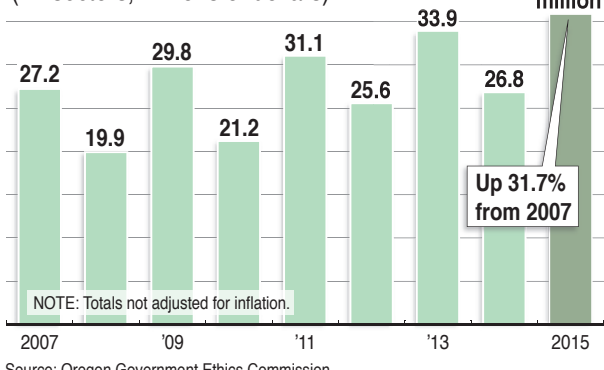


Lobbying cash spent in Oregon, 2007-15

A wide range of entities, from hospitals and nursing homes to utilities and the governor's office, reported spending more than \$251 million on lobbying Oregon lawmakers and other state officials from 2007 through 2015.

(All sectors, millions of dollars)



Lobbying: State receives an F grade on disclosure

Continued from Page 1A

estate interests that reported spending a total of \$27.3 million on lobbying during the same period.

Unlike several other states including Idaho, Oregon does not require lobbyists to disclose the specific bills or executive branch actions they seek to influence. Oregon lobbyists are only required to disclose food, drinks and entertainment purchased for a specific lawmaker or other state official if the cost exceeds \$50 on a single occasion, and lobbyists do not have to report individual expenses reimbursed by their clients.

Until this year, the only way to know how much lobbyists and their clients were spending to entertain state officials was to request a copy of the paper reports filed with the Oregon Government Ethics Commission.

The agency launched a new electronic filing system for lobbyists late last year, but that system is not displaying certain spending details due to technical glitches. Even if the system were working correctly, however, it would likely provide only a small sample of lobbyists' activities. Of the \$35.9 million in reported spending last year, only \$93,189 was explained in detailed reports.

An F grade

These minimal reporting requirements contributed to Oregon receiving one of the lowest rankings in the nation for transparency in lobbying activity.

Last summer, the Sunlight Foundation evaluated how all 50 states track spending on lobbying and created a scorecard ranking the states. The foundation awarded Oregon an F grade, meaning lobbyists and their clients face fewer disclosure requirements than in most other states.

Most of Oregon's neighbors received higher grades, from an A in California to a C in Idaho.

Emily Shaw, a senior analyst at the Sunlight Foundation who was involved in the project, said the goal was to evaluate how much information states collected about lobbyists' specific activities and the costs of those actions.

"People should be able to find out who has come to influence their laws," Shaw said. "That's not to say there needs to be any particular restriction on lobbying in a particular situation. But for good public awareness of what's happening in these processes, we need good information about what lobbyists are doing, and when."

Pete Quist, research director at the National Institute on Money in State Politics in Montana, agreed that it is important for states to require lobbyists to disclose more about how they influence lawmaking. The institute is collecting information about state-level spending on lobbying across the nation. "The lobbying piece isn't analyzed as much in the media as it should be," Quist said. "What we see a lot of public confusion about is the campaign contributions."

Resisting disclosure

Oregon lobbyists have resisted efforts to require them to disclose more details

of their work, most recently in 2015 when they won passage of a bill that allows them to avoid reporting spending to lobby other lobbyists, for example to build a coalition for or against an issue. The 2015 bill — which easily passed both chambers of the Legislature and was signed into law by Gov. Kate Brown — extended the disclosure exemption through mid-2017.

Dan Meek, a public interest attorney and co-chair of the Independent Party of Oregon, said this exemption is a major reason the public cannot find out how lobbyists use much of the money their clients report spending. Still, Meek said he remains more concerned that Oregon has no campaign contribution limits because political donations do not have to be reported as gifts, even if they are connected to lobbying efforts.

"Lobbying regulation in Oregon is really of secondary importance because it can be so easily evaded," Meek said.

