

ALBANY/MID-VALLEY

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Man tried on additional sex charges

By BOB LOTHAN Albany Democrat-Herald

A Tuguet man convicted in March of sexual attacks on a 12-year-old girl went on trial on additional sex charges Tuesday.

Gerard Oscar Perren, 28, is accused of seven crimes charged to connect with an attack on a 12-year-old Albany woman in October 1988.

The charges include first-degree rape, first-degree sexual penetration with a foreign object, first-degree anal abuse, two counts of first-degree sodomy, first-degree burglary and second-degree kidnapping.

He pleaded innocent to all charges. Larry Haeckel, chief deputy district attorney for Lane County, said Perren is accused of attacking a woman in an apartment on Hill Street on Oct. 22, 1988.

According to Haeckel, Perren lured his way into the apartment by telling the woman he had some important information about her estranged husband. Haeckel said Perren said the woman he would be able to break a witch's spell on her husband if the woman had sex with Perren.

She was forced to have sex with him, and Perren scratched her face, allegedly without symbols, on her chest, Haeckel said.

Albany police arrested Perren the next day. Clark Wilson, Perren's attorney, and the defendant denied all the charges. Wilson said the woman believed Perren was raising her marriage and had made threatening phone calls to him.

Wilson said the woman gave conflicting accounts to police and that she may have fabricated the story. "This is a true story," he said.

A Lane County Circuit Court jury listened to witnesses Tuesday. This morning attorneys gave final arguments and the jury began deliberations.

On March 14 a Lane County Circuit Court jury convicted Perren and two others of rape, sodomy and sexual abuse of a 12-year-old girl.

Perren's sentence on that case has been postponed pending a psychological evaluation. Haeckel said the evaluation still has not been done.

Perren has remained in prison in Salem on other charges.

Tuesday morning before the trial, Perren appeared before Judge John Lewis to enter a guilty plea on a charge of felon in possession of a firearm. Sentencing was set for Sept. 5.

Bicyclist asks city to form committee Bicyclist enthusiast Joel Nix of Albany asked the Albany City Council Wednesday to form a citizens bicycle advisory committee.

Council members said they were receptive to the idea and asked staff to research how the committee could best serve the city.

Nix said the committee should be composed of five citizens, one council member, and one parks and recreation representative. Members would promote bicycle safety, hold bicycle rodeos and review the city's master bike plan.

Enjoy helpful garden advice every Friday in Wrecker — only in the Albany Democrat-Herald.



Seeing eye to eye

Cole Cochran, 2 1/2, of Pease, gets eye to eye with a giant Wednesday at the 1990 Lane County 4-H/FFA Youth Fair.

The fair, featuring youth projects, is free and open to the public from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. through Saturday at the Lane County Fairgrounds, 3061 Oakwood Ave. S.W.

Sheriff doubts pants belong to missing girl

By MARILYN MONTGOMERY Albany Democrat-Herald

The black sweat pants that might have belonged to the ten-year-old girl missing in the Santiam Pass probably are not hers, Lane County Sheriff Art Martiak said today.

The pants matched the description of a pair that Hachinda Lea Pickle might have been wearing when she disappeared from her home near the Santiam Junction July 14.

Pickle, 10, was last seen by her mother and stepfather that morning, wearing pajamas. The pajamas were the girl's bedroom when they discovered her missing. Her mother said police the girl was probably wearing the pants after looking through her clothing.

Hachinda found the pants last Friday on the Pacific Crest Trail near Big Lake, Martiak said. Despite that the garment is the Oregon State Police crime lab is springfired to examine it.

Technicians compared hairs on the pants with others of Hachinda's, without results, the sheriff said.

"That was about all we could do," he said. "You check her blood, hair, anything that could connect them with a house or an area of a person. All that staff was negative."

"There wasn't anything that would rule them out, but there was nothing that would say positively that they're hers either," Martiak said. "Frankly, I'm doubtful that they are, because they're an area that had already been searched."

The Lane County Sheriff's office never doubted ground and air searches of a 36-square-mile area around the junction for a week after Pickle disappeared. Law enforcement officials and civilian search and rescue groups from seven Oregon counties participated.

