

Local & Region

What's New At The Library

• 2400 Resort St.

FICTION

• "Hindsight," Danielle Steel
 • "The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek," Kim Michele Richardson
 • "Nothing to See Here," Kevin Wilson
 • "Trust Exercise," Susan Choi
 • "The River Murders," James Patterson

NONFICTION

• "When Harry Became Sally," Ryan T. Anderson
 • "How To Be Well," Frank Lipman
 • "What Is a Girl Worth?" Rachael Denhollander
 • "Open Borders Inc.," Michelle Malkin
 • "The Book of Gutsy Women," Hillary Rodham Clinton

DVDS

• "Girl on the Third Floor" (Horror)
 • "Humanity Bureau" (Action)
 • "Joker" (Drama)
 • "Monsters: Dark Continent" (Sci-Fi)
 • "Whitney" (Documentary)

HEART TO HEART

Testament to our school system

Sarah Spaugh is one of yours; just one more product of the Baker County community and the excellent public education system available here. ("Across the Outback..." Jan. 1, 2020).

She entered South Baker Elementary as a fourth-grader, participated in arts and athletics programs at Baker High School, and graduated from Baker Web Academy 2014 with valuable college-classroom experience.

The Baker 5J District offered many academic choices to Sarah while she was a student here, and offers today's students even more.

We were pleasantly surprised to see the Herald's article on our daughter. We hope it reminds every student in this community: "Baker County can meet your educational needs, and you can accomplish anything that you are willing to work for."

With thanks.

David and Stephanie Spaugh
 Baker City



Sierra McClain/Capital Press file photo

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.

Timber Unity group braces for return of carbon cap legislation

By Sierra McClain

Capital Press

SALEM — The Oregon state 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 semi-trucks.

"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 overregulation. We're fighting laws that kill jobs and communities. It's not just about 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 into a nationwide anti-government movement aimed at economic justice for the working-class.

Timber Unity also echoed a global trend. In what experts have dubbed 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 Gov. Brown when she walked into our caucus room," said Julie Parrish, 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 the meeting."

The movement's success, said Parrish, also depends on how protesters treat one another. Parrish 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 Parrish. "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 \$177,000.

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. Parrish said the organization will extend its reach by helping plant local chapters across Oregon, California and Washington.

Timber Unity, said Parrish, 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."



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Secretary of State sued over rejection of two clean-energy ballot measures

SALEM (AP) — Environmental advocates are suing Oregon's Secretary of State over her rejection of two clean-energy ballot initiatives, claiming the action was without legal reasoning and constituted an abuse of power.

The Statesman Journal reports in a filing to Marion County Circuit Court Wednesday, complainants asked for an expedited review to allow Initiative Petitions 48 and 49 to continue the process that would allow them to put the measures before voters in November.

Eric Richardson, chief petitioner and executive director of NAACP Eugene/Springfield, said the actions by Secretary of State Bev Clarno and Deputy Secretary Rich Vial are unconstitutional.

The blocked initiatives would require Oregon to produce all of its electricity through renewable and carbon-free sources by Jan. 1, 2045, up from about half today. Washington, California and Nevada already have similar targets.

One of the two proposed initiatives would also require utilities to more aggressively invest in beneficial electrification programs, such as electric car charging infrastructure.

Clarno rejected the initiatives because she said they violated the single-subject provision of the Constitution, which requires that initiatives address only one subject.

In September, she rejected three forestry-related initiatives.