

Mass timber movement aims high

A mass movement is underway in Oregon — a mass timber movement that we describe on this week's front page.

Mass timber is cross-laminated timber — called CLT — mass plywood and other types of engineered wood that turn lumber into large, strong building materials that can support multi-story buildings. It's been called "plywood on steroids" and is substantial enough to replace steel and concrete. It's "green" because it comes from a renewable resource — trees — and sequesters carbon. It also emits less carbon dioxide during its production than other materials.

While mass timber has been used in places like Europe and Australia for decades — huge mass timber structures, buildings and houses have been built across those continents — it's just starting to catch on in the U.S. That's because U.S. building codes typically don't include it.

Now, however, Oregon codes allow its use. National codes could also allow it within a few years, opening the door to wider use of mass timber.

The U.S. mass timber movement had its beginnings in tiny Whitefish, Montana, in 2011, when a 4,863-square-foot commercial building was constructed using CLT. It was completed at a cost of \$145 per square foot and took five days to build, according to the Wood Products Council. The CLT panels came from Europe — there are now several sources for it in the U.S. and Canada — and the building was designed using international building codes.

A person doesn't have to be a construction engineer to see the value of CLT — and the potential of mass timber in general. It is cost-effective, easy to install and strong.

Oregon State University and the University of Oregon have created the TallWood Design Institute to take the lead in mass timber research and development. The U of O College of Design and OSU's College of Forestry and College of Engineering have a platoon of researchers working on new products and designs, testing materials and helping to chart the future of mass timber.

The institute's new \$79 million building is also made of CLT, though a glitch in its production has set back the construction schedule.

Elsewhere in the state, Freres Lumber Co. in Lyons has patented a new type of mass timber called mass plywood. The company's owners say the plywood panels can range up to 48-foot long, 12 feet wide and 24 inches thick, use 20 percent less wood and are as strong as CLT.

Other companies in the U.S. and Canada are also pressing ahead with innovations, making the future of mass timber virtually unlimited.

Already in the U.S., buildings as large as 156,000 square feet and eight stories tall have been built in Portland. Seattle allows the use of CLT in buildings up to six stories.

But that's just the beginning. A 270,000-square-foot mass timber structure is proposed for Chicago, and a 220,000-square-foot seven-story apartment complex is planned for Minneapolis. And a 100-story mass timber tower has been proposed for London, England.

And Wallowa County stands to benefit if the mass timber momentum continues to build. Let's be ready.

EDITORIAL

Voice of the Chieftain

Counting down to kickoff

Football season usually begins at every level of competition in the month of September. Preseason is over. The players are in shape, their positions have been determined and the playbook has been memorized. Teams and the fans that follow them are ready to go.

I am no exception. Some of my colleagues have named me Senator Duck, because of my undying support for my alma mater, the University of Oregon.

On Sept. 28, we legislators — Senator Duck included — began what might be called a preseason. The Oregon Legislature is scheduled to kick off Jan. 22, 2019.

Everything leading up to January is like a preseason. We are getting ready to compete. Sept. 28 was the deadline for submitting legislative concepts we want to introduce as bills in the 2019 legislative session. Each senator or representative can submit as many bills as they wish, if they meet this deadline. My staff and I have been working for months on my list of bills. We held town hall meetings, heard from constituents, worked with associations, met with other legislators, and listened, listened, listened. At the 5 p.m. deadline, we submitted forms for 48 bills. These 48 bills will be my initial playbook for the upcoming session.

A football team's playbook will have specific plays with specific player responsibilities. Every player is unique with dif-



GUEST COLUMN

Sen. Bill Hansell

ferent players on the field for each play and alignment. The one position on the field usually remaining consistent is the quarterback. And in the Senator Duck's play book, that would be me. I am the one who has the responsibility to help make the play successful or change it at the line of scrimmage.

I am pleased and excited about the plays we have. Here is a big picture breakdown without going into a lot of detail: 28 of the bills are what I call constituent bills. Ten of those came from town hall meetings attended by county and city leaders. The remainder are from citizens who asked for their issue to be part of the senator's play book, and I am pleased to run with them.

One of the worst fires in Oregon, the Substation Fire, burned 80,000 acres in Wasco and Sherman counties this past summer. As a result of a meeting with farmers and fire districts, held in Sherman County in August, six bills are being introduced. Eighteen of the bills have an agriculture or natural resources focus, from elk damage to estate tax reform.

Two of the bills are being submitted at the request of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation.

Will every bill we introduce be successful? Probably not, but we are going to try. We all know not every play produces a touchdown every time it is run. Some of our bills were unsuccessful in the previous session, but they were important and we are going to try to run with them again.

