

Fast-food chains agree to end 'no-poaching' policies

By GENE JOHNSON
Associated Press

SEATTLE — Seven national fast-food chains have agreed to end policies that block workers from changing branches — limiting their wages and job opportunities — under the threat of legal action from Washington state.

Washington Attorney General Bob Ferguson announced binding agreements with the companies — McDonald's, Auntie Anne's, Arby's, Carl's Jr., Jimmy John's, Cinnabon and Buffalo Wild Wings — at a news conference Thursday. McDonald's had previously announced plans to end the practice. The so-called no-poach policies prevent franchisees from hiring workers away from other franchises of the same chain. That's been convenient for franchise owners, who sometimes worry about workers they've trained jumping to nearby branches.

But it has also blocked experienced workers at one franchise from getting better-paying jobs at others, potentially keeping tens of thousands of employees around the country stuck in low-wage positions.

Without access to better job opportunities at other franchises, workers have less leverage to seek raises in their current positions, Ferguson said.

"Our state antitrust laws are very clear: Businesses must compete for workers the same

way as they compete for customers," Ferguson said. "You can't rig the system to avoid competition."

In separate agreements filed Thursday in King County Superior Court in Seattle, the companies denied that their policies are illegal, but said they wanted to avoid expensive litigation. McDonald's said it was pleased to work with Ferguson's office.

"We believe everyone at McDonald's has an opportunity to grow and progress throughout their career," the company said in an emailed statement.

Ferguson credited the businesses for quickly agreeing to end the practice nationwide in response to his legal threats and said fast-food chains that don't follow suit will be sued. The seven chains have more than 500 locations in Washington state. The no-poach policies have been increasingly criticized by Democratic attorneys general and federal lawmakers. U.S. Sens. Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts and Cory Booker of New Jersey wrote to the Justice Department last November expressing concern about their potential illegality. On Thursday they sent a letter to 90 business franchises — not just fast-food companies, but also mail services, fitness chains and more — seeking information about whether they have similar practices.

A coalition of 11 Demo-

cratic state attorneys general, led by Maura Healy of Massachusetts, this week announced a separate investigation into the no-poach agreements at several chains, including Arby's, Burger King, Dunkin' Donuts, Five Guys Burgers and Fries, Little Caesars, Panera Bread, Popeyes Louisiana Kitchen and Wendy's.

Robert Cresanti, the president and chief executive of the International Franchise Association, said in a letter to lawmakers last month that many chains have already abandoned no-poaching policies.

But, he said, it remains important to protect the rights of the franchise owners as well as workers, and that such policies may remain necessary to protect training methods or the investment a franchise owner has made in training. In such cases, the policies should be applied in a limited manner so as to not restrict workers more than necessary, he said.

"IFA is confident that there can be a solution that protects brand value and, at the same time, ensures that a new generation of unit employees will continue to grow and advance, benefiting unit employees, franchisees, and franchisors alike," Cresanti wrote.

Ferguson said his office began investigating early this year, prompted by a New York Times article detailing how such policies had stifled wages for fast-food workers.

Oregon decides to keep high school state tests

By ROB MANNING
Oregon Public Broadcasting

Oregon high schoolers will take state tests next year, reversing plans to shift to college board exams instead.

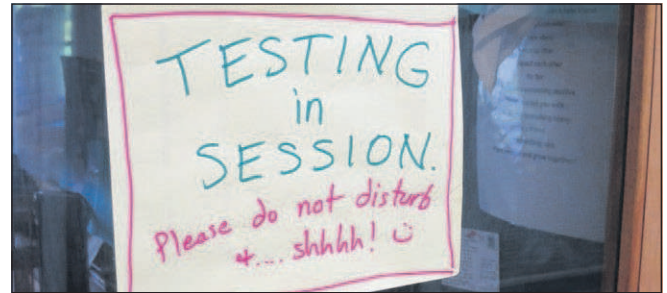
High school students have complained for years about the time they spend hunched over test booklets or in front of computer screens, taking standardized exams. When Oregon switched to the Smarter Balanced exam a few years ago, the inconvenience and stress got even worse due to the length and complexity of the state exams.

Teachers complained that they had to modify their lesson plans to make time for the tests.

With large numbers of high school students in Oregon opting not to take the Smarter Balanced exams, the state was going to drop it for high school this coming school year.

Briefly, students and teachers thought they'd caught a break. Oregon education officials told the U.S. Department of Education it would pursue replacing the Smarter Balanced high school test with a college entrance exam, like the SAT or ACT, which many students were taking already.

But state education officials said they've decided to stick with the Smarter Balanced exams after all. A recent review found problems with college



Rob Manning/Oregon Public Broadcasting
Oregon's standardized testing scores in 2017 continued to fall below expectations. Less than 50 percent of students who took the tests passed the math portion, with 53 percent passing the reading exam.

entrance exams like the SAT or ACT. Those problems were major areas of concern in discussions with teachers, parents and others, according to state education officials.

The Oregon Department of Education announced the decision in a message to school district leaders Wednesday. In a statement to Oregon Public Broadcasting, Deputy Superintendent of Public Instruction Colt Gill said the decision comes after months of deliberation.

"(T)he department conducted a rigorous review process and six months of stakeholder engagement with students, parents, teachers, administrators and other community members to determine the best testing approach for Oregon's high school students," Gill said.

He said the work revealed

the college entrance exams have "accessibility limitations" that fall short of state equity goals and "content standards."

