

Siuslaw News
 P.O. Box 10
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Opinion

NEW LAWS TAKE EFFECT IN OCTOBER

Dear Friends and Neighbors,
 With summer behind us, the Oregon Legislative Assembly is looking ahead to the next session and reflecting on the good things we've already accomplished for the 2015 Legislative Session.

While many bills passed during the 2015 Session have already become law, there are some new laws that will take effect in October. Among these are laws that will support rural communities and create jobs, prevent sex trafficking, provide reliable emergency preparedness funding, and help create a path to financial security and independence for Oregonians living with disability.

Below are a few legislative highlights from the 2015 Session that will become law in October 2015:

SB 777: ABLE Act for Oregonians Living with Disabilities

The Achieving a Better Life Experience Act (ABLE) program creates a savings program for children with disabilities, or adults with disabilities whose disability manifested before 26 years of age, allowing those eligible to set and reach financial goals and become more self-sufficient. On Oct. 5, 2015, Senate Bill 777 takes effect and requires the State Treasurer and the Oregon 529 Savings Board to begin work to establish and maintain a qualified ABLE program. Senate Bill 777 aligns state

GUEST VIEWPOINT

By **ARNIE ROBLAN**
 STATE SENATOR, DISTRICT 5



law with federal law, creating a path to financial security and independence for Oregonians living with disability.

HB 2643: Simplifying Economic Development through Enterprise Zones

Enterprise zones are an economic development tool used by local governments to exempt qualifying businesses from local property taxes on new investments. House Bill 2643 streamlines the process for establishing an enterprise zone, and removes the limit on how many may be set up in Oregon at once. This allows cities and counties greater flexibility to use this proven economic development tool. The Oregon Business Development Department still must approve creation of new enterprise zones.

HB 3188: Predator Management in Rural Oregon

Many rural Oregonians rely on effective predator management to prevent costly damage to their livestock or timber. House Bill 3188 gives certain landowners in Coos and Douglas counties the option to petition the county to form a predator damage control district, giving these landowners the ability to voluntarily contribute

to funding predator management services. As existing funding sources dwindle, this bill will help farmers protect their livestock and timber.

HB 3396: Healthcare Providers in Rural Oregon

House Bill 3396 requires the Oregon Health Policy Board to study and evaluate the effectiveness of existing financial incentive programs to recruit and retain health care providers to practice in rural and medically underserved areas in Oregon. The bill will address an ongoing need to attract and keep qualified healthcare providers to practice in Rural Oregon.

HB 2908: Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families

This bill brings Oregon law into compliance with the federal Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act of 2014 that also goes into effect Oct. 1, 2015. The federal act was passed to prevent and address sex trafficking of children in foster care, to extend and improve adoption incentives, and to improve international child support recovery. House Bill 2908 implements

federal provisions in state law to support children in foster care, including: permanency planning, extracurricular, cultural and social activities, transition planning for children 14 and up, and foster children's rights.

SB 262: Oil Spill Prevention

The Oregon Legislature passed the Oil Spill Prevention Act in 1991. This Act directed the Department of Environmental Quality to prevent, prepare, and respond to oil spills from large facilities, vessels and petroleum transportation industries. To further prepare for possible oil spills, Senate Bill 292 increases fees, expands the uses of moneys in the Oil Spillage Control Fund, and expands reporting requirements.

HB 2171: Efficient Government to Protect Critical Services

House Bill 2171 protects taxpayers from waste by reining in tax credits and includes savings from several expiring tax credits. The bill also includes strategic investments in the Working Family Child and Dependent Care tax credit to increase access to quality, affordable childcare for working families.

I look forward to returning to our State Capitol in 2016 to continue to fight for Oregon families, create a climate where local businesses thrive, and prioritize funding for our public schools.

Warmest wishes.

YESTERDAY'S NEWS

MOMENTS IN TIME The History Channel

- On Oct. 5, 1892, the Dalton gang attempts to rob two banks simultaneously in Coffeyville, Kansas, but meets resistance from townspeople, who kill four of the five bandits. The gang had turned to crime when they became bored with their other career possibilities on the Western frontier.

