

BROWN: Last visit to Hermiston was Sept. 2014

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ers and with farmers," Pedro said.

She said during her visits Brown has done everything from meeting with Ambre Energy about the Port of Morrow coal export project to discussing water needs and irrigation practices with local farmers.

"She gets to meet with folks and become better informed, and that's what I think she really tries to do when she's here is understand the issues we're facing," Pedro said. "I appreciate that."

Brown's last visit to Hermiston was Sept. 11, 2014. She spoke to Hermiston's government affairs team about ways her office was cutting red tape for small businesses, and visited Hermiston High School to talk about the importance of voter registration.

Pedro said she reached out to Brown's office on Tuesday and extended an invitation for Brown to visit Hermiston in her new role of governor as soon as she has time.

Chuck Sams, communications director for the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, said the tribes also look forward to working with Brown in her new capacity.

"She gets to meet with folks and become better informed, and that's what I think she really tries to do when she's here is understand the issues we're facing."

— **Debbie Pedro,**
Hermiston Chamber of Commerce director

"We have had a wonderful relationship with Kate Brown for more than 20 years," he said.

He said Brown has visited the reservation many times and often talks about the fact that her first legislative committee assignment as a freshman in the Oregon House of Representatives was to be on the Legislative Commission on Indian Services, where she served for 15 years. He said with the exception of late governor Vic Atiyeh it is rare for a governor to come into office with that type of experience.

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INAUGURATION: Brown has not named a successor for Secretary of State

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tion, Brown, as secretary of state, will succeed Gov. John Kitzhaber, who announced his resignation last week. Oregon does not have a lieutenant governor.

Kitzhaber's resignation takes effect at 10 a.m. Wednesday.

"The oath needs to be at 10, because that's when the resignation occurs," Sekerak said.

Oregon Supreme Court Chief Justice Thomas Balmer will administer the oath, House Speaker Rep. Tina Kotek, D-Portland, said Monday.

Members of the public who want to attend can watch from the House gallery, and Sekerak hopes to begin seating people at 9:30 a.m.

"I'm waiting to hear what the agenda's going to be myself," Sekerak said. He added that with the Legislature in session, there is less time to move furniture on the House floor to accommodate attendees and "I think it's going to be a more limited affair."

Brown has yet to identify a successor to finish the remainder of her term as secretary of state, which expires in 2016.

Kotek told reporters Monday that she is not interested in the position, but two other lawmakers

whose names have been raised as possible successors are not ruling it out. House Majority Leader Rep. Val Hoyle, D-Eugene, has not commented publicly on whether she is interested in the position, but Senate Majority Leader Sen. Diane Rosenbaum, D-Portland, confirmed in a written statement that she is interested in the job.

"I am deeply appreciative of the support I have heard from fellow Oregonians for the possibility of serving as Oregon's next Secretary of State," Rosenbaum wrote. "If chosen, I will discuss this matter with my family before making a decision about how I can best serve the people of Oregon."

The secretary of state who replaces Brown can run for two full terms, because the remainder of her current term does not count against the normal term limit.

Brown is also working to hire new staffers. On Monday, Brown named Brian Shipley as her chief of staff. Shipley is currently a lobbyist for Oregon Health & Science University in Portland, but previously worked for two governors and for Brown.

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

MARIJUANA: Expressed interest in using La Grande's laws as a model

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"Although (Umatilla) County voted 63 percent to 37 percent against recreational marijuana, I hear more support from constituents for medical marijuana dispensaries ... May 1 is coming quick, we need to do something," he said.

Wood said staff from the city of La Grande held a series of public meetings, inviting advocates and opponents, to help craft their medical marijuana regulations. Today, La Grande has one of the few operating dispensaries in Eastern Oregon and has already conditionally approved one more.

Multiple councilors expressed interest in using La Grande's laws as a model to help guide the creation of Pendleton's regulations.

Councilman Al Plute chided the council for not starting the rule making process earlier, but other members came to the coun-

cil's defense, saying recent developments in marijuana regulation hadn't happened at the time of the moratorium.

"For us to be able to reinvent the wheel, there's no need to," Councilman Neil Brown said. "The wheel is telling us we're going, whether we agree with the wheel or not. At least we have a starting point, and a year ago we didn't have that option."

