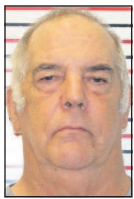


Sex abuse trial begins for Hammond fisherman

Sturgell charged with sex crimes, bribing witness

By JACK HEFFERNAN
The Daily Astorian



Dennis Lee Sturgell

The trial of a Hammond fisherman who allegedly committed sex crimes and bribed and threatened a young woman began Tuesday in Circuit Court.

Dennis Lee Sturgell, 66, was indicted last year along with James Herbert Cunningham, 47. The two men allegedly committed several sex crimes against a woman when she was incapacitated in August 2015.

Sturgell is charged with four counts of first-degree sodomy, two counts of first-degree unlawful sexual penetration and one count of second-degree sex abuse. If convicted of all crimes, he faces a minimum of 50 years in prison.

Cunningham is in prison for a separate case, and his trial is scheduled for January.

Daniel Wendel, an attorney with the Oregon Department

of Justice, is prosecuting the case along with Clatsop County Deputy District Attorney Dawn Buzzard. Wendel presented opening arguments Tuesday to the jury and Judge Paula Brownhill in what is expected to be a seven-day trial.

The prosecutors and Jason Thompson, Sturgell's Salem-based attorney, agree on a number of facts in the case.

Sturgell and the victim were both at a Warrenton bar one afternoon and drank alcohol for a prolonged period of time before she got into Sturgell's truck. At one point, they snorted cocaine before driving across the Astoria Bridge to Washington state.

Sturgell engaged in sex acts with the woman in Washington state and later at an Astoria hotel, where Cunningham joined them.

The rest of the story is murky, and clearing it up will be the focus of the trial.

The victim was hesitant to

file a police report but had told others that she repeatedly said "no" during the encounters. She quit her job and suffered from anxiety, post-traumatic stress disorder, nightmares and suicidal thoughts, Wendel said.

"At the end of this case, when you've heard all the evidence, you will know that the defendant saw what he wanted and took it, using drugs and alcohol as a weapon, to satisfy his own twisted sexual desires," Wendel told jurors.

Wendel said most of the counts against Sturgell came because the woman, whom he described as "blackout drunk" at the time, was incapacitated and unable to provide consent. The sex abuse charge stemmed from an alleged complete absence of consent.

Thompson, on the other hand, said the victim was a "willing participant" after consuming the cocaine. He added that her boyfriend at the time had been looking for her all night, and she needed an excuse for her absence, eventually coming up with a "scripted" story.

"What really happened was

that adults made some decisions that they didn't end up liking the next day," Thompson said.

Sturgell was also charged earlier this year with two counts of bribing a witness and two counts of tampering with a witness. Sturgell allegedly held a meeting with the victim's father. During the meeting, he allegedly offered him \$5,000 to "make the case go away" and threatened to hire attorneys to "dig up dirt" on the victim.

Thompson, however, said the victim and her father were hoping Sturgell would give her money. He referenced an apparent email in which the victim allegedly told her father that they would need to ask for more money from Sturgell if he didn't accept a plea deal.

"This case is about regret and greed," Thompson said.

Sturgell is known as a polarizing figure among commercial fishermen, according to a 2008 San Francisco Chronicle story. His crabbing career has brought him from the Oregon Coast to Alaska and the San Francisco Bay Area.

Low-income housing project starts in Long Beach

Apartments may help fill gap

By ALYSSA EVANS
Chinook Observer

LONG BEACH, Wash. — The peninsula is one step, or dig, closer to reducing the region's housing shortage.

Ground was broken in late October at the site of a soon-to-be apartment complex for low-income residents.

The Driftwood Point Apartments will feature 27 units at the intersection of 10th Street Northeast and Oregon Avenue North. The complex is expected to be completed by the end of 2019.

"The goal is to have families moved in time to be celebrating Christmas," said Rebecca Proudman, the project's development coordinator.

The apartments will include one-, two- and three-bedroom units for families coming out of homelessness. The Long Beach City Council approved the project last year.

"The apartments are geared toward families," Proudman said.

"It's a big deal," Erik Fagerland, the Long Beach architect who designed the apartments, said in a December interview with the Chinook Observer. "They've been struggling for years to get this off the ground."

The project was started in 2008 but was put on hold due to the recession, Proudman said.

Multiple developers tried to get housing projects approved on the same block but failed.

The Driftwood Point Apartments are expected to cost about \$8 million.

