

# Seaside man sentenced to prison for sex abuse

By ERICK BENGEL  
The Astorian

A Seaside man was sentenced to nine years in prison for sexually abusing a 5-year-old girl in January 2021.

Manuel Cecilio Lopez Cruz, 38, pleaded guilty in Circuit Court on July 5 to two counts of first-degree sex abuse.

Prosecutors said he touched the victim's vagina and anus while he babysat her and her 1-year-old brother at a Seaside residence.

When the mother came home, the girl told her what Lopez Cruz had done.

The mother took her Providence Seaside Hospital, then to Randall Children's Hospital at Legacy Emanuel Medical Center in Portland, Dawn Buzzard, the chief dep-

uty district attorney who prosecuted Lopez Cruz, recounted in an email.

The defendant "first hid from police, then admitted that he was the only one who had been watching the children," Buzzard wrote.

Lopez Cruz entered an Alford plea on each count, meaning that,

although he realized a jury would likely find him guilty, he maintained his innocence.

"I, personally, was very impressed with the mom, who negotiated the medical and justice system when English wasn't her first language," Buzzard wrote.

## Study finds Pacific whiting could prevent wrinkles

By ALEXIS WEISEND  
The Astorian

An Oregon State University study found that gelatin in the skin of Pacific whiting, a fish commonly caught off the West Coast, could prevent wrinkles.

A common ingredient in fish and chips and imitation crab, Pacific whiting, also known as hake, is often skinned during processing or before cooking.

Assistant professor Jung Kwon at Oregon State's Seafood Research and Education Center in Astoria found gelatin in Pacific whiting skin increased collagen synthesis, creating an anti-wrinkle effect.

The study found the gelatin could also have anti-inflammatory effects and encourage antioxidant activity.

"Americans typically do not like eating fish skin," Kwon said. "But gelatin is a pretty abundant protein found in the fish skin, which

has some functionalities and health benefits."

Pacific whiting was the most plentifully caught commercial fish landed in Astoria in 2021, according to the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Pacific Seafood, the Clackamas-based seafood company, which has a processing plant in Warrenton, funded the Oregon State study.

Despite the abundance of Pacific whiting, consumers in the United States typically favor salmon and tilapia, Kwon said. Consumers are also heavily dependent on imported fish.

"By focusing on this local, wild-harvest fish stock, we can draw some consumers' interests toward this currently not-very-popular local fish so that way we can really help the growth of the local fisheries," she said.

Consuming a variety of fish is more sustainable and can alleviate the pressure on more popular species, Kwon

said.

The research findings were published in a paper in Marine Drugs, a journal that focuses on biologically and therapeutically active compounds from the sea. Kwon authored the paper with Elaine Ballinger, of Oregon State, and Seok Hee Han and Se-Young Choung, of Kyung Hee University in South Korea.

The initial results of the study are promising but based on a cellular level. The next step is to use animal models to see if the same outcome can be achieved through consumption.

If the animal models prove successful, Kwon hopes consumers will think twice about discarding Pacific whiting fish skin.

"It can be quite tasty, as well," she said. "If you ever tried fish skin, and especially for Pacific whiting, it has a really mild flavor and softer texture. So it's a matter of changing your point of view about that."

## Fire season is here

Seaside Signal

Fire season is underway in Clatsop County, according to the Oregon Department of Forestry. Fire season is declared each year when conditions of fire hazard exist. This declaration affects all lands, both public and private, in Northwest Oregon and joins most other regions of Oregon already in fire season.

For industrial forest operations, levels vary from level 1 to level 4 with accompanying restrictions on operations to protect forest resources. Restrictions are very similar to last year, with a one-hour fire watch in level 1, a two-hour fire watch in level 2, and a two-hour fire watch in level 3. Level 4 is a shutdown, so no fire watch is required. Industrial fire precaution levels zones NW-1, NW-2 and NW-3 will be at a level 1 next Monday.

For public restrictions, levels move from low (green), to extreme (red). These are indicated on the fire information boards at major roads entering forested areas. Campfires will be allowed at campsites: designated sites and at dispersed sites in low (green). This recognizes that attended campfires adjacent to campsites have a low incident of spread. As conditions dry out, the move to moderate (blue)



Oregon Department of Forestry

Fire season began this week.

restricts campfires to designated campsites and dispersed campfires will no longer be allowed.

In conjunction with the county fire chiefs, a county wide burn ban will be simultaneously in effect.

Open debris burning will not be allowed. Burn barrels require a burn permit, which can be obtained through the Oregon Department of Forestry or your local fire departments depending on the location of your residence. For rural

residences using burn barrels, only metal barrels in good condition and heavy mesh screens with holes no larger than 1/4 inch are acceptable. A charged water supply and hand tools are required to be on site.

