

Surf Pines man sentenced to prison for producing child pornography

By ERICK BENGEL
The Astorian

A Surf Pines man received a 17-year sentence in federal prison on Monday for producing child pornography.

Kirk Richard Cazez, 60, was convicted in U.S. District Court in Portland for crimes involving the sexual exploitation of two girls younger than 16.

He had been indicted by a federal grand jury in September 2018 on 10 counts that covered producing, receiving, possessing and transporting child pornography. As part of a plea deal, Cazez pleaded guilty to two counts of producing the pornography.

The U.S. Attorney's Office in Portland said that from about 2006 to 2010 Cazez posed online as, alternately, a young man and a teenage boy to get teenage girls to trust him and send him sexual images of themselves.

"In at least one instance, Cazez mailed a webcam and a teddy bear to a minor victim and convinced her to produce sexually explicit videos for him using the webcam," the agency said in a statement.

The victims spoke at the sentencing hearing. One was 15 when Cazez manipulated her into believing she had developed an online relationship with a young man. Cazez later led her to believe that the boy had died of cancer. Only when federal investigators contacted her did she learn what Cazez had put her through.

Kevin Sonoff, the public affairs officer with the U.S. Attorney's Office, District of Oregon, said of the vic-

tims' statements, "I think all of us were very impressed and moved by their composure and courage that they demonstrated today."

The sentencing comes more than a year after the Oregon Court of Appeals overturned Cazez's Circuit Court convictions for "peeping Tom" crimes that he committed from about 2014 to 2017.

Cazez had been caught lurking around homes in his neighborhood, peeking into windows, and recording victims in states of undress and engaged in private, sometimes sexual behavior.

A jury found Cazez guilty of more than 20 counts that involved invading personal privacy, criminal trespass, stalking and using a child in a display of sexual conduct. He was sentenced to 35 years.

The appeals court found that Cazez's cellphone, which contained pornographic videos of underage girls, had been seized without probable cause. Once the incriminating cellphone evidence, and the evidence that stemmed from it, was deemed off-limits, the victims' testimony could not be substantiated. The case was dismissed.

Clatsop County District Attorney Ron Brown praised federal prosecutors for pursuing a case against Cazez. "I was glad to see him get what he got," Brown said.

Some of Cazez's Clatsop County victims were present at his sentencing on Monday, Brown said.

With credit for time served, Cazez will be in his mid-70s when he is released. "The world will be a better place for that length of time," Brown said.



Kirk Richard Cazez

Seaside man sentenced to prison for theft

The Astorian

Damien James Arrin Ruiz, 27, of Seaside, was sentenced to five years in prison for several thefts and burglaries that took place in 2020 and 2021.

In July 2020, he committed first-degree aggravated theft at End of Trail Public House in Seaside, second-degree burglary at the

Seaside Elks Lodge and Inca's Inc. clothing store and second-degree theft by removing items from septic trucks.

In November 2020, he committed second-degree burglary at Seaside Rentals and the Clatsop Behavioral Healthcare office in Seaside.

And in November, he committed second-degree burglary at Astoria law offices.

MEMORIAL

John Ward

Sunday, May 1

WARD, John — Celebration of life, drop in from 3 to 7 p.m., Driftwood

Restaurant & Lounge, 179 N. Hemlock St. in Cannon Beach.

Break-ins: Church, thrift shop were hit

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door and entered, Marilyn Dito, a thrift shop volunteer said.

Inside, the entire jewelry case was emptied. They also tore the place apart.

"They broke into the locked cabinet then the safe for our till money and donations," she said. "To add insult to injury, two of our fire extinguishers were discharged throughout the store. It was a huge mess."

Neighboring Patty's Wicker Cafe lost sentimental pieces, petty cash and kitchen equipment.

"They broke out the back window, and stole a collectors' 'Maltese Falcon,' poured out of the same mold as the original one," owner Patty Strain said. "They took strange things: a kitchen scale and a can of PAM cooking spray."

Strain estimated damage at about \$350 to \$400. "They probably \$15 for the silver out of the till where I count my change," she said. "And where they broke that window."

Rev. Sue Irvin of Our Saviour's Lutheran Church at 320 First Ave. said even weeks later, the incident is hard to talk about.

"We had a window in our office area broken," Irvin said. "We had some evidence that whoever did it wandered through the building looking for money and they found our petty cash and some assistance money for people in the community."

As in the thrift shop, the fire extinguisher had been moved, although it had not been used, Irvin said.

"It was very difficult for the congregation to know that the church had been bro-



Volunteer assesses damage at the Spay and Neuter Thrift Shop.



Display case vandalized at the Spay and Neuter Thrift Shop.

ken into," she said. "We are working together as a congregation to move forward and to practice forgiveness."

When Donna Denhart, who handles billing and other duties at Coastal Eye Care on S. Holladay Dr., came in to work Wednesday morning, she noticed something in the middle of the hall glistening.

"Then I realized that listening was glass and realized the thing in the middle of the hall was a rock," Denhart said. "We went on a little bit further down the hall and found out that it was my office window that the rock was thrown into."

Like the other break-ins, the pin was pulled on the fire extinguisher. The shop was also vandalized and looted.

