

# EAST OREGONIAN

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## OUR VIEW

# Time to speak for commercial fishing

Last week included one of the signature events on the Pacific Northwest's annual calendar: the setting of spring fishing seasons on the Columbia River.

The forecast for the important spring chinook run is about 300,000 to the river's mouth, about 28 percent fewer than last year but more than the 10-year average of 285,000. Forecasts are one thing and reality quite another, but there is a good chance that fishermen and the businesses that rely on them will have a fun few weeks from March 1 to April 9.

The initial allocation is 7,515 fish for recreational fishermen below

Bonneville Dam, 1,222 for the mainstream non-tribal commercial fishery and 198 for select area commercial fisheries. Gillnetters will get two days of fishing — tentatively March 29 and April 5.

This also is a good time to note that in 2015 sea lions killed 8,500 spring chinook salmon in the tailrace just below Bonneville, and many more in the relatively unobserved 140-plus miles between the dam and the river's mouth.

Smart beasts that they are, it is widely anticipated they will again be showing up in the river in force in

coming weeks.

The differences between all these numbers may come as a surprise to those who don't pay attention to Columbia fishing issues. From the rhetoric of those who oppose commercial fishing, you might suppose gillnetters were swallowing up a vast proportion of the salmon run. In fact, in this rather typical year, mainstream gillnetters will harvest perhaps half of 1 percent of the run. And that's if they're lucky — accidentally catching too many fish from a run protected by the Endangered Species Act sometimes drastically curtails even this sort of conservative season.

It's no wonder consumers have to pay so much for a precious meal of our homegrown spring chinook salmon. If we want this first taste of Pacific Northwest spring to remain part of our culture and economy, we need to continue speaking up for commercial fishing families who put Columbia salmon on our tables.

Sensible salmon management requires all fishermen to work together — along with tribes, river managers, conservationists, leaded leaders and others — to continue rebuilding runs.

**If we want the first taste of Pacific Northwest spring to remain part of our culture and economy, we need to continue speaking up for commercial fishing families.**

Unsigned editorials are the opinion of the East Oregonian editorial board of Publisher Kathryn Brown, Managing Editor Daniel Wattenburger, and Opinion Page Editor Tim Trainor. Other columns, letters and cartoons on this page express the opinions of the authors and not necessarily that of the East Oregonian.

## OTHER VIEWS

# Nothing short about this session

The (Eugene) Register-Guard

Voters amended the Oregon Constitution six years ago to require annual legislative sessions, and the new calendar has evolved quickly. The 35-day sessions in even-numbered years were expected to be codas to the 160-day odd-year sessions — lawmakers would fine-tune the budget, deal with a few unanticipated problems and go home. But the short session that convened Monday will deal with some meaty issues, and some thorny ones.

Part of the increasingly substantive role is a product of the initiative process. By this time of year, it becomes possible to discern the most consequential ballot measures likely to be considered in the November general election. The February session offers lawmakers their last opportunity to act as shortstop, approving substitutes for initiative proposals or referring to the ballot alternative measures of their own.

Democrats also feel a need to take advantage of their control of the governor's office and their strong majorities in both the House and Senate. Their position is likely to be no stronger in 2017, and could be weaker — which adds an element of urgency to items on the party's agenda.

Those factors combine to bring forward the issue of an increase in Oregon's minimum wage. A big increase would have consequences for workers, businesses, governments and nonprofit organizations — consequences that would vary by economic sector and geographic region. A hurry-up legislative session will not have time for the hearings, committee reviews and debate the issue deserves.

But unless the Legislature approves some sort of minimum wage increase, an initiative for a larger and more disruptive increase is likely to be on the ballot in November. Gov. Kate Brown has called for a two-tier increase that would be phased in more slowly than initiative sponsors propose.

Similarly, an initiative is headed for the ballot that would impose a 2.5 percent gross receipts tax on sales by corporations in excess of \$25 million a year. The tax would raise an estimated \$5.6 billion per biennium — a potential game-changer for Oregon schools and other public services. But the effects would inevitably include higher prices for retail goods, utilities, fuel and services.

The Legislature may try to devise a corporate tax increase that would have fewer regressive effects.

Another tax proposal that is certain to arise would double the state's hotel-motel tax to 2 percent. The \$17 million in annual revenue from the current tax is used to promote Oregon tourism. Revenue from the increased tax would be used to provide \$25 million in support for the 2021 world track championships in Eugene.

Another complex issue before the Legislature will be Oregon's shortage of affordable housing. The shortage has been worsening since the recession of 2008, with construction lagging behind demand by about 40 percent. Housing prices in Portland, in particular, have been rising faster than in all but a few of the nation's markets. The Legislature will discuss proposals to allow local governments to require that new housing developments include a certain percentage of units for lower-income buyers or renters. Crafting such rules in ways that don't discourage housing construction will be a difficult task in the short session.

