

Astoria man arrested after online sex abuse sting

The Daily Astorian



Fabian Alberto Zamora-Rodriguez

An Astoria man was arrested Wednesday afternoon on multiple charges related to sexually corrupting a child.

Officers arrested Fabian Alberto Zamora-Rodriguez, 33, when he showed up at a local park for what he believed was going to be a sexual rendezvous with an 11-year-old boy, according to the Clatsop County Sher-

iff's Office. For the past several weeks, deputies have been posing both as the boy, and as the boy's 40-year-old babysitter. Online communications were used as plans were made to meet in person, molest the fictitious boy

and exchange collections of child sex abuse imagery with the babysitter.

Zamora was booked in the Clatsop County Jail on one count each of first and second-degree online sexual corruption of a child, two counts of attempted use of a child in a sexually explicit display and eight counts of encouraging child sexual abuse in the first degree.

Zamora allegedly used online communications to

make detailed plans to meet the child in person for sexual contact twice, but only followed through with his plans once. He also allegedly pressured a person he believed to be 11 to send him lewd images.

Charges related to encouraging child sex abuse are in connection with media files Zamora sent depicting children getting sexually abused.

Additional charges may

be filed as deputies continue to analyze the case.

The sheriff's office launched the investigation in January after a local resident reported a person, who is now believed to have been Zamora, using the dating application Grindr to solicit sex with children in exchange for child sex abuse imagery.

Deputies made an attempt to arrest Zamora in January, but he failed to follow

through with plans to meet in person. Zamora eventually resumed contact with the investigating deputies last week and again made plans to meet in person, which led to Wednesday's arrest.

The sheriff's office does not have evidence of any children being abused by Zamora, but urges anyone with information to contact local law enforcement or Detective Ryan Humphrey at the sheriff's office.

Seaside students arrested over bringing gun to school

By EDWARD STRATTON

The Daily Astorian

SEASIDE — Two Seaside High School students were arrested Wednesday after bringing an unloaded gun to campus in an attempt to intimidate another student.

Concerned students witnessed a .22-caliber pistol and reported it to school staff, who contacted Seaside police before noon. Police recovered an unloaded .22-caliber pistol from a student's backpack.

In a letter posted online, Jeff Roberts, the high school principal, said there was no indication of any ammunition with the pistol, nor any other weapons missing from the student's home. During the investigation, it was learned that another student knew of the intent to bring a gun to school, Roberts wrote.

"It was explained by the students during questioning that the reason the weapon was brought to school was to intimidate another student in an attempt to settle a verbal dispute that happened on Tuesday," he wrote.

"Throughout the duration of this incident, all involved parties were under staff or police supervision and there was no perceived imminent threat to students and staff," Roberts wrote. "The decision was made to not put the school into lockdown because the party in possession of the weapon was in supervised custody from the moment staff was notified."

Police have declined to name the students.

One student, 14, was charged with unlawful use of a weapon, first-degree theft, unlawful possession of a firearm, carrying a concealed weapon and second-degree disorderly conduct. The other, 15, was also arrested for unlawful use of a weapon and second-degree disorderly conduct.

The case is being reviewed by the Clatsop County District Attorney's Office, Seaside Police Lt. Bruce Holt said, and the students were taken to the Cowlitz County Juvenile Services Center.

Anyone with information about the case is asked to contact Cpl. Jeff Oja at 503-738-6311.

Drunken Hood to Coast runner gets jail for joy ride

By AIMEE GREEN
The Oregonian

A Hood to Coast runner who took a Honey Bucket truck on a middle-of-the-night joyride has been sentenced to 60 days in jail for driving drunk and veering into four fellow runners sleeping in a field.

Headlights and screams from others at the rural Columbia County field alerted David Jon Blackmon's victims that he was about to drive over their sleeping bags about 2 a.m. on Aug. 26, 2017, authorities said.

Three of the four were able to jump out of the way, but Blackmon struck and dragged one woman, pinning her leg under the wheel of the truck as he came to a stop. He then ran off, according to investigators.

A police dog later found Blackmon hiding in some woods near Birkenfeld, next to Exchange 24 of the 198-mile relay race, according to the Columbia County Sheriff's Office.

A Honey Bucket employee had driven the Ford F-250 work truck to the exchange point that night to clean portable toilets when Blackmon stole it, investigators said.

The injured woman, Cynthia Gillespie, of Canby, was rushed away by ambulance.

She told KATU at the time that medical staff said she was "very lucky" that she had no broken bones, but she did suffer bruised muscles. She said she and her teammates had been resting in a designated sleeping area.

During a hearing in Columbia County Circuit Court, Blackmon pleaded guilty to driving under the influence of intoxicants, two counts of fourth-degree assault for injuring Gillespie and another woman who managed to dive out of the way and two counts of reckless endangerment for putting the two other runners in danger. Other charges — including unauthorized use of a vehicle — were dismissed.

At the time of Hood to Coast 2017, Blackmon was under orders to refrain from drinking alcohol because he'd been charged with a DUI in Deschutes County the previous month. Blackmon, who lived in Bend at the time, later pleaded no contest and was allowed to

enter a diversion program. Blackmon, 38, has since moved to Portland.

Last week in the courtroom of Judge Ted Grove, Blackmon turned to face Gillespie and other runners who were there for his sentencing hearing and said he was sorry. That's according to the Columbia County Spotlight, which first reported Blackmon's convictions.

"I'm grateful to everyone who has shown me a measure of grace," Blackmon said, according to the Spotlight. "I heard you loud and clear, and I apologize."

Blackmon's Portland attorney, Kevin Sali, declined comment for this story. District Attorney Jeff Auxier said the victims urged his office to accept the terms of the plea agreement proposed by the defense, because the victims wanted to give Blackmon a chance to rehabilitate.

"This is an offer we would not have accepted had

the victims not asked us to accept it," Auxier said.

The plea agreement allows Blackmon to be released from jail to work as a licensed mortgage broker in Portland while serving his sentence. His driver's license was suspended for three years, he'll be on probation for five years and he must undergo an alcohol evaluation and treatment if it's found necessary.

If he doesn't follow the terms of his probation, Blackmon has agreed to allow prosecutors to seek a conviction for felony hit-and-run driving, "which would have a devastating effect on his professional license," according to court papers.



David Jon Blackmon

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