

Keizertimes

SECTION A

AUGUST 10, 2018

\$1.00



Silas Andrew Scott



Richard Wayne Berlin

Two arrested in biz burglary spree

By ERIC A. HOWALD
Of the Keizertimes

Two Keizer men have been arrested in connection with a string of business burglaries in the city last month.

Since July 3, five Keizer businesses have been burglarized after hours and Keizer police suspect that the spree extended into Salem.

On July 3, Mobil Gas Station, 6160 River Road N., and Sonic Drive-In, 3775 River Road N., both reported burglaries. On July 6, Burger King, at 2655 Jorie Lane in Keizer Station, reported another burglary.

On July 24, the opening manager at Dairy Queen, 761 Lockhaven Drive N.E., reported a burglary. A window had

been shattered to gain entry.

Finally, on July 30, Los Dos Hermanos, at 3590 River Road N., was burglarized. A GoFundMe campaign in support of the Keizer family's restaurant has been launched at bit.ly/2nksLtr. More than \$2,500 had been raised in seven days with a \$12,000 goal.

"Each business burglary occurred after the business had closed for the day. The

"We have reason to believe there may be more suspects involved and we know the criminal activity they engaged in extends beyond the city of Keizer."

— Deputy Chief Jeff Kuhns,
Keizer Police Department

suspects forced entry, usually breaking glass to make entry into the businesses," said Deputy Chief Jeff Kuhns, of the Keizer Police Department.

On Wednesday, Aug. 1, a search warrant was executed at 1691 Eugene Court N.E. in Keizer that resulted in the arrests of Richard Wayne Berlin, 30, and Silas Andrew Scott, 27.

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Lady Celts shine on diamond
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A new conversation about school safety?

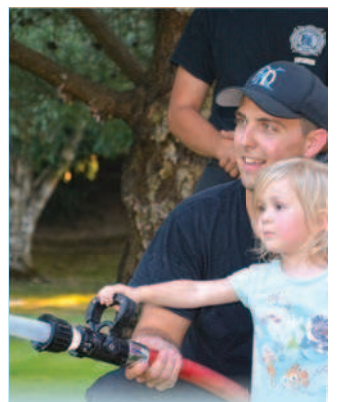
By ERIC A. HOWALD
Of the Keizertimes

A stalwart city volunteer and a candidate for the Keizer city council tried to jumpstart a new conversation about school safety at the Keizer City Council meeting Monday, August 6.

Matt Lawyer, a volunteer on several city committees, and Dan Kohler, a candidate running to replace Bruce Anderson when his term expires in January, presented the findings from an online survey Lawyer conducted in recent weeks regarding school safety.

While somewhat limited in terms of scope and responses (roughly 420), Lawyer said the overwhelming majority supported increasing school safety through additional school resource officers provided by

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National Night Out
PAGE A3



City to water CCMS fields?
PAGE A10

Foster system changing from outside and in

The Oregon foster care system has some serious issues. That isn't news.

But initiatives in the Oregon Legislature and within the Oregon Department of Human Services are attempting to address the problems that have plagued the system for decades.

By CASEY CHAFFIN
Keizertimes Intern

In the state legislature, the past several years have ushered in several reform efforts, often spearheaded by youth working with the Oregon Foster Youth Connection advocacy group. The newest statewide reform was passage of the Foster Sibling Bill of Rights in 2017. At the national level, the Family First Act, passed in February, is now being worked into state priorities.

Senator Sara Gelser (D-Corvallis) has made child welfare reform a centerpiece of her legislative career and takes the importance of foster youth voices to heart. "Hearing directly from the youth makes so much more sense and has a greater impact than hearing from a professor," she said. "That lived experience of those kids, that's the real thing. It's not anecdotal, it's real, those kids are speaking truth."

In her role as a child-welfare oriented legislator acting in a moment dubbed a "crisis" for foster care by the Oregon Secretary of State, Gelser has co-sponsored and chaired several new initiatives in foster care reform.

Last year, the Foster Sibling Bill of Rights was signed into law. The legislation mandates the maintenance of sibling bonds after sibling groups enter care and was proposed by and lob-

bied for by the Oregon Foster Youth Connection. Gelser co-sponsored the bill.

The Sibling Bill of Rights is still in the process of being implemented statewide, but the goal of that legislation is to put greater emphasis on keeping siblings who enter into care together if at all possible, and if a single placement isn't possible, then to require that foster parents provide avenues for youth to visit and communicate with their siblings living elsewhere.

When asked about how implementation of the law is progressing, Gelser said there is still work to be done to educate those who work in DHS and foster families about the necessity of maintaining sibling connections, both for the youths' sake and for the sake of compliance with the law.

"You have it, it's out there, but

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By CASEY CHAFFIN
Keizertimes Intern

The Oregon Department of Human Services, under pressure from a state audit and from years of unpleasant news coverage, is implementing major reform projects to better serve young people in Oregon foster care.

The Secretary of State's audit resulted in 24 recommendations to improve Oregon's child welfare and foster care system. Subsequently, Fariobz Pakseresh, the director of DHS, released a response to the audit, detailing plans to address all 24 recommendations. In the opening letter to the response, Pakseresh writes, "We need to tackle the root causes of these issues, not just the symptoms. That means focusing on recruiting and retaining foster parents and caseworkers, leveraging data and analytics in our strategic planning, and continuing our efforts to better partner with communities and support

our existing foster parents."

Many of the 24 recommendations involve collecting better data about those who function in the foster care system—about the youth in care, about foster parents, about caseworkers, and when and why they burn out of their jobs.

Paul Bellatty, Director of the Office of Reporting, Research, Analytics, and Implementation, is in charge of overseeing many of the data-collection efforts. The five research projects currently in progress are: utilizing predictive analytics to be more discerning about when to remove a child from their biological home; understanding the makeup of youth in the foster care system to provide better services to those youth; where caseworkers' work can be streamlined; and recruitment and retention of both caseworkers and foster parents.

The first project uses predictive analytics to better understand when a child should be taken from their biological home after a report comes into the child welfare system. Pairing employee judgement calls with data about how other cases similar to the one on the line have panned out will allow DHS to figure out which youth should be pulled from their homes.

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FOSTER CARE

The foster care system in Marion County is struggling to meet demand.

This is the final part of a continuing series in the Keizertimes investigating the state of local foster care and shedding light on ways to get involved.



Keizer women dominate Hoopla
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