

Man who tried to escape jail gets more than six years under plea agreement

By Kyle Spurr
EO Media Group

Kevin Michael Burnham, the Seaside man who tried escaping from Clatsop County Jail while in custody for an attempted murder charge from a hammer attack, was sentenced Friday, Sept. 25, to more than six years in prison.

Burnham, 26, appeared in Clatsop County Circuit Court Friday to accept his sentence.

He pleaded guilty last month to a lesser charge of second-degree robbery for the hammer attack and to first-degree attempted escape for the jail incident. He also pleaded guilty to unlawful possession of methamphetamine from a previous case.

Other charges, including attempted murder, were dropped through the plea agreement.

Burnham was arrested in Seaside in February with

Joshua Lee Fitch, 24.

Seaside Police responded to Providence 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.

Fitch was sentenced earlier this month to more than five years in prison.

"There was really no rational reason to beat up (the victim)," prosecutor Dawn Buzzard said. "He didn't steal from them or anything."

While in custody, Burnham and another inmate, Anthony Craig Osborne, attempted to escape from the county jail. The two inmates broke off a shower



KEVIN MICHAEL BURNHAM

drain grate, tied it to a bed-sheet and swung it against a window about 20 times until the window shattered. A couple of more swings and they could have broken through the window, which is large enough for them to get through.

"They took a steel drain, attached it to a bed sheet and started whaling on the window and they did knock some of the glass out," Buzzard said.

The two men also flooded a toilet in the cellblock and added soap to make the floor slippery for responding corrections officers.

Their plan failed when corrections officers heard the grate hitting the window. The officers detained the inmates and placed them in a more secure part of the jail.

The estimated damage could cost between \$4,000 and \$5,000 to fix, according to the jail.

Buzzard requested 90 days to determine the amount of restitution for the damage.

Osborne, 24, was in custody on theft, burglary and drug charges. He is scheduled for a final resolution conference in December.

Burnham's defense attorney Rock Pizzo and the prosecution were negotiating a plea agreement in the attempted murder case before the attempted escape.

The reason he tried to escape was because the District Attorney's Office gave him such a bad deal. However, he accepted that deal by pleading guilty to second-degree robbery.

"In the end Mr. Burnham has discovered, through the angst of these past six months, that however it went down at some point he has lost his soul to drugs and he wants to spend this time to get his soul back," Pizzo said.

Seaside man sentenced for baton attack, burglary

By Kyle Spurr
EO Media Group

A Seaside man who attacked another man with a baton in May and burglarized a home last fall was sentenced Thursday, Sept. 24, in Clatsop County Circuit Court.

Cameron Lee Lambert, 28, will serve five years probation. If the probation is violated, he will face five years in prison.

Lambert pleaded guilty to attempted second-degree assault and no contest to second-degree burglary. He pleaded Thursday as part of an agreement to avoid trial next week. Other charges of theft and criminal mischief were dropped.

At the hearing Thursday, Lambert described the baton attack to Judge Paula Brownhill as self-defense.

"I struck a man with a weapon. He previously pulled a firearm out at me. It wasn't like I planned it. It just happened. I happened to come across his path," he said.

The burglary occurred in October at a house being remodeled on North Wahanna Road in Seaside, according to Prosecutor Dawn Buzzard.

After breaking into the home, Buzzard said, Lambert reportedly stole more than \$1,000 worth of tools, steaks from a refrigerator, appliances and furniture.

"He did not have permission," Buzzard said.

Lambert's defense lawyer Mary Ann Murk told the court her client plans to use his time on probation to make positive changes in his life. Lambert admitted to Judge Brownhill that he has a drug problem. "He assures me he will do his probation," Murk said.

Judge Brownhill warned Lambert that many other people are unable to complete probation sentences and end up in prison.

"The chances are slim that you are going to successfully complete probation, but I hope you do," she said. "I hope you can get clean and sober and stay out of jail."

Sheriff Bergin announces his bid for a fourth term

On Sept. 15, Sheriff Tom Bergin filed to run for his fourth term as Clatsop County Sheriff. Bergin started his law enforcement career as a reserve police officer for the Seaside Police Department in 1985. Bergin was hired full time in December of 1986 with Seaside where he worked patrol until 1992.

Bergin went to work for the Clatsop County Sheriff's Office in February 1992 as a patrol deputy. Bergin started the first narcotic canine unit at the sheriff's office and had three dogs over the years of service.

Bergin was promoted to the rank of sergeant in 1996. Bergin has primarily been involved with patrol and narcotics over the course of his career and ran the inter-agency narcotics team for several years. While su-

pervising the team, Clatsop County Inter-Agency Narcotics Team was awarded Narcotic Team of the Year 2001 from Western States Information Network in Sacramento, California.

Bergin was promoted to chief deputy in 2003 and while chief he finished earning his middle management and executive certifications that were precluded by his basic, intermediate, advanced and supervisory. Bergin has more than 2,344 hours of training in law enforcement. He attended Oregon State and Portland State universities.

Bergin ran for and was elected to the office of sheriff and started in January 2005. He has since run unopposed for a second term and then re-elected for a third term in 2013.

Serial burglar sentenced to over seven years in prison

By Kyle Spurr
EO Media Group

A serial burglar who stole from over 100 businesses and residents in Clatsop County is going to prison.

Loren C. Tarabochia, 42, of Seaside, pleaded guilty Friday, Sept. 18, in Clatsop County Circuit Court to eight counts of second-degree burglary and one count of attempted second-degree burglary. He was sentenced to more than seven years in prison.

Tarabochia has a lengthy criminal history of theft and burglary dating back more than a decade.

He has more than 100 victims in Clatsop County. Most of his recent victims were local businesses such as Pizza Hut and the Sunset Empire Park & Recreation District in Seaside, Skipanon Brand Seafood in Warrenton and

Astoria Ford.

"All the victims were very excited about the resolution," Prosecutor Scott Chamberlain said.



LOREN C. TARABOCHIA

Last September, Tarabochia was arrested on multiple charges including burglary, theft, felon in possession of a weapon, unlawful possession of a destructive device and sex abuse charges.

Seaside Police Department detectives and the Clatsop County Sheriff's Office joined together to investigate Tarabochia's multiple commercial burglaries in the Clatsop County area.

A slew of charges were dropped through his plea

agreement. Judge Paula Brownhill noted Friday that Tarabochia could have faced a much longer sentence if not for his impressive knowledge of the legal system. He and his lawyer Terrence Hunt submitted countless motions to suppress the charges. Some of the motions prevailed.

A trial was scheduled this week, but was canceled once both sides reached the plea agreement.

Judge Brownhill said finding an unbiased jury in Clatsop County would have been difficult.

"You have victimized so many people," she said. "It would be somewhat challenging to pick a jury because so many in our jury pool have been victims of your crimes. You have to stop this."

The judge asked Tarabochia why he committed so many burglaries, even after spending time in prison. He said he had no idea why.

Hunt did not make excuses for his client, but said Tarabochia has struggled with medical problems, finding work and dealing with his own identity.

"He is not a hopeless case," Hunt said. "He is a challenging case."

Judge Brownhill sentenced Tarabochia to 102 months in prison, or about eight-and-a-half years. He will get credit for time served this past year, so his remaining sentence is seven-and-a-half years.

The prosecution has 60 days to submit a total amount for restitution for the victims.

Tarabochia said he will not appeal the sentence.

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