

OBITUARIES

William K. Girard
Warrenton
June 26, 1950 — March 18, 2017

William K. Girard was born in Scotia, California. He lived in Fortuna, in the redwoods of Northern California, until middle school, then moved to Salem, Oregon. After military service, he lived in Stockton, California.

He married his wife, Vicki, in 1985. Bill had two previous marriages. After his children were grown, he and Vicki moved to the Warrenton area.

Bill passed away, joining his maker and feeling the peace of the Lord in his heart, on March 18. It was a long road home to the Lord, after a lengthy illness.

He always said his greatest achievement in life was his children, and how successful and wonderful they are. He took no credit for this, and said with a laugh that it was despite his parenting.

In addition to his wife, he leaves a son, Troy Girard and his wife, Mercedes, of Poway, California; a daughter, Jeana Ramos and her husband, Andy, of Lodi, California; two brothers-in-law, Mathew Madison and Ray McLaren of Berkeley, California; and a nephew, Brandt Jones. Bill has four beautiful granddaughters, Carra and Kaitlin Ramos and Charlotte and Margot Girard. Before his strength was taken from him, he was a fun-loving papa to the grandkids. Bill also has numerous cousins in Washington state, Oregon and California. He has great childhood memories.

Bill would like us to remember special fam-

ily friends, Glen and Dorothy Mathews, their sons Brad and his wife, Shannon, and Jay and his wife, Faedra, who shared many good times. He was preceded in death by his father, Kenneth Girard; mother, Patricia (Williams) Girard; and a sister, Barbara (Girard) Parker.

Bill loved the outdoors, hunting, camping and fishing. His wife of 32 years, Vicki, shared his love of the outdoors, and the many adventures they had. They moved to the North Coast 19 years ago from Stockton, California, to enjoy the beauty of the area. Bill and Vicki agreed it was their best decision, other than falling in love with each other.

Bill worked as a construction project manager in California, specializing in fire restoration, and for Northwest Oregon Housing Authority in Warrenton as a housing inspector. Both careers gave Bill an opportunity to be of service to people in their time of need.

Bill has requested no service; just asks that you remember him with a smile.

Special thanks for the kind and loving care provided by Lower Columbia Hospice. Should you wish to, you may make a donation in his name to Relay for Life of Clatsop County, Lower Columbia Hospice or your favor charity.

Ocean View Funeral & Cremation Service of Astoria is in charge of the arrangements. An online guest book may be signed at www.oceanviewastoria.com

Eric Wayne Lappi
Portland
Nov. 4, 1958 — Jan. 22, 2017

Eric was born to Wayne and Bernadette Lappi in Rio Del Mar, California, and left us in Portland, Oregon.

He was raised in Santa Cruz County, California, with a love for surfing, skiing, fishing and hunting.

He had a few job experiences before going to and finishing school at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo in 1983 with a degree in engineering, which he used to work in refrigeration and air conditioning for most of his life.

He married Katie Quinn and moved to Bainbridge Island, Washington, where he had two sons. Sean was born in 1989, and Spencer in 1991. He later married Karen Cornell in 2001 and moved to Portland, Oregon, where he spent the remainder of his life. They both enjoyed similar activities and trav-

eled often. There were many visits to Seaside, Oregon, to visit both his and Karen's families.

Eric continued to enjoy snow skiing, fishing, cooking and some hunting. He passed his love for surfing onto his two sons, who continue to enjoy their time in the ocean. He had a kind heart and was always willing to share his many stories. There will always be Eric Lappi stories.

Eric is survived by his wife, Karen; his mother, Bernadette; his brother, Brian; his two sons; and a good number of close friends and relatives.

As we share our stories and memories of Eric, what counts is that they are remembered, and when we think about Eric, we feel fortunate to have time with him.



Eric Lappi

Businesses say paid family leave adds to fatigue of state mandates

Proponents argue US lags behind on crucial benefit

By PARIS ACHEN
Capital Bureau

SALEM — A bill to require 12 weeks of paid family and medical leave would bring Oregon up to the living standards of most other developed nations but represents another financial setback to the state's business community, said speakers at a hearing Thursday at the Capitol.

The hearing in front of the House Committee on Early Childhood and Family Supports drew a standing room-only crowd with attendees watching from an overflow room and in the hallway.

"It is beyond time for Oregon and the U.S. to join the rest of the civilized world," said Diane Solomon, a psychiatric nurse practitioner with the Oregon Nurses Association.

