

Legislation would raise state's smoking age to 21

By **PARIS ACHEN**
Capital Bureau

SALEM — An Oregon lawmaker who is also a family physician plans to reintroduce legislation this week that would raise the legal smoking age from 18 to 21.

The proposal by Sen. Elizabeth Steiner Hayward, D-Beaverton, is intended to limit teenagers access to tobacco.

"As a family physician, I always think it's better to prevent disease than to cure it, and one of the best things we can do in Oregon to prevent disease is to stop people from using tobacco and other dangerous products that contain nicotine and other harmful substances," said Steiner Hayward, who has lost family members to smoking-related illnesses.

"I've seen the effects as a physician and as a family member all too well," she added. "Oregon deserves a better future than this."

"The cost in lives and lost productivity and children's wellness is inestimable," Steiner Hayward said. "This bill is personal, too. I lost my father, my father-in-law and one of my beloved aunts to smoking-related illnesses. I've seen the effects as a physician and as a family member all too well. Oregon deserves a better future than this."

Recent research, including some from the U.S. Surgeon General's Office, shows that brains under age 26 are more susceptible to addiction.

"If you don't start smoking by age 21, you are less likely ever to start," said Noe Baker, a spokeswoman for the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network, one of 20 organizations campaigning for the law change.

The legislation would impose first-time civil penalties of \$50 for clerks and \$500 for managers who sell to minors. People of legal age who give tobacco to minors would likely face



Paris Achen/Pamplin Media Group
Sen. Elizabeth Steiner Hayward, D-Beaverton, announces legislation that would raise the legal smoking age to 21, during a news conference Wednesday at the State Capitol in Salem.

similar penalties as store clerks, Steiner Hayward said.

"We made a conscious decision not to have criminal penalties because we know that tobacco companies tend to target low-income communities who can least afford it," Steiner Hayward said. "We know many of the clerks working in stores are working hard to support their families or making extra money while getting an education, and we didn't want to unduly punish them, and we didn't want to give them criminal records."

In 2015, Hawaii became the first state in the nation to raise the smoking age to 21. California followed suit last year. An additional 210 cities and counties, including New York City and Boston, have similar laws. No cities or counties in Oregon have raised the smoking age, but Lane County is currently considering such a proposal.

"It is sort of picking up at county levels, and we are hoping to bring it statewide," Baker said.

At the current smoking rate, 68,000 Oregon kids alive today will eventually die from tobacco-related disease, Friend said, quoting statistics from Tobacco Free Kids.

Oregonian households pay an estimated \$780 a year for the medical care of smokers, Steiner Hayward added.

Oregon also loses an

estimated \$3 billion in lost productivity and health care costs per year from smoking-related disease, according to figures from Tobacco Free Kids.

Steiner Hayward said she thinks this year's legislation has better prospects than a former iteration proposed in 2015 as Senate Bill 732. The 2015 bill stalled in the Senate Judiciary Committee as other issues took priority. This year's bill has bipartisan support.

Rep. Richard Vial, a freshman Republican from Scholls, is a sponsor of the bill and spoke in support it Wednesday at the Capitol.

"Often, those of us who are considered perhaps more conservative legislators hear that we don't want a nanny state, that we don't want over regulation of our lives, but to me this is very much like seatbelts and child restraints, those things that really do contribute to a society that we all feel good about," Vial said, who also has lost family members to smoking.

Steiner Hayward has seats on both the Senate Health Care Committee and the Joint Committee on Ways and Means, which could help advance the legislation to the Senate floor. The health committee is scheduled to hold a public hearing on the bill at 1 p.m. Feb. 7 in Hearing Room B at the State Capitol, 900 Court St. N.E. in Salem.

Backers of right to die fear Trump Supreme Court nominee

PORTLAND (AP) — Supporters of a terminally ill person's right to take his or her own life said Wednesday they are alarmed by President Donald Trump's nominee for the U.S. Supreme Court and worry that Neil Gorsuch's confirmation could mean a renewed battle over the legality of laws permitting the practice.

Gorsuch, a Denver-based judge on the 10th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, wrote a 2006 book titled "The Future of Assisted Suicide and Euthanasia" that included an extensive discussion of Oregon's law, which allows doctors to prescribe lethal medication to patients to have less than six months to live and who request it.

In the book, Gorsuch refers to the practice as "essentially a right to consensual homicide."

