# Man involved in Seaside hammer attack gets over 5 years

By Kyle Spurr EO Media Group

A Seaside man involved in a hammer attack against another man was sentenced Friday, Sept. 11, in Clatsop County Circuit Court to more than five years in prison.

Joshua Lee Fitch, 23, pleaded no contest to a lesser charge of second-degree assault.

He was originally charged with attempted murder, robbery, criminal conspiracy and theft. The charges were dropped through a plea agreement.

In February, Seaside Police responded to Prov-



**JOSHUA LEE FITCH** 

idence 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 Fitch and Kevin Michael Burnham.

Fitch and Burnham were arrested a week later in Seaside after a police investigation.

Prosecutor Dave Goldthorpe said the two men tried to rob or steal from the victim in what appeared to be a drug deal situation. The two went after the victim and fractured his skull, which required expensive medical treatments to save his life.

"It's due to the extreme measures taken by medical staff that (Fitch) was not facing a murder conviction on this," Goldthorpe said.

In court Friday, Fitch's defense lawyer James Lee von Boeckmann said further investigation showed the two men did go after the victim, but it was Burnham who had the hammer and began wailing on the victim. Burnham stopped hitting the man only because Fitch intervened.

"I saved his life. I really did. I didn't take the steps to call police to go get him, but I do believe I saved his life," Fitch said. "I told the truth and gave evidence and it doesn't matter. I'm still getting five years.'

Fitch said he had never met Burnham until the day of the attack.

"He was just in my car and he asked me to give him a ride somewhere and that's how it started," Fitch said.

Judge Cindee Matyas explained to Fitch how he should not have been in that situation. She ordered him to have no contact with Burnham or the victim, as part of the 70-month sentence.

"Consequences are huge," she said.

Fitch also pleaded no contest Friday to possession of methamphetamine from an earlier case.

Last month, Burnham, 25, pleaded guilty to second-degree robbery from the hammer attack. He also pleaded guilty to first-degree attempted escape from Clatsop County Jail and to possession of methamphetamine from a previous

A sentencing hearing for Burnham is scheduled Sept. 25 in Clatsop County Circuit Court.

# SEASIDE POLICE LOG

# Aug. 21

11:43 a.m., 400 block of South Holladay Drive: Caller had questions regarding possible illegal activity in his residence. Officer advised.

7:02 p.m., Broadway: Third-party reporting disturbance at his business with vaque information. Officer responded and advised verbal disturbance over policy and party had left and was unable to be located.

8:27 p.m., Queen Street: Caller reported backyard fire. Officer made contact with responsible and fire was extinguished.

# Aug. 22

2:02 p.m., Beach: 911 caller reported transients on the beach drinking and smoking marijuana, and a possible young teen passed out. Lifeguard on the beach responded; nobody was passed out; no observation of public marijuana smoking. All appeared OK.

PET & GARDEN CENTER, **SPRING & SUMMER PLANTS** 

1/2 OFF!

Everything you'd expect from a Quality

Nursery & Pet Center with qualified staff to answer all your gardening and pet questions

2:19 p.m., 800 block of South Roosevelt Drive: 911 caller reported subject with a warrant just left her business. Officers searched the area, but were unable to locate him.

2:22 p.m., U.S. Highway 101: 911 caller with medical emergency stuck in traffic trying to get to the hospital. Medix was unable to locate patient. Upon callback, caller reported they arrived at the Emergency Room.

4:56 p.m., Broadway: Caller reporting man with long beard yelling at the Turnaround. Officers responded, male was preaching the Gospel, not causing any problems or blocking the sidewalk.

10:06 p.m., North Prom: Caller requested trespass for transient sleeping on the property. Officers delivered trespass notice.

LOCAL

# Aug. 23

12 a.m., Avenue A: Officer contacted intoxicated male. Responsible was with him. They were waiting for a taxi.

**4:56 p.m.**, Lewis and Clark Road: Report of neighbor seen crawling through crawl space at apartment. Officer responded; hole too small for a human to crawl through.

