

CLALLAM COUNTY PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 22, 2025
Port Angeles, Washington

Sequim Man Receives 20 Years for Attempted Murder *Clallam County Superior Court Cause No. 22-1-00150-05*

Clallam County Superior Court Judge Brent Basden sentenced James Luoma of Sequim to 240 months in prison for attempted murder in the first degree. The sentence followed a guilty plea to the charge.

Luoma, 69, and his neighbor had a complicated relationship that deteriorated once she started dating another man. On April 27, 2022, Luoma grabbed a paving stone from outside his neighbor's home, presumably to break into her house. The neighbor, who is deaf, walked out of her house and into her driveway. Luoma then approached her from behind and pulled out a pistol. The neighbor pleaded with Luoma to not shoot, but he fired multiple rounds anyway. Somehow, he missed, and she fled into a nearby garage. Luoma chased after her and continued firing. Once in the garage, the two struggled over the gun. Luoma repeatedly struck his neighbor in the face, but she was able to get the gun and fire off several rounds. The two continued fighting for the gun and it discharged, shooting off Luoma's thumb. The neighbor was able to toss the gun and run out of the garage. At that point, Officer Daniel Martinez of the Sequim Police Department arrived. Luoma retrieved the gun and continued his pursuit, only to encounter Officer Martinez and Officer Christopher Wright, who had also arrived. The officers were able to detain Luoma and retrieve the firearm without incident.

"It is a miracle that she lived," said Prosecutor Steve Johnson, who noted that Luoma attempted to murder the victim "in cold blood." In recommending a sentence of 180 months, he explained that the victim had suffered significant psychological trauma from Luoma's attempted to kill her and that testifying could have exacerbated that trauma.

"The Sequim Police Department (SPD) did excellent work on this case that helped us secure a guilty plea to a serious, violent offense," Johnson said. For example, SPD investigators, including Sergeant Maris Larsen and Chief Michael Hill, were able to locate a chair in Luoma's house that was pointed directly at the victim's home, along with evidence of his ownership of the firearm he used in the shooting. Sequim detectives Kindryn Leiter and Rick Larsen also obtained a confession from Luoma following his release from the hospital.

The Clallam County Prosecuting Attorney's Office would also like to thank the Washington State Patrol Crime Scene Response Team for its efforts in this case.

Office Information

The Clallam County Prosecuting Attorney's Office employs over 25 people, including 14 attorneys. Clallam County, which includes Forks, Port Angeles and Sequim, has an approximate population of 78,000.

The Criminal Division represents the state and the county in criminal matters in the Clallam County District and Superior Courts. The Criminal Division is responsible for prosecuting all felonies in Clallam County and all misdemeanors in unincorporated areas of Clallam County as well as the Cities of Port Angeles and Sequim.

The Civil Division acts as the law firm representing the County and its agencies. The Civil Division advises and represents all the County's elected officials and departments on a myriad of complex legal matters. The range of legal representation provided by this unit is expansive and covers virtually every aspect of civil practice.

The Child Support Division is wholly funded by and represents the Division of Child Support of the State of Washington. The Support Division carries out judicial establishment of paternity and child support, enforcements for failure to pay court-ordered child support, and modifications to existing child support orders. The Support Division also represents the State of Washington in collection actions on parents owing a duty of support.

For more information call:

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