

DAILY
PLANNER
TODAY

Today is Friday, Feb. 8, the 39th day of 2019. There are 326 days left in the year.



TODAY'S HIGHLIGHT
On Feb. 8, 1587, Mary, Queen of Scots was beheaded at Fotheringhay Castle in England after she was implicated in a plot to murder her cousin, Queen Elizabeth I.

ON THIS DATE
In 1693, a charter was granted for the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg in the Virginia Colony.
In 1862, the Civil War Battle of Roanoke Island, North Carolina, ended in victory for Union forces led by Gen. Ambrose E. Burnside.
In 1904, the Russo-Japanese War, a conflict over control of Manchuria and Korea, began as Japanese forces attacked Port Arthur.
In 1910, the Boy Scouts of America was incorporated.
In 1922, President Warren G. Harding had a radio installed in the White House.
In 1924, the first execution by gas in the United States took place at the Nevada State Prison in Carson City as Gee Jon, a Chinese immigrant convicted of murder, was put to death.
In 1952, Queen Elizabeth II proclaimed her accession to the British throne following the death of her father, King George VI.
In 1965, Eastern Air Lines Flight 663, a DC-7, crashed shortly after takeoff from New York's John F. Kennedy International Airport; all 84 people on board were killed. The Supremes' record "Stop! In the Name of Love!" was released by Motown.
In 1989, 144 people were killed when an American-chartered Boeing 707 filled with Italian tourists slammed into a fog-covered mountain in the Azores.
In 1992, the XVI Olympic Winter Games opened in Albertville, France.

LOTTERY
Megabucks: \$7.9 million
5-8-9-25-30-47
Mega Millions: \$157 million
3-34-36-59-66-7 x2
Powerball: \$224 million
5-13-28-38-63-PB 21-x5
Win for Life: Feb. 6
18-33-43-61
Pick 4: Feb. 7
• 1 p.m.: 6-9-8-5
• 4 p.m.: 9-8-5-7
• 7 p.m.: 8-0-6-4
• 10 p.m.: 9-0-2-8
Pick 4: Feb. 6
• 1 p.m.: 0-9-7-4
• 4 p.m.: 4-4-9-0
• 7 p.m.: 5-7-9-8
• 10 p.m.: 4-0-8-6

ROAD REPORT
Numbers to call:
• Inside Oregon: 800-977-6368.
• Outside Oregon: 503-588-2941.

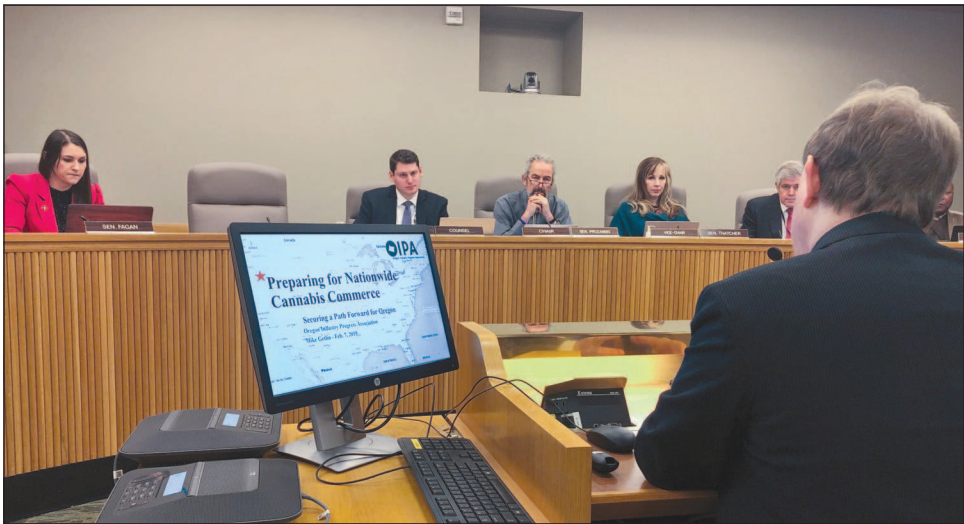
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Every effort is made to deliver your Observer in a timely manner. Occasionally conditions exist that make delivery more difficult.
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QUOTE OF THE DAY
"If each man or woman could understand that every other human life is as full of sorrows, or joys, or base temptations, of heartaches and of remorse as his own... how much kinder, how much gentler he would be."
— William Allen White, American journalist (1868-1944).