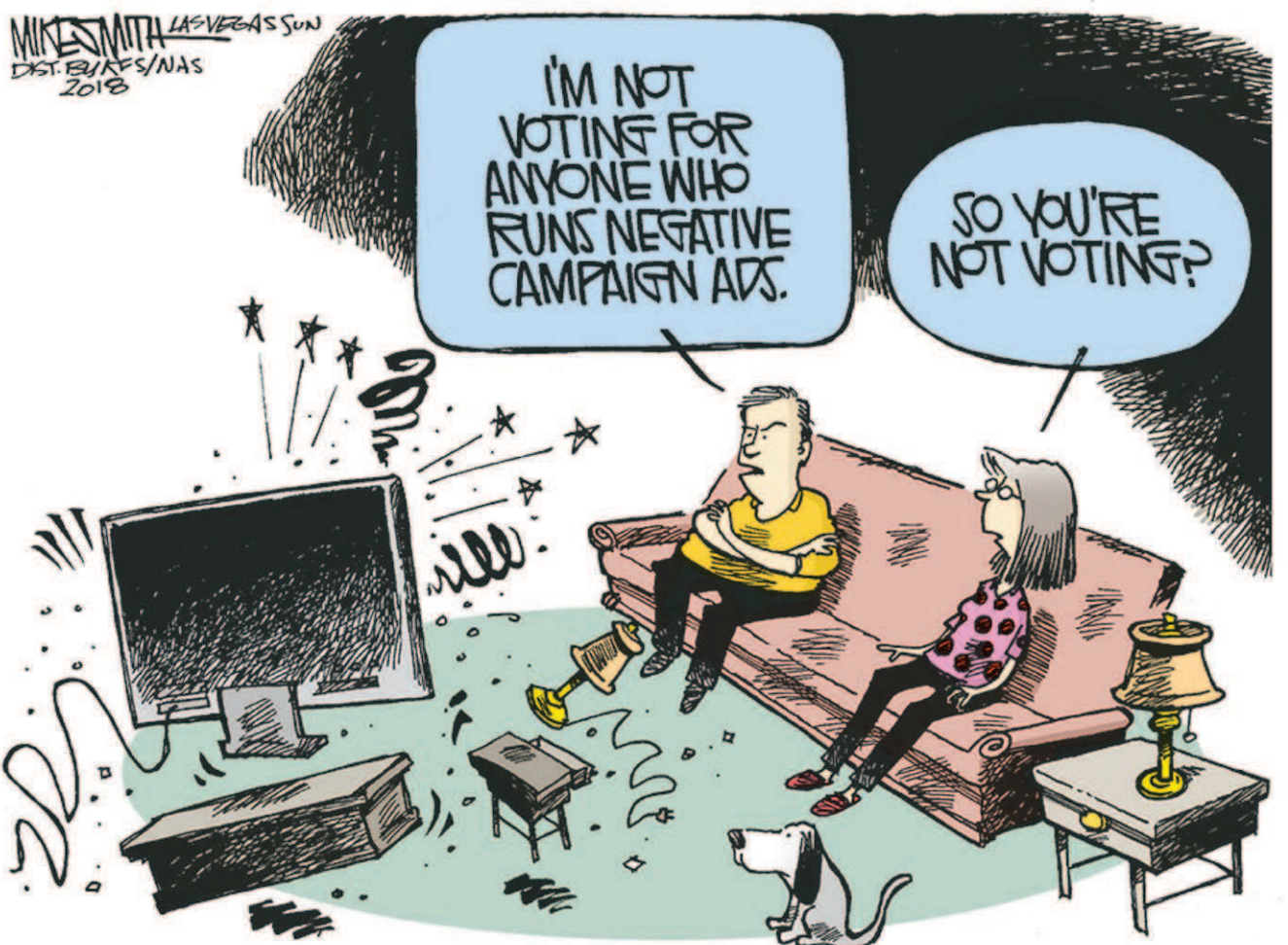
Part of the preseason is to get the right players ready to go. Figure out what opposition there might be and why, then adjust your play accordingly. Sometimes a pass play becomes a running play at the line of scrimmage because of the alignment of the opposition. And we will add plays as the season progresses.

But for now we have our playbook being drafted, and later it will be refined as we get ready for the season — I mean session — to begin.

I am grateful for the different members of the team, from throughout the district who helped craft the plays that are in our playbook. I believe we have a very good chance of crossing the goal line with the vast majority of them. I am looking forward to kickoff.

■ ■ ■

Sen. Bill Hansell is a 1967 graduate of the University of Oregon. He will root for the Beavers, but not when they play the Ducks.



Vote Diane Daggett for county commissioner

We voters are truly fortunate to be able to choose from such a great slate of candidates for Wallowa County Commissioner. We can't lose!

