

# Trial in Seaside toddler death delayed until fall

## Roden defense needs access to expert witnesses

By Kyle Spurr  
EO Media Group

The trial date for Randy Lee Roden, the live-in boyfriend accused of murdering his girlfriend's 2-year-old daughter at their Seaside home, has moved from April to September so his defense can have access to expert witnesses.

Roden, 27, will face trial beginning Sept. 13.

Defense lawyers Conor Huseby and Robert Axford requested a delay earlier this month given the possibility of the death penalty.

Roden and his girlfriend, Dorothy Wing, allegedly abused and neglected Wing's daughter, Evangelina Marie Wing, multiple times between Oct. 31 to Dec. 20, 2014. An autopsy found the toddler was the victim of homicide and apparently died from blunt-force trauma.

Wing pleaded guilty last week to first-degree manslaughter and two counts of first-degree criminal mistreatment. She will be sentenced to more than 15 years in prison, but only after she truthfully testifies at Roden's trial, according to the plea agreement.

Roden was indicted on 15 charges related to the girl's

murder and the abuse of her two brothers. He is accused of intentional maiming or torture of the toddler and having a pattern and practice of assault.

He is serving a 100-month sentence at Two Rivers Correctional Facility near Umatilla for a probation violation from a previous domestic violence conviction.

He violated his probation by possessing marijuana, oxycodone, and methadone and failing to report that he moved in with Wing. The drugs were discovered during a search warrant of the couple's Seaside residence Dec. 20, 2014, the day the toddler was found dead.

Judge Paula Brownhill said September is as far as she would set over the trial date.

"I'm very concerned about the two little boys who may be witnesses at the trial," Brownhill said. "On the other hand, I don't think it's fair to make (the defense) go to trial when their witnesses are unavailable."

The defense needed more time to work around the schedule of their expert witnesses, particularly their key witness, Dr. Janice Ophoven.

The pediatric forensic pathologist will testify that the reported result of torture is actually a dangerous flesh-eating virus known as methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus. She will claim the



Randy Roden, right, walks out following a hearing in the Clatsop County Circuit Court last February.

toddler likely died from complications due to a MRSA, rather than from blunt-force trauma.

Huseby said it is difficult to find a pediatric forensic pathologist. He is unable to sub-

poena Dr. Ophoven to appear sooner because she is already scheduled to testify in other trials.

The next court hearing is in April, the last scheduled before trial.

### SEASIDE POLICE LOG

Jan. 4

12:32 p.m., 200 block of South Roosevelt Drive: Caller reported suspended driver. Officers found the vehicle parked and unattended.

4:22 p.m., 500 block of South Roosevelt Drive: Caller reported suspicious vehicle parked. Officer made contact with subject, who advised the vehicle was broken and was waiting for a tow.

Jan. 5

9:29 a.m., 1100 block of South Downing Street: Report of a male that was violating his restraining order. Officers made contact; subject had an order of dismissal from a Judge.

2:12 p.m., 1100 block of Broadway: Report of an intoxicated male that was walking into traffic. Last seen headed towards the library. Officers made contact, subject is intoxicated.

2:51 p.m., 2000 block of Spruce Drive: Report of transient camp across culvert below elementary school. Offi-

cers located camp and public works will be disposing of tent and garbage.

3:29 p.m., South Roosevelt Drive: Callers reporting subject acting erratically and flailing about behind restaurant. Officers contacted subject, who was then seen by Medix and transported to the hospital.

Jan. 6

12:13 a.m., 300 block of Alpine Street: Officers responded to 911 call of possible prowler. Upon officer arrival, there was no indication that there was a person on the premises. Officer checked area; possibly a deer in the yard.

2:51 p.m., Northbound on U.S. Highway 101: Anonymous caller reporting unlicensed driver heading north on the highway. Swing shift officers advised.

Jan. 7

10:57 a.m., Broadway and Roosevelt Drive: Report of a female shaking a child. Officers made contact with the mom.

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