Oregon pot export bill gets hearing, and a warning

■ Bill may help the state's oversupply and grow its brand

By Andrew Selsky
The Associated Press
SALEM — A bill that would create the possibility of Oregon exporting marijuana to adjacent states where cannabis is also legal had its first public hearing Thursday, where advocates said it would give Oregon a way to relieve its oversupply and grow its brand.
Separately, the U.S. attorney for Oregon warned against it.
There is little expectation that Senate Bill 582, if passed by the Legislature, would soon open marijuana commerce between Oregon and California, Nevada and Washington, the three states contiguous to Oregon where it is legal.
But some advocates see it as a way to start laying groundwork for when the federal government either decriminalizes marijuana or decides not to prosecute if pot-legal states export to each other.
One advocate suggested going even further, since several countries, including Canada and Uruguay, have legalized marijuana.
"I would like to see an amendment that would allow international agreements in this bill, if federal law allows, so Oregon can cash in immediately without having to wait for the next legislative session," Sarah Duff, spokeswoman for several pro-marijuana groups, said in testimony to the Senate judiciary committee.
U.S. Attorney Billy J. Williams told The Associated Press on Thursday that the bill does not change the fact that transporting marijuana across state lines is a federal crime.
"This bill is an attempt to remedy the rampant overproduction and trafficking of marijuana outside of Oregon," Williams said in an emailed statement. He complained about the negative impacts of the marijuana industry on public health, minors and the environment.
But Steve Marks, director of Oregon's recreational marijuana regulatory agency, said Oregon farmers have produced "copious amounts of cannabis" for generations and that the illegal export of pot has been taking place "for decades."
"Oregon is not creating a new industry, it is converting an illegal cannabis production economy, and a loosely-regulated medical program, into a well-regulated legal market," Marks wrote in a Jan. 31 letter to



AP photo

Oregon Legislature committee members hold a public hearing on marijuana-related bills Thursday in Salem. The bill that would create the possibility of Oregon exporting marijuana to adjacent states where cannabis is also legal has had its first public hearing, where advocates said it would give Oregon a way to relieve its oversupply and grow its brand. Separately, the U.S. attorney for Oregon warned against it.

stakeholders.
Marks, the director of the Oregon Liquor Control Commission, said the state is "at a crossroads where our state's history with marijuana and the future of cannabis commercialization meet."
Rep. Ken Helm, D-Beaverton, a co-sponsor of the export bill, said experts believe legalization of marijuana could come fairly soon, and that his measure anticipates that.
"It puts Oregon in the status of being ready to trade in this legal product," Helm told the judiciary committee.
Gov. Kate Brown said

Thursday she also sees the bill as a way to position Oregon for that possible future period of legalized weed.
"I think folks are trying to make sure that Oregon is well placed in terms of the industry if and when — I would say when — the federal government moves forward," Brown said.
She told reporters the first priority should be making sure the marijuana industry has access to the federal banking system.
Growers harvested more than 2.5 million pounds of cannabis in October. Prices for marijuana in Oregon have dropped by half since

December 2016, a symptom of the oversupply in inventories in the legal, regulated system.
Amid a backlog of thousands of applications for marijuana producers, processors and retailers, the Oregon Liquor Control Commission in June paused processing of recreational marijuana licenses. Already there are 2,100 licensees.
Another bill, printed by order of Brown, would authorize the Oregon Liquor Control Commission to refuse to issue marijuana production licenses based on market demand and other relevant factors.

Baker City woman ready to rock(hound)