For up-to-date recorded information about fire season requirements, call 503-325-7215. To request a burning permit or obtain additional information, call 503-325-5451 during business hours.

### PUBLIC SAFETY LOG



#### July 1

**12:01 a.m.**, Library: A person is trespassed.

**2:23 a.m.**, Estuary parking: Camping regulations.

**10:42 a.m.**, Forest Drive: A deceased person is reported.

**1:51 p.m.**, 200 block N. Larch: Structure fire; flames and smoke reported.

**3:20 p.m.**, Avenue E and Irvine: A person is arrested on a warrant.

**6:20 p.m.**, Avenue U: EMS call.

**8:36 p.m.**, East End of Avenue D: Camping regulations.

#### July 2

**9:42 a.m.**, Safeway parking: Transients are reported setting up tents and blocking the fire lane.

**9:52 a.m.**, 600 block S. Edgewood: A person is arrested on a warrant.

**12:38 p.m.**, Quatat Park: Camping regulations.

**1:30 p.m.**, Semaphore 9: Water rescue.

**4:45 p.m.**, Ninth and Wahanna: A person is arrested on a warrant.

**10:04 p.m.**, Avenue U beach: Camping regulations.

**11:21 p.m.**, 2400 block U.S. Highway 101: A person is arrested on a warrant and being in violation of a restraining order.

**11:48 p.m.**, 500 block Broadway: Camping regulations.

#### July 3

**2:10 a.m.**, 300 block N. Prom: A hotel employee reported a baby wandering alone and crying in a hallway; the child is reunited with its parents.

**8:24 a.m.**, N. Holladay: Caller reports a subject passed out on rocks outside a hotel. Police make contact and the person agrees to leave the area.

**9:34 a.m.**, Quatat Park: Camping regulations.

**9:57 a.m.**, Beach Burrito: A person who set up a tent on the sidewalk outside the restaurant is told to pack up their belongings.

**10:41 a.m.**, 1400 block N. Franklin: Illegal fire.

**8:46 p.m.**, Avenue G and Ocean Shore: Illegal fireworks are confiscated.

**9:09 p.m.**, Avenue E and Ocean Shore: Illegal fireworks are seized.

**9:09 p.m.**, Sixth and Prom: Fireworks offense.

**10:54 p.m.**, Turnaround: A fire in a trash receptacle is extin-

guished by police who notified the fire department.

**11:55 p.m.**, Avenue N and Beach: Fireworks are reported.

#### July 4

**4:10 a.m.**, The Cove: A person is reported missing.

**7:54 a.m.**, Avenue U and Beach: Fire chief requests police assistance for a subject in their car on the beach refusing to leave. The person left prior to police arrival.

**12:03 p.m.**, 400 block S. Roosevelt: A person playing a musical instrument in a parking lot is advised store management doesn't want them there.

**1:42 p.m.**, Broadway: EMS call at the Henna store. Another agency is assisted.

**3:57 p.m.**, Del Rey beach access: Water rescue.

**5:27 p.m.**, Second and ocean shore: A child reported missing is reunited with its parents.

**6:17 p.m.**, Cove: Fireworks offense.

**6:34 p.m.**, Avenue I and S. Edgewood: Caller reports soap smeared on car windshields.

**8:18 p.m.**, 200 block N. Downing: EMS call turns into a report of a deceased person.

**8:52 p.m.**, Hi Tide: Front desk asks police for assistance for juveniles jumping from a log and destroying hotel landscaping. Caller says they have notified the parents but not received any response.

**9:13 p.m.**, Avenue G, dune grass: Subjects lighting fireworks in dune grass are reported. The fire department did not need to respond.

**9:33 p.m.**, Sailor's Grave: Fireworks reported.

**10:41 p.m.**, Convention Center and N. Edgewood: Vehicle fire reported.

**11:07 p.m.**, Helo pad: A person is arrested and charged with driving while under the influence of intoxicants.

**11:29 p.m.**, Avenue U and Ocean Shore: Fireworks offense.

#### July 5

**12:51 a.m.**, 12th and Prom: Fireworks offense.

**1:50 a.m.**, Ocean Way restrooms: EMS call.

**2:30 a.m.**, S. Roosevelt and Holladay: A person is arrested and charged with driving while under the influence of intoxicants.

