

TODAY

It's Friday, March 19, the 78th day of 2021. There are 287 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

In 2013, Pope Francis officially began his ministry as the 266th pope, receiving the ring symbolizing the papacy and a wool stole exemplifying his role as shepherd of his 1.2-billion strong flock during a Mass at the Vatican.

In 1931, Nevada Gov. Fred B. Balzar signed a measure legalizing casino gambling.

In 1942, during World War II, President Franklin D. Roosevelt ordered men between the ages of 45 and 64, inclusive, to register for non-military duty.

In 1962, Bob Dylan's first album, titled "Bob Dylan," was released by Columbia Records.

In 1966, the Texas Western Miners defeated the heavily favored Kentucky Wildcats, 72-65, to win the NCAA Championship played in College Park, Maryland; making the contest especially noteworthy was that Texas Western became the first basketball team to start five Black players in a national title game as it faced an all-white Kentucky squad.

In 1977, the series finale of "Mary Tyler Moore" aired on CBS-TV, ending the situation comedy's seven-season run.

In 1987, televangelist Jim Bakker resigned as chairman of his PTL ministry organization amid a sex and money scandal involving Jessica Hahn, a former church secretary.

In 1991, Polish President Lech Walesa arrived in Washington for his first state visit to the United States.

In 1993, Supreme Court Justice Byron R. White announced plans to retire. (White's departure paved the way for Ruth Bader Ginsburg to become the court's second female justice.)

In 2003, President George W. Bush ordered the start of war against Iraq. Because of the time difference, it was early March 20 in Iraq.

Ten years ago: The U.S. fired more than 100 cruise missiles from the sea while French fighter jets targeted Moammar Gadhafi's forces from the air, launching the broadest international military effort since the Iraq war in support of an uprising.

Five years ago: A FlyDubai Boeing 737 plunged into the ground near the airport in the Russian city of Rostov-on-Don, killing all 62 people on board. A Turkish suicide bomber killed five people, including two Americans, in Istanbul's main pedestrian shopping street; Turkish officials said the bomber was linked to Islamic State.

One year ago: Italy's coronavirus death toll surged past 3,400, surpassing China's; worldwide deaths topped 10,000. President Donald Trump focused attention on a malaria drug, chloroquine, as a possible virus treatment; the FDA issued a statement saying that there were "no FDA-approved therapeutics" to treat COVID-19.

Today's Birthdays: Singer Clarence "Frogman" Henry is 84. Singer Ruth Pointer is 75. Actor Glenn Close is 74. Actor Bruce Willis is 66. Playwright Neil LaBute is 58. Actor Connor Trinneer is 52. Rock musician Gert Bettens (K's Choice) is 51. Rapper Bun B is 48. Rock musician Zach Lind (Jimmy Eat World) is 45. MLB pitcher Clayton Kershaw is 33. Actor Philip Bolden is 26.

—The Associated Press

DESCHUTES COUNTY

Former gymnastics coach sentenced

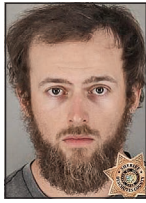
Judge doubles jail time for two sex-abuse cases

BY GARRETT ANDREWS

The Bulletin

A Deschutes judge on Thursday disregarded a plea deal and doubled the jail sentence of a former Redmond Gymnastics Academy coach who had inappropriate relationships with two young gymnasts.

Kellee Christian Johnson came to Deschutes County Circuit Court on



Johnson

had no prior criminal record, was to serve the jail terms at the same time. Since he'd already served 29 days in Deschutes County jail following his arrest, he would have had only one day re-

Thursday having agreed to serve two 30-day sentences in exchange for pleading guilty to a count of second-degree sexual abuse and one of third-degree sex abuse. Johnson, who

maintaining to serve.

But on Thursday, Judge Beth Bagley ordered his sentences run consecutively, doubling his sentence to 60 days.

"The court does not believe it is appropriate for two sex abuse sentences involving two different victims to run concurrently," Bagley said. "Mr. Johnson, I'm sorry, but the judge determines your sentence. Not your lawyer or the state."

Additionally, Johnson was given three years probation and ordered to register as a sex offender.

Johnson was 25 at the time the abuse

took place and the girls were 17. He engaged in a relationship that included sexual contact with a girl who assisted in coaching younger gymnasts.

Johnson's lawyer, Peter Parnickis, said a psychosexual evaluation performed on his client found his conduct was rooted in emotional immaturity and relational inexperience. "(His conduct) was opportunistic and situational rather than based on any type of sexual deviation," he said.

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Marijuana

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Residents in the fall 2020 voted to keep the moratorium in place.

Since the moratorium began, the county has not received its portion of marijuana revenue. The Oregon Liquor Control Commission argues this is because the state rule that governs how this money is allocated says a county must allow all licensed recreational marijuana activity in order to receive tax revenue.