Oregon voters first approved a right-to-die ballot measure in 1994 and again in 1997 when the state legislature sent the matter back for a second vote.

The first-in-the-nation law survived a 2006

Supreme Court challenge on a 6-3 vote.

Four states now have similar laws and 25 more are considering them, said Peg Sandeen, executive director of the Death with Dignity National Center in Portland. Bills have been introduced in 16 states since January.

"It is concerning that someone who has taken our issue on as his personal issue is the nominee," she said. "It raises the specter that we are going to have to reargue and redefend the Oregon Death with Dignity Act all over again."

The 2006 ruling in favor of Oregon's law was considered a rebuke to the George W. Bush administration and former Attorney General John Ashcroft. The court said they improperly threatened to use a federal drug law against Oregon doctors who prescribe lethal doses of medicine to dying patients who request it.

Sandeen believes that if the matter came before the high court again, Oregon would still win — but the process would be detrimental to patients and to a

growing movement to pass right-to-die legislation in other states.

Advocates of aid in dying distinguish between euthanasia and aid in dying, in which the patient requests and takes the life-ending dose. Laws in states that allow aid in dying prohibit a doctor from administering the drugs themselves.

Vermont, Colorado, California and Washington also have aid in dying laws. In Montana, the state's high court has ruled that physicians who prescribe a lethal dose of medication to a terminally ill patient can't be criminally prosecuted, although there is no formal statute allowing the practice.

In Washington, D.C., the City Council approved an aid in dying bill in November that will take effect later this year unless Congress intervenes.

Kevin Diaz, national director of legal advocacy for the Washington, D.C.-based Compassion & Choices, said he's concerned about "an erosion around the edges" even where aid in dying is explicitly allowed, he said.

Large numbers of salmon return to Deschutes River

BEND (AP) — Oregon's Deschutes River saw a large number of native sockeye salmon return to its waters in 2016.

A total of 536 sockeye salmon returned to a complex of hydroelectric dams and reservoirs called the Pelton Round Butte Hydroelectric Project, reported *The Bulletin*. That's a significant improvement over recent years — since 2010, annual returns have ranged between 19 and 86 fish.

"We are not pointing to this and saying mission accomplished, but at the same time it's a really great result for 2016," said Steven Corson, a spokesman for

complex co-owner Portland General Electric. "Our goal is to have sustained and harvestable fish runs, but we are still in the beginning stages."

The dam complex is owned by PGE and the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs. It stretches over about 20 miles of the Deschutes River west of Madras.

The complex was originally designed in the 1950s and 1960s to include fish passages, but the passages were not effective. Round Butte Dam owners are now trying to reintroduce spring chinook and steelhead in addition to sockeye salmon.

Corson said salmon

returns are often unpredictable and the reintroduction efforts are still in the early stages.

More than 93 percent of the sockeye originated in the Middle Deschutes basin, according to genetic testing received by Portland General Electric in January. Most of those came from a lake created by the Round Butte Dam called Lake Billy Chinook.

While waiting for new data, scientists continue to monitor water quality and work on habitat-improving projects in the area.

"It's an ongoing, scientific-based effort to maximize the potential for a successful year," Corson said.

Corrections

The *East Oregonian* works hard to be accurate and sincerely regrets any errors. If you notice a mistake in the paper, please call 541-966-0818.

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AccuWeather.com Forecast

TODAY

A little snow; up to an inch

FRIDAY

2-4 inches of snow

SATURDAY

Not as cold with a shower

SUNDAY

Mainly cloudy, showers around

MONDAY

Mostly cloudy with a little rain

PENDLETON TEMPERATURE FORECAST				
21°	16°	27°	26°	41°
36°	50°	37°	47°	34°

HERMISTON TEMPERATURE FORECAST				
23°	17°	23°	22°	39°
33°	44°	37°	46°	31°

ALMANAC

PENDLETON
through 3 p.m. yesterday

TEMPERATURE	HIGH	LOW
Yesterday	20°	11°
Normals	43°	28°
Records	70° (1934)	-17° (1950)

PRECIPITATION
24 hours ending 3 p.m. Trace
Month to date Trace
Normal month to date 0.05"
Year to date 1.65"
Last year to date 1.51"
Normal year to date 1.43"

HERMISTON

through 3 p.m. yesterday

TEMPERATURE	HIGH	LOW
Yesterday	21°	4°
Normals	44°	29°
Records	70° (1995)	-25° (1950)

PRECIPITATION
24 hours ending 3 p.m. 0.02"
Month to date 0.00"
Normal month to date 0.03"
Year to date 1.69"
Last year to date 1.10"
Normal year to date 1.31"

SUN AND MOON

	First	Full	Last	New
Sunrise today	7:15 a.m.			
Sunset tonight	5:03 p.m.			
Moonrise today	10:20 a.m.			
Moonset today	11:46 p.m.			