9:51 p.m., Downing Street and First Avenue: Officer responded to report of person acting erratic. wearing just boxer shorts. Upon officer arrival, subject was not in the area. Gone upon arrival.

#### **Aug. 24**

12:46 a.m., Beach: Officers responded to report of people in lifeguard tower. Upon officer contact, subjects were warned of trespass.

1:36 a.m., 400 block of Franklin Street: Officers made contact after 911 hang-up call. Upon contact, subject was intoxicated and warned for disorderly conduct.

8:44 p.m., 400 block of Avenue T: Officer responded

report of illegal campfire in backyard. Upon officer arrival, responsible person put out

# Aug. 25

3 a.m., Turnaround: Caller reported possible kids with stick on fire. Officer advised it is a battery-powered liaht.

**9:23 p.m.**, 2500 block of South Roosevelt Drive: Officer assisted with combative patient that was transported to hospital by Medix.

11:03 p.m., U.S. Highway 101 Northbound: Officer advised of traffic complaint that 911 caller was not sure if it went U.S. Highway 26 or U.S. Highway 101 and unsure of plate. Officer out of position at time of call.

11:28 p.m., 1100 block of South Downing Street: Officer responded to an anonymous report of verbal disturbance. Upon officer arrival, location of disturbance could not be located.

# SEASIDE \*

The Seaside Signal is published every other week by EO Media Group, 1555 N. Roosevelt Seaside Oregon 97138. 503-738-5561. www.seasidesignal.com

# **PUBLISHER**

Steve Forrester **EDITOR** 

R.J. Marx REPORTER

Katherine Lacaze **ADVERTISING MANAGER** 

**Betty Smith** PRODUCTION MANAGER John D. Bruijn

#### CIRCULATION MANAGER Heather Ramsdell

SYSTEMS MANAGER CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

Claire Lovel John Rahl Darren Gooch Esther Moberg

**ADVERTISING SALES** Laura Kaim Wendy Richardson

# Letter nolicy

The Seaside Signal welcomes letters to the editor. The deadline is noon Monday prior to publication. Letters must be 400 words or less and must be signed by the author and include a phone number for verification. We also request that submissions be limited to one letter per month. Send to 1555 N. Roosevelt Drive, Seaside. OR 97138, drop them off at 1555 N. Roosevelt Drive or fax to 503-738-9285 Or email nmccarthv@ seasidesignal.com

#### SUBSCRIPTIONS

Annually: \$40.50 in county • \$58.00 in and out of county • e-Edition: only \$30.00

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Seaside Signal, P.O. Box 210, Astoria, OR 97103. Postage Paid at Seaside, OR 97138 and at additional mailing offices. Copyright 2015  $\ensuremath{\mathbb{G}}$  by the Seaside Signal. No portion of this newspaper may be re-produced without written permission.



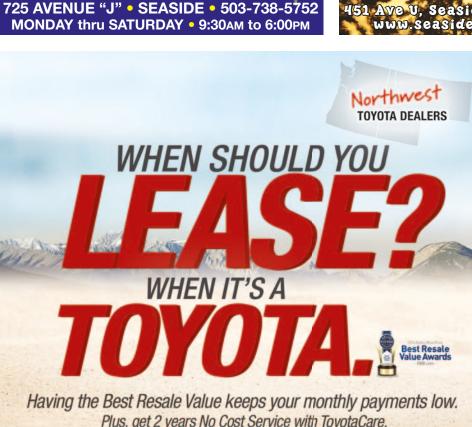




CUSTOM WHEELS

 AUTOMOTIVE SERVICES 503-325-2861

35359 Business Hwy 101 (miles crossing) Astoria, OR



Plus, get 2 years No Cost Service with ToyotaCare.



