



South County clash over Oregon timber lawsuit

Former mayor wants county to say no to joining



Mike Morgan



Lianne Thompson

By Lyra Fontaine
Cannon Beach Gazette

Former Cannon Beach Mayor Mike Morgan wants the City Council to encourage

the Clatsop County Board of Commissioners to opt out of a \$1.4 billion lawsuit against

the state over timber revenue. Morgan also plans to approach Seaside and Gearhart with resolutions against county involvement in the lawsuit.

The class action suit, filed by Linn County on behalf of 15 counties, including Clatsop, claims the state has not maximized revenue from timber harvests on land it manages for the counties.

“From an environmental standpoint, I think it’s unwise,” Morgan said.

Morgan’s draft resolution states that the lawsuit, if successful, “could undo the existing forest management plan, with the intent of permitting more intensive timber harvesting to generate additional revenue for taxing districts.”

The Northwest Oregon

State Forest Management Plan is based on structure-based management, which is designed to “produce and maintain an array of forest stand structures across the landscape” that provide social, economic and environmental benefits.

It was adopted in 2010 after a public involvement process and two scientific reviews.

“An adopted plan is a plan,” Morgan said. “It’s not just a negotiating tool. It should be taken seriously.”

Morgan served as mayor when Cannon Beach acquired a parcel from the state Department of Forestry that added 800 acres to the Ecola Creek Forest Reserve.

See Timber, Page 9A

Cannon Beach awaits first pot retailer

Retail ban is defeated by only 10 votes

By R.J. Marx
Cannon Beach Gazette

Inquiries yes, but applications have yet to be filed in Cannon Beach for a retail cannabis outlet.

Voters knocked down a retail cannabis prohibition at the polls on Election Day. By voting “no” to prohibition, they green-lighted the retail licensing of cannabis dispensaries in Cannon Beach. The vote was 446 against prohibition and 436 in its favor.

Cannon Beach voters also approved a 3 percent local tax on recreational marijuana sales to support public safety.

City Recorder Colleen Riggs said there were no retail license applications filed yet, but she had received calls for information.

Applications would be filed through the Planning Department, “which would determine whether or not it meets the intent of the zoning,” City Manager Brant Kucera said, followed by a land-use compatibility process.

The Cannon Beach City Council voted in July to restrict marijuana sales to three separate commercial zones. Under the ordinance, retailers could operate downtown from Ecola Creek south to Washington Street, midtown from Harrison Street south to Elliot Way and in Tolovana Park from Delta Street south to the Sandcastle Condominiums.

In 2014, marijuana-legalization Measure 91 passed with 63 percent of the vote in Cannon Beach. In July, a group of residents gathered 155 certified signatures and successfully brought forth Measure 4-179, asking voters whether recreational sales should be banned.

See Pot, Page 3A

COASTAL EDGE

Conservancy group signs a deal to buy 3,300 acres on the North Coast

By R.J. Marx
Cannon Beach Gazette

What could be the largest private land preservation deal in western Oregon was signed Friday, Nov. 18.

The Seaside-based North Coast Land Conservancy and private investment equity firm Onion Peak Holdings took the first steps toward the acquisition of 3,300 acres of timberland from Stimson Lumber Co. as the conservancy raises funds to meet the costs over a five-year period.

For the purchase price, “We’re looking somewhere about \$10 million,” Jon Wickersham, board president of the North Coast Land Conservancy, said.

Conservancy Executive Director Katie Voelke called the deal a “monumental act of preservation.”

The property is in the heart of what the conservancy characterizes as the “Coastal Edge,” an area between Tillamook Head and Nehalem Bay.

Together with Oswald West State Park and Cape Falcon Marine Reserve, the acquisition would create a conservation corridor of more than 29 square miles linking land and sea. According to the conservancy, the property will be the first place in Oregon, and one of the few in the world, where an entire coastal watershed is permanently conserved from the headwaters to the ocean. The purchase would mark the largest single private acquisition of land for conservation in western Oregon.

The property is part of 5,000 acres sold by Stimson, which has owned the property since 2004, to Onion Peak Holdings. The agreement gives the North Coast Land Conservancy an opportunity to arrange funds from public agencies and private donations to acquire the property in phases within the next five years.

The conservancy intends to transition the property to long-term, local, conservation-oriented ownership and management. In the interim, the property will be managed by Ecotrust Forest Management on behalf of Onion Peak Holdings. During this period Onion Peak Holdings and the conservancy will collaborate on a management plan to return the forest to late old-growth conditions. The land will be managed with a recreation component, allowing people to enjoy the property while protecting the sensitivity of the site.

If the conservancy can’t raise the funds to buy the land, there is a “high probability” that the property would be returned to an industrial timber farm.

If the sale is completed, Stimson will reinvest the funds raised from the sale in other timberlands in Oregon and other regions.

Scott Gray, Stimson’s director of western resources, said in a statement that the lumber company was “compelled by the uniqueness of the property and the Coastal Edge vision and the potential long-term benefit to the public through the realization of this vision.”



NORTH COAST LAND CONSERVANCY

Onion Peak may become part of North Coast Land Conservancy’s “Coastal Edge” vision of the coast.

Defining the region’s artistic vision

Behind the scenes of the Portland Art Museum

By Lyra Fontaine
Cannon Beach Gazette

Understanding the Northwest arts scene is a lifetime study. Few are more at the center than Bonnie Laing-Malcolmson.

In 2010, she became the Portland Art Museum’s curator of Northwest art, where she was responsible for curating and building the museum’s collection of regional art from the late 19th century to the present. She presented exhibitions and a biennial group show by artists in Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Washington state and Wyoming.

“Everything I did really prepared me for working with artists in the Northwest,” she said.

The Cannon Beach Arts Association’s “Artists Talk” series kicked off this month with a talk from Laing-Malcolmson. The recently retired arts professional answered questions from audience members about curating shows, unique museums

and her background.

Laing-Malcolmson grew up in Seattle among Northwest art, taking art classes and frequenting the Seattle Art Museum and galleries. After learning that she could study with artists she admired at the Pacific Northwest College of Art, formerly located at the Portland Art Museum, she enrolled and began studying sculpture and painting in 1970.

“It was really interesting going to school and learning about the insider art scene in Portland,” she said. “It was an interesting time being a woman going to art school because it was still pretty sexist.”

After leaving school, Laing-Malcolmson spent time on the Oregon Coast. Back in Portland, she formed a house-painting business with other artists. Then she wound up back at the Pacific Northwest College of Art, this time as director of academic affairs and admissions.

“That was my first arts administration job, and I really enjoyed it,” she said.

See Curator, Page 7A



LYRA FONTAINE

Bonnie Laing-Malcolmson, former Curator of Northwest Art at the Portland Art Museum, discussed her work and answered questions at the Cannon Beach Arts Association’s Creative Coast Project Space.

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