The complex will include four apartment buildings and a community center with an office. A laundry room, kitchen and meeting space will also

be included. On-site help will connect residents to resources and assistance programs.

The project is being led by the Joint Pacific County Housing Authority, an organization which is focused on addressing the peninsula's need for affordable housing.

About 17 percent of the county's residents live below the poverty line, according to the county's Economic Development Council.

"It's going to be a really positive change to that block," Proudman said.

U.S. Bank, the Washington State Department of Commerce, Pacific County and

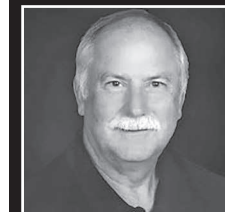
the Washington State Housing Financing Commission are also involved in the project.

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Q: How long does the Annual Enrollment Period last and if I change when will the effective date be?

A: The Annual Enrollment Period ends December 7th at the end of the day. The effective date for any change would be January 01, 2019.



Ron Neva
Northwest Wild Products
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503-791-1907
Daily 9am-7pm

On the docks of the West Mooring Basin, by the Riverwalk Inn

Q: What are the advantages of Hook and Line fishing?

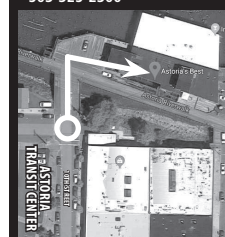
A: Most of the advantages are to the consumer and the environment. Bottom fish like cod, rockfish and sole are usually caught by hook and line or by trawl nets. Hook and line fish get less banged up and tend to have a better texture. This method is also less disruptive to the ocean floor, uses less fuel and creates less by-catch. Because this method is time consuming, the cost of these fish is slightly higher. Many believe the difference is worth it though. Most of the the bottom fish we sell are hook and line caught.



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Q: My computer won't start up. There is just a dark greyish tone to the screen?

A: Press the power button as you would normally. Did it start up?
If not, while holding down the CTRL and Shift keys, press ESC and let go. Click FILE, then "Run New Task." Type "Explorer.exe" Click "Create this task with administrative privileges" then click OK. Did that get things going?
If not, hold down the power button for 30 seconds. Then let go and press the power button normally.
We hope one of these solutions helped... if not, come in and see us. We will get you going again.



JEFFREY M. LEINASSAR
DMD, FAGD



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Q: Why don't my dentures fit anymore?

A: Once teeth are lost the gum and bone have a tendency to shrink and recede. Just like a leg in a cast for several months getting no stimulation, then removing the cast and seeing a withered leg, the dental jaw bone is stimulated by the function of the teeth and the forces of chewing. When teeth are removed this stimulation is lost and for many denture wearers the bone will shrink resulting in a change of bone volume and a stable denture fit. If your situation does require loss of teeth or you now have dentures ask about dental implants which can help support dentures and minimize loss of bone volume. Please contact our office at 503-325-0310 for an evaluation.



John R. Alcantara - Funeral Director



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Q: Can you give someone who's never had to use a funeral home some tips on how to find the right one?

A: In addition to your consumer's bill of rights (www.lz95.org/assets/116/Consumer_Bill_of_Rights1.PDF) I'd seek out firsthand testimonials. Find out how long they've been in business? Are they private or corporate owned? Would you put your medical care or legal jeopardy in the hands of lowest bidder? If price is truly your biggest concern, you should know that Hughes-Ransom Mortuaries & Crematory will match any of our competitor's service pricing every day of the week 365 days a year.



ASTORIA CHIROPRACTIC
Barry Sears, D.C.

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2935 Marine Drive
Astoria, Oregon

Q: Muscle spasms can be a thing of the past.

A: Charlie horses in the leg, facial tics and back spasms are all deficiency symptoms — muscles are irritated and working too hard — they don't have the nutrients they need. Muscles need calcium, magnesium and Vitamin D taken together. Seventy-six percent of Americans are deficient in those nutrients. People may be OK until an injury when the increased activity in the hurt area causes the deficiency symptoms. It is easy and quick to correct. Time of day and dosage are important and need to be adjusted until the spasms stop. If you need help figuring this out, call Dr. Sears.



David Glasson

A groundbreaking ceremony was held last week for the new Driftwood Point Apartments in Long Beach. Left to right, Dan Freedman, project manager; Gene Miles, past Joint Pacific County Housing Authority chair; Chris Pegg, director of Housing Opportunities of Southwest Washington; Jerry Phillips, mayor of Long Beach; and Erik Fagerland, project architect.

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