

DAILY
PLANNER

TODAY

Today is Thursday, Feb. 6, the 37th day of 2020. There are 329 days left in the year.

TODAY’S HIGHLIGHT

On Feb. 6, 2003, edging closer to war, President George W. Bush declared “the game is over” for Saddam Hussein and urged skeptical allies to join in disarming Iraq.

ON THIS DATE

In 1756, America’s third vice president, Aaron Burr, was born in Newark, N.J.

In 1778, during the American Revolutionary War, the United States won official recognition and military support from France with the signing of a Treaty of Alliance in Paris.

In 1788, Massachusetts became the sixth state to ratify the U.S. Constitution.

In 1862, during the Civil War, Fort Henry in Tennessee fell to Union forces.

In 1911, Ronald Wilson Reagan, the 40th president of the United States, was born in Tampico, Illinois.

In 1933, the 20th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, the so-called “lame duck” amendment, was proclaimed in effect by Secretary of State Henry Stimson.

In 1952, Britain’s King George VI, 56, died at Sandringham House in Norfolk, England; he was succeeded as monarch by his 25-year-old elder daughter, who became Queen Elizabeth II.

In 1995, the space shuttle Discovery flew to within 37 feet of the Russian space station Mir in the first rendezvous of its kind in two decades.

In 1998, President Bill Clinton signed a bill changing the name of Washington National Airport to Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport. Pop music star Falco, who had a 1986 hit with “Rock Me Amadeus,” died in a traffic accident in the Dominican Republic; he was 40. Carl Wilson, a founding member of The Beach Boys, died in Los Angeles at age 51.

In 2005, The New England Patriots won their third NFL championship in four years, defeating the Philadelphia Eagles in Super Bowl XXXIX (39) by a score of 24-21.

In 2008, the Bush White House defended the use of the interrogation technique known as waterboarding, saying it was legal — not torture as critics argued — and had saved American lives. The Phoenix Suns acquired Shaquille O’Neal in a stunning blockbuster deal that sent four-time All-Star Shawn Marion and Marcus Banks to the Miami Heat.

LOTTERY

Megabucks: \$33.2 million
1-11-14-22-39-43

Mega Millions: \$187 million
32-48-50-51-64-10 x2

Powerball: \$50 million
12-33-54-57-60-13 x4

Win for Life: Feb. 3
42-51-57-65

Pick 4: Feb. 4
• 1 p.m.: 9-0-5-1
• 4 p.m.: 8-8-5-1
• 7 p.m.: 8-7-9-8
• 10 p.m.: 9-5-8-5

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

DELIVERY ISSUES?

If you have any problems receiving your Observer, please call the office at 541-963-3161.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

“Life is just one grand sweet song, so start the music.”
— President Ronald Reagan (1911-2004)

#TimberUnity truckers ready to roll on Capitol

By Jake Thomas, Claire Withycombe and Sam Stites
Oregon Capital Bureau

SALEM — Activists from across Oregon will gather in Salem Thursday as they attempt to break a world record for the largest truck convoy while also aiming to derail key environmental legislation being considered by lawmakers.

#TimberUnity is back, and Thursday morning protestors driving big rigs, tractors, dump trucks and other hulking vehicles will flood the Capitol to oppose a greenhouse gas reduction plan they say would cripple the economy and way of life for rural Oregonians. The event is a throwback to a nearly identical demonstration that took place last summer to protest a previous version of the bill.

The effort to pass such environmental legislation stalled in the Legislature last year following a walkout by Republican state senators. Democrats, who hold firm majorities in the House and Senate, consider passing a revived version of the bill a priority during the 35-day legislative session.

Angelita Sanchez, a founding board member and secretary of the Timber Unity Association, said that the event is anticipated to draw truck drivers, loggers, ranchers and people from other professions who rely on heavy machinery and would be affected by the legislation.

“Everybody that works in the natural resources industry across this entire state are going to be trying to get their voices heard,” she said.



Photo by Sierra Dawn McClain/Capital Press

Loggers, farmers and others protest in front of the Oregon Capitol on June 26, 2019. Thursday morning protestors driving big rigs, tractors, dump trucks and other hulking vehicles will flood the Capitol to oppose a greenhouse gas reduction plan they say would cripple the economy and way of life for rural Oregonians.

Sanchez said trucks from across the state will converge on Interstate 5 between Portland and Salem early in the morning while heading south. The convoy will peel off on to Salem Parkway with the aim of breaking a world record for the most trucks in a convoy. According to the Guinness Book of World Records, the record stands at 453 during a 2004 truck parade organized by a logistics and transportation company in the Netherlands.

