

# Tools: Suspects are usually 'shocked'

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and training to uncover more online sex abuse cases. Officers are finding more crimes occurring online, and in the past few years investigators have made huge leaps in their use of technology.

Astoria Police partnered with local agencies last fall to purchase Cellebrite software that pulls data off cellphones and other mobile devices smaller than a laptop.

Astoria Police Detective Thomas Litwin estimates the county's agencies have already used the software in about 100 cases, with the majority being sex abuse cases.

Officers are not just finding evidence through texts or Facebook messages. Local cases have involved little-known applications such as Kik Messenger, MeetMe and Whisper. All criminal activity on those applications can be used as evidence in a criminal case.

Greer met the 13-year-old girl on the dating application, Badoo. They also communicated on Kik Messenger, Snapchat and Skype. The girl used TextNow, allowing her to send messages to Greer without using her cellphone.

"That's how people are communicating," Litwin said. "It's not calling on a phone or meeting in person. Everyone is doing things online through messaging."

## 'Suspect is shocked'

Most online sex abuse cases are brought forward by a parent, friend or school teacher.

Officers do not troll the internet for predators, but rather rely on someone's report or a referral from a group such as the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children.

In Greer's case, it was a friend of the victim who told the girl's parents.

By searching the victim's cellphone and social media accounts, Humphrey said, he can develop a case before contacting the suspect.

The Cellebrite software allows officers to review all text messages, photos and other data on a device, including deleted files. Law enforcement also has a special portal to analyze Facebook accounts by providing a search warrant to the social media company.

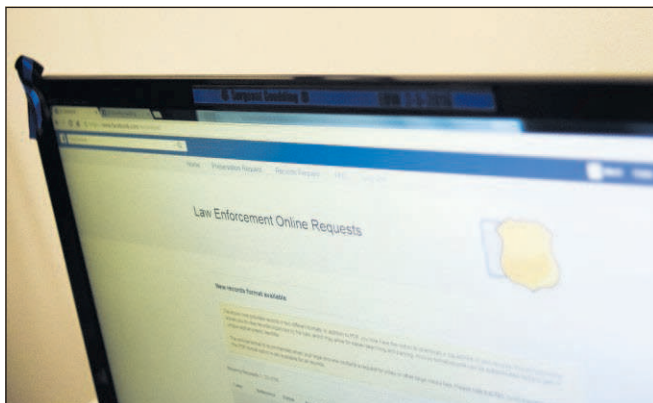
"Most of the time, if I have done my job correctly, the suspect is shocked when they meet me for the first time," Humphrey said.

When searching a suspect's cellphone or electronic device, officers must apply for a search warrant as if they were searching a house. Officers must act fast to preserve digital evidence.

The total process takes time, Humphrey said, which is hard to explain to concerned family



Photos by Danny Miller/The Daily Astorian  
Clatsop County Sheriff's Detective Ryan Humphrey demonstrates technology that can map the location where a cellphone was used, at the Clatsop County Sheriff's Office.



Clatsop County Sheriff's Detective Ryan Humphrey demonstrates the different technology available to law enforcement to obtain information from social media accounts for cases.

**'That was then, this is now. We are showing people there is a consequence and something will happen if you report it.'**

**Ryan Humphrey**

Clatsop County Sheriff's detective

or friends. Downloading data from a cellphone using Cellebrite can take up to six hours.

Before the software was available locally, officers had to spend a day driving to a forensics lab in Portland. Analyzing a Facebook account can produce more than 30,000 pages to sift through for evidence.

"It's frustrating, especially for parents to see their child has been abused, and they don't always understand how come I'm not running out of the door to arrest somebody," Humphrey said. "Often times with these kind of cases, I only have one chance to do it right. If I blow that chance, it's game over."

Officers encourage parents to allow no online privacy for children, and believe cellphones and tablets do not belong in the bathroom with the child or in their bed at night. Officers suggest every parent have access to their children's electronic devices.

Even if a parent takes a cellphone away, children can

download messaging applications such as TextNow on any iPod, iPad, Kindle or Nook.

"Unfortunately, I've seen cases where parents are doing the right thing and took the cellphone, but didn't take the Kindle," Humphrey said.

