

DAILY PLANNER

TODAY

Today is Wednesday, June 26, the 177th day of 2019. There are 188 days left in the year.



TODAY'S HIGHLIGHT

On June 26, 1963, President John F. Kennedy visited West Berlin, where he delivered his famous speech expressing solidarity with the city's residents, declaring: "Ich bin ein Berliner" (I am a Berliner).

ON THIS DATE

In 1870, the first section of Atlantic City, New Jersey's Boardwalk was opened to the public.

In 1917, the first troops of the American Expeditionary Force deployed to France during World War I landed in St. Nazaire.

In 1936, President Franklin D. Roosevelt was nominated for a second term of office by delegates to the Democratic National Convention in Philadelphia.

In 1948, the Berlin Airlift began in earnest after the Soviet Union cut off land and water routes to the isolated western sector of Berlin.

In 1968, President Lyndon B. Johnson announced his choice of Abe Fortas to succeed the retiring Earl Warren as chief justice of the United States (however, Fortas later withdrew in the face of stiff Senate opposition).

In 1977, 42 people were killed when a fire sent toxic smoke pouring through the Maury County Jail in Columbia, Tennessee. Elvis Presley performed his last concert at Market Square Arena in Indianapolis.

In 1988, three people were killed when a new Airbus A320 jetliner carrying more than 130 people crashed into a forest during a demonstration at an air show in Mulhouse, France.

LOTTERY

Megabucks: \$5.2 million
16-22-23-38-43-44

Mega Millions: \$71 million
24-33-45-47-61-17-x3

Powerball: \$122 million
3-6-11-14-66-PB 21-x2

Win for Life: June 24
19-27-52-72

Pick 4: June 25

- 1 p.m.: 0-6-5-7
 - 4 p.m.: 1-7-6-9
 - 7 p.m.: 3-1-2-9
 - 10 p.m.: 8-1-1-1
- Pick 4: June 24
- 1 p.m.: 8-0-5-4
 - 4 p.m.: 9-6-6-7
 - 7 p.m.: 1-5-0-5
 - 10 p.m.: 5-9-8-6

ROAD REPORT

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

NEWSPAPER LATE?

Every effort is made to deliver your Observer in a timely manner. Occasionally 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 formula for success is simple: practice and concentration then more practice and more concentration."

— Babe Didrikson Zaharias, American athlete and golfing Hall of Famer (born this date in 1911, died in 1956)

HB 2020 faces uncertainty; walkout continues

By Claire Withycombe, Aubrey Wieber and Mark Miller
Oregon Capital Bureau

SALEM — Seven minutes. That's all it took for Senate President Peter Courtney to thrust the already tense Capitol into sheer chaos Tuesday.

Senate Republicans have vacated the Capitol in protest of landmark legislation to cap the state's greenhouse gas emissions, making the building a tinderbox sensitive to tiny political sparks.

Senate Democrats can't vote on the bill — which passed the House last week — unless at least two Republicans are present.

Courtney, an old-timer Democrat from Salem who has led the Senate since 2003, stepped up to the dais Tuesday morning with a remarkable declaration: House Bill 2020, a landmark proposal, did not have the votes to pass the Senate.

"No one has told me to say this," Courtney said. "There is no strategy to what I'm about to say. There's just Peter. House Bill 2020 does not have the votes on the Senate floor. That will not change."

Some of his fellow Democrats in the chamber — who are divided on the bill — appeared caught off guard.

Courtney didn't say outright that the legislation is done for. But Senate Majority Leader Ginny Burdick, D-Portland, did.

"These votes are not suddenly going to turn to yes," Burdick told reporters Tuesday afternoon. "We are certain of that. I would call it dead."

Over the past few weeks, the vote count in the Senate has been in flux after the legislation passed the House. There are 18 Democrats. The bill must get 16 votes to pass.

Sen. Betsy Johnson, D-Scappoose,

was a solid no.

Sen. Arnie Roblan, D-Coos Bay, was leaning no, and on Tuesday told the Oregon Capital Bureau he would vote against the bill.

Sens. Laurie Monnes Anderson, D-Gresham, and Elizabeth Steiner Hayward, D-Beaverton, were heavily courted by both sides.

Brad Reed, a spokesman for Renew Oregon, an environmental group that lobbied extensively for HB 2020, said both told him they would vote for the bill.

As of late last week, Democrats pushing the bill said they weren't certain enough votes were there, but they wanted to put it out for a floor vote to see what happened. Courtney, however, is not a fan of voting on bills without knowing they will pass.

"I was personally one of the ones who wanted this bill on the floor because I wanted to raise my hand and say 'yes,'" Burdick said.

Burdick, a "fervent" supporter of the bill, said that Tuesday's announcement wasn't the end of the cap-and-trade idea, but there was no path left in the current session, scheduled to end by Sunday night.

Burdick said she wasn't surprised by Courtney's comments, but she knows others weren't aware of his plan.

Sen. Bill Hansell, R-Athena, said Tuesday morning that he was "pleased" with Courtney's statement and expected it would pave the way for him and his Republican colleagues to return to the Capitol before the end of the week to wrap up the budget process and other bills.

"We're moving in the direction of returning," he said.

He said while he and the other senators were in different locations (Hansell hasn't revealed his where-

abouts) they were working as a team and communicating by phone to decide on next steps.

