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11:00 AM
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Lights, Comedy, Laughs!
Saturday, Nov 18
MIKE MASOLOTTI & RICHARD CHASSLER
will perform at 7pm and 9pm. Admission is only \$10. Ages 21 & over only. Reserved seating for this show. Purchase tickets at box office or at our website.

Man who plead guilty to mother's murder wants sentence declared unconstitutional

By ERIC A. HOWALD
Of the Keizertimes

A man who plead guilty to the murder of his mother and attempted murder of his father in Keizer in 2015 is now seeking to have his life sentence ruled unconstitutional.

Brett Angus Pearson plead guilty to the crimes in 2015 and was sentenced to life in prison with a minimum of 40 years. He is now seeking post-conviction relief in a civil petition filed with the Marion County Circuit Court.

In the petition, Pearson, 21, claims that his imprisonment at MacLaren Youth Correctional Facility is illegal because his attorney "failed to argue [his] sentence was unconstitutional."

If the argument had been made, Pearson suggests, his sentence could potentially be shorter. Pearson also contends that his life sentence is cruel and unusual because juveniles cannot receive life sentences, and claims that Oregon defines a life sentence as 25 years in prison.

Keizer Police Department personnel responded to the Pearson house on Ventura Loop around 11:30 p.m.

on March 5, 2014 after an alarm at the house was activated. The body of Michelle Pearson was found inside the house, while Bill Pearson was transported to Salem Hospital with "serious gunshot injuries." He was released from the hospital about two weeks later. Brett Pearson, who was 17 at the time, and a friend, Robert Daniel Miller were arrested later that night and charged with aggravated murder and attempted aggravated murder. Both are Measure 11 offenses that allowed the state to try them as adults.

According to court records, the state contended Pearson and Miller had been using methamphetamine and planning the deaths of Pearson's parents for weeks and Pearson had intended to pay Miller for his involvement.

Pearson plead guilty to the crimes in March 2015 and was sentenced to life in prison with a minimum of 30 years in the death of his mother. Judge Dale Penn imposed a consecutive sentence of 10 years for the attempted murder of his father. He was also ordered to pay more than \$120,000 in restitution.



File
Brett Angus Pears at his sentencing hearing in 2015. Pearson was sentenced to life in prison with a minimum of 40 years.

Pearson was allowed to be sentenced to life in prison under Oregon law, but could not receive the death penalty.

In May, Pearson appealed his sentence based on a United States Supreme Court decision that life without parole sentences were unconstitutional, but the court did not address the non-life sentences in the ruling. The Oregon appeals court affirmed the decision of the lower court.

While Pearson claims a life sentence in Oregon is considered 25 years, *Keizertimes* could find no definition for a life sentence in the Oregon Revised Statutes. The only mention of a time period in regard to a life sentence is that the convicted must serve at least 30 years before becoming eligible for parole.

No hearing on Pearson's latest petition had been set at press time.

Today in History

Complicated and tension-filled negotiations between the United States and the Soviet Union finally result in a plan to end the two-week-old Cuban Missile Crisis, a frightening period in which nuclear holocaust seemed imminent began to come to an end.
— October 27, 1962

Food 4 Thought

"If you could kick the person in the pants responsible for most of your trouble, you wouldn't sit for a month."
— Theodore Roosevelt,
26th US President, born Oct. 27, 1958

The Month Ahead

Friday, October 27
The Simon and Garfunkel Story at the Elsinore Theatre, 170 High Street SE. Performance at 8 p.m. Doors open at 7 p.m. Tickets \$30 to \$55. elsinoretheatre.com/event-details-simon-garfunkel.html.

Oregon Symphony Association's "Hauntcert." OSAS celebrates the fall season with a halloween-themed concert. Features Mozart's "Jupiter" symphony, nicknamed as such for its grandeur and exuberance. Patrons are encouraged to dress up and enter a costume contest during intermission. Performance at 8 p.m. at Willamette University's Smith Auditorium.

Saturday, October 28
Cherry City Roller Derby Season 9, Bout 4: Dolls of Anarchy vs Panty Raiders, 7 p.m. at The Mad House, 1335 Madison Street NE.

Night Dance and Potluck. Features music by The Country Gents. Admission is \$5. 7 to 10 p.m. Keizer/Salem Area Senior Center, 930 Plymouth Drive NE.

Bowser's Boo Bash. Visit the wonderful Wizard of Oz in this evening of food, drink, entertainment, and more; raises funds to support animals in the community. Keizer Civic Center, 980 Chemawa Road N.E. Tickets available at whs4pets.org/save-date-bowsers-boo-bash-2017

Sunday, October 29
A Night at the Opera. Salem Concert Band brings fresh new arrangements of the most beautiful music from the stages of Grand Opera. Elsinore Theatre, Salem. Elsinore Theatre, 3 p.m. Single tickets: premium seating is \$30; main floor/balcony seating is \$20; Students K-12 (main floor/balcony) are seated for \$10. Season tickets are available from Elsinore Theatre. salemconcertband.org

Saturday, November 4
Public reception and artist awards for the Black, White and Gray Show, presented by the Keizer Art Association, 6-8 p.m. Keizer Heritage Center. keizerarts.com.

Sunday, November 5
St. Paul's Evensong Concert Series presents Music of Felix Mendelssohn, 4 p.m., St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 1444 Liberty St. SE, Salem. stpaulsoregon.org.