## Victim impact

While more online sex abuse suspects are being convicted in Clatsop County, advocates are noticing impacts on victims. It is difficult for victims to overcome the thought of intimate photos or messages being sent or often shared in the community.

Clatsop County Deputy District Attorney Dawn Buzzard said many of the victims in her cases are dropping out of school and not returning.

"Most of the cases I can think of have kids deciding not to go to school," Buzzard said.

The Harbor, the domestic and sexual violence resource center for Clatsop County, recently hired a teen intimate partner violence specialist.

Erin Hofseth, who joined the Harbor in April, works with local schools to prevent dating violence and does outreach to offer resources and education for teens to shed light on what abuse can look like. She hopes to develop a support group for teens.

Online and texting harassment, stalking and the pressure to send nude photos are intense for teens in this generation, Hofseth said.

"It does look different for teens than it would in a domestic partnership or marriage," she said. "Teens are facing issues that adults don't face."

## Well-trained

A key to catching online sex abuse is having well-trained detectives in the county, Buzzard said.

Detectives regularly attended trainings around the Northwest.

Humphrey went to a training this year about cellphone mapping technology. He learned how to use a computer program that tells where a cellphone call is made.

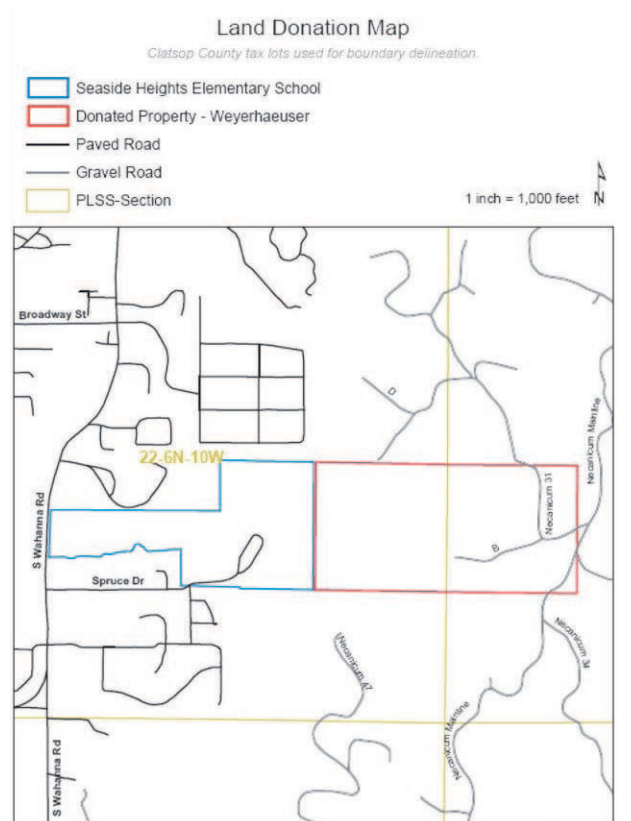
"You really need a detective willing to dive in," Buzzard said.

In addition, detectives and officers must learn what to look for to charge a suspect with online sexual corruption, using a child in display of sexually explicit conduct or luring a minor.

Greer was charged with each type of online sex abuse. Through a plea agreement this spring, he pleaded guilty to attempted unlawful sexual penetration and was sentenced to three years probation. He will face four years in prison if he violates the probation.

Getting online sex abuse cases to a conviction is progress for the county, Humphrey said. A decade ago, he said, nothing would happen for victims abused online.

"That was then, this is now," he said. "We are showing people there is a consequence and something will happen if you report it."



Submitted photo

Map indicating donated portions of land to the Seaside School District from Weyerhaeuser Co.

# Seaside: District 'faces a predicament without precedent or equivalent in Oregon'

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offset local costs to relocate our schools, and it has been a frustrating path to provide our students with a safe, new educational space," Dougherty said in a statement. "With the donation of 80 acres from Weyerhaeuser for the new campus and potential access to state funding, the pathway to providing a safe learning environment has opened up for us to pursue a school relocation bond in November."

Dougherty displayed a map of the property at a June school board meeting. The donated property is in the shape of a rectangle on the hillside immediately east of Sunset Heights Elementary School. Buildings will be constructed on the western portion of the parcel, while the eastern portion will contain a ball field, he said.