An even more complicated and far-reaching issue is climate change. In the 2015 session, a California-style proposal for a cap-and-trade program for the state's primary sources of carbon emissions was set aside in favor of new standards to reduce the carbon intensity of transportation fuels.

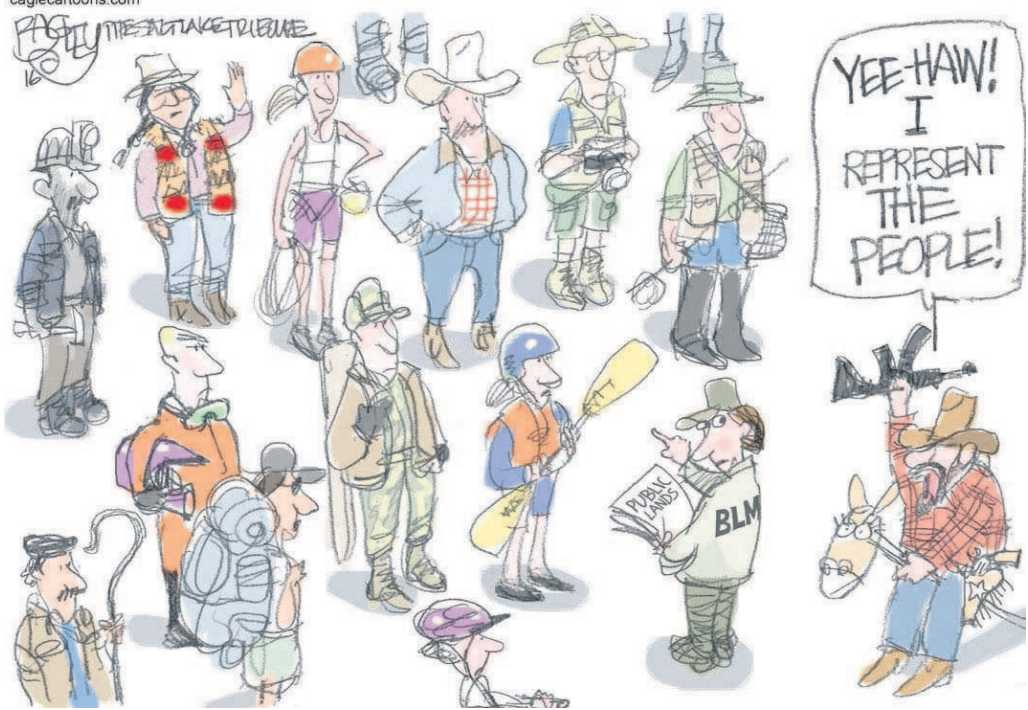
The cap-and-trade proposal, which rewards large emissions reductions at the expense of those who fail to scale back emissions, will be reintroduced in the session that opens Monday, but whether lawmakers will find time to consider it is an open question. One possibility would be to scrap the clean fuels standard, which has become mired in partisan politics, in favor of the cap-and-trade program, which would achieve the same goals.

The minimum wage, corporate taxes, lodging taxes, housing, climate change — that's a lot of heavy lifting.

Other contentious issues, such as a proposal to allow police to remove firearms from the homes of people who are under temporary restraining orders, could be added to the list. And Republicans are demanding that the Legislature act to improve education funding, protect open school enrollment, provide investment incentives for small businesses and begin to prepare for increased pension and Medicaid expenses.

It will be a busy 35 days. The notion that even-year legislative sessions would be concerned with tying up loose ends has been left behind.

caglecartoons.com



## OTHER VIEWS

# The manners war

Donald Trump was inducted into the World Wrestling Entertainment Hall of Fame in 2013. He'd been involved with professional wrestling for more than a quarter-century. At first his interest was on the business side, because so many of the events were held at his hotels. But then he got involved in the story lines, appearing in the ring as an actual character.

His greatest moment came in 2007 with the pay-per-view series called "Battle of the Billionaires," when he verbally went up against the WWE's chief executive, Vince McMahon. The feud started when Trump interrupted McMahon on Fan Appreciation Night and upstaged him by raining thousands of dollars in cash down on the crowd in the arena. It continued with a verbal barrage and proxy match, and ended with a triumphant Trump shaving McMahon's head in the middle of the ring.

I mention this because the thing I've found most surprising in this presidential campaign is the way the nation's crisis of political authority has produced a hunger for masculine spectacle.

This is an anxious and angry nation. Many people have lost faith in institutions and the nation's leadership. Many feel powerless, in decline and adrift. Somewhere in his marketer's brain Donald Trump intuited that manners are more important than laws and that if you want to assault the established powers you have to assault their manners first. His campaign has been one long exercise in taking the "low," or proletarian, manners of professional wrestling and interjecting them into the "respectable" arena of presidential politics.

