

## Session: Members of both parties seek to pass a transportation package

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using the administration to stop enforcement of the order.

"There's obviously a great deal of concern here for our vulnerable neighbors who are under attack by the actions of the White House," said House Majority Leader Jennifer Williamson, D-Portland. "We've resolved to stand with them and to use very legal tool at our disposal to protect them."

### Invocation

In a gesture of resistance to Trump's executive order, House Speaker Tina Kotek kicked off Wednesday with an invocation from a Portland imam.

Imam Muhammed Najieb, director of the Muslim Community Center of Portland, recited opening chapters of the Quran on the floor of the House.

"I hope the recitation he shared with us today helps send the message to those in the Capitol and to Oregonians across the state: everyone is welcome here," Kotek said in a statement.

Meanwhile, on the floor of the Senate, Minority Leader Ted Ferrioli, R-John Day, spoke to some Democrats' anxiety concerning the Trump administration.

"We understand how Democrats may be feeling, especially when they look at the Washington, D.C., situation, and it's a terrible thing to be without any access to the levers of power," Ferrioli said. "We certainly know how that feels here in Oregon."

Ferrioli said he hoped that Democrats would work with Republicans to solve the state's pressing problems. Republicans have asked Democrats for reforms to the Public Employees Retirement System, spending curtailment and adjustment to the carbon fuels standard in exchange for their support of tax measures for general revenue and transportation.

### Compromise needed

Despite the Legislature's Democratic majority, Repub-

lican votes are needed to pass tax measures, which require a three-fifths majority vote.

"We need compromise on key legislative issues before us, and we would like to start by reaching out. Republicans are reaching out to Democrats in the spirit of compromise, and we hope that this sets a tone for a very productive legislative session," Ferrioli said.

Some Republicans said they worry the state's \$1.8 billion budget gap may grow larger as federal matching formulas change under the new presidential administration. One of those potential changes is the way health care is subsidized for the poor under Medicaid. Republicans in Congress have vowed to repeal the Affordable Care Act, casting more uncertainty on Oregon's state budget.

"We've seen this play out in the reverse when Democrats in Congress had a Democratic president, red states suffered," said Rep. Julie Parrish, R-West Linn. "Now, it's the opposite. Now, we're a blue state with a red federal administration, and we have the potential to make our \$1.8 billion budget hole worse."

### Transportation package

One area where lawmakers from both parties agree is on their desire to pass a transportation package this session.

"To be frank, since I've been in this building, this is the one session that has actually so far, been the most civil and been the most non-partisan," said Sen. Brian Boquist, R-Dallas, who sits a joint committee crafting the transportation package.

Two Democrats and two Republicans are heading up that effort.

Sen. Sara Gelsler, D-Corvallis, said this session gives "an opportunity for Oregon to shine and really demonstrate our Oregon values and to make Oregonians proud of the place that we live."

## Fish plan: Decrease isn't expected to affect staffing in the short term

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includes two other Mitchell Act-affected hatcheries on the Klaskanine River and Gnat Creek, neither of which are significantly affected by changing production.

Each year, Big Creek raises and releases on average 543,000 coho, 154,000 chum and 55,000 winter steelhead. But the hatchery's biggest export by far is the 3.1 million fall "tule" Chinook salmon released each year, which will be capped at 1.4 million by 2022. Klaskanine Hatchery, which Dietrichs said is largely funded by Bonneville Power Administration, will continue to produce a maximum of more than 2.4 million Chinook.

Each fall, Chinook that make it past recreational and commercial fishermen come back up Big Creek, ready to spawn, into holding ponds. The hatchery's staff, often with the help of local students, removes eggs from ripe adults, sending the fish to local food pantries or depositing in local streams for nutrients. The hatchery raises the eggs into alevin, places the fry into cement raceways and releases them as juveniles in the spring. The cycle starts over again when previously released salmon, drawn back by the smell of the water and other navigation techniques not totally understood by scientists, return to their artificial spawning grounds after years of feeding in the ocean.

"Coho are solid," Dietrichs said of the more than half-million coho the hatchery raises. "They really hone into their home site. Tules stray more. That's what's really driving the changes" in production.

### Strays

About 80 percent of the salmon caught in the Columbia River are raised in hatcheries, which supplement endangered wild species being



Danny Miller/The Daily Astorian

Steelhead salmon flop around in a net at Big Creek Fish Hatchery.

rebuilt and allow for commercial and recreational fisheries, but can also compete with and hinder their recovery.

Rob Jones, chief of Anadromous Production and Inland Fisheries for NOAA Fisheries' West Coast region, said the agency started in 2013 looking at the impacts of hatcheries on the recovery of endangered wild salmon species. Special focus was paid to where farmed fish stray onto wild spawning grounds, breeding with and weakening the genetics of wild salmon.

On Jan. 15, NOAA released a biological opinion detailing changes coming over the next several years to the 62 hatcheries on the Columbia receiving federal funding through the Mitchell Act, along with about \$1.8 million in federal funding withheld until the opinion was issued. Jones estimated the act funds about 50 million of the 120 to 140 million hatchery salmon produced in the Columbia River Basin each year through a variety of agreements to mitigate the impact of development.

The result was a decrease in federal funding for Chinook production that fishery managers have estimated will translate into a 7 percent reduction in commercial and recreational landings. Federal funding for coho, which have been found less harmful to wild stocks, was increased and is expected to raise catches by 4 percent. While it's Chinook production is being halved, Big Creek is expected to increase coho production from 543,000 now to a maximum of 735,000 by 2022.