Renew Oregon, a coalition of groups agitating for policies to address climate change, had already planned a rally outside the Capitol for Tuesday. Thanks to the fuel from Courtney's statements, environmental activists were chanting outside by 11:30 a.m. and had quickly crafted signs condemning the Senate president.

Sen. Michael Dembrow, a key author of the cap-and-trade bill, took to the podium, giving a barn-burner speech out of character for the typically reserved Portland Democrat.

"It is hard to be green, but it is so important for us to keep pushing and pushing and pushing, because the people who organized this walkout, who have fled the state, are counting on us just giving up this battle," Dembrow said, eliciting boos from the supportive crowd. "In fact, they're saying that House Bill 2020, our climate action program, in general, is set up to ruin the people of their districts. And that's the rhetoric they're using to go away and to stay away. In fact, that's not true. That's not why they're gone."

He said he would continue to fight for the concept, as would the Democratic senators with him as he spoke: Shemia Fagan and Kathleen Taylor of Portland, Floyd Prozanski and James Manning Jr. of Eugene, Sara Gelsler of Corvallis, Jeff Golden of Ashland, and Rob Wagner of Lake Oswego.

"We are looking at a couple of very difficult days ahead of us," Dembrow said. "And I need to know that everyone who is here around me is committed to this struggle. Are you? Because, speaking for the people who are behind me, we are."

Gov. Kate Brown, emerging from

her office after Courtney's speech, declined to speak with a reporter, power walking toward the rally on the Capitol steps to urge lawmakers to pass the climate bill.

"Let me make this perfectly clear: The Republicans are not standing against climate change," Brown told the crowd. "They're standing against democracy. We need to make sure that the legislative branch operates, and we need to make sure that Republicans come back to do their jobs."

She asked the crowd if they had the "passion" and "persistence" needed to pass the bill — cheers.

She raised her fist, then turned on her heel and stepped back into the Capitol.

Republican senators disappeared after talks with Democratic counterparts last Wednesday didn't produce a deal. Republicans wanted the environmental legislation amended, including stripping out an emergency clause so the matter could be referred to voters through petition.

Supporters of HB 2020 say Oregonians voted Democrats into office to enact climate change policies.

"I think it just shows that Courtney is not fit to lead, if he's not willing to stand up," said Oregon Business for Climate spokeswoman Devon Downey-Smith.

She added, "The kids are here fighting for their future. And with a supermajority that we elected, where people ran specifically on HB 2020, there's no reason why we can't have it all."

"Well, I just feel this bill is so important," said Jeanne Chouard, a speech and language pathologist from Ashland who came to Salem for the rally Tuesday. "And I was dismayed that the Republican senators wouldn't show up to take a vote on that. They're trying to thwart our democracy."

LOCAL BRIEFING

From staff reports

Ladies tea event raises funds for mission team

Calvary Chapel La Grande is hosting a ladies tea and craft social at 2 p.m. Saturday, June 29. The event is a fundraiser for the Uganda mission team, which will be in Africa in July. The event will include a devotional, tea, finger foods, dessert, and an opportunity to decorate your own sun bonnet, using a design from Maddie Ford. Cost is \$15 per ticket, or \$25 for two. Please RSVP with Summer Steele at 541-786-5245, or at www.cclagrande.com by noon Friday, June 28.

EO Beer Festival is this weekend

LA GRANDE — The fifth Eastern Oregon Beer Festival will be held June 29 at the Union County Fairgrounds, 3604 N. Second St., La Grande. The event will run from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. and, along with the beverage it is celebrating, will feature live music all day and offer safe ride programs. Tickets are available at www.eobeerfest.org for \$25 or may be bought at the gate for \$30 at the gate.

Non-drinkers pay only a \$5 entry fee.

Wallowology hosts two free events Saturday

JOSEPH — Ecologist David Mildrexler will lead a free hike into Joseph Canyon June 29, organized by the Wallowology Discovery Center. To pre-register for the field trip and for more details, call 541-263-1663.

Another option for the day is to attend "Explore & Discover: Owls!" at from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Wallowology, 508 N. Main St., Joseph. This free program will be presented by Shannon Christenson, a nature photographer.

Fare-free transit is coming to Wallowa County

ENTERPRISE — Community Connection will soon begin offering free and expanded transportation in Wallowa County. On July 1, Wallowa County Transportation will increase the Dial-a-Ride service in the upper valley from two days a week to five days a week; the lower valley will be served two days a week. Public transporta-

tion will be fare-free except for the La Grande "Link" and medical rides. These extended and free services are funded by the Statewide Transit Improvement Funds. Contact Community Connection for more information.

Wyden plans Eastern Oregon town halls

SALEM — U.S. Sen. Ron Wyden will hold town halls on June 30 in Baker and Umatilla counties. In fulfillment of his pledge to hold at least one town hall each year in each of the state's 36 counties, Wyden has held 942 town halls statewide — including 29 so far this year.

"Heading into the Fourth of July when America celebrates our independence, these upcoming open-to-all town halls in Baker, Umatilla and Sherman counties put democracy into action locally," Wyden said. "I look forward to hearing from residents of Eastern Oregon. Listening to Oregonians in every nook and cranny of our state is essential to finding solutions that work."

The Baker County town hall begins at 11:30 a.m. at Community Connection Senior Center, 2810 Cedar St., Baker City. In Umatilla

County, the town hall begins at 4 p.m. in Pioneer Hall at Blue Mountain Community

College in Pendleton. All residents of Eastern Oregon are welcome to attend.

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