By Jayson Jacoby
WesCom News Service
Anna Stafford loves to talk about rocks, but after 15 minutes or so of animated conversation mere words simply can't convey the depths of her affinity.
She needs an actual rock.
And Stafford never leaves home without one.
Her hand disappears briefly and then she plunks a smooth and shiny black stone on the table, with the sort of flourish a magician might display.
This chunk of iris obsidian, Stafford said, is her "pocket rock."
Which is nothing at all like the Pet Rock, the silly 1970s fad.
Stafford smiles often and punctuates her stories with frequent laughs, but she is quite serious about the hobby of rockhounding.
Serious enough to have recently started Baker Rockhounds.
Stafford, who grew up in McCall, Idaho, and moved to Baker County about five years ago, emphasizes both what Baker Rockhounds is — and what it most assuredly is not.
"It's not a club," she said.
The word club, Stafford believes, implies bylaws and monthly dues and other formal trappings that run counter to her goal to cultivate a more inclusive bunch of enthusiasts.
She prefers to call Baker Rockhounds a "group."
"A group of like-minded people who have a hobby that we feel is just soul-searchingly fun," Stafford said. "Why have dues for something that's supposed to be fun?"
Jarri McClarin, a longtime Baker County resident who had been urging Stafford for a couple of years to start the group, agrees.
"The word club sounds exclusionary," McClarin said. "It's so fun to say that I belong to a rock group."
A Facebook page — Baker Rockhounds — is the online gathering place and forum for the group.
They had their first rock swap on Sunday, and McClarin said she was pleased with the turnout at the Northeast Oregon Compassion Center at the Baker City Nazarene Church, 1250 Hughes Lane.
The group also meets there on the first Sunday of each month at 3 p.m.
As much as Stafford and McClarin relish meeting with other rockhounds to admire each other's collections, and potentially swap items, they're equally excited about the onset of spring weather.
Rockhounding, it goes without saying, is problematic when snow covers the rocks.
"Winter is when you polish your rocks, and get together to talk about them, and summer is when you go out and get them," Stafford said. "We have fun year round."
As a third-generation rockhound who has been involved with multiple groups both in Idaho and Oregon, Stafford said perhaps the most common complaint from rockhounds is that they don't go on enough field trips.
She and McClarin and other Baker Rockhounds hope to satisfy the demand by scheduling regular trips, ranging from half-day excursions in Baker County to multi-day trips to prime rockhounding destinations elsewhere in Oregon and in adjacent states.
"Part of being a rockhound is just in the exploration," Stafford said. "We want people to experience more of our beautiful state."
Stafford said since she started the Facebook page late last fall she's come to realize there are quite a few rockhounds in Baker County.
"There's a lot of knowledge when we get together in a room," McClarin said.
But both she and Stafford emphasize that Baker Rockhounds welcomes everyone — from people who can discuss geology and mineralogy at a Ph.D. level to children who just like to

wander around and grab any rock that catches their eye — neophytes whom Stafford affectionately refers to as "pebble pups."
"Kids are easy," Stafford said. "They love anything that's sparkly and shiny."
Notwithstanding the common term "rockhound," Stafford said Baker County offers more than just rocks.
There are also gemstones, such as various types and colors of jasper and agates, waiting to be discovered, as well as petrified wood, to be found on public land within the county.
Elsewhere in Oregon, the Glass Buttes west of Burns are renowned for obsidian, Succor Creek Canyon south of Ontario is a popular place to hunt thundereggs — Oregon's state rock — and a site near Plush, in Lake County, is rich in sunstones, the official state gemstone.
"Oregon is considered the holy grail of states for rockhounds," Stafford said. "And it's free."
Neither the Forest Service nor the BLM, the federal agencies that manage most of Oregon's public land, requires rockhounds to have a permit to gather rocks, including semiprecious gemstones, fossils and minerals, for non-commercial purposes.
(This does not apply, however, to active mining claims on public land. On active claims only the claim holder is authorized to remove or prospect for precious metals such as gold and silver.)
Although the agencies set weight limits on how

much material people can remove, those thresholds, generally 25 pounds per person per day (plus one additional piece) and 250 pounds per year, generally don't pose any impediment to rockhounds.
Stafford said the leaders of Baker Rockhounds field trips are responsible for making sure participants follow any particular guidelines, including avoiding private land unless the owner has given permission for rockhounding.
"Most of the places we go it's wide open," she said. "Everybody looks for something different."
Stafford, who is a licensed arborist and retired paramedic, said she could scarcely have avoided becoming a rockhound, as both her parents and grandparents were avid collectors.
Her grandparents, who lived in La Pine near Bend, lined their walkways with rocks from all over the country.
"From the time I was tiny I remember tackle boxes full of rocks," Stafford said. "They would let us take one home when-

ever we visited."
She joined her first rockhounding group when she was 18 and living in Douglas County, where she attended Umpqua Community College.
"I love teaching everything I know, and I love to learn," Stafford said. "And I love to be outside."
McClarin said she and her husband, Dick, took up the hobby about four years ago when her daughter, Rachel Copley, bought them memberships to the Owyhee Gem and Mineral Society in Caldwell, Idaho.
McClarin said she appreciates how willing most rockhounds are to share their knowledge with newcomers.
"They're just good, down-to-earth people," she said. "And I appreciate knowing what the name of a rock is."
Both McClarin and Stafford hope to encourage more families, especially parents with young children, to try rockhounding.
"What more perfect family activity could there be?" McClarin said.
Stafford then offered what might be the clincher.

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