

Quakes 'the heartbeat' of Mount St. Helens

No signs of imminent eruption

KOIN 6 News

VANCOUVER, Wash. — More than 120 tiny earthquakes have taken place during a seven-day period recently beneath Mount St. Helens, but the U.S. Geological Survey said there are no signs of an imminent eruption.

Beginning Nov. 21, the USGS said, four swarms of small quakes were detected. The tiny earthquakes were mostly too small — magnitude 0.3 or less — to be exactly located by the Pacific Northwest Seismic Network or even felt on the surface.

Geologist Liz Westby with the Cascades Volcano Observatory in Vancouver said the earthquakes occurred 1 to 2 miles down. They're nothing of concern but more than enough to generate excitement for those monitoring the active volcano.

"We're just simply fascinated by what's going on because we learn so much more about what's going on beneath Mount St. Helens and what this all means," Westby said.

Seismologist Weston Thelen said earthquakes

tell scientists the process of magma moving into the volcano is continuing, driving off fluids and gases that fill cracks beneath the surface and inducing the small quakes.

"It is not an indicator of an imminent eruption," Thelen said. "Just a simple reminder that things are still active down there and that Mount St. Helens will erupt again. It is not imminent."

Westby said the quakes indicate Mount St. Helens is subtly repressurizing, but little more.

"We're hearing the heartbeat of Mount St. Helens here through these earthquakes," she said.

They'd worry if they detected this again, saw abnormal ground uplift or movement and found changes in volcanic gases.

"We would need to see many more signals that would indicate any kind of concern on our part," she said.

The recent seismic activity alone is simply more data that lends welcome insight into the temperament of a volcano.

Mount St. Helens has proven — even if it was 36 years ago — it's capable of blowing its top with the best of them.

"The more earthquakes we record," Thelen said, "the more we understand about the volcano."

Former chiropractor sentenced for sexually abusing patients

Lopez abused a dozen patients

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Daily Astorian

Adam Lopez, a former chiropractor convicted in November of sexually abusing four patients, was sentenced Monday to 180 days in jail and five years of probation by Circuit Court Judge Philip Nelson.

Eighty of those days are guaranteed jail time, with 100 eligible for alternative incarceration such as community service. Lopez will also register as a sex offender for life, undergo treatment, have no contact with the victims and not be allowed to work as a chiropractor or in any position that involves direct physical contact with women.

Lopez, who has not acknowledged any crimes in the current case, already pleaded guilty in 2014 to sexually harassing eight female patients during appointments dating back to 2009. He was sentenced to one year of jail and is still on probation.

Victims testify

The sentencing Monday was emotionally charged, with Lopez's family and supporters on one side of courtroom,



Adam Lopez

and the victims, family, friends and members of the District Attorney's Office on the other. All four victims testified about the damage Lopez's actions have had on their lives.

"He humiliated me," one victim said, crying as she spoke through a translator about how Lopez's actions had caused harm to her family and her psychological well-being.

Another, also stopping to cry while speaking, said she has had to remember that day in Lopez's office for years. "I am here for closure," she said, thanking the District Attorney's Office for prosecuting.

One victim directly addressed Lopez. She admonished him for claiming to be a good Christian while not acknowledging what he did. Lopez looked back at her as she spoke.

"I'm glad you're looking at me, because you're a liar," she said, adding that God would judge him if he did not acknowledge his crimes, repent, and turn against his evil ways.

Lopez, friends, family testify

Lopez declined to comment in court, submitting a letter before the hearing asking for a lesser sentence.

"I have been released from jail for the last 20 months and have not had any (incidents) for concern with the authorities, nor do I feel that I am a threat to the community," he said in the letter.

Lopez asked to be registered as a sex offender only while on probation. He also asked that in lieu of jail time, he be allowed to do commu-

nity service part of the week and work the other part to help cover his expenses, having lost his chiropractor's license, along with multiple commercial and rental properties. He had already violated his probation by failing to pay \$5,000 in restitution to each of his eight previous victims.

Lopez's two children and a friend from the Astoria First Assembly of God testified about Lopez's character and the impact the charges have had on he and his family.

His daughter, Pilar, said community service would better serve her father, who had apologized to his family for the trouble the case has caused them. That led Deputy District Attorney Ron Brown, lead prosecutor for the state, to ask what her father had said about his charges.

"He doesn't believe he did it," she replied, adding her father told her he never would have done anything intentionally.

