

Ore. governor wants special session on death-penalty

By Andrew Selsky
Associated Press

SALEM (AP) — Oregon Gov. Kate Brown said Wednesday, August 28, she wants to call a special session of the Legislature because of questions raised whether a new law which narrows death penalty cases is retroactive.

With the new law taking effect next month, Attorney General Ellen Rosenblum also said she supports a special legislative session “to make sure our courts, prosecutors, defenders, victims and others have the clarity and guidance they need in connection with our most serious criminal cases.”

“We must make sure we get this law right,” Rosenblum said.

The bill narrows the state’s use of the death penalty by substantially limiting the crimes that qualify.

After Brown signed the bill on Aug. 1, lawyers for Martin Allen Johnson, who authorities say raped and murdered a 15-year-old girl in 1998 before throwing her body off a bridge, raised the issue of whether the new law applies to him.

A judge determined the crime no longer qualifies as aggravated murder under the new law. Other cases could be affected.

The new state law that takes effect Sept. 29 narrows the definition of aggravated murder, the only crime eligible for a death sentence. The law states that aggravated murder is limited to killing two or more people as an act of organized terrorism; killing a child younger than 14 intentionally and with premeditation; killing another person while incarcerated for a previous murder; or killing a police, correctional, or probation officer.

House Republican Leader Carl Wilson said repealing the bill might be the best course in a special session, allowing ample time before the 2020 regular session to analyze the issue.

Brown, a Democrat, told reporters in a conference call that she expects Sen. Floyd Prozanski, a Democrat from the university town of Eugene who helped get the bill passed, to work with others to craft language to address the law’s retroactivity. Then she would call a special session, expected to last less than a day in September.

Spanish exchange student pursues fitness career

By Chloe Gold
Correspondent

Cristina Gili Pareja is visiting from Spain and is currently working at Sisters Athletic Club (SAC), where you can find her checking in members at the front desk, and instructing health and wellness classes during her time in the United States.

Gili Pareja lives in a town called Torrelles de Foix, a province outside of Barcelona, Spain. She commutes 20 minutes to her job in Vilafranca del Pevedes, where she works at gym Espai D’Sport. Through a connection at SAC with member Nancy Engelhard, Gili Pareja was able to come to Sisters for a few months this summer to gain more knowledge in her field of physical training and to further her English-speaking skills.

Gili Pareja is staying in the Tumalo area with Engelhard.

The Spaniard studied at Ramon Llull University near Barcelona, Catalonia for four years, and received a degree in sports exercise science. Gili Pareja’s love for sports exercise science was inspired by her roller-skating coach. For about 15 years, Gili Pareja was an artistic roller-skater, which incorporates dance and artistic skills with competitive roller-skating. Her coach was someone Gili Pareja had

always wanted to be like. Gili Pareja’s coach had a degree in physical science — which Gili Pareja said could be equated to a fitness coach in America — and so Gili Pareja went to school for a sports exercise degree.

For Gili Pareja, the best part of her job is the health-and-wellness aspect. She loves to see her clientele reach their goals. Her shift at SAC is typically during a time where older clientele come in, and they’re more likely to be focused on their health, rather than strength gains. Her co-worker at SAC, Stephanie Taskinen, also a fluent Spanish speaker, thinks this love for seeing people reach their health goals stems from the fact that, “Cristina is such an empathetic person.”

Gili Pareja is enjoying her time at SAC and said she “doesn’t really see it as a job, but a big learning experience,” she said.

She often compares and contrasts aspects of SAC to her gym at home and is very excited to take what she’s learned home to Espai D’Sport. Gili Pareja says that Espai D’Sport has a younger clientele than SAC, so its workout classes are higher-impact classes focused on building strength.

While at SAC, Gili Pareja is working on her English skills. She said she was “really



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Cristina Gili Pareja is working at Sisters Athletic Club this summer, pursuing her career path and working on her English language skills.

nervous” when she first got here because she “isn’t super fluent in English, but everyone’s been really nice.” So nice in fact, that when people hear her accent, they begin speaking Spanish to her, rather than English, which she finds very sweet — but not great for her English skills.

Gili Pareja will also begin teaching a few classes at SAC until her departure on

September 14, including a Pilates class, and a life-skills fitness class.

There will be an open house gathering for the community to meet Cristina Gili Pareja on Wednesday, September 11, at 5 p.m. at Sisters Athletic Club. She will be doing a presentation partially in Spanish and in English about what she does and her experience here.



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