

DAILY
PLANNER

TODAY

Today is Thursday, Feb. 13, the 44th day of 2020. There are 322 days left in the year.

TODAY'S HIGHLIGHT

On Feb. 13, 1945, during World War II, Allied planes began bombing the German city of Dresden. The Soviets captured Budapest, Hungary, from the Germans.

ON THIS DATE

In 1633, Italian astronomer Galileo Galilei arrived in Rome for trial before the Inquisition, accused of defending Copernican theory that the Earth revolved around the sun instead of the other way around. (Galileo was found vehemently suspect of heresy and ended up being sentenced to a form of house arrest.)

In 1861, Abraham Lincoln was officially declared winner of the 1860 presidential election as electors cast their ballots.

In 1935, a jury in Flemington, New Jersey, found Bruno Richard Hauptmann guilty of first-degree murder in the kidnap-slaying of Charles A. Lindbergh Jr., the 20-month-old son of Charles and Anne Lindbergh. (Hauptmann was later executed.)

In 1965, during the Vietnam War, President Lyndon B. Johnson authorized Operation Rolling Thunder, an extended bombing campaign against the North Vietnamese.

In 1974, Nobel Prize-winning Russian author Alexander Solzhenitsyn was expelled from the Soviet Union.

In 1984, Konstantin Chernenko was chosen to be general secretary of the Soviet Communist Party's Central Committee, succeeding the late Yuri Andropov.

In 1991, during Operation Desert Storm, allied warplanes destroyed an underground shelter in Baghdad that had been identified as a military command center; Iraqi officials said 500 civilians were killed.

In 1998, Dr. David Satcher was sworn in as the 16th Surgeon General of the United States during an Oval Office ceremony.

In 2000, Tiger Woods saw his streak of six consecutive victories come to an end as he fell short to Phil Mickelson in the Buick Invitational.

CORRECTION

The page 6A story "Eagles slip by Elgin in key OOL battle" in the Feb. 11 edition misstated Elgin's top scorers in the contest. Kaden McClure scored 12 points, Tristan Simpson had 11 and Gage McKay had 10.

LOTTERY

Megabucks: \$3.8 million
4-22-26-35-38-39

Mega Millions: \$40 million
4-6-32-52-64-6 x2

Powerball: \$70 million
35-49-50-59-66-PB-6 x2

Win for Life: Feb. 10
20-34-35-73

Pick 4:

Feb. 11
• 1 p.m.: 0-0-2-9
• 4 p.m.: 8-0-6-0
• 7 p.m.: 4-8-1-0
• 10 p.m.: 3-8-0-0
Pick 4: Feb. 10
• 1 p.m.: 3-2-0-3
• 4 p.m.: 6-1-5-7
• 7 p.m.: 6-0-8-4
• 10 p.m.: 0-3-8-8

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QUOTE OF THE DAY

"An explanation of cause is not a justification by reason."
— C.S. Lewis, English author (1898-1963)

ODOT puts regional bridge plans to public

By Dick Mason
The Observer

LA GRANDE — A Wallowa County bridge built the same year the first television drama was broadcast is due for replacement because of declining ratings.

The Oregon Department of Transportation plans to remove Bear Creek Bridge, less than a quarter mile west of Wallowa on Highway 82, after building a new \$15.2 million bridge in its place, according to Ken Patterson, ODOT's regional district manager.

The state transportation agency calls for the construction of the new bridge in the 2021-24 Statewide Transportation Improvement Program. The Oregon Transportation Commission in late January released a draft of the plan, which is ODOT's capital improvement program.

The bridge was built in 1930, the same year as the broadcast of the world's first television drama. The condition of the Bear Creek span is declining.

The new bridge will use improved technology and materials, so it will have fewer support columns in the stream below, Patterson said, making it easier for maintenance crews to keep debris from building up underneath. The new bridge also will be wider and go up next to the old one, allowing traffic to cross during construction. The project is set to start in 2021.

ODOT's program also calls for work to improve the safety of the steep Morgan Lake Road just southwest of La Grande. The work would widen portions of the unpaved roadway and install additional guardrails, Patterson said.

The department will determine where to make the improvements using crash data. The project would



Staff photo by Dick Mason

Two vehicles pass Tuesday on the narrow Morgan Lake Road near La Grande. The Oregon Department of Transportation's proposal of improvement projects for 2021-24 includes widening portions of the road and installing more guardrails.

cost about \$1.28 million and begin in 2023.

ODOT's proposal also calls for replacing the decking of the two bridges at the North Powder interchange. The last replacement of the decking was about 20 years ago.

"They are pitted and rutted," Patterson said.

Another project in Union County would install better piping in culverts along Interstate 84 from Hilgard Junction State Park to Ontario. The enhanced piping would help keep water from running over the top of the freeway, Patterson said.