But Deschutes County has argued that this rule did not anticipate or account for the situation Deschutes County now finds itself in, and that the rule needs to be clarified, potentially by House Bill 3295.

Last year, the county filed a complaint in Oregon Tax Court about the revenue, but has paused the proceedings, said Adam Smith, an attorney with Deschutes County.

"I think it's safe to say we are focusing on the legislative fix at this time," Smith said.

In a public hearing on March 8 at the state Legislature, Kropf said the current rule is a "binary on and off switch," which made sense when the state first legalized marijuana and counties were choosing to either permit marijuana or not. But the dynamic has changed.

"Now we've created a situation where a county that can have existing businesses are no longer able to receive a share of the marijuana

revenue to address the impacts of legalized marijuana," Kropf said.

The bill would introduce a "dimmer switch," instead, Kropf said. The bill still prohibits counties that don't allow all forms of marijuana business — retail, wholesale, processing and growing — from receiving revenue. Counties like Deschutes, which now only ban new processing and growing, could still receive revenue.

The idea would be to make it so marijuana revenue allocation would be based on existing marijuana businesses in a county, Kropf said.

That means an area with more businesses would get more money, and an area with fewer businesses would get less money, he said.

The bill would only apply to Deschutes County at the moment, and would only apply to taxes collected in the future, Kropf said.

Rob Bovett, a lawyer with the Association of Oregon Counties who helped write Measure 91, which legalized marijuana back in 2015, called the rule about distributing tax revenue "an error."

"I didn't think about this, to be honest," Bovett said, referring to Deschutes County's situation.

He said not allocating marijuana tax revenue to Deschutes County is fundamentally unfair, and compared the situation to the state, which placed a moratorium on producer licenses but was never faced with the

question of whether it would continue to receive tax revenue.

Deschutes County Commissioner Tony DeBono also testified in support House Bill 3295, saying that the county is currently missing out on roughly \$500,000 a year in revenue. With the passage of Measure 110, however, 72% of this amount will be redirected away from counties.

"We really would like to come up with a bill that provides clarity on the distribution to the taxes," he said.

The bill is opposed by the Oregon Retailers of Cannabis Association, which called it "fundamentally unfair."

"The policies that prohibit cities and counties from receiving tax money were specifically established to stop areas from receiving financial gains from business operations that they chose to disallow," the association said in written testimony. "From our read of the bill, this would create a way for counties to prohibit, for instance, cannabis production in their jurisdiction, while still allowing them to receive shares of cannabis tax revenues."

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Oregon Senate votes to make health care a right

If House approves resolution, it would be placed on ballot

BY ANDREW SELSKY

The Associated Press

SALEM — The Oregon Senate on Thursday approved a resolution that would ask voters to decide whether the state is obligated to ensure that every resident has access to affordable health care as a fundamental human right.

The resolution, whose aim is to amend the state Constitution, was approved along party lines, with Democratic senators in favor and Republicans opposed. It next goes to the House in the Democrat-controlled Legislature.

A similar effort in 2018 was approved by the House but it died in committee in the Senate. If it had been put on the ballot and approved by voters, it would have been the first constitutional amendment in any state to create a fundamental right to health care.

"Every Oregonian deserves access to cost-effective and

"The bill doesn't fund any system to deliver on that promise. If Democrats are serious about giving Oregonians free health care, they should come up with an actual plan."

— Fred Girod, Senate Republican leader

clinically appropriate health care," said Senate Majority Leader Rob Wagner. "Oregon's Constitution should reflect that truth."

If the House passes the bill, voters would be asked to consider amending the state's 162-year-old Constitution.

Republicans said any promise to ensure all Oregonians are entitled to health care lacks financial backing.

"The bill doesn't fund any system to deliver on that promise," Senate Republican Leader Fred Girod said. "If Democrats are serious about giving Oregonians free health care, they should come up with an actual plan."

Museum

Continued from A1

"That took significant resources for the museum because of the child care and school guidelines, but there were so many families ... who couldn't stay home with their kids while their kids needed to stay learning, and we were able to completely change our educational operation to support families in need in La Pine."

In March and April, IMLS is providing a "Share Your Story" social media campaign to showcase the nominated institutions on designated days. In the case of the High Desert Museum, that's April 8.

Members of the public whose lives have been touched by the museum are invited to share memories and pictures on Facebook and Twitter using the hashtag #IMLSMedals.

Other institutions named as finalists for the 2021 IMLS National Medal include the New York-Historical Society, Brookfield Zoo in Illinois and Great Lakes Science Center in Cleveland, Ohio. The High Desert Museum was previously a finalist in 2018.

"Much to our dismay, we did not win the medal then," Whitelaw said, "but I think this is our year."

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