

SURF PINES

‘Peeping Tom’ sentenced to more than 35 years in prison

Cazee was convicted of 23 charges

By JACK HEFFERNAN
The Daily Astorian

A Surf Pines man was sentenced to more than 35 years in prison Friday after his conviction on charges stemming from several “peeping Tom” incidents in his neighborhood.

Kirk Richard Cazee, 56, peered through bedroom windows and recorded videos of residents during private moments, a jury found after a four-day trial in January. He was convicted on six counts of using a child in a display of sexual conduct, eight counts of invasion of personal privacy, five counts of stalking and four counts of criminal trespass.

The Clatsop County Sheriff’s Office had been investigating a potential prowler in the Surf Pines area, based on

numerous complaints from residents, for more than a year leading up to Cazee’s first arrest in February 2017. After his release from jail on those charges, he was arrested again in April following further investigation by the sheriff’s office. He has been held in jail on \$2 million bail.

The crimes involved several young women — some of whom were under 18 years old — and one man. Authorities found several videos in Cazee’s possession that displayed the victims in states of nudity and, sometimes, performing sexual acts. The videos also picked up audio of Cazee whispering sexually explicit language and zippers being undone. Deputies found during Cazee’s arrest that he was carrying a pair of binoculars and some toilet paper, which Deputy District Attorney Ron Brown called one of the case’s “smoking guns.”



Kirk Cazee

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Former Astoria wrestling coach sentenced for sex crimes

Medina gets more than eight years in prison

By JACK HEFFERNAN
The Daily Astorian

A former Astoria High School wrestling coach and Coast Guard officer was sentenced Friday to more than eight years in prison for sex crimes in 2005.

Gary Medina was found guilty in January of inappropriately touching a 17-year-old girl who was living in his home, as well as having sex with her 15-year-old friend. Circuit Court Judge Dawn McIntosh delivered the verdict following a two-day, nonjury trial.

The punishment includes

more than eight years for first-degree unlawful sexual penetration, more than six years for first-degree sex abuse and six months for third-degree rape. McIntosh ruled that the most lengthy sentences will run concurrently, despite Deputy District Attorney Dawn Buzard’s request that they run consecutively. He also was ordered to pay a \$10,000 fine.

The mother of the woman who Medina had sex with at 15 years old spoke at the sentencing hearing Friday. She detailed how her daughter, months after her grandparents died unexpectedly, became infatuated with Medina, who was in his early 30s at the time. The relationship continued on-and-off for

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Photos by Colin Murphey/The Daily Astorian

Belly dancers entertain the crowd at the Festival of Dark Arts in Astoria.

SOGGY AND STOUT

By COLIN MURPHEY
The Daily Astorian

Hundreds of people turned up over the weekend for the Festival of Dark Arts at Fort George Brewery. The event featured a wide selection of stout beers to choose from as spectators took in live music and other attractions. Glass blowers, metal forgers, ice sculptors and performers swinging fire around their heads thrilled the nearly capacity crowd for most of the day Saturday despite bad weather. The recently expanded brewery complex, combined with the shutdown of a block of 14th Street on the west side of the building, allowed more space for this year’s event.



LEFT: Many workers at the Fort George Brewery were dressed up for the occasion. RIGHT: Robbie Frankel prepares to blow glass. BELOW: Rain pours down on performers during the Festival of Dark Arts.



From chemical salesman to gallery owner

Clayton follows passion after retirement

By BRENNA VISSER
The Daily Astorian

CANNON BEACH — There’s a surprising amount of crossover between operating a chemical company and owning an art gallery.

That’s how Joe Clayton, the new managing director of Bronze Coast Gallery in Cannon Beach, sees it anyway. At the end of last year, Clayton retired after 34 years at



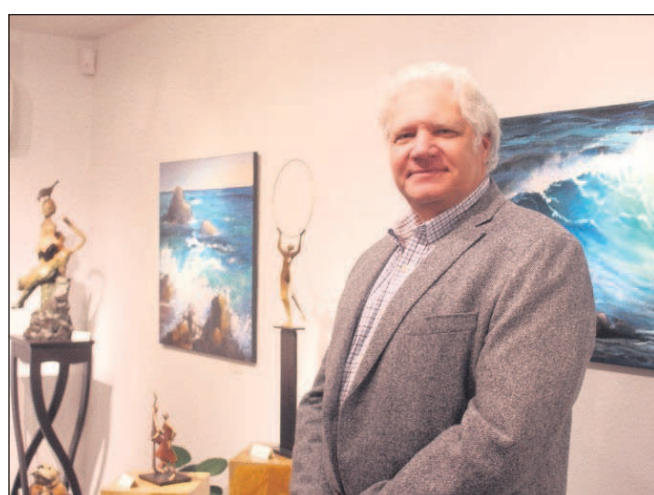
the Sea-Land Chemical Co. in Westlake, Ohio, to pursue his other passion: art.

“They actually have pretty similar business models. I used to represent and sell 40 high-end chemicals. Now I’m representing 40 high-end artists,” he said.

Clayton took over the gallery in January following the retirement of Kim Barnett, who has owned and operated

Bronze Coast for 25 years. Clayton has spent the majority of his career selling water treatment chemicals like industrial lubricants, but said he has had a love and appreciation for the arts for most of his life.

He remembers touring museums while he studied abroad in Switzerland. He and his wife, Marilyn, are ardent art collectors, keeping collections from every region in which they have lived. When possible, the two try to support local artists by commissioning pieces.



Brenna Visser/The Daily Astorian

Joe Clayton took over as managing director for Bronze Coast Gallery in January.

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