

Rape accuser recants story

By Alexander Rich, Staff Writer

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COOS BAY — Prosecutors say an 18-year-old woman has changed her story and now says she wasn't raped by a 20-year-old Coos Bay man. But Jason Pallasch still faces sex charges because a 20-year-old woman went to police contending he raped her two years ago.

The younger woman called police two weeks ago to report she'd been sexually and physically assaulted. Police arrested Pallasch and the Coos County District Attorney's Office filed charges against him. But then the woman called the DA's office and said she'd made up the story and didn't want to pursue charges, said R. Paul Frasier, the DA. Prosecutors went ahead and convened a grand jury, at which point she testified that nothing happened. So the DA has dismissed those initial charges.

But Pallasch now faces charges including two counts of first-degree rape, fourth-degree assault and harassment. Those charges stem from an incident in April 2008 that a second woman reported Wednesday. He was arraigned on those charges Thursday morning in Coquille.

Frasier said he probably won't charge the 18-year-old woman with any crimes. If he tried to convict her with initiating a false police report, he'd have to prove that the rape did not occur.

"It's almost impossible to do something, especially in a rape case situation," he said.

Having someone ask for prosecutors to drop a rape case happens occasionally, though it's rare, Frasier said. At times, a women will learn she has to testify and decide not to proceed. It's not as common for someone to recant her story.

"That's very, very rare," he said.

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