"I see no threat to the community from my father," his son Adan said. "I feel like community service would be more useful."

No empathy

Lopez faced up to a year in jail for each of his seven counts of sexual abuse, all class A misdemeanors. During sentencing, Nelson said he has seen many divisive cases, and knows people on both sides of Lopez's case. But he said six jurors had put considerable effort into reaching their verdict last month.

"As I read Lopez's letter, it strikes me that he doesn't show any empathy to the four victims," Nelson said, admonishing the defendant for not apologizing.

"I just don't think you get it at all that what you did was horrible," Nelson said.

Steven Sherlag, Lopez's lawyer, asked that Lopez's seven counts be condensed to four — one for each victim, instead of those based on different alleged incidents. Brown combined the last two of Lopez's seven counts.

Nelson gave the prosecution 60 days to create the terms of financial resolution for counseling and other expenses related to Lopez's actions. Lopez has 30 days to appeal his conviction.

"It's time to start serving that sentence," Nelson said, remanding Lopez to jail immediately.

After Nelson left, Lopez was handcuffed in front of his family and led to the jail.

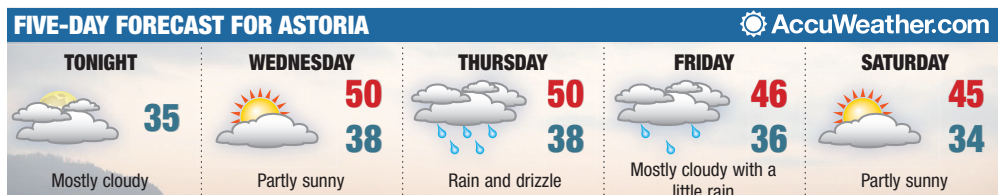
Brown said he understood why Nelson gave Lopez much less than the year in jail he could have received on each count of sexual abuse.

"He didn't do that because we don't have enough space," Brown said, adding prosecutors always have to keep the jail's matrix — a point system used to release less dangerous inmates to alleviate overcrowding — in mind when seeking sentences.

Brown prosecuted a similar case against Donald Hughes, a masseuse at the Cannery Pier Hotel sentenced in July to 120 days in jail and five years probation for sexually abusing a client. His abuse was also a misdemeanor.

"It's just really a shame the (Oregon) Legislature doesn't create a felony for being abused by a professional," he said, adding medical professionals operate based on trust. "The only way someone can go to prison on something like this is if there was force involved."

"If you're awake and the doctor or masseuse or whoever gropes you, it's just a misdemeanor."



ALMANAC

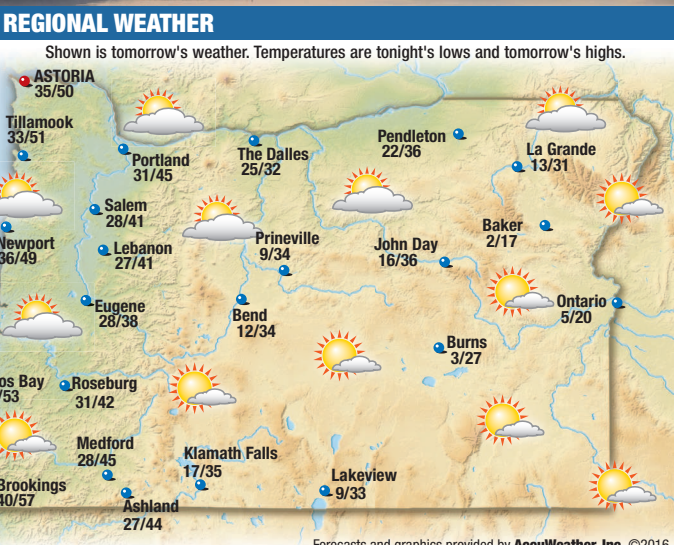
Astoria through Monday.

Temperatures

High/Low	55°/37°
Normal high/low	48°/36°
Record high	61° in 1981
Record low	17° in 1924

Precipitation

Monday	1.98"
Month to date	7.58"
Normal month to date	6.15"
Year to date	84.08"
Normal year to date	63.77"



SUN AND MOON

Sunset tonight: 4:32 p.m.
Sunrise Wednesday: 7:55 a.m.
Moonrise today: none
Moonset today: 12:19 p.m.

Last New First Full
Dec 20 Dec 28 Jan 5 Jan 12

UNDER THE SKY

Tonight's Sky: Orion's belt stands almost straight up from the horizon.

