

Rescue swimmer earns high honor for heroism

Rescue swimmer Chief Petty Officer Michael Spencer was awarded the Coast Guard Medal Monday. With him, from left, were his wife Brandy, daughter Addison (not pictured), son Brody, stepmother Sharon, father Mark and mother Susan Self.

Edward Stratton
The Daily Astorian



Crew saved two firefighters in Cape Kiwanda

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Daily Astorian

Chief Petty Officer Michael Spencer, a rescue swimmer with the U.S. Coast Guard for the past 20 years, said he doesn't want bad things to happen to people. But if they do, he wants to be on duty.

Spencer was honored Monday with the Coast Guard Medal for pulling two members of the North Lincoln County Fire & Rescue out of the Punch Bowl below Cape Kiwanda in February.

The medal, one of the Coast Guard's highest honors, goes to service members who display heroism

not involving conflict with an enemy.

Spencer and his helicopter crew — pilot Lt. Rob McCabe, co-pilot Lt. j.g. Alex Martfeld and hoist operator Petty Officer 1st Class David Corcino — were finishing training with swimmers and boats near Grays

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JUDGE TO SEASIDE CHILD MURDERER: 'YOU ARE A CRUEL MAN'



Danny Miller/The Daily Astorian

Randy Roden waits to hear his fate as photos of Dorothy Wing's children sit on display in the Clatsop County Courthouse.

Roden sentenced to more than 35 years in prison

By KATIE FRANKOWICZ
For The Daily Astorian

A Seaside man convicted of killing his girlfriend's 2-year-old daughter will spend close to 40 years in prison, the maximum sentence the law allows.

"Mr. Roden, you are a cruel man," Clatsop County Circuit Court Judge Paula Brownhill said before reading 28-year-old Randy Roden's sentence Monday afternoon. "You have an excellent legal team who has represented you in the best possible light."

But, she added, he was the one taking care of 2-year-old Evangelina Wing "when her arm was broken and her mouth ruined and her hair torn out by the roots."

"If you get out of jail and hurt another child, God have mercy



Danny Miller/The Daily Astorian

Conor Huseby, left, talks with his client Randy Roden after Roden hears his sentence Monday at Clatsop County Circuit Court in Astoria. Roden received the maximum sentence.

on your soul."

In October, after several days of deliberation, a 12-person jury found Roden guilty of murder by abuse, felony murder, manslaughter, criminal mistreatment and assault in the death of Evangelina Wing in 2014 and

the abuse of her two surviving brothers.

For these charges, Judge Brownhill sentenced him to just over 35 years in prison. He is still serving time on a prior coercion conviction which will add to his overall prison time.

Roden was acquitted of four counts of aggravated murder, serious charges that carried the possibility of the death penalty or life in prison. The jury also found him not guilty of charges of sexual abuse.

Dorothy Wing, Evangelina's mother, is serving 15 years in prison for first-degree manslaughter and criminal mistreatment related to her daughter's death. She testified against Roden at his trial.

Further testimony

Roden sat in a yellow prison uniform throughout the sentencing. Next to him, set at an angle on an easel so he could see them, were large photos of Evangelina and her brothers.

In the pictures, the children are happy and healthy, completely different from how they appeared in December when Roden and Dorothy Wing were arrested, Judge Brownhill pointed out.

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Needed: Dollars to bankroll marker

City seeks corporate help for monument

By DERRICK DePLEDGE
The Daily Astorian

Astoria will look to corporate sponsors to help underwrite maintenance costs for a Scandinavian monument at Peoples Park downtown.

City Councilor Cindy Price recommended the idea Monday night to bridge a gap between the Astoria Scandinavian Heritage Association and the city Parks and Recreation Department over upkeep for the monument.

The city is interested in a long-term agreement of 10 years or more on maintenance because of the difficulty in maintaining existing parks. A parks master plan urged the city to focus on park maintenance before adding new responsibilities, and the parks department could have to make cuts in the coming months.

The heritage association has offered to powerwash the new monument twice a year for three years and organize the Scandinavian community around cleanup events, but is unsure about a long-term commitment.

A corporate sponsor for the Scandinavian monument could serve as a benefactor, much like the Friends of the Astoria Column or the Holiday Inn Express at Maritime Memorial Park.

"I just feel strongly that we can make that happen," Price said.

A monument to mark the history of Scandinavian immigration on Astoria was widely praised when announced earlier this year. Private donors would pay for the project, with the city contributing land at the park off Marine Drive between 15th and 16th streets.

But maintenance costs and other hiccups have left the project at a standstill. The city will have to decide whether the project needs to go through the public bidding process and pay prevailing wages.

Loran Mathews, the president of the heritage association, has not put a price tag on the monument. The group wants a city endorsement, however, to start fundraising for the money to hire an architect.

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Loran Mathews

Bonamici visits Circle Creek, Boneyard Ridge

US representative tours floodplain restoration in Seaside

By LYRA FONTAINE
The Daily Astorian

SEASIDE — U.S. Rep. Suzanne Bonamici got a bird's eye view of the North Coast Land Conservancy's floodplain restoration project from an area on Boneyard Ridge, overlooking Circle Creek and U.S. Highway 101 and the ocean.

Bonamici, D-Ore., visited the land conservancy's Circle Creek Habitat Reserve and Boneyard Ridge property on Monday to speak with staff and see how the project alleviated yearly flooding.

During high tides and

heavy rains, Highway 101 would flood every winter and the road would have to close, said Melissa Reich, the organization's stewardship director. When the highway was impassable, Cannon Beach residents were unable to get to the hospital by ambulance.

The plan

To restore the floodplain, the land conservancy and its partners — including Clatsop County and the Oregon Department of Transportation — excavated sections of a berm that was built along the Necanicum River, leaving certain areas to

maintain older trees.

The partial berm removal in 2013 allowed water from the Necanicum River to naturally flood the Circle Creek floodplain, instead of the adjacent Highway 101, thus preventing unsafe driving conditions, delays and road closures.

"If we had come up here in a flood event, you would see that the whole property is underwater," Reich said. "Everywhere that's green is underwater."

"Not a lot of properties are excited about having their property flooded, but we are."

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Lyra Fontaine/The Daily Astorian

North Coast Land Conservancy Associate Director Jon Wickersham and Stewardship Director Melissa Reich show U.S. Rep. Suzanne Bonamici (center) a map of Circle Creek Habitat Reserve.

