

# Unclear whether lawmakers can stop petitioners' wage ballot push

## Governor's alternate plan calls for raises starting in 2017

By **PARIS ACHEN**  
Capital Bureau

SALEM — State lawmakers received a sobering message Wednesday about their prospects of striking a legislative deal to hike Oregon's minimum wage.

Petitioners for a ballot initiative to boost the minimum to \$15 statewide by 2019 said they intend to continue gathering signatures to place their proposal on the November ballot unless lawmakers meet their demands.

Opponents to hiking the minimum wage indicated they're gearing up to thwart the initiative.

Today, Gov. Kate Brown announced her plan for a statewide minimum wage increase.

The proposal calls for a

two-tiered minimum wage that increases gradually over the next six years, starting in 2017. The plan establishes a higher minimum wage in the Portland metropolitan area, where the economy is growing faster and has traditionally been stronger, than in the rest of the state.

Outside of the Portland urban growth boundary, the wage will be raised to \$10.25 in 2017 and increase to \$13.50 by 2022. Within Portland's urban growth boundary, the wage will be set at 15 percent above the statewide minimum wage, increasing to \$15.52 by 2022.

After 2022, the minimum wage will return to the current rate of increase, in conjunction with the Consumer Price Index.

### Hearing in Salem tonight

Meanwhile, lawmakers have revealed no specific numbers for a potential deal and none were expected before a public hearing Thursday night at the Capitol. The

lawmakers have just two weeks before the legislative session starts in February.

Justin Norton-Kertson, campaign manager for Oregonians for \$15, said the group has collected nearly 40,000 signatures for its ballot initiative and projects having 50,000 to 60,000 signatures by early March.

"We are well on track to have enough signatures collected by July to put this on the ballot," Norton-Kertson said.

"With more than half of likely voters in Oregon already polling in favor of \$15 and numerous polls conducted statewide, a statewide \$15 minimum wage really is inevitable," he said. "It's a grassroots movement, and it isn't just going to go away because any old deal is struck in the state Legislature."

He said the only compromises his group would support are \$15 per hour in the most expensive parts of the state, namely Multnomah, Clackamas and Washington counties, or a repeal of a law

that prevents cities and counties from increasing minimum wages above the state limit.

"If one or both of these can't be accomplished this session, then we'll do everything we can to get the support needed to put IP 41 on the ballot and win," Norton-Kertson said.

Betsy Earls of Associated Oregon Industries, which opposes boosting the minimum wage, advised lawmakers to spend their time on other issues.

"It sounds like ... there will be at least one ballot measure going forward no matter what," Earls said. "What I would say to you is we will have to fight that ballot measure probably so we will have to expend resources regardless of what you guys do. I would advise you to sit tight, do nothing."

### Negotiating for weeks

Lawmakers, the governor's advisers and other stakeholders have been negotiating a minimum wage deal for weeks behind closed

doors. Democratic leaders have indicated they want to pass legislation in February to head off a battle at the ballot box in November over two dueling initiatives to hike the minimum wage.

One is the \$15 proposal. Another union-backed initiative would raise the minimum wage to \$13.50 statewide and give cities and counties authority to increase the wage above that. The petitioners for that initiative have said from the outset that they launched the campaign to spur lawmakers to action this session.

"We're hoping to come up with a proposal that makes the most sense and addresses the most concerns and also makes the ballot measures unnecessary," said state Sen. Michael Dembrow, D-Portland. "We haven't yet nailed down what that would be, the place between the competing interests."

Dembrow had initially planned to release starting numbers for his proposal in advance of Thursday night's public hearing at the Capitol.

He said he had second thoughts about releasing numbers before the hearing because he wants to use feedback to craft a proposal for the session, which starts Feb. 1.

"I don't want to come up with a proposal that is take it or leave it," Dembrow said. "I want to propose something that has some consensus around it."

Dembrow's proposal would set three different regional minimums based on area median income and cost of living. The concept is based on research by North Star Civic Foundation that found different minimums would better suit Oregon's "uneven state economy."

The House Business and Labor Committee plans to submit a proposal that is similar to the initiative to boost the minimum wage to \$13.50 and give cities and counties authority to raise wages above that threshold.

The Capital Bureau is a collaboration between EO Media Group and Pamplin Media Group.

# Seaside considers changes to cemetery rules

## Amendment would raise price per plot to \$500

By **KATHERINE LACAZE**  
EO Media Group

SEASIDE — The price to buy a plot at the Evergreen Cemetery, managed by the city of Seaside, may more than double to help offset administrative costs.

The Seaside City Council is contemplating an amendment to the city's ordinance regarding Evergreen Cemetery regulations. The amendment was read Monday and seeks to modify some language and update the cost for each plot at the cemetery, located off Beerman Creek south of Seaside.

