

Warm Springs' timber company closes

By AARON WEST
Bend Bulletin

BEND — When Holly McKinney, who owns a portable toilet rental company in Bend, saw Warm Springs Forest Products Industries missed its monthly payment last September for toilets rented from her, she didn't worry much.

She said Tuesday she considered Warm Springs Forest Products Industries — the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs' mill and lumber company — a long-time and reliable customer of Little John's Portable Toilets and figured it had accidentally forgotten to pay the bill.

"We've provided toilets for the workers at the mill out there for years," she said. "I didn't think much of it."

But when three months of missed payments stacked up to the tune of \$4,291 and McKinney's calls to the mill bounced around and were unreturned, she said she realized something might be wrong in Warm Springs.

"When I finally got a hold of someone, they said they were having cash flow issues," said McKinney, who sued the mill in small claims court in Jefferson County last month to get her money back. "To me, that means the money's not there right now, not that the whole business was going to close."

On Tuesday, the tribes announced in a news release that mill operations are shutting down because of tough financial conditions that stem from a reduced log supply.

The 49-year-old sawmill employed more than 80 people.

At their meeting last week, Tribal Council members authorized closing the mill in light of its financial condition, according to the release.

According to *Spilyay Tymoo*, the tribes' semi-monthly newspaper, the mill owes money to the tribe — its primary creditor — as well as logging companies and other "nontribal entities."

The U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs, which last year had initially resisted approving further tribal timber harvests because of the money problems at the mill, recently issued an order that prohibited harvests indefinitely. A third party will take control of the sale of Warm Springs Forest Products Industries' assets for the purpose of an "orderly wind up" of operations, the release stated.

The company's CEO, John Katchia Jr., and Tribal Council members couldn't be reached for comment.

However, it's the laid-off employees and their families that are most affected by the mill's closing.

Don Sampson, CEO of Warm Springs Ventures, the

business arm of the tribes, said the closing has a big effect on tribal unemployment.

"There were 80 jobs or so that were part of the forest products industry," he said, clarifying that he's not involved with the closing and isn't familiar with the details. "In terms of revenue, I don't know what the impact is, but obviously the jobs were important."

In 2014 the reservation had an unemployment rate of 18.8 percent, with 325 people unemployed out of a labor force of 1,733, according to the Oregon Employment Department.

McKinney, who still hasn't gotten the money she said she's owed, said she found out for herself the mill was experiencing something more serious than just cash flow issues in March. That's when the missed payments and unreturned phone calls led her to send a driver to collect the eight toilets the mill had rented.

"I left voicemails on every voicemail I could get," she said. "You can't get any response."

When the Little John's driver went to the mill to retrieve the toilets, McKinney said, he collected the one by the front entrance first.

"I thought that might get them to pay, if the guard called the mill and said we were taking the toilets," she

said. But instead of paying up, McKinney said, about 20 mill employees ran to use the eight porta-potties "one last time."

"I think it was because they don't have any other bathrooms out there," she said. "Probably in the office, but not out where they're working."

Weeks of mill employees calling to spend their own money to rent a Little John's portable toilet followed, McKinney said.

"They must've known the mill wasn't paying, because (employees) were calling us to rent their own toilets. One guy called us twice because he was trying to pair up with a couple of co-workers to rent one. But we knew we didn't want to be a part of that and get stiffed for more."

According to court documents, the tribes filed a motion to dismiss McKinney's claim. That motion, which states that since the toilet transaction took place on the reservation, the Jefferson County Circuit Court doesn't have jurisdiction. A hearing is scheduled later this month.

The mill's closing follows a round of layoffs in April 2015 that saw the number of employees — who also took a 10 percent cut in salary — reduced from 104 to 84, *Spilyay Tymoo* reported at the time.

BRIEFLY

Bundy brothers, three others due in Nevada in standoff case

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Attorneys say two sons of Nevada rancher Cliven Bundy and three other men are due to be transferred in custody from Oregon to Nevada to face charges stemming from an armed confrontation with government agents two years ago.

Defense lawyers in Oregon lost a bid Tuesday for the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals to block the move.

Lawyers for Ammon Bundy said they've been told arraignments will be Friday in U.S. District Court in Nevada.

Ammon Bundy, Ryan Bundy, Brian Cavalier, Blaine Cooper and Ryan Payne have been in federal custody in Portland, where they're accused of leading an occupation of a U.S. wildlife refuge this year.

In Nevada, they're facing conspiracy, obstruction, weapon and assault charges for a standoff with federal agents rounding up cattle near Bunkerville.

Travel Oregon is advertising in *The Onion*. Seriously.

PORTLAND, (AP) — Travel Oregon's latest advertising campaign is in *The Onion*, but you should take it seriously.

The Oregonian reports that the commission's communications director Linea Gagliano says the voice of Oregonians -- which she describes as "nonchalant, fun and confident, but not overly confident" — fits right in with *The Onion*, a satirical news website.

