

Defense lawyers attempt to humanize accused murderer and abuser Roden

By Kyle Spurr
EO Media Group

Defense lawyers for Randy Roden will try to humanize the accused murderer at his trial this fall with testimony from friends, family and teachers who say he was a peaceful person who overcame a traumatic upbringing in Georgia.

Lawyers Conor Huseby and Robert Axford filed a request in mid-July to have a dozen out-of-state witnesses from Georgia, North Carolina and Tennessee testify at the trial and possible sentencing.

Roden, 28, is facing the death penalty if convicted. The testimony could be essential in deciding Roden's fate.

He is accused of murdering his girlfriend's 2-year-old daughter and abusing and torturing her two sons in their Seaside apartment in 2014. An autopsy found the toddler, Evangelina Wing, apparently died of battered child syndrome with blunt force trauma to her head. The children's mother, Dorothy 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, contingent on her truthfully testifying at Roden's trial.



Randy Roden, right, walks out of court following a hearing in 2015.

Roden is serving an eight-year prison sentence for violating probation from a previous domestic violence conviction in Clatsop County.

Testimony about Roden's background will be used to help counteract the gruesome depictions by prosecutors of life inside the Seaside apartment he shared with Wing.

Witnesses for Roden include his close friends, sister, half brother and sixth and third grade teachers.

Angela Hollingsworth, Ro-

den's paternal aunt, is expected to describe Roden's father as a violent and abusive addict who mistreated Roden and his mother before he committed suicide when Roden was 3 years old. Hollingsworth claims she never saw any of the anger, meanness and violence in Roden that was so apparent in his father.

Barbara Rogers, Roden's stepparent, plans to explain how Roden was profoundly affected by his father's suicide and how he was never accepted by

his mother or his stepfather. Roden was desperate to fit in with his new family, but was treated differently than his stepsiblings and he became depressed as a result, Rogers says.

"Ms. Rogers has unique insight into who Mr. Roden is and what his childhood was like," the defense lawyers wrote in court documents.

Other friends and family who were close to Roden during his Georgia upbringing are willing to testify about his "positive and loving manner." They will describe generous acts and how Roden was an animal lover who was kind to the pets he kept during his childhood.

Joseph Bales, Roden's best friend, will testify that he never saw Roden become violent, and he refused to fight even when attacked on several occasions. Bales, a special forces soldier, says if he was looking for a trustworthy and loyal friend to take into battle with him, he would not hesitate to choose Roden.

The cost of round-trip airfare, rental car, hotel room and food for each witness has been approved by the Oregon Public Defense Services Commission.

The trial is scheduled to begin in September in Clatsop County Circuit Court.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Sgt. Jason Goodding name will be formally added to the Oregon Fallen Law Enforcement Officers Memorial during the 2017 ceremony.

Fallen Seaside officer Goodding's name to be added to state memorial

At its quarterly meeting in July, the Board on Public Safety Standards and Training unanimously approved the recommendation of its Police Policy Committee to add the name of Sgt. Jason Goodding of the Seaside Police Department to the Oregon Fallen Law Enforcement Officers Memorial during the 2017 ceremony.

Sgt. Goodding's name will be formally added during next year's ceremony scheduled May 2, at the Oregon Public Safety Academy.

Seaside Police Sergeant Jason Goodding, who was shot and killed while serving a felony warrant on Feb. 5, 2016 is the 183rd Oregon law enforcement officer to have died in the line of duty since the first was recorded in the 1880s.

A total of 183 law enforcement officers across Oregon, including city, county, state, tribal and federal officers who work in law enforcement, corrections and parole and probation agencies, have died in the line of duty.

SEASIDE POLICE LOG

July 17

5:09 a.m., 1100 block 5th Street: Police respond to a report of a person yelling, possibly at a dog. Police arrived to quiet.

7:29 a.m., 1500 block S. Roosevelt: Police respond to a report of a suspicious person. Subject is advised they are trespassing and asked to leave the premises.

12:30 p.m., 800 block Avenue M: Caller reports being harassed by an individual over the telephone.

2:03 p.m., Broadway: Caller reports subjects standing on the street begging for food and money. Caller is advised nothing illegal is happening but caller insists the beggars be told to move along.

3:27 p.m., 1600 block S. Columbia: Caller reports subject who came to her window and asked how she was doing. Her concern was she and the subject had once worked together and he was known to have threatened other employees. Subject is located by the police and advised about his activity.

July 18

7:58 p.m., 200 block Broadway: A missing person is reported.

9:08 p.m., Holladay Drive: Caller reports someone going around ringing doorbells at a residential accommodation. The management was contacted and advised.

July 19

11:02 a.m., Thompson Falls Wood: A fire investigation was conducted following a fire.

