

Transit district chooses to opt out of timber suit

Board voted in January

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Daily Astorian

The governing board of the Sunset Empire Transit District voted 5-2 in January to opt out of a timber lawsuit brought by Linn County against the state.

The transit district was not included in a list of entities opting out, filed last month by Linn County's lawyers. Mary Parker, the transit district's executive director, sent a press release on the board's decision.

Commissioners Kathy Kleczek, Carol Gearin, Lylla Gaebel, Tracy MacDonald and Pamela Alegria voted to opt out. Commissioners Jim

Servino and Kevin Widener opted to stay in.

"It was a long process," Kleczek, chairwoman of the transit district, said. "We didn't just jump to any conclusions."

The board discussed the lawsuit by phone with attorneys representing Linn County, and heard from representatives with the state Forestry Department about timber management.

At the meeting in January before their votes, commissioners Gearin, Alegria and Gaebel shared their concerns over the potential effects of the lawsuit in timber policies, the forest and watersheds. Servino and Widener cited their fiduciary responsibilities to the district in not turning down potential revenue. Kleczek said a majority of the trans-

sit district's constituents supported leaving the lawsuit.

The lawsuit claims the state violated a contract to maximize sustainable timber harvests on state land since changing management priorities in 1998 to include more recreation and conservation efforts. It was certified a class action, growing to include more than 15 counties and around 130 taxing districts.

The counties and taxing districts, each of which stands to gain a sizable settlement if the lawsuit is successful, had until Jan. 25 to notify Linn County Circuit Court of the intent to opt out as plaintiffs. Most took no action, remaining as plaintiffs in the lawsuit.

Clatsop County was the only timber county to opt out of the lawsuit, taking with it

four county-controlled taxing districts. Sunset Empire Transportation District joins Sunset Empire Parks and Recreation District as the only other local county taxing districts to opt out.

Clatsop Community College's Board voted to opt out Jan. 24. But one board member's vote, submitted via email, was deemed invalid, resulting in a 3-3 tie and the college remaining in the lawsuit. The college has sent a letter to the Linn County Circuit Court in an effort to leave the lawsuit.

The Port of Portland, Benton Soil and Water Conservation District, Clackamas Soil and Water Conservation District and Washington County Rural Fire Protection District No. 2, also opted out.

Downtown Spexarth building welcomes new tenants

New lunch spot opens this May

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Daily Astorian

Some new neighbors are coming to the downtown Astoria Spexarth Building between 11th and 12th streets, including a new restaurant to replace Lindstrom's Danish Maid Bakery.

Vicki and David McAfee, owners of A Gypsy's Whimsy Herbal Apothecary, purchased the building from Marie Mitchum, widow of downtown commercial real estate magnate William "Mitch" Mitchum. The building is the third of four built by prominent former Astoria businessman August G. Spexarth, Sr.

The couple is moving Gypsy's Whimsy across Commercial Street into the former Toni's Boutique, the middle of the building's three storefronts. Forsythia, located in the westernmost storefront, is staying. Recent Seattle transplants Heidi and Daniel Dlubac are opening Good to Go, a to-go lunch spot, in the former Lindstrom's Danish Maid Bakery.

Good to Go

Lindstrom's, which since 1986 had been owned and operated by the Lindstrom family, closed in September 2015 after John Lindstrom, the sole baker, had his leg amputated following an infection. Lindstrom died in October.

The Dlubacs have been working with co-owner Jan Lindstrom, who's been moving out and trying to sell the bakery's equipment.

"It's going to be a to-go soup, salad, sandwich and pastry shop," Heidi Dlubac said of the new shop.

The two, hoping to open in May, want to offer a daily selection of soups, sandwiches and salads, along with a small selection of pastries, charcuterie, fruit and other to-go items. The shop will also have a machine turning out cinnamon and powdered miniature donuts.

The couple has been thinking about such a business for the past decade.

"We wanted to do it in a smaller town," Heidi Dlubac said. "We'd visited here for the 20 years we lived in Seattle, and it just dawned on us it was a perfect place for the shop."

Heidi Dlubac's background is in urban planning. Her husband, Daniel, has worked as a chef in restaurants all around Chicago and Seattle.

"I think it's every chef's dream to be a chef-owner," he said. "It's always been a dream of mine."

Astoria's apothecary

The McAfees started their apothecary more than 15 years ago in what is now Metal Head on Marine Drive.

"When we first came here, people didn't really know what an herbalist was," David McAfee said.

But over the years, Vicki McAfee said, she built reputation as a professional herbalist. In 2003, the couple were tipped off about a rare open-



David and Vicki McAfee have purchased the Spexarth Building between 11th and 12th streets, seen in the background.



Heidi and Daniel Dlubac are opening Good to Go, a grab-and-go lunch spot, in the former Lindstrom's Danish Maid Bakery.

ing on Commercial Street in the apothecary's current location, from which educational

nonprofit Butterflies Forever had moved. Now the two face a short, albeit compli-

cated, move across Commercial Street, hoping to open in mid-April.

"For me, the thing that's terrifying is moving the hundreds of thousands of pieces," Vicki McAfee said of the shops wide-ranging collection of herbalist items and gift section in the front of the store.

When the store first opened, Vicki McAfee said, the gifts were put up front to help draw in customers and sustain the business. Now that herbalism has become more established, she said, the herbs will go in front.

MARCH 7

Pulitzer Prize Winning Journalist Nigel Jaquiss

A Columbia Forum Presentation



Nigel Jaquiss is an American Journalist who won the 2005 Pulitzer Prize for investigative reporting for his work exposing former Oregon Governor Neil Goldschmidt's sexual abuse of a 14-year-old-girl while he was mayor of Portland. His story was published in Willamette Week in May 2004. He continues to write for Willamette Week.

Jaquiss graduated from Dartmouth College in 1984; he spent 11 years as a Wall Street and Singapore-based crude oil trader, working for Cargill, Morgan Stanley and Goldman Sachs. After some concerns about business practices, he sought a career change, eventually enrolling at Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism and got his master's degree in 1987. He began his journalism career in Portland in January 1998, working for Willamette Week.

TO ATTEND:

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Appetizers will be available at 6 p.m. • Dinner will be served at 6:30 p.m.

The speaker will begin after the dinner service is complete and non-dinner members and guests of the audience take their seats.

Forum to be held at the CMH Community Center at 2021 Exchange St., Astoria.



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In **Background** select a picture or solid color, or create a slideshow of pictures.

In **Colors**, let Windows pull an accent color from your background, or choose your own color adventure.

After you've selected an accent color, you can decide where you want to see it show up, and whether it looks better in a dark or light setting.

Enjoy customizing your computer!!



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they need and want. A 5% cash discount for payment at time of service; in-office, 1-6-month arrangements for the creditworthy; or 6-18-month in-office third-party financing plans for those who qualify, and which may offer no or low interest. You may be pleasantly surprised.



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REBECCA SEDLAK
Coast Weekend Editor



THE DAILY ASTORIAN
949 Exchange St., Astoria
503-325-3211, x217

Q: How do I get a story about my event in Coast Weekend?

A: We plan what our feature stories will be, anywhere from two to six weeks in advance, so let us know early if you have something going on that you think would make a good feature. For smaller stories, the deadline for getting press releases and photos to us is noon Wednesday, one week before the next Thursday's publication. Email your information to rsedlak@dailyastorian.com or call 503-325-3211, ext. 217. Be sure to include a contact name, email and phone number. If you just want to post an event on the online calendar, you can go to coastweekend.com/calendar and follow the instructions.