

Hatcheries releasing fish early because of drought

SALEM (AP) — Hatcheries in northwest Oregon have released fish ahead of schedule due to decreasing water levels.

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife's North Nehalem Hatchery released 1,550 rainbow trout averaging 1 pound each in early June.

"At the time we released our trout, the lakes were getting borderline, but we were still able to stock the fish," said Robert Bradley, a fish biologist with the department's Tillamook office.

Bradley said being able to use the water at the hatcheries for raising salmon and steelhead was a higher priority.

Spring chinook being raised at the Trask River Hatchery near Tillamook will be released about a month earlier than planned.

"We typically release our spring Chinook smolts toward the end of July," Bradley said. "We've already released a few groups of them to free up some space at the hatcheries."

Spring chinook at Cedar Creek Hatchery and fall chinook at Rhoades Pond fisheries are doing better off because they are raising fewer fish than the state's larger hatcheries, he said.

A problem that has already been seen with



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lower water levels in rivers and streams is that there have been reports of non-hatchery wild fish being left out to dry.

"The biggest concern that we've seen already is the stranding of some juvenile fish trapped in the back-water areas," Bradley said.

probably some of that going on that we're not going to know about. They'll probably dry up or birds or whatever will get to them."

Bradley said anything that is caught and released should be handled carefully in these weather and water conditions.

Umatilla County sheriff, DA, commissioners get raises

By PHIL WRIGHT East Oregonian

Umatilla County commissioners Thursday approved pay raises that increase their annual salary more than \$8,000.

The county's compensation review committee recommended commissioners receive a one-time parity increase of 7.5 percent as well as a 3 percent cost-of-living increase for all elected officials.

The raises put Umatilla County commissioners close to what Benton County pays its commissioners: \$81,936-\$86,896 a year.

10,000 more than Umatilla County, but at 679 square miles is almost five times smaller than the size of Umatilla County.

Polk County has almost 78,000 people but is more than four times smaller. Commissioners there make \$65,532 a year.

The commissioners also voted to give 5 percent raises to the other county elected officials — the sheriff and district attorney — according Olsen.

Additionally, the board approved a new corrections officer at the jail to follow through on the sheriff's office request for more courthouse security.

Washington House passes recreational pot reform bill

OLYMPIA, Wash. (AP) — The House on Friday passed a measure that makes several changes to the state's new recreational marijuana market, including eliminating the three-tier tax structure and replacing it with a single excise tax of 37 percent at the point of sale.

House Bill 2136 passed the House on a 59-38 vote and now heads to the Senate for consideration. An amendment that passed Friday removed language from the original bill that would have only allowed local bans on licensed marijuana businesses if approved by the jurisdiction's voters.

The original bill had set the excise tax rate at 30 percent, and Rep. Reuven Carlyle, a Democrat from Seattle who sponsored the measure, said that he personally believes the 37 percent rate negotiated with the Senate "is a mistake."

"But we find ourselves at a time of political addiction to the shaky

perception of a new revenue pillar that is questionable at best," he said, noting budget assumptions of how much the new market might bring to the state.

However, Carlyle praised many other elements of the bill, and noted that lawmakers will continue to tweak the system in years to come.

"The people of the state are looking for a well regulated and appropriately taxed system," Carlyle said. "We have a responsibility to implement the spirit of the initiative, and I think in many ways we have done so."

The passage of Initiative 502 in 2012 allowed the sale of marijuana to adults for recreational use at licensed stores, which started opening last year. Recreational businesses have complained that they're being squeezed by medical dispensaries that have proliferated in many parts of the state, providing lesser- or untaxed alternatives to licensed recreational stores.

BRIEFLY

Beaver attacks 2 men who climbed on top of dam

BEND (AP) — A beaver protecting its dam attacked two central Oregon men, who fell into a river and got taken to the hospital.

Sgt. William Bailey of the Deschutes County Sheriff's Office says the men were exploring Thursday night when they climbed onto a beaver dam and got attacked by the animal protecting its turf.

Bailey says their injuries are not considered life-threatening.

One man quickly climbed out the Deschutes River near Lava Island Falls and sought help for his friend whose clothing got caught on some logs.

The trapped man managed to get out of the water just as a deputy arrived.

Lottery Commission chair steps down

SALEM (AP) — The chair of the Oregon Lottery Commission is stepping down after her law firm filed a lawsuit against the lottery.

Elisa Dozono's resignation takes effect next week, and Brown has a month to appoint a replacement.

Dozono is a partner in the law firm Miller Nash Graham & Dunn. The firm represents a business owner who is suing the lottery over its attempt to remove video lottery machines from his restaurant on Hayden Island in Portland.

Dozono has chaired the lottery commission since 2012. Gov. Kate Brown says she'll try to appoint Dozono to a different position "so that Oregon may continue to benefit from her talents and dedication."

Vehicle stolen with child inside recovered

FAIRVIEW (AP) — Police have recovered a vehicle that was stolen in the Portland suburbs with an 11-year-old child in the backseat.

Fairview Police Chief Ken Johnson says the vehicle and the child were found in Milwaukie. The child was not harmed.

According to Johnson, the incident began at 9 a.m. Friday when a driver stopped at a gas station, and walked away from the vehicle while it was still running.

When the driver returned, the vehicle was gone along with the child who was inside. Authorities found the vehicle and the child about 25 minutes later. The suspect had fled.

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