

Gearhart man sentenced in child pornography case

Polan gets nearly six years

By JACK HEFFERNAN
The Daily Astorian

A Gearhart man was sentenced Thursday to nearly six years in prison for child pornography crimes.

Samuel Roy Polan, 39, compelled at least two children under 12 years old to photograph or record sexually explicit activity. After being indicted in February on 10 counts, including some that alleged he attempted to sell the material, Polan pleaded no contest in July to two counts of using a child in a display of sexually explicit conduct as part of a plea deal with the Clatsop County District Attorney's Office.

Each count carries a mandatory minimum sentence of nearly six years in prison. As part of the plea deal, Polan agreed to have an open sentencing hearing and let a judge determine whether to run the minimum sentences concurrently or consecutively.

Judge Richard Baldwin — a former Oregon Supreme Court justice who spent Thursday filling in for Circuit Court Judge Paula Brownhill — sentenced Polan concurrently, saying it was a "very long" time considering the circumstances of the case.

Polan used Tango, a messaging app, to compel the children to take sexually explicit photos. If they refused, Polan made threats such as contacting their parents, Chief Deputy District Attorney Ron Brown said.

"He used various tactics that were particularly he-

nous in my view," Brown said.

A detective in Oklahoma notified Oregon State Police of an investigation into Polan's contact with a child there, prompting the local probe. Polan likely will face additional charges in Oklahoma and possibly Michigan and North Carolina, Brown said.

Polan has two prior sex crime convictions, including for third-degree rape — involving sex with a teenage girl — in Clatsop County in 2010. He also was convicted in a 2004 case involving sexual contact with a minor relative in Texas.



Samuel Roy Polan

"He obviously has a very serious problem with attraction to children," Brown said.

Polan was sexually abused by his father as a young child and later bounced from foster home to foster home, said James von Boeckmann, his court-appointed attorney. His 2004 conviction came after he had reunited with members of his family.

"It is not a problem of his own devise," von Boeckmann said.

Polan apologized Thursday for his actions.

"I don't know what caused me to do it, and I'll look for the help I need," he said.

Baldwin pointed out that Polan has had opportunities in the past to seek treatment in prison.

"You can't just say you want it if you don't engage and make your best effort to get something out of treatment," the judge said. "With your record, you're going to be in for the rest of your life the next conviction, I'm sure, if the judge has that opportunity."

Ilwaco sued after denying vacation rental

Lawsuit may be moved to federal court

By ALYSSA EVANS
Chinook Observer

ILWACO, Wash. — A couple has filed a lawsuit against Ilwaco after being denied a vacation rental permit.

In March, Lindsay and Shelley Yamane applied for a conditional use permit for a house on Reservoir Road, which is near their home on the same block in the city's Sahalee subdivision above Baker Bay. The City Council unanimously rejected the application in May.

The council denied the application because it found the Yamanes did not prove the vacation rental wouldn't cause problems for neighbors. City Planner Sam Rubin



Pacific County

A couple has sued Ilwaco after their proposed vacation rental was denied.

and the Planning Commission had recommended approval of the permit.

The lawsuit alleges the city did not adhere to city code and that the council violated the couple's right to due process.

The proposed vacation rental prompted a range of reactions from neighbors and others in the community. Some were vocally

opposed, while others signed statements of support for the permit.

Among other things, opponents worried that the vacation rental might cause a shortage of parking spaces, or lead to a slew of new rentals in the area.

Among those opposing the permit are residents of Ilwaco's Discovery Heights gated

subdivision, which borders Sahalee to the south. Discovery Heights was developed by a partnership that includes Marshall's brother, Rich. Owners of individual homes in Discovery Heights have expressed concern about vacationers wandering through the subdivision to access the nearby Beards Hollow portion of Cape Disappointment State Park.

The lawsuit states that some of the individuals who spoke against the vacation rental live outside the immediate vicinity. It also notes that only the Yamanes and their neighbor can park on their property, so no one else would be affected by guests parking there.

The couple and the city are in the process of determining whether the lawsuit should proceed in Pacific County Superior Court, or the federal court in Tacoma.

Audit: 80 percent of Portland short-term rentals illegal

Associated Press

PORTLAND — Four out of five short-term rental properties in Portland are operating illegally and there is not much the city can do about them yet since it doesn't have complete information, according to a recent report by city officials.

Portland requires hosts of Airbnb-style bookings to apply for a permit, be the pri-

mary resident of the rental, live in the home nine months out of the year and limit each booking to a maximum of 30 days, The Oregonian reported.

It's hard to enforce these rules since companies like Airbnb or Vacasa don't regularly share rental information about each listing, their hosts and frequency of rentals with the city, citing privacy reasons, auditors said in a report released Wednesday.

Public data on Airbnb's website showed it had more than 4,600 listings in Portland last October, according to the audit. At that time, the city had only issued 1,638 permits.

One possible reason why hosts may not be applying for a permit is the cost. The permit fee for hosts renting one or two bedrooms is \$178. If hosts advertise three to five bedrooms, the cost goes up to \$5,000 and requires a land use review.

However, most short-term rental hosts do pay the required city taxes on each night's stay, the auditors found.

The city hopes to finalize data sharing agreements with booking companies, said Mayor Ted Wheeler and Commissioner Chloe Eudaly in a response letter to auditors.

They are confident the data will help the city better regulate these types of rentals.



Brian Gisborne/Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Southern resident killer whale J50 and her mother, J16, swim off the coast of Vancouver Island near Port Renfrew, British Columbia.

