

Guest editorial: The Albany Democrat-Herald, Trump and Oregon forest lands

You might have noticed a couple of news items last week that could have a bearing on what happens over the next quarter-century with Oregon's wood-products industry.

In one of the news items, the U.S. Forest Service announced that it had completed a scientific report that could form the basis for changes to the Northwest Forest Plan. The agency now is taking public comment on the document. It's a major step in the process of revising the plan, which aims to protect old-growth forest habitat while providing a predictable flow of logs to the timber industry. The plan has been controversial in these parts.

In the other news item of some note, Donald Trump was elected president of the United States.

Now, national forest policy was not among the major pillars of Trump's platform, but we

know what he said during his May campaign stop in Eugene: Like many of Trump's policy pronouncements, it was short on the details, but at least we got a sense of his overall thinking on the subject.

During the Eugene stop, Trump cited some general statistics: He said three-fourths of the state's lumber mills have closed since the 1980s. Half of the state's wood-products jobs have vanished since 1990, he said. He blamed federal regulations, such as the Environmental Protection Act and the Clean Water Act, for the losses.

That's the sort of stuff that played well at Trump campaign rallies in the West.

But, like many of Trump's campaign promises, it remains to be seen how much of a difference his administration will make in terms of federal lands. (For one thing, thanks

to automation at lumber mills, many of those jobs never will be coming back, regardless of what happens in D.C. For another, it's not clear whether these issues will be a priority for Trump.)

One big clue will come in the nominations Trump makes for the Cabinet positions that do oversee federal lands. In that regard, early reports have not been particularly promising, unless you like the prospect of former Alaska governor Sarah Palin or Lucas Oil co-founder Forrest Lucas at the Bureau of Land Management, which oversees more than 15 million acres of land inside Oregon. (Names that have been floated for the secretary of agriculture, who oversees the Forest Service, include Sid Miller, the controversial commissioner of agriculture in Texas, according to a weekend story in the Eugene Register-

Guard. An editorial in a Texas newspaper had this to say

about Miller: "(A)s much as many Texans would love to be rid of Miller and his many missteps, we can't inflict him on the rest of the nation.") Trump would do well to find different appointees for both of those positions.

The history lesson Trump needs to keep in mind involves James Watt, President Ronald Reagan's controversial secretary of the interior. We don't need to see that kind of divisive figure in charge of federal lands; in fact, such a nomination might well guarantee continued gridlock.

Similarly, aggressive efforts to roll back the Northwest Forest Plan or the Endangered Species Act likely will trigger major battles in Congress and the courts that will linger for years.

We can't afford that. As we have noted now for years, it's important that we get people back to work on our federal lands, tackling the kind of maintenance projects that have gone untended for decades. But missteps now by the president-elect could have the unintended effect of making that much harder to accomplish.



A Celebration of Life will be held for **Gene R. Barnes** at the Selma Center gymnasium Sat., Dec. 10. from 1 p.m. - 3 p.m. This will be a potluck and open to anyone who would like to attend.

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Sat. Dec. 10 – 10 am to 6 pm
Community Bible Church
Entrance on Lister at Caves Ave.

Live Music. Handcrafted Toys, Jewelry, Pottery, Ornaments, Clothes, Great Food & More!

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Eat, drink and be merry at SFI's Deer Creek Center!

Sunday, December 4th, 2016
1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Fun activities for ALL ages:
1:00 Santa's workshop:
• Decorate cookies
• Make nature ornaments
• Refreshments
• Lodge tours
2:00 Program:
• Tom Atzet, biologist, on "Climate and your Land"
• Special Announcement!
• What's ahead for SFI & how you can contribute
3:00 Chili and cornbread

SFI's Deer Creek Center
1241 Illinois River Road
Selma, OR
Questions? Call 541-597-8530

Can't attend but still wish to support SFI's Mission? Please donate online at www.thesfi.org



Save the date

Nov. 30

This is to give notice that on Wednesday the Nov. 30, 2016 at 7 p.m., in the Council Chambers of City Hall, 222 W. Lister Street, Cave Junction, Oregon, the Common Council will hold a workshop to discuss potential marijuana business ordinances.