11:13 a.m., All Roads: Police issued a bulletin to Seaside, Gearhart and Cannon Beach police units regarding a report of a possibly intoxicated driver with a suspended license who is believed to be getting on the road and heading towards Cannon Beach. At the time of the report, the vehicle was parked in Gearhart.

3:37 p.m., 1800 block Spruce: A forgery/fraud was reported.

5:18 p.m., Turnaround: A 2-year-old child was reported missing at the beach. It was later confirmed the child was safe and sound and back at the hotel where it and the mother were reunited.

6:23 p.m., 1000 block S. Columbia: Caller reports a domestic disturbance going on next door. Police responding spoke to both parties who denied there had been a disturbance.

July 20

4:02 a.m., 200 block 1st Avenue: Police respond to report of a verbal altercation. Brother and sister are arguing about who sister should date.

6:38 p.m., Beach and Avenue G: A missing person was reported. The individual was located

before officer responded.

6:49 p.m., 500 block Pacific Way: A motor vehicle hit and run accident was reported.

6:51 p.m., 400 block Avenue A: A motor vehicle hit and run accident was reported.

7:57 p.m., 400 block S. Franklin: A missing person was reported.

8:59 p.m., 2000 block S. Franklin: Caller reports neighboring children being screamed at night and day. Police contact the mother who admits she has been yelling at her children.

July 21

3:35 a.m., 300 block Forest Court: Police respond to a call about a suspicious sound on the back porch that sounded to the caller like footsteps. Officers are unable to locate anyone.

3:21 p.m., 900 block N. Roosevelt: Caller asks for a welfare check on an elderly neighbor who hadn't picked up her newspapers all week. Police contact various services who have no information about the woman who it is later determined is in Portland, visiting her daughter.

7:53 p.m., 600 block Avenue T: An assault took place. No further information was available.

July 22

3:33 p.m., 300 block and 4th: Officers respond to a call for a welfare check on an elderly woman who lives with her dog in an upstairs unit, using a ladder to see inside. It is determined the dog is home alone; the woman's daughter tells police her mother is in the hospital.

4:01 p.m., N. Promenade: Officer responds to a call to check on a dog inside a vehicle. Dog is fine and is given a bowl of water.

July 23

3:30 p.m., 1500 block N. Roosevelt: Caller asks police for assistance regarding a car the caller had sold to her daughter in law. Police advise caller this is a civil matter.

3:47 p.m., Broadway: An accidental pocket dial from a phone was screams of joy and happiness from someone riding the Tilt-O-Whirl.

8:24 p.m., Avenue S: Suspect attempting to enter storage unit they were not legally responsible for; they had been locked out for lack of payment and a responsible party had to be contacted. Meanwhile, suspect was told to leave and not come back until payment was made and they had full permission to access the unit by the responsible party.

July 24

8:00 a.m., 100 block and 5th: A motor vehicle hit and run accident occurred. No further information was given.

7:09 a.m., 200 block Avenue A: Report of a fight; officers arrive on scene. Are unable to locate.

July 25

12:03 a.m., Broadway and Columbia: Caller reports someone giving them an obscene gesture. Police are unable to locate the described individual.

5:18 p.m., 700 block Broadway: Caller reports someone "tweaking" and looking in cars while crossing back and forth across the street. Police checking the area are unable to locate anyone fitting that description.

July 26

1:01 a.m., Avenue K: Police re-

spond to a report of a man yelling at and pushing a woman. The man was last seen entering Taco Bell. Police are unable to locate either party.

4:40 p.m., 200 block S. Columbia: Caller reports a pack of 15 or more kids riding bikes and blocking his business. Police are unable to locate.

7:50 p.m., 2000 block Pine Street: Two subjects walked up to a house and rang the doorbell. When no one responded they went around to the back. Subjects are located and contacted.

July 27

8:11 a.m., 1300 N. Holladay: A report of a disturbance in the area proved unfounded as police found no one behaving unreasonably.

1:43 p.m., 300 block S. Roosevelt: Caller reports a seagull stuck in a fence near generators. Police responding do not see any gull, but only some Brazil nuts the gull must have wanted.

5:10 p.m., Seaside police station: A sex offender registered being in the city.

July 28

1:14 p.m., N. Holladay: Caller

requests welfare check for a dog tied up outside a house. Dog is found to have shelter and food and water. Children seem to be watching it. Owner is contacted and said will return in the evening to check on the dog.

July 29

4:36 p.m., 300 block S. Edgewood: A structure fire is reported.

11:06 p.m., 100 block and 5th: Caller reports ominous calls from an ex. Police advise caller of their options and say they will put extra patrols on the area.

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