

# Former Seaside Heights custodian charged with child sex abuse

By Jack Heffernan  
EO Media Group

A Seaside man was arrested Thursday, Jan. 18, for allegedly molesting a child on several occasions.

The allegations are based on several incidents from 2007 to 2011 when the child was between the ages of 5- and 9-years-old. Seaside police arrested Keith Davis, 46, who has been charged with five counts of first-degree sexual abuse and five counts of first-degree sodomy.

Davis is a former custodian at Seaside Heights Elementary School. Police say they do not believe he was using



Keith Davis

his position with the school to gain access to the victim in this case.

"We are very saddened for the victim and the victim's family," Seaside School District Superintendent Sheila Roley said. "It is also a diffi-

**'We are very saddened for the victim and the victim's family. It is also a difficult time for the school community.'**

Sheila Roley,  
Seaside School District  
Superintendent

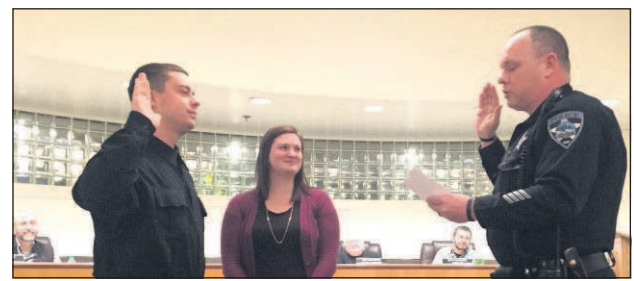
cult time for the school community. We are maintaining a normal schedule and routine for our students and staff, and have support staff available

if needed to work with any individual concerns. We ask everyone's support in allowing our students' education to continue without disruption."

Davis is being held at the Clatsop County Jail on \$500,000 bail. His arraignment is scheduled for later this month if indicted.

"If anyone does believe any similar incidents did occur based on his employment at the school, they are encouraged to come forward," Deputy District Attorney Dawn Buzzard said.

Those with further information are advised to call Seaside Police Detective Bill Barnes at 503-738-6311.



R.J. MARX/SEASIDE SIGNAL

**Justin Gagnon is sworn in by Chief Dave Ham. Gagnon's wife Shelby looks on.**

## New Seaside officer sworn in

Seaside Signal

Justin Gagnon was sworn in as a Seaside police officer at the Monday, Jan. 22, City Council meeting. With the hiring of Gagnon, this fills the final vacancy on the department, which has

been seeking to fill positions for about two years, Police Chief Dave Ham said. "Over the past couple of years, we've had five, six positions to fill," he said. "It shows you how long it takes to fill some jobs for the police department. We're glad to have him here."

## High tides lead to citywide precautions



Flooding in the parking lot by the Cove.

Seaside Signal

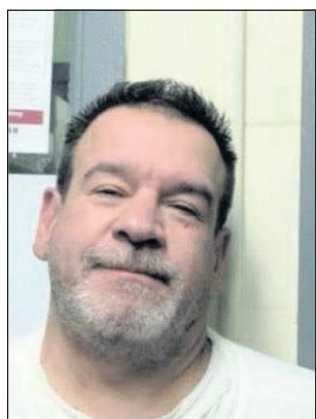
Seaside braced itself Thursday, Jan. 18, as the National Weather Service warned of dangerous high surf and beach erosion through the day. The parking lot at the Cove was closed at about 11:30 a.m. in expectation of high waves and the Public Works Department built up a berm at the Turnaround to protect the bathrooms.

Early in the afternoon, high water crossed the parking lot at the Cove. There was no reported damage.

Rains also posed flooding risks.

"If the river comes up, at some point there's no place for the water to go," Public Works Director Dale McDowell said.

As of Jan. 28, Astoria had seen more than 10 inches of rain in the month, about an inch more than average.



WESTPORT, CONN., POLICE DEPARTMENT

John Mech

## Seaside man charged with generator fraud after Superstorm Sandy

Associated Press

STAMFORD, Conn. — A Seaside man has been charged with stealing deposits Connecticut homeowners had made for generators after Superstorm Sandy.

The Stamford Advocate reported that 56-year-old John Mech took a \$7,500 deposit

from a Stamford homeowner for a generator in February 2013. The homeowner called Mech multiple times but never received the generator.

Police say they received three other complaints from homeowners who paid Mech for generators that were never installed. Investigators say Mech's company was not reg-

istered in the state.

Authorities say Mech told investigators his wife used the deposits for gambling.

Mech's attorney said during an arraignment hearing last week his client has already paid restitution for three cases with the hope that Mech will face a lesser penalty. He was held on \$50,000 bond.

