

Class certification raises stakes in forest lawsuit

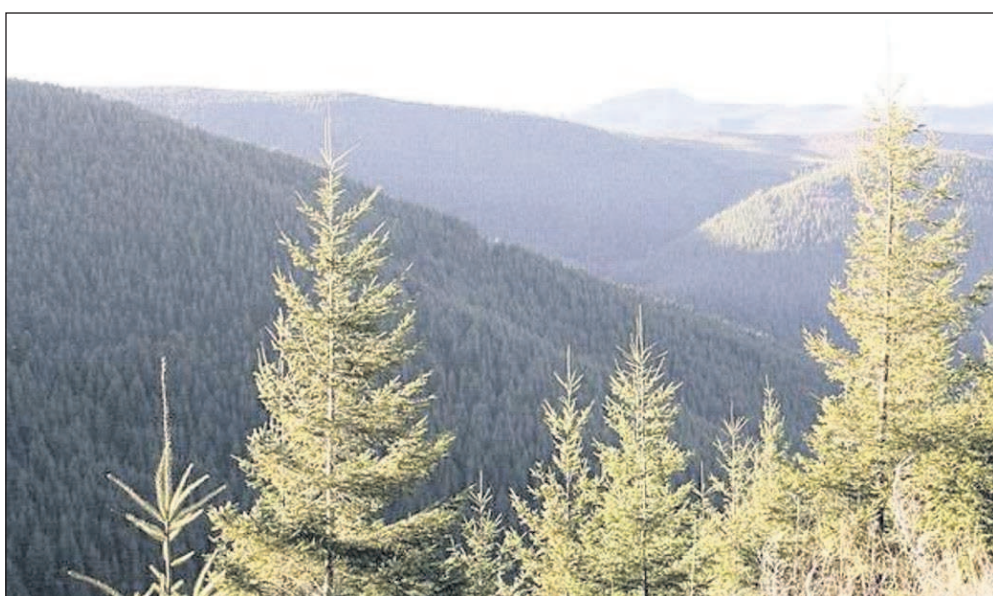
Clatsop County among plaintiffs in the lawsuit

By MATEUSZ PERKOWSKI
Capital Bureau

It's unlikely any county will opt out of the recently certified \$1.4 billion class action lawsuit over Oregon's forest management practices, according to the attorney leading the case.

The decision by Linn County Circuit Court Judge Daniel Murphy to certify the lawsuit as a class action means that 15 Oregon counties — including Clatsop County — and roughly 130 taxing districts automatically become plaintiffs in the case unless they ask to be excluded.

John DiLorenzo, attorney for lead plaintiff Linn County,



EO Media Group File

A Linn County judge has certified class action status to a lawsuit challenging the state's management of state forest land. The certification allows 15 Oregon counties and roughly 130 taxing districts to pursue the case jointly, alleging they are owed \$1.4 billion in damages.

said that he'd be surprised if any of the potential plaintiffs opt out, given their financial

constraints.

"Why would any of the districts want to turn down

money?" he said. "I am predicting there will be zero opt outs."

Linn County filed the lawsuit earlier this year, arguing that Oregon was obligated to maximize timber harvests from 650,000 acres of forestland that counties turned over to state ownership in the early 20th century.

Since 1998, however, the state government has emphasized environmental protection and recreational opportunities in managing the forests for their "greatest permanent value," according to the lawsuit.

Last month, the case crossed a significant hurdle when Murphy refused a request by Oregon's attorneys to dismiss the lawsuit.

The class certification doesn't come as a surprise because the judge said he was inclined to grant that request in the previous decision, but it nonetheless raises the stakes for Oregon — particularly given the prospect of trying the

case before a Linn County jury.

Even if some of the counties or tax districts don't oppose the state government's forest management philosophy, it's not probable they feel strongly enough to miss out on a portion of the potential \$1.4 billion in damages, said DiLorenzo.

Likewise, it's unlikely that the counties or tax districts will opt out to pursue a similar lawsuit on their own, he said.

Oregon's attorneys have until May to file "dispositive motions" to get the case thrown out based on matters of law, but it's unclear what arguments they could make since the lawsuit is "going to be very fact-specific," DiLorenzo said.

Attorneys representing the state were unavailable for comment late Friday.

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

Man gets three years for possessing firearms, child porn

By KYLE SPURR
The Daily Astorian

The 77-year-old Astoria man arrested last year for illegally possessing firearms, body armor and child pornography was sentenced to three years in prison.

William James Dixon Jr. pleaded guilty Friday in Circuit Court to four counts of first-degree encouraging child sexual abuse and felon in possession of a firearm.

Astoria Police assisted the Oregon Department of Justice Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force in September 2015 related to a child pornography investigation at Dixon's residence at 101 Madison Ave.

During a search of the res-



William James Dixon Jr.

idence, investigators found a 9 mm pistol, a .22-caliber pistol and ballistic body armor that Dixon was prohibited from possessing. Investigators also found books on how to be a better criminal and disguises such as a fake mustache and wig.