She says the idea came from advertising agency Wieden+Kennedy.

The commission launched the \$75,000 campaign in March. It includes the usual elements like banner ads and social media promotion, but Travel Oregon is also paying for *The Onion* staffers to write satirical articles about tourism in the state.

The first article, "Tips For Setting Up A Campsite," appeared March 21. It offers helpful advice, such as making sure nearby bears sign a non-aggression pact.

Sen. Jeff Merkley first sitting senator to endorse Bernie Sanders

While Hillary Clinton has captured the endorsements of most Senate Democrats, Bernie Sanders claimed progress in nabbing his first endorsement from a Senate colleague on Wednesday, Oregon's Jeff Merkley.

In an op-ed piece in *The New York Times*, Merkley cited Sanders' positions on the dangers of global warming, and the "threats to our economy from high-risk strategies at our biggest banks." He said Sanders has fought hard for military veterans, and he conceded he has an uphill battle ahead to win the Democratic nomination.

Sanders and Clinton staged dueling New York City rallies on Wednesday ahead of the state's pivotal presidential primary, with the Vermont senator drawing thousands of supporters in a show of force for his self-proclaimed political revolution.

Sanders' campaign said his rally in Manhattan's Washington Square Park brought out 27,000 people, one of the largest gatherings in support of the 74-year-old democratic socialist who has galvanized Democrats and independents alike with his calls for reforms to corporate America and remedies for income inequality.

Idaho possible site for nuclear waste storage

BOISE (AP) — The U.S. Department of Energy lists the Idaho National Laboratory as a possible site for storing about 1,300 dump truck loads of low level radioactive waste.

The federal agency's preferred alternative according to a final environmental impact statement made available in March is the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant geologic repository near Carlsbad, New Mexico.

The INL is listed as a possibility in three other alternatives that also include the Hanford nuclear reservation in Washington state, the Nevada National Security Site and the Savannah River Site in South Carolina.

Possible methods of disposal at the 890-square-mile federal site in eastern Idaho include an intermediate-depth borehole disposal facility, a near-surface trench, or in a vault, the document says.

"If the INL Site is selected, the final location for a (low level radioactive waste) land disposal facility will be based on further analysis," the document states.

A final decision must involve Congress. The timeline on that isn't clear. The document said the report to Congress must include all the alternatives under consideration.

The DOE said the final environmental impact

statement for disposal of the waste is not a decision. "The Department will in the future issue a Record of Decision, which will be the decision," the statement said.

The agency in the document said the waste needs to be stored due to heightened concerns in the wake of the attacks on Sept. 11, 2001, because terrorists could get possession of the radioactive waste that includes sealed sources "and use them for malevolent purposes."

The Idaho lab is considered the nation's primary lab for nuclear research, but it also stores some nuclear waste.

Former Idaho Govs. Cecil Andrus, a Democrat, and Phil

Batt, a Republican, attained in 1995 an agreement with federal authorities limiting nuclear waste shipments. The Department of Energy in its statement to the AP said the low level radioactive waste "is not related to the 1995 agreement."

Andrus disagreed, saying such waste was a violation.

"The first thing DOE should do is comply with the '95 agreement in which they are in violation of and clean up the waste that's already there," Andrus said Wednesday. "Don't talk about bringing more garbage in."

The Idaho attorney general's office said it was reviewing the document and declined to comment.

Corrections

The *East Oregonian* works hard to be accurate and sincerely regrets any errors. If you notice a mistake in the paper, please call 541-966-0818.

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AccuWeather.com Forecast

TODAY

Cloudy with a t-storm in spots

FRIDAY

Partly sunny

SATURDAY

Sunshine and patchy clouds

SUNDAY

Sunny and pleasantly warm

MONDAY

Mostly sunny and very warm

PENDLETON TEMPERATURE FORECAST				
58°	39°	63°	36°	79°
62°	40°	67°	34°	83°
HERMISTON TEMPERATURE FORECAST				
62°	40°	67°	34°	83°

ALMANAC

PENDLETON
through 3 p.m. yesterday

TEMPERATURE	HIGH	LOW
Yesterday	59°	45°
Normals	61°	39°
Records	92° (1904)	21° (1911)

PRECIPITATION
24 hours ending 3 p.m. 0.01"
Month to date 0.14"
Normal month to date 0.55"
Year to date 4.13"
Last year to date 3.00"
Normal year to date 4.55"

HERMISTON
through 3 p.m. yesterday

TEMPERATURE	HIGH	LOW
Yesterday	63°	46°
Normals	64°	39°
Records	86° (1947)	21° (1968)

PRECIPITATION
24 hours ending 3 p.m. 0.00"
Month to date 0.14"
Normal month to date 0.32"
Year to date 2.84"
Last year to date 1.78"
Normal year to date 3.46"

SUN AND MOON

Sunrise today	6:11 a.m.
Sunset tonight	7:41 p.m.
Moonrise today	12:34 p.m.
Moonset today	2:29 a.m.

