

WORLD IN BRIEF

Associated Press

Amazon ups hourly wage to \$15, will advocate for higher pay

NEW YORK — Amazon is boosting its minimum wage for all U.S. workers to \$15 per hour starting next month and said it will push for an increase in the federally mandated minimum wage, which now stands at \$7.25 per hour.

The company, whose value topped \$1 trillion briefly in September, was facing political and economic pressure to raise pay for thousands of employees.

“We listened to our critics, thought hard about what we wanted to do, and decided we want to lead,” said Jeff Bezos, Amazon’s founder and CEO.

The wage hike also comes at a time Amazon needs to hire holiday workers amid the tightest job market in nearly two decades, making it more difficult to lure workers who have a lot more job choices than just a year ago. Amazon said it plans to hire more than 100,000 holiday workers, who will pack and ship boxes in its more than 100 warehouses around the country.

“We have seen a labor market that is becoming better and better for job seekers, and harder and harder for employers,” said Martha Gimbel, director of economic research and job site Indeed.

Amazon said the raise will benefit more than 350,000 workers, which includes full-time, part-time, temporary and seasonal positions. Employees at Whole Foods, the upscale grocery chain Amazon owns, will get the same pay hike. Some hourly Amazon employees who already make \$15 per hour will also see a wage increase, the Seattle company said.

Amazon has faced criticism from labor rights groups and others over pay and working conditions at its warehouses. One of its harshest critics is U.S. Senator Bernie Sanders. His Twitter account, which has nearly 9 million followers, frequently points out the disparity between Amazon’s median employee pay and Bezos’ vast fortune.

Sanders congratulated Bezos Tuesday for “doing exactly the right thing,” and urged other companies to do the same.

Scientists from US, France, Canada win Nobel for laser work

STOCKHOLM — Three scientists from the United States, Canada and France won the Nobel Prize in physics today for work with lasers described as revolutionary and bringing science fiction into reality.

The American, Arthur Ashkin, entered the record books of the Nobel Prizes by becoming the oldest laureate at age 96. Donna Strickland, of the University of Waterloo in Canada, became the first woman to win a Nobel in three years and is only the third to have won the prize for physics.

Frenchman Gerard Mourou of the Ecole Polytechnique and University of Michigan will share half of the \$1.01 million prize with Strickland; Ashkin gets the other half.

Sweden’s Royal Academy of Sciences, which chose the winners, said Ashkin’s development of “optical tweezers” that can grab tiny particles such as viruses without damaging them realized “an old dream of science fiction — using the radiation pressure of light to move physical objects.”

The tweezers are “extremely important for measuring small forces on individual molecules, small objects, and this has been very interesting in biology, to understand how things like muscle tissue work, what are the molecule motors behind the muscle tissue,” said David Haviland of the academy’s Nobel committee.

Strickland and Mourou helped develop short and intense laser pulses that have broad industrial and medical applications, including laser eye surgery and highly precise machine cutting. The academy said their 1985 article on the technique was “revolutionary.”

Strickland’s award was the first Nobel Prize in physics to go to a woman since 1963, when it was won by Maria Goeppert-Mayer; the only other woman to win for physics was Marie Curie in 1903.

Melania Trump opens Africa tour with wave and baby in arms

ACCRA, Ghana — Melania Trump opened her first big solo international trip as U.S. first lady today, aiming to promote child welfare during a five-day tour of Africa.

She arrived in the West African nation of Ghana after an overnight flight from Washington and quickly made her way to the Greater Accra Regional Hospital.

The first lady saw how babies are weighed — they’re placed in sacks that are then hung from a hook attached to a scale. She also watched a nurse demonstrate how vitamins are administered to babies by mouth and toured the neonatal



AP Photo/Tatan Syuflana  
A ship was swept ashore during Friday’s tsunami at a neighborhood in Donggala, Central Sulawesi, Indonesia.

Desperation grows as death toll soars from Indonesia quake

PALU, Indonesia — Trucks carrying food for desperate survivors of the earthquake on Indonesia’s Sulawesi island rolled in with a police escort today to guard against looters, while the death toll from the disaster soared past 1,200.

