

CLALLAM COUNTY PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 21, 2023
Port Angeles, Washington

Sequim Man Sentenced for Assault and Firearm Offenses

Clallam County Superior Court Cause No.: 22-1-00348-05

Clallam County Superior Court Judge Simon Barnhart sentenced Anthony Lee of Sequim to 120 months in prison for two counts of assault in the second degree and one count of unlawful possession of a firearm in the first degree. The sentence followed a jury verdict earlier this month after a three-day jury trial.

In October of last year, Lee went to the Point Casino and picked up the victim, Amy Groff, who had traveled there from Yakima. Groff ended up staying the night at Lee's home with him and his wife. The following night, Groff and Lee went to Seven Cedars Casino, where they hung out for a while. They both left, but returned to the casino after 3 a.m. Lee became angry at Groff and at one point drove away, leaving her at the casino. Lee returned, picked up Groff, and went to the Longhouse gas station. He drove them back to his property, which was about a ½ mile south of Highway 101, east of the casino. Lee then proceeded to beat Groff over the head several times with a pistol while they were still in his truck before Groff was able to escape. Lee got out of the truck and fired the pistol multiple times while telling Groff to get off of his property; at trial, several neighbors testified hearing the gunfire and Lee telling Groff to leave.

Groff left the property and hid out. Eventually, Dep. James Dixon of the Clallam County Sheriff's Office found Groff by the side of Highway 101. Doctors at Olympic Medical Center diagnosed Groff with facial fractures and broken teeth, as well as several bruises on her head. Detective Brandon Stoppani of the Clallam County Sheriff's Office investigated and found security footage showing Groff and Lee leave the Longhouse gas station at 4:15 a.m., as well as two 9 mm shell casings on Lee's property.

"Lee took Groff to a secluded area where he severely beat her and then threatened her," said Deputy Prosecuting Attorney Steve Johnson in recommending a 126-month sentence. "Groff had to escape in the dead of night and ended up by the side of Highway 101, luckily to be found by Dep. Dixon," he said. Johnson noted that the situation could have ended up even worse for Groff because Lee sent her out into the night in unfamiliar territory and with several head injuries.

In addition to incarceration, Lee will be on 18 months of community custody following his release and will be required to register as a felony firearm offender.

Office Information

The Clallam County Prosecuting Attorney's Office employs over 25 people, including 14 attorneys. Clallam County, which includes Forks, Port Angeles and Sequim, has an approximate population of 78,000.

The Criminal Division represents the state and the county in criminal matters in the Clallam County District and Superior Courts. The Criminal Division is responsible for prosecuting all felonies in Clallam County and all misdemeanors in unincorporated areas of Clallam County as well as the Cities of Port Angeles and Sequim.

The Civil Division acts as the law firm representing the County and its agencies. The Civil Division advises and represents all of the County's elected officials and departments on a myriad of complex legal matters. The range of legal representation provided by this unit is expansive and covers virtually every aspect of civil practice.

The Child Support Division is wholly funded by and represents the Division of Child Support of the State of Washington. The Support Division carries out judicial establishment of paternity and child support, enforcements for failure to pay court-ordered child support, and modifications to existing child support orders. The Support Division also represents the State of Washington in collection actions on parents owing a duty of support.

For more information call:

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