

State education board poised to consider Indian mascot exception

By PARIS ACHEN
Capital Bureau

SALEM — After four years of debate, the Oregon Board of Education is poised to consider a compromise Thursday to its strict policy banning American Indian mascots.

The ban, enacted in 2012, is due to take effect July 1, 2017, unless the board adopts the more lenient policy. Fifteen school districts could be affected, including the Warrenton-Hammond School District, the home of the Warriors.

Legislation in 2014 required the Board of Education to develop rules providing for an exception to the ban. In May, the board rejected another proposal for an exception. The board has until January 2017 to adopt a rule. It was unclear Tuesday how board members would receive the latest proposal.

The proposal under consideration Thursday would allow a public school to keep an American Indian mascot when



Joshua Bessex/The Daily Astorian

A statue of a Native American stands outside of Warrenton High School, fused together with 1,000 smaller metal warriors made by students in the 1970s.

it reaches a written agreement with one of Oregon's nine federally recognized tribes. The school board would be required to hold a public hearing on the mascot and accept oral and written comments. A tribe would be allowed to revoke an agreement prior to its expiration date.

The proposal has received mixed reviews from American

Indians. Some oppose all forms of Indian mascots. Others, such as the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, say tribes, as sovereign governments, deserve the right to check off on mascots that highlight their culture. The Grand Ronde, for instance, is supportive of mascots that feature "warriors," "braves" and "chiefs" in its name.

"I think Grand Ronde is optimistic that the Board of Education values Oregon's nine federally recognized tribes and has confidence that we will make culturally appropriate decisions based on the direction the Oregon Legislature has wanted to move on this issue," said Justin Martin, a tribal lobbyist and Grand Ronde tribal member.

The rule gives tribes the ability to be involved in educating schoolchildren, teachers, administrators and other staff about how to respectfully depict and respond to American Indian mascots, Martin said.

In the Molalla River School District, for instance, the school board adopted a fourth-grade curriculum in 2013 that teaches about local tribal history. The curriculum came out of discussions with the Grand Ronde about how to preserve Molalla River's Molalla Indian mascot, said Molalla River Superintendent Tony Mann.

Warrenton chiropractor set for May trial

By KYLE SPURR
The Daily Astorian

Adam Lopez, the Warrenton chiropractor who already served a year in jail for sexually harassing eight female patients, will face trial in May on more charges of sex abuse against four other patients.

Lopez, 60, was originally scheduled for trial last fall, but it was postponed after his lawyer withdrew.

In a motion filed in October, lawyer Mark J. Lang described a falling out with Lopez. "There has been a severe breakdown in the relationship between counsel and defendant and I am unable to continue my representation," Lang wrote.

Lopez is now being represented by Steven J. Sherlag. Lopez was originally sentenced in July 2014 to one year in jail for sexually harassing the eight female patients during their appointments dating back to 2009. The first female patient to report inappropriate touching was awarded \$40,400 in damages in August from a civil lawsuit.

Four more women have since accused Lopez of similar sex abuse during the same time pe-

riod as the previous victims.

The new victims claim Lopez touched them and made them touch him sexually, according to a complaint filed in April. He is charged with 11 counts of third-degree sexual abuse, a class A misdemeanor.

The trial is scheduled to begin May 17.

Lopez, an Astoria resident who worked at North Coast Chiropractic Center in Warrenton, was arrested in September 2013.

In December 2014, he signed a document surrendering his chiropractic license

and agreeing to never apply again. He is unable to practice anywhere in the United States.

Lopez had 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.



Adam Lopez

Part-time Clatsop Community College employee arrested for another arson

By KYLE SPURR
The Daily Astorian

The part-time employee at Clatsop Community College arrested for arson in December was arrested again for arson last week at the college.

Erin Jaynel Engelson, 37, of Naselle, Washington, was arrested Friday after she was found attempting to start a bonfire outside the art building on campus. She reportedly used pieces of wood pallets, wood shavings and other items to try to start the fire.

She was out of jail on a release agreement that prohibited her from being at the college.

She is being charged with first-degree arson and second-degree criminal trespass.