The district determined a total bond amount of \$99.7 million for polling purposes only, Dougherty added in an email Thursday, a number that would not necessarily reflect the final request to voters.

The next Seaside School District meeting is scheduled for Aug. 8, however, a special meeting may be called earlier. When voter polling results are received, the exact amount of the bond will be determined. Those results are expected within the next two weeks.

The funds come after the school district was unable to

access funding through the Seismic Rehabilitation Grant Program to use to retrofit or relocate its schools because the schools are sited within the tsunami inundation zone, Dougherty said.

U.S. Sen. Ron Wyden visited Seaside this spring with a pledge to bring federal dollars to the school district as well.

Among the expenses listed in the school district budget is the cost to prepare a bond measure for next November's ballot to relocate the district's schools out of the tsunami inundation zone.

A \$128.8 million bond measure to relocate the schools on a hill east of Seaside Heights Elementary School failed in 2013.

According to Dougherty, the district, with enrollment of 1,519 students in 2012-2013, "faces a predicament without precedent or equivalent in Oregon."

Three of the district's four schools are located just a few feet above sea level within the tsunami inundation zone.

Dougherty described the three schools as situated on the Seaside spit and in the community of Gearhart, too far from high ground to be evacuated safely in the event of a Cascadia earthquake on the coastal fault and the tsunami that earthquake would produce.

Sixty-percent of the Senate Bill 447 funds are based on a priority list, he said.

# Smith: She appeared emotional while watching her video interview

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a call from her ex-husband's lawyer telling her to return the children.

She and her ex-husband, Gregory Smith, separated about four months before the incident. The girls' father sought a custody evaluation less than two weeks before they were discovered in the hotel room.

Smith, 42, of Vancouver, Washington, told investigators her ex-husband was a passive-aggressive bully. She researched if he was a sociopath or a psychopath, she said.

"I needed to find out what he was doing to my mind," she said.

Smith said she and the girls were terrified of her ex-husband. Alana Smith apparently told her mother she would rather die than go back to live with him.

Instead of bringing the children back, prosecutors believe Smith made specific plans to drug her daughters and used razor blades to cut the throat and arms of her teenager. She reportedly drugged and drowned Isabella Smith and attempted to kill Alana Smith on July 31, 2014.

On video, Smith told the investigators the toddler fell asleep peacefully, fell into



Danny Miller/The Daily Astorian  
Jessica Smith attends a hearing Thursday at Clatsop County Circuit Court in Astoria.

the water and was gone.

"The intention was to drown her and end her misery," Smith said.

Smith said she felt like a mother rabbit that takes their babies out. When asked what she meant, she said, "you know what I mean."

In previous court hearings, Smith's defense lawyers William Falls and Lynne Morgan described her as having a mental breakdown. The lawyers submitted records on postpartum psychosis.

Judge Cindee Matyas recently determined Smith is mentally competent to stand trial.

## Cooperative

The video interview was played during a pretrial hearing to determine what evidence can be used in trial next year. The state presented the evidence in response to the defense lawyers claims that Smith was illegally interrogated by law enforcement after her arrest.



Danny Miller/The Daily Astorian

Clatsop County Sheriff's Office Detective Ryan Humphrey testifies during Jessica Smith's hearing Thursday at Clatsop County Circuit Court.

Smith after her arrest. They believe she was in great distress, living out of her car, without food and drinking water from a stream.

Humphrey and Biehn testified Thursday that Smith was read her Miranda rights multiple times and appeared in good shape upon her arrest. She did tell the officers how she tried to starve herself, but it did not work.

"She was cooperative and she was thankful we located her," Humphrey said.

The arresting officers offered her food and drink, and asked if she needed any medical attention.

Smith politely asked for vegetarian food and declined

medical attention, only asking for a breast pump.

The officers noted how calm and talkative Smith was during her arrest and interview. She regularly thanked them and apologized for crying at times.

"Thank you so much for being so nice," she said. "I'll try to get it under control."

In court Thursday, Smith appeared emotional while watching the video of her interview. She remains in custody in Clatsop County Jail.

Judge Matyas will consider the lawyers arguments and decide what evidence will be used in trial, scheduled for July 2017.