



Edward Stratton/The Daily Astorian

Vinson Brothers Construction is logging about 250,000 board feet of timber for the Knappa School District along the north side of U.S. Highway 30.

Knappa schools log campus annex

Logging off Highway 30

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Daily Astorian

KNAPPA — The Knappa School District could soon have an extra \$80,000 to \$100,000 in its coffers.

Vinson Brothers Construction are logging approximately 250,000 board feet of timber on a plot of land the school district owns across U.S. Highway 30 from its campus.

The school district has long been looking at how to use the land, about 13 acres that is mostly undevelopable because of a ravine running through the middle. The land was left to Knappa after it split with neighboring Clatskanie School District in the late 1990s.

The Knappa School Board recently decided to log the land before deciding how to dispose of it. A previous bid of around \$35,000 had been rejected as too low.

"I think they will want to seek community and staff input around the needs of the district and how best they can utilize the funds for all students," said Paulette Johnson, the superintendent of Knappa, about how the school board will use the money from the timber sale.

Bud Henderson, a retired local forester who worked with Hampton Affiliates, was contracted to help the school district prepare for the timber sale. Cascade Hardwoods in Chehalis, Washington, bought the timber, he said, and will send it for processing to regional mills in Warrenton, Clatskanie and Tillamook.

The school district spent \$1,900 to purchase about 120 nearby trees from the state Department of Transportation and will sell them for a similar value.

The work is scheduled to be finished before the start of school next year, Johnson said. If the land is sold later on, it will probably be as one parcel, she said.

Astoria man pleads not guilty to attempted murder in fray

Stabbing at rescue mission

By JACK HEFFERNAN
The Daily Astorian

A man who allegedly stabbed an Astoria Rescue Mission worker pleaded not guilty Wednesday to attempted murder.

Stephen George Foxon, 52, of Astoria, allegedly stabbed William Eckstein, 56, of Astoria, in the stomach earlier this month. He was indicted last week on charges of attempted murder, first-degree assault, fourth-degree assault and five counts of unlawful use of a weapon.

Rescue mission staffers told residents the day of the incident that they were going to search the house for marijuana, according to court records. They had suspected a resident was in possession of the drug, which is against house rules. Foxon allegedly objected to the search, and staff asked him to collect his

belongings and leave immediately.

Foxon allegedly then stood up, approached Eckstein, who was leading the search, and punched him out of a chair and onto the ground. While on the ground, Foxon allegedly continued the attack, eventually pulling out a knife and stabbing Eckstein. The worker's arm was also slashed during the encounter.

Foxon was then pulled away from Eckstein by other staffers and residents, who were able to keep him away from Eckstein before escorting the worker outside. Foxon allegedly continued trying to attack Eckstein once he learned he was outside and punched and kicked staffers as he tried to approach him again.

Someone hit Foxon over the head with a heavy broom,



Stephen George Foxon

causing the attack to stop. Foxon then waited for Astoria police to arrive.

Eckstein, who has since been released from Columbia Memorial Hospital, underwent surgery for his injuries.

Foxon was also taken to the hospital for a minor injury. At the hospital, he admitted to police that he was upset about the search and punched Eckstein, according to court records.

He also allegedly said he remembered fighting Eckstein, putting his hand in his pocket and feeling a knife. He did not recall the alleged stabbing but did say he heard Eckstein tell another staffer that Foxon had stabbed him.

Bail has been set at \$250,000. Foxon is scheduled for an early resolution conference in September.

Foxon pleaded no contest to second-degree arson

in 2015 and was placed on 18 months probation after he set his car on fire with his clothes inside. He was upset at a landlord for putting a Miles Crossing house his ex-wife was renting up for sale.

Since the car was his property, Kris Kaino — his court-appointed attorney — argued he hadn't done anything illegal. The fire was, however, 5 feet from the house and near people. Foxon and the Clatsop County District Attorney's Office ended up agreeing to the plea deal that included probation.

Deputy District Attorney Dawn Buzzard said at the time she was concerned about whether Foxon, who had violated probation from a previous theft conviction, could stay out of trouble.

"This is a scary incident and the defendant showed absolutely no remorse," Buzzard said. "I have no faith that he is going to be successful. I'm worried he is going to hurt someone or burn something down."

Backers drop initiative regulating gun storage

By CLAIRE WITHYCOMBE
Capital Bureau

SALEM — Citing time constraints, supporters of an initiative petition to impose new storage requirements on gun owners say they won't try to put the issue before voters this year after all.

Supporters of Initiative Petition 44 are withdrawing the petition, they announced Wednesday. They plan to refile for the 2020 ballot and lobby the Legislature to pass the measure next year.

Supporters of the petition said they didn't have enough

time to collect the 88,184 signatures required to get the measure on the ballot by the July 6 deadline.

"We are not discouraged and look forward to working with legislators to pass this important measure in the 2019 session," Henry Wessinger, one of the chief petitioners on the measure, said in a prepared statement.

Another petition that would place restrictions on what types of firearms Oregonians can own — Initiative Petition 43 — faces the same deadline.

Its ballot title is still caught up in the courts, so the petition can't be circulated for signatures yet.

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