

Timber Unity gears up for cap and trade, other issues

By **SIERRA DAWN MCCLAIN**
Capital Press

SALEM — The Oregon Legislature’s short session begins Feb. 3, with lawmakers planning to resurrect climate legislation after last session’s controversial cap-and-trade proposal failed.

And Timber Unity, the group heading protests last year, will be back.

On Feb. 6, Timber Unity will organize a convoy of logging trucks to Salem and a rally on the Capitol steps.

On the group’s Facebook event page, as of Jan. 7, 936 people have said they will go to the protest, more than 3,100 have marked themselves as interested and 97 have pledged to drive semitrucks.

“We want to stop cap and trade,” said Adam Lardy, a Timber Unity spokesman. “Politicians may want to run with a watered-down version this year. But once they get a foothold, why wouldn’t they run with it? So we can’t let them get a foothold.”

Last year, Timber Unity formed to protest House Bill 2020, last year’s cap-and-trade bill, which passed the Oregon House. The legislation was designed to cut carbon emissions, but

it roused opposition from farmers, loggers and others who argued the bill would raise fuel and natural gas prices.

The protests culminated with the walk-out of Senate Republicans, inflaming party tensions. The bill stalled in the Senate at the end of the session when it failed to gain adequate support. According to Harry Esteve, communications manager for the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, it’s too early to know the specifics of a renewed cap-and-trade proposal.

Kate Kondayen, deputy communications director for Gov. Kate Brown, said the governor is focused on an economy-wide strategy with enforceable carbon limits. Kondayen said Brown plans to “ensure the bill protects jobs and livelihoods in rural communities” while still achieving state emissions goals.

“Doing nothing is not an option,” said Kondayen.

Although Timber Unity formed to protest HB 2020, the movement has ballooned into something bigger.

“The movement is shifting,” said Lardy, the spokesman. “We’re fighting over-regulation. We’re fighting laws that kill jobs and communities. It’s not just about



Capital Press Photo/Sierra McClain, File

Representatives of the Timber Unity movement organized massive protests at the Oregon Capitol in Salem last year against climate legislation. The organization is planning to protest a new climate change proposal that will be considered during the upcoming legislative session.

cap and trade anymore.”

The movement bears resemblance to the “yellow vests” in France, a grassroots citizens’ campaign that started as a fuel tax protest and has morphed

the Global Protest Wave of 2019, demonstrations erupted in the Arab world, France, Catalonia, Hong Kong, Latin America and beyond. According to the United Nations, demonstrators around the world sought autonomy, freedom from political corruption and economic fairness.

As Timber Unity’s ranks swell in 2020, its leaders say they are determined to keep protests peaceful.

“I’m an Army wife. I stood up for Governor Brown when she walked in a room,” said Julie Parish, a former state legislator and current board member for Timber Unity. “It’s about respect. If any policymaker will speak with us, we’ll take it.”

The movement’s success, said Parish, also depends on how protesters treat one another. Parish said the Timber Unity movement is far from homogenous.

“We’re a voting bloc of over 50,000 people now, and we’re not all politically the same,” said Parish. “I don’t own a gun or hunt or fish. Some people are pro-choice, some pro-life. Some are hell-bent on electing Trump, and others would never vote for him.”

She laughed. “It makes managing the dialog interesting sometimes. But we’re

trying to focus on common ground — economic issues.”

Timber Unity’s financial muscle comes from its donors, both through direct giving and in-kind donations.

The group filed as a 501(c)(6) membership-based nonprofit, and also runs the Timber Unity Political Action Committee, or TUPAC. Since its genesis June 6, 2019, TUPAC has brought in over \$344,805.

TUPAC has been criticized for its partisan and special-interest donors, such as Andrew Miller, a prominent timber executive.

