



Courtesy Columbia River Maritime Museum

These mystery knives may have been used by Chinese for poppy harvesting.

HISTORIC

PHOTOS OF THE WEEK

Artifact or Fake?

By JEFF SMITH
For The Daily Astorian



Courtesy Columbia River Maritime Museum
Use of this knife is in question. It is in the collection of the Columbia River Maritime Museum.

Bill would allow sharing of wage info

By PETER WONG
Capital Bureau

SALEM — Workers could not be punished for asking about or sharing wage information under a bill that has cleared the Oregon House.

House Bill 2007 went to the Senate on a 34-24 vote Tuesday. All Democrats voted for it, and all Republicans against it; one Democrat and one Republican were excused.

The bill resulted from a recommendation last year by the Oregon Council on Civil Rights, which issued a wide-ranging report on how Oregon can move toward equal pay.

According to its report, women earned 79 cents for every dollar men earned in Oregon in 2012, slightly more than the national average of 77 cents. The gaps are greater for black and Hispanic women.

Even in job categories that employ a majority of women, women earn 63.8 cents for every dollar earned by men.

Rep. Shemia Fagan, D-Clackamas, the bill's floor manager, said wom-

en are less likely to know about disparities in pay or to speak up about them — and the bill would offer them protection.

The bill would make it an unlawful employment practice for employers to punish workers for asking about or sharing wage information.

An exception would apply to employees who have access to such information but disclose it to workers who are not authorized to have it; investigations, by the employer or others, are exempt.

But critics say the bill would disrupt relationships between employers and workers.

Among other recommendations of the council, which presented its report to state Labor Commissioner Brad Avakian: A requirement for paid sick leave; changes in state-subsidized day care for working families; renewal of child-care tax credits scheduled to expire this year, and more flexible work scheduling..

The Capital Bureau is a joint project of EO Media Group and Pamplin Media Group.

Warriors no more for a school mascot?

Tribal backers, schools battle over mascots

By PETER WONG
Capital Bureau

SALEM — Even as the state Board of Education tries to write rules to regulate them, Oregon schools remain adamant about keeping tribal mascots — and tribal advocates are just as vocal in saying they must go.

The board will hear a progress report at its meeting Thursday in Salem and is scheduled to adopt rules April 9.

The board is trying to implement a 2014 law that allows such mascots if districts come to agreements with any of the nine federally recognized tribes in Oregon.

Fourteen high schools have tribal mascot names: Warriors, used by Amity, North Douglas (Drain), Oakridge, Philomath, Lebanon, Siletz and Warrenton; Indians, used by Mohawk (Marcola), Molalla, Roseburg and Scappoose; Braves, moniker for Banks and Reedsport; Chieftains, adopted by Rogue River.

The board in 2012 gave



districts five years to phase out such mascots. Lawmakers overrode it in 2013, only to have then-Gov. John Kitzhaber veto that bill. Kitzhaber signed a revised version in 2014 sponsored by Republican Sens. Jeff Kruse of Roseburg and Fred Girod of Lyons, whose district includes Molalla.

An informal work group attempted to craft a rule, but differences became evident during a two-hour rulemaking hearing last week conducted by Cindy Hunt, government and legal affairs manager for the Oregon Department of Education.

Tony Mann, superintendent of the Molalla River School District, said he has worked with the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde on an agreement to retain the name of Molalla Indians.

“The tribes expect to maintain a mascot that genuinely and respectfully represents the Molalla people, the tribes, and all indigenous peoples in the state,” Mann said. “I humbly ask the board to remain neutral in matters related to this.”

He said the state board's

role should be limited to whether districts simply comply with the procedure outlined in the law.

“What I saw coming out of the work group was the necessity of having a relationship — not just a one-time meeting and agreement but an ongoing relationship — with our tribal partners,” said Paul Young, Rogue River schools superintendent.

Larry Parsons, Roseburg schools superintendent, criticized a proposed requirement for districts retaining tribal mascots to map how they would close academic achievement gaps for students. He said such a requirement should apply to all Oregon schools.

Parsons also said it would be impractical for Roseburg to adopt a name of Roseburg Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Indians, the nearest of Oregon's nine federally recognized tribes.

But tribal advocates say it's time for the 14 schools to follow the lead of The Dalles High School, which adopted the name Riverhawks instead of retaining Indians as a tribal mascot.

“These mascots undermine the educational experience of all students, particularly those with little or no contact with indigenous

or native Alaskan peoples,” said Se-Ah-Dom Edmo, interim president of the Oregon Indian Education Association.

“I think we can still be invested in our teams without mascot names or images associated with them.”

Edmo also said many students come from tribes outside Oregon and are not represented by the nine federally recognized tribes.

Sam Sachs, a Portland human rights commissioner and an activist for racial justice, said the affected schools should do something similar to what his alma mater South Albany High School did. The school's mascot is still the Rebels, but there is no Confederate flag — a symbol that blacks take offense to because of the legacy of slavery in the South.

Sachs says if the board proceeds to adopt a rule, it will face a lawsuit from affected student plaintiffs.

“I am done; there is nothing left to say,” he said. “We can list numerous human rights organizations here and throughout the country that say this needs to stop, this needs to end.”

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Courtesy Columbia River Maritime Museum
This knife is stamped with “The Shark 1842.”

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