

Today in History

Peoples Temple founder Jim Jones leads hundreds of his followers in a mass murder-suicide at their agricultural commune in a remote part of the South American nation of Guyana. Many of Jones' followers willingly ingested a poison-laced punch while others were forced to do so at gunpoint. The final death toll at Jonestown that day was 909; a third of those who perished were children.

- November 17, 1978

Food 4 Thought

"Longevity conquers scandal every time." - Shelby Foote, author

The Month Ahead

Through Sunday, November 19

The Music Man 10:30 a.m. Nov 9, 7:30 p.m. Nov 10-11 and 17-18, and 2:30 p.m. - Nov 19, The Psalm Center at Corban University, 500 Deer Park Dr Salem. \$15 for adults, \$12 for students (with ID) and ages 62 and older and \$10 for children.

Through Saturday, December 2

Pentacle Theatre presents A Christmas Carol, from the classic story by Charles Dickens and adapted by John Mortimer for The Royal Shakespeare Company. Tickets cost \$23 for weekday performances and \$24 for weekend shows. pentacletheatre.org.

Friday, November 17 – Sunday, January 21

Salem's Riverfront Park will be home to the first seasonal ice rink 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily. 116 Marion St. NE. Cost is \$12 ages 3 to 12 and \$15 13 and older for each 90 minute session (includes skate rental).

Saturday, November 18

Pet food drive at Copper Creek Mercantile, 4415 River Road N., 10 a.m.-noon. Co-sponsored by Keizer Veterinary Clinic. Enjoy refreshments as you drop off donations.

Origin of new school reporting guidelines found in court docs

By ERIC A. HOWALD Of the Keizertimes

Ever since the Salem-Keizer School District issued new guidelines on mandatory reporting, one of the burning questions has been what prompted the change.

Keizertimes was able to track a partial evolution of the decision through a series of court documents and a special meeting held by the Salem-Keizer School Board in August (see related story, Page A1).

Prior to the changes pushed out to teachers in early October, SKSD teachers were required to report incidences of suspected neglect or any type of abuse to the Department of Human Services, but the new guidelines expand reporting to most sex-related issues. New instances that require reporting include: a student inquiring about birth control options after admitting to sex with a partner; reports of a pregnancy; a student confiding in a teacher after being kicked out of his home for divulging a sexually active, same-sex relationship.

Questions about the mandatory reporting guidelines, and how the district should interpret state statutes dealing with the issue arose over an incident that took place at McNary High School in May 2012. It would eventually lead to the dismissal of a counselor for allegedly failing to report abuse, a dismissal that was later overturned.

After a student diagnosed with autism arrived at school one day, she refused to enter her classroom in the Learning Resource Center. The student was crying and reported a fight with her mother as the cause. The 17-year-old was then taken to the counseling office

where she met with a guidance counselor who had been with the district for seven years "who regularly filed formal reports of suspected abuse with no criticism about her reasons or methods for doing so," according to a document from the Fair Dismissal Appeals Board of Oregon (FDAB).

The counselor asked the student what she needed to talk about and the girl said that her brother molested her "a little more than a year ago." The counselor wanted to be certain the student knew what she meant by the word "molested" given lower-thanaverage cognitive abilities. The girl replied that her brother had touched her. When asked where, the student waved her hand in a circular motion from her neck to her stomach. The counselor pressed the issue to find out if there had been any sexual contact, but the student never said anything to make the counselor believe sexual contact occurred. The counselor determined that the brother was being a nuisance or simply acting out and did not report the matter to the Department of Human Services. The counselor did contact the girl's mother, the custodial parent. Once the counselor and the mother connected, the counselor encouraged the woman to talk with both children and the kids' father.

In October 2012, the girl told her father and stepmother that her younger brother had sexually abused her, and told them about the conversation with the counselor in May. The father and stepmother accused the counselor of failing her mandatory reporting duties and discrimination against a noncustodial parent since the father was not included in decision. In an opinion, Judge the contacts and DHS was not contacted.

On Nov. 1, 2012, the counselor was placed on paid administrative leave. On Nov. 20, then-Superintendent Sandy Husk recommended dismissal on the grounds including neglect of duty and insubordination. The Salem-Keizer School Board upheld the dismissal in January 2013 for neglect of duty and insubordination, but rejected the other reasonings Husk included in her recommendation.