Whatever decisions the council makes on dispensaries will be a separate issue from the legalization of recreational marijuana under Measure 91, which goes into effect July 1.

Roberts said the council would have the discretion to enact similar regulations for dispensaries and retailers of recreational marijuana or create different rules for each.

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Oregon Senate passes low-carbon fuel bill

By HILLARY BORRUD
Capital Bureau

SALEM — Democrats in the Oregon Senate passed low-carbon fuel legislation Tuesday, despite appeals by Republicans who sought to put the bill on hold indefinitely or refer it to voters.

It passed 17-13 on a nearly party line vote, with Sen. Betsy Johnson, D-Scappoose, the lone Democrat to vote "no." Johnson also voted against the low-carbon fuel standard in 2013.

Republicans have tried for weeks to stop Senate Bill 324 by tying it to outgoing Gov. John Kitzhaber and his fiancée Cylvia Hayes, who was a paid consultant for groups that worked to organize support for the fuel standard.

Opponents had fresh ammunition on Tuesday: a federal subpoena that ordered the state to provide a long list of records related to Hayes' consulting, including any that deal with the

low-carbon fuel standard. The U.S. Department of Justice served the subpoena on the Department of Administrative Services Friday.

The Oregon Department of Justice and state ethics commission are also investigating Kitzhaber and Hayes' dealings. Kitzhaber announced Friday he would resign, effective 10 a.m. Wednesday.

"Even if you agree with the policy, that should give you pause," Sen. Tim Knopp, R-Bend, said of the subpoena Tuesday.

Senate Majority Leader Sen. Diane Rosenbaum dismissed the idea of any connection.

"There is no link between Cylvia Hayes' contracts and the clean fuels program," Rosenbaum said.

SB 324 is now in the House of Representatives, where it will be assigned to a committee. Republicans proposed several motions to sideline the bill, none of which succeeded despite

three hours of maneuvering. One proposal would have referred the legislation to voters in a November special election, but Democrats voted down that idea.

Oregon already has a low-carbon fuels law that was passed in 2009, but it is set to sunset this year. SB 324 would make that fuel standard permanent. The Oregon Environmental Quality Commission voted in January to adopt regulations that will require fuel importers and producers to reduce the carbon content of transportation fuels by 10 percent over the next decade, starting in January 2016.

Fuel importers and producers have at least two options to meet the standard: blend more low-carbon ethanol and biodiesel into transportation fuels, or by purchase carbon credits. The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality plans to set up a system for entities such as electric

vehicle charging stations to generate carbon credits.

The agency expects the fuel standard will reduce greenhouse gas emissions in Oregon by a total of 7.3 million tons over the next decade. When spread over 10 years, that decrease is relatively small.

In 2010, the latest year for which DEQ has data, vehicles in Oregon emitted 22.6 million tons of carbon dioxide. The average emissions decrease anticipated from the low-carbon fuels program would have translated to a 3 percent reduction in 2010.

Democrats including Sen. Michael Dembrow, D-Portland, said they continue to support the bill because it is an important step to fight climate change. Dembrow said when he voted for the original bill in 2009, his second grandchild had just been born and his grandchildren were also on his mind as he voted for SB 324 on Tuesday.

VACCINE: Only one reported case of measles so far in Oregon

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Roundup Republic Women in Pendleton about measles, vaccinations and why herd immunity sometimes isn't enough.

Measles had been declared eliminated from ongoing measles transmissions in 2000, but is staging a comeback. The Centers for Disease Control estimates that before the measles vaccination program started in 1963, three or four million got measles each year in the United States. More than 400 died, around 48,000 were hospitalized and 4,000 developed encephalitis, a condition where the brain swells. DeBolt said people have forgotten the danger.

"It's so contagious," she said. "Not everyone survives."

She said measles gets deadly when it devolves into complications such as pneumonia or encephalitis, which can lead to deafness and retardation.

"You can't make the assumption your kid is going to be one of the lucky ones," DeBolt said.

