

Seaside man sues state hospital, alleging sexual abuse

Abuse allegedly occurred in the late 1990s

By **ARDESHIR TABRIZIAN**
Salem Reporter

SALEM — A Seaside man is suing Oregon State Hospital, claiming he was sexually abused as a patient in the late 1990s by a psychiatric aide who was later convicted of sexually abusing three underage boys and attempting to kill one of his victims.

The man sued the hospital, former employee Frank James Milligan and the Oregon Department of Human Services in late December in Marion County Circuit Court, seeking \$3 million in damages.

The complaint alleges Milligan was allowed access to the man when he was 16 as a psychiatric aide and used his position of authority to abuse him and other young boys.

Milligan has been in the custody of the state Department of Corrections for over 21 years, having been convicted of abusing boys in three separate criminal cases in 2000, 2001 and 2015.

He is incarcerated at Oregon State Correctional Institution in Salem, with his earliest release being in September 2071, according to the state's website.

The complaint said Milligan was hired in 1994 as a psychiatric aide at the state hospital in Salem. At an unspecified time, the man — then 16 — had significant health issues that required his admission to the state hospital, which cares for Oregonians with mental illnesses who are court-ordered to get treatment.

At the time, the state hospital operated under the state human services department's direction before a 2009 law split off some programs to form the Oregon Health Authority. The health authority has been the hospital's parent agency since July 2011.

Representatives for the state hospital and the Department of Human Services declined to comment on the allegations in the suit. Matthew Sweeney, the attorney representing the plaintiff in the lawsuit, could not be reached for comment Friday.

According to the complaint, Milligan sexually abused the patient when he was at the hospital.

The victim is identified in public court documents, but Salem Reporter does not identify victims of sexual abuse.

Due to Milligan's threats of punishment and his authority to inflict it, the com-



A \$3 million lawsuit has been filed against the Oregon State Hospital alleging sex abuse.

plaint said, the man was reasonably afraid Milligan would physically retaliate or kill him. He did not report Milligan's abuse to anyone at the state hospital and repressed all thoughts of the abuse he had suffered, according to the complaint.

The man returned home to Seaside after his release from the state hospital. The complaint said Milligan went to Seaside and threatened to kill him if he ever told anyone what happened, the complaint said.

After Milligan threatened him, the man repressed memories of the abuse, the complaint said. Unable to mentally process what he'd endured at the state hospital, he suffered many setbacks in life and had trouble finding his place in the world.

The man struggled to find housing and provide for himself and eventually became homeless. "Living on the streets aggravated his already delicate mental state and (he) had many encounters with the criminal justice system," the complaint said.

The complaint said he and many others fell victim to a pattern of abuse of children under the state hospital's supervision and care.

It went on to say the abuse was a result

of state hospital and Department of Human Services leadership lacking oversight of employees, their facilities lacking proper security and monitoring, the hospital failing to report suspected abuse to the Department of Human Services, and "the culture in which the abuse of juveniles was not taken seriously."

The complaint also said the state hospital and Department of Human Services didn't put in place effective policies and procedures to prevent abuse as new cases of abuse by employees came to light, and that they didn't terminate Milligan's employment when the Department of Human Services knew or should've known the threat he posed.

As a direct result of the state hospital's and Milligan's abuse, negligence and violation of rights, the complaint said, the man has suffered "severe and debilitating emotional injury, pain and suffering, emotional trauma, and permanent psychological damage." He will also incur costs for counseling, psychiatric and psychological medical treatment, and reduced ability to earn income due to the abuse, the complaint said.

Milligan previously pleaded guilty in July 2000 in Clatsop County to two counts of attempted first-degree sodomy and first-degree sexual abuse, admitting to abusing a boy under 12 in August 1997, according to court documents. He was sentenced to six years and three months in prison.

Milligan was indicted in August 2000 on charges of attempted aggravated murder, first-degree kidnapping, two counts of first-degree sodomy and first-degree sexual abuse. The charges alleged he abused and tried to kill a different boy under 12 in July 2000. He pleaded guilty to all charges in August 2001 and was sentenced to 30 years in prison.

In September 2015, a jury in Marion County found Milligan guilty of two counts of first-degree sexual abuse and first-degree unlawful sexual penetration, court records showed. The Dec. 30 complaint said the victim was a minor in his custody at MacLaren Youth Correctional Facility in Woodburn.

A Marion County Circuit Court judge sentenced him to 35 years in prison on those charges.

New Zealander's novel inspired by Oregon Coast

By **BARBARA LLOYD McMICHAEL**
Coast Weekend

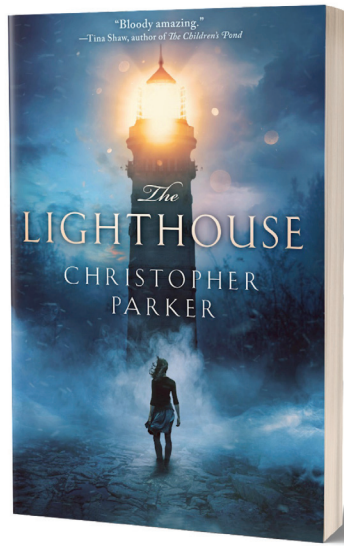
New Zealander Christopher Parker has plenty of shoreline in his own country, but he decided to use the Oregon coastline as the setting for his debut novel because, as he said in a recent interview, he felt his main characters, a rancher and a college student on a swimming scholarship, sounded "quintessentially American."

