

# Linn County moves forward with new forest trust lawsuit

Clatsop County is among the counties covered

By **PARIS ACHEN**  
*Capital Bureau*

The Linn County Board of Commissioners announced Thursday it is ready to file a class-action suit seeking more than \$1.4 billion in damages from the state for breach of contract in management of forestland in 15 counties.

The county notified the state in January of its intent to file the lawsuit on behalf of 150 taxing districts, including those in Clatsop County, that benefit from sales receipts from harvests off of Oregon Forest Trust Lands. So far, the county has received no proposal from the state to address its claims, according to a county news release.

The districts include schools, public safety, libraries and other services in Benton, Clackamas, Clatsop, Columbia, Coos, Douglas, Josephine, Klamath, Lane, Lincoln, Linn, Marion, Polk, Tillamook, and Washington counties.

"The state's contractual obligation is to manage our forests in a way that benefits both rural counties and the environment," Roger Nyquist, chairman of the Linn County Board of Com-

missioners, said in a statement. "They're not doing that, and rural communities are paying the price. I believe that a jury will reach the same conclusion."

The Linn County Circuit Court will decide whether to grant the lawsuit class-action status.

Kristen Grainger, Gov. Kate Brown's spokeswoman, said she is not authorized to comment on pending litigation.

Tom Imeson, the state Board of Forestry chairman, and Doug Decker, the state forester, had previously sent an open letter to county governments urging them to

"keep lines of communication open."

The county claims the state has habitually violated its contract with Forest Trust Land counties since 1998 by executing a management plan. That plan has short-changed the counties of \$35 million in revenue annually since 2001, Nyquist said.

The unrealized revenue has contributed to higher poverty rates and stunted employment opportunities in timber counties, according to the county's claim.

"This is a straightforward breach of contract case," said John DiLorenzo, Linn County's attorney. "The state's breach has strained county budgets and impacted public safety, education and other basic services local citizens need. They're not getting the benefit of their bargain with the state."

The county claims that the breach of contract began in 1998 when the state adopted a new rule that "de-emphasized revenue generation for the counties in exchange for other objectives." That rule resulted in less revenue for Forest Land Trust counties compared with the revenue generated on other forestland under "best forest management practices," the county claims.

*The Capital Bureau is a collaboration between EO Media Group and Pamplin Media Group.*

**'The state's contractual obligation is to manage our forests in a way that benefits both rural counties and the environment'**

**Roger Nyquist**  
chairman of the Linn County Board of Commissioners

# Elderly woman injured after being run over by husband

*The Daily Astorian*

An elderly Long Beach, Washington, woman was seriously injured Thursday after she was struck by her vehicle that her husband was backing up in order to make it easier for her to get in on the passenger side.

Molly Woon, 82, was transported to Columbia

Memorial Hospital initially, then transferred to a Portland area hospital for serious injuries to both of her legs.

The incident occurred at about 3:04 p.m. in the underground parking garage at the Park Medical Building in Astoria.

Woon's husband, Rex Woon, 84, was issued a citation at the scene for no oper-

ator's license. No additional charges are expected, according to Astoria Police.

"From what our officers learned, this was just a tragic accident where Mr. Woon didn't realize his wife was close enough to the vehicle to be knocked down and run over," Astoria Police Deputy Chief Eric Halverson said.

# College administrator sees future on Oregon Coast

Educator says priority is driving enrollment

By **EDWARD STRATTON**  
*The Daily Astorian*

Even if he doesn't get the job, Christopher Breitmeyer said, he is going to find some way to be on the Oregon Coast.

Breitmeyer, one of four candidates for Clatsop Community College's presidency, traveled to Astoria Thursday from St. Louis, Missouri. "I want my job in Oregon or Washington, and at a smaller school in a smaller town," Breitmeyer said.

After being offered a job by Greg Hamann, president of Linn-Benton Community College and former head of Clatsop, Breitmeyer said he traveled to Albany for the interview and came north on U.S. Highway 101 and became enamored with the region.

Breitmeyer, 49, has been the vice president for academic and student affairs at St. Charles Community College northwest of St. Louis since 2012, and the college's dean of math, science and health since 2008. He said his goal was to be a college president by 50.

