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OUR VIEW

Construction puts timber in vogue

These are exciting times for the timber industry. It's been awhile since that's been the case in Oregon. Government forest managers and their political bosses finally appear to recognize that more effective management of public forests is needed to help prevent future wildfires and reduce their severity. Rep. Greg Walden and Sens. Ron Wyden and Jeff Merkley have all stated their support for legislation that accomplishes those goals — rare agreement between Oregon's Republican and Democrat leaders.

Beyond timber management, however, are innovations that promise new uses for timber in construction. Among them is "mass timber" that is used in "tallwood design." As an example, a credit union in Hillsboro is using glulam beams to construct its new five-story, 150,000-square-foot headquarters building.

Another building planned for Portland will be 12 stories tall and constructed of cross-laminated timber, called CLT. It will dwarf the seven-story building in Minneapolis, Minnesota, that is currently the tallest mass timber structure in the nation.

To explore the uses and design possibilities of mass timber, the University of Oregon architecture program is combining efforts with Oregon State University's forestry

and engineering programs to create the Tallwood Design Institute. In other words, wood construction is sexy again. Once relegated to home construction and one- or two-story projects, lumber was seen as an excellent material for relatively small structures.

Then came cutting-edge projects such as the Metropol Parasol in Seville, Spain. It is among the largest wooden structures in the world. Made of laminated lumber coated in polyurethane to protect it from the weather, the ethereal design of six interconnected "mushrooms" soars 85 feet tall and covers an area that is 490 feet by 230 feet.

Built in 2011, it shades the entire city square and houses a restaurant, museum, farmers' market and a walkway that allows visitors a bird's-eye view of the historic city.

The future of mass timber is nearly unlimited. Larger mass timber such as CLTs made by DR Johnson Lumber Co. in Riddle, and mass plywood panels made by Freres Lumber Co. in Lyons, offer architects and engineers possibilities that didn't even exist a few years ago.

Better-managed forests, combined with innovative products, designs and structures demonstrate that the timber industry's future is brighter than it's been in a long time.



Eric Mortenson/Capital Press

A worker guides a Glulam beam into place Oct. 3 during construction of the First Tech Credit Union headquarters building in Hillsboro. The building, which will be five stories high and contain 156,000 square feet of office space, is believed to be largest U.S. structure so far built using advanced lumber products such as cross-laminated timbers (CLT) and Glulam beams, posts and flooring.

Unsigned editorials are the opinion of the East Oregonian editorial board of publisher Kathryn Brown, managing editor Daniel Wattenburger, and opinion page editor Tim Trainor. Other columns, letters and cartoons on this page express the opinions of the authors and not necessarily that of the East Oregonian.

OTHER VIEWS

Schools getting creative with Measure 98 funding

Corvallis Gazette-Times, Oct. 16

We're still not convinced Oregon voters made the right decision last November when they passed Ballot Measure 98, which forces the state to spend money on career and technical education programs, along with two other areas meant to improve the state's dismal graduation rate.

But we have to give the ballot measure at least some of the credit for driving a resurgence of interest across the state in career and technical education, areas that have had a hard time staying properly funded over the past decades.

(Our reservations about Measure 98 have nothing to do with the areas it funds, but rather that it did not come with a dedicated source of funding. This is a long-running issue in Oregon, where voters routinely approve costly initiatives without giving much thought to the question of how they will be bankrolled.)

In any event, it's nice to see career and technical education programs reclaim a share of the educational spotlight, as educators reacquaint themselves with the idea that some of their students may not be headed to a four-year institution of higher learning after graduation or, for that matter, may not be particularly motivated by the traditional path to college. As educators increasingly talk about the need to create many different

paths to graduation, it becomes clear that one of those paths involves career and technical education — the sort of education that can lead to well-paying, high-demand jobs.

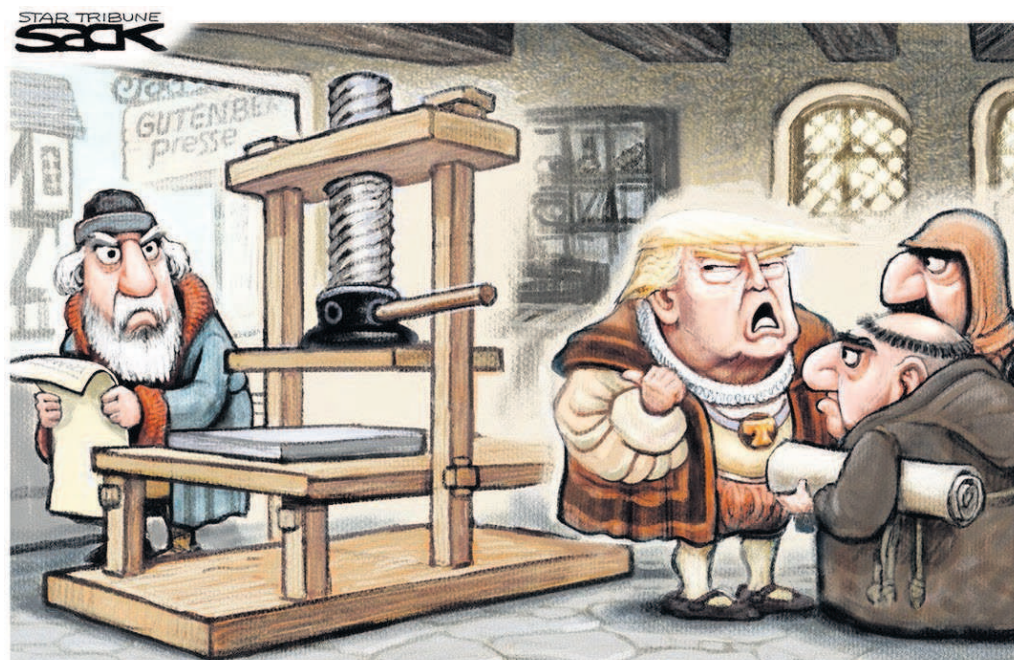
The latest example of the resurgence in the sorts of educational offerings that earlier generations used to call "wood shop" or "metal shop" came last week in Lebanon, where Superintendent Rob Hess pitched the idea of creating a countywide vocational charter school. Hess said he plans to bring what amounts to a "napkin sketch" of the idea to the school board's November meeting.

