

PARTIES

Some calling for annual sessions

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else for Democrats and Republicans to quibble over. GOP lawmakers complain that the even-year sessions have become unruly, with consequential new laws pushed through with inadequate time for the public to have its say.

The next of these maligned "short sessions" begins Feb. 3. Sen. Ginny Burdick, D-Portland, who leads Democrats in the Senate, told reporters last week that short sessions are intended "primarily for budget issues."

Legislators write the state's two-year budget during its longer sessions, then use the even years in between for touch-ups.

But in her next breath, Burdick said the session is also time to address issues of an "urgent nature," such as reducing the state's emissions. A similar proposal stalled last session after Senate Republicans fled the state.

During the 2016 short session, for example, lawmakers raised the minimum wage, intended to stave off a potential ballot measure that Burdick said wouldn't have been as carefully crafted.

"I think you're always going to have that tension, you know, what is an emergency?" she said. "What is urgent?"

With a plan to enforce emissions restrictions on greenhouse gases expected to dominate the session, Republican lawmakers have complained that the public won't have time to give input as the legislation is shepherded through the House and Senate with a tight 35-day deadline.

Democrats counter that time is running out to tackle climate change and that ballot measures on the horizon, pushed by environmental groups, mean lawmakers should use the session to craft a more careful plan.

Some lawmakers say the short session isn't used as intended. Sen. Kim Thatcher, R-Keizer, has proposed doing away with it altogether.

"Ever since it was instituted, as I live through each of these short sessions, I think, 'Wow, this is not what was sold to the voters,'" Thatcher said. "I think it needs to be reevaluated as to whether it's working or not and make some changes."

Thatcher's proposal—Senate Joint Resolution 202—would eliminate the short session but keep the current 160-day limit on regular sessions in odd-numbered years. Lawmakers could extend that session by five days at a time by a two-thirds majority vote in each chamber.

"I would even say that (regular sessions) could be made a little shorter," Thatcher said.

While proposing to get rid of the short session, Thatcher said she also is open to looking at ways of limiting what could be done in a short session. She thinks that could restore the short session to what she believes lawmakers intended.

What's particularly frustrating, according to Thatcher, is that the Legislature can call itself into special session for emergencies and budget fixes anyway. She recalls special sessions between her election to the House in 2004 and when the short session was implemented first in 2010.

The short session's architect, Senate President Peter Courtney, D-Salem, wasn't available to comment on his creation. (Courtney was absent for a week of meetings lawmakers held at the Capitol Jan. 13-17 due to hospitalization for a hip injury).

Previously, Courtney said one session every other year was not enough to complete lawmakers' work.

"Society is so dynamic

and so diverse," he told The Oregonian in 2010. "There are so many more people than when they first designed this structure that it cannot respond the way it should."

The Legislature held record-length sessions in 2003 and 2005, followed by a special session in 2006. The saga renewed interest in annual sessions.

In 2006, a nonpartisan citizens' commission recommended that the Legislature move to annual sessions to better attend to the state's business.

Two years later, the Legislature held a special session that was billed as a test run for a permanent annual session. During the 19-day session, lawmakers adjusted budgets, approved bonds for an arena at the University of Oregon and tightened toy safety.

But other key proposals didn't advance, including help for distressed homeowners and changing the handling of teacher misconduct. Some lawmakers complained that the session was too short to accomplish all that should have been addressed.

Then, in 2010, lawmakers referred the issue to voters with what The Register-Guard described as "scornful opposition from minority Republicans." Later that year, voters approved the change.

In the pamphlet distributed to Oregon voters in November 2010, unions argued that an annual session would allow lawmakers to better respond to economic issues as the state recovered from the 2008 recession.

A group of bipartisan lawmakers argued that an annual session would improve government efficiency and responsiveness.

"Since 1999, the Legislature has had to call eight special sessions to resolve urgent issues that couldn't wait," they wrote in the Voter's Pamphlet. "This is an ineffective and inefficient way of doing the people's business. Oregonians deserve better."

Proponents said annual meetings of the Legislature would save taxpayer money by cutting down on lengthy sessions in odd-numbered years.

There was no organized opposition to the ballot measure, but Sen. Brian Boquist was a vocal critic.

In a recent interview, the Dallas Republican said that voters were told the session would be used for budget adjustments and technical fixes to laws.

Boquist still opposes the way the short session is structured. He said that the session's schedule requires bills to clear hurdles during the first week, which cuts off opportunities for public participation. Boquist said that's particularly problematic for complex legislation, such as the plan to enforce emissions caps.

He also attributed the short session to growing animosity in the Capitol. (Boquist made national headlines last year for threats against state police and now must give Capitol administrators 12 hours' notice before entering the building).

Having a legislative session every other year gave lawmakers a chance to cool off after a confrontation, Boquist said, but the Legislature is now essentially full time and lawmakers struggle to hold down jobs while being responsive to Salem.

"We have created this beast that is not capable of supporting itself," he said.

But instead of abolishing the short session, Boquist said that Oregon should have a longer session in even years, similar to Washington.

Oregon Bureau reporters Jake Thomas and Sam Stites contributed to this report.

Students to sing in New York

Six local students from the Lutz Music Studio, taught by Shawn Lutz, have been selected as finalists for the Honors Performance Series Honors Choir and Young Adult Honors Choir. They will be heading to New York City this week and will be under the direction of world renowned choral conductors. Along with other students from across the globe, they will be performing in one of the most famous concert halls—Carnegie Hall.

Nominated by the vocal instructor, they have been selected from among thousands of students who were also nominated by their teachers. The students arrive in NYC and will spend three full days in rehearsals, see a Broadway musical, and attend a dinner cruise by the Statue Of Liberty and the skyline of New York.

