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ONE DOLLAR

Ban on clearcutting proposed for watersheds

Lawmaker acknowledges her idea is 'drastic'

By MATEUSZ PERKOWSKI
Capital Press

SALEM — A proposed ban on clearcutting, pesticide-spraying, road-building and fertilizing in Oregon's forested watersheds is raising fears of severe disruptions to timber production.

Proponents of House Bill 2656 say the prohibitions are needed to protect the quality of drinking water, while oppo-

nents worry they'd effectively eliminate commercial logging across millions of acres.

"This bill would cripple our ability to cost-effectively and competitively manage our forestland," said Doug Cooper, vice president of resources for Hampton Lumber.

More than half of the company's 89,000 forested acres in Oregon are in watersheds affected by the bill, he said.

During a legislative hearing on Tuesday, the bill's chief sponsor — state Rep. Andrea Salinas, D-Lake Oswego — acknowledged that HB 2656 may

seem "drastic" and said she hoped the proposal would start a conversation about the "right solution" for protecting watersheds.

The bill has alarmed the timber industry because even if the most sweeping restrictions are pared down, it could still result in stricter regulations on forestry practices such as aerial spraying.

Supporters of the bill testified before the House Committee on Energy and the Environment that the forestry practices in question have increased chemicals,

See Clearcutting, Page A5



Hampton Lumber seeded 18 acres of recently harvested forestland with plants that aid pollinators.

CAP-AND-TRADE BILL DIVIDES BUSINESSES



Steam billows from the Georgia-Pacific Wauna Mill.

Colin Murphey/The Daily Astorian

A balance of climate and industry

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Daily Astorian

In the northeastern corner of Clatsop County, Georgia-Pacific's Wauna Mill rolls out many of the paper products sold on the West Coast and employs more than 700 people.

The mill also emitted more than 250,000 metric tons of anthropogenic — or human-influenced — carbon dioxide equivalents, the 10th-most of any facility in the state in 2017, according to the Department of Environmental Quality.

A cap-and-trade plan under discussion at the state Legislature could tax emissions from around 100 facilities in Oregon, including Wauna, and has some hopeful for a new push to fight climate

change and expand green industries. But others are worried the legislation could cost the state higher-paying industrial jobs.

House Bill 2020, the Clean Energy Jobs Bill, aims to reduce Oregon's greenhouse gas emissions to 80 percent below 1990 levels by 2050, in order to comply with the state's carbon reduction goal enacted in 2007. The legislation would cap allowable human-influenced emissions at 25,000 metric tons per facility starting in 2021, with the cap continually lowering over time to the 2050 goal.

To pollute above the cap, businesses would need to buy allowances, currently estimated at \$16 per ton of carbon dioxide. Over time, the emissions cap will come down, with fewer pollution per-

mits available. Companies would have to reduce their emissions, spend more on permits or buy allowances to offset emissions over the cap.

The state would sell many of the allowances at auction and invest the revenue in climate-friendly efforts such as renewable energy, public transit, weatherizing homes and thinning forest debris to lessen the severity of wildfires. The bill would also create a market for carbon-sequestering projects, such as not cutting down a forest, from which landowners can sell allowances.

The state is widely expected to link its program with the Western Climate Initiative implementing similar programs in

See Bill, Page A5

Astoria will clean schools to fight flu

Students sick at Astor Elementary

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Daily Astorian

The Astoria School District, facing many students out sick with flu-like symptoms at John Jacob Astor Elementary School, will begin deep cleaning buildings this weekend.

Kate Gohr, the principal at Astor, said around 100 students out of more than 440 have been missing class the past three days.

"I think it's because we have the youngest kids," Gohr said. "We've had a lot of kids out, fevers, a lot of coughing. They're still building up their immunities."

Craig Hoppes, the school superintendent in Astoria, said the number of students out with flu-like symptoms has also reached about 50 at other campuses.

The school district has been in contact with the Clatsop County Public Health Department and other school districts on how to stem the sickness. District staff will deep clean Astor on Friday and Saturday evening, wiping every surface from eye level down, Gohr said.

"We'll do as many of the schools as we can this weekend, starting with Astor," Hoppes said.

This year's flu season has peaked later than in the past couple of years, with the percentage of emergency room visits attributable to the disease still increasing. A Warrenton teen died Sunday of flu-related complications, likely the first pediatric death of the season in Oregon related to the illness.

See Flu, Page A7

State probe clears respite center staff

Wrong patient was arrested after fight

By DERRICK DePLEDGE
The Daily Astorian

A state investigation found that a staffer at the crisis respite center in Warrenton did not neglect a patient who was wrongfully arrested after a fight in December.

An Oregon Health Authority review of the respite center in January determined that staff provided false information to Warrenton police that led to the arrest. The finding was referred to the state Office of Training, Investigations and Safety, known as OTIS, which investigates abuse allegations.

OTIS concluded that while there may have been miscommunication, there was no evidence to support an allegation the staffer provided false or misleading information.

The wrongful arrest, which was corrected within a few hours, set off a damaging chain of events for Clatsop Behavioral Healthcare. The private nonprofit is Clatsop County's mental health contractor and operates the respite center.

Amy Baker, the executive director, was placed on administrative leave in late December by the board chairwoman pending an internal investigation of her on-call responsibilities at the respite center. After the internal investigation

See Arrest, Page A5

Port urges flexibility on riverfront

Knight said agency depends on projects for revenue

By KATIE FRANKOWICZ
The Daily Astorian

Jim Knight is asking for a reset for the Astoria waterfront.

"There's been a misstep," the Port of Astoria's executive director said during a presentation at a City Council work session Wednesday.

This year, the City Council has recommended amendments to tighten up height and size requirements for new buildings in the Bridge Vista portion of the Riverfront Vision Plan. The changes came after a proposal by Hol-



Jim Knight

lander Hospitality to build a four-story Marriott-brand hotel off Second Street was approved by the city despite community outcry. Residents opposed to the hotel applauded the changes. But property owners, including Knight on behalf of the Port, have urged flexibility, especially as the City Council and Planning Commission continue to develop codes for the final piece of the riverfront plan, the Urban Core downtown.

The Port faces serious challenges and needs to look at ways to generate revenue, Knight said Wednesday. Sections of the city's

riverfront plan include Port properties slated for development.

"How do we communally develop the right waterfront that can be financially self-supported, can produce revenue for its property owners and produce tax revenue ... ? There needs to be compromise," Knight said. "The potential imposition of building heights all along our waterfront, I'm telling you today, will only further endanger the Port."

Maritime village

He praised Mark Hollander and an idea the developer shared with him about creating a maritime village along the waterfront. This kind of outside investment is

See Port, Page A7