Dec. 2 & 3

Annual Friends of the I.V. Library Book Sale Dec. 2 and 3, Friday and Saturday from 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. at your I.V. Library Wrap-up your holiday shopping at the Library Book Sale! New items added each day. No set prices, purchases are donation only.

Josephine Community Libraries - I.V. Branch 209 W. Palmer St, CJ 541-592-4778 Branch Hours: Wed 2-6 p.m. Friday 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Dec. 5

Neighborhood Watch Leadership Meeting, Monday – Dec. 5, 6 p.m. at Wild Rivers Pizza. I am reaching out to all the leadership in the Illinois Valley neighborhood watch groups, and to those that wish to help form their Watch.

We need to have a means to share information and resources between all groups. I am

hosting a communications meeting to address our concerns, organize ourselves, our information, and to get it to the appropriate authorities. Can you please help us by spreading the word of this meeting. Contact me, Dennis Hoke, at 541-287-0021

Dec. 7

3rd annual I.V. Local Author Holiday Book Reading & Sales.

Authors/artists will have the opportunity to read their work or explain their process, while guests enjoy free refreshments (baked goods, coffee & tea, etc.). Following the reading, visit with authors and pick up a book signed especially for that certain someone on your holiday list. Featuring books from Michael Spring, Sarah Bohker, Desmond Serratore, Alan Laurie, Rachel Goodman, and Ryan Forsythe at 6 p.m. Free to attend.

Dec. 10

RiverStars Performing Arts presents: The Heart Of Winter, an original dance and theatre performance written by Illinois Valley youth and community artists. Showtimes are Dec. 10 and 11 at 5 p.m. at Lorna Byrne Middle School in Cave Junction. All performances are Pay-What-You-Can one half hour before

showtime. The Saturday night show will be followed by a \$5-\$15 sliding scale bottomless bowl soup dinner. Stay for Dell'Arte's Alice in Wonderland. For more information visit facebook.com/ivriverstars or call Nick at 541-649-2333

Dec. 10

The Dell'Arte Company's annual holiday show tour returns for its 36th year with an adaptation of Alice in Wonderland, re-imagined for the unique struggles of growing up in Northern California. A nimble new piece from the Dell'Arte Company featuring original music and athletic acting, this isn't your everyday Alice! Lorna Byrne Middle School Dec. 10 at 7 p.m.

Continuing

*The I.V. Senior Thrift Store is under NEW MANAGEMENT and is looking for new volunteers. Join the crew and make new friends. You don't need to be a senior citizen to join the store. Call us at 541-592-6630. Open Monday – Saturday, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

*The C.J. Substation hours are changed. We are now open on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays (closed Wednesdays)

from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. The phone number at the Sub is 541-592-5151. We are looking for more volunteers to expand the hours; applications to become a volunteer can be picked up at the Substation.

*The Senior Health Insurance Benefits Assistance (SHIBA) program will be offering free assistance with Medicare Open Enrollment at the Illinois Valley Family Coalition every Monday from Nov. 7 to Dec. 5. You can add, drop or change how you receive your Medicare benefits. Call 541-956-4472. Be sure to specify that you are calling for an appointment in Cave Junction.

*Cave Junction Patrol, LLC is looking for volunteers. CJ Patrol is a private citizen volunteer organization dedicated to effectively addressing heretofore-unchecked property crime in our city and neighborhoods. The primary mission of CJ Patrol is to prevent, interrupt, report and decrease property crime in the city of Cave Junction. Call 541-592-9665, cjpatrol.org. Monthly meetings are first Thursday at 6 p.m. at Wild River Pizza, 249 Redwood Hwy. (Except December - see meeting on Dec. 5.)

Illinois Valley News

Published weekly by W.H. Allthway, LLC Daniel J. Mancuso, Publisher

POSTMASTER: Please send address changes to P.O. Box 1370, Cave Junction, OR 97523

Illinois Valley News is published at 221 S. Redwood Hwy., Cave Junction, OR 97523 Telephone (541) 592-2541

Since 1937 periodicals postage paid at Cave Junction, OR 97523 P.O. Box 1370 USPS 258-820

SUBSCRIPTION RATES
One year in Josephine County - \$35
One year in Jackson and Douglas counties - \$36
One year in all other Oregon counties and out-of-state - \$43.00

Illinois Valley News does not refund subscriptions. Remainder of subscription will be donated to the charity of your choice.

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