Source: Jim Todd, OMSI

TOMORROW'S TIDES

Astoria / Port Docks

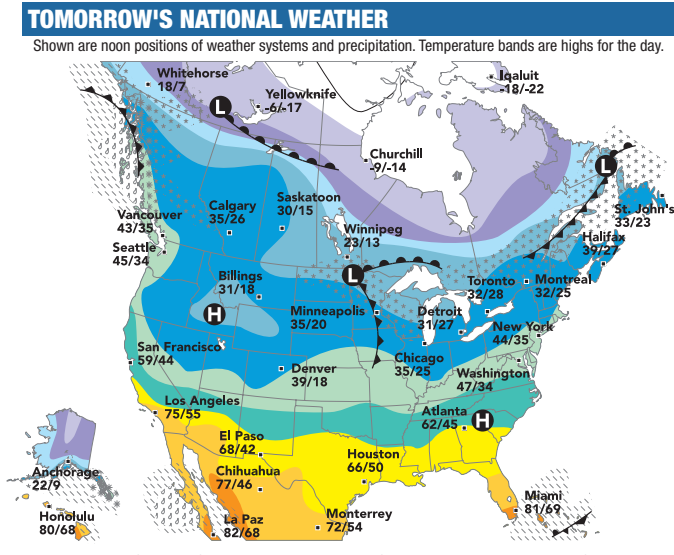
Time	High	Time	Low
7:14 a.m.	8.4 ft.	12:35 a.m.	1.6 ft.
7:25 p.m.	6.7 ft.	1:38 p.m.	2.6 ft.

NATIONAL CITIES

City	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Atlanta	54	34	pc	62	45	s
Boston	33	28	pc	40	31	pc
Chicago	30	18	pc	35	25	c
Denver	49	27	pc	39	18	s
Des Moines	42	23	pc	41	24	c
Detroit	27	14	c	31	27	c
El Paso	61	42	c	68	42	pc
Fairbanks	5	2	pc	9	-15	sn
Honolulu	81	69	s	80	68	s
Indianapolis	32	18	s	37	24	pc
Kansas City	42	23	pc	40	23	pc
Las Vegas	55	37	s	58	42	s
Los Angeles	74	51	s	75	55	s
Memphis	44	30	s	52	35	s
Miami	83	70	pc	81	69	pc
Nashville	45	26	s	51	38	s
New Orleans	54	45	pc	63	52	pc
New York	36	30	s	44	35	pc
Oklahoma City	48	26	s	55	28	s
Philadelphia	36	28	s	43	30	pc
St. Louis	39	23	s	45	27	pc
Salt Lake City	40	28	pc	36	21	s
San Francisco	57	45	pc	59	44	s
Seattle	48	36	sh	45	34	pc
Washington, DC	41	29	s	47	34	s

REGIONAL CITIES

City	Today	Wed.	W	City	Today	Wed.	W
Baker City	25	2	sn	17	3	s	
Bend	41	12	r	34	19	s	
Brookings	52	39	r	54	39	s	
Eugene	49	28	sh	38	27	pc	
Ilwaco	50	39	sh	49	41	pc	
Klamath Falls	39	17	c	35	16	s	
Medford	43	28	r	45	28	s	
Newberg	49	31	sh	43	30	pc	
Newport	48	36	sh	49	38	pc	
North Bend	51	35	sh	53	38	pc	
Olympia	49	30	sh	44	30	pc	
Pendleton	43	22	r	36	22	pc	
Portland	49	31	sh	45	32	pc	
Roseburg	46	31	r	42	32	s	
Salem	49	28	sh	41	28	pc	
Seaside	51	38	sh	51	40	pc	
Spokane	38	23	c	32	17	pc	
Springfield	49	26	sh	41	30	pc	
Yakima	49	33	sh	45	32	pc	



Merkley chosen for Senate leadership post

The Daily Astorian

U.S. Sen. Jeff Merkley has been appointed chief deputy whip for Senate Democrats, a post on the party's leadership team.

The Oregon Democrat also announced that he will serve on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee when Congress convenes in January.

"I am honored to join the leadership team and help carry the fight for good living wage jobs, a secure retirement, and opportunity for all Americans," Merkley said in a statement. "Now, more than ever, billion-



U.S. Sen. Jeff Merkley

aires and special interests are looking to stack the deck in their favor at the expense of the rest of us. We have big battles in front of us, and I'm ready to fight for our vision of a 'We the People' nation.