Members of the Oregon Fair Dismissal Appeals Board sided with the counselor when the matter was appealed citing the counselor's "reasonable" conclusion that no abuse or sexual contact had occurred based on what the student disclosed. The board said that the use of the word molest alone was not enough to trigger a mandatory reporting and that the counselor had considered multiple other factors. Without "reasonable cause" to expect the child was being neglected or abused and because the choice to not report was not an act of defiance, DFAB members concluded that the counselor should be reinstated with back pay in August of 2013.

A month later, the school district filed a petition for reconsideration with DFAB, arguing that the mandatory reporting guidelines had been misinterpreted. However, DFAB stuck with it's original conclusions.

The DFAB decision was then appealed to the Oregon Court of Appeals, which took up the case in March 2017.

The appeals court sided with the counselor in a 2-1

James Egan found that while the student told the counselor that she had been inappropriately touched, there was not reasonable cause to believe it had been sexual in nature. Egan wrote that reasonable cause was equivalent to reasonable suspicion, "a very low evidentiary threshold for deciding that a complaint is founded," and that there is space for a counselor to exercise personal judgement in determining whether a claim rises to the level of reasonable suspicion. However, the opinion also suggests that sexual abuse requires motivation in regard to the arousal or gratification of sexual desires on the part of either party.

A dissenting opinion, written by Judge Scott Shorr, states the counselor erred when jumping "to the conclusion of 'horseplay'" in regard to the incident the student reported. Shorr concludes that the counselor did not provide enough testimony to substantiate that conclusion. Schorr wrote that the counselor's conclusion was not based on the student's description of the contact, how it occurred or where it occurred. After a fuller investigation was launched at the behest of the student's father, the student provided more graphic and specific details to a school resource officer.

The mixed message from the court led to special meeting of Salem-Keizer School Board in August 2017.

Teens: Help Keizer mold story poles

The Keizer Public Arts Commission is looking for middle and high school student to help flesh out the story on its latest project: the carving of story poles outside the Keizer Civic Center.

Commissioners will meet with interested students on Tuesday, Nov. 28. The meeting is scheduled from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.The commission is reaching out to specific target audiences with a series of design meetings at the civic center, 980 Chemawa Road N.E.

REPORTING: 'We have never trained ... reporters to ask that question'

(Continued from Page A1)

Dakolopos said his concern was the introduction of reporters needing to determine whether sexual gratification was part of a reported incident.

"We have never trained, or has any school district ever

Jim Green, Sheronne Blasi, Jesse Lippold and Chuck Lee supported asking the Supreme Court for additional clarification. Kyllo and Kathy Goss opposed. Marty Heyen abstained.

Keizertimes asked Kyllo how strict officials got from the vote for judicial clarification to the issuance of new mandatory Is your newspaper advocating reporting guidelines.

Salem-Keizer has just taken a position to follow the law. No one is being hounded to report the abuse, no one is being monitored, and no one is excused from not reporting if there is a complaint or later allegation of abuse made by someone on

behalf of an underage student,

that the school district employ-

ees be exempt from following

Oregon has yet moved to in-

clude consensual sex between

students in the list of reportable

No other school district in

the law?"

incidents.

McNary Athletic Booster Club presents the annual Holiday Bazaar 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at McNary High School. Over 100 local artisans and vendors, food and drinks, raffle drawing every hour (extra entry into the raffle drawing) by bringing two items (canned food or hygiene products).

Willamette Valley Genealogical Society will meet at noon in Anderson Room A at the Salem Public Library, 585 Liberty St. SE. Pam Vestal will talk about finding what you need and making the most of what you find.503-363-0880.

Saturday, November 18 – Sunday, November 19

2017 Old Fashion Christmas Show, Jackman-Long Building, Oregon State Fairgrounds. Crafts, art, antiques, food, live entertainment, Candyland Maze to Santa. Hourly drawings. Admission is \$5, bring a canned good to benefit Marion-Polk Food Share. Children under 6 are free. centraloregonshows. com.

Empty Bowls, the annual pottery event to support hunger relief at Willamette Art Center in the state fairgrounds in Salem. More than 1,200 handcrafted pottery pieces are on sale to the public, and all proceeds will go to Marion-Polk Food Share. Saturday hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday hours are noon until 4 p.m. while supplies last.

