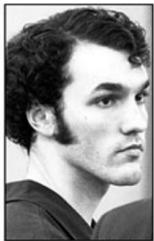


Convicted murderer continues attempt to withdraw plea

DAILY HERALD

AMERICAN FORK — Convicted murderer Benjamin Rettig repeated a familiar ritual Tuesday afternoon, sitting alone in the corner of an American Fork courtroom and whispering confidentially with a lawyer he had met only moments earlier.



Benjamin Rettig

During a hearing a moment later, defense attorney Sidney Unrau announced that he and Dana Facemyer had just been appointed to represent Rettig as he tries to retract a guilty plea he made in June to

aggravated murder. The pair of attorneys step in for Aaron Dodd, who was appointed to the case after Rettig sent a letter to a judge asking to take back his plea. Rettig alleged that he was poorly represented and didn't comprehend what he was doing when he pleaded guilty to the 2009 slaying of former Brigham Young University professor Kay Mortensen.

Rettig's allegations against his lawyers led to Dodd's appointment, who withdrew because he terminated his contract with the public defender's office.

Unrau said in court Tuesday that he could file a motion to withdraw Rettig's plea by Dec. 6. After the hearing, Unrau further explained that both sides had been waiting for a recording of the hearing at which Rettig pleaded.

Chaffetz

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allowance, a change in how benefits are figured for workers with lifetime earnings above the 50th percentile, an increase in the number of years of income from 35 to 40 that would be averaged in determining monthly benefits and an implementation of an annual test that reduces benefits for couples earning more than \$360,000 in the most recent tax year.

Chaffetz summed up the plan by noting it saves Social Security. He notes that both sides of the aisle can get behind the plan; he said Republicans can support the plan because it doesn't raise taxes and that Democrats can approve of the plan because it does not create private accounts.

In the past lawmakers have stayed away from trying to reform Social Security

"There is more safety when you are locking arms in a bipartisan way."

Rep. Jason Chaffetz on reforming Social Security

for fear of being unseated in the election following their attempts to reform, but Chaffetz feels if both sides of the aisle come together on the issue, the best plan for the future will come forward.

"There is more safety when you are locking arms in a bipartisan way," he said.

Social Security is the largest single item in the federal budget. In the 2011 fiscal year, the government spent \$730 billion on Social Security, which amounts to 20 percent of the budget.

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Anyone who has been affected by the loss from suicide is welcome — immediate and extended family, friends, neighbors, etc. No fees or forms, just love and understanding. For information call (801) 223-9954, or (801) 362-8494.

Spanish Fork, food drive runs through Nov. 18. All non-perishable food items collected by the school are donated to the Utah Valley Emergency Food Bank. Second-period classes at the school compete with each other in the challenge to reach the school goal of raising 25,000 food items — more than 10,000 pounds of food. DFJHS is proud to be one of the largest single contributors to the food bank.

Salem

'Fiddler on the Roof' — Salem Hills High School is putting on "Fiddler on the Roof" Nov. 17-19 and Nov. 21 at 7 p.m. in the Salem Hills auditorium, 150 Skyhawk Blvd. in Salem. Tickets are \$5 for students and seniors, \$7 adults and \$25 for a family. Tickets may be purchased at the school's finance office or at the door.

Springville

Reflections contest winners — Sage Creek Elementary announced the winners of the PTA Reflections contest, "Diversity Means." Ninety-eight students participated, and the winners chosen were: Charity Anderson, Dance Choreography; Dylan Thomas, Payton Giles, Austin Mortenson and Will Daybell, Film Honorable Mention; Elizabeth Blonquist, Music; Brooke Ells, Sydnie Nilsson, Grace Hinckley, Emily Ells, Photography; Kyle Synder, Parker Jackman, Photography Honorable Mention; Chase Harmon, Taggart Boyce, Chelby Carter, Erika Downs, Madison Child, 3D Art; Cameron Green, Elizabeth Kurban and Haley Green, 3D Honorable Mention; Alex Garcia, Ella Kurban, Kilee Prows, Jaedyn Garcia, Taitum Johnson, Literature; Ella Kurban, Tanner Mayer, Zachery Jones, Hailey Rollins, Visual Arts; Abbie Folkman, Taylor Penrod, Jemma Hansen and Jaedyn Garcia, Visual Arts Honorable Mention.

Santaquin

Make your own chocolates class — The Red Barn will be holding a Holiday Chocolates class on Saturday from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. at the barn, 300 W. 900 South in Santaquin. Get a head start on holiday baking this year and learn how to make hand-dipped chocolates with fudge centers. For more information, contact the barn at (801) 754-5511.

Saratoga Springs

Reflections Awards banquet — The Vista Heights Middle School PTA will host a Reflections awards banquet for Reflections winners and their parents on Thursday at 7 p.m. in the media center.

Spanish Fork

Food drive — The annual Diamond Fork Junior High School, 50 N. 900 East in

Military honors Lehi police chief

Cathy Allred
DAILY HERALD

LEHI — When Lehi Police Chief Chad Smith and his officers went out of their way to work around Staff Sgt. (Orlando) Brian Petersen's military training and deployment, the effort did not go unnoticed.

