

# POINT of view

THE DAILY ASTORIAN // QUESTION OF THE WEEK

## 'Tuesday was the 158th birthday of Oregon becoming a state. What's your favorite thing about Oregon?'



"My favorite thing is all the greenery — it's lush green."

Karen Cullen, Astoria



"I happen to like Oregon. I've been here for more than 20 years. But the cost of living is getting too much, and a lot of the food in the markets is not natural. What I plan to do is move to Costa Rica."

Val Bragg, Astoria



"The greenery. It's so beautiful to look at, especially on Highway 26."

Christy Peschl, Astoria

## Bill limits employers' ability to recoup fees in wage fights

### Other changes to labor rules are possible

By MATEUSZ PERKOWSKI  
Capital Bureau

SALEM — Oregon employers would be stripped of the ability to recoup attorney fees if they win a wage and hour lawsuit under a proposed bill before state lawmakers, while another would allow claimants to file liens on their employer's property before winning a judgment.

Only employees who file and win such cases would be entitled to attorney fees under House Bill 2169, which is being considered by the House Committee on Business and Labor.

Currently, either workers or employers can recover such

costs if they win legal disputes over wage and hour claims.

Proponents of HB 2169 argue the current system effectively prevents workers from filing lawsuits when employers have paid less than the minimum wage or made improper wage deductions.

"It serves as a real deterrent for low-asset households to proceed with legitimate claims," said Michael Dale, executive director of the Northwest Workers' Justice Project, during a committee hearing Monday.

Judges would still retain the right to penalize plaintiffs and their lawyers for cases that are deemed frivolous, Dale said. "I think it balances out."

Attorneys who represent workers in labor disputes said their clients are typically unwilling to risk paying tens of thousands of dollars in attorney fees over disputes involving several hundred dollars in wages.

"It guarantees bankruptcy for the individual," said attorney David Schuck.

Opponents of HB 2169 argue the law should remain impartial as to who can recoup attorney fees in wage and hour lawsuits.

"We don't think Oregon law should stack the deck against one side or the other," said Anthony Smith, state director for the National Federation of Independent Business.

Tim Bernasek, an attorney representing the Oregon Farm Bureau, said judges ultimately decide whether such awards are appropriate, so workers don't necessarily have to pay the opposing side's attorney fees when they lose a dispute.

The prospect of being liable for attorney fees has a "sobering effect" on both parties in such disputes, Bernasek said. "It's important to keep that balance."

## Climate change panel urges delay in Oregon forest policy decisions

### Forests store carbon dioxide

By MATEUSZ PERKOWSKI  
Capital Bureau

SALEM — Activists often urge a speedier government response to climate change, but the Oregon Global Warming Commission doesn't want to rush any decisions involving forest policy.

Angus Duncan, the commission's chair, recently told lawmakers it's better to wait until it's better understood how forest management can offset carbon emissions, which are blamed for climate change.

Up until now, the commission has focused on quantifying the amount of carbon absorbed by forests across different regions in the state.

Altogether, Oregon's forests store the equivalent of about 9.7 billion tons of carbon dioxide — roughly 150 times as much as the state emits per year, according to the commission.

Before making forest management recommendations, the commission plans to determine the historical carbon fluctuations in Oregon forests and how they're affected by climate change and human interventions such as logging, said Duncan.

"We don't see anybody



EO Media Group

The equivalent of about 9.7 billion tons of carbon dioxide are stored in Oregon's forests, which is roughly 150 times more than the state's annual emissions.

else who is doing this type of work," he said.

Improving forest health and preventing wildfires may involve removing trees, but these choices involve a "trade-off" in terms of carbon accrual, Duncan said.

Wildfires in Oregon have been emitting roughly 1.5 million tons to 4 million tons of carbon dioxide a year since the beginning of the 21st century, but it's unclear whether this level is normal or excessive, the commission found.

The impact of forest fires on carbon emissions is complicated by the extent and severity of fires — in some cases, fires can affect large acreages but the forest will still store

carbon in burned trees, he said.

Of the 63.4 million tons of carbon dioxide emitted in Oregon in 2015, about 37 percent came from the transportation sector, 35 percent came from the residential and commercial sectors and 20 percent came from the industrial sector, according to the commission.

With about 8 percent of the total, the agricultural sector contributed the smallest share of Oregon's emissions.

Oregon is expected to fall short of its carbon emissions-cutting goals in coming years, but Duncan said he expects the output of renewable energy to increase in the state and the nation due to technology improvements and lower costs.

In the future, the energy industry will move away from a "command and control" structure, with utilities buying electricity from a variety of sources as needed, similar to the stock market, he said.

Oregon's contribution to reduce global emissions will depend on a "mutually-reinforcing club" of other states and countries taking similar steps, Duncan said.

"If we do our job and nobody else does theirs, we're toast, and I mean that literally," he said.

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

**FIVE-DAY FORECAST FOR ASTORIA** AccuWeather.com

TONIGHT	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
47	50 40	49 37	50 36	49 39
Breezy with rain at times	Variable clouds with showers; breezy	Periods of sun	Times of clouds and sun	Cloudy with a little rain

**ALMANAC** Astoria through Tuesday.

**Temperatures**  
High/low ..... 59°/33°  
Normal high/low ..... 52°/37°  
Record high ..... 64° in 1934  
Record low ..... 22° in 1990

**Precipitation**  
Tuesday ..... 0.17"  
Month to date ..... 7.19"  
Normal month to date ..... 3.73"  
Year to date ..... 13.00"  
Normal year to date ..... 13.93"

**SUN AND MOON**  
Sunset tonight ..... 5:42 p.m.  
Sunrise Thursday ..... 7:17 a.m.  
Moonrise today ..... 11:00 p.m.  
Moonset today ..... 9:42 a.m.

