

Brownsmead man sentenced for sexually abusing teenager

Smith gets more than six years in prison

By JACK HEFFERNAN
The Daily Astorian

A Brownsmead man was sentenced Thursday to more than six years in prison for sexually abusing a teenage boy in 2017.

Greg Howard Smith, 52, was sentenced after pleading guilty to first-degree sex abuse. He originally faced three counts of first-degree sodomy, first-degree sexual penetration with a foreign object, luring a minor, delivery of a controlled substance to a minor and furnishing alcohol to a person under 21 before reaching a plea deal with the Clatsop County District Attorney's Office.

The victim had long been friends with Smith's son. Eventually, he also befriended Smith, often talking about drugs with him on Facebook.

The teen was given whiskey, marijuana and anxiety medication one night when he was visiting Smith on Fish Lane, Chief Deputy District Attorney Ron Brown said. He also consumed methamphetamine, which the boy confused with a lesser drug.

Smith, also known as Greg Tyrone Jesus, then sexually abused the boy in a camp trailer on the property. When the boy returned home a full day after the incident, the boy's mother took him to Columbia Memorial Hospital in Astoria after she noticed that he was highly intoxicated. When talking to police at the hospital, the boy, who had panic attacks throughout the day, said he regretted putting himself in that situation.

"He basically spent the whole next day freaking out over the whole thing but having no means of transportation so as to be rescued until he eventually got home 24 hours after it happened," Brown said.

Investigators found Smith's DNA on the boy. He was arrested the day after the boy was taken to the hospital.

At Thursday's hearing in Circuit Court, the boy said Smith approached him the night of the incident with a grenade and asked if he wanted him to pull it. The boy said he almost gave the nod, adding he has tried to kill himself on several occasions.

"What Greg did to me, it

destroyed me," he said. "My chest looks like an overused cutting board, and right now I'm actually so anxious I can't even feel my toes."

Several students have approached him at school to ask about the incident, the boy said. Some thanked him, saying they were sexually abused by Smith, as well.

"I'm not the first, but I really do hope I'm the last," he said. "I hope you die in there."

The victim's mother also spoke, saying the sentence "does not come anywhere near" to being fair.

"You, Greg Smith, are the type of person I have taught my children not to be. On numerous occasions, you, Greg Smith, have chosen to do wrong toward others, especially innocent children," she said. "This time, the child you hurt was my son."

She added that, since the incident, she has repeatedly blamed herself. "But I know in this situation I was not to blame. You, Greg Smith, were the one who did wrong and no one else. In the end, I want you to know that you did not break us."

Smith was sentenced to six years in prison in Columbia County in 2006 after being convicted of first-degree sex abuse and second-degree sodomy. A third-degree rape charge in Clatsop County that same year was dismissed.

In his first court appearance in the recent case, Smith used a profanity to liken the charges against him to bull feces. Smith declined to give a statement Thursday.

After issuing the sentence, Judge Dawn McIntosh called Smith a predator. "I think you are likely to do this again if given the opportunity. My goal will be to make sure you don't have that opportunity," McIntosh said. "I could sit here and give you a long lecture, but I've spent a lot of years dealing with people like you, and the reality is the chances of anything changing who you are or your behavior are slim to none. The best thing we can do is lock you up for a while and then watch you real closely when you're out on post-prison supervision."

The judge then turned toward the victim.

"I will tell you, it was an incredibly brave thing you did following through with this," McIntosh said. "You stood up for what was right, and you stood up in a manner that probably has saved some other children."



Greg Howard Smith

Peeing in public a crime? Not under state law, appeals court says

Conduct is prohibited in Astoria

By AIMEE GREEN
The Oregonian

The Oregon Court of Appeals on Wednesday threw out the misdemeanor conviction of a man caught peeing next to a building in downtown Portland, saying he was prosecuted under a frequently used state law that shouldn't apply to public urination.

The ruling could have a sweeping effect by preventing district attorney's offices across the state from using Oregon's offensive littering law to charge people who urinate in public spaces.

It appears people now can legally relieve themselves where they want — unless they step foot into the city limits of municipalities that outlaw public urination with their own local ordinances. Portland has several laws that could apply but they weren't used in the case reviewed by the appeals court.

Public urination is a widespread livability issue no matter the size of the city. In 2016, Newport police put out a warning on Facebook, reminding people: "It is illegal to empty

your bladder in an area that is not specifically designated for such activity." The post suggests that people "invest in adult diapers" if they don't think they can abide by the rules.

In 2011, the Portland Water Bureau drained 7.8 million gallons from a Mount Tabor reservoir after a 21-year-old man urinated into it.

Wednesday's ruling was based on an appeal by 36-year-old Ryan Charles Corcilus, who had just pulled into downtown Portland after driving up from California in 2015 as part of a cross-country road trip, according to the appeals court summary of the case.

"By the time he got to Portland and parked, it was already an 'emergency' for him to use a restroom," the appeals court wrote.

