

Bill to require advance notice of work schedule heads to governor

By **PARIS ACHEN**
Capital Bureau

SALEM — Oregon is poised to become first in the nation to adopt a statewide law to require advance notice of employees' work schedules.

"It's going to be a national model," said state Rep. Ann Lininger, D-Lake Oswego.

The House of Representatives voted 46-13 Thursday to pass the legislation. The Senate approved the measure 23-6 last week.

Gov. Kate Brown's signature is the final step to enact the law.

The legislation requires employers in the retail, hospitality or food service sectors who have 500 or more employees to give at least seven days' notice of a work schedule. The law would take effect July 1, 2018. By July 2020, the amount of required notice would increase to 14 days. Employers are exempt from the requirement when there are weather conditions

beyond their control.

The notice gives workers more time to arrange child or elder care and juggle schedules for multiple jobs and school.

"I think that there is wide agreement that we want families to be able to provide for themselves. We want families to want to be able to have and to be able to sustain a job, and I believe this bill will make that easier," Lininger said.

Employers may not schedule workers for shifts with-

out a minimum of a 10-hour reprieve in between.

"I think it promotes safety as well as people's good health," said Rep. Janelle Bynum, D-Clackamas, who owns two McDonald's franchises in Portland. "On the business side, I support this because I believe it will make Oregon a leader in the development of this policy."

When employers fail to give the mandatory notice, they will be required to pay penalty compensation to

the employee.

Employees who wish to work last-minute shifts or shifts that are closer than 10 hours apart to earn more income may join a standby list. Employees on the standby list who voluntarily pick up last-minute shifts will not receive the penalty compensation.

Workers who think their employer has violated the law may file a complaint with the Bureau of Labor and Industries or a civil complaint.

Rep. Greg Barreto, R-Cove,

who voted against the bill, said Oregon's policies are "picking winners and losers."

"In this regard, maybe a Plaid Pantry that has a different model in the way it is set up and has more than 500 employees is different from say a 7-Eleven that has the individual stores," Barreto said. "Whether they have a certain number of employees, we pick and choose. Whether they are in retail, hospitality and food service versus other industries, we pick and choose."

Library: The building was special for Larson

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Personal mission

The library, originally housed on the west side of U.S. Highway 101, was deemed too small, lacked parking and critical facilities for patrons and staff.

But with daunting costs, plans for a new building stalled until Seaside resident Albert Groot offered a \$500,000 matching grant, former library Director Reita Fackerell said.

Mayor Larson, who took office in 2002, made the library his personal mission and in 2005, a new library became the City Council's No. 1 goal.

Larson envisioned a building that would blend in with the beach and be something the community would be proud of.

Under Larson's leadership, "The community completely came together," Fackerell said.

The city purchased the property at 1131 Broadway in 2007 for \$184,000.

With grants, urban renewal money and fundraising, the library opened its doors in 2008 without raising taxes or incurring debt, Fackerell said.

Ribbon cutting

The building was special for Larson. Project Manager Dale McDowell — now the city's public works director — even gave Larson an honorary



R.J. Marx/The Daily Astorian
Don Larson's family attended a ceremony Thursday night where the former mayor was honored with the renaming of the Seaside Library. Larson's wife, Lois, is fourth from front.

hard hat.

With a giant pair of scissors, Larson performed the ribbon-cutting ceremony and started a new era.

"People would come and drive just to come to the library," Fackerell said. "It was kind of a tourist attraction — it was awesome. He was an awesome person and we were lucky to have him as a mayor."

Eight years later, in November 2016, Larson was

honored with the renaming of the library building. City councilors made the decision based on the mayor's "numerous and extraordinary contributions to local government leading to positive changes for the future of Oregon."

The resolution, adopted unanimously, recognized Larson's major contributions to the library project, from the first discussions to construction and completion.

The renaming came just before Larson announced his intention to step down as mayor after the second year of his fourth term. Larson, who was 80, died less than a month later.

'Extraordinary passion'

At Thursday's ceremony, councilors extolled the mayor's "extraordinary passion and visionary leadership to the city of Seaside."

McDowell, along with volunteer firefighter Katie Buletset, stood on ladders to unveil the building's new name, prominently displayed above the front doors.

"If he were here, he would say that his favorite moment was watching this building being built," Lois Larson, Larson's wife, said. "The kids and I are delighted that his service to the city that he loved is being remembered by naming this beautiful building after him."

"I will still call it 'the library,' as you will, but I will stand a little taller, I will walk a little straighter, and I will smile a whole lot more broadly each time I enter the building under that name," she said. "We are awed, blessed, humbled, proud and extremely grateful that Don Larson is being honored in such a wonderful way."

Orcas: Under increased nutritional stress

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Struggles

Southern resident killer whales along the U.S. West Coast have struggled since they were listed as endangered species in 2005. They now number just 78, down from a high of 140 decades ago. The whales face threats from a lack of food, pollution and boats.

The new study, published Thursday in the journal PLOS ONE, zeroes in on food supply as an important stress factor among these fish-eating whales. Unlike other killer whales that eat marine mammals, the orcas that spend the summer in Puget Sound, and also feed elsewhere along the Oregon and Washington coasts including the Columbia River and Willapa Bay, primarily eat salmon, mostly Chinook.

Many species of Chinook salmon along West Coast are listed as threatened or endangered because of a host of factors, including loss of habitat from urban development, dams, fishing, pollution and competition from non-native fish.

Toxins that accumulate in the whales' fat and are released when the animals starve and metabolize that fat also play a role in the pregnancy problems.

