Coach: 'The three of us that resigned ... we didn't do anything wrong'

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coach, was charged with second-degree sex abuse, third-degree rape and third-degree sodomy after allegedly having sex with a 15-year-old girl on the wrestling team during the Redmond trip. The sex abuse charge is based on Truax being her coach and the alleged victim being underage and unable to consent to sex. The rape and sodomy charges are based on allegedly having sex with a victim under 16.

"This is a sad and traumatic situation for our school community and our community at large," Johnson wrote in a statement. "The district is committed to making the situation better for students, chaperones, and adults who take future trips by implementing new policies and procedures.'

Owings said this is not the way he wanted to end his career after more than 30 years as Knappa's wres-tling coach. He called the situation "heartbreaking."

"The three of us that resigned ... we didn't do anything wrong. In hindsight, there's things we would have done to prevent the situation, but that's hindsight," Owings said without elaborating.

The wrestling coaches were placed on leave after the allegations against Truax surfaced. Owings and Whitworth were paid coaches, while Posey and Truax were volunteers.

Truax, who was suspended as coach, will not return, Johnson said.

The school district has also learned that Truax did not undergo a background check, which is a requirement for anyone who works with students at the school. "We thought one was done," Johnson said.

Before the resignations were announced, many in the community spoke in support of Owings at a school board meeting Monday night and urged the school district to keep him on as coach. Former students and wrestlers described how Owings was an important and formative part of their high school years.

"That man does nothing but provide an outlet for so many students in the community for so many years. He's a man worth his word," said Gary Newberry, a coach for Knappa Kids Wrestling. "The support he has behind him speaks volumes to what kind of person he is."

Parents and coaches said the school district should have clearer guidance for managing behavior on overnight trips.

Aaron Barendse, the Knappa foot-



Photos by Luke Whittaker/Chinook Observer

Vancouver Weed Co. owner Gary Green holds a sample of concentrated marijuana oil he extracted using a rotary evaporator in the llwaco lab.

Marijuana: Concentrates becoming an alternative to prescription medications

Continued from Page A1

Pacific County, where the potent oils were readily available at a relative discount. The trend devel-oped despite federal prohibition of interstate transportation of marijuana products.

"People were coming in because we had good concentrates at a really good price with high numbers," Nichols said. "We have some that start at about \$12 per gram and a lot in the \$15 to \$18 category.³

Outdoor harvests in Oregon have since slashed price disparities, allowing Clatsop County stores to counter with rock-bottom prices of their own, including grams less than \$12 at The Farmacy and Sweet Relief.

Concentrated cannabis oils have become increasingly popular as an alternative to prescription medications.

"A lot of people have been cutting back on their medications and using oils," Nichols said. Customers often seek concen-

trates for relief of side effects from cancer treatments, arthritis, fibromyalgia and muscular dystrophy, but sales haven't been exclusive to a particular age group or demographic.

"I'm surprised by how many senior citizens who have taken up dabbing," Nichols said. "I had some people in here earlier in their 60s and 70s seeking dabs. It's not just the kids, everybody seems to have grav-



Quality Growers employee Mataya Disney described the steps involved creating marijuana concentrates at the extraction lab in Raymond.



Local sales of marijuana concentrates continue to grow.

itated towards it in one way or another."

Cannabis concentrates are also popular for consumers who don't want to smoke or eat edibles but trate department because we're a top seller and they move out of here really quickly," Nichols said. "There are also a lot of growers producing a lot more concentrates because it's been picking up in popularity."

population, according to histo-

rian Liisa Penner of the Clatsop

County Historical Society. They

were drawn as cheap labor to

build the city's infrastructure and

work in canneries. The Chinese

Exclusion Act of 1882 drained

much of the population out by

World War II.

Regulate: Auditors find state oversight insufficient

Continued from Page A1

guidance on cannabis that had allowed more leeway for states during the Obama administration. Shortly there-after, Oregon's top federal prosecutor, Billy Williams, made headlines when he lambasted what he claimed was a rampant problem of diversion from the state, with tons of legally grown Oregon cannabis leaking across state lines and into the black market.

State auditors waded into the fray this year, finding that state oversight is insufficient, particularly when it comes to medical marijuana. Additionally, they said, the state could improve testing of marijuana products to protect public health and should consider testing cannabis products for heavy metals and microbiological contaminants. It should also make sure labs that test cannabis are consistently accredited.

Although it has worked to beef up tracking of marijuana products, the Oregon Liquor Control Commission is hamstrung in efforts to prevent diversion due to data errors and a lack of inspections, according to the report.

The agency was overwhelmed by rapid growth of the cannabis market, auditors said, and was unable to get the staff, licenses and inspections it needed to adequately oversee the program. Just 3 percent of licensed retailers have undergone a state compliance inspection, while 32 percent of growers have, the report report.

The agency halted processing new recreational marijuana license applications in June so state officials could catch up on a backlog. Gov. Kate Brown wants to change state law to allow the commission to cap licenses based on market demand and other factors.

The state doesn't have as much authority to regulate medical growers' activities, auditors said. And they found there aren't enough inspectors of medical cannabis, there is high turnover among the inspectors the program does have, and money coming into the program through fees is dropping off. In a press release, Richardson said that preventing diversion of cannabis is "imperative to ensure federal authorities maintain confidence in Oregon's ability to adequately regulate the use and sale of marijuana."

ball coach, said while some things "are obvious," it's troublesome and nerve-wracking to go on trips and feel like the responsibility for what happens falls entirely on him.

"As a coach, I don't think I've had any formal, sit-down training," he said.

Johnson presented the school board on Monday with a draft policy outlining expectations for field trips and overnight trips.

"We want to continue the program," Johnson said of the wrestling team. "We want to make it the best we can for kids, so we're going to do everything we can."

still want the benefits. "We beefed up in the concen-

Directors of the Oregon Liquor Control Commission and the Oregon Health Authority said they agreed with auditors' recommendations.

Mural: Other students have also honored Chinese heritage

Continued from Page A1

a park, said junior Allison Keeling. They made a template of the dragon on paper and scaled it up to the wall in chalk before painting, finishing last week.

The members of Cereghino's class aren't the first students to honor Chinese heritage. Astoria graduate Raina Christian, an comprised a third of Astoria's adoptee from the Guangxi province of China, erected a hanging lantern exhibit and organized the area's first Mid-Autumn Festival in 2016 for her senior project, hoping to raise awareness about the influence of the Chinese on the city.

By 1880, Chinese immigrants

╸╴╴╸) THE DAILY **Evening listings** THURSDAY **ASTORIAN**

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