

# Accused kidnapper seeks access to texts, instant messages

By Dani Palmer  
Cannon Beach Gazette

Russell Wayne Deviney's attorney said he is still waiting on evidence that may very well "change the nature of the case" involving the accused kidnapper and rapist.

Deviney, 48, of Everett, Wash., appeared before Clatsop County Circuit Judge Paula Brownhill on Friday, Sept. 4, in a gray, striped jumpsuit and shackles for a status check. Both the defense and District Attorney's office are being delayed by a lack of evidence, including surveillance footage from a Walmart in Salem.

Deviney allegedly kidnapped a 15-year-old girl in Sanger, Calif., on May 9 before leaving her and his 2004 Nissan Pickup at the McDonald's in Astoria two days later. A nationwide felony warrant was issued for Deviney's arrest.

Cannon Beach police and FBI agents found Deviney behind a locked



JOSHUA BESSEX/THE DAILY ASTORIAN

Russell Wayne Deviney, right, appears for a status hearing at the Clatsop County Courthouse Friday, Sept. 4.

gate in a privately-owned wooded area south of Cannon Beach on May 14, after a passerby reported seeing him and called police.

Defense attorney James

von Boeckmann said he is waiting for the state to provide text messages between his client and the victim.

On Friday, District Attorney Josh Marquis called

the case an "online luring situation."

According to court documents, the girl believed Deviney was an 18-year-old named James Russell,



JOSHUA BESSEX/THE DAILY ASTORIAN

Russell Wayne Deviney is walked back to the Clatsop County Jail after a status hearing at the Clatsop County Courthouse.

or "JR," who chatted with her on Instagram. Meeting him at a location near her home, she was kidnapped and later sexually assaulted, according to documents.

"Mr. Deviney is facing some very serious charges," Marquis said.

Deviney pleaded not guilty to 12 felony charges in May, including first-degree kidnapping, first-degree rape and first-degree sodomy, and remains in custody on \$1 million bail.

Marquis said his office is waiting on the crime lab to pull those text messages from two phones confiscated from Deviney. The state agreed to request any existing copies of texts from investigators to forward to the defense.

Von Boeckmann said he is also seeking social media correspondence.

The state has had difficulty recovering the Walmart surveillance video, Marquis said. The DA's office is seeking a court order to prevent the store from destroying or altering the video in any way.

Deviney is scheduled for a final resolution conference on Dec. 11. A trial date has not been set.

## Wyden comes to Seaside to show support for foster kids

By R.J. Marx  
Seaside Signal

Sen. Ron Wyden came to Seaside Monday, Aug. 31 to show support for a Senate proposal to expand funds available for foster care families and children. The legislation expands reimbursement to provide parenting skills, family counseling, mentoring programs and services to stabilize families in crisis.

"It looks like this fall we're going to be able to advance this bill," Wyden, a ranking member of the Senate Finance Committee which oversees foster care, said. "In a tight budget environment it would be very hard to provide direct financial support, but the idea is that we provide young people ways to finance college, ways to secure housing and health care."

The goal, he said, is to make sure young people

leaving the foster care system don't fall between the cracks in terms of housing, health care and basic necessities.

Wyden, whose wife Nancy joined him, chose Seaside to debut his foster care finance reform package because the city is home to FosterClub, the Seaside-headquartered national network for young people in foster care.

Nancy Wyden's father and aunt had both been in foster care, her father from age 5 to 12 and her aunt from 13 to 15, she said.

"I want you guys to pretend you're in my shoes," Ron Wyden said. "I'd be interested in hearing what you would be working with you if you were in my shoes."

Royce Markley, 22, who spent nine years in Oregon and Washington foster care systems, said he had received little or no information on financial aid before entering



R.J. MARX PHOTO/SEASIDE SIGNAL

Celeste Bodner of FosterClub in Seaside receives a visit from Sen. Ron Wyden.

Linn-Benton Community College. "That put a lot of strain on my life and my education," he said.

Ashlee Foster-French, who spent four years in Oregon's foster system, said foster children faced obstacles setting up bank accounts, budget and finance. "Identifying the problems we have is

an important place to start," she said.

"We get labeled," Foster-French said. "We have to fall into a category to receive medication. I'm a mother of three, and every time I've gone in to give birth, they bring up my past medical history. It's very upsetting."

Elbert Belcher spent 21 years in Kentucky's foster care system. He urged preventive services, including counseling, transportation and assistance for families and parents on board to take before children are placed into the foster care system.

"I'd like to focus on the sibling connection," Belcher said. "I haven't seen my two younger brothers for six or seven years because they've been readopted after our unfortunate abusive adoption. I think it's inhumane not to

have communication with your siblings if they've been adopted in a closed adoption.

Others told Wyden about frequent placements, bullying, abuse from some foster families and lack of contact with overburdened case workers, many of whom are untrained in youth engagement.

"I think there's a powerful moral case for every youngster to be able to have a safe option in these kind of situations," Wyden said. "Even if you don't share my idea for the morality, you should be for what we're talking about because it is so much more attractive financially than what we're going to pay for picking up the pieces, in the welfare system, the law enforcement system, post-traumatic stress and drug addiction."

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