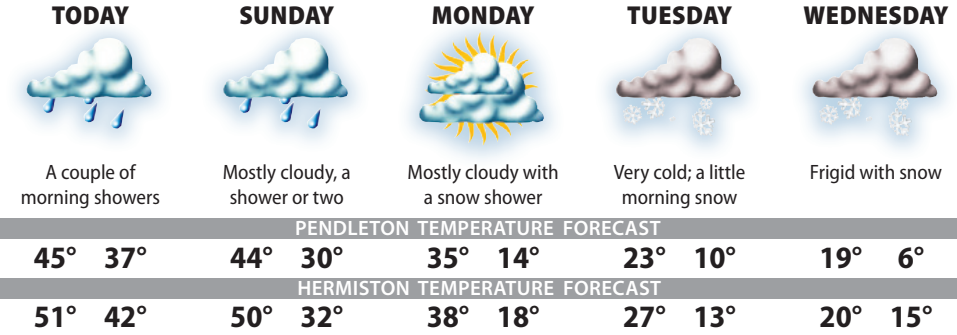
Timber Unity’s leaders, however, say they’re undaunted by criticisms. Parish said the organization will extend its reach by helping plant local chapters across Oregon, California and Washington.

Timber Unity, said Parish, also plans to host training sessions and teach civic engagement workshops.

On Wednesday, Jan. 15, at 11 a.m., board member Angelita Sanchez will discuss upcoming carbon regulations at the Northwest Ag Show at the Oregon State Fairgrounds in Salem.

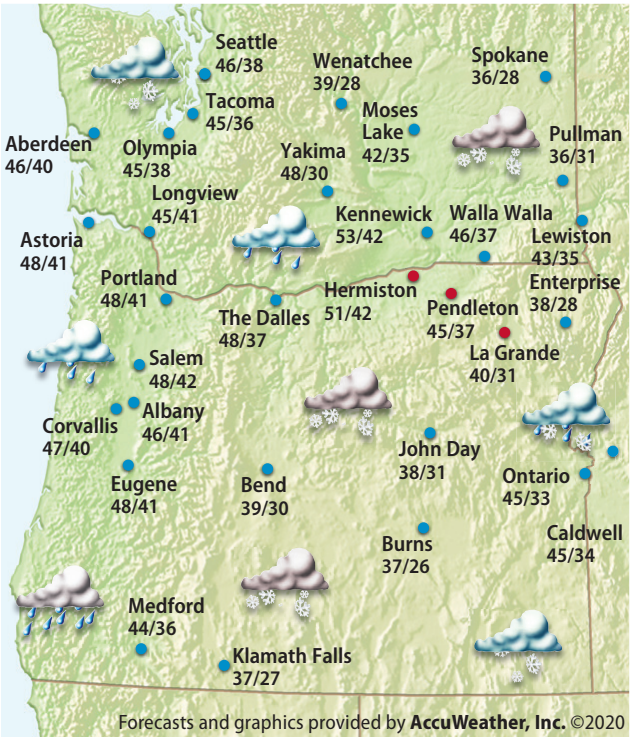
“You can only tax people so much,” said Lardy. “It all started with a rally, and we’re doing it again.”

Forecast for Pendleton Area



OREGON FORECAST

Shown is today's weather. Temperatures are today's highs and tonight's lows.



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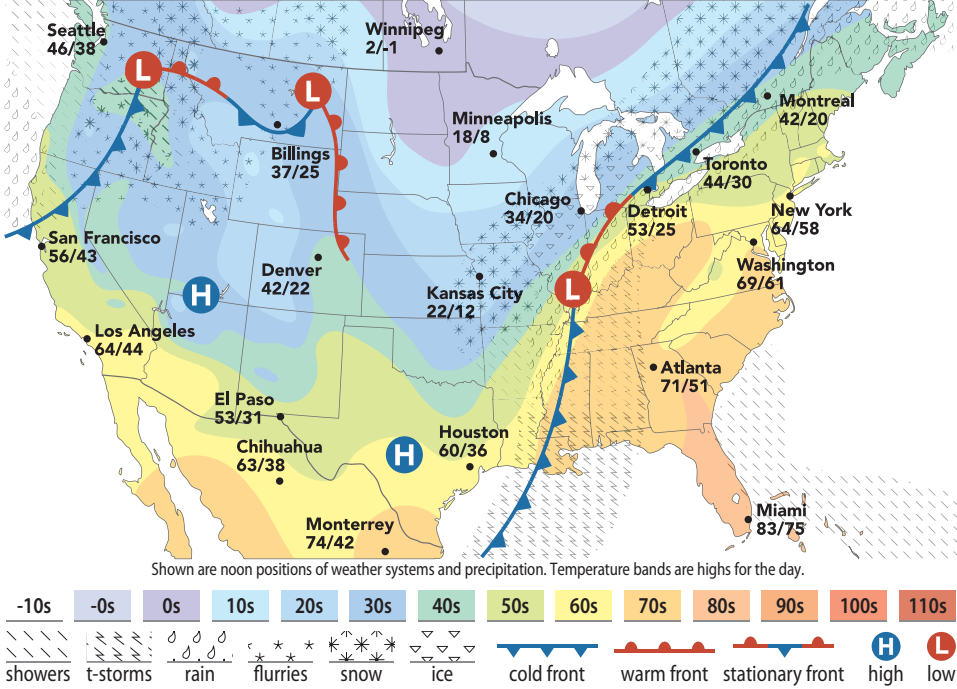
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NATIONAL EXTREMES

