

# MEXICO,

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his native culture were commonplace were met with disbelief by Leith.

"Are you saying that, in your culture, taking an 11-year-old child from her home without parents permission to have sex with her is acceptable?" said Leith.

"That happens at home and everywhere in our community in Zongolica. Yes, all of that is acceptable," said Xalamihua-Espindola, who spoke with the assistance of two interpreters, one for English-to-Spanish and one for Spanish to his native dialect.

"To take a child and have sex with her without her parents permission (is okay?)" countered Leith.

"It is the custom, always. The norm. It's just custom," Xalamihua-Espindola said.

At the end of his statement to the court, Xalamihua-Espindola got down on his knees to beg forgiveness and the imposition of a lenient sentence. He claimed his parents relied on his wages for money.

"At this moment, I don't know if (my parents) are able to eat or not. My last words, I'm getting on my knees, are to forgive me," Xalamihua-Espindola said.

"It's not my role to dispense forgiveness. That is for the victims of the crime to decide. My role it to determine ... the appropriate sentence for the crimes that have been committed," Leith countered.

Leith sentenced Xalamihua-Espindola to 100 months for each of the first two counts of rape. On the third count, Xalamihua-Espindola will serve 75 months consecutive to the first 200 months and 25 months concurrent to the prior sentences for a total of nearly 23 years. Upon release, he will be subject to more than a decade of court supervision and must register as a sex offender.

The victim and her family, who still live locally, did not attend the sentencing. Jeff Kuhns, deputy chief of Keizer Police Department, said the victim is "doing well."

### Closing the book

In April 2007, then 20-year-old Xalamihua-Espindola convinced his victim

to run away with him from the Plymouth Drive apartment complex where they both lived in Keizer.

The pair set out to meet up with members of Xalamihua-Espindola's family in Alabama, but changed course when they learned that authorities were planning to meet them after they stepped off a bus.

The victim called her family several times to reassure them of her well-being, but within two weeks, the calls were being traced to Mexico.

The girl was discovered in the remote Mexican village of Zongolica in September 2007 and retrieved by Keizer Police Sgt. John Troncoso and Federal Bureau of Investigation Agent Nancy Savage. While she was returned to her family, Xalamihua-Espindola eluded capture.

He was finally arrested in Zongolica and held for about two years before being extradited to the United States in December 2015. He had been awaiting trial since his return.

"Not once did the Keizer Police Department, or the many law enforcement partners who assisted, stop the investigation or our pursuit of justice," Kuhns said.

## police scanner

### MONDAY, MAY 30

- 8:47 p.m. - Shoplifting on 6300 block Keizer Station Blvd. NE.

### TUESDAY, MAY 31

- 11:51 a.m. - Arrest for assault, strangulation and interference with a police report on 600 block Lockhaven Drive NE.
- 2:18 p.m. - Theft on 1800 block Drexler Lane NE.
- 3:15 p.m. - Traffic accident on 900 block Chemawa Road NE.

- 6 p.m. - Identity theft on 5400 block Kafir Drive NE.

### WEDNESDAY, JUNE 1

- 9:07 a.m. - Theft on 1800 block Claxter Road NE.
- 6 p.m. - Theft from vehicle on 600 block Garland Court N.
- 6:34 p.m. - DUII and reckless driving on Thorman Ave. NE. and Greenwood Drive NE.
- 6:58 p.m. - Arrest for assault on 5900 block River Road N.

- 910 p.m. - Physical harassment on 3800 block River Road N.

### THURSDAY, JUNE 2

- 7:44 p.m. - Criminal trespass on 7300 block Pineview Street NE.
- 8:21 p.m. - Arrest for bench warrant on 4900 block River Road N.

### FRIDAY, JUNE 3

- 4:50 a.m. - Arrest for bench warrant on 3900 block Partridge Lane NE.

## traffic court

### NO INSURANCE

David Loren Clafin, \$100; Jasmine Lorraine Martin, \$225.

### SPEEDING

Angelica Lagos-Vazquez, \$145; Abigail Ramirez-Melendez, \$145; Linvel Lee Littleton, \$145; Ariadna A. Rivas Aguilar, \$145; Lisa Kaye Walker, \$145; Alabama Sue-Jean Gillette, \$145; Robert James Layton Sr., \$135; Dennis James Adams, \$95; Charles Scott Mc-

Guire, \$135; Riley Keith Hays, \$75; Amanda Kay Foster, \$135; Erica Nicole Jones, \$135; Kayla Michele Seeley, \$135; Shania Naylee Cobb, \$110.

### FAILURE TO OBEY TRAFFIC CONTROL DEVICE

Cheri Gail Hawkins Weltz, \$225; Maria Teresa Huerta Castillo, \$235; Rachel Elizabeth Johannesen, \$235; Melissa Ann Brown, \$235; Lynda V. Symington, \$225; Karla Lee

Stark, \$235.

### OTHER

Jason A. Clifford, prohibited parking, \$50; Kimberly Ann Ziebart, failure to change information on license, \$40; Danielle Nicole Wallace, fail to renew vehicle registration, \$40; Jesse Robert Gallego Ojeda, fail to use safety belts, \$30; Tracy Joann Montgomery, violation of visible emission limits, \$40; William Charles Ross, illegal parking, \$110.

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Walsh & Associates was established in 1993 and has been located at Staats Lake Business Park in Keizer since 1999.

The firm is a member of the Keizer Chamber of Commerce, a sponsor of youth sports teams and Iris Festival events. Richard Walsh served on the Keizer City Council for 10 years, and has participated on many city committees.

**ATTORNEY**



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