And it may be only coincidence that he borrows the name of a Washington coastal community, Seabrook, for the name of his fictional Oregon town that, he says he built from scratch — in his imagination, at least.

Nonetheless, Parker notes that his beachside hometown of Takapuna, and the lighthouse there, were the inspiration for his story.

This tale, tinged with mystical elements, begins with the relationship between Kevin Tucker and his 18-year-old daughter, Amy. Separately, each is grieving the loss of Helen — Amy's mom and Kevin's wife — who recently died in a traffic accident. Since then, Amy hasn't been eating, and she's been suffering from insomnia.

Kevin, a Portland cop, had always deferred to Helen as the primary parent, and now he doesn't know how to reach out to his daughter. But when he receives an assignment that will take him a couple of hundred miles down the coast to Seabrook to update a



"The Lighthouse" is by Christopher Parker.

family about a missing person's case involving their son, he invites Amy along, hoping a change of scenery will do her some good.

Amy goes along reluctantly. When they arrive in Seabrook and check in at the hotel, the lady at the front desk tells them that the town's annual Lighthouse Festival will take place the next day. Amy goes for a walk down the beach to check out the landmark, and discovers that the lighthouse is dilapidated, boarded up and out of commission. Some townsfolk even say it is haunted.

This doesn't do anything to pick up Amy's spirits. In fact, she has never felt so

low.

Meanwhile, on a dude ranch just outside of town, Ryan Porter also is grappling with bad news and unwanted changes. Scarcely into adulthood, he's been caring for his widowed, convalescent father for years, while trying to keep the ranch running. Now the local bank manager wants Ryan to give him a call.

The first encounter between Amy and Ryan couldn't be more awkward or less auspicious, but once any misunderstandings are cleared up, they wind up spending the next day together at the festival. Over just a matter of hours, they find themselves sharing some deeply guarded secrets with one another that they haven't told anyone else.

But even as their relationship intensifies, they are drawn into some off-kilter events that are happening around town in conjunction with the festival. As the plot unfolds, it involves not only familial connections and teen romance, but also supernatural elements a la the "Twilight Zone."

The explication may seem overlong to some readers, but the gist of the story is affirming.

And that abandoned old lighthouse? It may yet shed the light needed to ensure safe passage.

The Bookmonger is Barbara Lloyd McMichael, who writes this weekly column focusing on the books, authors and publishers of the Pacific Northwest. Contact her at barbaralmcm@gmail.com

Judge refuses to declare state forest logging unlawfully harms coho salmon

By **MATEUSZ PERKOWSKI**
Capital Press

PORTLAND — A federal judge has refused to declare that logging activities in the Clatsop and Tillamook state forests have unlawfully harmed threatened coho salmon.

Though U.S. District Judge Michael Mosman has rejected a motion by environmental groups to declare that timber sales in those state forests violate the Endangered Species Act, his ruling doesn't put an end to the litigation.

The Center for Biological Diversity, Cascadia Wildlands and the Native Fish Society have a strong case they'll succeed on the merits, but at this point, their evidence of illegal take isn't beyond dispute, Mosman said.

The plaintiffs must prove that logging road construction caused landslides that harmed streams enough to kill or injure coho salmon, he said.

"You just can't get there from here without something more," Mosman said at the conclusion of oral arguments in December.

However, the judge has agreed to revisit

the issue after hearing expert testimony next year from the environmental nonprofits and the state, as well as Tillamook County and the Oregon Forest & Industries Council, which have intervened in the lawsuit.

Amy Atwood, an attorney for the environmental nonprofits, argued that findings from the National Marine Fisheries Service, numerous studies and documentary evidence all prove that landslides from logging roads adversely affect coho salmon.

"It's apparent from our photography that sediment was delivered," Atwood said. "Our contention is that fine sediment is always

harmful."

If the environmental nonprofits convince the judge that the Oregon Department of Forestry's management resulted in unlawful take, it could have implications beyond state forestland. Similar logging activities on private forestland could then also be vulnerable to lawsuits.

Attorneys for the defendants and intervenors countered that the environmental plaintiffs have not established a sufficient causal link between the Department of Forestry's logging authorizations and the alleged take of coho salmon.

PUBLIC MEETINGS

Contact local agencies for latest meeting information and attendance guidelines.

MONDAY, JAN. 24

Seaside City Council, special meeting, camping ordinance, 5 p.m., 989 Broadway.

Seaside City Council, 7 p.m., 989 Broadway.

MONDAY, JAN. 25

Sunset Empire Park and Recreation District Board of Directors, 5:15 p.m., 1225 Ave. A.

Seaside Airport Advisory Committee, 6 p.m., 989 Broadway.

TUESDAY, FEB. 1

Seaside Community Center Commission, 10 a.m., Bob Chisholm Community Center, 1225 Avenue A.

Seaside Planning Commission, 6 p.m., 989 Broadway.

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 2

Gearhart City Council, 7 p.m., www.cityof-gearhart.com.

THURSDAY, FEB. 3

Seaside Parks Advisory Committee, 6 p.m., 989 Broadway.

MONDAY, FEB. 7

Seaside Housing Task Force, 6 p.m. 989 Broadway.

THURSDAY, FEB. 10

Seaside Convention Center Commission, 5 p.m., 415 First Ave., Seaside.

Gearhart Planning Commission, 6 p.m., cityofgearhart.com.

MONDAY, FEB. 14

Seaside City Council, 7 p.m., 989 Broadway.

SEASIDE Signal

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Seaside Signal

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Subscriptions

Annually: \$51.00, monthly autopay is \$4.25. E-Edition only: \$4 a month.

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