

FIVE GENERATIONS



A local family recently enjoyed a gathering of five generations: Elvira Engeldorf Sims, far right, her son Dennis Engeldorf, center, granddaughter Rashana Strong, great-grandson Terran Hatch, front, and great great-grandson Kaiden Hatch.

Courtesy photo

Environmentalists shut out of forest litigation

By Mateusz Perkowski
Capital Bureau

Environmental and fishing groups will be shut out from high-stakes litigation over Oregon's forest management policies, according to a judge's order.

Linn County Circuit Court Judge Daniel Murphy has denied a request by several non-profit organizations to intervene in the lawsuit, which seeks \$1.4 billion from Oregon on behalf of multiple counties.

"Passionate concern about something does not qualify an applicant for intervenor status," Murphy said in the ruling.

The proposed intervenors included the Wild Salmon Center and its policy director for Oregon and California, Robert Van Dyk, as well as the Association of Northwest Steelheaders, Association of Northwest Guides and Anglers and Pacific Rivers Council.

Linn County filed a complaint against the State of Oregon earlier this year, arguing that 15 counties turned over 650,000 acres of their forestlands in the early 20th Century to the state in exchange for promises of future revenues.

In addition to Linn County, Benton, Clackamas, Clatsop, Columbia, Coos, Douglas, Josephine, Klamath, Lane, Lincoln, Marion, Polk, Tillamook, and Washington counties turned timberland over to the state.

Oregon has since breached that contract by enacting a "greatest permanent value" forest policy rule that prioritizes wildlife, water and recreation over logging, costing the counties \$1.4 billion in past and future timber revenues, the complaint said.

The non-profit groups argued they should be allowed to intervene in the case because they have an interest in



Mateusz Perkowski/Capital Press

Linn County Circuit Court Judge Daniel Murphy has denied a request by several non-profit organizations to intervene in the lawsuit filed on behalf of 15 counties that seeks \$1.4 billion from the State of Oregon for allegedly insufficient timber harvests from state forests

forest health and Linn County was effectively trying to increase logging in state forests.

However, the judge has held their participation is unnecessary in the litigation, which is focused on whether Oregon has violated contractual obligations to maximize timber revenues for the counties.

"Therefore the applicants have no unique ability to offer evidence to the court concerning the breach of contract issues," Murphy said.

Intervenor status would have given the non-profits the full rights of defendants in the litigation. The judge also said they wouldn't be allowed to submit friend-of-the-court briefs on legal issues in the case.

These arguments would focus on "consequences to third parties" of any potential ruling that shouldn't be

considered in a breach of contract dispute, he said.

Linn County opposed the proposed intervention of the non-profit groups because they could stand in the way of a possible settlement deal or challenge a ruling favorable to the counties.

"All they were seeking to do is be obstructionists," said John DiLorenzo, an attorney for Linn County.

The role of the court in this case is to resolve a contractual dispute, not to "micromanage" the state's forest management policy, DiLorenzo said.

To that extent, the non-profit groups have no more interest in the lawsuit than any other member of the public, he said.

Oregon can't re-write its regulations without approval from legislators or state agencies, so the non-profits would have the opportunity to influence that process re-

gardless of the lawsuit's outcome, DiLorenzo said.

Ralph Bloemers, attorney for the non-profits, said he's disappointed they've been excluded from the case because a possible remedy for Oregon would be to increase logging to the detriment of his clients.

The groups offered a different perspective than the State of Oregon because they don't believe its forestlands are being managed in compliance with the federal Endangered Species Act or Clean Water Act even under current logging levels, Bloemers said.

Several timber groups are currently footing the legal costs for Linn County, which makes them represented in the litigation, he said.

The non-profit groups haven't yet decided whether to appeal the denial of their intervention request, Bloemers said.

Lightning sparks new forest fires in Blue Mountain region

Wallowa County Chieftain

Recent lightning activity across the Blue Mountains has sparked several new fires, according to a USFS press release issued Tuesday morning.

Both lookouts and aerial reconnaissance have reported a total of eight new lightning-caused fires across the Wallowa-Whitman National

Forest and the Northeast Oregon Department of Forestry protection areas.

The largest of the reported fires, being called the Warm Springs Fire, was contained at approximately 18 acres in size and was burning 16 miles Southwest of La Grande in the vicinity of Spool Cart Campground.

The fire burned in a mix of grass and timber. The fire

was contained on Monday afternoon with the help of the Union Interagency Hotshot Crew and four engines.

The other reported incidents have all been held to under a half acre at this time.

Additional hold-over fires are possible as the warm, dry conditions continue throughout the week.

Isolated thunderstorms and increasing winds are

expected over the next two days.

Visit the Blue Mountain Interagency Dispatch webpage at www.bmidc.org or contact a local Oregon Department of Forestry or Forest Service office for more complete information.

