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Appeals court overturns rape conviction

In September, David Loeck, 76, was transferred back to Douglas County Jail, almost 10 years after his original trial

SCOTT CARROLL
The News-Review

A Washington man who has spent nearly a decade in prison for raping a 7-year-old Douglas County girl has had his conviction overturned by an appeals court judge, who ruled that the man was likely incompetent to stand trial.

David Hugh Loeck, 76, was sentenced to 25 years

in prison after a jury in 2012 found him guilty of raping the girl. However, following a series of appeals, a judge recently vacated the conviction and ordered the trial court to look at the case again.

In September, Loeck was transferred from the Two Rivers Correctional Institution in Umatilla to the Douglas County Jail. Since then, he has

appeared before Douglas County Circuit Court Judge William Marshall more than a dozen times for updates on the case.

Marshall presided over the original trial in 2012. The case was prosecuted by then-Deputy District Attorney Kathleen Johnson, who now is also a Douglas County Circuit Court judge.

Former Roseburg

attorney James A. Arneson represented Loeck during the trial and initial appeals. Arneson, who is now retired, could not be reached for comment.

According to court records:

The case dates back to the summer of 2009, and specifically two camping trips Loeck took in a motorhome with his wife, Linda, and the 7-year-old

girl, who the couple knew. Some time after the trips, the girl disclosed that David Loeck had raped and sodomized her.

Loeck was indicted in January 2011, and charged with rape, sodomy and sexual abuse, all felonies.

The trial began on May 9, 2012. Only four people testified: the victim, her

mother, David Loeck, and Linda Loeck. David Loeck's testimony was brief and he denied all charges against him.

On May 12, 2012, the jury voted 10-2 to convict Loeck of all three charges. Arneson had appealed the judge's decision to allow a nonunanimous verdict, to no avail.

APPEAL, A3

Sounds like team spirit

Joyful cheerleaders embrace the Orange and Black Cheer Challenge at Roseburg High



MICHAEL SULLIVAN/NEWS-REVIEW PHOTOS

Douglas High School junior cheerleader Aquela Hasty takes the mat with the Douglas cheer squad during the Orange and Black Cheer Challenge at Roseburg High School on Saturday.

MADISON TEMMEL
The News-Review

An infectious wave of clapping sounded across gym bleachers at Robertson Memorial Gym as Savanna Levering and her teammates finished their final performance in Saturday's cheer competition.

Levering, a sophomore at Douglas High School, and her teammates joined several other teams to participate in the first in-person competition held at Roseburg High School since the start of the pandemic nearly two years ago.

"I've really been looking forward to this," Levering said. "It felt really good."

Emmalynn Pritchard, who cheers for both the junior varsity and varsity teams at Roseburg, said she felt a rush of adrenaline after performing. This was her first opportunity to cheer for an audience at a competitive event since moving to the area two years ago. For Pritchard and fellow teammates, freshman Sarah Johnson and junior Mariah Matz, it made all the difference to start the season with support from each other.

"It's not just a cheer team, it's a family," Johnson said. "We honestly care so much about each other and everybody is just so supportive that it really makes a difference."

"It's just so refreshing to have that feeling of

CHEER, A3



Douglas High School sophomore cheerleader Savanna Levering, top, competes with the Douglas cheer squad during the Orange and Black Cheer Challenge at Roseburg High School on Saturday.

4 Dems seeking House seat

May primary will narrow down field to replace US Rep. Peter DeFazio

CARISA CEGAVSKE
Senior Staff Writer
The News-Review

In the Democratic primary for U.S. House District 4, the race is heating up, with four contenders so far filing to run. Each hopes to replace longtime congressman Peter DeFazio, a Springfield Democrat.

The News-Review interviewed all four. Here, in no particular order, is what we learned about them:

ANDREW KALLOCH

**Residence: Eugene
Occupation: Airbnb executive**

Andrew Kalloch is on leave during his campaign from his role as a public policy executive for Airbnb. He is also a former New York prosecutor and defense attorney.



Kalloch

And he's a co-founder of the Portland chapter of Better Angels, an organization that aims to depolarize politics and bring people across the political spectrum together.

Kalloch thinks his chances of winning the race are good. In December, he was just "a guy with a phone, a laptop and a dream," he said, but he still raised \$150,000 for his campaign compared with political insider Val Hoyle, who raised \$210,000 that month.

CANDIDATES, A7



INSIDE, A2
Free vaccine clinic open near library until Jan. 31

HIGH: 56
LOW: 38



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