

Surf Pines ‘Peeping Tom’ is convicted on multiple counts

Cazee guilty on 23 counts

By Jack Heffernan
Seaside Signal

A Surf Pines man was found guilty Jan. 5 of 23 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.

Cazee was convicted on multiple counts of using a child in a display of sexual conduct, each of which carries a minimum of nearly six years in prison. He was also convicted of invasion of personal privacy, stalking and 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. After being released from jail on those charges, he was arrested again in April following further investigation by the sheriff’s office.

The victims included several young women — some of whom were under 18 years old — and one man. During the trial, some of the victims — sometimes with tears streaming down their faces — recalled seeing a subject on



Kirk Richard Cazee

their property. A witness also recounted confronting a shadowy figure from a distance in his backyard before the man ran away. Witnesses believed Cazee was the prowler but were unable to unequivocally identify him.

Much of the case was based on videos obtained from Cazee’s phone. The videos often displayed the victims in a state of nudity and, occasionally, performing sexual acts. The videos do not reveal who took them, but they at times appear to record the voice of a man sexually pleasing himself.

“How many other people have video of the victims in this case?” Chief Deputy District Attorney Ron Brown rhetorically asked the jury during closing arguments.

Cazee was charged with two counts of criminal trespass after his original arrest. Around 10 p.m. that night, sheriff’s deputies found Cazee walking in the area without a flashlight minutes after yet another complaint of a man

searching through windows. Just before his arrest, deputies found that Cazee was carrying pair of binoculars and some toilet paper.

Cazee told deputies that he brought the binoculars to observe wildlife, but Brown called the optical aid one of the “smoking guns” in the case.

“Good luck unless the wildlife is standing under a streetlight that doesn’t exist in Surf Pines,” Brown said.

Following his release, deputies arrested Cazee again in April, and he has since been held in jail on \$2 million bail.

Brown also presented evidence that Cazee, a surgical nurse in Portland at the time, had stolen mail from one of the victims and kept it at his Portland mobile home. Cazee’s wife and son testified that he often went for walks by himself late at night.

One of the victims, due to repeated suspicions of someone prowling outside her home, placed a surveillance camera outside her residence in early 2017. That camera footage, on two occasions, displayed a man whose face was not visible because his hood was up.

The man was wearing a camouflage jacket in one of the videos. Cazee was wearing a camouflage jacket at the time of his arrest, though attorneys debated whether the jacket was the same one that appeared in the video.

Lawyers also argued about whether the various states of nudity in the videos warrant-

ed certain charges and if Cazee made sufficient contact with the victim to justify the stalking charges.

Ryan Colvin Connell, Cazee’s Hillsboro-based attorney, pointed out that a number of victims recalled the peeper as being “tall and skinny,” arguing that his client’s appearance could not be described as thin. He also highlighted the fact that there was no witness testimony or physical evidence conclusively proving that Cazee recorded the videos.

“This case is a pretty classic example of a time when the state is trying to make evidence fit a specific person as opposed to just following the evidence,” Connell said during closing arguments. “When their witnesses say there’s nothing here to say, ‘This person made this video.’ If you say he does, you’re speculating, you’re guessing, you’re filling in blanks that they’re saying is not full.”

But Brown likened his case to that of a child caught at the end of a trail of crumbs that begin at an open cookie jar.

“You’ve got a trail of circumstances that leads you to believe that a certain thing happened,” Brown said.

At minimum, Cazee will be sentenced to nearly 30 years in prison for using a child in a sexually explicit display. He may face more prison time depending on whether the sentences are imposed concurrently or consecutively. A sentencing hearing has been scheduled for February.



John Pepperd



Richard Paul Vogelsang



James Mitchell Scarborough



Ashley Griffiths



Kasandra Dehart



Ashley Clarke

Two meth busts net six in Seaside

Six arrested after two busts

Seaside Signal

Six people were arrested in a bust on two apartments in the same complex in Seaside on Dec. 26.

Officers from the Clatsop County Sheriff’s Office, Seaside Police Department, aided by the Cannon Beach Police Department executed a search warrant at an apart-

ment complex where they found two people in possession of methamphetamine.

Richard Paul Vogelsang, 42, was found in possession of 22 grams of methamphetamine, valued at about \$1,000; digital scales, packaging material and a firearm. Vogelsang was detained on a probation violation and transported to the Clatsop County Jail.

Kasandra Dehart, 36, was found in possession of a small amount of methamphetamine.

Dehart was cited and release on the charge of frequenting a place where drugs are sold.

