

# Lesson: 'See something, say something'

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disaster response. "With the situation our county is in, I thought it was a great opportunity," Clouse said.

## See something, say something

Seniors in Joshua Funk's classroom at Astoria High School Friday filed in past a black briefcase left by Fayyaz in the doorway, complete with suspicious wires poking out of the top.

In his emergency management training, Fayyaz said, he specialized in recognizing terrorist threats, another unit he teaches students.

While one might not think of the rural North Coast as a target, Fayyaz said, the area has already been targeted by animal-rights activists, who in 2010 firebombed a mink farm. And the region includes at least one high-value target.

"The Megler Bridge, if you cut that off, if you took down that bridge, you would cut off the Pacific Ocean from the Columbia River," Fayyaz said.

Fayyaz noted that explosives, like the ones that theoretically could have been concealed in his briefcase, are used



From left, Clatsop County Emergency Management Coordinator Bijan Fayyaz looks on as Seaside High School David Schwino, Cole Herington and Megan Brown practice carrying injured survivors.

Edward Stratton  
The Daily Astorian

in about 80 percent of terrorist attacks. While Fayyaz said it shouldn't be assumed that something out of the ordinary is immediately a threat of terrorism, he reminded students to always consider the possibility and remember the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's motto: "If you see something, say something."

## Creating assets

Astoria Principal Lynn Jackson said that besides the basic self-preservation skills students learn in earthquake or tsunami evacuation drills, only students in clubs like Boy

Scouts of America and 4-H get training in how to become an asset in a disaster.

Astoria had tried the emergency response team training as an after-school club, Jackson said, but "as it wasn't structured in a classroom environment, attendance was hit or miss."

With the training inserted into the classroom, Fayyaz expects to have about 100 students in Astoria, 75 in Warrenton and 75 in Seaside trained as volunteer responders in a disaster. The hope is that some of those and future students will join local response teams,

and spread the training to their families.

Fayyaz said this year will cement the model of teaching disaster preparedness in the classroom. Eventually, the county will train local teachers to add disaster preparedness within their classes.

Fayyaz said he's seen similar in-class programs along the coast in Lane and Lincoln counties, with interest even coming from Gov. Kate Brown on a recent visit to talk about disaster preparedness. "I wouldn't be surprised if at some point this becomes a part of state policy in our curriculum."

# Bump: 'We need the tree huggers'

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GOP-controlled Congress will run roughshod over the environment.

"It's time to turn shock and outrage into action," the Natural Resources Defense Council encourages would-be donors in a social media campaign. "NRDC is gearing up to fight the Trump administration's disastrous anti-environmental agenda at every turn — in the courtroom, in Washington and on the global stage."

Experts who track nonprofit organizations expect environmental activists to use their donation windfall — they call it the Trump Bump — to step up litigation. They also predict environmentalists, who may find themselves stonewalled at the federal level, will shift their focus to local, state and international venues.

Many involved in agriculture say they hope Trump will ease some of the regulations governing their industry, but worry that environmental groups will use their bigger war chests to fight more legal battles on key issues such as public lands management, air- and water-quality standards, food safety and endangered species.

"The fear is you would have an unfounded lawsuit filed, and then the (agricultural) business is still responsible for funding a defense of themselves, even if the suit has no legitimacy," said Rick Naerebout, director of operations at the Idaho Dairy-men's Association.

Naerebout recalled a case in the early 2000s in which an environmental group filed a notice of its intent to sue a dairy for alleged methane-emission violations. The suit was eventually dropped, but only after the association made a six-figure investment in scientific studies that proved the dairy didn't pollute.

## Leveraging the Cabinet

Environmental groups contacted all say they have received many more contributions since the election, though they wouldn't provide numbers.

"We're clearly seeing folks who were hesitant to associate with us because we're the tree huggers, and now they're coming around and saying, 'We need the tree huggers,'" said Jeremy Nichols, who handles climate and energy issues for New Mexico-based WildEarth Guardians.

Josh Mogerma, a spokesman for the Natural Resources Defense Council, emphasized his organization would rather be broke than have to defend "bedrock environmental protections Americans have come to expect." But he acknowledges the group has experienced an "exponential bump in engagements for online actions, as well as fundraising."

"To some extent, we ini-

tially didn't have to ask people (to donate). People were coming to us," Mogerma said.

The additional contributions are on top of already substantial revenues. According to tax forms filed with the Internal Revenue Service, from July 1, 2014, through June 30, 2015, the Natural Resources Defense Council reported \$155 million in total revenue, including slightly more than \$134 million in contributions and grants.

For the year through December 2015, WildEarth Guardians reported nearly \$3 million in total revenue, and Earthjustice, a nonprofit law firm that takes on environmental cases, brought in \$48.1 million.

During that same period, the Sierra Club reported \$109.2 million in revenue, including \$94.3 million in contributions and grants.

Hailey, Idaho-based Western Watersheds Project brought in \$639,000 in total revenue for the year ending December 2014.

More recently, criticizing Trump's Cabinet and agency leadership choices has been an especially lucrative fundraising strategy, the environmentalists said.