Of course, we reserve a final judgment on the idea until after Hess has a chance to flesh out the numerous details. And he told the board that the earliest such a school could be in place would be the fall of 2019.

But the idea is undeniably timely — and the money that Measure 98 will be funneling into school districts around the state could give Lebanon at least some of the financial means to pull it off.

"Everyone in the region is interested in providing pathways for kids different than the traditional four-year college pathway," Hess said. "In this community, there are many living-wage jobs and kids aren't being prepared for them."

That's true not just in Linn County, but in Benton County as well — and, in fact, throughout the rest of the state.



'IT'S DISGUSTING! THAT GUTENBERG GUY CAN PRINT WHATEVER HE WANTS. PEOPLE SHOULD LOOK INTO IT!!!'

OTHER VIEWS

Trump's sellout of American heritage

The last runs of heavenly wild salmon are trickling in this month, the buttery coho with flesh the color of fall foliage. After that, we'll have to settle for mostly farmed and frozen fish until next spring — no substitute for the real deal.

We can count on this seasonal miracle, healthy fish returning to their birthplaces and then on to the dinner table, so long as the fragile balance of nature remains intact. But with a president who is going after clean air, clean water and the world's most valuable wild salmon fishery, the fate of creation and all the myriad wonders within it is at stake.

I use "creation" as an appeal to creationists to look at what your president is doing to Eden, or what's left of it. I also want to appeal to economic nationalists.

For the USA has the greatest home for sockeye salmon on the planet in Alaska's Bristol Bay. The Trump administration is putting it at risk in order to aid a foreign mining conglomerate.

This American carnage is led by a man whose job is to protect the natural world within our borders, EPA administrator Scott Pruitt. As you may have heard, he has sealed himself off from the public with a \$25,000 phone security system and an 18-member security detail. It took a court order to pry loose some of the details of his meetings. No surprise, he holds daily lap-dog sessions with the companies he is supposed to regulate.

Pruitt is the swamp, the only wetland the Trump administration wants to protect. He serves the oil, chemical and mining interests that propped him up when he was attorney general of Oklahoma. He now runs the oil, chemical and mining protection agency out of Washington, with our money. You would never guess that this toady in a suit works for us.

Look around. The catastrophic wildfires that are sweeping through iconic landscapes in Northern California and carpet-bombing entire neighborhoods are a glimpse into an early future in the West. Hurricanes, rolling in one after the other, are swamping cities. Every month brings a new high temperature record.

Until this year, the U.S. response was in tune with the rest of the world — to try to do something to fix this overheated globe of ours. In announcing this week that President Donald Trump intends to spite all the other nations and gut President Barack Obama's signature effort to curb greenhouse gas emissions, Pruitt framed the move as the end of the "war on coal." Now comes the war on the planet and public health.

Amid the hourly calamities of a White



TIMOTHY EGAN
Comment

House that is forced to treat its chief occupant like a toddler, it's easy to forget that Trump is doing real damage to things that all of us share.

So, that's politics, right? To the victor go the spoils. He's simply rolling back onerous regulations, as promised, and sticking it to the global elites on climate change. Well, no.

Your party affiliation will not protect you from the chemicals sprayed on strawberries — shown to cause brain damage to children — which

Trump will allow to remain in the food chain. Living in a red state will not keep warming oceans from rising ever higher when the latest 500-year storm hits your region. Being a Trump supporter does not protect your favorite stream from the toxic discharge of a power plant into a public waterway.

In Alaska, (Trump) is going against the will of the people to target Bristol Bay. Half the world's wild sockeye come from this magical place, a bounty that supports 14,000 jobs.

All of the above are potential consequences of more than 50 environmental rules that Trump has tried to kill since he took office.

National monuments — not the Confederate kind that Trump wants to preserve, but special places protected in somewhat the same way as national parks — are also in his sights. These are unique landscapes set aside for their cultural, historical or scenic splendor.

Trump could shrink 10 of them — another sellout of American heritage.

In Alaska, he is going against the will of the people to target Bristol Bay. Half the world's wild sockeye come from this magical place, a bounty that supports 14,000 jobs. Alaskans are a cantankerous bunch who can't agree on much of anything. Yet they voted by an overwhelming margin in 2014 to protect Bristol Bay from a gold and copper mine that could generate 10 billion tons of toxic waste.

And unlike big food producers in the heartland, the Bristol Bay salmon industry is not propped up by subsidies, chemicals or compromised politicians. The fish need only clean water and healthy oceans. That's why the EPA had earlier concluded that the proposed Pebble mine could have a "catastrophic" impact on the bay.

Trump's men are rolling over for the gold mine. Just hours after Pruitt met with the mine's corporate leadership, Trump reversed EPA protection, as CNN reported this week. If you're surprised that wild salmon would be sacrificed for precious metal, remember that one of Trump's few passions is for gold-plated bathroom fixtures.

Timothy Egan worked for 18 years as a writer for The New York Times, first as the Pacific Northwest correspondent, then as a national enterprise reporter.



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