

# Timber Unity to Oregon legislators: ‘We’re fed up’

By Sierra Dawn McClain  
EO Media Group



Sierra Dawn McClain/Capitol Press  
**Angelita Sanchez of Timber Unity speaks Wednesday at the Northwest Agricultural Show in Salem.**

Angelita Sanchez’s message was loud and clear when she spoke about the renewed effort in the Oregon Legislature to pass a new cap-and-trade bill.

“We’re fed up,” Sanchez said. “The Legislature is giving us a false narrative so they can shove through a tax scam. But there’s no more room for these taxes. We’ve been working, working, working, and there’s no room to pinch anymore. So we’re saying enough is enough.”

Sanchez said the new legislation, a similar proposal to 2019’s cap-and-trade bill, is 157 pages and counting. The

passed on to them as well.

Sanchez spoke Wednesday at the 50th Northwest Agricultural Show.

The Legislature’s five-week session begins Feb. 3, with lawmakers in the Democratic supermajority planning to push through the new bill.

On Feb. 6, Timber Unity members plan to take their complaints to the Capitol with a truck convoy and a protest — while also deploying semi-truck fleets to demonstrate in Portland and other cities the same day.

Last year’s attempt to limit carbon dioxide emissions flopped. Protesters, most of whom were part of Timber Unity’s movement,

rallied in Salem against the bill. The measure provoked a nine-day walkout by Senate Republicans in late June. They returned two days before the session ended. By then, the bill was dead.

“I thought last year’s bill was bad,” said Sanchez. “And it was. But I think this year’s bill may be worse.”

After 2019’s legislative chaos, Gov. Kate Brown met with rural residents from across the state and listened to their concerns. According to Kate Kondayan, deputy communications director for Brown, the governor is committed to “ensure the bill protects jobs and livelihoods in rural communities.”

Sanchez, however, said

that although the bill may not target rural communities initially, it has the potential to hold them under its power later. This is because, according to the legislation’s text, once 19 counties have bought into the cap-and-trade program, the legislation will then apply to the rest of Oregon, too.

“The reality is,” said Julie Parrish, another spokesperson for Timber Unity, “the Legislature is really saying, ‘Here’s your first bite of the apple, then here’s your next bite.’”

Although Timber Unity formed in 2019 to protest cap-and-trade legislation, the movement has mushroomed into something broader.

When Sanchez joined the movement last summer, she wanted to stand up for her trucking business. Now, she said, the movement runs a political action committee and a nonprofit, teaches people how to exercise their political rights, is planning new chapters in five states and will begin endorsing political candidates Feb. 6 at the upcoming rally.

“Why in the circle of life do we have to deal with stuff like this crushing us?” asked Phil Kuehnel, 85, a retired salesman from Yamhill County. He was sporting red suspenders that said “Loggers World” — one word per suspender. “I tell you, it’s time we stood up.”

# White tailed deer die-off reported in Blue Mountains

By Katy Nesbitt  
For EO Media Group

The death of roughly 2,000 white-tailed deer in Umatilla County is being blamed on a virus spread by tiny gnats.

Greg Rimbach, district biologist for the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife Pendleton field office, said die-offs found between Milton-Freewater and Pilot Rock due to Epizootic hemorrhagic disease occur every couple of years, but for the most part it goes unnoticed.

“A die-off to this degree, in the county at least, is very rare and may have never happened before,” he said. “This year was a whopper.”

In fact, Rimbach said he is unaware of such an occurrence being recorded in

Oregon.

In October, Rimbach said his office started receiving calls from farmers and ranchers reporting dead white-tailed deer in creek bottoms and drainages.

Rimbach and a fellow wildlife biologist hit the field to see what was happening. The flat land behind Wildhorse Resort & Casino several miles east of Pendleton, for example, Rimbach said, usually is home for about 150 white tail.

“Went out there and counted none,” he said.

If a deer has been dead just a day or two tests are run on organs like the heart, spleen or abdominal cavity, but when deer are found greatly decomposed he said they were able to test femurs and humeruses



Contributed photo/ODFW

**Tests conducted by Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife veterinarians confirmed that Epizootic hemorrhagic disease is responsible for the die-off of an estimated 2,000 white-tailed deer in Eastern Oregon.**

to determine what disease killed them.

Samples were sent to ODFW’s wildlife health and population lab in Corval-

lis, and then on to the Oregon State University diagnostic lab for testing. Evidence of Epizootic hemorrhagic disease was found, a disease

spread by biting gnats that breed in pools of stagnant water — sometimes as small as a hoof print.

Mule deer, Rimbach said, are not nearly as susceptible to hemorrhagic diseases and have not been affected by the outbreak, which he said could be due to a genetic disposition.

Not all deer infected with the virus die, Rimbach said, but will be sick for a while, compromising their health as winter approaches.