Tuesday, November 23

Turkey Dash, presented by the Keizer Chamber of Commerce. 6th Annual 5K fun run-walk. Registration opens at 7 a.m., race starts at 8 a.m. Pre-registration adult \$27, youth \$15. Day of race registration adult \$37, youth \$20. Visit www. keizer-chamber.com for more information.

Wednesday, November 24 – Friday, November 26

Visit Santa at Salem's Riverfront Carousel, 101 Front Street. From noon to 6 p.m. Event is free. Photos with Santa are \$10. For more information go to www.salemcarousel.org.

Tuesday, November 28

Keizer Public Arts Commission story pole design meeting, 6:30 to 8 p.m. Keizer Civic Center, 980 Chemawa Road N.E. Target audience: middle and high school students.

Intake day for Keizer Art Association's December show: Fire and Ice. 3-7 p.m.keizerarts.com.

Friday, December 1 – Saturday, December 23

Enlightened Theatrics presents A Charles Dickens Christmas. Previews Nov. 29 and 30. Opening night Dec. 1, closing day Dec. 23. Reserved seating admission is \$20-\$30, youth under 18 are 10 % off. Preview night only, admission is \$10. Oregon Thespian Members/Cardholders are free.

Friday, December 1 – Tuesday, December 26

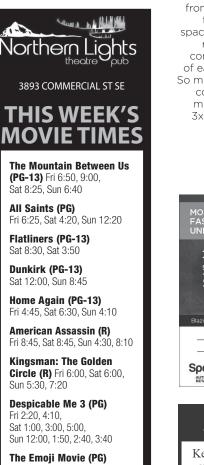
Keizer Miracle of Christmas Lights Display, 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. Gubser neighborhood. Free admission but cash and food donations for the Marion-Polk Food Share are welcome

Saturday, December 2

Countryside Christian Church 11th annual holiday bazaar, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.. More than 30 vendors, bake sale and raffle. Free. 5775 McLeod Lane NE.

Santa arrives via helicopter at the Volcanoes Stadium. Free photos and a visit with Santa. Noon to 3 p.m.

trained, mandatory reporters to ask that question because sexual gratification is what law enforcement would have to prove in a sex abuse case," Dakopolos said. "There were specific words spoken and gestures made in this case. Are the facts as described enough to trigger mandatory reporting? Should the reporter inquire regarding sexual gratification? It's a complicated question that the court of appeals has added: the idea that a reporter could dismiss a report because the touching was not for sexual gratification. That's a change for all mandatory reporters."



Fri 3:00. Sat 2:05,

Sun 2:25

Leap! (PG)

Sun 12:45

Fri 2:00, 4:30,

Sat 12:30, 2:25,

FOR ALL SHOWTIMES GO TO

NORTHERNLIGHTSTHEATREPUB.COM

Kyllo responded: "The reporting guidelines are not new. If you looked at the mandatory reporting videos required to be watched in other school districts you would find that it is mentioned in those videos.

En

sudoku

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	8						9		
	1	6		9					4
			8		7		1		
	7					8		6	9
			2						7
	6			4				8	
		8	9			5			2



Age 60+? Need legal help for:

Keeping your income • getting medical care • moving into or out of a care facility - housing problems - utility shut-offs stopping abuse - contesting a guardianship?

the Oregon State Bar, call: 503-945-6237

(available in English,

Spanish, Vietnamese,

Russian, or Chinese).

For a free handbook, For referral to an attorney, "Legal Issues for Older call toll-free: 1-855-673-2372. Adults," published by

ARDC operates through the Oregon Department of Human Services



looking back in the KT

5 YEARS AGO

Changing of the (barking) guard Buster, the new K-9, was introduced to a crowd of several dozen people at KPD open house and will be officer Stephen Richardson's new partner and replaces Axel, who will be the Richardson family pet.

10 YEARS AGO

Fungus killing fowl at Staats State biologists believe a fungal

infection caused the deaths of some two dozen geese and seagulls so far at Staats Lake. Wildlife officials say this type of thing is not uncommon at all and it's not something to be alarmed about.

15 YEARS AGO

State orders Keizer woman to halt witch

website raffles Crystal Wheeler, 26, agreed to pay a \$5,000 penalty. Wheeler operates Witches R Us, an online catalog. Wheeler said she had not known that only tax-exempt, not-for-profit organizations are permitted to hold raffles under Oregon law.

20 YEARS AGO

Keizer council OKs larger foster homes with restrictions By a narrow margin, the Keizer City Council approved new zoning rules to allow larger foster care homes for children.