

Astoria man sentenced for sexually abusing young boy

Garcia sentenced to more than six years

By JACK HEFFERNAN
The Daily Astorian

An Astoria man who sexually abused a 12-year-old boy in 2009 was sentenced Tuesday to more than six years in prison.

Anthony Robert Garcia, 49, was sentenced after he pleaded guilty to first-degree sex abuse. He originally faced 15 charges, including sex



Anthony Robert Garcia

abuse, attempted sex abuse, luring a minor, menacing and attempted furnishing alcohol to a person under 21, before reaching a plea deal with the

Clatsop County District Attorney's Office.

Garcia fled the county while awaiting indictment, and was arrested in Los Angeles last year.

Despite filing motions to continue the case and withdraw his attorney, Garcia was scheduled for a trial this week. But he agreed to the plea deal hours before the start of the trial. The victim and his parents all spoke at Tuesday's hearing. Now 21, the victim was "very forgiving," Chief Deputy District Attorney Ron Brown said.

"He just doesn't have any malice in him at all," Brown said. "Some people just don't seem to get as agitated."

Garcia did not offer a statement during the hearing.

"The one thing that was conspicuously missing was any sort of apology from the defendant," Brown said.

Vicki Vernon, Garcia's Hillsboro-based defense attorney, declined to comment on specifics of the case.

Toward the end of the hearing, as Circuit Court Judge Cindee Matyas started issuing the sentence, Garcia interjected to ask if he could make a statement, Brown said. After he was given permission, Garcia addressed the victim. Rather than addressing the case, though, he offered him tips on how to promote his self-help book.

City, Port extend Maritime Memorial lease for 50 years

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Daily Astorian

The Port of Astoria Commission on Tuesday approved a 50-year extension of a lease with the city at the Maritime Memorial Park to help the volunteer committee running it begin expansion.

The memorial, located underneath the Astoria Bridge, honors mariners lost at sea. While the city and state Department of Transportation own much of the land, the Port owns a western portion it has long leased to the city.

"The Maritime Memorial Committee would very much like to expand the memorial walls soon in anticipation of future demand," Astoria City Manager Brett Estes wrote in a letter to Jim Knight, the Port's executive director. "Approval of this agreement by the Port Commission and City Council would enable the city to move forward with this expansion in a timely fashion."

The lease, drafted by city attorney Blair Henningsgaard, extends the Port's lease with the city through 2068 for \$1 a year, with an option to extend another 50 years.

Survey: Oregon teacher salaries, compensation trail private sector

Associated Press

PORTLAND — A study by a pro-worker group found that Oregon public school teachers are paid so skimpily that, despite their generous health and pension benefits, their overall compensation is 9 percent lower than they would receive in the private sector.

The Oregon Center for Public Policy's deep dive into results of the American Community Survey found that, for each week they work, Oregon teachers make 22 percent less in salary and 9 percent less in total compensation than a comparable Oregon worker who is not a public school teacher, according to The Oregonian.

Given that the average teacher earns \$61,600, according to 2017 figures from the National Center for Education Statistics, and works 43 weeks per year, that suggests a similar full-time, year-round Oregon worker earns an average of \$90,000, which seems unlikely.

In 2017, for instance, median pay for Oregonians with a bachelor's degree was about \$49,000, and for those with a master's or professional degree, it was about \$64,000, the American Community Survey found.

But the researcher behind the study, made public Tuesday, says there's more nuance and complexity to his findings. Daniel Hauser, policy ana-



Students go through a lesson on the first day of school in 2015 at Nancy Ryles Elementary School in Beaverton.

AP Photo/Don Ryan

lyst for the policy center, said the research method he used, known as a regression analysis, didn't generate one average wage or compensation level for teachers and another for all other full-time workers.

Rather, he said, the study captured how much any teacher, given his or her age, gender, education level, race and marital status, would likely earn per week of work versus other full-time Oregon workers with the same characteristics.

The 9 percent compensation gap he calculated took into account whether the workers held bachelors, masters or advanced degrees, Hauser said. But it did not take into account whether a degree

was in science, math or engineering versus in art history, literature or education, he said. It also is possible that teachers overstated how many weeks they actually worked, as the American Community Survey instructs survey-takers to treat paid vacation as time worked, and some teachers may consider their summers off to be paid vacations.

The Oregon Center for Public Policy receives some of its funding from employee unions, but is primarily funded by foundations and private individuals, said its communications director, Juan Carlos Ordenez.

Paying teachers competitively is important, Hauser wrote in the study, because

that helps attract and retain high-quality employees. National and international studies have found that excellent teachers produce superior results for students.

The most recent federal figures, from 2016-17, showed Oregon's average teacher salary ranked No. 11 in the nation and was 5 percent higher than the national average of \$59,000.

The fact that teaching has historically been viewed as women's work, and that 70 percent of Oregon's teachers are women, may contribute to average pay lagging behind private sector rates, Hauser said. Sixty percent of Oregon's private sector workers are men, he wrote.

Oregon uses Facebook to remind voters to register

By ANDREW SELSKY
Associated Press

SALEM — In this era of manipulators using social media to interfere in elections, Oregon officials moved Tuesday to use Facebook to bolster participation by reminding as many as hundreds of thousands of inactive voters to update their registration.

"Utilizing cutting-edge technologies to empower eligible voters isn't just something we can do — it's something we must do if we're serious about outreach," Oregon Secretary of State Dennis Richardson said in announcing what he called the first-of-its-kind program.

The initiative comes as Facebook tries to recover from a privacy scandal in which a political consulting firm with ties to President Donald Trump improperly accessed the data of tens millions of Facebook users.

In addition, California-based Facebook stepped up policing of its social network after authorities said Russian agents ran political influence operations on its platform aimed at swaying the 2016 presidential election.

Facebook applauded the Oregon initiative.

"We're glad the Oregon Secretary of State's office is able to use Facebook to help reach inactive voters and let them know how they can cast a ballot this fall," said Andy Stone, a Facebook spokesman.

Oregonians can become

inactive voters after being mailed a ballot or other election material that is returned as undeliverable; not voting or registering in 10 years or as few as five years in some counties; if their ballot has been challenged; or if they're imprisoned on a felony conviction.

Under Oregon law, the right to vote is restored upon release from incarceration. Oregonians receive ballots by mail and can either mail them back completed or deposit them in drop boxes.

Richardson's chief of staff Deb Roy said the inactive voter list was cross-referenced with Facebook users who are

Oregon residents.

"Facebook users who meet those two criteria will see the placement," Royal said in an email. Oregon has 447,000 inactive voters, Royal said.

Having inactive status means a person is still registered to vote but won't receive a ballot unless he or she provides a county with updated registration information to return their

registration status to active. An inactive-status voter can also complete an online voter registration form at OregonVotes.gov to become active again.

As of August, 2.7 million people were registered to vote in Oregon — a 3 percent increase over 2017, according to elections division statistics. Oregon's total population is around 4.1 million.

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ASTORIA CHIROPRACTIC

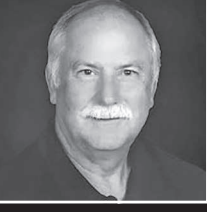
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