

# How the Legislature affected your life this session

By PHIL WRIGHT  
EO Media Group

From paid sick leave to a prohibition on police profiling, the Democrat-controlled 2015 Oregon Legislature drove through big social changes. Here's a breakdown of new laws that will touch plenty of Oregonians.

• **If you are a gun owner**, Senate Bill 941 requires you to have a gun dealer run a criminal background check on a buyer in a private sale. And the dealer can charge for that service. The law carved out some exemptions, including for law enforcement, members of the U.S. military and close relatives of the seller.

• **If you carry a gun**, SB 173 will allow you to show your concealed permit, rather than your gun, to an officer for inspection. The law goes into effect Jan. 1 and drops language that permitted police to consider you to have committed a crime if you did not show your firearm upon their request.

• **If enrolled in community college**, SB 81 could let you attend for free under specific criteria, including a recent high school graduate with a certain GPA with 12 months of residency in the state. The bill is awaiting the signature of Gov. Kate Brown.

• **If you have an Oregon driver's license or ID**, House Bill 2177 directs the Department of Transportation to provide the Secretary of State with electronic records to register Oregon citizens not currently on the voter rolls. Oregon is the first state in the nation with such a law. Brown, a Democrat, sponsored the bill when she was secretary of state, then signed it as governor March 16 in the wake of John Kitzhaber



E.J. Harris/EO Media Group

**A selection of long rifles lines the wall in the sporting goods section of the D&B supply store in Pendleton. Oregon Senate Bill 941 will require all firearms sales to go through a licensed gun dealer.**

resigning from office amid scandal. The law immediately went into effect.

• **If you are a motorcycle or bicyclist**, SB 533 will allow you to go through a stop light under certain conditions, assuming there is no other traffic. The law takes effect Jan. 1.

• **If you are in the military**, HB 2763 allows public employers to compensate employees prior to deployment. The law went into effect April 22. And if you are serving in active-duty military while outside Oregon, SB 494 will allow you to renew or replace your driver's license or permit without a photograph if the Department of Transportation does not have an acceptable photo on file. The law goes into effect Jan. 1.

• **If you served out-of-state in the military, government or a humanitarian aid organization**, HB 2670 allows you to pay in-state college tuition in certain circumstances.

• **If you are a baker or cook** and sell your goods out of your home directly to people who will eat it, SB 320 exempts you from the burden of Oregon Department of Agriculture food regulations. Other conditions also apply, including gross sales of \$20,000 or less. The bill goes into effect Jan. 1.

• **If you are a pharmacist**, SB 520 gives you the permission to give vaccines to people 7 or older.

• **If you are a landscaper**, SB 580 allows your contracting business to install outdoor artificial turf.

• **If you are homosexual under**

**18 years of age**, HB 2307 protects you from health providers who practice gay conversion therapy.

• **If you fly drones**, HB 2354 means you will have to be more careful where you fly. The law, which is in effect, removed the 400-foot zone for civil actions against drone operators flying over private property. The law also changes the state's definition of "drone" to "unmanned aircraft system." (We're still calling them drones, though.)

• **If you are a victim of domestic violence, harassment, sexual assault or stalking**, SB 492 will authorize you in 2016 to use accrued sick leave or personal business leave rather than vacation.

• **If you are a public middle or high school student**, you'll learn

## Transportation district eyeing new service options, solutions for future

Agency hopes to eventually build transit hub in Seaside

By KATHERINE LACAZE  
EO Media Group

SEASIDE — The Sunset Empire Transportation District's information kiosk in Seaside, which opened in May, may be a prelude to more efforts by the public transit agency to increase its presence and services in the city.

The kiosk is a good place for people to get transit information, maps or tickets and passes, but in recent years, the district has recognized the need for a bigger transportation facility in Seaside, said Jeff Hazen, the district's executive director.

A few years ago, the district received a matching grant from the Oregon Department of Transportation's ConnectOregon program to build a facility in Seaside, but when the agency couldn't muster the necessary matching funds, it had to decline the grant and temporarily abandon the project. At that time, the project involved a partnership with a daycare and the South County Community Food Bank, which has since moved.

More recently, the district has considered other funding options to build a Seaside transit center but nothing has materialized yet, and the project is entirely dependent on funding, Hazen said.

"It's something I am going to keep my eye on," he said.