Medication given to sick killer whale

Associated Press

SEATTLE — A team of whale experts has injected an ailing killer whale with antibiotics in a rare effort to save her.

NOAA Fisheries says the international team reached 3½-year-old orca known as J50 Thursday in the waters near Washington state's San Juan Island.

A veterinarian examined the orca. Experts gave her antibiotics through a dart and took a breath sample to help

assess whether she has an infection.

NOAA says that the team will decide whether to feed the free-swimming whale live salmon from a boat. The whale could then be given live salmon dosed with medication.

The orca is thin and in poor body condition.

Another orca in the critically endangered group of killer whales has pushed her dead calf for more than two weeks, raising concerns about her health.

Foss Maritime closes its shipyard in Rainier in surprise move

By KATIE FAIRBANKS
The Daily News

In what came as a surprise news for many, Foss Maritime has closed its Rainier shipyard.

Foss spokesman Loren Skaggs said the shipyard closed July 24, impacting 10 people.

Skaggs said the decision to close the shipyard was part of a thoughtful process. While the company liked being in that market, Skaggs said the closure was based on a business decision, but couldn't give more details.

The Columbia River shipyard was primarily used as a repair yard for the Foss Maritime fleet and also built new tugboats. Just last December, Foss was working to finalize negotiations with a Netherlands-based company to build at least 10 tugboats at the Rainier shipyard.

'We're not here to try to harm them; we want to help them. We want to make them prosperous. It only helps the community.'

Rainier Mayor Jerry Cole

Rainier Mayor Jerry Cole said the closure is a definite loss for the community.

"Anytime we lose business, it's a negative impact," Cole said.

Cole said the company did not give any indication it was planning on closing the site. The longtime mayor said he wished Foss would have reached out to the city to see what could be done to keep the shipyard open.

"We're not here to try to

harm them; we want to help them," Cole said. "We want to make them prosperous. It only helps the community."

Cole also said both the Columbia County Economic Team and the state had been in contact with Foss about the closure.

Chuck Daughtry, executive director for the economic group, said the company had previously discussed consolidating its operations to Seattle. He said the closure in Rainier is a hard hit in terms of lost jobs. At times, the shipyard employed as many as 40 people and offered a significant number of high-paying positions, he added.

"I'm hopeful we can preserve the industrial site and find another tenant for it," Daughtry said.

Daughtry said the county, city and other partners will now have to reevaluate Rainier's A Street railroad project, which includes the Foss shipyard location. Cole said the

city had made Foss' needs a priority for the project.

The county will want to ensure the site is preserved for the next tenant that comes, Daughtry said, adding the area has a wealth of skilled workers

and is confident the shipyard site will get a new owner.

"It's pretty valuable," Daughtry said. "We have so many talented people in the area, which is a big attraction to industry."

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SUNDAY AUGUST 12TH

Heaven and Earth Designs

Starting August 16th Thru August 19th 2018, Cross Stitchers from all over the world will descend on a small Oregon town, Seaside, for the 3rd Annual Heaven and Earth Designs Convention, or HAEDCon, as it's known in the Cross Stitching world.

A Stitching Convention for cross stitching you say? Well things have changed. Gone are the days of cute teddy bears and flowers. HAEDCon is a convention sponsored by the locally owned company, Heaven and Earth Designs. Attendees come to see finished stitched pieces, socialize, and shop! Cross stitchers from all over the world—Israel, Australia, the United Kingdom—are just days away from meeting new friends, meeting old friends, and meeting the artists behind the work they stitch. Everyone has great ideas about spending four days stitching, but from past experience the amount of talking, laughing, "stitchtalk", and adding to one's stash is a must for any attendee.

A loyal following quickly came to Michele and Bob Sayetta, who packed up six years ago and moved from Minnesota to a small coastal town in Oregon. Starting in 2002, the Husband and Wife team changed how people viewed cross stitch. They began by creating the most stunning hand dyed fabric to be used for stitching. Michele's talent for color came naturally to the Californian-born computer programmer. This was the beginning of Heaven and Earth Designs. They then moved onto converting famous artwork into cross stitch charts by artists all over the world. Adding to these works of art, Michele and Bob also hand craft many coveted stitching tools. As well, they also feature beautiful linens and cloths from well-known manufacturers such as ZWEIFART, as well as stitching floss from DMC, direct from France. Heaven and Earth Designs has a small dedicated team that send out hundreds of the now famous "purple packages" to fulfill orders that range from a chart to fabric, floss and tools.

The Heaven and Earth Designs Convention also features artists whose stunning pieces have been transformed into cross stitching charts. Returning for her third year, artist Aimee Stewart says, "If a unicorn wearing roller skates and juggling polka dot lemur was just now singing the Macarena at the top of its lungs... it STILL wouldn't be as fun as HAEDCon!"

Also joining Aimee this year are returning artists - Hannah Lynn Disney, Rob and Jean Carlos, Jeff Haynie, and, for the first time, we welcome artists Randal Spangler and Joan Marie.

Stitchers are enthusiastic to arrive, with one stitcher saying they, "Feel like they are attending the 'Oscars' of Cross Stitching. The Countdown to HAEDCon is on.

Heaven and Earth Designs Convention
16 - 19th August 2018 • Seaside Convention Center
Visitors Welcome • Day Passes for Artists and Product
Once registration is over for registered customers entrance will only be permitted for walk ins by calling 503-440-0924 to be met at the front desk
www.heavenandearthdesigns.com