Officials say they'll offer the high school exam earlier in the year to avoid the kind of "test overload" that high school juniors complain about when they seem to go weeks doing nothing but taking big tests. In future years, the Department of Education said it may offer the exams to sophomores "in advanced courses who have received appropriate instruction."

The department said it is working with higher education officials on a study of test results as a possible lead-up to using student test results in university admission decisions. That could make the tests more relevant to the students most likely to opt out.

FIVE-DAY FORECAST FOR ASTORIA



ALMANAC

Astoria through Thursday.

Temperatures

- High/low: 77°/56°
- Normal high/low: 67°/53°
- Record high: 95° in 1906
- Record low: 42° in 1950

Precipitation

- Thursday: 0.00"
- Month to date: 0.04"
- Normal month to date: 0.51"
- Year to date: 35.69"
- Normal year to date: 36.42"

SUN AND MOON

Sunset tonight: 9:05 p.m.
Sunrise Saturday: 5:38 a.m.
Moonrise today: 6:19 a.m.
Moonset today: 9:47 p.m.

First Full Last New
July 19 July 27 Aug 4 Aug 11

UNDER THE SKY

Tonight's Sky: At distance of 33 AU and magnitude of +14, Pluto reaches opposition.

Source: Jim Todd, OMSI

TOMORROW'S TIDES

Astoria / Port Docks

Time	High	Time	Low
2:18 a.m.	9.8 ft.	9:26 a.m.	-2.0 ft.
3:50 p.m.	8.0 ft.	9:25 p.m.	1.8 ft.

NATIONAL CITIES

City	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Atlanta	88	72	t	88	72	t
Boston	78	64	s	79	66	pc
Chicago	94	75	pc	88	72	pc
Denver	88	60	t	94	62	s
Des Moines	89	73	pc	82	72	t
Detroit	91	71	sh	92	73	t
El Paso	89	71	t	91	73	t
Fairbanks	75	50	c	68	52	s
Honolulu	88	77	c	88	78	pc
Indianapolis	91	71	s	93	76	s
Kansas City	96	77	s	89	74	t
Las Vegas	97	84	t	102	87	c
Los Angeles	88	68	pc	87	70	pc
Memphis	96	79	pc	96	78	t
Miami	91	74	t	90	75	sh
Nashville	91	72	s	94	76	s
New Orleans	92	79	pc	92	79	t
New York	84	68	s	90	74	pc
Oklahoma City	94	72	pc	96	72	pc
Philadelphia	88	67	s	90	72	s
St. Louis	96	78	s	95	77	pc
Salt Lake City	96	71	s	91	69	s
San Francisco	77	63	pc	75	63	pc
Seattle	83	60	s	85	63	s
Washington, DC	90	70	s	91	76	s

Weather (W): s-sunny, pc-partly cloudy, c-cloudy, sh-showers, t-thunderstorms, r-rain, sf-snow flurries, sn-snow, i-ice.

Astoria receives money for Doughboy repairs

The Daily Astorian
Astoria landed more money to help repair a World War I monument damaged by a car crash last year.

The Astoria Parks and Recreation Department announced Thursday it had received a \$17,190 grant from the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department.

The grant will pay for documenting the Doughboy Monument's terra cotta tile roof and replacing the roof tiles.

The state awarded five grants totaling \$150,000 for projects across the state. The funding is intended to provide funding assistance for the construction and restoration of veterans' and war memorials.

The Doughboy Monument

is located at the intersection of Marine Drive and Columbia Avenue in Uniontown and commemorates soldiers who fought in World War I.

The city received a \$12,000 grant from the State Historic Preservation Office last year to restore the west restroom, patch exterior cracks, repaint the structure, repair the flat roof and refurbish the flag pole.

ON THE RECORD

DUII

- At 2:17 a.m. Friday, Tori Rae McDonald, 19, of Astoria, was arrested by Astoria police on the 10 block of Halsey Road and charged with driving under the influence of intoxicants. She allegedly rolled a car over with two passengers inside. One passenger report-

edly sustained visible injuries, but none requested medical treatment. Her blood alcohol content was 0.14 percent.

- At 9:20 p.m. Wednesday, Daniel Kyle Meadows, 33, of Warrenton, was arrested by Warrenton police on Ridge Road and charged with DUII. He failed a field

sobriety test at the scene.

- At 4:46 a.m. Monday, Brandon Levi Gilmore, 43, of Astoria, was arrested by Warrenton police on Main Avenue and Fifth Street and charged with DUII. Police found Gilmore asleep behind the wheel, and he failed a field sobriety test.

PUBLIC MEETINGS

MONDAY
Ecola Creek Watershed Committee, 4:30 p.m., City Hall, 163 E. Gower St., Cannon Beach.
Astoria City Council, 7 p.m., City Hall, 1095 Duane St.

LOTTERIES

OREGON	WASHINGTON
Estimated jackpot: \$11,000	
Thursday's Pick 4:	Thursday's Daily Game: 2-0-6
1 p.m.: 8-1-2-6	Thursday's Keno: 03-04-06-08-11-16-17-29-33-36-47-50-55-59-61-68-71-72-79-80
4 p.m.: 7-1-8-8	Thursday's Match 4: 02-04-15-20
7 p.m.: 8-0-6-6	
10 p.m.: 7-0-9-1	
Thursday's Lucky Lines: 02-05-11-15-17-22-25-32	

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