N and The Prom: A person is charged with disorderly conduct.

May 12

12:44 a.m., N. Downing: A person is charged with disorderly conduct in the second degree.

11:18 a.m., Shore Terrace: Caller reports a large piece of machinery or equipment in the road. The owner of the property says they are moving it.

May 13

10:23 a.m., 12th and Roosevelt: Caller reports people with boxes and signs to raise funds; police do not contact subjects as they are high school students selling Krispy Kreme donuts.

11:39 p.m., 400 block S. Holladay: A person is arrested and charged with driving while under the influence of intoxicants.

May 14

9:46 a.m., 400 block S. Roosevelt: Caller reports subject putting a child in a vehicle, the child screaming and pounding on the window. Officer observed the incident as it was happening and made contact with the subject; police determined the child was throwing a temper tantrum. No further action was taken. The vehicle left the area soon after.

11:13 p.m., 300 block S. Franklin: A disturbance was reported.

May 15

2 p.m., 300 block S. Edgewood: A disturbance is reported.

6:41 p.m., 600 block S. Edgewood: A property manager reports unwanted phone calls from an evicted tenant. Police contact subject and advise them that if they continue to call the property manager, they will be charged with telephone harassment.

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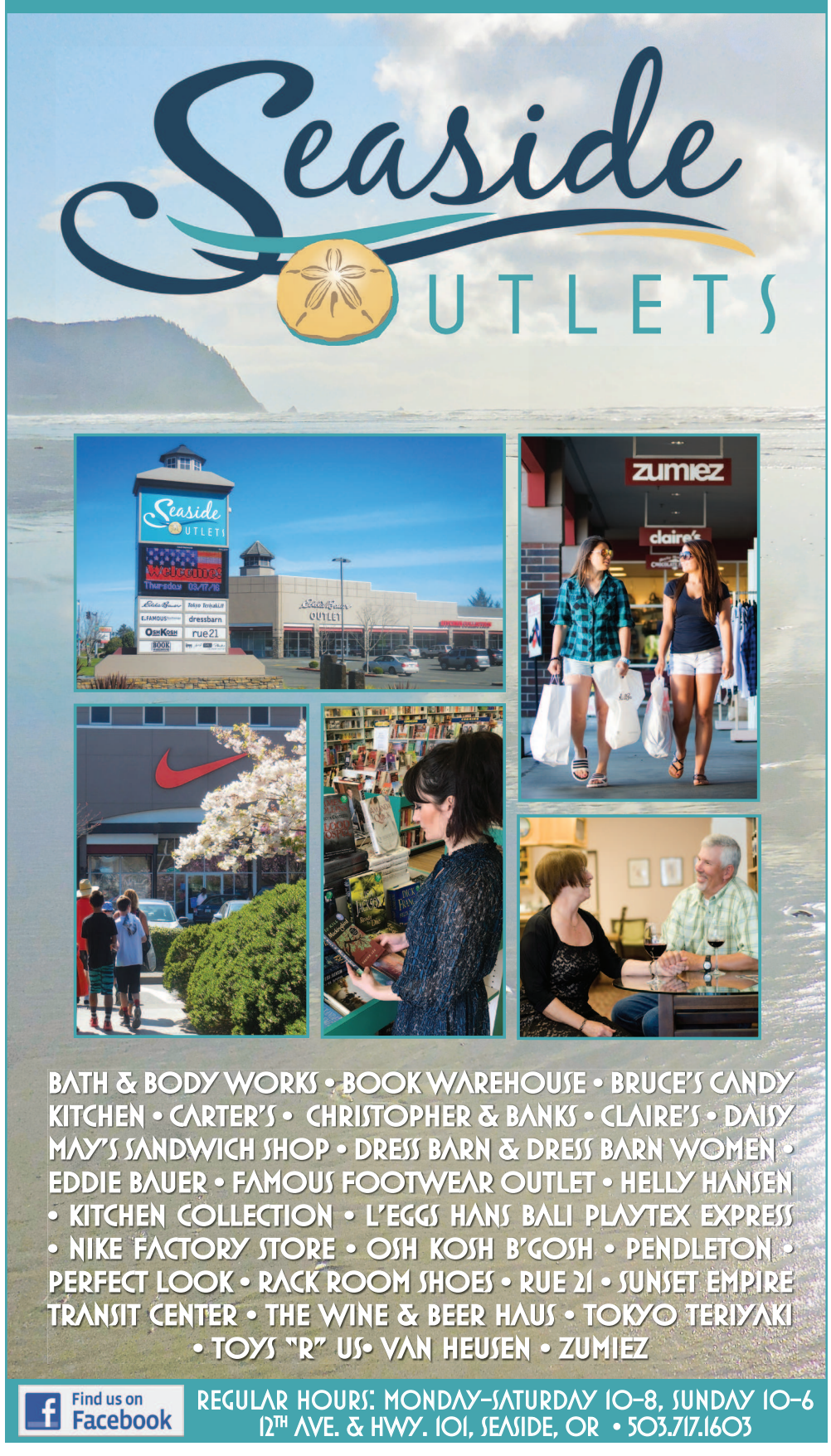

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