

Keizertimes

SECTION A

OCTOBER 27, 2017

\$1.00

Let's talk about SEX, maybe

District 'clarifies' mandatory reporting guidelines

By DEREK WILEY
Of the Keizertimes

Christy Perry, superintendent of Salem-Keizer Public Schools, told the Keizertimes that a state law requiring teachers to mandatory report if they have reasonable cause to believe that two students under the age of 18 are having sexual contact isn't new.

The 13 slides sent to teachers in the Salem-Keizer School District last week were a clarification from a question about mandatory reporting recently asked by a member of the community.

"That question came about so we spent quite a bit of time with many of our partners including law enforcement, department of human services and the district attorney's office," Perry said. "We really tried to be careful and thoughtful and really take scenarios to our partners and talk about them before we rolled this out. Really it's just a clarification and for students it seems big, I know that, but it's a clarification for a law that's existed for a long time."



KEIZERTIMES/Derek Wiley
McNary High School students held a protest of the changes on the steps of the state Capitol Monday, Oct. 23.

"That's probably not the intent of the law but it's also not our job to guess what the intent of the law is."

— Lillian Govus, Director of Communications, Salem-Keizer School District

The law comes from Oregon statute 163.315, which says a person is considered incapable of consenting to a sexual act if they are under 18 years of age.

"The child abuse mandatory reporting statute is the statute we live under and the definition that says a person under the age of 18 is incapable of consenting

is defined in the statute as sex abuse, so you see our dilemma," Perry said. "The remedy is about clarification to the law. We're doing our best to interpret it the way we think it should be interpreted but what we can't do is put

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Students, teachers united against reporting changes

By ERIC A. HOWALD
Of the Keizertimes

An expansion of mandatory reporting policies in the Salem-Keizer School District isn't sitting well with teachers or students at McNary High School.

Teachers were notified in the second week of October that they would need to take an additional mandatory reporting training online and, by early last week, teachers, students and even parents were challenging the new rules in private and through petition and protest.

"It's really nice to be able to go to our teachers because there are some things you aren't comfortable talking with your parents about. The teachers at McNary are genuinely caring. They want to help you succeed and be there as an ear," said Kimberly Schott, a McNary junior and an organizer of a protest in downtown Salem Monday, Oct. 23.

"The district wants a safe, healthy environment, but I don't feel safe if I can't talk about some of these issues without getting reported," said Schott.

Schott also initiated an online petition at change.org (<http://bit.ly/2y1ayDY>)

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Soccer teams head to playoffs
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Pearson contests sentence
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Couple paves local path for refugee resettlement

By ERIC A. HOWALD
Of the Keizertimes

In 2015, Keizerites Anya and Doug Holcomb were part of a relief team with the Christian Missionary Alliance at a refugee camp near the border of Greece and Macedonia. The number of refugees flooding into the camp was overwhelming, but stories connected them to individuals amid the chaos.

Sitting in the dusty camp, Anya spoke with a young man who wept as he talked about having to leave his elderly parents behind. On another day, five children died attempting to cross the Mediterranean Sea on a raft and sorrow swept through the camp.

"They were kids that many people in the camp knew," Anya said.

Anya was struck by the stories of the hardship the refugees had endured, but also by how similar their families were to hers. The families in the camp harbored hopes and dreams for themselves and their children not unlike hers and many, she realized, never wanted to leave their homes.

"It's so easy to just think of the refugee as an other, but they are just like us," Anya said.

When they returned to the U.S., the couple expected to land in the Portland



Submitted
Anya and Doug Holcomb established Salem for Refugees as an extension of the Salem Leadership Foundation.

area and continue working with refugees stateside, but they soon learned that the organizations working with refugees were looking for an alternative (read: cheaper) to

people around the globe. About 22.5 million of those are registered refugees who fled their home because of war, persecution, or violence. More than half of those with refugee status are under the age of 18.

Since 2015, Catholic Charities and Lutheran Community Services Northwest, which contract

with the federal government, have resettled about 160 refugees in Keizer and Salem. They've come from nine different countries — primarily from the Middle East and

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Salem FOR REFUGEES

Portland and they found it in Salem-Keizer.

The office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees estimates there are currently more than 65 million forcibly displaced

Suspect sought in 3 burglaries

Keizer Police Department is seeking help in identifying a suspect in a string of crimes that occurred on Sunday, Oct. 22.

At 5 a.m., Keizer officers were called to the scene of a burglary in the 5800 block of Kate Lane Northeast. Investigating officers learned a suspect had entered the garage rummaged through two vehicles that were parked inside.

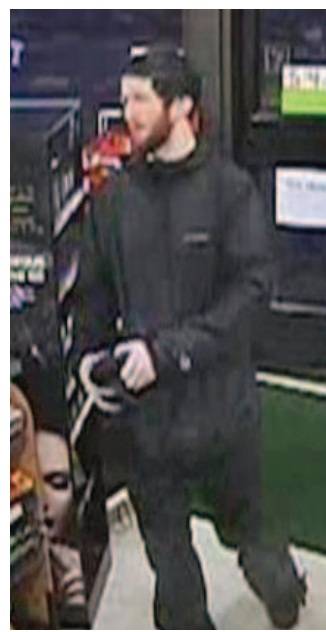
At 6:20 a.m., Keizer officers responded to the report of a theft from a vehicle in the 6200 block of 11th Avenue Northeast. A resident awoke to find a man inside his vehicle parked in his front of his home. The resident confronted the suspect and a physical altercation ensued, both men were injured in the scuffle. The suspect fled on foot and eluded a police search. Further investigation found that the suspect had entered the dwelling and burglarized it.

At 7 a.m., while officers were still on the scene at 11th Avenue, KPD received a report of another burglary in the 1200 block of Harmony Drive Northeast. An investigation led police to suspect the same man in both burglaries.

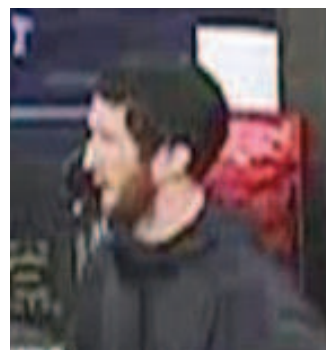
All three burglaries took place within a five-block area on the west side of the Gubser neighborhood.

The suspect is described as a white male adult, with dark hair and a dark beard. He is believed to have entered the 7-Eleven at 5550 River Road N. about 7:35 a.m. and police are hoping someone can identify the suspect from security footage.

Anyone having information



Submitted
Keizer police are looking for the man in these photos in connection with three Keizer burglaries, one that included a physical altercation.



is asked to send an email to Tips@keizer.org or contact Detective Andrew Phelps at 503-390-3713, ext. 3497. Additional video stills are available on the Keizertimes and KPD Facebook pages.

For love of Disney
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Gridders face Titans at home
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