

DAILY PLANNER

TODAY
 Today is Wednesday, Feb. 20, the 51st day of 2019. There are 314 days left in the year.



TODAY'S HIGHLIGHT
 On Feb. 20, 2003, a fire sparked by pyrotechnics broke out during a concert by the group Great White at The Station nightclub in West Warwick, Rhode Island, killing 100 people and injuring about 200 others.

ON THIS DATE
 In 1792, President George Washington signed an act creating the United States Post Office Department.

In 1862, William Wallace Lincoln, the 11-year-old son of President Abraham Lincoln and first lady Mary Todd Lincoln, died at the White House, apparently of typhoid fever.

In 1905, the U.S. Supreme Court, in Jacobson v. Massachusetts, upheld, 7-2, compulsory vaccination laws intended to protect the public's health.

In 1907, President Theodore Roosevelt signed an immigration act which excluded "idiots, imbeciles, feeble-minded persons, epileptics, insane persons" from being admitted to the United States.

In 1942, Lt. Edward "Butch" O'Hare became the U.S. Navy's first flying ace of World War II by shooting down five Japanese bombers while defending the aircraft carrier USS Lexington in the South Pacific.

LOTTERY
Megabucks: \$8.4 million
 2-6-21-27-31-46

Mega Millions: \$224 million
 17-24-34-56-65-3 x2

Powerball: \$282 million
 29-30-41-48-64-PB 1-x4

Win for Life: Feb. 18
 18-39-59-62

Pick 4: Feb. 19
 • 1 p.m.: 3-7-8-0
 • 4 p.m.: 9-5-5-1
 • 7 p.m.: 0-1-5-2
 • 10 p.m.: 1-7-0-3
Pick 4: Feb. 18
 • 1 p.m.: 2-0-2-0
 • 4 p.m.: 9-8-8-9
 • 7 p.m.: 3-1-6-4
 • 10 p.m.: 4-7-2-9

ROAD REPORT
 Numbers to call:
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 • Outside Oregon: 503-588-2941.

NEWSPAPER LATE?
 Every effort is made to deliver your Observer in a timely manner. Occasional conditions exist that make delivery more difficult.
If you are not on a motor route, delivery should be before 5:30 p.m. If you do not receive your paper please call 541-963-3161.

QUOTE OF THE DAY
 "The life of the nation is secure only while the nation is honest, truthful, and virtuous."
 — Frederick Douglass, American abolitionist (born circa 1817, died this date in 1895). — Rudyard Kipling (1865-1936).

Bill to keep Idaho wolf control board headed to governor

By Keith Riddler
 The Associated Press

BOISE — Legislation to keep operating a state board that pays a federal agency to kill wolves that attack livestock and elk is on its way to Idaho Gov. Brad Little after a House vote Monday.

The House voted 51-19 to repeal a section of Idaho law that would end the five-year-run of the Idaho Wolf Depredation Control Board in the summer of 2020.

The legislation requested by the board already passed the Senate.

Backers said Idaho has too many wolves that are harming ranching and farming families by killing livestock. Those who opposed the bill suggested it should include non-lethal methods of wolf control. At least one lawmaker opposed the legislation because it made the control board permanent.

The board has in the past received \$400,000 annually from the state. Little has asked the Legislature to approve \$200,000 for the board in fiscal 2020. Board member Carl Rey has previously said it will need between \$500,000 and \$600,000 annually from taxpayers to keep going in the future.

The control board also receives money from the livestock industry that's matched by the state Department of Fish and Game through fees paid by hunters up to a maximum of \$110,000. The board pays the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Wildlife Services to kill wolves that attack livestock and elk.

Republican Rep. Laurie Lickley sponsored the legislation.

The "repeal would be in effect until we can get a handle on wolf numbers in Idaho," Lickley said. "This is an investment in our rural communities."

Republican Rep. Christy Zito said she is concerned about wolves moving into ar-

reas where people live. "They will start to see humans as part of the food chain," she said.

Republican Rep. Heather Scott opposed the legislation because it permanently created another state agency that she said paid \$9,000 per wolf killed. Instead, she wanted more liberal hunting and trapping allowed.

"I don't think this is a wise use of our money," she said.

Democratic Rep. Muffy Davis said she understood the need to control wolves but said the legislation should include a non-lethal component. "If we could just add the words non-lethal I wouldn't have a problem with it," she said.

The Agriculture Department has said that in the 2018 federal fiscal year, which runs from the beginning of October to the end of September, Wildlife Services killed 83 wolves in Idaho. Of those, 73 involved livestock attacks and 10 were an effort to boost elk numbers in northern Idaho.

Besides wolf control actions, hunters and trappers also kill wolves. Fish and Game has said that in calendar year 2018, hunters killed 179 wolves and trappers harvested another 133.

Fish and Game last year estimated Idaho had 90 packs. The agency doesn't count individual wolves or provide an overall wolf count number. But it notes that a typical Idaho wolf pack has six to nine wolves — meaning about 540 to 810 wolves in the state at that time.

Federal authorities lifted federal protections for wolves in Idaho in 2011, but if the wolf population falls below certain levels, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service could take back management from the state. State officials last year said the wolf population is well above levels that would trigger federal oversight. ■

BRIEFLY

From staff reports

Officials expect more cougar sightings in Northwest

BEND — Officials said cougar sightings are becoming more common in the Northwest as populations of people and the big cats continue to grow.

The Bend Bulletin reports a 135-pound cougar was killed in southwest Bend, Oregon, last week after authorities determined it posed a danger to human safety.

Oregon wildlife biologist Corey Heath said the state is home to about 6,500 cougars.

Heath said cougars usually avoid people, but the possibility of an easier meal can lure the cats into urban areas, where deer tend to be calmer and less wary of potential predators.

David Stoner, a research professor at Utah State University, said the increase in sightings can be attributed to the growing number of people living and recreating in forested mountain areas home to the big cats.

Oregon House advances Medicaid funding protections

SALEM — The Oregon House has approved a measure to protect a revenue stream that injects more federal funds into the state's Medicaid program.

Legislators voted 44 to 15 Tuesday to extend the expiration date of the state's health care assessment program to 2025. The program is a tax on health care providers and is common practice by states to draw down extra federal Medicaid funds.

The bill also extends the state's tax on health insurers which proponents said will further stabilize preventative healthcare costs.

But lawmakers note the measure will do little to address Oregon's Medicaid funding gap, which has snowballed to over \$800 million. Rep. Rob Nosse, D-Portland, said extending these tax programs gives the Legislature time to find additional healthcare funds.

The bill now heads to the Senate.

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