**REGIONAL WEATHER**  
Shown is tomorrow's weather. Temperatures are tonight's lows and tomorrow's highs.

**UNDER THE SKY**  
Tonight's Sky: Galileo Galilei's birthday. (1564)

Source: Jim Todd, OMSI

**TOMORROW'S TIDES**  
Astoria / Port Docks

Time	High	Time	Low
4:43 a.m.	8.5 ft.	11:08 a.m.	1.7 ft.
5:09 p.m.	7.0 ft.	10:58 p.m.	2.0 ft.

**REGIONAL CITIES**

City	Today	Thu.	City	Today	Thu.
Baker City	37 34 pc	41 25 sh	Olympia	55 45 r	51 38 sh
Bend	46 36 r	46 29 sh	Pendleton	38 37 i	45 34 sh
Brookings	59 48 r	51 42 sh	Portland	51 44 r	52 38 sh
Eugene	59 46 r	51 39 sh	Roseburg	65 47 r	53 40 sh
Ilwaco	54 46 r	49 41 sh	Salem	55 47 r	53 38 sh
Klamath Falls	49 38 r	46 32 sh	Seaside	54 46 r	49 42 sh
Medford	63 44 r	54 38 sh	Spokane	41 37 i	45 30 r
Newberg	53 44 r	52 38 sh	Springfield	58 45 r	51 40 sh
Newport	57 49 r	52 41 sh	Vancouver	52 44 r	52 38 sh
North Bend	64 49 r	54 43 sh	Yakima	38 35 i	46 27 c

**TOMORROW'S NATIONAL WEATHER**  
Shown are noon positions of weather systems and precipitation. Temperature bands are highs for the day.

## OBITUARY

### Dennis S. Arden

Astoria

April 30, 1961 — Dec. 28, 2016

Dennis S. Arden passed away at home, peacefully, from cancer.

He is survived by his wife, Alice; his stepdaughters, Kathleen, Sandra and Jymeen; a brother, James; and a sister, Nancy.

Dennis was founder and CEO of Newoctave Corp. and International Piano Supply, furnishing parts and

accessories to six continents. As an experienced restorer and piano tuner, he was able to offer help by a dedicated phone line.

His family was very thankful for the wonderful care Lower Columbia Hospice gave Dennis. He was not always the best patient, but he was grateful for the compassion.



Dennis Arden

## ON THE RECORD

### DUII

At 11:11 p.m. Monday, Randall Layman, 30, of Astoria, was arrested by the Warrenton Police Department on Burma Road in Fort Ste-

vens State Park for driving under the influence of intoxicants. Layman allegedly struck an elk near the Peter Iredale shipwreck. He drove away from the scene in a sil-

ver Toyota 4Runner when an officer approached but was taken into custody by another officer near Ridge Road. His blood alcohol content was .16.

## DEATH

Feb. 14, 2017

MERRILL, Alice Lorene, 84, of Astoria, died in Seaside. Caldwell's Luce-Layton Mortuary in Astoria is in charge of the arrangements.

## MEMORIALS

Saturday, Feb. 18

CAUSLEY, Christopher A. — Informal celebration of life at 1 p.m., Big O Saloon, 89523 Oregon Highway 202 in Olney.

HERRMANN, Alice Winifred — Memorial at 1 p.m., Lighthouse Christian Church, 88786 Dellmorr Loop in Warrenton.

## PUBLIC MEETINGS

### WEDNESDAY

Seaside Tourism and Advisory Committee, 3 p.m., City Hall, 989 Broadway.

Gearhart City Council, 5 p.m., special meeting on brew pub appeal for video lottery machines, City Hall, 698 Pacific Way.

Astoria School Board, 6:15 p.m., executive session (closed to public), study session following, 7:30 p.m., regular meeting, Capt. Robert Gray School third-floor boardroom, 785 Alameda Ave.

### THURSDAY

Cannon Beach Parks and Community Services Committee, 9 a.m., City Hall, 163 E. Gower St.

Cannon Beach Design Review Board, 6 p.m., City Hall, 163 E. Gower St.

Gearhart Planning Commission and City Council, 6 p.m., joint work session, City Hall, 698 Pacific Way.

Seaside Transportation Advisory Commission, 6 p.m., City Hall, 989 Broadway.

## LOTTERIES

### OREGON

Tuesday's Pick 4:  
1 p.m.: 2-6-7-2  
4 p.m.: 6-8-1-1  
7 p.m.: 4-3-3-9  
10 p.m.: 4-1-5-0  
Tuesday's Mega Millions:  
7-11-33-60-68, Mega Ball: 15  
Estimated jackpot: \$46 million  
WASHINGTON  
Tuesday's Daily Game: 8-8-7  
Tuesday's Keno: 04-08-11-22-25-31-32-36-39-41-42-48-56-60-63-64-65-67-72-75  
Tuesday's Match 4: 01-19-20-21

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The Daily Astorian publishes paid obituaries. The obituary can include a small photo and, for veterans, a flag symbol at no charge. The deadline for all obituaries is 10 a.m. the business day prior.

Obituaries may be edited for spelling, proper punctuation and style. Death notices and upcoming services will be published at no charge. Notices must be submitted by 9 a.m. the day of publication.

Obituaries and notices may be submitted online at [www.dailyastorian.com/forms/obits](http://www.dailyastorian.com/forms/obits), by email at [ewilson@dailyastorian.com](mailto:ewilson@dailyastorian.com), placed via the funeral home or in person at The Daily Astorian office, 949 Exchange St. in Astoria. For more information, call 503-325-3211, ext. 257.

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