

Lopez accused of additional sex abuse charges

By KYLE SPURR
The Daily Astorian



Adam Lopez

Three more women have come forward accusing Warrenton chiropractor Dr. Adam Lopez of sexual abuse.

Lopez, 59, was sentenced in July to one year in jail for sexually harassing eight female patients during their appointments dating back to 2009.

The three new victims claim in the same time period between Sept. 1, 2009 and Sept. 13, 2013 Lopez touched them and made them touch him sexually, according to a com-

plaint filed in December. He is charged with nine counts of third-degree sexual abuse, three counts per victim.

Third-degree sexual abuse is a class A misdemeanor.

Lopez, who has been in Clatsop County Jail since July, appeared in Clatsop County Circuit Court Friday for a hearing on the new charges. He already pleaded not guilty at a hearing in January.

On Friday, Judge Philip Nelson set a five-day trial to begin June 9.

Six of the eight previous patients and the three new victims

attended the hearing Friday.

In addition to the new charges, Lopez appeared in court Friday for a probation violation hearing.

As part of his original sentence, Lopez is serving five years probation. His probation includes paying a \$5,000 compensatory fine to each victim, a total of \$40,000, within 90 days of his sentence.

Chief Deputy District Attorney Ron Brown said Lopez violated his probation by only paying about \$1,000 to each victim after 90 days. As of Friday, Lopez paid the remaining balance.

Lopez, a licensed Oregon chiropractor for 23 years, is unable to practice chiropractic medicine

while he is under the five-year probation. His license from the Oregon Board of Chiropractic Examiners has been suspended since he was arrested in September.

At North Coast Chiropractic Center in Warrenton, Lopez reportedly touched the groins of female patients inappropriately and at times used their bare feet to touch his crotch, according to information relayed to the chiropractic board.

The first victim, 26 at the time, came forward to report that Lopez had inappropriately touched her during three sessions in August and September 2013. During the third appointment, she told investigators that while Lopez was performing a

stretch on her legs and transitioning from one leg to the other, he put his hand "across her vagina, touching her pubic area and then up the other thigh," according to a chiropractic board report.

After Lopez's arrest was made public, several other women came forward and reported similar touching during appointments, now including the three new victims.

Lopez has held his chiropractic license since 1990. He was disciplined in 2006 for having an intimate sexual relationship with a patient and was suspended for 30 days. He was required to pay a \$5,000 civil penalty and attend an ethics program.

Haystack Rock captures another heart

Melissa Keyser is HRAP's first education coordinator

By ERICK BENGEL
EO Media Group

CANNON BEACH — The Cannon Beach's Haystack Rock Awareness Program has found its first education coordinator in Melissa Keyser, a 27-year-old Astoria resident who stepped into the new position Feb. 20.

During every beach season, dozens of school groups from Oregon and Washington take field trips to Haystack Rock so kids can learn about its bird and intertidal life from the program's staff and volunteers.

Scheduling these school groups, though, is a taxing and time-consuming process, said Samantha Ferber, coordinator of the Haystack Rock Awareness Program. With so many teachers requesting time at the beach, competing for low-tide hours, Ferber came to realize that neither she nor the intern, who traditionally handled the education side of things, had time to do it themselves.

"You have a ton of teachers all wanting to come at the same time," said Keyser, noting that, on some days, the tide is out for only two hours. "We want to get as many groups as we can, but coordinating with them is sometimes difficult."

Keyser works with the teachers to give them the days they need. So far, she's scheduled about 30 school groups. That number is expected to rise as the main season for school groups (April through June) gets closer. Clubs, church groups, summer camps and other organizations likely will begin planning visits to Haystack Rock as well.

Keyser also works on the beach as a staff interpreter and will be giving presentations on Haystack Rock's ecology.

Eventually, she would like to help Ferber write some of the program's educational materials, which are based on the federal Common Core State Standards. Some of the program's volunteers give presentations, with games or slide shows, to local classrooms either before or after students' trips to the rock, where there's an intertidal investigation station, an aquaria investigation station and a bird observation station.

The funding for the part-time education coordinator's position, amounting to \$7,150, is secure until June 30, the end of the current fiscal year.



ERICK BENGEL PHOTO

Melissa Keyser, 27, is the first education coordinator with the Haystack Rock Awareness Program. She is in charge of scheduling the school groups and other groups who visit the rock during beach season.

Before July, however, Ferber will make the case before the city's budget committee that the position should be extended through October, which the City Council will have to approve. She will ask the city to fund the position at \$14,300 annually, Ferber said.

'So passionate'

Originally from the Portland metro area, Keyser holds two bachelor's degrees — in environmental studies and geography — from Portland State University, where she graduated in 2010.

"I've always been really passionate about pursuing something in the environmental field," said Keyser, who moved from Beaverton to Astoria with her husband, Matthew, two years ago. They have a 6-year-old son, Olin, and a 1-year-old daughter, Juno. "I've just been looking at every job that I can find in the North Coast region."

Keyser once worked for an eco-friendly auto detailing company, running its social media and setting up its blog and website. She's also big on volunteer

work and has donated her time to SOLVE's beach cleanup efforts and Friends of Trees' tree-planting projects.