**WHERE WILL YOU GO?** 



**1605 SE Ensign Lane** Warrenton, OR 503-861-1144 LumsToyota.com

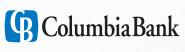
Vehicle's projected resale value is specific to the 2014 model year. For more information, visit Kelley Blue Book's KBB.com. Kelley Blue Book is a registered trademark of Kelley Blue Book Co., Inc. • Covers normal factory scheduled service for 2 years or 25,000 miles, whichever comes first. See Toyota dealer for details and exclusions. Valid only in the continental U.S. and Alaska. • Lease a new 2015 RAV4 LE for \$179 a month for 24 months with \$2,000 miles. dealer for details and exclusions. Valid only in the continental U.S. and Alaska. • Lease a new 2015 RAV4 LE for \$179 a month for 24 months with \$2,000 down and \$2,829 due at signing. Due at signing costs include first month's payment, \$650 acquisition fee and \$2,000 down payment. Example based on model #4432C. Base Manufacturer's Suggested Retail Price \$25,080. Monthly payments of \$179 total \$4,296. Net capitalized cost of \$23,442 based on down payment and dealer participation, which may vary by dealer. Lease-end purchase option is \$19,238.00 • Lease a New 2015 Prius Liftback (Two) for \$189 a month for 24 months with \$2,660 down and \$3,499 due at signing plus \$1500 Toyota Financial Services (TFS) Subvention Cash. Due at signing costs include first month's payment, \$650 acquisition fee and \$2,660 down payment. Lease includes \$1500 TFS subvention cash. Example based on model #1223A. Base Manufacturer's Suggested Retail Price \$24,200. Monthly payments of \$189 total \$4,536. Net capitalized cost of \$21,692 based on down payment and dealer participation, which may vary by dealer. Lease end purchase option is \$17,165.00 • Lease a New 2015 Corolla LE CVT (Gas) for \$149 a month for 24 months with \$1,700 down payment. Lease includes \$1000 (TFS) subvention Cash. Due at signing costs include first month's payment, \$650 acquisition fee and \$1,700 down payment. Lease includes \$1000 (TFS) subvention Cash. Due at signing costs include first month's payment, \$650 acquisition fee and \$1,700 down payment. Lease includes \$1000 (TFS) subvention cash. Example based on model #1852E. Base Manufacturer's Suggested Retail Price \$18,565. Monthly payments of \$149 total \$3,576. Net capitalized cost of \$16,854 based on down payment and dealer participation, which may vary by dealer. Lease end purchase option is \$13,321.00. \$1500 New 2015 Prius Liftback (Two) and \$1000 New 2015 Corolla LE subvention cash from Toyota Motor Sales (TMS) not applicable for cash back offers and must qualify for subvention cash though TFS. Payment may vary depend Payment may vary depending on final transaction price. Offers cannot be combined with any other offers, vary by region and are subject to availability. Security deposit waived. Closed-end lease. \$350 disposition fee due at lease end unless customer purchases vehicle or decides to re-finance through TFS. Customer responsible for maintenance, excess wear and tear and \$0.15 per mile over 12,000 miles per year. To qualified Tier I+ customers through TFS. Offers good in WA, OR, ID, and MT. For ID and MT state dealerships, a documentary service fee in an amount up to \$350 may be added to vehicle price. For Washington state dealerships, a negotiable documentary service fee in an amount up to \$150 may be added to sale price or capitalized cost. For Oregon state dealerships, a negotiable documentary service fee in an amount up to \$100 may be added to vehicle price. Oregon state dealerships not using an electronic vehicle registration system may only apply fees up to \$75 to vehicle price. Does not include taxes, license, title, processing fe insurance, and dealer charges. See your local participating Toyota dealer for details. Must take retail delivery from dealer stock by 10/5/15.

Every business needs a fast track.

Unlike the national banks, our loan process isn't complicated.

We understand you have a lot on your plate, so allow us to give your business a nudge in the right direction. No more waiting for loan approvals from national banks, and no more tapping your foot. We're here, and we're here to help. So call us or come in.

You'll notice the difference.



Find out more at columbiabank.com or call 877-272-3678. Member FDIC. Equal Housing Lender 🗈