

LEGISLATIVE BRIEFCASE

Expansion of self-serve gas pumping is headed to the Senate

A bill to expand the hours of self-serve gas stations in rural counties in Eastern Oregon is headed to the Senate, after the House of Representatives unanimously passed it Thursday, March 30.

The bill allows 24-hour self service at stations in certain counties. Those stations would still be required to have attendants between 6 a.m. and 6 p.m., however.

The legislation by Rep. Cliff Bentz, R-Ontario, expands on a law passed in 2015 that allowed self-service between the hours of 6 p.m. and 6 a.m. in 18 counties with a population of less than 40,000. The idea was to protect travelers from being stranded in remote places.

Oregon is one of only two states that prohibit customers from pumping their own gas at fueling stations. The other is New Jersey.

In Eastern Oregon, some locally-owned gas stations have been at risk of closure due to the expense of hiring fueling attendants to pump customers' gas, Bentz said.

"We are trying to preserve these stations out in the middle of nowhere so that we have fuel available," Bentz said earlier this month.

The proposed change affects 15 counties in Eastern Oregon: Grant, Malheur, Union, Wasco, Hood River, Jefferson, Crook, Baker, Morrow, Lake, Harney, Wallowa, Gilliam, Sherman and Wheeler.

The original proposal included Clatsop, Curry and Tillamook counties. Howev-

er, opposition to expanding self-service hours prompted proponents to carve out those coastal counties. Opponents feared the change would threaten the jobs of those who pump fuel for a living.

Tenant protection bill heads to House floor

A tenant protection bill that lifts the statewide ban on rent control and outlaws no-cause evictions is headed to the House floor after the Human Services and Housing Committee made several revisions Thursday.

"Some people think a good policy is one where no one is happy, which makes this a great policy," said Rep. Chris Gorsek, D-Troutdale, a committee member.

The committee heard hours of impassioned testimony from landlords and tenants affected by the state's housing shortage before coming to the compromise.

An amendment by Rep. Mark Meek, D-Clackamas County, a landlord and real estate investor, reduced the amount of relocation assistance landlords are required to pay when asking a tenant to leave to sell the property, remodel or for other allowable reasons. The amount is now one month rent instead of three months.

The change also exempts units less than five years old from any rent control measures approved by local governments and exempts landlords with fewer than five units from having to pay relocation fees if an eviction is for certain no-fault reasons such as moving into the property or selling it.

The committee voted

5-to-4 to approve the revised bill, with all Republicans on the committee against the measure.

The legislation now goes to the House floor for a vote.

Employers seek more changes to predictive scheduling bill

Despite proposed revisions to a bill that would mandate two weeks' notice for employee schedule changes and penalty pay for changes without the required notice, employers continued to voice opposition to the regulations during a hearing Monday, April 3.

The legislation is "an ill-conceived attempt to more formally systematize what is inherently a very fluid and dynamic process," said Chris Girard of Plaid Pantry Inc.

Girard said the bill "would actually reduce flexibility in meeting employees' scheduling needs." Many employees request last-minute changes, and the two-week notice requirement makes it harder for employers to accommodate those requests, he said.

A proposed amendment to the bill, however, would give employers a big concession. The amendment removes a requirement for "on-call pay." The provision would have required employers to pay for up to four hours of work if the employee is on call but works no hours. The agriculture community and other businesses cheered the change but are still concerned about meeting the requirements, especially in industries dependent on weather or deliveries such as construction or nurseries.

State releases final ODOT improvement recommendations

By Paris Achen
Capital Bureau

The state's executive department released final recommendations for reforming weaknesses at the Oregon Department of Transportation Monday.

The recommendations resemble a draft released March 24 and first reported by the Pamplin Media Group/EO Media Group Capital Bureau.

The improvement plan by the Department of Administrative Services is based on the findings of an independent consultant's management review of the agency, finalized Feb. 1.

New York-based McKinsey & Co. concluded there is an unclear governance structure for ODOT and the Oregon Transportation Commission, which sets policy for the agency. The agency also lacks a strategic vision for the future and accountability measures, the consultants found.

DAS recommended that the governor and Legislature convene a work group to clarify the governance structure and report back Nov. 1.