A Sierra Club blog describes Trump's pick to lead the Environmental Protection Agency, Oklahoma Attorney General Scott Pruitt, as a "climate science denier who repeatedly partnered with the state's largest polluters to block health and environmental safeguards."

The organization concludes that the choice of Pruitt will make "America the scorn of the world." On the site is a link with instructions to donate to the club each month and "protect the planet from Trump."

In its online advertising, the Natural Resources Defense Council encourages supporters to "Speak out! Tell your senators to vote NO on Donald

Trump's Cabinet of polluters." The group contends Secretary of State pick Rex Tillerson, the retired CEO of Exxon Mobil, "put his company's interests ahead of those of the U.S. and thwarted action on climate change."

The Natural Resources Defense Council also takes to task former Texas Gov. Rick Perry, tapped to oversee the Department of Energy, for his record on climate change and claims Secretary of the Interior pick Ryan Zinke, a second-term congressman from Montana, has a "rock-bottom voting record on the environment of 3 percent," as calculated by the League of Conservation Voters.

"You have a list of extremely pro-industry advocates with very weak records on environmental protection and conservation," said Erik Molvar, executive director of the Western Watersheds Project. "That elevates the need for conservation groups like Western Watersheds to hold them accountable."

## Avoiding pushback

Though the Trump administration is generally viewed as friendly to agriculture, some warn against trying to go too far, too fast.

Jay Byrne, president of the St. Louis issues management and research firm v-Fluence, advises agricultural leaders to focus their advocacy on core issues instead of "moving too quickly on too many fronts" in pursuit of reforms that could be viewed as extreme. The firm provides public policy intelligence to the food industry.

"Some suggest there may be a radical dismantling of regulations, and that could end up with pushback and other reactions that, in the end, could hurt farming interests," said Byrne. "You want to take advantage of the opportunities, but also be

cautious that we don't enable and lift up some of the more radical opponents."

Regardless, Byrne predicts unprecedented levels of litigation impacting agriculture ahead.

Based on observations from 2005 to 2007 — the last time Republicans held both houses of Congress and the White House — Byrne expects environmental activists to take many of their fights to the city, county and state levels. For example, Byrne said anti-agricultural groups recently convinced a New York City Parent Teacher Association to endorse a ban on serving genetically modified foods in school, as well as a ban on milk and other dairy products from cows treated with artificial growth hormone.

Regardless of the science, Byrne said many liberal-leaning local and state leaders will be apt to support the activists because of their general disdain for Trump.

"We're going to be challenged by fighting thousands of little fires," Byrne said.

He also expects the groups to increase their lobbying in international policy forums, which could influence key agricultural trade partners such as China, Japan and South Korea.

"Junk science" — scientific claims appearing in so-called pay-to-play journals not backed by credible research — will also proliferate in the coming years, Byrne said. He said biotech crops and animal health products are popular targets of junk science.

# Jewell: Structure will be used for high-level medical marijuana products

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## Oregon Jewell

Plew said the 1,600-square-foot structure will be named Oregon Jewell LLC and used for high-level marijuana medical products.

In late December, the Clatsop County Community Development Department issued a notice of decision approving Plew's application, giving any opposed parties until Jan. 3 to appeal. Just in time were Hunsaker and Jewell School Board Chairman Brian Meier, who appealed the county's approval Jan. 3.

Hunsaker said the school district's appeal took issue with the proximity of the facility to the school, the location across the street from a bus stop, the minimum notice given, clarity on the use of the facility and the impact to surrounding land.

Hunsaker called it a high-profile issue not only for homeowners, but for the school district and the community, "and to narrow that notification window and meet only the very minimum public notice standards for something of that level of concern is not acceptable."

## Cold welcome

Unaware the owner was sitting in the audience, school board members shared their disgust with the idea of a marijuana business so close to the school.

"We live out here so we don't have to live close to crap like that," said board member Ginger Kaczynski. "So, I don't know. I moved from Beaverton to be out here away from stuff, and to have it even think about coming close to 1,000 feet of our school is insulting. I think it's disgusting."

Board member Brian Swearingen took issue with the county's approval never mentioning Jewell School. The approval said the process met notification standards, including the adjacent property owners, "Oregon Department of Transportation, and other relevant agencies."

Meier said it was sad the school board even had to waste time on such a matter. He asked whether there were more comments, after which Plew introduced himself and got a chance at the end of the meeting to explain his venture.

Asked why he didn't locate the business in Happy Valley, Plew said it's difficult there to get general commercial zoning. He said his research indicated Jewell as the best location, adding that he could show the school board thousands of plants growing within a half-mile of the school. Instead of growing, Plew said he plans to process his products from the leftovers of other growers.

The lot's corner on the two highways is excellent for whatever type of business goes there, he said, just as a tavern once succeeded in the same place. "And I promise you a whole lot more damage was done with that tavern, and a whole lot more tax dollars and school dollars will come from what our plan is on that property," he said.

Meier thanked Plew for coming in to speak, but said he should expect many people to not welcome him. Hunsaker said Plew should help create a more proactive communication with the district moving forward on his project.

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**\*Human babies only please!\***