If the amendment is adopted at the council's next meeting Jan. 25, the city will charge \$500 instead of \$200 for each plot. Public Works Director Dale McDowell said the increase will help cover costs the city incurs by managing the cemetery.

"It's nice that the city looks over and maintains the property, but, for however many years it's been doing that, it's cost quite a bit," City Councilor Randy Frank said. "Even with this price increase, it's still very reasonable and will help offset some of

the costs we get."

At \$500, the fee still is less than those associated with other cemeteries in Clatsop County, according to McDowell.

Additionally, if the owner of a plot decides not to use it, the plot may be sold back to the city at 80 percent, rather than 90 percent, of the purchase price, according to the amendment.

The proposed language changes to the ordinance are minor and simply update what is an old ordinance, McDowell said. City Attorney Dan Van Thiel also suggested language changes to correct spelling and grammatical errors.

### New gym stations

The City Council also approved a request from Seaside High School senior Berkley Posalski to add three new stations to the outdoor gym at Cartwright Park. Posalski designed and installed the three existing stations at the park, with guidance from the Public Works Department, last May for his Eagle Scout Project. For his senior Pacifica Project, he plans to design and add three more stations. Additionally, the project will include expanding the concrete borders of the current stations to make the area around them safer. McDowell said Parks Advisory Committee members indicated interest



R.J. Marx/The Daily Astorian

### Evergreen Cemetery in Seaside.

in finding out how much the outdoor park is being used. City Councilor Dana Phillips said she believes the park is something that is used and she appreciates Posalski's "interest in moving forward with this."

### Plans for former church building

An ad hoc committee gave a report on the former church building purchased by the city in 2014. The building on Broadway is centrally located, with close access to Broadway Middle School, the Sunset Empire Park & Recreation District, Broadway Park and the Seaside Public Library. The committee is suggesting the council take a three-phase approach to use the building for a variety of purposes.

es. For the first phase, they suggested the city rent out the two office spaces, which would help protect the city's investment by generating revenue and keeping the building in use and monitored.

The council will hold a work session at a later date to discuss the site.



R.J. Marx/The Daily Astorian

### The entrance to Evergreen Cemetery on Beerman Creek Road.

# Crab Feed starts Friday

The Daily Astorian

WARRENTON — The 27th annual Fishermen's Benefit Fund Crab Feed is 4 to 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday at the Warrenton Community Center, 170 S.W. Third St. The cost is \$15 for adults, and \$13 for seniors

and those younger than 12, for fresh Dungeness crab, cole slaw, garlic bread, drink, dessert and all the trimmings. The event is sponsored by the Fishermen's Benefit Fund, a nonprofit corporation which maintains an emergency fund to help fishermen and their families.

**Roasted Chicken Dinner**  
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ALA Dan

**Friday Jan. 15<sup>th</sup>**  
4 pm 'til gone  
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*The family of Charles Teroy Meadows Sr. would like to thank all our relatives and friends who gathered with us, or were with us in spirit in the passing of our beloved husband, father, grandfather and friend.*

*Special thanks to Columbia Memorial Hospital and CHS-U and their combined medical teams for the care and kindness you showed him. We also send our gratitude and appreciation to Hughes Ransom Mortuary. We are forever grateful for your support.*

*For those family and friends who have sent cards, phone calls, food, flowers and emails we thank you. Reflections shared will be forever treasured.*

*Please accept this as a personal acknowledgement of thanks from us all.*

*Your thoughtfulness and support continue to give us comfort.*

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**Schedule of Events**

**Saturday 1.23.16**  
10am - 3:30pm  
All-Day Vendor Expo

11:00, 12:00, 1:00, 2:00  
15-Minute "How-to" Talks & Demos

10:30, 11:30, 12:30, 2:30  
Passed Appetizers by Premium Caterers

1:30pm  
Bridal & Formalwear Fashion Show

Venues, Hotels, Caterers, Local Food & Beverage Suppliers, Florists, Retailers, Rentals & Décor Services, Photographers, Musicians & DJs and more!

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SEASIDE a Cappella Festival

Sponsored by the Quartet Champions of the Evergreen District (QCED)

6:00 PM FRIDAY JANUARY 15  
SEASIDE CONVENTION CENTER  
[www.seasidecappellafestival.com](http://www.seasidecappellafestival.com)

GENERAL RULES AND INFORMATION  
Competing a cappella groups must consist of at least 3 members; all female, all male, or mixed groups welcomed. There are two competition age brackets, with separate prizes for each.

6:00 PM SATURDAY JANUARY 16  
SEASIDE CONVENTION CENTER

Groups performing are:  
Winners from Friday night's a Cappella Festival

Past Quartet Champions that will be performing are:  
4.0 Quartet • Quadrphonics • The New Originals  
Fast Track • Flipside • Over Time

You can get tickets at: [seasidecappellafestival.com](http://seasidecappellafestival.com) or at the door, or by calling (503) 836-3489