Monday afternoon at the police station, Veterans Affairs and National Guard representative Al Yardley presented Smith with the Patriot Award.

"He's been good to check up on our family and given us extra patrol in our neighborhood," said Heather Petersen, Brian's wife.

Her husband had been a Lehi police officer for more than four years when he deployed to the Middle East in July. Every week since then, Smith has kept in contact with the Peterson family.

She said the city has worked with her husband during his training as well as during deployment so the whole process would go smoothly.

"No questions asked, he has always been so supportive," she said of Smith.

So they said thanks by nominating the chief for the Patriot Award.

The National Committee for Employer Support of the Guard conducts an awards program designed to recognize employers who support a strong National Guard and reserve force. Employers qualify for recognition when they practice leadership and personnel policies that support employee participation in the Guard and Reserve.

Brian Petersen was the first



SPENSER HEAPS/Daily Herald

Al Yardley, left, of the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, presents Lehi Police Chief Chad Smith with the Patriot Award at the Lehi police station on Monday.

Lehi employee to be deployed, and through Smith's direction the city established a published military mobilization policy and pay differential during mobilizations, and provides continuation of insurance and monetary benefits during mobilization.

Smith also has maintained contact with Brian Petersen, sending him emails while he has been mobilized.

Lehi Police Department employees gathered in the upstairs

meeting room at the station to surprise the chief at the award presentation. In a meeting with Mayor Bert Wilson, Smith told staff to go ahead and start the meeting without him.

Instead, they waited. When Smith walked into the room one of his first comments was "What the heck?" and then more loudly, "What are you doing, Mom? How are you?" After hugging his mother, he found his wife, Carrie, in the crowd.

At that point, Yardley presented the award and read Smith's nomination, which

Brian Peterson wrote.

"I am nominating Chief Smith for the Patriot Award because of his full support of my military career," he said. "I have always had comfort and peace of mind knowing that my job was secure and that my family is watched over. Chief Smith has gone above and beyond to make sure my family is taken care of while I am overseas. He has always taken a family first approach that makes you feel that you are not just part of a department but part of a police family. He is always there no matter what."

BEGINNING OF THE END



JAMES ROH/Daily Herald

Nate Vandertoolen, of Reynold Brothers Excavating, works to demolish the back of a vacant building where The Roasted Artichoke once was on Center Street in Provo on Tuesday.

DAILY HERALD

Demolition of the vacant downtown building that once housed The Roasted Artichoke continued on Tuesday as crews cautiously picked away at the building. The building has been out of use for nearly 10 years and was deemed unsafe as the decay of the structure became a serious problem. The city then began taking bids from contrac-

tors to complete the demolition.

"When it became a life safety hazard the city stepped in," said Dan Stubbs, Provo's chief building official. "We're just making sure it's not a dangerous building anymore."

Because the adjacent buildings are attached and are intended to remain, crews must carefully remove the roof and top 20 feet of the structure by hand. This process could take up to

three weeks to complete. However, once the top 20 feet is removed, the remaining demolition of the building will be completed within a day using heavy machinery. Crews will simultaneously use heavy machinery throughout the demolition when the top portion is not being worked on. Once demolished, the property owner will be left to decide what happens next to the property.

Main Street

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The city's planning commission had been tasked with making a recommendation to the city council about the street change, but it expressed confusion and frustration with the "too many unknowns," including UTA's plans for Pacific Drive and the city's lack of information, according to tape recordings of the hearing. At one point, commissioner Harold Dudley suggested not making a recommendation until more clarification was given. The planning commission eventually recommended

that "both streets [be] left two-way and that we can't make any more decisions until UTA gives us an idea of what they are planning to do."

On the city council, Heidi Rodeback, who recently won a statewide award for championing local shopping, said there had not been enough discussion or engineering scrutiny, echoing the concerns of some of the downtown property owners who had called for further study. She fears congestion might actually discourage residents from shopping on Main Street. She made a motion to delay the vote until the city could collect more data — and not just a

survey of the business community — but it was defeated. Gunther's motion passed, 4-1.

Studies in other states have shown that one-way streets with two lanes of moving traffic and on-street parallel parking helps traffic move more smoothly, reducing pollution and frustration. The on-street parking provides the friction wanted by local shops, and the overall environment is safer because pedestrians can cross a one-way street more easily. A 2007 study in Texas reported that one-way streets have up to 50 percent fewer traffic accidents and better traffic synchronization, and the area is cleaner because of the re-

duction in noise and emissions. According to the Federal Highway Administration, one disadvantage to one-way streets is that cars tend to drive faster.

In fewer than 20 years, more than 40,000 vehicles will enter American Fork daily from both West Main Street and 500 East, according to city projections. But the current traffic configuration should stay the way it is, says Richard Albrecht, a State Farm Insurance agency owner on Main Street for 23 years.

"One-way street would be a death sentence for the businesses located downtown," he said.