ODOT should seek the expertise of a management consulting company to develop a management plan for the agency that would define structure, roles and measurements for success. The agency also should seek out a consulting company to address waste in its fleet and facilities programs and convene procurement experts from other state agencies to review potential improvements for contracting.

Other recommendations call for an agency communications plan, alignment of legislative standards with the reali-



Capital Bureau

The Department of Administrative Services has released a set of final recommendations for addressing issues at ODOT outlined by an independent review of the department conducted by an independent contractor.

ties of the agency's operations and an audit by the Secretary of State's Office specifically on ODOT's management of funds in the highway program.

Finally, DAS recommends conducting another management review in 2020 to identify the progress of any changes.

"I fully embrace these recommendations and wholeheartedly believe that ODOT will be a stronger organization as a result of them," said ODOT Director Matt Garrett in an email to staff. "Moreover, I commit to working with the (Oregon Transportation) Commission, ODOT employees and our customers to implement these recommendations in a transparent and accountable manner."

Agency leadership will assemble a steering team to help guide implementation of the recommendations and track and report on progress, which also will be published on a webpage, said Assistant ODOT Director Travis Brouwer. The agency also plans to

develop a strategic business plan, Garrett wrote in his email to employees.

Gov. Kate Brown ordered the management review to help allay some lawmakers' concerns in preparation for consideration of a transportation package worth hundreds of millions of dollars this session. The revenue to pay for projects would likely come largely from a hike in the state's gas tax and registration fees.

The state paid McKinsey \$1 million to conduct the management review on a short timeline, so findings would be available before the end of the legislative session. Yet deadlines for finishing work products in the improvement plan are after lawmakers would likely vote on a transportation package.

A work group of lawmakers plans to recommend accountability measures for ODOT later this week. Those accountability measures could be added to the transportation package legislation.

Governor went to Final Four game on campaign's dime

Cost of security detail paid by taxpayers

By Claire Withycombe
Capital Bureau

Oregon Gov. Kate Brown was there when the University of Oregon men's basketball team lost its NCAA Final Four match against the University of North Carolina by one point.

Gov. Brown left an event at the Oregon Veterans' Home

in Lebanon Friday afternoon in order to catch her flight to the game, which was held Saturday in Glendale, Ariz.

According to the Governor's Office, the trip was paid for by the governor's campaign. Gov. Brown is running for re-election next year.

A spokesman for the governor referred questions about the governor's attendance to her campaign, and questions about the costs of having her security detail travel with her to the Oregon State Police, which employs the governor's dignitary protection

unit.

Thomas Wheatley, Brown's campaign manager, said the campaign paid for all costs — including airfare, lodging, and tickets — for the trip, except for the costs for the security team, which is "standard protocol," Wheatley said in an email Monday.

Brown traveled with her husband and a staff member. The campaign paid for their travel as well, Wheatley said.

Wheatley said Brown is a "big fan" of the Oregon Ducks and other Oregon college sports teams and wanted

to "support Oregon's team."

The governor did not accept any gifts as part of the trip.

"I am so proud of my Ducks," Brown told KOIN news in an interview posted to the station's YouTube channel Saturday night. "They did an amazing job tonight. They are an incredible team, and I just love watching them, and Oregon should be proud of our Oregon Ducks tonight."

Oregon State Police did not answer inquiries by deadline about costs associated with sending her security de-

tail to the game.

Running the dignitary protection unit at its current size — seven full-time employees and 16 seasonal positions — is expected to cost the state's general fund about \$2.5 million in the upcoming budget cycle, according to the Legislative Fiscal Office.

This year marks the first time the University of Oregon's team made it to the Final Four since 1939, when the NCAA tournament started. That year the team — then dubbed the Tall Firs — won the tournament.

In contrast, Oregon's opponent, the University of North Carolina, makes it to the final rounds of the NCAA tournament almost as a matter of routine, and has won the championship five times — most recently in 2009.

North Carolina Gov. Roy Cooper is a fellow Democrat, and an apparent college basketball fan. He posed for a photo with his NCAA bracket in March and posted it to Twitter.

However, Cooper did not attend Saturday's game, according to his press office.

