

Safety, alleviating poverty at top of DHS list

Spending plan 'disappointing'

By **CLAIRE WITCOMBE**
Capital Bureau

SALEM — Oregon Department of Human Services Director Clyde Saiki says legislators face "tough choices" in the next six months as they consider where to cut back on programs for children, seniors and people with disabilities.

The heads of the legislative budget-writing committee, Joint Ways and Means, released a preliminary spending plan Thursday.

The spending plan — what legislators called a "framework" — calls for about \$2.9 billion in spending on human services for the next budget cycle.

That's an increase from the agency's most recent biennial budget of \$2.7 billion, but state Sen. Richard Devlin, D-Tual-

atin, and Rep. Nancy Nathanson, D-Eugene, said that the \$2.9 billion amount is actually nearly 9 percent less than what the department needs to maintain the current level of services.

The plan accounts for a \$1.8 billion shortfall in state funds legislators say is needed to maintain service levels across state government.

Cost increases can be attributed to wage and benefit growth for state employees as well as adjustments for population growth and inflation.

On Friday, Saiki said that from where he stands, that spending plan was not "very surprising, but disappointing."

The Department of Human Services, which has a range of responsibilities from administering nutritional support to poor families to overseeing the state's foster care system, makes



Clyde Saiki

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Clyde Saiki

director, state Department of Human Services

up a significant chunk of the state general fund every year.

Saiki said that as the agency's budget goes through the legislative process, the agency would be focused on safety and alleviating poverty, which he said align with Gov. Kate Brown's own preferences. He also noted that the budget framework presented by legislators was merely the beginning of the process.

"The top two priorities are

really about safety for children and other vulnerable populations, all the people we serve," Saiki told a meeting of service providers and recipients in Salem on Friday. "The second priority is lifting people out of poverty."

In the past year, the department has been under the microscope after reports of abuse and systemic problems in state foster care.

The agency hired a new

child welfare director, Lena Alhousseini, who started work in November. The department is expected to release a unified Child Welfare improvement plan before the legislative session begins Feb. 1.

It was unclear, on the first day of Donald Trump's presidency, what support would be like from the federal government for antipoverty programs the department administers.

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, for example, is distributed in the form of a block grant from the federal government and is implemented by states.

In addition, for some programs, if the state makes cuts to its own funding for something, that can also mean the loss of matching funds from the federal government.

At Friday's meeting, service providers and recipients also expressed concerns about the effects of the possible repeal of the Affordable Care Act.

Human services officials have laid out a number of options for areas where anticipated spending could be cut back — 15 percent, or more than \$486 million in general fund money, in potential cuts.

Those options include reducing funding for personal services, eliminating a live-in care program, and eliminating quality care incentive payments for providers of child-care to kids who receive government subsidies.

Although those options are on the table as legislators start crafting the state budget, Saiki said he would advocate for increased child welfare staff and for rate increases for people working directly with people receiving services; for foster parents; and for groups providing behavioral rehabilitation services for children and teens.

The Capital Bureau is a collaboration between EO Media Group and Pamplin Media Group.

Philomath School District says football hazing dates to 2010

Highlighted after Warrenton incident last July

Associated Press

CORVALLIS — Hazing at Philomath High School happened for years before it came under scrutiny following an incident last summer at a football training camp in Warrenton, according to the school district's attorney.

Philomath School District lawyer Paul Dakopolos said there is evidence of hazing incidents involving the school's football team, wrestling team and boys' basketball

team dating to at least 2010, The Corvallis Gazette-Times reported.

The information came from an investigation conducted by Dakopolos' office after the discovery of a hazing incident at a football training camp at Camp Rilea last July. A 22-year-old former volunteer coach has entered a no contest plea to charges in the incident.

Prosecutors have said that the coach failed to protect the students. Eleven freshmen had intimate parts of their bodies targeted.

Dakopolos said his investigator interviewed eight current students, two former students, a parent of a former student, all varsity football coaches at

the training camp, a junior varsity football coach and coaches of other sports. However, most alleged victims and the alleged perpetrator declined to be interviewed by the investigator, Dakopolos said.

The investigation found that all the junior varsity coaches and the head coach were aware of the inappropriate physical contact during the training camp, Dakopolos said.

The victims were scared during the incidents and some said they did not report the hazing because coaches were in the room when some of it happened, according to Dakopolos.

School coaches have

reported hazing in the past, but the administration did not pass the information as required by law to law enforcement or the state Department of Human Services, Dakopolos said.

"The failure to discipline student athletes and coaches involved in incidents of hazing has created a misperception that the behavior is acceptable," he said.

The school district plans to take several actions to prevent future hazing, according to Superintendent Melissa Goff, including more training for coaches, addressing hazing at parental information meetings and adding anti-bullying and anti-hazing training to the school's curriculum.

Washington faces deadline on REAL ID

Requirements are for security

By **RACHEL LA CORTE**
Associated Press

OLYMPIA, Wash. — Last month, signs started popping up at airports nationwide warning travelers that unless their driver's licenses are from states already in compliance with federal identification requirements or states with a limited extension, they'll need additional documentation to board domestic flights starting in January 2018.