As part of his sentence, Dixon must register as a sex offender.

Dixon was convicted for mail fraud in 1989, escape in 1990 and bank robbery in 1991 in Portland. He served more than three years in prison.

Man with knife robs Astoria Dairy Queen

The Daily Astorian

Police are seeking details about a robbery of the Astoria Dairy Queen Sunday night.

Astoria Police received a report just before 8 p.m. Sunday that an unknown man armed with a knife took an undisclosed amount of cash from the register. Nobody was injured.

Officers from Astoria, Warrenton, the Clatsop County Sheriff's Office and the Oregon State Police responded. A K-9 unit from the Sher-

iff's Office was used to track the suspect but unsuccessful. Police did find evidence a short distance from the Dairy Queen that is being sent to the state crime lab for testing.

The suspect was described as average height with a muscular build, red and black pants and a dark-colored jacket. He was wearing a yellow mask and had blond eyebrows.

The police ask anyone with information to contact Detective Ken Hansen at 503-325-4411 or khansen@astoria.or.us

Protesters demonstrate against Jordan Cove project

Associated Press

KLAMATH FALLS — Protesters are calling for unity and action against a proposed liquefied natural gas pipeline in Klamath Falls.

The Herald and News reported that opponents of the Jordan Cove Energy Project near Coos Bay demonstrated against the pipeline, chanting "water is life" and "you can't drink oil."

Renee Frye organized the protest and says the pipeline poses a significant pollution threat because it will cross an estimated 400 waterways and 700 private properties.

Featured protest speaker

Walking Eagle Thom, chief and medicine man of the Karuk Tribe, says the action against the Jordan Cove project was inspired by ongoing protests against the Dakota Access Pipeline in North Dakota.



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Dawn McIntosh rejoins Campbell & Popkin



Dawn McIntosh

Judge-elect Dawn McIntosh has rejoined Campbell & Popkin to work closely with Chris Palmer, in whom she has great confidence. Dawn and Chris are both well-known for skillfully representing clients in divorce, separation, custody and other family law matters. Campbell & Popkin also provides services in business law, litigation, real estate, estate planning and probate. Dawn and Chris are both taking new clients.

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Council candidate Horning 'occupies bridge' in Seaside to broadcast message

Candidate issues challenge to councilors

By R.J. MARX
The Daily Astorian

SEASIDE — Seaside City Council candidate Tom Horning "occupied" the Avenue G bridge, at least for 30 windy, rain-swept minutes Saturday morning. As supporters stood by in rain slickers holding banners, Horning, a geologist and environmental consultant, shared his message of tsunami safety.

Horning chose the Avenue G bridge because of its vulnerability in the case of tsunami.

"The height of the bridge is about 16 feet above vertical level," Horning said. "The water would rise about 45 feet, 30 feet over the top of the bridge."

According to Horning, the bridge shifts as much as 16 inches either way and in an earthquake would fall off its



R.J. Marx/The Daily Astorian

City Council candidate Tom Horning rallies supporters on the Avenue G bridge in Seaside.

piling caps and into the river.

The bridge and four others in the city, plus two essential proposed pedestrian footbridges, need to be replaced or built before the next earthquake strikes, Horning said. "There's no guarantee these things will hold together," he said. "In fact, there's every guarantee they'll fall apart."

Horning is running against

incumbent City Council President Don Johnson in Ward 3.

"Seaside, the most at-risk community, has to be the leader," Horning said. "Seaside has the most to lose. Models estimate we'll lose 92 percent of the buildings in Seaside, and that's including the ones on the hill — those are the only ones that will survive."

To fix all the bridges and put in two pedestrian bridges would cost about \$30 million, Horning said. Costs could be paid by room tax fees or bond measures.

"I think he's correct," said Mike Annes, a Seaside resident who attended the rally. "It makes total sense. There needs to be a prioritized process. It needs to be figured out."

Three earthquakes recorded off the Oregon Coast

Associated Press

COOS BAY — Three earthquakes with magnitudes ranging from 4.1 to 4.8 occurred several hundred miles off the Oregon Coast on Sunday, but none triggered tsunami warnings.

The U.S. Geological Survey says the 4.8 quake was recorded last and occurred at about noon about 260 miles west-northwest of Coos Bay.

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Clatsop Distributing Company hosted its 35th annual Budweiser Invitational on September 7, 2016

The annual tournament raised \$1,000.00 going to each of the following programs:

Seaside Kids Inc., Warrenton Kids Inc., Knappa Youth, Astoria Youth Association and Ilwaco Golf.

The Clatsop Community Bank raised \$1,275.00 to help support local youth programs.

We would like to give a special thanks to:

Astoria Golf and Country Club, John Kawasoe (head golf professional), Clatsop Community Bank, Ocean Crest Chevrolet Buick GMC, Suzie Conner and Debbie Hamel

Additional thanks to tournament chairman Fred Hamel and contributors Ron Williams and Paul Tadei