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Albany care center named in class-action suit

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filed the suit.

Fifty Oregon homes for seniors, including one in Albany, are named in a lawsuit filed in Portland by a California lawyer.

The action was filed as a class-action suit on behalf of residents in homes operated by Salem-based Sunwest Management. Its Albany home is Timberwood Court Memory Care, 2875 14th Ave. S.E. An attendant there said it had more than 40 residents.

The suit, filed in Multnomah County Circuit Court, was announced from Portland on Friday. Sunwest could not be reached for a response, but a spokesman for the plaintiffs said it had seen the complaint.

According to the press statement issued by the plaintiffs, the complaint contends that the homes for seniors charge for services that the management is not providing.

"This is about broken promises for higher profits," said Kathryn Stebner, the San Francisco lawyer who

The suit claims that residents' contracts promise care and services of a certain quality. Stebner alleges the contract fails to state that the facilities and Sunwest Management cannot and don't provide those services.

Named as representative plaintiffs are Cathleen Naylor, 81, and Gwen Olmstead, 80, residents of Sunwest-operated Deer Meadow Assisted Living in Sheridan.

The suit states that Naylor and Olmstead signed contracts for services at Deer Meadow that were never provided.

It also charges the facility is in violation of state laws governing the operation of residential facilities.

Stebner says there are up to 60 residents in each center, which would put the potential number of plaintiffs at about 3,000. Stebner is co-

counsel in a similar class-action lawsuit against Sunwest in California.

According to Stebner, Sunwest operates more than 200 residential centers for seniors in the United States, about 25 percent of them in Oregon.