Efforts there were fruitless and the search was called off last Friday. It was renewed Sunday after the discovery of the pants. Despite its name, Martiak said today.

Pickle has lived with her mother, stepfather and brother at the junction for about six years. Her stepfather, John Johnson, works for the state Highway Division, which has a maintenance complex there.

The girl has brown curly hair, brown eyes, is about 4 feet 4 inches and weighs 65 pounds. She was probably wearing a white T-shirt with the New Kids on the Block rock group on front and black, black sweat pants and high-top I.A. Coach-brand athletic shoes.

Children's librarian named

By CATHY MADDOX Albany Democrat-Herald

Once again, downtown librarian Scott Kenney is playing career musical chairs.

The downtown library for 10 years, Kenney was asked last month to take charge of automating the library's circulation and cataloging systems. In addition, he would take over the cataloging, processing, ordering and book selection duties.

But at an Administrative and Community Development Committee meeting Wednesday morning, library Director Wayne Sugg said Kenney should become the children's librarian.

The ACD committee comprises council members Tim Wilson, Pam Liberman and Darrell Goodall. The committee agreed, and the City Council voted Wednesday night to approve Sugg's recommendation.

"I trained for 10 years to become the person to implement the new computer system, and it was obvious," Kenney



Scott Kenney

Enjoys contact with public. Kenney said he has no contact with the public, and I found that troubling."

Kenney said he is a good with children and is excited about his new job. "I walked around the main library the other day and saw some things that I want to do," he said.

He has new job. Kenney will visit schools, put on programs, choose children's books, and publicize the children's reading program.

With Kenney's move, supervising librarian Sue Barnes will take over automation duties. Last supervising librarian Ed House will be in charge of the library's public services.

The permanent change along with the resignation in June of librarian Jane Appley will leave the library between \$20,000 and \$25,000 a year, Sugg said. The council asked Sugg to make at least \$18,000 in budget cuts to help pay for automation.

"This appears to be the best solution," he said. "We'll put one person in charge of the library who will spend most of their time down there. We'll rotate in a couple of other people."

Sibberson said he would accept the changes but wanted assurance that the frontlines and quality of service at the downtown library would not change, but wherever service books for the downtown library should be aware of the public's reading needs. They are not necessarily the same as those who patronize the main library, he said.

The council agreed to look at the reorganization plan in about six months to determine if it is working.

Council sets limits for testimony

By CATHY MADDOX Albany Democrat-Herald

Testimony at next month's soap kitchen hearing where the Albany City Council will be restricted to 10 minutes for each side, council members decided Wednesday.

A spokesman for each group may speak for 10 minutes, and the remaining time will be open to anyone wishing to make additional comments. Those speaking in support of allowing the soap kitchen to operate temporarily at Beverly Hills 400 Columbia St. E. may receive any portion of the \$200,000 in rental fees.

Those opposing the plan will have 10 minutes to speak. Those opposing use of the school for a soap kitchen will have 10 minutes to speak.

The time constraints were suggested by Mayor Keith Rathbun to prevent another lengthy hearing on the matter. The issue came before the Albany Planning Commission earlier this month. It is a 4-3 vote, the commission denied the necessary conditional use permit.

To allow the soap kitchen to operate at the school, Most of those meeting against the permit were older people, who said crime in the area could go up and they

personal safety could be jeopardized. Others said their property values might drop if a soap kitchen were located nearby.

A man who ate at the soap kitchen was convicted of eating a fry at St. Mary's Church in October, which destroyed the 30-year-old historic building. The fire forced the soap kitchen to relocate until the church is rebuilt.

In addition to the time constraints, the council agreed to accept any further written testimony until 10 p.m. Tuesday. Anyone wishing to review the submitted material may do so. The material will be kept at city offices in

City Hall 11 on Franklin St. S.W. The council will not accept any additional written material after the hearing scheduled for 7:15 p.m. Aug. 1 in the council chambers.

Council members said they hoped to make a decision on the matter that night.

The fire, Patrick Kish said he is appealing the planning commission's decision for several reasons. A large number of people who eat meals at the soap kitchen live in the Beverly neighborhood. The large kitchen allows the serving of many people, and diners may enter the school cafeteria directly without having to wade the hallways.

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