



## FISHERMEN SNARE THE TRAPPERS

SPORTS • 7A

# MUD RUN



Danny Miller/The Daily Astorian

Competitors in the high school boys moderate course race begin their race during the 3-Course-Challenge on Saturday at Camp Rilea in Warrenton. More photos of the 3-Course-Challenge available online at [DailyAstorian.com/sports](http://DailyAstorian.com/sports)

## Runners tackle the 'Challenge'

By GARY HENLEY  
The Daily Astorian

**W**ARRENTON — Cross country is not the ideal spectator sport (they blow a horn, all the competitors run into the woods), but one thing is certain: Cross-country runners are some of the toughest athletes around.

To run for 15, 20, 30 minutes ... without a timeout or a stoppage ... that takes guts.

More than 2,200 runners were strutting their stuff and enjoying their sport Saturday at Camp Rilea, where the Seaside cross-country team hosted the 27th annual 3-Course Challenge.

The boys' race on the Easy course alone had 441 runners — and with that many athletes in one race on one course — cross country all of a sudden becomes a contact sport.

Several members (most, actually) of Seaside's boys' cross-country team also play soccer.

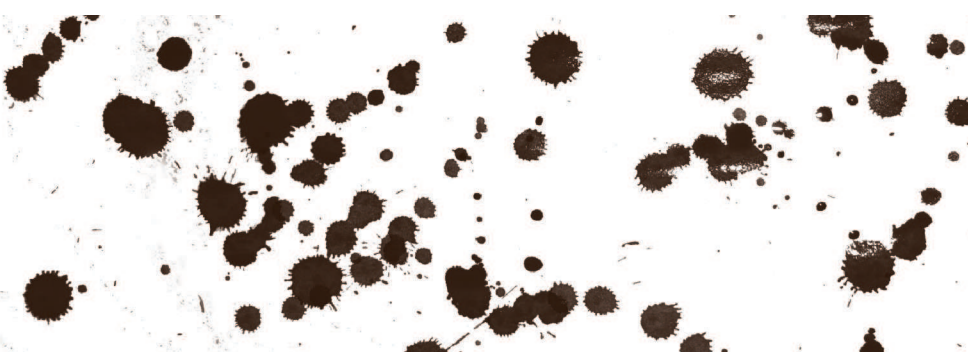
And a quick, informal poll found that at least some of the Gulls think cross country is the tougher sport.

See **CHALLENGE**, Page 10A



Danny Miller/The Daily Astorian

Seaside's Jackson Januik runs through a mud pit during the 3-Course-Challenge on Saturday at Camp Rilea in Warrenton.



## Seaside toddler murder trial up

Death penalty trial may take up to two months

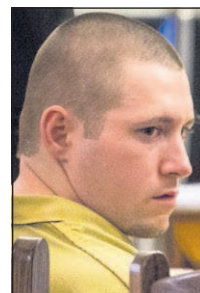
By KYLE SPURR  
The Daily Astorian

Clatsop County's first death penalty trial in 15 years starts Tuesday in Circuit Court.

Randy Lee Roden, 28, is on trial for allegedly murdering his girlfriend's 2-year-old daughter and abusing her two sons while they all lived together in a Seaside apartment. The gruesome scene discovered in December 2014 is described as among the worst child-abuse cases in the county.

The trial, in Courtroom 300, will focus this week on jury selection. Prospective jurors will be screened in the courtroom in groups of six until the 12-person jury is selected,

with two to four alternates. The pool of available jurors will be asked about their attitudes toward capital punishment and whether



Randy Lee Roden

See **RODEN**, Page 5A

## Feds get fire chief lawsuit

New allegations over Cannon Beach firing

By LYRA FONTAINE and R.J. MARX  
The Daily Astorian

**CANNON BEACH** — A lawsuit pitting former fire chief Mike Balzer against the Cannon Beach Rural Fire Protection District has been moved to federal court after Balzer raised civil rights claims.

The change of venue was triggered by a new complaint from Balzer that his federal due process and free association rights were violated when he was fired last October.

The case, which had been slated for trial in Clatsop County Circuit Court in October, will instead be heard next year before U.S. Magistrate Judge Paul Papak in U.S. District Court in Portland.

See **CLAIM**, Page 5A

## Indoors or outdoors, Benthin loves football

Former Logger stays in the game

**N**ov. 29, 2008. As he was walking around the field at Hillsboro Stadium that day, following his last high school football game for the Knappa Loggers — a 20-6 state championship win over Culver — John Benthin probably would not have been surprised if you had told him he'd still be playing football in 2016.

Playing, no ... but for an Arena Football League team named the Los Angeles Kiss? Probably not, since the Kiss didn't even exist in 2008.

At least not the football team.

**EVERYDAY people**

Of course, the rock group Kiss was still around. Actually, that's where the football team gained its name, as the Los Angeles Kiss are under the ownership of Gene Simmons and Paul Stanley, two of the four original band members of Kiss.

The team is based in Anaheim, and plays its home games at the Honda Center, also home to the NHL's Anaheim Ducks.

"I love Los Angeles," said Benthin, who recently wrapped

up his first season with the football team. "Gene Simmons and Paul Stanley ... they're great people. Real nice guys. They went on tour about halfway through the season."

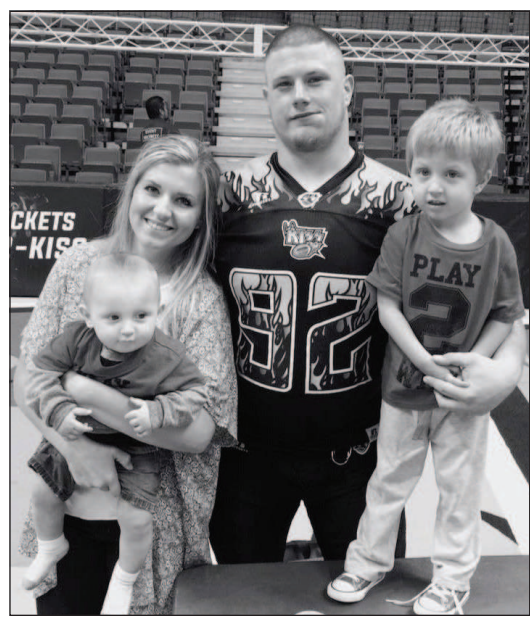
Always a bummer, when the front office takes off to go on tour halfway through the season.

But Benthin doesn't concern himself so much with the music as the football.

**Brief NFL tryout**

After graduating from Knappa, Benthin went to Western Oregon, had a brief tryout for the San Diego Chargers, and ended up in the Arena Football League.

See **BENTHIN**, Page 5A



John Benthin and girlfriend Dijana Topalovic, with their two kids, Beau, left, and John Jr.

Submitted Photo