

# Our region's valuable timber revenues worth fighting for

Here's my best effort to explain a complex set of circumstances to better inform public opinion and discussion.

Things got more complicated in March when the Linn County Board of Commissioners filed a class action breach of contract lawsuit against the state of Oregon and the state Forestry Department. Why does this matter? Because it's about money. A lot of money, and it's money that pays for our public services.

Timber revenue from forest trust lands counties, including the "big gorilla" of Clatsop County, is what provides timber revenue to the counties and specific taxing districts within these counties.

Why does this matter to you? Because all these governmental entities need adequate and stable income to provide public services like fire protection, public health, county roads, public education, health district services, law enforcement, recreation, and others.

I want to linger a bit in the legal weeds, because you'll be seeing even more letters to the editors of local newspapers as time goes on. You've already heard the phrase, "Cut more trees, cut

more trees, cut more trees!" repeated as a mantra in the 2014 county commissioner election in Clatsop County.

Is cutting more trees the answer to our need for adequate and reliable revenue for our public agencies? Let's talk.

**GUEST COLUMN**  
LIANNE THOMPSON



The trust agreement between the 15 Forest Trust Land counties and the state of Oregon has been found twice before by the courts to be a contractual agreement.

The gist of the current lawsuit is that the definition of "greatest permanent value" has been changed unilaterally by the State as it has drawn up its administrative rules to govern forest practices.

"Greatest permanent value" used to mean mainly that the maximum timber revenue should be realized from timber sales on the trust land forests. Recreation and watershed protection have always been a part of the "greatest permanent value" consideration, but their role was secondary.

The next legal issue is whether or not the 15 Forest Trust Land counties and those relevant taxing districts constitute members of a class for a class-action lawsuit.

Why should you even want to bother understanding all this? Because we're in the midst of a community conversation that will determine our economic, ecological, and cultural landscape. Elected and appointed policy makers do the best we can in this democratic republic to make and implement good public policy. We can't do it alone.

Members of the broader community help us determine what that is. Of course the courts play a role. But lawsuits are blunt instruments of public policy. A better way is to have profound and significant public policy discussions about these issues so that we form ourselves into a connected, inclusive, and thoughtful community.

We need an economy that supports public services and provides good jobs. We need a beautiful world with air we can breathe, water we can drink, and healthy means of producing food, goods, and services. The answer for how we do that requires all of us thinking, speaking, and acting together.

*Lianne Thompson is Clatsop County Commissioner, District 5.*

## OBITUARIES

### Patricia (Nofield) Underhill

Feb. 13, 1924 — April 26, 2016

Longtime operating room nurse and co-owner of Alfie's Steakhouse, P. Patricia "Nofield" Underhill, passed on April 26, 2016, in Newberg, Oregon.



Patricia Underhill

P. Patricia Kinsey was born Feb. 13, 1924, in Bois-sevain, Manitoba, Canada, to John Henry Wilson Kinsey and Alice Florence Jacobs Kinsey. She was the youngest of nine children (Gwendolyn, Edmond, Albert, Evelyn Mae, Calvin "Jack," Stephen, Herbert, Gerald and Patricia).

Upon graduation from high school in 1941, she went to work at the local post office. In 1943 she entered Winnipeg General Hospital School of Nursing, and graduated as a registered nurse in 1946. Nursing was her love and gift. Her duty to patients was displayed by respect, hand-holding and reassurance. She was an honored member of the profession, one that provided her with many long-lasting friendships. Over the next 43 years she worked as an operating nurse throughout

Canada and the U.S., including Chicago, St. Paul, Seattle and Portland. She retired from Providence Medical Center (Portland) in 1989.

In 1952, she met Alfred P. Nofield in Trail, B.C., and they were married on Aug. 11, 1953 in Penticton, B.C. They raised a family of six children: Michelle Baker (Fraser), Michael, Paul (Suzie), Stephan, Patrick (Lisa) and Richard.

For 10 years in the 1970s they owned and operated Alfie's Steakhouse in Portland. Alfie passed away Feb. 5, 1984.



Grandmommy, as she was affectionately known to her grandchildren, was known for her quick wit, warmth, compassion and sincerity. She enjoyed reading, playing bridge and golf and traveling. She thoroughly enjoyed the company of her dear friends, family and sharing a good laugh.

In addition to her children, she is survived by nine grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.

A service will be held Thursday, May 26, 2016, at Russellville Park, 23 S.E. 103rd Ave., Portland, OR 97216 at 2 p.m.

Memorial gifts may be made to Providence Hospice, 6410 N.E. Halsey St., No. 300, Portland, OR 97213-9904.

### Haystack Rock program seeks volunteers

Cannon Beach is seeking qualified applicants for rocky shore interpreters and lead rocky shore interpreters for the Haystack Rock Awareness Program. These seasonal part-time positions run February through October.

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