

# Persistence leads to solving 1979 case of teen's slaying

By ANDREW SELSKY  
Associated Press

SALEM — The persistence of a detective and the sister of a young woman who was stabbed and beaten has solved a murder in Oregon — 38 years after it happened.

On March 9, 1979, Janie Landers disappeared outside the Fairview Training Center for the developmentally disabled where she lived in Salem. Five days later, the 18-year-old's body was discovered in a remote field, with deep stab wounds in her neck and her head bashed.

Witnesses had seen Janie, who functioned at about the level of an 8-year-old child and stood just 5 feet, 1 inch tall and weighed 105 pounds, get into a stranger's car. The police questioned several people, but all their leads turned into dead ends.

As the years passed, Janie's younger sister, Joyce Hooper, kept pushing the authorities to solve the crime. In 2001, a retired Oregon State Police detective was assigned the case, but had no better luck than previous investigators.

In March 2015, the 36th anniversary of the murder, Hooper pushed again, and the state police reopened the case. They gave it to Detective Steve Hinkle, a member of the Major Crimes Section. It was his very first cold case.

Hinkle was skeptical that he'd be able to crack a case that had flummoxed other detectives who



Oregon State Police Major Crimes Detective Steve Hinkle stands over files for the 38-year-old Janie Landers murder case at Oregon State Police headquarters in Salem, Thursday. Oregon State Police have been able to solve the brutal murder and determine that Gerald Dunlap is solely responsible for Landers' death.

had fresh access to evidence and witnesses.

"I knew when I got assigned it that it was a very low statistical likelihood that we'd solve it, especially after that amount of time had gone by," Hinkle said at a news conference Thursday.

Hinkle began digitizing the contents of the boxes of files, so investigators in years to come would have something to go on.

But he and other investigators, examining photos of deep stab wounds near Janie's neck, noticed that there were no abrasions from a weapon handle known as a hilt, and they concluded the killer's hand probably slipped while he stabbed Janie, cutting himself and leaving his own DNA behind.

Then the investigators hit a trifecta of good luck.

They went to the evidence locker



Janie Landers Gerald Dunlap

to examine Landers' blood-stained shirt. They found that it was packaged properly, so the DNA — which can easily degrade if packaged improperly — was still intact. It was analyzed, and DNA that wasn't Landers' was found. That DNA result was run through the FBI's CODIS DNA database.

Bingo. There was a match, to a man named Gerald Dunlap, who had worked in Fairview's laundry in 1979. The institution, which had a record of abusing its wards, was closed in 2000.

"Finding something like that, it's such an old case, and such an innocent victim, it's just remarkable," state police Capt. Jon Harrington said at a news conference Thursday alongside Hinkle.

Hinkle described to reporters what motivated him to keep working the case, even on his own time.

"It needed to be solved," he said. "It's a vulnerable young girl that got murdered for no reason, and somebody did it. Somebody needed to be

held accountable."

The investigators learned that Dunlap had been convicted in 1996 of first-degree sex abuse of a family member and was sentenced to prison. The officers credited the victim of that crime with coming forward, because if she hadn't, Dunlap wouldn't have gone to prison and his DNA wouldn't have been in the database, meaning Janie's murder would never have been solved. Dunlap had also been convicted of rape in Tennessee in 1961 and sentenced to 99 years in prison. But he was paroled in 1973.

The investigators learned that Dunlap had died behind bars in 2002, depriving Landers' family of seeing him brought to justice for Janie's murder.

For Hooper, who was five years younger than Janie and is now 52, that's not the most important aspect.

"Final closure would have been seeing him convicted of her murder. But how I try to look at it: he died in prison. He wasn't out there hurting anyone else," Hooper said in a telephone interview from Coos Bay, Oregon, where she grew up and still lives.

What really matters to Hooper is Hinkle's persistence.

"I will be forever grateful to him," Hooper said. "He stuck with it. Any changes or actions in the case, he kept me informed. He stuck with her case and believed that something was there that could help solve it."

## Legislature seeks analysis of its personnel policies

By CLAIRE WITHYCOMBE  
Capital Bureau

SALEM — Legislative branch staff are putting together a competitive bid for an independent analysis of the Legislature's personnel policies in the wake of allegations of harassment in the Oregon Capitol.

Reports of unwanted touching by two male lawmakers have surfaced as more people nationally have been coming forward about their experiences with sexual harassment and assault.