Around 9 p.m. Wednes-

day night Seaside officers responded to the Nike Outlet Store at 1111 N. Roosevelt for a report of a burglary. As in the other incidents, an unidentified male threw a rock through the front door and entered the business.

Toya's Chiropractic on Fourth Avenue was also hit.

"I don't know why they chose those places over others," Gregory said. "This person probably scouted these places out and decided that it was time to do what he wanted to do. With them all occurring at the same time frame, we believe this is our suspect."

The person is believed to have left the area, he said.

Police don't understand why the fire extinguishers were tampered with. "That baffled us as well," Greg-

ory said. "When we figure that out, we'll put it in the report."

While impacted businesses are still compiling insurance reports, Gregory estimated an aggregate loss of \$9,000, including property damage and stolen goods.

Gregory said he believed this was a "random rash" of incidents rather than an indication of a larger crime wave in Seaside.

To help deter future incidents, he advised businesses to use security cameras when possible. "It really helps our cases tremendously."

After the thrift shop break-in, the community has been supportive and kind, Dito said. The shop off Broadway along the river walkway operates on a small budget to support spaying and neutering of household pets.

"They're going out of their way to contribute what they can to help defray the losses," she said. "Our landlord has been responsive to our needs as well."

PUBLIC SAFETY LOG



April 9

1:59 p.m., 500 block Beach Drive: An assault is reported at a hotel. Another agency is assisted.

3:10 p.m., Fourth and Roosevelt: A person is arrested on a warrant at the scene of a reported fire in a building.

April 10

4:29 p.m., Avenue A: A disturbance is reported.

5:28 p.m., 10th and Necanicum: A phone contact is given regarding a motor home for sale.

9:03 p.m., 24th Avenue and U.S. Highway 101: Gunshots are reported.

10:54 p.m., N. Holladay: Suspicious circumstances are reported.

April 11

9:31 a.m., 400 block S. Downing: An abandoned vehicle is reported.

10:15 a.m., Avenue A: A hotel employee reports finding ammunition in a toilet.

3:04 p.m., Avenue A: Fire alarm at a hotel.

4:26 p.m., First and Holladay: A person is arrested on a warrant.

4:30 p.m., 1100 block S. Holla-

day: A counterfeit bill used at a restaurant is collected by police and a case for fraud was taken.

9:13 p.m., Tenth and Prom: A person is arrested and charged with driving while intoxicated.

10:06 p.m., 2200 block S. Prom: Fire investigation.

10:35 p.m., Avenue A: Suspicious circumstances are reported at a hotel.

April 12

1:18 p.m., Seventh and Prom: A request for a welfare check turns into an EMS call.

1:38 p.m., Forest Drive: EMS call.

2:05 p.m., 33000 block Beerman Creek Road: Medical call.

2:23 p.m., 12th Avenue: Caller reports license plate stolen off her car while she was at the movie theater.

5:42 p.m., Wahanna and Shore Terrace: A disturbance is reported between a male and a female.

April 13

8:32 a.m., 2100 block Middlefork Road: Car fire reported.

11:00 a.m., Prom and Avenue U: EMS call.

11:30 a.m., Police headquarters: A person came in to register as a sex offender.

2:20 p.m., 400 block S. Prom: People sleeping in their car on private property are advised of ordinances and that they are trespassing; they agree to move

on. A few minutes later this location is the scene of an EMS call.

3:08 p.m., 800 block 12th Avenue: EMS call.

4:51 p.m., Shore Terrace and N. Wahanna: Two females are reported going through mailboxes.

5:56 p.m., 800 block Avenue M: Fire investigation.

9:45 p.m., 900 block Fourth Avenue: EMS call; another agency is assisted.

April 14

3:54 a.m., 900 block Broadway: Caller reports property damage and that someone broke into their home.

10:30 a.m., 1500 block N. Holladay: Fire investigation.

10:56 a.m., Police headquarters: A person came in to register as a sex offender.

11:26 a.m., 200 block S. Roosevelt: EMS call.

3:24 p.m., Klaskanine River: Water rescue.

11:11 p.m., 11th and Necanicum: Property theft.



Vehicle leaves highway

A 76-year-old Seaside man was transported to the hospital

following a crash April 4 at 9:11 a.m., on U.S. Highway 26 at milepost 11. Troopers say a white Chevy Tahoe traveling westbound left the highway while negotiating a curve. Hamilton firefighters and ODOT were on scene. The vehicle was towed by Gary's Towing.

Multiple citations

Jacob Lewis Jackson, 22, was arrested April 7 at 9:56 p.m. on U.S. Highway 101 near milepost 22 after troopers pulled him over after witnessing multiple traffic violations. He admitted to consuming alcohol but refused to take the field sobriety test. Eventually he did submit to the test and was arrested soon after, charged with driving while intoxicated. He was taken to the Seaside police department for processing and while there submitted to a chemical test showing a .17% blood alcohol content. He was issued criminal citations and released and given a summons to appear in court June 7.

Suspended license

A citation was given to a Lapine man April 10 at 10:36 a.m. on U.S. Highway 26 at milepost 1 after he was pulled over for expired plates. Investigation revealed his license is suspended and he has no insurance.

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