As opposed to the small Seaside customer service kiosk, located at the Seaside Factory Outlet Center on North Roosevelt Drive, the facility would be a one-stop transit hub that would have a lobby, restrooms and more waiting areas, as well as parking options for people taking longer trips.

Additionally, Hazen said, the district always is looking for easier transitions and connections between the Cannon Beach bus and the Highway 101 bus, which currently connect behind the Seaside Cinema on 12th Avenue. Something on the highway might provide better access, he said.

Having that presence would be good for South County, Hazen said. "It would be good for the district, because we want to be relevant throughout

the whole county," he said.

Seaside is the source of many visitors each year. Its location on U.S. Highway 101 also makes it susceptible to congestion, a source of frustration for those who live and work in the city. Public transportation can help mitigate congestion and increase accessibility for Seaside riders, Hazen said.

"We can be part of that solution," he said. "If some of those people weren't driving those cars and were riding the bus, that's less vehicles on the highway."

A Seaside transit facility also would fit well into the Northwest Oregon's regional transit system, North by Northwest CONNECTOR. The alliance consists of Sunset Empire Transportation District, the Columbia County Rider, the Tillamook County Transportation District, Lincoln County Transit and Benton County Rural Transit.

"We're all in this together," Hazen said. "We're not competing against each other. We're all providing a service in rural America. The more we can connect, the better off we're all going to be."

## Bus route and schedule changes set to begin Aug. 1

The Daily Astorian

Sunset Empire Transportation District has announced proposals for several route and schedule changes which are scheduled to begin Aug. 1.

These proposed changes include: increasing the Route 101 service between Astoria and Seaside during the peak hours in the morning and late afternoon by adding another bus; and doubling service frequency to every hour instead of every two hours.

The Columbia Connector Route will begin providing service twice a day, seven days a week to Rainier, where riders will be able to transfer to the Columbia County Rider bus for service to Longview and Kelso, Wash., St. Helens, Scappoose and Portland.

A new Warrenton/Ham-

mond Route will begin providing service four times a day between the U.S. Highway 101 shopping areas, Warrenton downtown and the Hammond area. There will also be a small change to the Cannon Beach Route 20 schedule in the morning.

"These route changes are the result of our goals to continually improve our services and increase ridership throughout the area," said Jeff Hazen, executive director of the transportation district.

Hazen also said that feedback received from rider and community surveys confirmed that increased service was being asked for, and needed, to meet riders' scheduling needs, specifically on Route 101.

For information, and to view the proposed route schedules, go to [www.ridethebus.org](http://www.ridethebus.org).

Printed copies of the proposed route schedule changes will be on display at the Astoria Transit Center, 900 Marine Drive, the Seaside Transit Kiosk, 111 North Roosevelt and on all buses. Public input and comments concerning the proposed changes will be accepted until 5 p.m. July 22 and may be dropped off at the Astoria Transit Center, at the Seaside Transit Kiosk, mailed to 900 Marine Drive, Astoria, OR. 97103 or emailed to [questions@ridethebus.org](mailto:questions@ridethebus.org).

Public comments may also be made at the next SETD Board of Commissioners meeting at 9 a.m. July 23 at the Astoria Transit Center.

For information, contact Mary Parker, executive assistant, at 503-861-5370 or [mary@ridethebus.org](mailto:mary@ridethebus.org)

## illuminating a life



More than 200 people participated in the luminaria ceremony Saturday night during the Relay for Life event at Astoria High School. The ceremony was dedicated to Anita "Denise" Steiner, of Seaside, who died from cancer earlier this year.

Joshua Bessex/The Daily Astorian

## Court rules police need good reason to ask about guns

The Associated Press

PORTLAND — The Oregon Supreme Court says police must have a good reason to ask people they stop if they have a weapon.

The high court last week threw out an unlawful-weapon conviction of a 19-year-old man

who was stopped for jaywalking by an Oregon State Police trooper in Portland.

The trooper asked Joseph Lucio Jimenez if he had any weapons on him, and Jimenez said he had a gun.

Citing "officer safety reasons," the officer said he always asks pedestrians he stops if they

have weapons. The Supreme Court, however, said police must have a good, specific reason that leads them to believe they might be in danger.

The Oregonian reported that the Oregon Court of Appeals reversed Jimenez's conviction last year, and the Supreme Court decision affirmed that ruling.

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