The extension of the lobbying reporting exemption last year provided another example of how lobbyists avoid revealing their impact on Oregon's laws.

Lobbyist Marla Rae, who previously served on the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission and worked for the state Department of Justice and former Gov. Ted Kulongoski, advocated for the bill during legislative hearings on behalf of the Capitol Club of Oregon, a professional organization for lobbyists. However, the Capitol Club did not report spending any money on lobbying last year and Rae does not appear to have registered to lobby on behalf of the group.

In an email, Rae explained the Capitol Club did not have to report spending any money on lobbying because she volunteered her time to advocate for the bill. Rae wrote that she did not spend enough time working on the issue — the threshold is 24 hours in a quarter — to trigger the state's requirement to register as a lobbyist for the group.

Bill Cross, the Legislative Committee chair for the Capitol Club, said the group still wants a permanent reporting exemption for lobbying other lobbyists, partly because it is burdensome for lobbyists to track the information.

"I'm sure we'll be pursuing some sort of way to adjust that because the value of that information just doesn't seem apparent to us," Cross said.

Hundreds of bills

Cross said it would also create a lot of work for lobbyists — with minimal benefit to the public — if lobbyists were required to report all the bills or executive actions they work to influence, because he sometimes tracks hundreds of bills during a legislative session. At the moment, no one is advocating for expanded lobbying disclosures in Oregon, Cross said. "I'm not aware of any issues, I guess, that have evolved in the last four or five years where other organizations, we really need to remind our lobbying disclosure laws because of problems with corruption or something."

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



Lyra Fontaine/The Daily Astorian

American Legion 168 commander Dan O'Reilly and other veterans raise their hands in salute during the playing of taps.

'Liberty is not free'

In Cannon Beach, a day of gratitude and remembrance

By LYRA FONTAINE
The Daily Astorian

CANNON BEACH — Flowers in hand, families and veterans gathered on Fir Street Bridge Monday to remember those who lost their lives serving the country.

The American Legion Post 168 has organized a Memorial Day ceremony in Cannon

Beach since the 1970s. "Today is a time to pause and reflect on just how much we owe others," Post Commander Dan O'Reilly told the crowd. "Liberty is not free. Our sons and daughters have answered the call again and again. They have done this without regard for sex, race or religion. We are the melting pot. This is what makes us strong. Many have given their all ... for the freedoms we enjoy."

This price, he added, has been paid in all corners of the world.

"We must be watchful that our leaders never commit our valuable resources to a cause that's not necessary, because again, freedom is not free,"

O'Reilly said. "The playing of taps tells those who have preceded us to rest, for their day is done. Rest in peace, my brothers and sisters. We have the watch. We have your legacy."

He ended his oration with the U.S. Marine Corps motto "Semper fidelis," or "Always faithful."

Cannon Beach Community Church pastor David Robinson led a prayer honoring fallen veterans. "May they rest in peace and may your perpetual light shine upon them," Robinson said.

Robinson issued a plea for justice for the oppressed and peace for all peoples so mili-

tary sacrifice will not have been in vain.

"And may we never fail to remember the awesome cost of the freedom, which we enjoy here on this bridge and in this fine city," Robinson said.

While taps were played, O'Reilly and those who served the country, whether retired or on active duty, raised their hands in salute. Others in the crowd placed their hands over their hearts.

Following the bugle call, families stepped forward to toss flowers into Ecola Creek from the Fir Street Bridge to remember loved ones who died in service.

Memorial Day: 'Most of the guys are silent'

Continued from Page 1A

"Yesterday, I walked out on the beach and I looked at the ocean and the sand and I realized I owe a debt to 1,355,000 million Americans who gave up their life so I could stand on that beach," said Michael Heuvelhorst, an officer of the Seaside Elks Lodge. "I just can't imagine what it would take to repay that debt."

The liberty Americans enjoy — to celebrate the national holiday, to spend time with their loved ones — was paid for by those who gave their lives fighting for the country.

"We need to remember

this not only today, but every day," Heuvelhorst said.

