

Wage rules would require employers to track workers

By **PARIS ACHEN**
Capital Bureau

SALEM — Proposed rules for Oregon's new three-tiered, regional minimum wage law would require employers to pay employees based on where the employee actually works.

Starting in 2017, employers will have to track not only the hours their employees work but also the location, under the draft rules. Employees who work for more than four hours per week in another region would earn that region's wage for those hours.

"Let's say they just did a brief meeting or a short job that took less than four hours, they would get the same pay. If they do more than four hours, say they do half of the week in one region and half of the week in another region, then

they would have to pay two separate rates," said Paloma Sparks, legislative director for the state Bureau of Labor and Industries.

The first-of-its-kind law takes effect July 1, bumping up the state's minimum wage from \$9.25 to \$9.75 statewide. In 2017, wage increases will diverge according to region. By 2022, wages will reach \$14.75 in the Portland area, \$12.50 in most rural and coastal counties and \$13.50 in Clatsop County and the rest of the state.

That's when the proposed rules could become complicated for some employers.

For example, an employee who works in Salem for 35 hours and in Portland for five hours per week in 2017 would earn \$10.25 per hour for the time in Salem and \$11.25 per

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Paloma Sparks

legislative director, state Bureau of Labor and Industries.

hour for the time in Portland.

The new law, passed in February, directed the labor bureau to make the rules relating to employer location.

Determining how to pay employees who work in different locations is the main issue the agency is trying to resolve with the rules, Sparks said.

An advisory committee has helped to shape the rules. There is little agreement about how the regional wage should

be determined, Sparks said.

"The worker advocates would like the threshold to be a lot lower, like one hour; employer advocates would like it to be where the employer is located. There is not a lot of meeting in the middle," Sparks said.

Committee members are the NW Grocery Associations, Oregon Restaurant and Lodging Association, Oregon Farm Bureau, Oregon Associ-

ation of Nurseries, Association of Oregon Industries, Oregon Business Association, PCUN, AFL-CIO, Family Forward, SEIU, CAUSA and Oregon Center for Public Policy. Representatives from the offices of state Sen. Michael Dembrow, D-Portland, and Rep. Paul Holvey, D-Eugene, serve on the committee.

Under the law, the minimum wage gradually climbs to \$14.75 in 2022 in the Portland

urban growth boundary, which includes parts of Multnomah, Washington and Clackamas counties. It will rise to \$13.50 in Benton, Clatsop, Columbia, Deschutes, Hood River, Jackson, Josephine, Lane, Lincoln, Linn, Marion, Polk, Tillamook, Wasco and Yamhill counties, and parts of Multnomah, Clackamas and Washington counties outside Portland's urban growth boundary.

In rural areas, the wage increases to \$12.50. Those areas include Malheur, Lake, Harney, Wheeler, Sherman, Gilliam, Wallowa, Grant, Jefferson, Baker, Union, Crook, Klamath, Douglas, Coos, Curry, Umatilla and Morrow counties.

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

Unemployment at 4.5 percent in Clatsop County

The Daily Astorian

Clatsop County's unemployment rate in March was 4.5 percent, the state Employment Department reported.

The county's seasonally adjusted rate was down slightly from the previous month (4.6 percent), and even more from the year prior (5.3 percent). Oregon's unemployment rate fell to a record low 4.5 percent in March. The U.S. rate was 5 percent.

In March, the county added 100 jobs, 80 fewer than expected, leaving seasonally adjusted nonfarm payroll employment at 17,760. That level was 160 more than the year prior, for a growth rate of nearly 1 percent.

Through March, food manufacturing cut 50 jobs, and retail trade 40. Leisure and hospitality added 170 positions. Over the past year, retail trade (130) and leisure and hospitality (80) added the most jobs, while manufacturing lost 60 and state government another 40.

Columbia County

Columbia County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in March was 6 percent, down slightly from the previous month (6.2 percent) and even more from the previous year (6.9 percent).

In March, the county added 100 jobs, 60 more than expected, leaving seasonally adjusted nonfarm payroll employment at 10,490, a growth rate of 1.2 percent over the year prior.

Through March, trade, transportation and utilities gained 30 jobs, along with 20 in professional and business services and 30 in local government education. Over the past year, manufacturing added 30 jobs, and leisure and hospitality another 30, while construction cut 50 positions.

Tillamook County

Tillamook County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in March was 4.8 percent, down slightly from the previous month (5 percent) and even more from the previous year (5.4 percent).

In March, the county added 80 jobs, 20 more than expected, leaving nonfarm payroll employment at 8,880, 60 more than the year prior.

Through March, food manufacturing added 30 jobs, and leisure and hospitality another 70. Over the past year, manufacturing added 80 positions, and retail trade another 40, while the financial industry dropped 30.



Area	March 2016	Feb. 2016	1-yr. ago
Clatsop	4.5	4.6	5.3
Columbia	6	6.2	6.9
Tillamook	4.8	5	5.4
Oregon	4.5	4.8	5.7
U.S.	5	4.9	5.5

*Preliminary, seasonally adjusted rates. Source: Oregon Employment Department

Daily Astorian graphic

Opioid abuse focus of summit in Seaside

The Daily Astorian

SEASIDE — The Columbia Pacific Coordinated Care Organization and the Oregon Coalition for the Responsible Use of Meds will hold a summit in Seaside later this month to address the abuse of opioids.

