

# Lawsuit: 'No money to collect'

Continued from Page 1A

second location — Port Astor-dam — that was damaged and closed by the fire.

John Harper, owner of Under the Bridge Cigarettes, helped finance Oei and West's operation and supplied the butane they used. He in turn filed claims against the distributor and manufacturer of the butane, blaming them for any defects.

A mediation in March led to a settlement with Harper, Sweet Relief and the butane's manufacturer and distributor, Flynn said, and a later settlement was reached with Delphia. Oei and West had already filed for bankruptcy protection during the case.

"Because they were bankrupt, we did a straight dismissal," Flynn said. "There was no money to collect."

Oei and West were convicted last year of felony assault and misdemeanor reckless endangerment and sentenced to three years probation. The state Occupational Safety and Health Admin-



Danny Miller/The Daily Astorian  
An explosion and fire at a Uniontown marijuana processor in 2016 left a trail of legal claims.

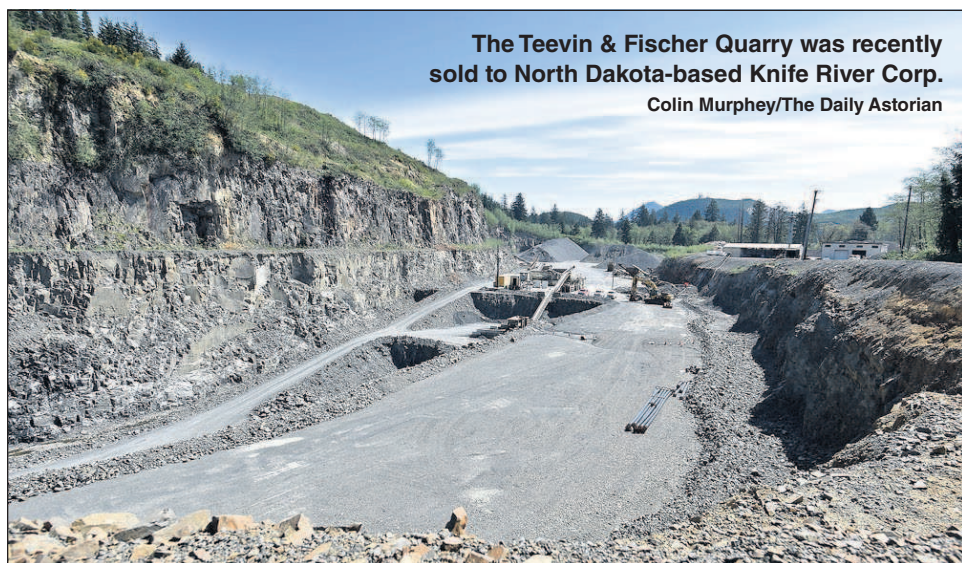
istration also fined Higher Level \$5,300 for workplace safety violations.

The criminal prosecution was the first in Oregon resulting from an explosion at a state-licensed butane hash oil facility, District Attorney Josh Marquis said. The district attorney has criticized the Oregon Health Authority for conditionally approving but not inspecting marijuana

manufacturers like Higher Level.

Flynn and Marquis agree that the state has done a poor job of regulating the marijuana industry, and Flynn said he expects more cases like Higher Level's until oversight improves.

"For some reason, I don't get cases like this in other states," Flynn said. "They're prolific in Oregon."



Colin Murphey/The Daily Astorian  
The Teevin & Fischer Quarry was recently sold to North Dakota-based Knife River Corp.

# Quarry: 'This is a long-term deal'

Continued from Page 1A

Scappoose-based construction contractor Thomas Fischer purchased the quarry from Howard E. Johnson & Sons Construction Co. in 2006 for \$1.6 million. The quarry employs more than 10 people and provides crushed rock and other construction aggregates to regional contractors and the state Department of Transportation, along

with retail landscaping materials. The quarry recently provided more than \$2 million worth of rock for the new Walmart in Warrenton.

Teevin Bros. still owns a quarry along U.S. Highway 30 near the Bradley Hill overlook.

The Seaside School District will need between 50,000 and 80,000 cubic yards of gravel for its new \$100 million, K-12 campus, said Jim

Henry, the school district's project manager. Bidding opens today.

Knife River spokesman Tony Spilde said the acquisition, completed Friday, has been in the works for several months and was not based on a specific project. Knife River intends to rehire the existing employees, he said.

"It's a good strategic fit for us," Spilde said of the quarry. "This is a long-term deal."

# Moore: Revelations are the latest in a string of clashes in the past year

Continued from Page 1A

Moore could not be reached for comment. Other county officials did not publicly confirm if or why the county manager threatened legal action.

Sullivan declined to comment, while Thompson offered a statement via email.