Col. Michael Becker, from the Camp Rilea Armed Forces Training Center, gave a brief history of Memorial Day, which he called "America's most solemn holiday."

"This day is observed on the last Monday of May," he said. "It is the day we set aside in which we give honor to the men and women who died while serving in the U.S. military."

The history is important, Becker said, to understand its significance. He urged the audience to share with their children "what this day is all about."

The event was capped by

the traditional wreath-laying ceremony. Standing atop the Broadway Bridge and accompanied by First Vice Commander Brad Moore, Greg McCollum, of Seaside, laid a wreath in the Neawanna Creek in memory and celebration of his father, Jack McCollum, who served in the Korean War and died in November.

Although Jack McCollum received a Bronze Star and was proud of his service to the United States, "he was a very quiet individual," and kept silent regarding his memories of the war, Greg McCollum said.

"Most of the guys are silent," he added.

To have the life and service

of his father, who was a member of the Seaside American Legion, remembered during the Memorial Day service was "overwhelming," McCollum said.

"It's very special," he said. The ceremony also included the singing of "The Star-Spangled Banner" and "God Bless America," by Kayla Vowels, and "Amazing Grace," by Maureen Boggs, a member of the Seaside American Legion Auxiliary.

Instead of an opening prayer, Post 99 Chaplain Jeanie Peterman shared lines from the war poem "In Flanders Fields," which is written from the perspective of those who died in conflict.

Milligan: He's in custody at Two Rivers Correctional Institution

Continued from Page 1A

Burton ruled on two of the central issues in the case, both of which, in different ways, deal with statutes limiting the windows of time in which claims may be filed for damages stemming from injury or sex abuse.

The defense had argued that the \$5.5 million lawsuit was subject to the Oregon Tort Claims Act, which requires claims against government agencies to be noticed within six months of the alleged injury and filed within two years. In this case, the crimes occurred in 1998, and the claim was not filed until 2014 because — according to the plaintiffs — J.M. had repressed the memories of the abuse.

However, the plaintiff had countered that a different provision of Oregon law should apply, which allows victims of child sex abuse until the age of 40 to file claims. One of J.M.'s attorneys, Dennis Steinman, said his client was only 30 when the claim was filed.

Burton ultimately ruled in favor of the Oregon Youth Authority.

In a phone interview, Steinman said the decision creates a "disconnect" in the law.

"The net effect of the judge's ruling is that if a child is abused by a church or the Boy Scouts or some other private entity, you have until you're 40 years old to bring

the claim, but if you're abused by a public entity, you have this very short window to file," he said. "And if you're 5 years old, you may not even realize that you were abused until you're 30."

The second issue concerned differences between Oregon and U.S. case law in regard to a federal statute commonly used to bring claims of alleged civil and constitutional rights violations.

Steinman said that federal case law has established a tighter window for when a plaintiff discovers the claims, but he and his firm had argued the court should use a different discovery standard that was discovered by the Oregon Supreme Court.

But Burton decided that her decision was bound by federal case law. That means J.M. had only until his 19th birthday, in 2002, to file his claim.

Steinman said he could not comment on whether they would appeal, citing attorney-client privilege.

The initial complaint alleged that, on two separate occasions during the plaintiff's first month at MacLaren, Milligan ordered J.M. to accompany him to the laundry room. Once there, Milligan forced the plaintiff to perform a sex act on him and sexually assaulted him, the complaint alleged.

The complaint also said Milligan grabbed J.M.'s throat, told him to keep his mouth shut because no one would

believe him and threatened to break his neck.

"Plaintiff lived in fear that Milligan would sexually assault him again during the time that plaintiff was at MacLaren," the complaint read in part. J.M. was released from MacLaren in September 1999.

The petition said J.M.

blocked out the abuse after being released, and the memories did not begin to resurface until 2012, when news broke of the sex abuse scandal at Penn State University involving Jerry Sandusky.

Milligan is currently in custody at the medium-security Two Rivers Correctional Institution in Umatilla.

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