# Under court order, **Oregon will restore** in-home care services

### Families sued state over cuts

#### **By CLAIRE** WITHYCOMBE Capital Bureau

SALEM — The Oregon Department of Human Services will temporarily restore previous levels of in-home care services to people with intellectual and developmental disabilities under a court order won by plaintiffs who filed a federal lawsuit contesting recent cuts.

The department determines every year how many hours of in-home care someone with an intellectual or developmental disability is eligible for.

Disability Rights Oregon, an advocacy organization that filed the suit last week, objects to how those decisions are made, saying the process is opaque.

The lawsuit alleges that under federal law, the agency violated the civil and due process rights of Oregonians receiving these services, as well as the Medicaid requirement that the Office of Developmental Disabilities Services must provide such services "as needed."

#### New assessment

Last year, the agency implemented a new assessment method on a rolling basis, which the lawsuit argues resulted in a reduction of in-home care hours for many people although the amount of help they needed at home had not changed.

Not all people receiving in-home care services have yet felt reductions, because the changes have been implemented gradually.

Tom Stenson, litigation attorney with Disability Rights Oregon, said Wednesday's order means any new assessment method the state wants to use "effecrequires" tively court approval.

The lawsuit is still ongoing. The Department of Human Services is "working on (its) plan to implement the agreement," a spokeswoman said in an email.

to explain to people why there's a change and give them an opportunity to contest it."

Joondeph said his organization had raised the issue and proposed solutions in private meetings with the agency, but filed a lawsuit after the agency did not act.

#### **Federal funding**

In 2013, after the expansion of Medicaid under the Affordable Care Act, and a specific federal funding option called the Community First Choice Plan that provided funds so people with disabilities could community-based access services, there were significant increases in those eligible for in-home care — and in costs to the state.

In 2015, state legislators agreed to pay for the unanticipated costs in the upcoming budget cycle, but asked the Department of Human Services to come up with a way to contain the rate of cost growth in the future. That became the method that advocates are now contesting in court.

Renee Kuhn, of Woodburn, says her daughter would need to enter adult foster care if the state cut her in-home care hours.

Khrizma Kuhn, 34, is severely disabled, requiring help with basic activities and care such as bathing and eating. She receives 20 hours of care a day, Renee Kuhn said. Her daughter underwent her annual assessment on Tuesday and she expected to learn the results Friday.

"We already told our caseworker to begin the steps to explore foster homes for our daughter, where she can access the services she needs," Renee Kuhn, who also advocates for other families with children who have intellectual and developmental disabilities, said.

#### State budget

The Department of Human Services makes up a significant chunk of the state's approximately \$20 billion general fund budget, which lawmakers are busy trying to balance in the face of an approximately \$1.6 billion shortfall. Reducing in-home care for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities by 30 percent, as the department had planned prior to the court order, would have saved the state's general fund \$6 million in the upcoming two-year budget.

# WORLD IN BRIEF

Associated Press

### Additional 1,000 Oregon eclipse campsites quickly sell out

SALEM - State park officials opened 1,000 additional campsites for people coming to watch the summer solar eclipse from Oregon.

And it didn't long for them to fill.

Parks Department spokesman Chris Havel says the campsites were made available for reservation at 8 a.m. Wednesday and it took just over an hour for them to be snapped up.

All state park sites available by reservation are now taken, though cancellations may return a few sites to the pool.

The highly anticipated eclipse will occur on the morning of Aug. 21.

## It's an orca! Last killer whale is born at a SeaWorld park

MIAMI — The last orca has been born in captivity at a Sea-World park in San Antonio just over a year after the theme park decided to stop breeding orcas following animal rights protests and declining ticket sales.

The Orlando-based company said the orca — the last in a generation of whales bred in confinement — was born Wednesday afternoon. SeaWorld did not immediately name the calf because the park's veterinarians had not yet determined whether it was male or female.

The mother, 25-year-old Takara, was already pregnant when SeaWorld announced in March 2016 that it had stopped breeding its orcas. The gestation period for orcas is about 18 months.

SeaWorld decided to stop breeding orcas, and phase out its world-famous killer whale performances by 2019, after public opinion turned against keeping orcas, dolphins and other animals in captivity for entertainment. The backlash intensified after the 2013 release of "Blackfish," a documentary critical of SeaWorld's orca care. It focused on the orca Tilikum, which killed trainer Dawn Brancheau in Orlando in 2010, dragging her into the pool before shocked visitors after a "Dine with Shamu" show.