Corcilus asked a gas station attendant to use the bathroom but was told it wasn't open to the public. He then went into a Subway sandwich shop and was told the restroom was for paying customers only and he'd have to wait in a long line to make a purchase first, the summary states.

"He began to panic because of the intense pressure of having to urinate," the appeals court wrote. "He found a spot that he believed was secluded and urinated on the side of a building."

A private security guard hired by local businesses to enforce livability laws spotted Corcilus and called police, who cited Corcilus for misdemeanor offensive littering.

Corcilus couldn't be reached for comment.

Defense attorney Joseph DeBin argued that Corcilus couldn't be convicted of offensive littering because it outlaws "discarding or depositing any rubbish, trash, garbage, debris or other refuse" on public property or other people's properties, but it doesn't specifically outlaw urine. Legislators would have written "urine" into the law if they had wanted to include it, DeBin said.

Multnomah County Circuit Judge Stephen Bushong disagreed and declined to dismiss the case before trial. A jury found Corcilus guilty.

The appeals court reversed his conviction. In a majority opinion, the court wrote that urine isn't specifically mentioned in the state's offensive littering law. What's more, it's not "discarded" or "deposited" from the body, the ruling said.

"One discharges urine, rather than discarding it," it said.

Brent Weisberg, a spokesman for the Multnomah County District Attorney's

Office, said his office knows of no other state law they could use to prosecute urinating in public.

The Legislature could take action to expand the offensive littering law by adding that it applies to public urination.

In a survey of the state's larger cities, many have ordinances that prohibit public urination to some extent — including Portland, Gresham, Beaverton, Lake Oswego, Bend, Eugene and Salem. Many don't criminalize the act, but do impose fines.

In Astoria, public urination is prohibited as offensive public conduct.

Under Portland city code, people who urinate in public could conceivably be prosecuted for misdemeanor indecent exposure — if members of the opposite sex could see their genitalia at the time.

Otherwise, city code forbids urinating in any park or "pedestrian plaza" — punishable with a fine but no criminal conviction. But it's unclear if a "pedestrian plaza" covers all sidewalks, parking lots and other areas visible to the public within the city.

A three-judge panel made the appeals ruling. Judges Darleen Ortega and David Schuman formed the majority and Judge Erika Hadlock dissented.

Cannon Beach selects a new community development director

Adams to replace Barnes

By BRENN A VISSER
The Daily Astorian

CANNON BEACH — Cannon Beach has a new community development director.

Jeffrey Adams, of Bryan County, Georgia, will fill the shoes of City Planner Mark Barnes, who plans to retire by the end of October after five years with the city. While the title is new, the position remains largely the same, which is to oversee development and code enforcement. He will start by Oct. 15.



Jeffrey Adams

Adams has about 20 years of planning experience, most recently working as planning and zoning director for Bryan County and

as a community development director of St. Marys, Georgia. In these positions, he led the city's first comprehensive planning project and served as project manager for the disaster recovery efforts through Hurricane Matthew and Hurricane Irma.

He started his career as a research assistant for the U.S.

Army Corps of Engineers before moving to work as a planner for Flint Hills, Kansas, and Blaine County, Idaho.

Adams holds a bachelor's and master's degrees in landscape architecture from the University of Georgia and the University of Illinois. He also holds a doctorate in philosophy and social theory from the University of London.

Adams was chosen out of five candidates, City Manager Bruce St. Denis said.

"We found Jeff to be bright and that he has an excellent grasp of planning principles," St. Denis said. "He was personable, loved the town and is excited about moving here."

Feds close off wilderness after cougar kills hiker

Associated Press

SANDY — The U.S. Forest Service has closed a vast swath of the Oregon wilderness to the public as authorities search rugged terrain for a cougar that killed a hiker.

KGW-TV reported Thursday that nearly 47 square miles and 14 trails in the Hunchback

Mountain area could remain closed for at least 30 days.

There was no sign of the cougar in the first full day of searching Thursday.

Diana Bober is the first person known to have been killed by a cougar in the wild in Oregon, and the second in the Pacific Northwest this year.

The 55-year-old avid hiker

from Gresham was reported missing on Sept. 7.

Bober's sister says she had defensive wounds and fought the cougar with a stick, repellent and a sharp object.

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OPEN HOUSE

We warmly invite all in the community to the **OPEN HOUSE** of our newly renovated **Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses** at 1760 7th St., Astoria, Oregon, being held on **Saturday, September 15th, between 10:00am and 4:00pm.**

The building was recently renovated with all volunteer labor and donations. Most of the volunteers came from other Kingdom Halls throughout the northwest, but some even traveled across the country to help get the project completed.

There are no meetings scheduled during this open house, but we invite you to tour our new place of worship. There will be refreshments provided.

We also invite you to visit our website: www.jw.org. In doing so, you will find that the Jehovah's Witnesses long for a time when all of mankind's troubles will be a thing of the past and we can live together in unity!

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