Four days after the magnitude 7.5 earthquake and tsunami struck, supplies of food, water, fuel and medicine had yet to reach the hardest-hit areas outside Palu, the largest city that was heavily damaged. Many roads in the earthquake zone are blocked and communications lines are down.

The death toll reached 1,234. Hundreds of other people were injured, and scores of uncounted bodies could still be buried in collapsed buildings in Sigi and Balaroa under quicksand-like mud caused by Friday’s quake.

More than 25 countries have offered assistance after Indonesian President Joko “Jokowi” Widodo appealed for international help. Little of that, however, has reached the disaster zone, and increasingly desperate residents grabbed food and fuel from damaged stores and begged for help.

“Pay attention to Donggala, Mr. Jokowi. Pay attention to Donggala,” yelled one resident in a video broadcast on local TV, referring to the president. “There are still a lot of unattended villages here.”

The town’s administrative head, Kasman Lassa, all but gave residents permission to take food — but nothing else — from stores.

“Everyone is hungry and they want to eat after several days of not eating,” Lassa said on local TV. “We have anticipated it by providing food, rice, but it was not enough. There are many people here. So, on this issue, we cannot pressure them to hold much longer.”

Nearly 62,000 people have been displaced from their homes.

intensive care unit.

Mrs. Trump also cradled an infant and declared the baby a “beautiful boy” as she handed him back to his mother.

Mothers at the hospital for her visit received gifts of teddy bears nestled in white baby blankets, personally handed out by the first lady, according to her spokeswoman, Stephanie Grisham. The items carried the logo of “Be Best,” the child well-being initiative Mrs. Trump launched last May.

With the Africa visit, the first lady aims to take “Be Best” and its focus on opioid abuse and online behavior to an international audience.

The first lady also had a private tea with her Ghanaian counterpart, Rebecca Akufo-Addo. The first ladies met privately for about a half-hour at Jubilee House, Ghana’s presidential palace. The two first met last week in New York at a reception on the sidelines of the U.N. General Assembly, where Mrs. Trump spoke about her upcoming trip.

Mrs. Trump also plans to visit Malawi, Kenya and Egypt.

New rulings on medical marijuana use go against employers

By DAVE COLLINS  
Associated Press

HARTFORD, Conn. — Health care worker Katelin Noffsinger told a potential employer that she took medical marijuana to deal with the effects of a car accident, but when a drug test came back positive, the nursing home rescinded her job offer anyway.

A federal judge last month ruled that the nursing home, which had cited federal laws against pot use, violated an anti-discrimination provision of the Connecticut’s medical marijuana law.

It was the latest in a series of clashes between U.S. and state laws around the country that came out in favor of medical marijuana users trying to keep or obtain jobs with drug-testing employers.

The Connecticut decision was the first ruling of its kind in a federal case and followed similar recent rulings against employers by state courts in Massachusetts and Rhode Island. Earlier rulings had gone against medical pot users in employment cases by state supreme courts including those in California, Colorado, Oregon and Washington over the past few years.

Advocates hope new the new decisions are a signal of growing acceptance of cannabis’ medicinal value.

“This decision reflects the rapidly changing cultural and legal status of cannabis, and affirms that employers should not be able to discriminate against those who use marijuana responsibly while off the job, in compliance with the laws of their state,” said Paul Armentano, deputy director of NORML, a pro-marijuana group.

Noffsinger, of Manchester, sued Bride Brook Health & Rehabilitation Center in Niantic in 2016. She had been offered, and accepted, a job as recreation therapy director at the nursing home, contingent on her passing a drug test.

She told the nursing home that she took synthetic marijuana pills — legally under state law and only at night — to treat the post-traumatic stress disorder she developed

after the 2012 car accident. But the company rescinded the job offer after the drug test came back positive for THC, the chemical in marijuana that gets people high.

As a federal contractor, the nursing home worried that it could be cut off from that revenue if it employed somebody who tested positive.

On Sept. 5, U.S. District Judge Jeffrey Meyer in New Haven ruled Bride Brook discriminated against Noffsinger based solely on her medical marijuana use in violation of state law. He denied her request for punitive damages. The case is now heading to a trial on whether Noffsinger should receive compensatory damages for lost wages from not getting the job.