Attend a Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation Dinner and Benefit Auction

Where fun and fund-raising combine for a memorable evening.

Date: Saturday, April 22
Time: 4:00—Doors open
5:30—Dinner
7:30—Auction
Place: Pavilion—
Grant County
Fairgrounds

Ticket Information:
Gale Wall (541) 575-2661

A great time for a great cause.
Proceeds benefit elk and other wildlife.



John Day Taxi

541-620-4255

The fare from Mt. Vernon to John Day has been increased to \$5.50 + 1 Chocolate Cookie.

You never need a taxi until you need one; put me on speed dial.



Richie Colbeth, Owner/Operator

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You are cordially invited to attend Holy Week and Easter services for Lent at Redeemer Lutheran Church. Holy Week at Redeemer starts on April 9th with Palm Sunday at 10:00 AM.

On April 13th (Maundy Thursday) services will start with a "Seder meal" at 5:00 p.m. Those attendees will experience the authentic Passover meal Jesus celebrated with His disciples with a special awareness of Christian meanings and symbols.

The Seder meal has limited seating and you must RSVP at 541-575-2348 or 541-542-2333 by Monday, April 10th. The special evening service following the Seder meal will begin at 7:15 p.m. and is designed to inspire and affirm your faith walk. The service will include foot washing (option/by personal choice), special readings, the Lord's Supper and a unique time to encounter the reality of the sacrifice of Jesus' love for you.

On April 14th Good Friday services will begin with the "Tre Ore" service from Noon to 3:00 p.m. (church is open and you may come and go as you please).

The Tre Ore service covers the three hours Jesus was on the cross and provides a special time for prayer, reflection, meditation, and time to honor the "seven last words of Jesus" with music.

The evening worship service begins at 7:00 p.m. and follows the reality of Jesus' love for us in his suffering so that we could actually become his brother and sisters. It is a very personal service to help you grow in faith (sometimes called Tenebrae). Personally you will follow the story of Jesus' crucifixion and meditate on what the cross means. Holy Week concludes on Easter Sunday, April 16th at 10:00 a.m. with the Resurrection Celebration. This resurrection life is for all God's creation and this Lenten and Easter theme is to facilitate God's reality for you. Join us in this exciting journey.



Redeemer Lutheran Church
627 S.E. Hillcrest, John Day
541-575-5840

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ATTENTION GRANT COUNTY VETERANS:

Did you know there may be VA benefits available for you as a result of your spouses' military service?

See your Grant County Veteran Services Officer today for more information, located at Grant County Court House.



Jeff Wilcox

★ Call 541-575-1631 for an appointment ★

Open: Mon, Wed, & Fri 10am-4pm by appointment.

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A man wakes up in the morning after sleeping on an **ADVERTISED BED**, in **ADVERTISED PAJAMAS**.



He will bathe in an **ADVERTISED TUB**, shave with an **ADVERTISED RAZOR**, have a breakfast of **ADVERTISED JUICE**, cereal and toast, toasted in an **ADVERTISED TOASTER**, put on **ADVERTISED CLOTHES** and glance at his **ADVERTISED WATCH**. He'll ride to work in his **ADVERTISED CAR**, sit at an **ADVERTISED DESK** and write with an **ADVERTISED PEN**. Yet this person hesitates to advertise, saying that advertising doesn't pay. Finally, when his non-advertised business is going under, **HE'LL ADVERTISE IT FOR SALE**.

Then it's too late.

AND THEY SAY ADVERTISING DOESN'T WORK? DON'T MAKE THIS SAME MISTAKE

Advertising is an investment, not an expense. Think about it!



Blue Mountain Eagle
MyEagleNews.com

Don't get left behind, call today! Kim Kell 541-575-0710

Benefit Dinner and Auction for Butch Goslin

April 15th
John Day Elks Lodge

Pre-buy raffle tickets for a gun and door prizes!

Doors open at 4 pm to view auction items

Dinner at 6 pm – Pulled Pork • No Host Bar

Some of the auction items:

Cow Elk Hunt • Youth Turkey Hunt
• 2 Guided Fishing Trips • Prime Rib Dinners • And Much More

For donations or more information contact
Walt Kight at 541-620-1227.

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