The public can visit www.oregon.gov/ODOT to review the draft of the statewide plan and submit comments. The deadline for public

comments is April 6.

An online open house on the STIP work will start later this month and last about two weeks. A video on the program will be available at a website during the open house along with extensive written information. Website visitors will be able to make comments on the proposal at the online open house. Information on accessing the online open house is coming soon.

Individuals also have an opportunity to make comments in person at a traditional open house March 10 in John Day. It will start at 10:30 a.m. at the Oregon Department of Forestry conference room at 415 Patterson Bridge Road.

The State Transportation Commission will later vote on approval of

a final plan for 2021-24. The federal government then must give its OK to the program. That should come by September.

Patterson said ODOT welcomes public comments and gives them serious consideration. He said the department is not only interested in receiving input on the plan but wants to hear from people who have recommendations regarding future projects they want the agency to pursue. He said the transportation department has taken on projects in the past after the public made recommendations.

"We want to be a responsive agency," he said. "We want to meet the needs of everyone because we live and work here."

What's still moving, what's spiked in Legislature

By Jake Thomas
Oregon Capital Bureau

SALEM — The first major deadline of this year's legislative session hit the Capitol on Friday.

Legislation with no date by the deadline for a committee vote were headed for the political dustbin.

These proposals may not have made headlines, but they could have affected Oregonians nonetheless. Sometimes lawmakers introduce legislation that is unlikely to pass just to get the matter attention or to win the startup of a policy workgroup with the aim of it passing in a future session.

Although the first deadline means most bills won't advance, there is a chance for them to be revived. The deadlines don't apply to the Joint Committee on Ways and Means, as well as other committees that deal with rules or finance. So bills sent to those committees might have more time.

For the moment, here's a sampling of what seems dead and what's still moving forward:

•**The issue:** It's illegal to carry a firearm into a public building. But a court case made an exception for people who have a concealed carry license.

What it does: Allows local governments to ban people with concealed carry permits from bringing guns into public buildings.

Bill number: Senate Bill 1538
Status: Still moving. The Senate Judiciary Committee sent the bill to the Rules Committee.

•**The issue:** Firearms left unlocked by their owners have been blamed for suicides and as well as other shootings.

What it does: Requires gun owners to lock up their firearms when not in use or face penalties as well as liability if their guns fall in the wrong hands.

Bill number: House Bill 4005

Status: Still moving. The House Judiciary Committee held a work session on the bill.

•**The issue:** Oregon currently has no effective limits on the amount of money that can be donated to political campaigns. A court case and a constitutional amendment that will go before voters could allow limits.

What it does: Would establish a task force to propose campaign finance regulations.

Bill number: House Bill 4124

Status: Still moving. The House Rules Committee has scheduled a work session.

•**The issue:** Contests to kill coyotes drawn criticism that such events are inhumane.

What it does: Makes it illegal to hold coyote-killing competitions.

Bill number: House Bill 4075

Status: Still moving. The House Natural Resources Committee has scheduled a work session.

•**The issue:** Vaping devices that deliver flavored nicotine have been criticized for being used by tobacco companies to hook kids.

What it does: Bans stores from selling flavored vaping products.

Bill number: Senate Bill 1559

Status: Spiked. Stuck in Senate Health Committee.

•**The issue:** Oregon has experienced increasingly destructive wildfires.

What it does: Attempts to address wildfires with updates to Oregon's building codes, land-use planning, mapping of high-risk areas, treatment of forest debris, mitigation of smoke on public health and forest protection.

Bill number: Senate Bill 1536

Status: Still moving. The Senate Committee On Wildfire Reduction and Recovery held a hearing on the bill.

•**The issue:** Despite an Oregon law that limits law enforcement's cooperation with federal immigration authorities, a facility in The Dalles holds contracts to detain people suspected to be in the country illegally.

What it does: Prevents the Northern Oregon Regional Correctional Facility, a state-run detention complex, from contracting with the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

Bill number: House Bill 4121

Status: Spiked. Died in House Judiciary Committee.

•**The issue:** Record amounts of money have poured into elections as a result of a U.S. Supreme Court decision.

What it does: Seeks to start a process to amend the U.S. Constitution intended to reform how political campaigns are funded.

Bill number: Senate Joint Memorial 201.

Status: Still moving. Referred to Senate Rules Committee.

•**The issue:** Because of a quorum requirement, the

last legislative session came to a halt after Senate Republicans staged a walkout, depriving the chamber of the number of senators to conduct business.

What it does: Changes the number of legislators that need to be present in the House and Senate respectively in order to take votes and conduct business.

Bill number: Senate Joint Resolution 201

Status: Still moving. Referred to Senate Rules Committee.

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