

Keizertimes

SECTION A

SEPTEMBER 29, 2017

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Murder conviction overturned



By ERIC A. HOWALD
Of the Keizertimes

The Appeals Court of Oregon has overturned the 2013 murder conviction of Peter Zielinski who was charged with the shooting death of his wife, Lisa, in January 2011.

The court issued the opinion on Wednesday, Sept. 20. Peter Zielinski pleaded guilty to shooting and killing his wife in 2013 and was sentenced to

IN THE WEEKS LEADING UP TO THE MURDER:

- Peter and Lisa Zielinski's marital problems begin ratcheting up.
- Lisa tells Peter she wants a divorce.

- Peter discovers hundreds of text messages between Lisa and a co-worker, including at least one that contradicts a prior claim.

- The Zielinskis attend a marriage counseling session. When the counselor asks Lisa what she hopes to achieve, Lisa responds, "Nothing."

SUNDAY, JAN. 9, 2011
Peter discovers email exchanges between Lisa and the co-worker. When confronted, Lisa admits to an affair and says she wants to leave Peter and plan a future with the new love interest. Peter calls the wife of the co-worker and forwards one of the emails to Lisa's boss and co-workers.

TUESDAY, JAN. 11, 2011
After a fight, Lisa leaves the couple's home and Peter claims to have put his gun to his head intending to commit suicide. He says he stopped himself because

life in prison with the possibility of parole after 25 years, but his plea included the right to appeal.

In the opinion issued by

he didn't want the couple's daughter to discover his body.

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 12, 2011
(Day of the murder) Peter told the court he was "at his wits end." Lisa shook her head in disgust when Peter tried to hug her. He went to get a glass of water and instead went to his closet and pulled out a .40-caliber gun. He found Lisa in the bathroom and shot her in the head. Peter takes the couple's daughter to her carpool and arrives outside the Keizer Police Department where he uses an emergency

phone to contact police at 7:12 a.m. claiming his "wife needed an ambulance."
MONDAY, JAN. 31, 2011
Peter is indicted for the murder of his wife.
MONDAY, NOV. 18, 2013
After previously pleading not guilty to the crime, Peter changes his plea to guilty with the stipulation that he can appeal.
TUESDAY, NOV. 19, 2013
Judge Dale Penn sentences Peter to life in prison with the possibility of parole after 25 years.

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the court, Judge P.J. Armstrong wrote that the facts of the case were undisputed. However, by not allowing expert testimony that would have cast Zielinski as being affected extreme emotional disturbance and suffering from anxiety disorder, the lower court had overstepped the intent of the law.



WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 20, 2017
The Oregon Court of Appeals overturns the conviction - saying the court erred when it did not allow expert testimony about Peter's mental state during the crime - and sends it back to Marion County Circuit Court.

"(The) defendant's anxiety disorder, as explained in this case, bears a closer resemblance to physical illness or Please see MURDER, Page A8



Gridders surge at McKay
PAGE B1



Aloha, ladies
PAGE A2



A doggone good show
PAGE A4



Powder Puffs take field
PAGE B3

Ready to serve



Lakepoint Community Church volunteer Mark Sykes paints the face of Adrian Angel during Servefest Sunday, Sept. 24. The church's annual event offers numerous free services as an outreach project. More photos from the event are on Page A10.

MHS to hold parking forum

By ERIC A. HOWALD and HERB SWETT
Of the Keizertimes

McNary High School is planning a public forum on parking issues at the school and the impacts on surrounding neighborhoods.

The forum is slated at 6 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 12, in the McNary High School library, 595 Chemawa Road N.

Principal Erik Jespersen, Keizer Police Chief John Teague, Keizer City Manager Chris Eppley and Mike Wolfe, chief operations officer for the Salem-Keizer School District will all be on-hand to discuss options and plan a path forward.

"We're going to talk about the current reality and what are Please see PARKING, Page A8

New law will attempt to curb distracted driving



By RANDOM PENDRAGON
Keizertimes Intern

Distracted driving contributed to the largest increase of traffic fatalities Oregon has seen in a decade, and on average eight people are hurt or killed by a distracted driver each day. Oregon legislators are hoping to curtail those trends with a new law.

On Oct. 1, Oregon House Bill 2597 takes effect making it illegal to drive while holding or using electronic devices such as cell phones and tablets, excluding hands-free or built-in devices. There are some exceptions, including the use of

Please see LAW, Page A7



Submitted
Purple irises reach for the sky at sunset in fields just north of Keizer. nset in fields just north of Keize.

KFD joins battle of Eagle Creek blaze

By DEREK WILEY
Of the Keizertimes

Keizer Fire District picked a heck of a time to get back on the conflagration list.

Sean Cummings, the district's only certified engine boss, had just returned from seven days on the Chetco Bar fire when he along with three other Keizer firefighters, Timothy Coburn, C.J. Thorne and Jason Perkins, were called

to Eagle Creek to join a Marion County task force.

Chetco Bar and Eagle Creek, according to the United States Forest Service, were at one point the No. 1 priority fires in the nation.

The Keizer crew arrived in Cascade Locks Monday, Sept. 4 at 4 p.m., two days after the fire that started with teenagers throwing fireworks near

Please see KFD, Page A7

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