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Escort Charged with Extortion, Theft

A scandal in late October involving a young escort named Cody Castagna led to the resignation of Washington state Rep. Richard Curtis, R-La Center, after the public learned the two had a sexual encounter in a Spokane hotel room.

Curtis alleged that Castagna stole his wallet and tried to extort \$1,000 from him after the two had sex. Castagna told a different story, saying that the money was for prostitution, not extortion, and that he was holding the wallet as "collateral" until he got the cash he was rightfully owed.

Castagna was charged Dec. 12 with three counts of second-degree theft of a credit card, one count of second-degree extortion and one count of conspiracy to commit second-degree extortion. Robert H. Fletcher, Brandon D. Burchell and Castagna's brother Joseph L. Castagna are being charged with second-degree extortion and conspiracy to commit second-degree extortion. Bond has been set in Spokane County Superior Court at \$7,500 each, according to The Associated Press.

Group Casts for Recovery

When a group of women gathered in October at Rock Springs Dude Ranch in Bend for a weekend of fly-fishing and pampering, it wasn't just a love of the outdoors that brought them together. It was their experience with breast cancer.

Casting for Recovery is a national program based in Vermont that connects breast cancer sur-

vivors to female fly-fishing groups in 23 states for a retreat and emotional break.

Stonefly Maidens, a Portland-based group, got involved several years ago and is raising money for an upcoming retreat back to Rock Springs Dude Ranch in Bend in October 2008.

Rebecca Young, a lesbian Stonefly Maidens member, participated in the last retreat. She said, "Anyone who has had breast cancer can apply, but it's nice to outreach to our community so there is more awareness that this opportunity for survivors exists."

Participants can expect a slow-paced weekend that involves a resort stay, a day of social activities and workshops on fly-fishing particulars such as knot tying and rod casting.

Carol Gleason of Salem was diagnosed with breast cancer in June 2003. After five surgeries and chemotherapy through August 2004, she is now cancer-free. The medical assistant and volunteer ski patroller attended the retreat.

"Part of the retreat is to mentally figure out where you are in your journey," said Gleason. "I figured that I was pretty well recovered and there's nothing holding me back in life."

Gleason said that she and her partner of two years live an active, outdoorsy life filled with boating, fishing and snowshoeing.

Wendy Callander, a physician from West Linn, also attended the retreat in October. She was diagnosed with stage-four breast cancer in March 2005, which means her cancer is terminal.

Several years ago, Callander attempted fly-fishing. "I kept casting the fly in the tree and my partner was getting angry with me and I promised



From left, Carol Gleason, Rebecca Young and Wendy Callander built camaraderie with breast cancer survivors through fly-fishing.

I'd get lessons. That was years ago. I finally got lessons," she said.

Callander now plans to join the fly-fishing club and wants to become a member of the crew that takes other survivors fishing.

"When you're sick and dealing with breast cancer, it's a very vulnerable position," she said. "This workshop makes you feel empowered again, that you can

do something, even if it's as mundane or easy as fly-fishing. The workshops give you the energy to get back into things again and renew your life."

For more information visit www.stoneflymaidens.com and www.castingforrecovery.org.

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