The culmination of this trip is an experience they will never forget...singing in Carnegie Hall. Lutz was also selected as a chaperon for this event and will be chaperoning fifteen high school students from across



Six voice students of Shawn Lutz's Lutz Music Studio were nominated and selected to be finalists in the Honors Performance Series Honors Choir. Pictured above are, left to right, front row, Alex Rector, Savannah Ezelle and Zora Richardson. Back row, Shawn Lutz, Noah Holloran, Jacob Vallie and Taylor Beeks. Contributed photo

the nation.

The students selected this year are Alex Rector, Noah Holloran, Jacob Vallie, Taylor Beeks, Zora Richardson and Savannah Ezelle. The students must have all of their music rehearsed and memorized before arriving in New York. All of these students are musically skilled

and talented in their own right and are looking forward to the opportunity.

The event is put on by Honors Performance Series/WorldStride.

OBITUARIES

George O'Dell Kellogg

August 23, 1934~ January 24, 2020

George O'Dell Kellogg of Miami, Okla., passed from this life Friday, January 24, 2020, at his home. He was 85.

George was born August 23, 1934, in Wyandotte, Okla., to Charles Elmer and Eliza Ann (Leader) Kellogg. He was a graduate of Wyandotte High School and had lived in Oregon for many years before returning to the Miami area.

George worked for Northwest Aluminum in The Dalles, Ore., for 40 years.

He was preceded in death by son, Benny Kellogg; his parents; and 10 siblings, Marvin Kellogg, Arlis (Pat) Kellogg, Iven (Shorty) Kellogg, Myrtal McGhee, Vernal Kellogg, Tiny Roberts, Eugene Kellogg, Lenabell Mathis, Elma Tell and John Kellogg.

George is survived by his wife, Janice L. Kellogg Miami, Okla.; sons, Stanley Kellogg of Mosier, Ore., Randy Kellogg and George R. Kellogg both of Miami, Okla.; daughter, Pamela Long of Vinita, Okla.; 2 sisters, Gladys Crowder and June Roberts both of Grove, Okla.; 13 grandchildren; and 17 great-grandchildren.

A viewing will be held from 6 p.m. - 8 p.m. on Thursday January 30, 2020, at Anderson's Tribute Center 1401 Belmont Ave. Hood River, Oregon 97031. A graveside service is scheduled for 10 a.m. Friday January 31, 2020, at Upper Valley Cemetery 6917 Allen Road Parkdale, Ore., 97041.

Arrangements are under the direction of Anderson's Tribute Center 1401 Belmont Avenue, Hood River, Oregon 97031. Visit www.AndersonsTributeCenter.com to leave a note of condolence for the family.



DEATHS

Maurice Odeal Mallonee, 96, a resident of The Dalles, Ore., died Jan. 23, 2020. The family is planning services to be held at a later date; information will be posted on the Spencer, Libby & Powell website once plans are finalized.

Ronald Herbert Reynier, Sr., 95, died Jan. 21, 2020, at Brookside Manor in Hood River, Ore. He was born Dec. 4, 1924, in Pottstown, Pennsylvania. Arrangements under the direction of Anderson's Tribute Center, 1401 Belmont Avenue, Hood River. Visit www.AndersonsTributeCenter.com to leave a note of condolence for the family.

James Ishizaka, 86, died Jan. 25, 2020, at the Mid-Columbia Medical Center in The Dalles, Ore. He was born April 2, 1933. Arrangements under the direction of Anderson's Tribute Center, 1401 Belmont Avenue, Hood River, Ore. Visit www.AndersonsTributeCenter.com to leave a note of condolence for the family.

Marjorie Thompson, 95, died Monday, Jan. 24, 2020. She was born in Portland, Oregon, and grew up in Hood River, Ore. Arrangements are under the direction of Anderson's Tribute Center, 1401 Belmont Avenue, Hood River. Visit www.AndersonsTributeCenter.com to leave a note of condolence for the family.

George Lee Williams II, 66, died Dec. 30, 2019, at his home in Hood River, Ore. He was born Aug. 23, 1953. A celebration of his life will be held at 2 p.m. Friday, Jan. 31, 2020, at the Hood River Alliance Church, 2650 Montello Ave., Hood River. Arrangements under the direction of Anderson's Tribute Center, 1401 Belmont Avenue, Hood River. Visit www.AndersonsTributeCenter.com to leave a note of condolence for the family.

Karen E Slaughter, 83, a resident of The Dalles, Ore., died Jan. 27, 2020. Private family services will be held. Spencer, Libby & Powell Funeral Home in care of arrangements.

GAME

Data also helps identify conflicts

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Checking a deer for CWD requires biologists to remove a lymph node at the base of the skull. For elk, the lymph node is taken alongside "something called the obex, which is basically the base of the brainstem," Rosenberg said.

Thompson said permitting roadkill harvest has also given ODFW data on where animals are being hit frequently.

"There's a massive movement throughout the west at identifying movement corridors and potential conflict zones on highways," Thompson said. He said the roadkill salvage data helps identify "critical pinch points" where wildlife crossing structures are needed

without ODFW gathering data through GPS collaring.

Rosenberg added that removing carcasses from the roadside minimizes waste and protects scavengers from also being hit later.

"A lot of our eagles that get hit on the road are hit while scavenging, so a lot of that volume is being taken out to be consumed by humans," Rosenberg said.

Thompson and Rosenberg said the annual movement patterns of blacktail and mule deer affect how likely they are to be hit. Mule deer become more concentrated at lower elevations during the winter and blacktails tend to be hit most during their breeding cycle, they said.

Of the 18 deer salvaged locally, Rosenberg had good news for hunters.

"Most of them were younger deer. Not very many mature bucks—I think only one that I can remember," Rosenberg said.

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