I will vote for Diane Daggett in November. She has intelligence, competence, character and determination. Over the last 23 years that I have lived in our county, I have noted her success in the areas of planning, management and marketing. When someone with Daggett's abilities offers to serve the public in elected office I feel it is an opportunity that should not be passed up.

Mike Koloski
Enterprise

Commissioner race should remain nonpartisan

I was pleased when the Wallowa County Commissioners' election became nonpartisan.

Until then, I had felt that the county commissioners did not represent people of their opposite political party. When the election turned to nonpartisan, I thought it was good that I and others like me would be listened to.

Unfortunately, now I hear that some people are still being encouraged to vote for local candidates because of their political affiliation. I hope that someday our small county can come together and pay attention to the needs of the whole county.

Evelyn Swart
Joseph

Support Greg Walden

I am writing to support Greg Walden for Congress because of what he did to help Dwight and Steven Hammond when they were unjustly imprisoned.

Ggreg Walden grew up in rural Oregon near

LETTERS to the EDITOR

The Dalles and Hood River working in a cherry orchard. He knows what it is like to be a farmer or rancher trying to make a living off the land. This gives him a great advantage when constituents need relief from actions of the federal government. Like the Hammonds did.

This is where having a representative like Greg Walden is such an advantage. Greg immediately gave an impassioned speech on the U.S. House floor on their behalf. After that, he worked tirelessly for their pardon. It was not until Donald Trump became president that logic was applied to the case. In July, justice won and the Hammonds finally left prison for their ranch in Harney County.

Who could be next? Will the imponderable Blue Mountains Forest Plan ensnare one of our ranchers? Support Greg Walden. He will help us.

Anita VanGrunsven
Wallowa

Support McLeod-Skinner

I have voted for Greg Walden in the past. But this time I won't and here's why: Mr. Walden has said numerous time he supports continued health insurance coverage of pre-existing conditions. Then, in 2017 he backed a bill that would have allowed the dismantling of coverage for pre-existing health conditions.

To put the importance of this issue into context, consider the fact that more than 1.6 million Oregon citizens — including almost one in four of those younger than 65 — have health conditions that are considered "pre-existing" by health insurance companies.

I know many people in Oregon and across the country, including family and friends, who

fall into this category. Their lives would be disastrously affected if they were denied coverage because of a pre-existing health condition.

Walden has failed to keep his promise on this crucial issue. His opponent, Jamie McLeod-Skinner, has committed to fight for affordable and accessible healthcare for all, and to refuse any corporate funding. That's unlike Walden, who has received more than \$400,000 from Big Pharma and the health products sector in 2017-2018.

Carolyn Wisdom
Enterprise

Vote yes on Measure 106

According to state records, the death penalty in Oregon has been carried out on almost 60 individuals since 1904 at taxpayer expense.

While these individuals have been found guilty of murder, about 10 totally innocent, future Oregonians are put to death daily at taxpayer expense. That's a figure of almost \$2 million a year.

Ballots will arrive in mailboxes next week, on which we have the opportunity to vote yes on Measure 106. This measure, while not prohibiting a woman from seeking abortion, stops the funding of killing future Oregonians with our taxes. These dollars collected from taxpayers could instead go to schools and veterans.

If you object to being coerced into paying for killing unborn Oregonians, join us in voting yes on Measure 106.

Jan and Lorraine Swift
Wallowa

What has happened to our democracy?

I am a 75-year-old citizen. I was educated in public schools. I was taught that our form of government was designed to prevent abuse of power.

Over my lifetime I have seen this plan

defeated. Today it seems only the rich are benefited by our Congress. Our system has been degraded by big money, gerrymandered voting districts and the suppression of voting. Our current congressman no longer listens to the ordinary citizen.

I'm voting for McLeod-Skinner. I believe she will represent us in Washington, D.C., and support a government "of the people, for the people."

Jean Grandi
Enterprise

Support Mona Williams in circuit court judge race

I have practiced law in this community with Wes Williams for almost 20 years. The voters should know what they will be getting if he is elected judge.

Wes Williams is a crusader for criminal defendants. He is known for his extreme positions supporting criminal defendants which has eroded his credibility. He very strongly identifies with the accused and has shown little empathy for victims of crimes. His support is generally from the most liberal element of our community, especially those in the legal community who view his election as favorable to their criminal clients.

Wes Williams has applied to be appointed judge each of the last three vacancies and was passed over by two different liberal-progressive governors. Each time, the governor's search committee did an extensive investigation into each applicant's personal reputation, character and abilities, and determined that another applicant was better qualified.

Why does this matter to your average voter? If Wes Williams is elected judge, the fair administration of justice will suffer.

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