"I've seen better setups in a Law & Order rerun than during this week's board meeting. To hurl a bucket of allegations at me and a fellow commissioner, without any prior notice or opportunity for discussion, was the height of irresponsibility and unprofessionalism," Thompson wrote. "I welcome finding better ways to work with the county administrators and my fellow commissioners, but turning board meetings into publicity

stunts is not the way to do it."

Earlier this month, a county employee — whom Lee declined to identify — sent an email to Moore regarding a "confusing and also concerning" phone call with Thompson. Moore forwarded the email to Lee, who read it aloud Wednesday. The employee claims Thompson, after asking that her name not be said out loud, warned her to be careful about making certain public comments.

"Nothing was said by either of us that would cause question or concern. When I asked her where this was going she proceeded to say that she received threatening emails from county management and that it will end up in court and doesn't want me to have to be in court as she is sure this

is my livelihood and even if I was not in this position that I would need a good reference from this job," the email read. "At that point, I was not only completely confused but also a bit upset by what was said."

Lee said the encounter with Thompson violated a chain of command outlined in the county charter and board policy and that the action could expose the county to legal liability. He threatened to remove Thompson from any liaison assignments that would require her to interact with county staff who are not in management.

"You cannot threaten employees," Lee said, adding he has not seen any threatening emails from county management to Thompson. "This is unacceptable behavior, and

I want it to stop."

Thompson responded to the allegations in part of her written statement to the newspaper. "The suggestion that I am threatening is laughable — I am 73 years old and 135 pounds soaking wet. It is clear they are threatened because I believe the manager is accountable to the commissioners that were elected to oversee his work."

Wednesday's revelations are the latest in a string of private and public clashes involving commissioners and county management in the past year.

Sullivan and Thompson have repeatedly criticized Moore, claiming he oversteps his authority. They have often questioned Moore's statements and proposals at meetings. Most recently, they voted

against a proposal to establish a homelessness fund — an idea the county manager presented to commissioners earlier this month.

Last year, an independent behavioral investigation initiated by the county found that Thompson acted inappropriately in an interaction with a county employee. After allegedly placing her hands on the employee, Thompson asked in a loud, frustrated tone, "Do you know what he did?" The comment allegedly was a reference to what she believed was Moore's decision to intentionally schedule a meeting on a date that ensured she couldn't attend.

Thompson said in a statement about the investigation that she and county staff were unwilling to share their con-

cerns due to fear of retaliation. Soon after her statement was publicized, Moore sent an email to commissioners offering to resign. Soon after that, Lee called for Thompson's resignation.

When Lee finished reading the most recent statements Wednesday, he adjourned the meeting. But minutes earlier, Sullivan had asked for more time to prepare her commissioner's report — typically the last item on the meeting agenda — and had not yet offered her remarks.

Soon after Lee called for the adjournment, Sullivan began to speak.

"I, I, I would like ...," Sullivan started to say.

But Lee quickly interrupted. "Meeting's adjourned," he said sternly.

**LAST WEEK to fill up the PUNCH CARD PROMOTION!**  
**DOUBLE PUNCHES** all weekend on purchases and power punch items.

Still looking for our **BIG WINNER** plus we added 2 more \$500.00 winning cards. **WHO'S HOLDING THE BIG ONE?**



**WHOLE SEEDLESS WATERMELONS** \$4<sup>99</sup> EACH  
Friday 4/27 & Saturday 4/28 Only



**ST HELEN'S PREMIUM BEEF**  
**T-BONE STEAKS** \$7<sup>99</sup> LB  
Friday 4/27 & Saturday 4/28 Only



**5LB BAG RUSSET POTATOES** 99¢ EACH  
Friday 4/27 & Saturday 4/28 Only

# SUPER DOUBLE PUNCH WEEK

**PLAY CUSTOMER CASH\***  
**EVERY CARD IS A WINNER**  
Win up to \$1,000 in prizes instantly!

Purchases... **DOUBLED!**  
Power Punches... **DOUBLED!**  
Now through April 29<sup>th</sup>

**POWER PUNCHES DOUBLED!**  
**Last Chance To Get Your Cards Full**

**SELECT MARKETS**  
**LOCALLY OWNED AND OPERATED**  
**Main St. MARKET**

Where the Meat Lovers Shop  
191 S. Main Ave., Warrenton  
503-861-2271  
www.mainstselect.com

- PICK UP YOUR CUSTOMER CASH GAME CARD TODAY!
- Bring it with you each time you visit our store. Our cashier will punch your card to record your purchases and your visit to our store.
- When your card is punched full, the Store Manager will remove the seal on your card and you will instantly know how much you have won!
- Every card is a winner, you can win as often as you'd like. Please do not scratch the seal on your CUSTOMER CASH card! Only the Store Manager can remove the seal when the card is punched full.

NO PURCHASE NECESSARY (see participating store for individual store odds and complete rules.)



\*Power Punches Not Doubled