The event will bring together members of the medical community, pharmacies, educators, law enforcement, public health and the community.

"Opioid overdose kills more people every year than motor vehi-



Dr. Safina Koreishi

cle accidents," Dr. Safina Koreishi, medical director for Columbia Pacific, said in a statement. "This epidemic has reached a very concerning level and we need to engage everyone in the community to help solve it."

In February, Koreishi met with U.S. Surgeon General Dr. Vivek Murthy to discuss the opioid epidemic and will share the information she learned with the community at the summit.

The summit will be from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. April 28 and

include experts from across Oregon to discuss opioid prescribing, overdose and addiction. It will have breakout sessions including health care professionals, law enforcement and the general community.

The intended outcome of the event is to identify the challenges and solutions for reducing prescription drug abuse, misuse and overdose, and to draft community action plans.

Registration is open at www.colpachealth.org and www.orcrm.org. The cost will be \$25 per person, including breakfast, lunch and materials. Scholarships will be available.

Clatskanie mayor's husband sentenced to years of probation

Associated Press

PORTLAND — The husband of Clatskanie's mayor has pleaded guilty to public indecency charges for exposing himself at a drive-thru coffee stand.

Sixty-four-year-old Raymond Pohl was sentenced Tuesday to three years of probation and ordered to complete a sex offender treatment program. He previously pleaded not guilty to 30 counts of indecent exposure, but 28 counts were dropped as part of a plea deal.

Court documents say Pohl exposed his genitals repeatedly to an employee at the coffee stand for two years until September 2015. The victim had told police the incidents were unsolicited and unwanted. KGW-TV reported a statement from the victim read in court Tuesday says she's faced threats from the public after coming forward.

Pohl is the husband of Clatskanie Mayor Diane Pohl and a former member of the city's planning commission.

Banks, Grand Ronde tribes sign agreement to keep Braves logo

Associated Press

BANKS — Officials with the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde and the Banks School District have signed an agreement to keep the Braves logo and mascot in schools.

The Oregonian reported that Banks High School will be allowed to continue using the Braves name, but will adopt a tribe-designed mascot, remove any of the old logos and incorporate a Grand Ronde-crafted Native American history curriculum into social studies classes.

Banks is about 60 miles from the Grand Ronde headquarters.

The state Department of Education published rules in

January allowing the 14 high schools in Oregon that have Native American mascots to secure permission from one of Oregon's nine tribes in order to keep the names.

Marcola, Philomath and Roseburg have also sent information to the state indicating they are working with a tribe.

The Warrenton-Hammond School District is discussing whether to remove all Native American imagery from the district's Warrior-themed mascot. The district had pursued talks with the Grand Ronde, but Superintendent Mark Jeffrey recommended not going through the process to keep a mascot some find offensive.

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Q: Why is the Google Chrome browser saying it will not update on my computer?

A: Google Chrome is ending support for Mac OS X Mountain Lion, Lion and Snow Leopard, and Windows Vista "due to the fact that these operating systems (OS) no longer get critical security updates and have a higher chance of being affected by viruses and malware." We can help keep your computer working securely by upgrading your computer operating system to current standards. First we back up your data, then upgrade your OS to the latest available to extend its useful life.



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Q: Do you have information about how to get started with a family flock?

A: Yes, we have books, pamphlets on feeds and a handout that walks you through getting your baby chicks off to a great start. Also, this Wed. April 27, we are offering a free poultry workshop at the store from 6:00-7:00 pm. You will be able to ask questions about how to raise a chick to an egg-laying hen or learn about how to grow your own organic meat birds. Give us a call to register or e-mail us at lindabrim@gmail.com so we will have plenty of supplies on hand for you. We will have door prizes and drawing.



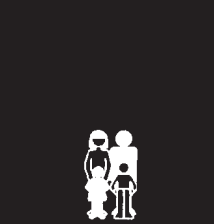
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Q: When should I bring my child to the dentist for the first check-up?

A: Before this first appointment, it is very important for all to realize that the child's teeth are very important in the development of his/her jaw. As soon as they begin to erupt, at approx. 6 months, it is so important to keep the baby teeth cleaned. You may use a soft brush or a finger gauze. Baby teeth accumulate plaque and bacteria just as adult teeth. Also, please be aware and careful of nighttime nursing bottles and a lack of cleaning the child's teeth which may lead to a condition called nursing bottle syndrome (lots of decay). If all this is followed, teeth look good, child has no complaints, then first visit somewhere around age 2-1/2 to 3 is a good time to check.



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Q: When are the open access days and times at Clatsop Behavioral Healthcare?

A: No one will be turned away.

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Tuesday	Seaside 1 to 3:30 pm
Wednesday	Astoria 8 to 10:30 am
Thursday	Astoria 1 to 3:30 pm
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Astoria address is 2120 Exchange Street, Suite 203 and Seaside Address is 318 S Holladay.

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The public is welcome to the monthly meeting of the Tillicum Foundation Board of Directors.

Held April 27th at Baked Alaska, #112th Street, Astoria from 5:00 to 7:00pm

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