Legislative counsel is preparing the bid for the outside review, according to the office of Employee Services, the Legislature's human resources arm.

Legislative counsel could not be reached for comment to answer questions about the scope, cost and timeline of the review Wednesday.

The Legislature's current

personnel rules lay out procedures for reporting and responding to harassment both informally and formally.

Multiple informal complaints of unwanted touching against State Sen. Jeff Kruse, R-Roseburg, are being investigated by legislative counsel and the Legislature's human resources department.

It's not clear when the results of that inquiry may come to light.

The intent of the informal complaint process is to allow members or employees of the legislative branch to have a confidential way to report harassment and get the behavior to stop.

By contrast, formal complaints against legislators, as outlined in the rules, require an outside investigation. The results are presented to a legislative committee on conduct.

That committee can recommend the reprimand, censure, or

expulsion of the member, and the action requires a two-thirds vote of the chamber in question. It's an exceedingly rare process.

But while it's rare for formal complaints to be lodged with the Legislature regarding harassment, that doesn't necessarily mean harassment itself is uncommon.

Since the allegations against Kruse, several female lobbyists and legislators have spoken publicly about their experiences with harassment and sexism.

Last year, the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission found that roughly 75 percent of people who experienced workplace harassment never discussed the harassing conduct with a supervisor, manager or union representative.

"Employees who experience harassment fail to report the harassing behavior or file a complaint because they fear

disbelief of their claim, blame or social or professional retaliation," a June 2016 report, prepared by a special task force on workplace harassment, states.

The two lawmakers accused of harassment have reportedly responded to informal allegations differently.

Reports of "inappropriate humor" and "inappropriate touching" in recent years against State Rep. David Gomberg, D-Central Coast, were made to House leadership, who resolved the issue confidentially, Gomberg said in a constituent newsletter Sunday.

Gomberg says he changed his behavior when it was brought to his attention.

No complaint was filed in that instance, although legislative counsel was "informally consulted," according to a spokesman for the House Democrats.

## Oregon lawmaker resigns in pursuit of Ag Department job

PORTLAND (AP) — State Rep. John Huffman has resigned from the Oregon Legislature.

The Republican from The Dalles told *The Oregonian/OregonLive* last week he was pursuing a job with the U.S. Department of Agriculture and wouldn't seek re-election.

But Huffman decided to leave right away, announcing his resignation in an Oct. 28 letter to Oregon Secretary of State Dennis Richardson.

Huffman had been in Legislature for 10 years.

Huffman's heavily Republican district includes portions of four counties. Commissioners in those counties will appoint his successor.



Huffman

## Corrections

The *East Oregonian* works hard to be accurate and sincerely regrets any errors. If you notice a mistake in the paper, please call 541-966-0818.

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### AccuWeather.com Forecast

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
47° 30°	44° 33°	43° 28°	41° 23°	44° 21°

### ALMANAC

**PENDLETON**  
through 3 p.m. yesterday  
TEMPERATURE HIGH 52° LOW 41°  
Normals 56° 36°  
Records 75° (1908) 7° (1935)

**HERMISTON**  
through 3 p.m. yesterday  
TEMPERATURE HIGH 59° LOW 41°  
Normals 57° 35°  
Records 72° (1977) 0° (1935)

### REGIONAL FORECAST

Coastal Oregon: Mostly cloudy today with a couple of showers; chilly across the north.

Eastern Washington: Mostly cloudy today; a little rain and snow with snow levels mostly near 2,500 feet.

Cascades: Cloudy today with periods of rain and snow. Snow level mostly near 3,500 feet with several inches.

Northern California: Cloudy today; rain, heavy at times at the coast. Snow levels lowering in the mountains.

### REGIONAL CITIES

	Today			Sat.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Astoria	49	33	sh	49	39	r
Baker City	44	20	r	42	24	r
Bend	42	23	sh	41	28	pc
Brookings	51	40	r	51	43	pc
Burns	42	15	sn	37	17	c
Enterprise	42	23	r	38	25	c
Eugene	51	33	r	50	39	c
Heppner	46	29	sh	43	32	c
Hermiston	51	29	r	48	34	pc
John Day	43	28	sh	40	30	c
Klamath Falls	47	28	sh	40	20	pc
La Grande	44	26	r	41	29	r
Meacham	40	24	r	38	28	r
Medford	49	31	r	51	34	pc
Newport	52	39	sh	51	42	r
North Bend	54	38	r	53	43	pc
Ontario	53	30	sh	47	28	r
Pasco	50	26	r	47	33	pc
Pendleton	47	30	r	44	33	r
Portland	50	37	sh	49	40	r
Redmond	44	18	sh	43	24	pc
Salem	52	35	sh	50	40	r
Spokane	38	23	c	35	27	sf
Ukiah	39	23	c	36	25	c
Vancouver	49	37	sh	48	41	r
Walla Walla	47	31	r	45	34	r
Yakima	47	25	r	45	32	pc