Tilikum, which sired 14 calves over nearly 25 years in Orlando, died of bacterial pneumonia in January.

### Once critical of global deals, Trump slow to pull out of any

WASHINGTON - The "America First" president who vowed to extricate America from onerous overseas commitments appears to be warming up to the view that when it comes to global agreements, a deal's a deal.

From NAFTA to the Iran nuclear agreement to the Paris climate accord, President Donald Trump's campaign rhetoric is colliding with the reality of governing. Despite repeated pledges to rip up, renegotiate or otherwise alter them, the U.S. has yet to withdraw from any of these economic, environmental or national security deals, as Trump's past criticism turns to tacit embrace of several key elements of U.S. foreign policy.

The administration says it is reviewing these accords and could still pull out of them. A day after certifying Iran's compliance with the nuclear deal, Secretary of State Rex Tillerson attacked the accord and listed examples of Iran's bad behavior. His tone suggested that even if Iran is fulfilling the letter of its nuclear commitments, the deal remains on unsure footing.

Yet with one exception - an Asia-Pacific trade deal that already had stalled in Congress - Trump's administration quietly has laid the groundwork to honor the international architecture of deals it has inherited. It's a sharp shift from the days when Trump was declaring the end of a global-minded America that negotiates away its interests and subsidizes foreigners' security and prosperity.

Trump had called the Iran deal the "worst" ever, and claimed climate change was a hoax. But in place of action, the Trump administration is only reviewing these agreements, as it is doing



Chris Gotshall/SeaWorld Parks & Entertainment Orca Takara helps quide her newborn to the water's surface at SeaWorld San Antonio on Wednesday.

Fired on Wednesday amid a drumbeat of sexual harassment allegations, the vacationing host's "The O'Reilly Factor" was quickly redubbed "The Factor" and Fox News announced his time slot will be filled by Tucker Carlson, another adamantly conservative Fox host who dovetails with the channel's audience.

But it was O'Reilly who created the template for how to succeed in cable TV punditry, delighting his viewers with unapologetic attacks on liberal politicians and media members that he delivered with gusto.

"In many ways, he led Fox's cable news revolution," said Frank Sesno, a journalism professor at George Washington University and former CNN Washington bureau chief. "Cable news is someone standing on a mountain top shouting, and Bill O'Reilly was on the highest peak so he echoed across the landscape."

And he keeps echoing in the broader media landscape. O'Reilly's success at appealing to like-minded viewers made him and Fox into cable news leaders.

# **Questions abound in aftermath** of NFL star Hernandez's death

BOSTON - Aaron Hernandez's death in prison - just days after the former NFL star was cleared of additional murder charges remains shrouded in mystery.

Why now? Is there more to the story? What happens to his estate?

Authorities offered few answers after Hernandez was found hanging from a bedsheet Wednesday in his cell in a maximum-security prison in Massachusetts, where he was serving a life sentence for the 2013 slaying of a onetime friend.

His death came hours before his former New England Patriots teammates visited the White House to celebrate their Super Bowl victory. Hernandez, 27, died five days after a jury acquitted him in the 2012 shooting deaths of two men whom prosecutors alleged he gunned down after one accidentally spilled a drink on him at a Boston nightclub.

The apparent suicide left friends, family and his legal team shocked and in disbelief. Many were searching for an explanation to the tragic end of a young man whose football skills at one point earned him a five-year, \$40 million contract extension with the NFL's top franchise.

### **AP Exclusive: Pesticide maker** tries to kill risk study

WASHINGTON — Dow Chemical is pushing the Trump administration to scrap the findings of federal scientists who point to a family of widely used pesticides as harmful to about 1,800 critically threatened or endangered species.

Lawyers representing Dow, whose CEO also heads a White House manufacturing working group, and two other makers of organophosphates sent letters last week to the heads of three Cabinet agencies. The companies asked them "to set aside" the results of government studies the companies contend are fundamentally flawed

Bob Joondeph, the executive director of Disability Rights Oregon, said that his organization also wants to make sure families had a transparent avenue to challenge a needs assessment.

"It's great if they change the formula to work better," said Joondeph, "But at the end of the day, what we want is that even with the new formula, we'd be able

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with much of American foreign policy

# O'Reilly is out at Fox but influence endures; career too?

LOS ANGELES — Despite the inglorious end to Bill O'Reilly's two-decade Fox News Channel career, observers say his deep imprint on Fox and other cable news outlets and his influence on barbed political discourse are intact for the foreseeable future.

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THE DAILY ASTORIAN



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