Additional Blue Mountain Fire information can be found at: <http://bluemountainfireinfo.blogspot.com>.

OBITUARIES

Julie Ann White
July 23, 1966 to July 16, 2016

Julie Ann (Keffer) White, 49, of La Grande passed away unexpectedly at her home July 16, 2016.

Julie was born July 23, 1966 in Springfield, Ore., to Gail and Janice (Gipson) Keffer. She resided in Springfield, Enterprise, Klamath Falls, Portland and La Grande.

She attended Springfield High School freshman and sophomore years and Enterprise High School junior and senior years. She participated in basketball, cheerleading and track and field. After graduating, she earned her bachelor's degree in dental hygiene through the Oregon Institute of Technology. She married Sean White on Aug. 15, 1987.

Julie was employed as a dental hygienist. She was an outstanding art student at Enterprise High School. She was the FFA sweetheart, and the senior prom queen. Julie was an amazing mother, wife, daughter, sister, teacher and friend. She enjoyed gardening, landscaping, woodworking, fishing, mushroom and huckleberry picking, rafting, hiking, playing cards, all arts and watching her children play sports. She was a member of the American Dental Hygienists' Association and Oregon Dental Hygienists' Association.

Julie is survived by her husband Sean; children Connor of La Grande and Haley of La Grande; parents Gail and Janice Keffer of Joseph; siblings Deborah Johnson of Prineville, Ore., Ingrid Bornstedt of La Grande and Mark Keffer of Enterprise; and four nieces and three nephews.

A viewing will be held from 5-7 p.m. Friday, July 22 at Loveland Funeral Chapel. A celebration of life will be held at 2 p.m. Saturday, July 23 at the Nazarene Church in La Grande.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be made to support scholarships for dental hygiene students in memory of Julie White to the Oregon Tech Foundation, 3201 Campus Drive, Klamath Falls, OR 97601. Or visit <https://alumni.oit.edu/donate> and enter Julie's name.

Online condolences may be made to the family at www.lovelandfuneralchapel.com.



Dwane Marshall Burch
July 31, 1939 to July 5, 2016

Dwane Marshall Burch was born July 31, 1939, in Oklahoma City, Okla. He passed away July 5, 2016 in Sun City, Fla., with his wife and son by his side.

Dwane was a very successful businessman in Enterprise and Wallowa County. He was the owner/operator of Burch Plumbing & Heating, Burch Enterprises and the Last Gate Ranch. He had the honor of being nominated as "Tree Farmer of the Year" by the State of Oregon. Upon his retirement in 1997 he and wife Shirley moved to Sun City.

He was preceded in death by his parents, his beloved grandmother and grandfather and brother Charles Michael Burch.

Survivors include his wife of 50 years, Shirley Renee' (Hefley) Burch; brothers William Lewis Burch and Gregory Lynn Burch (both of Celina, Tenn.); children Shelly Marie (Burch) Bell (Durant, Okla.) and Marshall Scott Burch (Durant, Okla.); seven grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren.

A celebration of life will be held from 2-4 p.m. Sunday, July 31 in the dining room at Eagle's View Inn, 1200 Highland Ave. in Enterprise.

DEATH NOTICES

James May

James May died July 18 at his home in Lostine at age 74. A complete obituary will be published at a later date.

Barbara Prince

Barbara Prince died July 18 at her home in Enterprise at age 81. A complete obituary will be published at a later date.

Elizabeth Thompson

Elizabeth "Betty" Thompson of Enterprise passed away at her home on July 17, 2016 at age 66. A complete obituary will be published at a later date. Bollman Funeral Home is entrusted with arrangements.

About Obituaries

News obituaries are a free service of the Wallowa County Chieftain. The paper accepts obituaries from the family or funeral home. Information submitted is subject to editing.

Weather Forecast
 Courtesy of Weather Underground. www.wunderground.com

	High	Low	Conditions
July 21	84	48	Clear
July 22	78	45	Clear
July 23	83	47	Clear
July 24	87	51	Clear
July 25	85	50	Clear
July 26	85	50	Clear

Phases of the moon

July 26	Aug. 2	Aug. 10	Aug. 18
1st Quarter	Full Moon	Last Quarter	New Moon

WALLOWA COUNTY SUNRISE AND SUNSET JULY 20-26
 (from the U.S. Naval Observatory)

WED	THUR	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUES
July 20	July 21	July 22	July 23	July 24	July 25	July 26
Rise: 5:21	Rise: 5:22	Rise: 5:23	Rise: 5:24	Rise: 5:25	Rise: 5:26	Rise: 5:27
Set: 8:30	Set: 8:29	Set: 8:28	Set: 8:27	Set: 8:26	Set: 8:24	Set: 8:23