Though her mother likes to garden and her family went "glamping" (glamorous camping) in their camper on occasion, Keyser's interest in protecting the environment arose from a very specific experience: an environmental studies class she took while still a senior at Southridge High School in Beaverton.

"I kind of just took it because it sounded interesting, and I just loved it. I ended up just wanting to do that," she said. "That class really dictated my future."

If the education coordinator position continues to receive funding, Keyser hopes to remain in it while preparing for graduate school, not least because "I love the people."

"All the volunteers I've gotten to work with are just so passionate — not, like, scary passionate, but they are so passionate about what they're doing," she said. "They have such a wealth of knowledge that I feel like I want to attain."

Warrenton water shutoff set for Tuesday

WARRENTON — The city of Warrenton has scheduled a water shutoff from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday on Southwest and Northwest Birch Court between Southwest and Northwest First Street, and portions of Southwest First and Southwest Cedar Avenue.

For information, call 503-861-2233.

Special District Election filing deadline is Thursday

By The Daily Astorian

The deadline for candidates to file in the Special District Election in May is Thursday.

The May 19 election includes positions on more than three dozen service district boards around Clatsop County, including the Port of Astoria, Clatsop Community College and Sunset Empire Transportation District. In addition, area school districts, rural fire districts, water and sewer districts will be on the election ballot.

Candidates can file to run by fee or petition.

For a complete list of all seats up for election, the requirements for each office and other information, go to www.co.clatsop.or.us

Two plead not guilty to attempted murder

By KYLE SPURR
The Daily Astorian

Two men accused of attempted murder for allegedly assaulting another man with a hammer pleaded not guilty Friday in Clatsop County Circuit Court before Judge Cindee Matyas.

Kevin Michael Burnham, 25, Seaside, and Joshua Lee Fitch, 23, Longview, Wash., appeared via videolink from Clatsop County Jail for the arraignment hearing Friday.

Both are charged with attempted murder, two counts of first-degree robbery, two counts of criminal conspiracy, first-degree assault, two counts of third-degree assault and second-degree theft.

The robbery and theft charges relate to Burnham and Fitch reportedly stealing the victim's backpack.

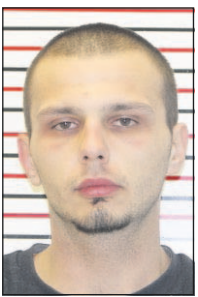
On Feb. 20, Seaside Police responded to Providence Seaside Hospital after receiving a report of a man who had suffered a serious head injury.

The man reported being assaulted with hammers by two other men, later identified as Burnham and Fitch. The victim was transported to a Portland-area hospital, and later released.

Fitch and Burnham were arrested Feb. 27 in



Joshua Lee Fitch



Kevin Michael Burnham

Seaside after a weeklong investigation, according to Seaside Police.

Both men were out on conditional release for previous crimes when they allegedly committed the attempted murder, according to the Clatsop County's District Attorney's Office.

Fitch had been arrested Feb. 3 for unlawful manufacturing of marijuana within 1,000 feet of a school, possession of methamphetamine and two counts of child endangerment.

Burnham was arrested Feb. 8 for possession of methamphetamine and first-degree criminal trespass after Seaside Police found him squatting in a Seaside residence.

Both men will appear in Clatsop County Circuit Court at 10:30 a.m. April 3 for an early resolution conference for the attempted murder case and for violating their conditional release.

Fitch is being held in jail on \$250,000 bail for the attempted murder case and \$50,000 on the previous drug and child endangerment charges. Fitch is being represented by defense lawyer James Von Boeckmann.

Burnham's bail is set at \$250,000 for the attempted murder case and \$15,000 for the drug and criminal trespass charges. Burnham's defense lawyer is Rock Pizzo.

Parenting workshops offered in April, May

Northwest Parenting is offering a "Parenting Now" series of workshops from 6 to 8 p.m. Thursdays, April 2 through May 14.

The workshops provides parents, providers and caregivers the opportunity down.

strategies for dealing with common childhood challenges such as discipline, communication, stress management, realistic expectations, child development and help when things break down. The workshops are held

at the Warrenton Head Start center's conference room, located at 200 S.W. Third St. The total cost for the series is \$25, and scholarships are available. Contact Northwest Parenting at 503-325-8673, ext. 2, to register.

<p>2014 RAM 1500 SLT, Crew Cab, 4x4 Stock #394067 MSRP \$43,070 Lum's Discount \$3,982 Consumer Cash -\$2,000 Ram Truck Bonus Cash -\$500 Truck Month Bonus Cash</p> <p>SALE PRICE \$34,888*</p>	<p>2014 RAM 1500 4x4, Crew Cab, Tradesman Stock #394098 MSRP \$37,385 Lum's Discount \$2,837 Consumer Cash -\$2,000 Ram Truck Bonus Cash -\$500 Truck Month Bonus Cash</p> <p>SALE PRICE \$31,988*</p>	<p>2014 RAM 1500 SLT, Crew Cab, 4x4 Stock #394097 MSRP \$43,440 Lum's Discount \$3,352 Consumer Cash -\$2,000 Ram Truck Bonus Cash -\$500 Truck Month Bonus Cash</p> <p>SALE PRICE \$35,588*</p>
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