A lawyer for the nursing home, Thomas Blatchley, declined to comment.

Noffsinger’s attorney, Henry Murray, said

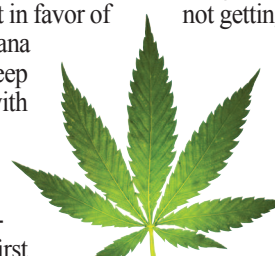
Noffsinger would not comment on the lawsuit. He said Noffsinger has taken another job in the health care industry that doesn’t pay as much as the Bride Brook job.

In his ruling, Meyer said the federal Drug Free Workplace Act, which many employers including federal contractors rely on for policies on drug testing, does not actually require drug testing and does not prohibit federal contractors from employing people who use medical marijuana outside the workplace in accordance with state law.

The decision will likely be used in arguments in similar cases elsewhere, said Fiona Ong, an employment attorney with the Baltimore firm of Shawe Rosenthal.

“This is a very significant case that throws the issue in doubt for many of these federal contractors,” Ong said. “It’s certainly interesting and may be indicative of where the courts are going with this.”

Thirty-one states, Washington, D.C., Puerto Rico and Guam now allow medical marijuana, while 15 others have approved low-THC-level products for medical reasons in certain cases, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures.



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THE DAILY ASTORIAN TV SCHEDULE Evening listings TUESDAY

