



KEIZERTIMES/Eric A. Howald
Patty Hine leads the Eugene Raging Grannies and other protesters in song.

FOREST,

continued from Page A1

and management costs have exceeded what the forest can generate. The result is that money intended for use in the schools is being used for the forest.

State officials began investigating the sale of the forest in 2014 and the end result was one bid on the property valued at \$220.8 million.

The bid came from a joint venture between Roseburg's

Lone Rock Timber Management Company and the Umpqua Indian Development Corporation (UIDC). However, Lone Timber would be the dominant force in the deal providing more than 87 percent of the equity investment. The UIDC's stake amounts to 12.97 percent.

Jim Paul, director of the Department of State Lands, said his staff suggested approval to move forward with the sale despite some reservations about the details that still needed to be hammered out.

One major unanswered issue would be which of the two parties would maintain control of the easements permitting public access in about half of the 93,000 acre

forest in perpetuity. Another revolved around possible adjustments to Harvest Protection Areas that shield older growth from cutting.

Michael Rondeau, CEO of the Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians, said that the sale represented at least a partial restitution for broken treaties of the 1850s and tribal termination in the 1950s.

"The tribe never received a reservation that the treaty of 1853 promised, and it has spent the last 34 years working on land restoration," Rondeau said.

Chief Warren Brainard of the Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw, said the easements would be held by the tribe.



KEIZERTIMES/Eric A. Howald
Sandra Clark of Eugene draws attention to the protest along Chemawa Road Northeast.

"The tribe will work in collaboration with key players. We will work hard to make sure it is responsibly and sustainably managed," he said.

During public testimony, the overwhelming majority spoke against the sale as bad judgement and dangerous precedent.

"Selling now sets a precedent for future land sales. Privatization would be a failure of our government. Do we just give and say we are incapable? What message does it send to the Bundys? What assets do we sell next?" questioned Portland's John Peterson.

"In the face of previous sale attempts, courts have upheld environmental protections. If the courts judge in protection of the environment as vital, why are you trying to sidestep the laws you have sworn to protect?" asked Christina Hubbard of Cottage Grove.

Eugene biologist Aaron Nelson said the permit process that would become part of the future public use was worrisome.

"They will allow public access to parts, but citizens will be required to get a permit. Even with the permit,

citizens will not be able to look for endangered species in the area," Nelson said.

Opponents suggested finding ways to uncouple the forest from the Common School Fund or investigating the sale of carbon credits as a way to overcome the recent revenue shortfalls.

Several individuals representing school-related organizations, such as the Oregon Education Association and the Confederation of School Administrators, offered full-throated support of the sale as did representatives of some county commissions in the areas around Elliott State Forest.

There were also those who walked a tighter line of support. Tribal rights advocate Se-ah-dom Edmo said she counted herself among the environmentalists in attendance, but asked those opposing the sale to look at the details.

"This land is returning to the hands of tribes who suffered termination. When it comes right down to it, your position is aligned with the entitled settler mentality you claim to be fighting against," Edmo said.

CHIMNEY,

continued from Page A1

that we had to get into to get at the chimney," said Chief Jeff Cowan, of the Keizer Fire District, about 90 minutes into the battle. "It's not real complex, and the smoke is a good color now."

A tile roof and thick siding complicated the attack and a large section of the exterior wall had to be removed in the hours that followed the initial call.

The funeral director noticed the smoke as he was leaving for the evening and got the one remaining employee out of the building.

"He reported having trouble with the retort of the crematorium where they put the bodies in throughout the day," said Anne-Marie Storms, KFD spokesperson. "They shut it down and tried to cool it down, but in the meantime this occurred."

Repair technicians had already been scheduled to come out and look at the problem the following day.

In all, seven engines, four medic units, one ladder truck, a support vehicle and a duty officer responded to the fire.

Storms said it probably seemed like a lot for drivers as they passed, but "just getting to the chimney is wearing out a lot of our guys."

Cowan and Storms reminded city residents to have their chimneys inspected and cleaned annually before using them and to check smoke detectors.

PARKS,

continued from Page A1

The parks board made the decision to ramp up the process in the hope of pursuing a Oregon Parks and Recreation Department grant in spring 2017. Next year is the last year the city could leverage money used to purchase land for part of what became Keizer Rapids Park.

Parks board members will be hammering out the details for a public outreach campaign in the coming weeks.

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	11:00 pm	Traditional "Midnight" Mass
Dec. 25	10:00 am	Christmas Day English Mass
	12:30 pm	Christmas Day Spanish Mass
Dec. 31	5:30 pm	New Year's Eve Vigil Mass
Jan. 1	8:15 am	New Year's Day English Mass
	10:30 am	New Year's Day English Mass
	12:30 pm	New Year's Day Spanish Mass

Holy Day

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