

Democrats disrupt House, stage protest over guns

By **MATTHEW DALY**
Associated Press



Rep. **Chillie Pingree** via AP

This photo provided by Rep. Chillie Pingree, D-Maine, shows Democrat members of Congress, including Rep. John Lewis, D-Ga., center, and Rep. Elizabeth Esty, D-Conn. as they participate in sit-down protest seeking a vote on gun control measures, Wednesday on the floor of the House on Capitol Hill in Washington.

WASHINGTON — Rebelious Democrats staged an extraordinary all-day sit-in on the House floor Wednesday to demand votes on gun-control bills, shouting down Speaker Paul Ryan when he attempted to restore order as their protest stretched into the night.

The stunning and unruly scene was broadcast live to the world from Democrats' cell phones, feeds picked up by C-SPAN after Republicans shut down the network's cameras.

The sit-in was well into its 10th hour, with Democrats camped out on the floor stopping legislative business in the House, when Ryan stepped to the podium to gavel the House into session and hold votes on routine business. Angry Democrats chanted "No bill, no break!" and waved pieces of paper with the names of gun victims, continuing their protest in the well of the House even as lawmakers voted on a previously scheduled and unrelated measure to overturn a veto by President Barack Obama.

Ryan attempted to ignore the outbursts and announce the business of the day, pounding down his gavel over shouting. "Shame! Shame! Shame!" Democrats yelled, but Ryan left the lectern and the voting continued. Then Democrats began singing "We Shall Overcome," still holding up the names of gun victims.

The scene presented a radical, almost shocking departure from the normal orderly conduct of the House. It was uncertain what would happen as the night stretched on. Republicans planned to attempt to adjourn the House, and hoped to present themselves as soberly attending to business and Democrats as disruptive. Democrats said they would stay until Republicans yielded to their demands to hold votes on bills to strengthen background checks and prevent people on the no fly list from getting guns in the wake of last week's massacre in Orlando, Florida.

The protest included Ore-

gon Reps. Suzanne Bonamici, Earl Blumenauer and Peter DeFazio, as well as Sens. Ron Wyden and Jeff Merkley.

"There is so much we can do to address gun violence, Bonamici said. "It's not thoughts and prayers. It's not moments of silence. We've done enough of that. Our constituents today are looking at us and saying please take action."

"Let's do this for the families of the victims in the Pulse Nightclub in Orlando. Let's do this for the victims of Aurora. For the victims of Columbine, of Umpqua Community College, of Clackamas Town Center in Oregon," she added. "Let's do this not only

for the families of the victims, but for the future. For our kids. Enough is enough."

"Are they more afraid than the children at Sandy Hook?" asked Rep. Mike Thompson, D-Calif., referring to the 2012 shooting that killed 26 people, including 20 elementary school children, in Newtown, Connecticut. "What is so scary about having a vote?"

Ryan dismissed the protest as "nothing more than a publicity stunt," and in an interview with CNN, made clear there would be no vote.

"We're not going to take away a citizen's constitutional rights without due process," he said.

The protest began around

11:30 a.m., interrupted briefly when Rep. Ted Poe, R-Texas, tried to start the House's work at noon. The customary prayer and Pledge of Allegiance went ahead, but Poe was forced to recess the House when dozens of Democrats refused to leave the well.

By evening, 168 House Democrats — out of 188 — and 34 Senate Democrats joined the protest, according to the House minority leader's office. One after another, they spoke of the need for gun control and talked of constituents who had been killed.

Scattered around the House floor were signs reading "Disarm Hate." Visitors watched from the galleries. A crowd of several hundred gun control advocates gathered outside the Capitol and cheered as Democrats addressed them.

Congress remains gridlocked over gun control, a divide even more pronounced in a presidential election year. The sit-in had the feel of a 1960s-style protest, as some lawmakers sat on the floor, others in their seats.

Pot: As of June 21, there were 723 applications to grow the plant in Oregon

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cannabis market.

As of June 21, there were 723 applications to grow pot in Oregon. Of those, 122 were in Jackson County and 91 were in neighboring Josephine County. Southern Oregon has long been the state's cannabis production hotbed, legal or illegal. The tri-county Portland area, including Multnomah, Clackamas and Washington counties, accounted for 250 of the license applications.

Of processing facilities, 25 of the 82 license applications were from Multnomah County, as were 69 of 193 retail outlet applications. The state also received applications from seven testing labs, 57 wholesalers and one research facility.