- On Oct. 11, 1925, novelist Elmore Leonard is born in New Orleans. He decided to write either Westerns or detective novels, whichever would generate the most income. By the time of his death in 2013, he'd penned 45 books.

- On Oct. 9, 1934, the St. Louis Cardinals defeat the Detroit Tigers in the World Series. The Cards nickname, the "Gashouse Gang," had to do with the team's close resemblance to the rowdy, dirt-streaked thugs who hung around the Gashouse District on Manhattan's East Side.

- On Oct. 10, 1957, President Dwight D. Eisenhower offers his apologies to the Ghanian finance minister, who had been refused service at a restaurant in Delaware. It was one of the first of many such incidents in which African diplomats experienced racial segregation in the United States.

- On Oct. 6, 1961, President John F. Kennedy advises American families to build bomb shelters to protect them from atomic fallout in the event of a nuclear exchange with the Soviet Union.

- On Oct. 8, 1970, Russian writer Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn wins the Nobel Prize for literature. Arrested in 1945 for criticizing the Stalin regime, he served time in Russian prisons, forced labor camps and internal exile. His works had to be secreted out of Russia in order to be published.

- On Oct. 7, 1983, Sean Connery stars in "Never Say Never Again" as the British secret service agent James Bond, a role he last played in 1971. The film's title referenced the fact that Connery had previously said he would never play Agent 007 again.

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LETTERS

Selfless firefighters

The Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA) and fire departments across the nation have worked together in the Fill the Boot Campaign for over 60 years. The Siuslaw Valley Firefighters Association has been an active participant in this event for over 10 years and raised more than \$12,000 during this year's campaign.

All money raised by our firefighters is used to send local and Lane County disabled children to a summer camp where they have fun and are cared for by medical professionals.

The Fill the Boot Campaign is a function of our Firefighters Association and is supported by the fire district, which mandates they wear traffic safety vests, receive a safety briefing, use safety spotters, follow all traffic laws and bring apparatus with them so they can respond to emergencies if needed.

Before our Firefighters Association is allowed to participate in this event, they are required to register with the MDA, which provides them with liability insurance and assists in obtaining permit approval with ODOT and

the City of Florence.

On a personal note, I am extremely proud of the many SVFR firefighters who selflessly spent their holiday weekend raising money for a worthy cause.

The Fill the Boot Campaign is just another example of how our firefighters willingly give of themselves to serve others in need. We should all be so good.

Respectfully,

Jim Langborg
 Fire Chief

Siuslaw Valley Fire and Rescue

A 'personal' call from Carly Fiorina

Today I received a "personal" (robot) call from Carly Fiorina wanting me to sign a petition to prevent a 13-year-old girl from receiving an abortion without her parents' consent.

Three questions:

1. Who would want a child of 13 to carry a baby to full term?
2. Who impregnated this child?

3. What if it was the father or step-father of this child?

When Carly — already lying about seeing non-existent videos of abortions — wants to petition for finding the pedophile who impregnated this (mythical?) 13-year-old, I'll sign.

Hopefully the Republican presidential lineup will soon be minus one candidate who can't tell truth from fiction.

Barbara Prisbe-Sutton
 Oceanside, Calif.
 formerly of Florence

Hats off to PUD

My neighbors and I would like to express our deep appreciation to the PUD crews that have been working for the past several months in our Clear Lake/Huckleberry neighborhood.

They have done such a remarkable job in removing and cleaning out the vegetation and trees, it is a wonderful improvement for all of us to enjoy.

Thank you,

Mary Jo Leach
 Dunes City

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR POLICY

The Siuslaw News welcomes letters to the editor concerning issues affecting the Florence area and Lane County.

Emailed letters are preferred. Handwritten or typed letters must be signed. All letters should be limited to about 300 words and must include the writer's full name, address and phone number for verification.

Letters are subject to editing for length, grammar and clarity. Publication of any letter is not guaranteed and depends on space available and the volume of letters received.

Libelous and anonymous letters as well as poetry will not be published.

All submissions become the property of Siuslaw News and will not be returned.

Write to:

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