The case was forwarded to the Clatsop County District Attorney’s Office for determination of additional charges.

The same night, a search in a different apartment brought four additional drug-related arrests.

James Mitchell Scarborough, 57, was arrested after being found in possession of a small amount of heroin.

John Peppard, 53, was charged with delivery of a controlled substance, after being found in possession of approximately 16 grams of methamphetamine, digital scales, packaging material and approximately \$450.

Ashley Clarke, 29, was at the residence and arrested for frequenting a place where drugs are sold.

Ashley Griffiths, 29, was at the residence and arrested for frequenting a place where drugs are sold.

POLICE LOG

Jan. 1
12:15 a.m., 1800 block N. Wahanna: A person is arrested for driving under the influence of intoxicants; they are also charged with hit and run and reckless driving.
2:04 a.m., 700 block Second Avenue: A DUII is reported and a subject is placed under arrest.
2:43 p.m., 2000 block N. Holladay: A missing person was reported.
7:26 p.m., 400 block N. Holladay: Police responding to a report of someone trying to commit suicide by putting a hose in a vehicle discover a person siphoning gas from their vehicle. Person tells them they have no thought of self-harm.

Jan. 2
4:14 p.m., 12th and Franklin: Police respond to a report of a man using binoculars to look into a yard. The man told police he was minding his neighbor’s bird feeder and is using binoculars to monitor the situation.
6:10 p.m., Waterline: A deceased person is reported.
8:49 p.m., 1900 block Spruce Drive: A missing person is reported.

Jan. 3
2:21 a.m. 300 block N. Prom: An assault in the fourth degree is reported. Also reported are strangulation and harassment.

7:27 a.m. Avenue A: A cardboard box left behind in a parking garage was reported as suspicious. Officers responding determine the box is empty and of no harm.

Jan. 4
8:19 a.m. 500 block S. Cottage, Gearhart: Subject reported a male with a rifle standing in a driveway in a ghillie camouflage suit. Officers contacted complainant and searched the driveway. The subject who was wearing hunting camouflage that made him look like a bush admitted to recent use of methamphetamine and agreed to go home and try to sleep.
9:13 a.m., 600 block Pacific Way, Gearhart: The subject is transported to the hospital for detox.
3:53 p.m., 100 block Fourth Avenue: Police respond to a report of a woman lying on the side of the road. Officers responding found no one lying by the side of the road.
5:54 p.m., Beach Drive and Ocean Vista: Police assist a person who forgot where they parked their car.

Jan. 5
12:20 p.m. 700 block N. Wahanna: Dog offenses were reported.
1:28 p.m., The Retreat: A female pedestrian said to be weaving in and out of traffic was advised people were com-

plaining about her behavior.
1:43 p.m. Police headquarters: Someone came in for their annual sex offender registry.
3:45 p.m., 1200 block Avenue E: Someone who reported a theft from in front of their house did not respond when police went to the residence. A message was left for the reporting party.
Jan. 6
12:15 a.m., 400 block S. Roosevelt: Police give a courtesy ride to a motel to a woman who said she’d had an argument with her boyfriend and had left the residence without her purse. Police returned with her to the residence so she could retrieve the purse.
6:41 p.m., 400 block S. Columbia: A father/son disagreement that escalated into a police call was quieted down when police arrived. The father said the son had left the premises for the evening.
Jan. 7
3:08 p.m. 2500 block S. Roosevelt: Police assist Medix with a combative patient.
4:16 p.m., Avenue U: Police respond to a report of a couple fighting; the man is reported to have kicked his dog. Police are unable to locate either subjects or the dog.
Jan. 8
12:03 p.m., 1100 block 11th

Ave.: The parent of a young child who was using the phone as a toy and dialed 911 was advised to not let the child play with the phone.
Jan. 9
6:52 p.m., 300 block S. Columbia: Caller reports their father did not make it to a scheduled medical appointment in Portland. It was learned he had been in a rollover vehicular accident on Highway 26. The matter was turned over to Oregon State Police.
Jan. 10
1:45 a.m., Goodman Park: A person running a generator and creating unnecessary noise was warned. They agreed to turn it off.
9:03 a.m., 700 block S. Wahanna: A person is arrested on a warrant.
1:10 p.m., Avenue A: Police speak with a woman who appears to have been abandoned by her family members. She told police she saw someone in her family she dislikes. Another family member may be able to get her home to Portland, but if not, a bus voucher was offered.
5:11 p.m., 100 block Avenue E: Police respond to a report of a possibly suicidal person. A bulletin was put out and the subject was found and taken to detox.

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