### POLICE LOG

**Jan. 14**  
**12:00 a.m.**, 200 block 17th Avenue: Officers conduct a welfare check on a citizen after a neighbor thought suspicious activity had occurred at the residence. The person was fine and nothing was suspicious.

**1:01 a.m.**, 1600 block S. Roosevelt: A missing person is reported.

**4:30 p.m.**, 2000 block N. Roosevelt: Police do a welfare check on a person being evicted who was described by the reporting party as "losing it." Police find him chopping up his unwanted furniture in order to more easily dispose of it. The subject was deemed to not be a danger to himself, or others.

**Jan. 15**  
**2:26 p.m.**, Avenue A: Caller reports someone riding a razor skateboard on the sidewalk. No skateboarders were observed by police in the area.

**Jan. 16**  
**1:27 p.m.**, 1200 block S. Wahanna: An assault in the fourth degree is reported.

**3:26 p.m.**, OceanWay bathroom: Police assist with a suicidal subject.

**6:22 p.m.**, 700 block S. Wahanna: An assault in the second degree is reported.

**6:32 p.m.**, Whispering Pines: A person is arrested on a warrant.

**Jan. 17**  
**3:30 p.m.**, Seaside police headquarters: Sex crimes are reported.

**8:33 p.m.**, Seaside police headquarters: Sex crimes are reported.

**Jan. 18**  
**3:54 a.m.**, N. Holladay Drive: Citizen calls to report their boat lost, floated away or sunk due to stormy weather.

**8:56 a.m.**, 900 block Avenue S: Menacing and harassment are reported.

**10:26 a.m.**, 800 block Broadway: A person reported their imaginary friend had been stabbed; the complainant is known to have mental health issues. He was playing with a knife when police arrived. Police relieved him of his knife for safekeeping.

**Jan. 19**  
**9:17 a.m.**, First Avenue: A mother reports her daughter is making suicidal comments over the phone. Police locate the daughter in a hotel. She says she is fine and not thinking of self harm.

**Jan. 20**  
**7:15 p.m.**, Chamber restroom: Officer locking up public restrooms discovered two people in the same stall. They were advised to move on.

**9:55 p.m.**, 17th Avenue: A person is arrested on a warrant.

**Jan. 21**  
**2:20 a.m.**, Broadway: Police respond to a couple fighting in their hotel room. After speaking with police, the woman said she would leave the room and stay with a friend staying

in another room. The caller was highly intoxicated. He told police he would refrain from engaging in further disturbances.

**11:09 a.m.**, 1900 block Spruce Drive: A person is arrested and charged with child neglect in the second degree.

**7 p.m.**, 400 block S. Holladay: Caller reports a new neighbor was exceedingly rude to her husband. She reported "a lot of traffic" coming in and out of that neighbor's unit. She requested police speak to the neighbor. Police were unable to make contact.

**9:22 p.m.**, 1200 S. Holladay: An employee of a coffee shop reported a man who put his hand in her tip jar. The man took off, but then came back and asked her to open a window to hand him something. She requested police trespass him from the business as this is not the first time he exhibited odd behavior. The officer stood by as she locked up for the night and escorted her to her vehicle.

**Jan. 22**  
**7:46 a.m.**, 400 block First Avenue: An intoxicated woman sitting in a mud puddle in the Convention Center parking lot was given a courtesy lift back to her accommodation.

**9:52 a.m.**, 400 block First Avenue: A subject was arrested on a warrant, charged with giving false information to the police, as well as failure to update their register.

**3:50 p.m.**, 1900 Spruce Drive:

Assault in the fourth degree reported.

**8:24 p.m.**, 700 block 24th Avenue: A person is arrested and charged with driving under the influence of intoxicants.

**Jan. 23**  
**10:33 a.m.**, 500 block S. Holladay Drive: A person arrested and charged for possession of methamphetamine.

**3:18 p.m.**, 400 block S. Holladay: A woman reported to be walking in the rain and yelling was given a courtesy ride to Helping Hands.

**5:52 p.m.**, 1900 N. Holladay: A missing person is reported.

**Jan. 24**  
**11:12 a.m.**, Fourth Avenue: Police check on a person reported by a third party to be possibly suicidal. The subject was fine and with a family member.

**12:53 p.m.**, 3200 block Bayview Terrace: A runaway is reported.

**1:15 p.m.**, The Relief Pitcher: A person arrested on a warrant.

**10:24 p.m.**, 200 block Broadway: Police respond to a report of an intoxicated subject said to be removing his clothes and acting bizarrely. Subject was given a courtesy ride back to his accommodation.

**Jan. 25**  
**7:40 p.m.**, 1500 block S. Roosevelt: A loose dog picked up by police and transported to the kennel was retrieved and successfully reunited with its owner.

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