Some licenses have been approved, many others are in draft form or are being reviewed for land-use compliance by local governments. Meanwhile, the OLCC continues to process license applications as entrepreneurs seek opportunities in the state's recreational

department might have to put an asterisk beside the pot crop value in its annual report. "We will have sales numbers, but I don't know how we would report it," he said.

Oregon crop statistics from 2014 list cattle and calves as the state's top agricultural product, at \$922 million value. Greenhouse and nursery plants was second at \$829 million, and hay was third, at \$703 million.

Seth Crawford, an Oregon State University sociology professor who teaches a pot policy class, estimated in 2015 that Oregon's marijuana crop had an annual value approaching \$1 billion.

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In honor of July 4th,
The Daily Astorian's offices in
Astoria and Seaside will be

CLOSED

MONDAY, JULY 4

PAPER DELIVERY WILL PROCEED AS USUAL

Have a safe holiday!

Classified Deadlines:
Friday, July 1, 11am for
Monday, July 4

Friday, July 1, 1pm for
Tuesday, July 5

Display Ad Deadlines:
Tuesday, June 28, 5 pm for
Monday, July 4 and
Tuesday, July 5

Place classified ads or subscribe 24/7
@ www.dailyastorian.com

Oregon Hunters Association

Clatsop County Chapter

7th Annual Youth Shoot Family Fun Day

Saturday, July 19th
Clatsop County Fairgrounds
8am-5pm

Youth who sign up by July 3rd are entered into a drawing for a .22 rifle!

Shooting all types of guns, plus archery!

Youths 6-17 Years of Age
(Accompanied by their adult supervisor)

\$15 per Youth
(Mandatory adult supervisors attend free!!!)

Pre-register by calling 503-359-3535 or 503-440-9934
or Register 8am at the event

BBQ lunch for everyone! Prizes for all youth!

OHA

The Daily Astorian

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Nehalem Valley Care Center
In Wheeler, OR is
Offering free CNA CLASS!
Class begins August 1st, 2016.
Must be enrolled by July 25th
Call 503-368-5171 ext. 3101
For details.

New Today

Helly Hansen is hiring retail staff to sell outdoor apparel at its Seaside store! Apply: store.seaside@HellyHansen.com

Ocean Spa in Cannon Beach
Busy luxury Ocean Spa now hiring Nail Techs, Massage Therapist F/T Hair Stylist.
Please call 503-436-0664 or email oceanspacb@gmail.com

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37641 Grimstead Lane, Astoria on John Day River Rd.
1950's blonde wood 4-piece antique bedroom set, arm chairs, couch & loveseat, end tables, table with four chairs. Set of three oak bar stools, 100 gallon fish tank with stand, accessories and fish. Bikes, yard supplies, lawn chairs. Dishes, glasses, nice indoor potted plant, canned food, and so much more!

SUNSET EMPIRE
PARK + RECREATION DISTRICT

Sunset Empire Park & Recreation District is looking for a dependable individual to serve as Groundskeeper. Successful applicant will have previous landscape experience. For more information and an application visit www.sunsetempire.com or call 503-738-3311.

New Today

Now hiring motivated and energetic person to join our team. Must be able to obtain food and OLCC permits.
Lower Columbia Bowl
826 Marine Dr. Astoria

Sunset Empire Park & Recreation District announces a change to their Monthly Board of Directors Meeting Schedule. Beginning in July, Board of Directors Meetings will be held on the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 4pm. All meetings are held at the Bob Chisholm Community Center in Seaside and are open to the public. The July Board Meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 19, at 4pm.

SUNSET EMPIRE
PARK + RECREATION DISTRICT

The Sunset Empire Park & Recreation District is seeking applicants to serve on their Board of Directors. The District has a vacancy and the selected Director will serve for approximately one year with the option of running in Spring, 2017. Applicants should reside within District boundaries and have a desire to contribute to the mission of SEPRD in inviting people to P.L.A.Y. (Positive Life Activities for You). For more information or to submit a letter of interest please contact Skyler Archibald, Executive Director at sarchibald@sunsetempire.com or via mail at PO Box 514, Seaside, OR 97138.

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Warehouse Sale
Something for everyone!
Tools, building materials, kitchenware, bed frames, antiques, kids & baby, clothes and shoes.
Priced to move!
Saturday and Sunday
June 25th and 26th, 8 am-3 pm.
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46 Announcements

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