Yesterday's National Extremes: (for the 48 contiguous states)

High 88° in Zapata, Texas Low -22° in West Yellowstone, Mont.

NATIONAL WEATHER TODAY



Report labels lawmaker a ‘domestic terrorist’

Right-wing lawmaker intends to represent district

By **NICHOLAS K. GERANIOS**
Associated Press



Shea

SPOKANE, Wash. — A right-wing lawmaker from Washington state said Friday that a recent report that branded him a “domestic terrorist” is a lie and that he will continue to represent the people of his district.

Democrats and some Republicans have called for state Rep. Matt Shea, R-Spokane Valley, to resign in the wake of a December report involving anti-government activities. Shea has refused to resign.

He issued a statement saying he will be in the chamber when the state House convenes its 2020 session on Monday.

“I look forward to con-

tinuing to represent the people of my district,” Shea wrote. “I do so with a renewed sense of the importance of our Constitution’s protections for the powerless against the vindictiveness of the powerful.”

The report commissioned by the state House was released in December and concluded that Shea helped plan, engaged in and promoted three armed conflicts against the U.S. government in Nevada, Idaho and Oregon in 2014, 2015 and 2016.

In particular, Shea’s work to organize and urge supporters to attend the 2016 standoff with authorities at the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge in Oregon was branded domestic terrorism by the report by the Ram-part Group, a Seattle-based

private investigation agency.

The report prompted House Republicans to immediately expel Shea from their caucus.

House Republican Leader J.T. Wicox, R-Yelm, said Thursday at a legislative forum sponsored by The Associated Press that Shea “is not a House Republican.”

But Wilcox believes it is up to the voters of Shea’s Spokane Valley district to kick him out of the Legislature.

“Matt Shea should resign,” incoming House Speaker Laurie Jinkins, D-Tacoma, said Thursday at the forum. “And if he does not resign he should be expelled.”

Jinkins said Democrats alone cannot expel Shea and would need the votes of at least 10 Republicans to reach a two-thirds majority.

“I don’t know how this is going to end up,” Jinkins said.

Oregon Department of Justice unveils labor abuse task force

SALEM — The Oregon Department of Justice is announcing a new task force Friday aimed at addressing labor abuses.

The Labor Trafficking Task Force includes police, district attorneys, immigration advocates and state lawmakers.

Oregon Attorney General Ellen Rosenblum said labor trafficking is a problem that’s not getting the attention it deserves.

“We have reason to believe, based on some groups that we’ve met with ... people have been telling us we have an unaddressed problem of labor trafficking in Oregon,” she said.

Rosenblum said some people are likely being taken advantage of because of their immigration status. She said she’s especially concerned about employees in certain industries.

“Factory work, agricultural work, construction industry, generally these situations are marked by very poor working conditions sometime for no pay, or maybe only for nominal pay,” she said. “Threats of reprisal against anyone who reports. Unfortunately, it sometimes comes along with undocumented workers who are afraid to report.”

In 2007, Oregon lawmakers passed a law, making involuntary servitude a crime. But Rosenblum said state researchers couldn’t find one case where it had been prosecuted.

— *Oregon Public Broadcasting*

CORRECTION: In the Page A1 story “New fire chief sets roots in Pendleton,” published Wednesday, Jan. 8, the story misstated Fire Chief Jim Critchley’s annual salary. His salary is \$119,232.

CORRECTION: In the Page A5 Coming Events calendar, published Friday, Jan. 10, incorrect contact information was given for the Walmart Wellness Event scheduled for Saturday. For information on the event, call the Hermiston Walmart at 541-567-4854.

The *East Oregonian* works hard to be accurate and sincerely regrets any errors. If you notice a mistake in the paper, please call 541-966-0818.

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