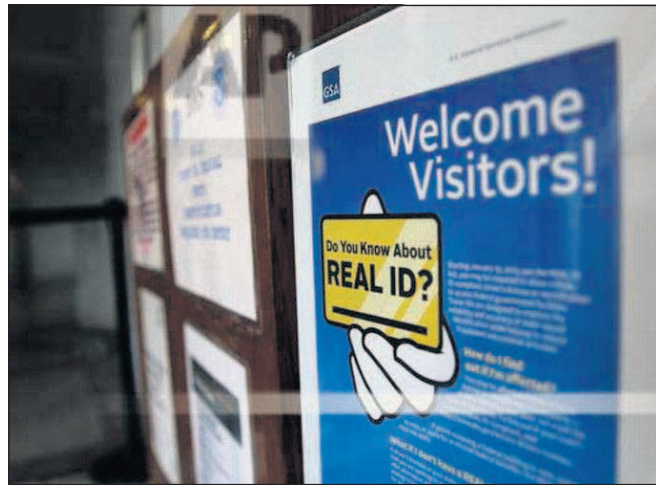
With that looming deadline, lawmakers in Washington state are trying to bring the state into compliance with the REAL ID Act, a 2005 federal law that requires state driver's licenses and ID cards to have security enhancements and be issued to people who can prove they're legally in the United States.

Washington is the only state in the country that does not require proof of legal presence in the U.S. to get a standard state driver's license or ID. However, the state already offers, but does not mandate, enhanced driver's licenses and IDs that require proof of U.S. citizenship and are valid under the federal law.

The state's Senate and House transportation committees held separate hearings Thursday on bills that have been introduced seeking to bring the state into compliance with REAL ID.

Just 25 states and the District of Columbia are currently in compliance with the law, according to the Department of Homeland Security's website.

Washington, Minnesota and Missouri are the only three states that are not compliant with the law and don't have an extension from the federal government, meaning millions of residents who currently have standard driver's licenses now need additional ID for access to some military bases and federal facilities. They'll eventually be required to show



AP Photo

Looming deadline for Washington state to comply with federal REAL ID law.

additional documentation for air travel unless the Legislature acts.

Two other states — Maine and Montana — are also not in compliance and have a grace period that will make them subject to enforcement starting on Jan. 30. On Thursday, Pennsylvania and Kentucky —

which had originally been subject to the Jan. 30 compliance date — were given a limited

extension through June 6, joining a handful of other states with limited extensions until that date. Eighteen other states and territories have extensions until Oct. 10.

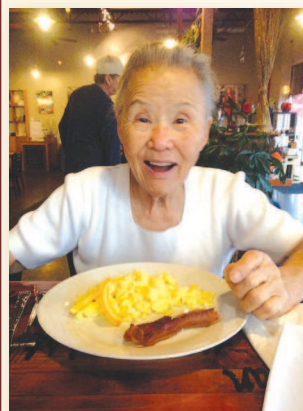
In addition to the measures introduced in Washington, Maine, Minnesota, Missouri, Oklahoma, Oregon, and South Carolina all have introduced bills related to REAL ID compliance this year, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures.

The proposed bills in Washington state would create a two-tiered licensing system that would keep the current enhanced license and would create a standard state license that would be marked indicating it is not valid for federal purposes.

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Celebration of Kim (Kyong S) Fuhrmann's Beautiful Life



Teri and I would like to invite everyone who knew Kim of Kim's Kitchen, to join us in sharing memories and celebration of Kim's beautiful life. We especially hope her many caregivers will attend. We include every shopkeeper, waitress and cab driver who took the time and effort to ensure her safety and well-being. We thank you. If you have stories you want to share, there will be open mic during the celebration for you to share. If you cannot make it to the event or don't feel inclined to share your story in front of the group, please write the story and email them to kimskitchenastoria@gmail.com. I will either read them or post them at the Celebration Service for all to hear. Teri and I look forward to seeing old friends who knew Kim along with new friends Teri and I have yet to meet.

January 28th ❖ 1 to 4pm
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Company hopes to build pot-friendly RV park in Medford

Associated Press

MEDFORD — An Oregon company wants to build a pot-friendly RV park.

A company that supplies warehouse space for marijuana growers is eyeing property near Lake Selmac in Josephine County.

The park will be called Smoke on the Water, Grow Condos Chief Executive Officer Wayne Zallen said.

If the project moves forward, the company hopes to expand with campgrounds in other marijuana-friendly states. The RV parks would include tent camping and a pot dispensary, he said.

The company already has a 15,000-square-foot facility in Eagle Point, where it offers for lease or sale indoor grow spaces,

which are all occupied. The company is also working toward building a 48,000-square-foot commercial marijuana processing facility in Eugene.

The project, called Nuggetville, was submitted to Eugene in December. The 40-page plan shows blueprints for four warehouses on a 2.65-acre site on industrial property.

"Eugene rolled out the red carpet," Zallen said. The city made staff available to provide feedback on proposed drafts, he said.

Grow Condos in promotional materials said the four buildings could hold more than 30 growers. The industrial spaces would be sold at \$150,000 to \$175,000 each.

"It's all coming together," Zallen said of the company's various plans.

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