**4:58 a.m.**, Shilo Inn beach: Camping regulations

**3:18 p.m.**, East End of Avenue D: A person is arrested on a warrant.

**10:44 p.m.**, 300 block S. Roosevelt: People camping on private property are trespassed.

#### July 6

**3:23 a.m.**, Estuary parking: Camping regulations

**9:07 a.m.**, Gateway Park: EMS call.

**10:37 a.m.**, 700 block S. Wahanna: Police check on a man reported standing outside and possibly in distress. The man tells police he is outside waiting for a cab.

**12:28 p.m.**, 600 block South Edgewood: EMS call.

**5:38 p.m.**, Ocean Way restrooms: A subject reported causing a ruckus is told to dump his beer. He was warned people are complaining about him.

#### July 7

**7:21 a.m.**, 13th and Wahanna: A person is cited for offensive littering.

**9:23 a.m.**, Quatat Park: A transient whose belongings were scattered and littering the area said they were packing up and leaving the area for the day.

**2:23 p.m.**, 200 block Avenue A: Police respond to a third party report of a couple fighting. On arrival, the male wanted to tell police about the female's drug use.

**5:46 p.m.**, Avenue E and Lincoln: A person is arrested on a warrant.



#### Driving violations

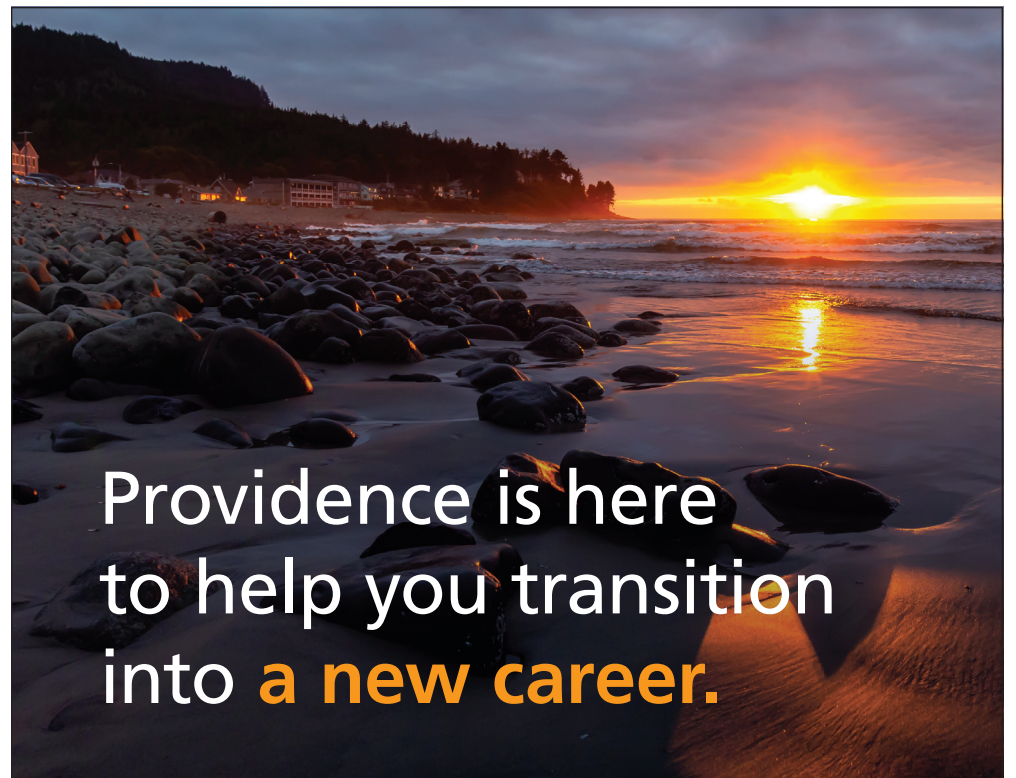
Abraham J. Jimenez, 36, from Fairview was arrested July 4 at 2:14 p.m. on U.S. Highway 26, milepost 10, charged with multiple driving violations. Investigation revealed he was wanted on a felony warrant from Clackamas County. He was transported and lodged at the Clatsop County Jail.

#### Warrant arrest

Steven Clark Price, 63, from Portland, was arrested July 4 at 8:33 p.m., on U.S. Highway 101, milepost 19, charged with driving with a revoked or suspended license. At the time of his traffic stop for a moving violation, it was discovered there was an active warrant out for his arrest from the Clatsop County Circuit Court. He was taken to the county jail and a friend took possession of his vehicle.

#### Lost control

An 18-year-old driver from Portland lost control of his car July 5 at 13:38 p.m. at the onramp to U.S. Highway 26 and U.S. Highway 101; the driver poorly negotiated a curve when his car left the roadway and struck a yellow chevron sign. The driver arranged for tow as his car was damaged. ODOT was notified. Neither he or his 17-year-old female passenger were injured.



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