

**OBITUARIES**

**Donald Howell**

Nov. 22, 1928 — Sept. 29, 2016

Donald "Don" Howell, longtime Cannon Beach resident, passed away on Sept. 29, in Portland, at the age of 87.

Don was born in Gladstone, Oregon, on Nov. 22, 1928, to Richard and Alice Howell. He had two brothers, Richard and Jim. He attended Oregon City High School and graduated in 1946.

In 1948, Don moved permanently to Cannon Beach and joined the Astoria Reserve Fleet of the U.S. Maritime Administration, doing maintenance and radio repair for local ships stationed in Astoria, Oregon.

Don was drafted into the Army in 1950 at the start of the Korean War, and was stationed in Japan and Korea until returning home in 1953, where he remained in the Army Reserves until his honorable discharge in 1956. After returning home, Don returned to his work for the Maritime until the Astoria Maritime base closed in 1968.

In 1969, Don went to work for the Cannon Beach Water Company, and later became the Public Works director for the city of Cannon Beach until his retirement in 1991. While working for the city, Don also co-owned a local grocery store in the late 1960s and early 1970s, as well as an antique store in the mid-1980s.

Don had a special bond with Cannon Beach, and was loved by the community. In the last few years, he developed a



Donald Howell



following on social media for his nightly sunset photos, and could be seen regularly standing at the end of his street at sunset, talking with locals and tourists alike, sharing the history and beauty of this little beach town he loved so much.

Don is survived by his two daughters, Linda (Eric) Rebitzer of Tumwater and Debbie (Ken) Dimeo of Central Oregon; granddaughter Amanda (Chuck) Walker of Bend, Oregon; and many nieces and nephews.

In lieu of flowers, please consider making a donation to Doernbecher Children's Hospital Foundation, 1121 S.W. Salmon St., Suite 100, Portland, OR 97205-2021. Don held a special place in his heart for these kids.

Don will be greatly missed by his family, friends and community.

**Toddler murder case underway**

**Lawyers make opening statements in 'gruesome' Seaside case**

By Kyle Spurr  
EO Media Group

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, Oct. 4, 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 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



DANNY MILLER/EO MEDIA GROUP

**Chief Deputy District Attorney Ron Brown delivers opening statements for the case against Randy Roden.**

**'All of these injuries were not accidental.'**

Ron Brown,  
chief deputy district attorney

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.

Wing, 26, pleaded guilty in January to first-degree manslaughter and two counts of first-degree criminal mistreatment. She was sentenced to more than 15 years in prison,



DANNY MILLER/EO MEDIA GROUP

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

contingent on her truthfully testifying at Roden's trial.

Roden, 28, is already serving an eight-year prison sentence for violating probation from a previous domestic violence conviction. He violated probation by possessing marijuana, oxycodone and methadone and failing to report that he moved in with Dorothy Wing.

**Two culprits**

Roden's defense lawyer Conor Huseby used his opening argument to pin the crimes on Dorothy Wing and complications from the flesh-eating virus known as methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus infection.

"The truth is there are two culprits in this case," Huseby said.

On the night Evangelina Wing was found dead, the defense believes the girl was likely sick and fussing from her mother's abuse and the infection. Huseby envisions Dorothy Wing getting upset and smacking her daughter like she had done many times before, but that time it killed her.

"She killed her daughter and she is getting away with it," Huseby said.

Neighbors, friends and

babysitters will testify about seeing and hearing Wing be abusive to her children before Roden came into their lives. Huseby said the witnesses will describe Wing smacking her children in the head and twisting their arms, similar to some of the injuries found on the children.

The same witnesses never saw Roden do anything abusive to the children. Huseby said even Wing admitted Roden was good with her children.

Huseby also questioned the way the case was investigated. He claims law enforcement targeted Roden from the beginning, and treated Wing like a victim.

In each police interview, Roden never admitted to any crime.

"I did not hurt her. I did not manhandle her. I did not do anything to her," Roden told police.

Huseby also pointed to an interview with the older brother, where he calls Roden nice and Wing mad. When asked who killed his sister, the brother says, "that evil witch."

"All the major injuries in this case are explained by Dorothy Wing," Huseby said.

The trial is expected to last about two months.

**Candidate forum at Coaster Theatre**

Cannon Beach council candidates will take the stage at the Coaster Theatre for a public forum on Wednesday, Oct. 12, at 7 p.m.

Three candidates — Herb Florer, Nancy McCarthy and Brandon Ogilvie — are running for two open spots on the council. Melissa Cadwallader

and Wendy Higgins complete their terms this year.

The forum was organized by Vote Smart Cannon Beach, a nonpartisan and nonprofit ad hoc group of residents that aims to help voters make an informed choice. The group will moderate the forum and ask a series of questions.

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