"Based on the investigation, it was determined she was attempting to start a big bonfire," Astoria Police Deputy Chief Eric Halverson said. "Because of the previous case, she was not allowed to be on the property. That is where she was found."

In December, Engelson was arrested for first-degree arson and second-degree burglary after police

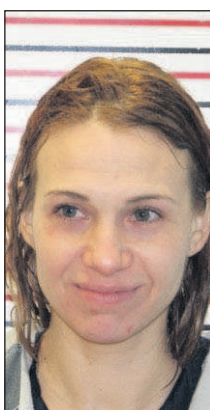
investigated suspicious fire damage found on the floor area of the college's science lab.

The arrest followed a police investigation into a report by the college.

The amount of damage was minimal, police said, and estimated at \$250.

First-degree arson is a class A felony with a maximum sentence of up to 20 years in prison and a \$375,000 fine.

Engelson is in custody at Clatsop County Jail. She is due back in court next month for both cases.



Erin Jaynel Engelson

Seven days of razor clam digging starts Thursday

EO Media Group

OLYMPIA, Wash. — Razor clam diggers can return to Long Beach and Copalis Beach later this week, state shellfish managers announced Tuesday.

Digs at both beaches are on evening tides and include a seven-day opening — Thursday through Wednesday — at Long Beach and a one-day dig — Friday — at Copalis Beach.

The Washington Depart-

ment of Fish and Wildlife confirmed the digs on those two beaches after marine toxin tests showed the clams on those beaches are safe to eat. All other beaches remain closed to recreational razor clam digging.

The upcoming dig is scheduled on the following dates, beaches, and low tides:

- Thursday, 4:49 p.m.; -0.4 feet, Long Beach
- Friday, 5:35 p.m.; -0.7 feet, Long Beach, Copalis
- Saturday, 6:16 p.m.; -0.8

- feet, Long Beach
- Sunday, 6:54 p.m.; -0.7 feet, Long Beach
- Monday, 7:31 p.m.; -0.4 feet, Long Beach
- Tuesday, 8:05 p.m.; 0.0 feet, Long Beach
- Wednesday, 8:39 p.m.; 0.5 feet, Long Beach

Dan Ayres, a Department of Fish and Wildlife coastal shellfish manager, noted the best digging usually occurs one to two hours prior to low tide.

Under state law, diggers can take 15 razor clams per day and are required to keep the first 15 they dig. Each digger's clams must be kept in a separate container.

The department is limiting razor clam digging at Copalis to help ensure the beach will have openings throughout the spring.

"Over the last few openings, we had a concentrated effort at Copalis Beach, where we've harvested one-third of our annual quota already," Ayres said.

Razor clam digging will remain closed on Washington's other coastal beaches until domoic acid levels drop below the threshold of 20 parts per million set by state public health officials.

Domoic acid posed a problem for shellfish fisheries along Washington's coast for much of last year. The natural toxin produced by certain types of marine algae can be harmful or even fatal if consumed in sufficient quantities. Cooking or freezing does not destroy domoic acid in shellfish.

The Department of Fish and Wildlife is continuing to monitor toxin levels on all

Washington beaches and will open other areas as soon as clams are safe to eat.



EO Media Group

Barefooted-clammer Bradley Sweek, of Seattle, didn't mind the cold air and colder water as he dug for clams in Seaview in January.

Oyster growers again seeking spray permit

Associated Press

SEATTLE — Oyster growers in Washington state have once again asked the state Department of Ecology to issue a pesticide application permit so they can spray oyster beds.

The request comes months after the department rescinded the permit after residents across Washington raised environmental concerns about the practice.

The pesticides were supposed to control bur-

rowing shrimp in the oyster beds. The shrimp burrow into the shellfish beds, making the ground too soft for oysters, causing them to suffocate.

Seattlepi.com reports that the Willapa Bay and Grays Harbor growers say their farms will become unusable if they are not allowed to kill burrowing shrimp.

A Department of Ecology spokesman says the permit process will be transparent and open and concurrent with an U.S. Environmental Protection Agency study into the issue.

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