TUESDAY EVENING				A - Charter Astoria/Seaside - L - Charter Long Beach				OCTOBER 2					
A	L	6 PM	6:30	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	11 PM	11:30
2	KATU	(2) KATU News at 6 (N)		Jeopardy! (N)	Wheel Fortune (N)	Dancing With the Stars "Las Vegas Night" (N)				A Million Little Things "Pilot"		KATU News (N)	(3:55) Jimmy Kimmel
3	KOMO	(4) KOMO 4 News (N)		Wheel Fortune (N)	Jeopardy! (N)	Dancing With the Stars "Las Vegas Night" (N)				A Million Little Things "Pilot"		KOMO 4 News (N)	(3:55) Jimmy Kimmel
5	KING	(5) NBC News (N)	KING 5 News (N)	KING 5 News (N)	Evening	The Voice	This Is Us "A Philadelphia Story" (N)			New Amsterdam "Rituals" (N)		KING 5 News (N)	(3:55) Tonight Show
6	KOIN	(6) KOIN Local 6 (N)	Evening News (N)	Oregon Governor's Debate "2014" (L)		NCIS "Love Thy Neighbor" (N)	FBI "Green Birds" (N)			NCIS: New Orleans "Inside Out" (N)		News (N)	(3:55) Colbert
7	KIRO	(7) KIRO 7 News (N)	Evening News (N)	KIRO 7 News (N)	Ent. Tonight (N)	NCIS "Love Thy Neighbor" (N)	FBI "Green Birds" (N)			NCIS: New Orleans "Inside Out" (N)		KIRO 7 News (N)	(3:55) Colbert
8	KGW	(8) KGW News at 6:00 p.m. (N)		Tonight Cassidy	Inside Edition	The Voice	This Is Us "A Philadelphia Story" (N)			New Amsterdam "Rituals" (N)		News (N)	(3:55) Tonight Show
9	KRCW	(9) Modern Family	Modern Family	The Goldbergs	The Goldbergs	The Flash "We Are the Flash"	Outpost "The Dragman Is Coming" (N)			News (N)	[Friends	Two and a Half	Two and a Half
10	KOPB	(10) Ask-Old House	Business (N)	PBS NewsHour (N)		AmericanRead "Villains & Monsters" (N)	Frontline "Trump's Showdown" Trump wages an unprecedented war. (N)					The Hispanic Heritage Awards	
11	KPTV	(11) 6 O'Clock News (N)		Family Feud	Family Feud	The Gifted "unMoored" (N)	Lethal Weapon "Need to Know" (N)			10 O'Clock News (N)		News (N)	Page Six TV
12	KPDx	(12) Mike & Molly	Mike & Molly	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Prime News (N)	Big Bang Theory   Family Guy			Big Bang Theory   Family Guy		American Dad!	The Game
13	KCPQ	(13) Modern Family	Modern Family	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	The Gifted "unMoored" (N)	Lethal Weapon "Need to Know" (N)			Q13 NEWS AT 10 (N)		News (N)	The Simpsons
14	TBS	(14) Family Guy	Family Guy	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory   Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory   Big Bang Theory			Wrecked (N)		Conan (N)	
15	KZJO	(15) Black-ish	Black-ish	Mom	Modern Family	Mom	Modern Family			Q13 News at 9 (N)		Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory
16	ESPN	(16) (5:00) MLB Baseball National League Wild Card (L)		SportsCenter (N)						SportsCenter With Scott Van Pelt (N)		SportsCenter (N)	Two and a Half
17	ESPN2	(17) (5:00) MLB Baseball National League Wild Card (L)		NFL Live						Boxing Classics		MLB Baseball Wild Card	
18	NICK	(18) The Loud House	The Loud House	The Loud House	The Loud House	Double Dare	Double Dare			To Be Announced		Friends	(3:55) Friends
19	DISN	(19) Jessie	Jessie	Gravity Falls	Gravity Falls	DuckTales	Gravity Falls			Bunk'd		Stuck in Middle	Stuck in Middle
20	FAM	(20) Movie	*** Hocus Pocus '93, Comedy Sarah Jessica Parker, Kathy Najimy, Bette Midler. *** Monsters University (2013, Animated) John Goodman, Steve Buscemi, Billy Crystal.									The 700 Club	
21	FMC	(21) (4:45) The Shallows	The Shallows (2016, Thriller) Oscar Jaenada, Blake Lively.			(20) *** Deliver Us From Evil (2014, Horror) Edgar Ramirez, Olivia Munn, Eric Bana.	(40) *** Deliver Us From Evil (14) Edgar Ramirez, Eric Bana.					From Evil	(14) Edgar Ramirez, Eric Bana.
22	LIFE	(22) Grey's Anatomy "With or Without You"	Married "The Art of Communication"	Love Unlocked (N)	Married at (N)	Married at First Sight "Down to the Wire" (N)	(35) 13 Sons "Boy... or Girl?" (N)					(35) LoveUnlocked	
23	ROOT	(23) (4:30) H.S. Football		NCAA Football Eastern Washington at Montana State Site: Bobcat Stadium (MSU) - Bozeman, Mont.								UFC UFC 210	
24	FS1	(24) UFC Unleashed Alvarez vs. McGregor	NFL Films (N)	Inside Slant (N)	Speak for Yourself	TMZ Sports (N)	Skip and Shannon: Undisputed Opinions on the biggest sports topics of the day.					CFB: Inside Slant	