Friday, November 10
Cherry City Roller Derby Panty Raiders vs Rose City's High Rollers, 7 p.m. at The Hangar at Oaks Amusement Park Oaks Park Way, 7805 SE. in Portland

Saturday, November 11
Cherry City Roller Derby Season 9, Bout 5: Dolls of Anarchy vs Thrill Kill Kittens, 7 p.m. at The Mad House, 1335 Madison Street NE.

Drug Take Back Day is Oct. 28

The Keizer Police Department will be hosting an event for the Drug Enforcement Agency's National Prescription Drug Take Back Day, on Saturday, Oct. 28, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The turn-in station will be in the Schoolhouse Square parking lot at 5013 River Road N.

Citizens are encouraged to bring unwanted or expired medications to designated collection sites. This can include unknown tablets

and capsules, unneeded prescriptions, over-the-counter medications, and veterinary medications. Needles, vitamins, or medical waste of any sort will not be accepted; medication from assisted living facilities and clinics will also not be accepted.

For more information, visit dea.gov or contact Susan McLauchlin, Marion County Health Department's Prevention Program Coordinator at 503-981-5851.

School bond info sessions slated

The Salem-Keizer Board of Education has approved a bond measure to be placed on the May 2018 ballot.

The \$620 million proposal for the bond would be spent alleviating the increasing overcapacity of schools, facility improvements, and expansions of career technical and vocational education programs, as well as structural and safety renovations. Members of the community are encouraged to attend the

Bond Measure Listening and Learning Forum that will be held at McNary on Nov. 13 at 6 p.m.

If the bond is successful, it will allow McNary High to move forward with plans to renovate their parking layout—a move to address traffic and safety problems voiced by the residents of the area surrounding the school. The bond would accompany a land deal with St. Edward Catholic Church to

expand McNary's boundaries. The bond would also enable McNary to increase the space for Career & Technical Education programs, general classrooms, and science areas.

The dollar amount for the bond is not yet finalized. Forums will also be held at North Salem on Oct. 25; South Salem on Nov. 1; Sprague on Nov. 8; Straub Middle (for West Salem schools) on Nov. 15; and McKay on Nov. 16.

Keizer Rotarians plan arboretum

The Rotary Club of Keizer will join Rotary International to improve environmental sustainability by planting enough trees to create an arboretum at Keizer Rapids Park.

Members of the Keizer club, along with volunteers from local organizations, will plant 76 trees on Saturday, Nov. 4. The type of trees planted will be suggested by the city of Keizer.

Planting will begin at 9 a.m. and should be completed by noon. Pre-dug holes will be prepared by local volunteer Randy Miller with the aid of HERC Rentals.

The public is invited to help. Volunteers should bring a shovel and dress for November weather.

The site chosen will have the dual purpose of being an additional sound barrier be-

tween the Keizer Rotary Amphitheater and homes on the east side of the park.

The project is expected to cost about \$12,000, including out of pocket and in-kind expenses.



5 YEARS AGO
Naked man takes dip at Keizer Station

A naked man bathing in water at Keizer Station got police attention Monday morning. Keizer Police were called on a report the man was swimming in the water near the footbridge across Keizer Station Boulevard.

10 YEARS AGO
Hashing out medical pot law

Activists cry foul on grower's arrest for hash oil, cops believe otherwise. Keizer Police recently arrested Anthony W. Beasley, a medical marijuana grower and patient for manufacturing a controlled substance -- hashish oil.

15 YEARS AGO
Women's shelter opens on River Road

Women and children seeking a safe place to stay will be able to find one in Keizer when Simonka Place opens its doors next week on River Road. Connie Lain, development director for the shelter, said the Union Gospel Mission organization purchased the building from the tribes for \$1.6 million.

20 YEARS AGO
Treasure trove visits Keizer school

Over \$2.5 million in sunken treasure found its way to Clear Lake Elementary School last week for an assembly. Fifth graders from Clear Lake and Gubser got to see old coins, a \$117,000 bar of gold, and a \$2.4 million gold chain recovered from a sunken 17th century Spanish ship.

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THIS WEEK'S MOVIE TIMES

Spiderman: Homecoming (PG-13)
Fri 4:10, 8:30,
Sat 2:15, 5:45, Sun 7:25

Dunkirk (PG-13)
Fri 2:30,
Sat 12:00, 7:00,
Sun 4:00

Valerian and the City of a Thousand Planets (PG-13)
Sat 4:15, 9:05, Sun 1:50

Logan Lucky (PG-13)
Fri 9:00, Sun 6:05

The Hitman's Bodyguard (R)
Fri 7:55, Sat 8:20, Sun 8:40

Mother (R)
Fri 6:45, Sat 6:50, 9:10,
Sun 6:20

Wind River (R)
Fri 6:25, Sat 4:50,
Sun 12:10, 8:25

Despicable Me 3 (PG)
Fri 2:10, 4:00, 6:00,
Sat 12:15, 2:30, 3:50,
Sun 11:45, 1:30, 3:15, 4:25

The Emoji Movie (PG)
Fri 4:35, Sat 2:00, Sun 2:15

Leap (PG)
Fri 2:20, Sat 12:40, Sun 12:00

KEIZERTIMES.COM

Web Poll

Results


Is your manager/supervisor a good leader?

56% - No
44% - Yes

Vote in a new poll every Thursday!
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