"I'm also looking forward to serving on the Foreign Relations Committee at a time of substantial international upheaval and national security concerns," the senator said. "Some of the biggest

challenges we face as Americans are international, like climate change, violent extremism, and globalization, and require global cooperation. We can't give all Americans the opportunities they deserve without a strong, thoughtful foreign policy."

PUBLIC MEETINGS

TUESDAY
Ecola Creek Watershed Council, 4:30 p.m., City Hall, 163 E. Gower St., Cannon Beach.
Sunset Empire Park and Rec District, 4 p.m., 1225 Ave. A, Seaside.
Astoria Historic Landmarks Commission, 5:15 p.m., City Hall, 1095 Duane St.
Port of Astoria Commission, 6 p.m., Port offices, 10 Pier 1, Suite 209.
Shoreline Sanitary District Board, 7 p.m., Gearhart Hertig

Station, 33496 West Lake Lane, Warrenton.
Clatsop County Human Services Advisory Council, 4 to 5:30 p.m., 800 Exchange St., Room 430.
Cannon Beach Public Works Committee, 9 a.m., City Hall, 163 E. Gower St.

WEDNESDAY
Seaside Tourism Advisory Committee, 4:30 p.m., City Hall, 989 Broadway.

LOTTERIES

OREGON
Monday's Pick 4:
1 p.m.: 9-4-1-2
4 p.m.: 4-5-2-5
7 p.m.: 3-8-6-3
10 p.m.: 8-9-9-7
Monday's Megabucks:
 9-11-18-26-39-47
 Estimated jackpot: \$3 million

WASHINGTON
Monday's Daily Game:
 5-1-1
Monday's Hit 5: 10-15-32-36-38
 Estimated jackpot: \$170,000
Monday's Keno: 01-03-06-20-24-29-30-35-39-41-50-51-53-55-56-62-66-67-72-79
Monday's Lotto: 08-19-25-28-31-32
 Estimated jackpot: \$1.4 million
Monday's Match 4: 07-10-17-24

OBITUARY POLICY

The Daily Astorian publishes paid obituaries. The obituary can include a small photo and, for veterans, a flag symbol at no charge. The deadline for all obituaries is 9 a.m. the business day prior.

Obituaries may be edited for spelling, proper punctuation and style. Death notices and upcoming services will be published at no charge. Notices must be submitted by 9 a.m. the day of publication.

Obituaries and notices may be submitted online at www.dailyastorian.com/forms/obits, by email at ewilson@dailyastorian.com, placed via the funeral home or in person at The Daily Astorian office, 949 Exchange St. in Astoria. For more information, call 503-325-3211, ext. 257.

APPLIANCE PACKAGE DEALS

APPLIANCE AND HOME FURNISHINGS

529 SE MARLIN, WARRENTON
503-861-0929

OVER 30 YEARS IN CLATSOP COUNTY

Mattresses, Furniture & More!

HOURS OPEN: MON-FRI 8-6 • SATURDAY 9-5 • SUNDAY 10-4
We Service What We Sell

The Daily Astorian

Established July 1, 1873
 (USPS 035-000)

Published daily, except Saturday and Sunday, by EO Media Group, 949 Exchange St., PO Box 210, Astoria, OR 97103 Telephone 503-325-3211, 800-781-3211 or Fax 503-325-6573. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Daily Astorian, PO Box 210, Astoria, OR 97103-0210

www.dailyastorian.com

MEMBER OF THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Associated Press is entitled exclusively to the use for republication of all the local news printed in this newspaper.

SUBSCRIBER TO THE NEW YORK TIMES NEWS SERVICE
 MEMBER CERTIFIED AUDIT OF CIRCULATIONS, INC.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

Effective July 1, 2015

HOME DELIVERY		MAIL	
EZpay (per month)	\$11.25	EZpay (per month)	\$16.60
13 weeks in advance	\$36.79	13 weeks in advance	\$51.98
26 weeks in advance	\$70.82	26 weeks in advance	\$102.63
52 weeks in advance	\$135.05	52 weeks in advance	\$199.90

Circulation phone number: 503-325-3211
 Periodicals postage paid at Astoria, OR

ADVERTISING OWNERSHIP
 All advertising copy and illustrations prepared by The Daily Astorian become the property of The Daily Astorian and may not be reproduced for any use without explicit prior approval.

COPYRIGHT ©
 Entire contents © Copyright, 2016 by The Daily Astorian.
 Printed on recycled paper