

Appeal Tribune

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Governor celebrates school's attendance efforts

Bill Poehler
Salem Statesman Journal
USA TODAY NETWORK

Cloverdale Elementary School is a country school of 160 students, sitting in rural Marion County 2 miles southwest of Turner along Parrish Gap Road.

But it's efforts to encourage attendance got big recognition by Oregon's governor.

A video the school produced and posted about attendance was tweeted out by Gov. Kate Brown on Friday.

"This video is making my week. Students at Cloverdale Elementary share why school attendance is so important. A few of my favorites: "because your friends are counting on you to be there..." and "you might miss

a fire drill." #EveryDayMatters," she tweeted.

Cloverdale principal Bryan Dyer said the school does monthly videos and features students in them every other month.

He said they got the idea to do a video about attendance from a video Brown did to kick off September as Attendance Awareness month.

Some other subjects of monthly videos have included fish dissection, Valentine's Day and the student of the month.

"We have fun making those videos," Dyer said.

Dyer said the attendance rate for Cloverdale was 94 percent in the 2018-2019 school year and was about the same the year before.

See ATTENDANCE, Page 5A



Cloverdale Elementary School is located on Parrish Gap Road. FILE



Turner Christian Church is the oldest church in the city at 100 years old. BILL POEHLER/STATESMAN JOURNAL

Turner's oldest church celebrates 100 years

Bill Poehler
Salem Statesman Journal
USA TODAY NETWORK

TURNER – When a church has proven itself to be the highest court in the state, lasting to be 100 years old seems almost easy.

Turner Christian Church has grown from its original 18 members in 1919 to over 200 today, and the oldest church in town – which celebrates its centennial this month – traces its roots to one of the city's founders and an early dispute involving her wishes.

"We had some very prominent community members early in the town's history that were very supportive of us," said Turner Christian Church pastor Matthew Holmes.

When Cornelia Davis – daughter of pioneer and city namesake Henry Turner – died in 1932, she left an estate estimated at \$150,000 to an "orthodox denomination, to be designated later."

Her will designated the proceeds of her estate should be used for a "home for the needy."

Davis had gone to Turner Christian Church, then known as First Christian Church since its founding

and a trustee determined the church should receive her estate.

But J.M. Sharp, Davis' cousin and sole heir, sued, claiming he should be the trustee and be allowed to determine what happened to her estate.

After three years of court battles, a ruling was handed down in 1934 with the state Supreme Court declaring Turner Christian Church the intended beneficiary of her estate.

Church founding in 1919

When the church was founded in 1919, Turner was a city of 400 most notable for being on Highway 22 between Salem and Bend.

R.L. Putnam, the minister at Court Street Christian Church in Salem, met with six people of the Stone-Campbell movement, also known as the Disciples of Christ, at Turner's Presbyterian Church building on Denver Street in October 1919.

A few days later he met with 18 members who chartered the congregation.

See CHURCH, Page 5A

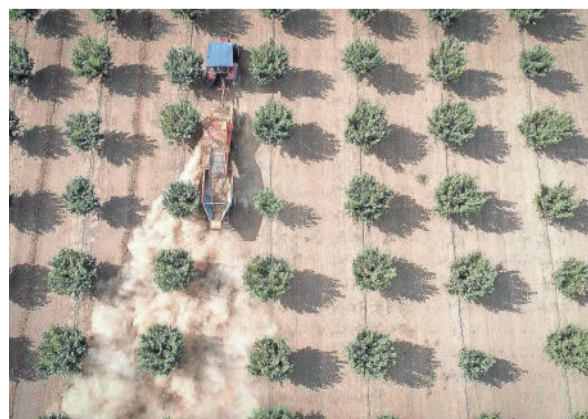
Trade war hits Oregon's agricultural exports hard

Andrew Selsky
ASSOCIATED PRESS

MARQUAM — Rancher Jerome Rosa sat in his mud-spattered pickup truck, glumly watching some of his cows resting on a grassy slope in Oregon's fertile Willamette Valley.

Rosa, the executive director of the Oregon Cattlemen's Association, told state lawmakers a few days earlier about the disruptions to Oregon's beef exports because of the U.S.-China trade war. Also testifying were the director of the Oregon Department of Agriculture, the head of Oregon wheat producers' associations and a hazelnut expert.

Sales of U.S. beef and wheat to China have all but halted. The trade conflicts impact Oregon agricultural



Hazelnuts are harvested from an orchard at Aman Brothers LLC in Mt. Angel. DAVID DAVIS AND KELLY JORDAN/STATESMAN JOURNAL

See TRADE WAR, Page 4A

DHS Child Welfare to change child death reviews

Whitney Woodworth
Salem Statesman Journal
USA TODAY NETWORK

Investigations into the deaths of children involved with child welfare will now be launched faster and have increased transparency, Oregon Department of Human Services officials announced Sept. 30.

The changes come after the passage of Senate Bill 832 and Gov. Kate Brown's executive order earlier this year on child welfare.

Since 2004, more than 80 investigations — mostly involving deaths of children in DHS-involved families — have been launched.

DHS spokesman Jake Sunderland said Oregonians will soon be able to access more timely information about child fatalities and systemic issues that, when addressed, could help prevent tragedies.

SB 832, sponsored by Sen. Sara Gelser, D-Corvallis, makes significant changes to the Department of Human Services' child fatality review process.

"When a child dies as a result of abuse or neglect, there is no way to restore the irrevocable loss," Gelser said. "However, we can honor that child's life by taking a deep look at the circumstances surrounding her death to learn how we might work better as a community to support children and families."

A DHS Critical Incident Response Team, also known as a CIRT, conducts an investigation into a child's death when the victim, their siblings or another child in the household has had previous interactions with the child welfare system in the year preceding the death.

"When a critical incident is reviewed, the team seeks to understand the circumstances surrounding the death of the child, as well as the history of the family, the community and the child welfare and other family-serving systems," Sunderland said in a statement.

A CIRT was launched following the death of Keizer 12-year-old Caden Berry, who was allegedly murdered by his mother.

The review found several possible systemic issues, including heavy caseloads in child welfare and lack of coordination across jurisdictions.

The dozens of reviews that preceded Caden's death found similar issues.

Several deaths, including one involving a Stayton toddler killed in a fire, remain open and under investigation.

Neglect, deaths targeted by changes

During the 2019 Legislature, several legislators pushed the agency to release more information on the CIRT investigations — and do so in a more timely manner — in order to increase DHS's accountability to the public and prevent future fatalities by quickly identifying patterns that led to the initial child death.

After the bill was signed into law on July 15, DHS began implementing the changes. The changes were expected to be fully operative Oct. 1.

"Already, Critical Incident Response Teams have led to new strategies to address chronic neglect and unsafe sleep practices," Gelser said. "This type of candid, open work will help prevent future tragedies."

Some of the most notable changes in SB 832 include requiring DHS to assign a CIRT when there is a reasonable belief that a child died due to neglect or abuse.

Sunderland said this most often will occur within seven days after a Child Protective Services Assessment is assigned from Oregon's Child Abuse Hotline.

Previously, DHS declared investigations only after the completion of the assessment. This change is expected to increase the number of CIRTs assigned.

The law also mandates increased transparency throughout the process and requires DHS to immediately post information about a CIRT online, which will include the date of the incident, the age of the child and when the final report is expected.

An investigation by The Oregonian/OregonLive in 2018 found several significant delays and missing CIRT reports.

The story spurred lawmakers into pushing to

See CIRT, Page 2A

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