White-tailed deer numbers are on the rise in Eastern Oregon, but the die-off has the state wildlife department determining whether to reduce the number of deer tags or cancel hunts in the Walla Walla, Mount Emily and Ukiah hunting units. The state agency reported it will

inform hunters of any changes by April 15 so they have time to change their controlled hunt application choices before the May 15 deadline.

If Rimbach does decide to cancel some of the tags in the Walla Walla, Mt. Emily and Ukiah hunting units, he said it won’t affect buck deer rifle hunting.

Meat from game with EHD is consumable and the disease is not transmittable to humans, according to the wildlife department, but experts recommend thoroughly cooking any meat from animals from an infected area. Well-cooked venison, Rimbach said, would be just fine.

“I would eat it,” he said. *La Grande Observer Editor Phil Wright contributed to this report.*

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Meeting every Sunday at Mt. Vernon Grange Hall  
Sunday School.....9:30 a.m.  
Sunday Morning Worship...10:50 a.m.  
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Church Services.....11:00 am  
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Junior Church 11:00 am • Sunday Evenings 3:30 pm  
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Mon. - Fri. Mass - 12:05 pm  
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Sunday Mass - 9:00 am  
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Confession: Saturday 4:00-4:45 pm  
Anytime by appointment  
541-974-8638  
**St. Anne**  
Monument -  
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SATURDAY SERVICES  
JOHN DAY  
110 Valley View Dr.  
541-575-1216  
Head Elder.....541-575-2914  
Bible Classes (all ages).....9:30 am  
Worship.....11 am  
LONG CREEK  
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541-421-3033  
Head Elder.....421-3468  
Bible Classes (all ages).....2 pm  
Worship.....3 pm

**Prairie Baptist Church**  
238 N. McHaley St., Prairie City • 541-820-3696  
www.prairie-baptist-church.com  
**Pastor David Hoeffner**  
**Pastor Keith**  
Sunday School (all ages).....9:00 a.m.  
Sunday morning worship.....10:30 a.m.  
Awana (Oct.-Apr.).....3:00 p.m.  
Youth Group.....5:30 p.m.

**St. Thomas Episcopal Church**  
Morning Prayer.....10 am  
(1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays)  
Eucharist & Sunday School.....10 am  
(2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays)  
139 S. Washington, Canyon City  
**541-620-1436**

**New Life Bible Church**  
2 Corinthians 5:17  
Every Sunday in the L.C. Community Center (Corner of Second & Allen)  
Contact Pastor Ed Studtmann at 541-421-3888 • Begins at 4:00pm

**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH**  
Sunday School..... 10 am  
Church.....11 am  
Afternoon Service..... 2 pm  
No Mid-week Services  
**Pastor Jesse Gosnell**  
300 W. Main, John Day  
**541-575-1355**

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Sundays 5:30pm  
Youth: 0-6th grade  
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Thursdays 6:30pm  
Youth: 0-6th grade  
Jr./Sr. High Youth Connection  
Contact the office for current schedule  
**Overcomer’s Outreach**  
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A Christ Centered, 12 Step Recovery Support Group  
**Pastor Sharon Miller**  
541-932-4910  
www.livingwordcc.com

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**Redeemer Lutheran Church**  
*Come Worship with us at*  
627 SE Hillcrest, John Day  
1<sup>st</sup> Sunday Worship/Communion.....10am  
3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday Worship/Communion/Potluck...4:30pm  
2<sup>nd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Worship .....10 am  
Wednesday Evening Bible Study.....6 pm  
For information: 541-575-2348

**MT. VERNON PRESBYTERIAN Community Church**  
SUNDAY SERVICE.....9 am  
**541-932-4800**  
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**CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE**  
Sunday School.....9:30 am  
Sunday Worship Service.....10:45 am  
Sunday Evening Service.....6:00 pm  
Children & Teen Activities  
SMALL GROUPS CALL FOR MORE INFO  
Weekdays: Sonshine Christian School  
**Pastor Randy Johnson**  
521 E. Main • John Day • 541-575-1895  
www.johndaynazarene.com

**FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH**  
Sunday School.....9:45 am  
Sunday Worship.....11 am  
Fox Community Church.....3 pm  
Sunday Evening Bible talk.....6 pm  
Saturday Men’s Study.....6 pm  
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541-575-1202 Church  
311 NE Dayton St, John Day  
Pastor Al Altnow

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johndayUMC@gmail.com  
126 NW Canton, John Day  
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**Cornerstone Christian Fellowship**  
139 N.E. DAYTON STREET, JOHN DAY  
**541-575-2180**  
Sunday Worship Service 10 am  
Sunday Youth Group 3 pm  
Thursday Celebrate Recovery 6 pm  
Pastor Levi Manitsas  
cornerstonejohnday@gmail.com  
ccfd.org