NOAA's biological opinion also included a requirement to use only breeding stock that originates in the Columbia, reducing the genetic risk to native fish stocks, and more monitoring of the effects of hatcheries on wild salmon.

### Healthier upstream

While fall Chinook production was drastically cut on the lower Columbia, Bonneville Hatchery is expected to go from 2.5 to a maximum of 5 million Chinook produced each year.

"The wild stocks in the lower river, what we call the coastal area, are in worse shape than the stocks in the Cascade stratum upstream, or in the (Columbia River) Gorge stratum," Jones said. "That was the No. 1 factor for reducing production in the estuary."

Jones said states continue to research why estuary fish do worse. Scott Patterson, the manager of Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife's fish propagation program, said there are several guesses as to why, although none of them conclusive. One idea, he said, is that there are simply more wild and farmed fish caught in the estuary.

Patterson said he doesn't expect the decrease in Chinook production at Big Creek to affect staffing in the short term, with about nine staffers shared between Big Creek and Klaskanine. Dietrichs said production has changed every year he's been at Big Creek Hatchery, but that his focus remains on raising quality fish for other hatcheries and consumers on the river.

## Girls: Kits will be sent 'all over the world'

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The Rainier Oregon Stake, which oversees the other congregations, is leading the project through Days for Girls, an international nonprofit founded by a Mormon woman but that is independent of the church.

In April, members of these churches will meet for two days in Rainier and assemble full kits, which will be taken to the Days for Girls headquarters in Lindy, Washington, and, from there, transported to where they are needed.

Ken Jones, an Astoria ward member, said the churches do not know where Days for Girls will send the kits.

"They do projects all over the world. A good share of them do go to Africa, but there are some that go to South America," he said. "Wherever the young women are having problems getting their school, and having this problem (of feminine hygiene), they help out."

The kit includes eight absorbent flannel pads, two "shields" (fabric stuffed with liner) that act as moisture barriers, two pairs of underwear, plastic bags for clean and soiled items, a washcloth and travel-sized soap.

"We are all donating our own time and our own materials to make these," Joy Jones, an Astoria church leader and Ken Jones' wife, said.

Early Days for Girls ideas included sending regular disposable pads. But disposal is a problem in places where waste infrastructure isn't up to the task.

Pads "end up just clogging their water systems. They throw them away, and they get into fences, they get into the brush and the bushes ... So disposable things do not work at all," Joy Jones said.

Avoiding trash buildup is one reason why tampons aren't part of the kit. (Another is a cultural taboo, in some regions, against insertable items.)

The chosen fabrics are pat-



Submitted Photo

From left: Joy Jones, Toni Kasper, Renee Vocana and Eliza Ferrin — four Days for Girls committee leaders — helped organize Saturday's event at the Astoria Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints church.

terned and darkly colored so that staining isn't obvious — a key feature in managing the stigma of menstruation.

In Western countries, where menstruation does not permanently stunt a woman's life, this stigma can be hard to imagine.

"You never think about something like this being a problem in another country," Joy Jones said.

But traditional beliefs in some villages of Africa, the

Indian subcontinent and elsewhere mandate that women on their period spend up to one week a month sequestered in a hut, often with little to no human contact. Teenage girls frequently fall behind their male classmates, and many abandon their education altogether.

"When we first heard of it, we said, 'Well, of course — of course this is something we need to do,'" Jones said, "because it just seemed

so logical that we need to help these young girls in these other countries."

Emma Goldthorpe, 12, a Warrenton church member who participated in Saturday's bag-making, said in an email message that she enjoyed "helping to serve other girls who live far away from me."

"I learned they don't have some things I do, but we are all still girls," she wrote. "It felt nice to help."



Anna Reed /Statesman-Journal

People gather outside hearing rooms on the first day of the Oregon 2017 legislative session at the Oregon State Capitol in Salem on Wednesday.

## Garner: Court found no 'wrongdoing by police, prosecutors, or trial judge'

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The appeals court on Wednesday rejected Garner's claim that his attorneys also failed to properly challenge the trial court's dismissal of a juror who was uncomfortable with the death penalty.

Both Garner and the state Department of Justice, which had fought against a new sentencing hearing, could appeal Wednesday's ruling to the state Supreme Court.

The appeals court ruling raises the possibility the infamous case will return to Clatsop County. Garner and a friend, Leslie Roy Simpkins, were charged with killing Bailey for talking about their drug activity. Simpkins claimed he was a bystander to Garner's cocaine-and-alcohol-fueled rage with Simpkins' knife that August day on the run-down boat. Simpkins was acquitted of aggravated murder in 2002 after two trials.

District Attorney Josh Marquis, who prosecuted Garner and Simpkins, spoke of the difficulty of redoing the sentence for a crime that is nearly two decades old.

"Given that it took four years to take this case to trial, finding out 19 years after the murder that an appeals court may require a new penalty phase is very disappointing," the district attorney said in an email.

Marquis said Garner's guilt is not an issue, nor is the conduct of local police, prosecutors or the Circuit Court. Garner's arguments now rest "on claims that one of his appellate lawyers failed to raise an issue. At no point did the court find any wrongdoing by police, prosecutors, or the trial judge."

Ryan O'Connor, a Portland attorney who represented Garner before the Court of Appeals, said: "I'm sure that he's pleased to get an opportunity for resentencing, but disappointed in the result of the juror issue. We'll have to consult with him to see whether he wants to ask the Oregon Supreme Court to review the juror issue."

Kristina Edmunson, the communications director at the state Department of Justice, said the state is "reviewing the court's decision and evaluating our next steps."

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