DeBolt said distrust of the MMR vaccine started with a 1998 report published in The Lancet medical journal that suggested a link between vaccine and autism. The



AP Photo/Ted S. Warren

Sonja Wright, left, of Ellensburg, Wash., holds her daughter Iris, 4 months, as she waits to testify against House Bill 2009 during a hearing at the Capitol in Olympia Tuesday. The bill would remove personal or philosophical opposition as an acceptable reason for parents to not vaccinate their school-age children. Currently, Washington allows school vaccination exemptions for medical, religious and personal or philosophical beliefs.

study followed eight children, reporting that signs of autism appeared within days of inoculation. The study, DeBolt said, was discredited, but still lurks on the Internet. Researcher Andrew Wakefield lost his license to practice medicine in the United Kingdom.

"It was proven to be falsified," DeBolt said. "It was retracted."

Later, at least 40 studies that included millions of children showed no link.

Parents have balked for other reasons ranging from

perceived government interference to overloading their child's immune system. The decrease in immunization rates has weakened herd immunity — a condition where unvaccinated people are protected by the sheer numbers of vaccinated people. That's bad news for babies, who don't ramp up their creation of antibodies until they're older and cannot be vaccinated, so they are vulnerable.

Some communities are worse than others. DeBolt feared for her baby while living in a California county

with a particularly low immunization rate.

"I didn't take my son, Robbie, out for three months," she said.

Only one case of measles has popped up so far in Oregon, but that might change. A Eugene man who visited Disneyland with his family is Oregon's first case this year. Symptoms include hacking cough, runny nose, high fever and eventually a rash.

Nine out of 10 non-vaccinated people will come down with measles when exposed, DeBolt said. The disease goes airborne and lingers in the air for up to two hours.

"The risk is very real," she said.

Typically, the MMR vaccine is given at about one year and again at age 5 or 6.

Steiner Hayward said requirements for non-medical exemptions tightened in 2013, when Oregon legislators voted to require parents to talk with a doctor and watch a video. Now, she said, there is interest on both sides of the aisle in eliminating the exemptions entirely.

"If we don't do something now," she said, "we may have a large public health crisis on our hands."

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POWER: 'We believe not all feasible routes were considered'

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a dime to property values. Gary Rinehart, vice chair of the county planning commission and owner of a small farm south of Pendleton, suggested the project should follow Interstate 84 or other infrastructure. He also said the county could consider an "energy corridor" for these kinds of projects.

Steve Corey of Pendleton was there on behalf of Cunningham Sheep Co. and Pendleton Ranches Inc. He said the line would damage their forest and grazing properties near Meacham and wheat land near Pilot Rock. The two local farm operations have remarked on the project for six years, he said, but Idaho Power has shown no sense of respect for changing a route.

"We've just been run over," Corey said.

The line also brings nothing to the county, he said, and re-routing the line can move to a neighbor's property. "Why'd they put us at odds with one another when we

don't really need this?" Corey said.

He, and others, asked officials to look for options to run the line around the county.

Shana Bailey of Pilot Rock said the line would go over her home, but she did not want to raise her children under the 500 kilovolt structure, nor would the line benefit their family horse training business or her photography business.

J.R. Cook, director of the Northeast Oregon Water Association, said the county should target the project's environmental impact statement for its deficiencies. The statement lacks socio-economic details to identify long and short term changes, he said, and that in turn affects the BLM's ability to make a determination on allowing the line. Moreover, Cook said, "We believe not all feasible routes were considered," which is a requirement of federal law. According to the BLM, about 33 percent of the project is on federal public lands and the rest is

private and state lands.

The line is all about power company profit at the expense of Umatilla County, Cook said, and protecting high value farm land is a state goal even when it comes into conflict with federal values.

John Luciani of Echo said Idaho Power employees have trespassed on his land, and the line would make it impossible for planes to spray his family's pea and wheat operations. Brandon Christiansen of Hermiston said the line would cut through his family's 5,000-acre farm on the Morrow County side. "When this thing comes right through the middle of your operation, that is a huge wrench in your gears," he said.

Pilot Rock farmer Richard Hemphill put it this way:

"You know, farm ground is kind of a precious thing — you can't make any more."

But Alan Insko of Pilot Rock said working with the power company is the better approach. "If they are going to go near us I want them to go through me so I have some say in what's going on," he said.

George Murdock, chairman of the county board of commissioners, said he would write the county's response. The draft environmental impact statement (DEIS) is available for review at www.boardmanto-hemingway.com, where you also can submit comments.

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