Feb 3

Feb 10

Feb 18

Feb 26

Shown is today's weather. Temperatures are today's highs and tonight's lows.

REGIONAL FORECAST

Coastal Oregon: Periods of rain today; arriving in the afternoon across the north.

Eastern Washington: Mostly sunny today, except mostly cloudy across the south.

Eastern and Central Oregon: Today, snow, 1-2 inches in south and central parts, upper and with little or none across the north.

Cascades: Snow at times today, accumulating 1-2 inches; colder. A little snow at times tonight.

Western Washington: A little rain across the south this afternoon; mostly sunny elsewhere.

Northern California: Heavy rain today; however, a bit of snow in the interior mountains.

REGIONAL CITIES

	Today			Fri.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Astoria	44	35	r	46	41	r
Baker City	25	18	sn	32	28	sn
Bend	23	16	sn	34	28	sn
Brookings	56	48	r	53	46	r
Burns	28	18	sn	36	27	sn
Enterprise	27	18	sf	38	33	sn
Eugene	39	31	i	49	45	i
Heppner	21	15	sf	29	23	sn
Hermiston	23	17	c	23	22	sn
John Day	29	23	sn	42	37	sn
Klamath Falls	42	35	sn	44	36	r
La Grande	26	21	sf	37	36	sn
Meacham	19	16	sf	34	32	sn
Medford	56	40	r	53	43	r
Newport	42	38	sh	50	46	r
North Bend	55	45	r	54	48	r
Ontario	51	22	sn	34	29	i
Pasco	29	17	c	28	23	sn
Pendleton	21	16	sf	27	26	sn
Portland	35	29	sn	35	35	i
Redmond	22	16	sn	35	29	sn
Salem	38	31	r	44	43	i
Spokane	25	7	s	25	23	sn
Ukiah	22	16	sf	36	29	sn
Vancouver	38	31	c	38	36	i
Walla Walla	23	17	c	26	24	sn
Yakima	30	22	pc	29	24	sn

WORLD CITIES

	Today			Fri.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Beijing	44	20	c	47	27	s
Hong Kong	68	62	pc	68	64	c
Jerusalem	48	33	s	52	36	s
London	53	42	r	50	36	r
Mexico City	71	47	pc	72	48	pc
Moscow	20	4	s	16	3	pc
Paris	58	46	r	51	41	r
Rome	60	53	sh	62	52	pc
Seoul	39	23	c	43	23	pc
Sydney	76	72	pc	83	75	pc
Tokyo	50	40	s	54	40	s

WINDS

(in mph)	Today	Friday
Boardman	NNE 4-8	NE 4-8
Pendleton	NW 3-6	VAR 2-4

UV INDEX TODAY

0	1	1	0	0	0
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8 a.m. 10 a.m. Noon 2 p.m. 4 p.m. 6 p.m.
0-2, Low 3-5, Moderate 6-7, High; 8-10, Very High; 11+, Extreme
The higher the AccuWeather.com UV Index™ number, the greater the need for eye and skin protection.

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NATIONAL WEATHER TODAY

Shown are noon positions of weather systems and precipitation. Temperature bands are highs for the day.



NATIONAL CITIES

	Today			Fri.				Today			Fri.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W		Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Albuquerque	60	33	s	59	33	c	Louisville	40	24	pc	38	16	pc
Atlanta	66	43	pc	58	34	sh	Memphis	45	32	c	44	27	pc
Atlanta City	49	25	s	38	21	pc	Miami	81	68	c	82	66	pc
Baltimore	47	24	pc	38	20	pc	Millwaukee	22	9	s	23	12	s
Billings	13	-4	sn	24	19	pc	Minneapolis	19	8	s	24	14	s
Birmingham	58	39	sh	53	30	sh	Nashville	48	27	pc	45	22	pc
Boston	32	28	sn	41	37	sn	New Orleans	75	55	pc	68	49	pc
Charlotte, SC	40	22	s	33	19	pc	New York						