### WORLD CITIES

	Today			Sat.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Beijing	54	28	s	57	33	s
Hong Kong	83	69	c	79	69	c
Jerusalem	65	52	s	66	52	s
London	58	51	c	55	38	r
Mexico City	78	52	pc	77	50	pc
Moscow	34	26	pc	36	31	pc
Paris	62	49	pc	60	44	c
Rome	66	50	pc	68	55	pc
Seoul	59	35	sh	53	33	s
Sydney	80	60	pc	67	61	sh
Tokyo	67	58	pc	66	51	pc

### WINDS

(in mph)	Today	Saturday
Boardman	NNE 4-8	SW 4-8
Pendleton	NW 6-12	WSW 6-12

### UV INDEX TODAY

0 0 1 1 0 0

8 a.m. 10 a.m. Noon 2 p.m. 4 p.m. 6 p.m.

0-2, Low 3-5, Moderate 6-7, High; 8-10, Very High; 11+, Extreme

The higher the AccuWeather.com UV Index™ number, the greater the need for eye and skin protection.

Forecasts and graphics provided by AccuWeather, Inc. ©2017

### NATIONAL WEATHER TODAY

Shown are noon positions of weather systems and precipitation. Temperature bands are highs for the day.

**National Summary:** Showers will extend from parts of Texas and Louisiana to Maine today. Snow is forecast from Montana to Minnesota. Rain and high-country snow will fall from Washington and Idaho to Northern California.

**Yesterday's National Extremes:** (for the 48 contiguous states)  
High 95° in Fort Worth, Texas Low 12° in Bodie State Park, Calif.

### NATIONAL CITIES

	Today			Sat.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Albuquerque	71	49	s	75	47	pc
Atlanta	78	61	pc	78	59	pc
Atlanta City	74	51	s	61	56	pc
Baltimore	76	43	pc	58	51	pc
Billings	37	25	c	32	16	sn
Birmingham	78	63	t	79	62	pc
Boise	54	33	sh	46	31	r
Boston	70	42	c	52	45	pc
Charleston, SC	82	57	s	81	58	pc
Chicago	68	49	c	70	56	sh
Cleveland	50	43	c	51	47	r
Dallas	81	63	s	88	69	s
Denver	67	47	pc	72	39	pc
Detroit	52	37	pc	52	48	r
El Paso	80	56	s	84	58	pc
Fairbanks	33	23	c	29	22	c
Fargo	34	28	sn	39	24	c
Honolulu	87	77	pc	86	75	sh
Houston	86	68	pc	85	70	pc
Indianapolis	60	45	c	63	58	r
Jacksonville	83	59	s	83	61	s
Kansas City	54	44	c	64	52	c
Las Vegas	74	56	pc	75	55	c
Little Rock	82	58	t	79	64	c
Los Angeles	68	57	pc	69	60	pc
Louisville	66	56	sh	73	64	c
Memphis	80	64	t	79	67	c
Miami	85	72	pc	85	73	s
Millwaukee	47	43	pc	50	46	r
Minneapolis	39	32	sn	43	38	c
Nashville	76	59	sh	79	63	sh
New Orleans	81	63	sh	81	63	pc
New York City	72	45	pc	56	53	pc
Oklahoma City	64	47	pc	83	63	pc
Omaha	51	39	pc	61	41	c
Philadelphia	74	46	pc	61	43	pc
Phoenix	83	63	pc	85	61	pc
Portland, ME	66	36	sh	52	38	pc
Providence	72	40	c	56	43	pc
Raleigh	81	58	pc	68	53	c
Rapid City	52	30	i	49	22	pc
Reno	56	39	c	55	34	r
Sacramento	61	51	r	61	39	c
St. Louis	59	55	c	71	60	c
Salt Lake City	64	48	pc	61	43	r
San Diego	70	60	pc	71	61	sh
San Francisco	64	54	r	60	48	r
Seattle	44	34	sh	45	37	r
Tucson	85	59	pc	86</		