By shifting the cultural language Trump initiated a new type of culture war, really a manners war. He seemed fresh, authentic and resonant to a lot of people who felt alienated from the way elites govern, talk and behave.

Professional wrestling generates intense interest and drama through relentless confrontation. Everybody knows it's fake at some level, but it is perceived as fake and real at the same time (sort of like politics). The story lines are Manichaean — good takes on evil, winners take on failures. The audiences fiercely identify with different characters. What matters is not so much who wins or loses, or whether you are good or evil, but the aggressiveness by which you wage each mano-a-mano confrontation.

Trump brought this style onstage at the first Republican debate, and a thousand taboos were smashed all at once. In respectable politics, as in respectable society, there is a certain code of refinement. It is through this code that the educated class defines what's proper and

improper and imposes an invisible social power on society.

Trump smashed through that and created a riveting spectacle. He insulted people's looks. He stereotyped vast groups of people — Mexicans and Muslims. He hinted at menstruation. He called members of the establishment morons, idiots and losers. He bragged and boasted without cessation.

Social inequality is always felt more acutely than economic inequality.

Trump rose up on behalf of people who felt looked down upon, made them feel vindicated and represented and turned social conduct on its head. He led a one-man linguistic revolution.

The cultural element of this revolution was based on his complete rejection of the feminist transformation. Over the past few decades, at least in respectable society, there has been a shift in the way men and women are supposed to behave. Blatant machismo has been condemned and female empowerment celebrated.

But Trump was unabashedly masculine. His machismo is still the lingua franca of pro wrestling, cage fighting and some action movies.

His candidacy is an implied critique of the feminization of America — that the country has become too soft, too nice, too lacking in old-fashioned male authority. Trump responded with ridiculous aggression every time his authority was questioned. When John McCain attacked him, Trump responded, "He's not a war hero."

Every time Trump was challenged on anything, he was compelled by his code to double down the confrontation and fire back. He shoved aside his early competitor Jeb Bush, who was raised to be a gentleman, the embodiment of exactly that code Trump was upending.

When he was praised by one of the world's most venomous thugs, Vladimir Putin, he had the canniness to embrace the praise and lavish it back — a response that would have violated every fiber of a respectable person's body.

I still don't think the spectacle is going to carry Trump to the White House or even the nomination. But I do think this has been a period in which many silent segments of society have found their voices, often in shocking and impolite ways.

The next president will have to respect these voices, understand their grievances and channel what is legitimate in their concerns in deferential ways, reminding everyone from all classes that we are one nation, one people, with one fate.

David Brooks became a New York Times Op-Ed columnist in September 2003.



DAVID BROOKS  
Comment

**This is an anxious and angry nation. Many have lost faith in institutions and leadership.**

## YOUR VIEWS

### Rumors of coal's demise are grossly exaggerated

People and special interest groups continue arguing the demise of coal. Yes, prices in the industry have struggled over the last several years due to over-regulation and stringent efforts by this administration to alter America's energy portfolio.

But it is far-fetched thinking at best to theorize coal's disappearance from U.S. and global energy use.

A recent article in the *East Oregonian* attempts to paint this picture, stringing together questionable facts and logic to argue to readers the demise of coal exports and consumption in places like East Asia. But these facts do not match the whole deck of cards.

Countries like India and China, if anything, are increasing imports and domestic use of coal because they understand it is cheap, plentiful, and dependable. It has the ability to deliver electricity to their explosive populations which are largely impoverished. This means advancements in technology, health care, and local economies.

A *Wall Street Journal* article in 2014 put it best by stating, "Analysts expect the [U.S.] export market to be profitable in the long term, saying coal will remain the dominant fuel source globally in spite of environmental concerns."

The writing in this instance is on the wall: demand for coal will only increase over time. As such, the U.S. can — and should — step

up to meet this need and position itself as an energy leader.

Ken Taylor  
Prineville

### Proposed Hermiston fire district targets rural residents

Who are you rural residents surrounding Hermiston? From what I've read, you all want to pay more taxes for enhanced fire and emergency services. Please, introduce yourselves, I would like to meet you. My phone number is 541-289-0762. You are welcome to call if you don't want the enhanced services, also.

The Hermiston City Council, the county commission and the fire chief are "all in" on this proposal to combine fire districts, costing (only) rural residents more taxes. From my perspective, Hermiston has outgrown its ability to provide necessary services. If this growth can't support itself, then the leaders are inept.

Personally, I don't buy this sham of theirs, that it's only for our own good and they know what we need out here. Apparently, they have scratched their heads and pondered how to get more revenue. So, let's just jump outside the city limits and plunder the dispersed rural minority.

This scheme is actually promoted as more services within the city and no tax increase. Go figure.

Rod Triplett  
Hermiston