Demonstrators will be bused in throughout the morning from nearby staging grounds to the front of the Capitol for an event that will feature letter-writing, voter registration, petitions and a free meal courtesy of the Marion County Republican Party and Adam’s Rib

Smoke House. It’s unclear exactly how many will attend the event, but it could range from the hundreds to potentially more than a thousand demonstrators.

Capt. Timothy Fox, Oregon State Police spokesperson, said in an email that #TimberUnity planners are expecting between 800 to 1,000 trucks. He said it’s expected to significantly affect traffic surrounding the Capitol as well as routes from sites where protestors will gather before heading to the Capitol. Those sites include the Oregon State Fairgrounds in Salem, Volcanoes Stadium in Keizer and the Polk County Fairgrounds in Rickreall.

“The Capitol will be open and staffed accordingly to ensure everyone’s safety and

rights are maintained,” he said, noting several hundred people are expected to enter the Capitol to speak with legislators.

Lt. Treven Upkes, spokesperson for the Salem Police Department, said there won’t be any road closures because of the event and organizers do not need a permit. He said there will be an unusual amount of traffic in the Salem area from 7-9 a.m. the day of the event and again from 3-4:30 p.m.

Upkes said organizers don’t plan on having many vehicles drive around the Capitol. While Salem police will have increased traffic enforcement, he said as long as vehicles aren’t blocking traffic and are obeying laws they can drive around as long as they want. However,

he said organizers plan to have vehicles only do one lap around the Capitol.

Sen. Michael Dembrow, a Portland Democrat who is sponsoring the controversial legislation, said on Monday he’s revised the legislation to address concerns raised about it. He said the Legislature had received 1,500 pieces of written testimony so far.

Dembrow said the proposal has been changed to phase in the program affecting vehicle fuel by county, beginning with the Portland area in 2022 and then all counties west of the Cascades (as well as Bend and Klamath Falls) in 2025. Amendments also carve out tax credits for low-income Oregonians to help with utility cost increases.

Sanchez said she wasn’t aware of the changes to accommodate low-income people but feels they won’t go far enough to insulate Oregonians.

“We know that everything trickles down to the consumer,” she said.

Fellow Timber Unity board member Todd Stoffel — a Washington-based truck owner and operator with business in Oregon — agreed. He said he believes Oregon’s most vulnerable citizens, elderly on fixed incomes and low-income families, would be hurt.

“What they’ve done is give... these carve outs for big polluters over the next 30 years,” Stoffel said. “The rest of us end up paying the price with higher fuel prices, higher, double-digit energy cost increases, and on down the line.”

County commissioners weigh in on cap and trade

By Dick Mason
The Observer

LA GRANDE — The Union County Board of Commissioners voted Wednesday to weigh in on the cap and trade debate, that is again sparking heated controversy in the Legislature.

The commissioners voted to send a letter to the Oregon Legislature expressing concerns about Senate Bill 1530 and House Bill 4159, the greenhouse gas emissions cap-and-trade bills now before lawmakers.

The county will draft the letter after the final versions of the bills are in place and will express opposition to both, said Commissioner Donna Beverage. The commissioners voted to wait rather than send a letter immediately because they want to be in a position to address any amendments to the bills.

Two paragraphs in the letter likely will be similar or identical to one the county board seriously considered sending Wednesday. The paragraphs contain two reasons why the board is opposed to HB 4159 and SB 1530. The commissioners agree on both, Beverage said.

The first paragraph asks for an ecological and economic study of the potential effects of the legislation on each of the 36 counties in Oregon.

“We are concerned that positions and opinions on both sides of this issue have been made based upon partisan

politics and philosophical positioning rather than fact,” the letter states.

The second paragraph requests the removal of the emergency clause from both bills.

“While we are not arguing on whether Catastrophic Climate Change is an emer-

gency, we would argue that rushed decisions without an opportunity for the people of Oregon to speak is not how our great State should do business,” the letter states.

Beverage said one of the most concerning aspects of the legislation is the imposition of additional fuel taxes.

She said they would hit rural Oregonians particularly hard because they are much more reliant on fuel for their

livelihoods than people who live in urban areas.

“It would be devastating,” Beverage said.

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Grande Ronde Hospital

- What are you doing to live longer and better?
- Do you exercise?
- What does your cholesterol panel look like?
- Do you have family history of coronary artery blockages?

Cardiologist Gerrie Gardner, DO
GRH Cardiology Clinic Director

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More at grh.org/cardiology

GRANDE RONDE HOSPITAL AND CLINICS

Join Dr. Gardner Tues. Feb. 11th @ 6:30 PM

GRH 3rd-floor Mount Emily Conference Room

Light refreshments & a Heart Smart gift basket valued at \$250 will be chosen by raffle for one attendee!