"Food is the driver. But what we can't yet say is how much of that then is affected by its interaction by toxins," Wasser said, adding that there were not enough samples to say how influential the toxins are.

Whale-sniffing pups

Using dogs trained to sniff out whale poop, a team of sci-



Submitted Photo

This orca was photographed near the mouth of the Columbia River in 2015 by researchers from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

entists collected nearly 350 excrement samples from 79 unique whales in inland waters of British Columbia and Washington state between 2008 and 2014.

Back in the lab, they analyzed it for the hormones progesterone and testosterone and assessed whether the orca was pregnant and at what stage. They also used DNA to determine the identity, sex and family line of the whale. A pregnancy was deemed successful if the female whale was later observed with her calf.

Their analysis showed 35 orca pregnancies between 2008 and 2014. Eleven calves were spotted with their mothers in successful births. Puget Sound orcas are individually identified and intensely tracked, so researchers know when calves are born to one of three families of orcas, known as the J, K and L pods.

The study found 24 unsuccessful pregnancies. No calves were seen in those cases, indicating that the whales lost the

babies or the calves died shortly after birth. Those females showed signs of nutritional stress — more so than those who gave birth successfully.

Worrisome numbers

The concerns reflected in the study are not new; research cruises in recent years have been examining issues with whale fecundity. In 2015, Dr. Brad Hanson, a wildlife biologist with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, noted that L pod was especially worrisome. At the time, L pod had few young whales and its adult females were nearing the end of their breeding years.

Researchers also recorded the number of boats in the area when collected the whales' scat. They studied two hormones that play important roles

in physiological stress and were able to differentiate between stress from poor nutrition and stress from boat traffic.

The team compared the hormone data to abundance records of two Chinook salmon runs in the Pacific Northwest.

The data over time suggest the orcas experienced periodic nutritional stress, partly caused by variation in the timing and strength of the salmon runs in the Columbia and Fraser rivers, the study said.

The study said improving those Chinook salmon runs could help save Puget Sound orcas.

"I think it's fair to call out nutrition as a major stressor for these guys," said Joe Gaydos, a wildlife veterinarian and science director of SeaDoc Society, who was not involved in the study.

Transient resident whales that feed on marine mammals confront similar boat noise and pollution, but haven't had the same kind of pregnancy problems as the fish-eating whales.

But Gaydos added that nutrition or food can't be viewed independently of other factors. Noise, boats, food availability and toxins are all interrelated.

He said the study shows the need to take as many actions as possible to save the iconic creatures.

Daily Astorian reporter Katie Frankowicz contributed to this story.

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WORLD IN BRIEF

Associated Press

More court challenges expected for Trump's new travel ban

WASHINGTON — A scaled-back version of President Donald Trump's travel is now in force, stripped of provisions that brought protests and chaos at airports worldwide in January yet still likely to generate a new round of court fights.

The new rules, the product of months of legal wrangling, aren't so much an outright ban as a tightening of already-tough visa policies affecting citizens from six Muslim-majority countries. Refugees are covered, too.

Administration officials promised that implementation this time, which started at 8 p.m. EDT, would be orderly. Customs and Border Protection spokesman Dan Hetlage said his agency expected "business as usual at our ports of entry," with all valid visa holders still being able to travel.

Still, immigration and refugee advocates are vowing to challenge the new requirements and the administration has struggled to explain how the rules will make the United States safer.

Under the temporary rules, citizens of Syria, Sudan, Somalia, Libya, Iran and Yemen who already have visas will be allowed into the United States. But people from those countries who want new visas will now have to prove a close family relationship or an existing relationship with an entity like a school or business in the U.S.

GOP may keep Obama tax on wealthy in bid to save health bill

WASHINGTON — Top Senate Republicans may try preserving a tax boost on high earners enacted by President Barack Obama in a bid to woo party moderates and rescue their sputtering push to repeal his health care overhaul.

The break from dogma by a party that has long reviled tax boosts — and most things achieved by Obama — underscores Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell's feverish effort to yank one of his and President Donald Trump's foremost priorities from the brink of defeat. The money would instead be used to bolster proposed health care subsidies for lower-income people.

The change, proposed by Sen. Bob Corker, R-Tenn., would give a more populist flavor to the bill. The nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office says that as the legislation now is written, it would boost out-of-pocket costs for many poor consumers and produce 22 million uninsured people while cutting around \$700 billion in taxes over a decade — largely for richer people and the health care industry.

Trump pans TV host's look, brains: Republicans plead, Stop!

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump launched a crude Twitter attack on the brains, looks and temperament of a female TV personality Thursday, drawing bipartisan howls of outrage and leaving fellow Republicans beseeching him: Stop, please just stop.

Trump's tweets aimed at MSNBC's Mika Brzezinski revived concerns about his views of women in a city where civility already is in short supply and he is struggling for any support he can get for his proposals on health care, immigration and other controversial issues.

"I heard poorly rated @Morning_Joe speaks badly of me (don't watch anymore)," Trump tweeted to his nearly 33 million followers Thursday morning. "Then how come low I.Q. Crazy Mika, along with Psycho Joe, came to Mar-a-Lago 3 nights in a row around New Year's Eve, and insisted on joining me. She was bleeding badly from a face-lift. I said no!"

The tweets served to unite Democrats and Republicans for once in a chorus of protest that amounted to perhaps the loudest outcry since Trump took office.

"Obviously I don't see that as an appropriate comment," said Republican House Speaker Paul Ryan. House Democratic leader Nancy Pelosi called Trump's tweets, "blatantly sexist." The president, she added, "happens to disrespect women ... it's sad."

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