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ONE DOLLAR



Danny Miller/The Daily Astorian

Randy Roden walks into the courtroom Tuesday at Clatsop County Circuit Court in Astoria.

CONFLICTING CLAIMS ON TODDLER MURDER

Lawyers make opening statements in 'gruesome' Seaside case

By KYLE SPURR
The Daily Astorian

Prosecutors described Randy Lee Roden as someone with a violent history who grew frustrated watching after his girlfriend's toddler daughter and her two sons.

The state is accusing Roden of murdering 2-year-old Evangelina Wing and abusing her brothers in the Seaside apartment he shared with their mother, Dorothy Ann Wing.

Roden's defense lawyers, however, say the focus on Roden is a rush to judgment. The defense claims the toddler was killed by the abusive actions of her mother combined with a dangerous flesh-eating virus found on the girl.

Opening arguments began Tuesday in Clatsop County Circuit Court in the death penalty trial of Roden. The crimes are considered among the worst child-abuse cases in the county.

Gruesome evidence

Chief Deputy District Attorney Ron Brown gave a detailed description of the gruesome evidence. The three children were tortured, burned, bitten and caged in the apartment. All three children were the victims of child abuse. The older brother, now



Danny Miller/The Daily Astorian

Randy Roden, left, talks with his lawyer Conor Huseby before the start of opening statements on Tuesday at Clatsop County Circuit Court.

7, is one of the most traumatized children his pediatric doctor has seen. The boy will not testify at trial due to the trauma, Brown said.

The younger brother, now 3, had a broken bone in his pelvic region and extensive bruising.

An autopsy found Evangelina Wing apparently died of battered child syndrome with blunt force trauma to her head.

Doctors and nurses will testify for the state about the extensive injuries to the three children.

"All of these injuries were not accidental," Brown said.

Inside the apartment, blood spatter was

found in almost every corner, including on holiday decorations and the wall behind a Christmas tree. Most of the blood spatter was found in the bathroom and was 3 feet or lower on the walls.

"There was way more blood in that bathroom than there ever should have been," Brown said.

The state's theory is that Dorothy Wing aided and abetted Roden by allowing him to live with her children and take care of them while she worked. She was responsible for Roden's actions, the state claims, but was not the one who murdered the toddler.

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Local area chambers are against Measure 97

Projected to raise \$3 billion

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Daily Astorian

The Astoria-Warrenton and Seaside chambers of commerce have joined more than 40 others in opposition to Measure 97, the corporate sales tax on the November ballot.

The measure would impose a 2.5 percent gross receipts tax on corporations that have at least \$25 million in Oregon sales. State economists have estimated the measure would create about \$3 billion in new revenue annually.

"We did our homework, and it's a very, very bad bill for business," said Skip Hauke, executive director of the Astoria-Warrenton Chamber of Commerce.

Hauke said supporters of the measure are kidding themselves if they don't think the tax on corporations will result in an increase in costs for everyday citizens, a primary argument of the opposition. Brian Owen, the Seaside chamber's executive director, had a similar view.



Skip Hauke



Brian Owen

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Gearhart barn owner fires back

Smith issues 32-item request

By R.J. MARX
The Daily Astorian

GEARHART — Shannon Smith, the owner of Neacoxie Creek Barn, has fired back against the city with a 32-item request for email records and files from the last three city administrations.

Smith, who has clashed with the city over events at the barn, requested correspondence between current and former city councilors, city engineering and building staff and county building officials, seeking "every communication" regarding use of the barn.

Gearhart officials want to prohibit the barn from holding weddings and special events until Smith can produce a certificate of occupancy.



Shannon Smith

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Long Beach council votes to relax pot buffers

Ordinance could entice more retail 'bud' businesses

By DAVID PLECHL
EO Media Group

LONG BEACH, Wash. — Call it the greening of the Washington coast. Freedom Market, a new retail pot shop just opened in Ilwaco Oct. 1, and the town already hosts one licensed grower — Vancouver Weed Co. Seaview will see its first retail weed business, Mr. Doobies, open in November.

Long Beach, by contrast, remains barren of bud.

The owner of the new Seaview

'Even though we allowed them, it was really tough to find any place to put one.'

Long Beach Mayor Jerry Phillips

store, H.J. Norris, said he would have preferred to open in Long Beach, but couldn't find a suitable location, partially because he was hindered by the city's strict buffer ordinances.

A little easier

Things may have just gotten a little easier for Norris and others like him who dream of locating a pot businesses in Long Beach, now that city council has voted to

relax its stringent buffer policies, a move likely to pave the way for prospective marijuana shops, processors or producers.

"Even though we allowed them, it was really tough to find any place to put one," Long Beach Mayor Jerry Phillips said.

On Monday, the City Council voted to relax the stringent citing guidelines, by several hundred feet in some cases, to now fall in line with the minimum restrictions

required by state law. The ordinance relaxes buffers in all cases, except near schools and playgrounds, to the 100-foot minimum required by the state.

State law also restricts Pacific County to three allotments for retail marijuana businesses, which are all currently in use elsewhere. But no such equivalent restriction exists for producers and processors, including medical cooperatives, sometimes called "collective gardens," so changes to local laws may entice more non-retail marijuana businesses, along with the taxes they provide, to find a home within the Long Beach business community. Nevertheless, the pot



Jerry Phillips



Ariel Smith

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