25	SPIKE	(25) Mom	Mom	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends			Ink Master "Fight Your Own Battles" (N)		Remember the Titans	
26	COM	(26) (4:15) The Office	(5:00) The Office	(25) The Office	Tosh.0	Tosh.0	Tosh.0			Tosh.0 (N)	Jim Jefferies (N)	The Daily Show (N)	The Office
27	HIST	(27) American Pickers "Can't Catch a Break"	American Pickers "Jersey's Jackpot"	A. Pickers "The Greatest Pick on Earth"	American Pickers "Ladies Pick" (N)	American Pickers "Ladies Pick" (N)	(05) American Pickers "Hot Rod Hero"			(05) American Pickers "Hot Rod Hero"		(05) American Pickers "Big Boy Toys"	
28	A&E	(28) First 48 "Lying in Wait/With This Ring"	The First 48 "Blood on Bourbon"	The First 48 "Deadly Premonition"	The First 48 "Fatal Mistake"	The First 48 "Fatal Mistake"	(05) The First 48 "Dangerous Company"						
29	TLC	(29) OutDaughtered "Busby Birthday Bash"	To Be Announced	Daughter "Hawaii Five-Oh-Oh" (N)	To Be Announced	Daughter "Hawaii Five-Oh-Oh" (N)	Sextuple "A Mother's Day Surprise" (N)			Sextuple "A Mother's Day Surprise" (N)		Daughter "Every Quint for Herself"	
30	DISC	(30) To Be Announced	Vegas Rat Rods: Supercharged	Vegas Rat Rods: Supercharged	Vegas Rat Rods Pt. 2 of 2 (N)	Vegas Rat Rods: Supercharged	Trans Am "The Bond is Back" (P) (N)			Trans Am "The Bond is Back" (P) (N)		Vegas Rat Rods "Born to Rod"	
31	NGEO	(31) Life Below Zero "Hell and High Water"	Life Below Zero "End of the Rope"	Life Below Zero "End of the Rope"	Life Below Zero "Zero Hour" (N)	Life Below Zero "Zero Hour" (N)	Life Below Zero "No Guarantees" (N)			RunningWild "Joseph Gordon-Levitt" (N)		Life Below Zero "Zero Hour"	
32	TNT	(32) (5:00) NBA Basketball Pre-season Cleveland vs Boston (L)	NBA Basketball Pre-season Denver Nuggets at Los Angeles Lakers Site: Staples Center (L)				Charmed "Lost and Bound"			Charmed "Lost and Bound"		Supernatural "I'm No Angel"	
33	AMC	(33) (20) Walking Dead "Save the Last One"	(20) Walking Dead "Cherokee Rose"	(25) The Walking Dead "Chupacabra"	(25) The Walking Dead "Secrets"					(20) Dead "Pretty Much Dead Already"		(25) Walking Dead	
34	USA	(34) Modern Family	Modern Family	Modern Family	Modern Family	WWE Super Smackdown				The Purge "Rise Up" (N)		Law & Order: S.V.U. "Smut"	
35	FOOD	(35) Chopped "All-Stars: Judge Remix"	Chopped "All-Stars: Grand Finale"	Chopped "Mummies and Gummies"	Chopped "Halloween Hijinks" (N)	Chopped "Halloween Hijinks" (N)	(05) Chopped Halloween			(05) Chopped Halloween		Chopped "Extreme Halloween"	
36	HGTV	(36) Fixer "Sweet Surprise at the Silos"	Fixer "The Colossal Crawford Reno"	Fixer Upper "Space in the Suburbs"	Desert Flippers (N) Desert Flippers	Desert Flippers (N) Desert Flippers				House Hunters (N) House Hunters (N)		House Hunters	House Hunters
37	FX	(37) (5:00) 300: Rise of an Empire	*** The Avengers (2012, Action) Chris Evans, Scarlett Johansson, Robert Downey Jr..							Mayans M.C. "Uch/Opossum" (N)		Mr. Inbetween (N) Mr. Inbetween (N)	
38	CNN	(38) Cuomo Prime Time	CNN Tonight With Don Lemon	CNN Tonight With Don Lemon	Anderson Cooper 360	Anderson Cooper 360				Cuomo Prime Time		CNN Tonight With Don Lemon	
39	FNC	(39) Hannity	The Ingraham Angle	Fox News @ Night	Shark Tank	Shark Tank				Hannity		The Ingraham Angle	
40	CNBC	(40) Shark Tank	Shark Tank	BelowD. "The Champagne Campaign"	Below Deck (SP) (N)	Below Deck (SP) (N)				Shark Tank		Paid Program	Paid Program
41	BRVA	(41) Below Deck	Below Deck							Flipping Out "All That Glitters" (N)		Watch What (N)	Below Deck
42	TCM	(42) Movie	(45) *** You Were Never Lovelier (42) Rita Hayworth, Fred Astaire.	*** My Gal Sal (1942, Musical) Rita Hayworth, John Sutton, Victor Mature.						*** Only Angels Have Wings (39) Cary Grant.			
43	SYFY	(43) (5:30) *** The Incredible Hulk (2008, Action) Liv Tyler, Tim Roth, Edward Norton.	*** Iron Man 3 (2013, Action) Gwyneth Paltrow, Guy Pearce, Robert Downey Jr..							(50) Futurama		(20) Futurama	(50) Futurama
44	RFD	(44) (5:30) Cattlemen	LandLeader TV	Downunder Horseman.	Chris Cox	Rural Eve. News	Ag PhD			Cattlemen to Cattlemen		LandLeader TV	Product Showcase