While many businesses support and offer family and medical leave, the bill is overreaching," said Betsy Earls of Associated Oregon Industries.

The legislation "creates conditions that would make it costly and difficult for businesses — especially small ones — to plan and manage their operations," Earls said.

The bill, sponsored by four House Democrats, would require a mandatory 1/2 percent deduction from employees' pay. Employers would be required to contribute an equal amount. The money would go to a paid leave insurance program administered by the state Department of Business and Consumer Services.

Employees who have been

on the job for at least 90 days would be eligible to use a portion of the benefit; after 12 months, they would be eligible for up to 12 weeks of paid leave for illness or a family member's illness. Employees could take up to 18 months of parental leave for a new baby, adoption or foster care child placement and receive at least 90 percent of their regular wages or salary.

Four states — California, New Jersey, Rhode Island and New York — have developed some type of paid family leave program. Paid leave for new parents is available for 16 weeks in France, 15 weeks in Canada, a full year in Germany and 15 weeks in Japan, Solomon noted.

About 14 percent of workers across the nation have access to paid family and medical leave at work, according to the Time for Oregon Coalition, which supports the bill.

Federal and Oregon law provide up to 12 weeks of unpaid leave for some workers — however, these laws don't apply to everyone and don't provide lost income.

Some family members are excluded by workplace and economic policies that fail to recognize the nearly 80 percent of American families that don't fit the nuclear family model of a married mother and father and their biologically related children, said Rose King, a coalition spokeswoman.

Proponents cite research that shows women who are forced to go back to work too soon after having a baby are predisposed to postpartum depression. Meanwhile, babies benefit from receiving care from their parents during the first 12 weeks of life, said Dr.

Evan Shereck, a pediatrician at Portland's Oregon Health Science University.

"This is a time when children are at their most vulnerable and it is critical to have a caregiver with them 24 hours a day. Unfortunately, not everyone has the option to stay home and care for their new baby," Shereck said.

Opponents said the requirement would add to a mounting burden of new laws squeezing money out of businesses, including mandatory paid sick leave and increases in the minimum wage.

The requirements would constitute an "unfunded mandate" for cities, counties and special districts, said Mark Landauer of the Special Districts Association of Oregon.

One farmer said the requirement would be another "nail in the coffin" of the agricultural community.

Lisa Stone, whose family owns a Christmas tree farm in Marion County, said farmers are having a hard time absorbing all of the additional costs imposed by the Legislature. She estimated the requirement would cost the family farm about \$7,000.

"Paid family and medical leave is a basic protection guaranteed to working families in countries around the world," state Rep. Jennifer Williamson, D-Portland, said. "As a country and a state, we are lagging severely behind. It's time for Oregon to prioritize this issue and ensure that a new baby or a health crisis no longer means potential financial disaster for working families."

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

Transit district appoints Alegria to board

The Daily Astorian

Sunset Empire Transportation District's Board of Commissioners has approved the appointment of Pamela Alegria to the district board, filling the Commissioner No. 4 vacancy.

Paul Lewicki resigned from the position in

December, having held it since 2011.

Alegria has a master's degree in urban and regional planning. She was a planner for the state Department of Transportation, analyzing development proposals for compliance issues, and was also a planner for the city of Warrenton.

Weather forecast section including: FIVE-DAY FORECAST FOR ASTORIA, ALMANAC, REGIONAL WEATHER, SUN AND MOON, UNDER THE SKY, TOMORROW'S TIDES, NATIONAL CITIES, TOMORROW'S NATIONAL WEATHER.

CORRECTION

Stores incorrect — An editorial on 6A Tuesday on the pending closure of the J.C. Penney store in Astoria incorrectly listed a J.C. Penney store in Portland and one in the Three Rivers Mall in Longview, Washington, as on the list for

closure. The stores in Oregon slated for closure include one in Pendleton, and not Portland. In Washington, the Three Rivers Mall is in Kelso, not Longview, and its store is not on the list. The store scheduled for closing in Washington is in Snohomish.

PUBLIC MEETINGS

FRIDAY
Cannon Beach Planning Commission, 6 p.m., City Hall, 163 E. Gower St.

ON THE RECORD

Assault
• At 8:51 p.m. Thursday, Wendy Watson, 31, of Seaside, was arrested by the Seaside Police Department at the 800 block of Ocean Way for assault.

OBITUARY POLICY

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 9 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.

KEEN Versatrail WP Mens shoes advertisement with price \$130.00 and Gimre's Shoes logo.

The Daily Astorian subscription rates and contact information.