Full

Apr 21

Last

Apr 29

New

May 6

First

May 13

Shown is today's weather. Temperatures are today's highs and tonight's lows.

REGIONAL FORECAST

Coastal Oregon: Occasional rain today; windy, mainly early. A couple of showers tonight.

Eastern and Central Oregon: A shower or thunderstorm in the area today, except a little rain near the Cascades.

Western Washington: Variable cloudiness today; a passing shower, but periods of rain across the south.

Eastern Washington: Cloudy today; a thunderstorm in spots, but a shower or two in central sections.

Cascades: Periods of rain and snow today with snow levels 3,000-4,000 feet; 4-8 inches above 5,000 feet.

Northern California: Showers around today, but a bit of snow in the interior mountains.

REGIONAL CITIES

	Today			Fri.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Astoria	58	44	r	58	43	c
Baker City	51	31	c	56	24	pc
Bend	47	26	r	55	27	pc
Brookings	52	44	r	59	45	pc
Burns	48	28	c	58	25	pc
Enterprise	48	33	c	51	29	c
Eugene	55	41	r	62	38	pc
Heppner	54	35	c	59	34	pc
Hermiston	62	40	c	67	34	pc
John Day	52	37	c	57	36	pc
Klamath Falls	44	26	r	56	26	pc
La Grande	52	37	c	57	30	pc
Meacham	49	35	c	55	28	pc
Medford	54	39	r	66	37	pc
Newport	54	43	r	56	43	c
North Bend	56	44	r	59	44	pc
Ontario	58	37	c	65	36	pc
Pasco	63	36	c	69	36	pc
Pendleton	58	39	c	63	36	pc
Portland	58	44	r	62	45	c
Redmond	51	24	t	61	25	pc
Salem	58	41	r	64	40	pc
Spokane	54	38	c	60	37	pc
Ukiah	48	31	c	55	29	pc
Vancouver	57	41	r	60	42	c
Walla Walla	58	42	c	61	40	pc
Yakima	61	37	sh	68	38	pc

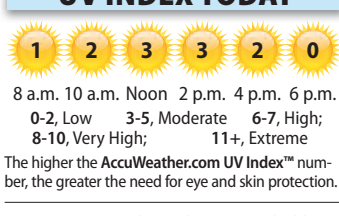
WORLD CITIES

	Today			Fri.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Beijing	73	43	s	75	57	pc
Hong Kong	83	76	c	82	75	t
Jerusalem	60	48	s	69	54	s
London	60	48	r	59	43	t
Mexico City	83	51	pc	82	52	pc
Moscow	63	48	c	58	39	c
Paris	63	49	c	62	47	t
Rome	70	48	s	69	51	s
Seoul	65	42	pc	71	45	s
Sydney	72	61	sh	75	62	pc
Tokyo	68	58	r	67	53	s

WINDS

(in mph)	Today	Friday
Boardman	WSW 6-12	WSW 6-12
Pendleton	WSW 6-12	WSW 7-14

UV INDEX TODAY



NATIONAL WEATHER TODAY

Shown are noon positions of weather systems and precipitation. Temperature bands are highs for the day.

National Summary: Dry weather will continue to hold across the Northeast today. Showers and heavy thunderstorms will rattle the Southeast. Showers, thunderstorms and mountain snow will impact the Northwest.

Yesterday's National Extremes: (for the 48 contiguous states)
High 89° in Imperial, Calif. Low 14° in Willow City, N.D.

NATIONAL CITIES

	Today			Fri.			Today			Fri.			
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W	
Albuquerque	76	52	s	72	42	pc	Louisville	71	50	pc	73	49	s
Atlanta	59	48	c	58	48	c	Memphis	70	54	sh	68	53	c
Atlanta City	53	41	s	55	42	s	Miami	85	72	pc	85	70	t
Baltimore	62	38	t	63	38	s	Millwaukee	52	38	s	55	42	s
Billings	62	40	t	50	33	r	Minneapolis	72	48	s	71	55	s
Birmingham	62	50	sh	61	50	c	Nashville	71	51	c	70	48	pc
Boise	55	38	c	60	38	pc	New Orleans	76	64	r	75	63	pc
Boston	48	37	c	54	40	c	New York City	58	40	s	63	43	c
Charleston, SC	63	51	c	67	50	c	Oklahoma City	73	51	pc	76	55	pc
Charleston, WV	73	45	s	70	43	s	Omaha	75	49	s	78	53	pc
Chicago	59	39	s	66	47	s	Philadelphia	62	40	s	63	44	pc
Cleveland	56	41	s	65	43	s	Phoenix	89	63	s	79	57	pc
Dallas	75	55	pc	78	61	pc	Portland, ME	51	32	s	54	35	s
Denver													