While both his parents attended community college, Breitmeyer said his first introduction was after graduate

school at Arizona State University, where he earned a master's in zoology. He became a science teacher at Yavapai College, where he spent the next decade. Breitmeyer earned a bachelor's in biology education from Illinois State University and is enrolled in the Educational Leadership Doctoral Program at the University of Nebraska.

His first priority if hired, Breitmeyer said, would be enrollment. He said St. Charles is in the same situation as Clatsop, which has been facing declining enrollment amid a resurgent economy, but has found new strategies to minimize the losses.

"We're targeting our rural areas a bit more than we ever have," he said, adding advisers go to rural high schools in St. Charles' five-county district and help get students ready to attend college.

Over the past several years, he said, St. Charles has created about 30 articulation agreements, while creating opportunities for students at the college to complete four-year degrees on campus, similar to Clatsop's

business program linked with Eastern Oregon University.

Online programs, he said, are the only area of growth community colleges are seeing. Breitmeyer touted his efforts to take more programs, from health information management to science, online and attract students from around the country to take them through St. Charles.

Breitmeyer has a 16-year-old daughter he said is convinced she will attend college in Oregon. His wife, Alane, is an instructional designer at St. Charles, helping train teachers to teach online.

Breitmeyer's visit was preceded by Glenn Smith, the executive vice provost for student services and enrollment management at Concordia University in Portland, and Ron Liss, a former campus president at Cuyahoga Community College in Ohio.

The fourth finalist for college president, Christopher Dyer, the CEO and president of the University of New Mexico-Gallup, visits with the public from 3 to 4 p.m. today in Columbia Hall Room 219.



**Christopher Breitmeyer**

## CHIP-in event at McClure off

*The Daily Astorian*

Astoria Parks and Recreation Department's CHIP-in event, originally scheduled for 1 to 4 p.m. Sunday at McClure Park, has been canceled.

The recent rain has made the field too wet to work in. The event will be rescheduled.



**Pelican Brewing Company is coming to Cannon Beach and we want YOU on our TEAM!**  
**HIRING MEET & GREET**

**March 12th 10:00AM - 2:00PM**  
1371 SW Hemlock, Cannon Beach 97110

Fill out an application, interview with a manager, meet our Team Pelican!

Competitive wages, Paid time off, Part time and Full time positions, 401K savings plan, Medical, and Dental benefits. Assistant Kitchen Managers, Line Cooks, Dishwashers, Front of House Managers, Servers, Bartenders, Hosts, Bussers, apply today: [www.yourlittlebeachtown.com/employment](http://www.yourlittlebeachtown.com/employment)  
Call Stephanie 503-965-7779 ext. 307



*Working for a strong*  
**Community**

## We make a difference together

Each year, CMH caregivers give more than 10,000 volunteer hours and thousands of dollars in donations to our community. CMH raises money each year for worthy community organizations, including United Way, American Cancer Society and March of Dimes. Our caregivers are little league coaches, volunteer firefighters, board members and more.

At home and at work, our caregivers are dedicated to serving our neighbors. That is why CMH offers many programs designed to help those who are uninsured or under-insured. We provide the healthcare you need, when you need it.



*People Centered, Quality Driven & Service Focused.*

2111 Exchange Street, Astoria, Oregon • 503-325-4321  
[www.columbiamemorial.org](http://www.columbiamemorial.org)



WELCOME TO THE PLACE  
**YOU'LL TRULY LOVE TO CALL HOME**

Suzanne Elise and Avamere at Seaside have come together to offer you a more complete selection of senior living options in this beautiful coastal town we all love to call home.

If you're in the process of making life a little easier in Seaside, our Assisted Living and Memory Care options are here for you!

 AVAMERE <small>at SEASIDE</small>	 SUZANNE ELISE <small>ASSISTED LIVING COMMUNITY</small>
2500 S. Roosevelt Dr Seaside, OR 97138 <a href="http://www.avamereatseaside.com">www.avamereatseaside.com</a> 503-738-0900	101 Forest Drive, Seaside, OR 97138 <a href="http://www.suzanneelise.com">www.suzanneelise.com</a> 503-738-0307

