



FOODDAY

Winter soups are here to soothe the soul D1



SPORTS

John Canzano is eager to see how OSU's Jarmal Reid acts from here on B1



BUSINESS

Dungeness crab season finally begins after delayed start C1

Scandal in rearview, meters will be installed

By Brad Schmidt
The Oregonian/OregonLive

Portland is "legally obligated" to keep buying parking meters from a company snared in a bribery scandal...

The decision marks the latest and perhaps final turn in a yearslong saga that sent a bribe-taking city employee to prison yet ultimately kept Portland in business with the same Swedish meter-maker...

Nearly 150 pages of newly released records show city investigators battled with Cale over access to key company records about its investigation...

Cale announced last year that it found no criminal wrongdoing in allegations that Portland's former parking manager, Ellis K. McCoy, manipulated a multimillion-dollar contract in 2006...

See Meters, A11



Chanting "Birds not bullies," hundreds of people protested in Northeast Portland's Holladay Park on Tuesday against the occupation of the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge...

BETH NAKAMURA STAFF

A message for occupiers

By Les Zaitz and Kelly House
The Oregonian/OregonLive

BURNS — The divide among friends and neighbors over the refuge occupation boiled into the open here Tuesday night in a community meeting that crackled with emotion...

What residents have feared and only whispered about in recent days took center court at the Burns High School gymnasium...

In sometimes highly personal remarks, speaker after speaker vented anger — at

public officials, at the federal government and at the man in the brown cowboy hat sitting high in the bleachers to take it all in: Ammon Bundy.

He and other armed protesters on Jan. 2 seized the headquarters compound of the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge, situated 30 miles southeast of Burns...

He sat on the second row from the top as Harney County Judge Steve Grasty, microphone in hand, strode to the foot of that

bleacher section.

"It is time for you to go home," Grasty said to Bundy, vowing to meet with Bundy anytime, anyplace — outside Harney County.

A chant then grew in the gymnasium: "Go, go, go, go, go."

That was a message Bundy heard repeatedly through the evening, one he once vowed to heed...

See Harney, A12

Day 18 | Standoff in Harney County

Follow the latest events and see photos and videos at oregonlive.com/oregon-standoff.

Think gas prices are low now? We might not have seen anything yet

"Unless something changes, the oil market could drown in oversupply," the International Energy Agency said Tuesday.

The organization, which advises countries on energy policy, said in its monthly report Tuesday that global excess supply may reach 1.5 million barrels a day during the first half of the year.

For most Americans, that means gasoline prices are falling.

\$1.88 a gallon: National average for regular, lowest

since February 2009.

\$2.75: Average in California, the most expensive state.

\$2.32: Washington average.

\$2.27: Vancouver average.

\$2.21: Portland average.

\$2.17: Oregon average, sixth most expensive.

\$1.59: Average in Oklahoma, the least expensive state. Thirty-eight states average less than \$2 a gallon.

And gasoline prices could go lower. The International Energy Agency says oil prices may fall further this year because

of low demand, warm winter weather and an oversupply of crude. Meanwhile, more oil from Iran now that sanctions have been lifted could boost global supplies further.

U.S. crude fell 96 cents, or 3.3 percent, to close at \$28.46 a barrel Wednesday.

A barrel of oil has 42 gallons. At current prices, a barrel of fresh whole milk would cost approximately \$139. A barrel of cups of brewed coffee, the U.S. media standard for something inexpensive, would cost about \$1,422.

— From staff and wire reports



ELISE AMENDOLA/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Race to the Iowa caucuses

Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump gets a potential boost with an endorsement from Sarah Palin | A13

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Evening rain
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Weather on B12

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NORTHWEST Standoff in Harney County

Malheur occupation leader issues warning to feds

By Les Zaitz
The Oregonian/OregonLive

BURNS — Ammon Bundy on Tuesday cautioned federal employees not to interfere with local ranchers and miners who defy government regulations as he stepped toward increased militancy on Day 18 of his occupation of the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge.

The armed protesters are clearing the way for Harney County residents to again ranch, mine and log on land now controlled by federal managers, Bundy said.

The occupation leader addressed “range cons,” the federal range conservationists who work with ranchers on grazing schedules and rotations to minimize the ecological impact of cattle. He also cited their employer,

the U.S. Bureau of Land Management, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, which manages the bird sanctuary.

Federal agents shouldn’t try to intimidate those who assert their rights, Bundy said in a news conference at the entrance to the refuge headquarters, 30 miles southeast of Burns.

“We give warning they are not to do that,” Bundy said.

Bundy issued the warning in his trademark even-tempered manner. But the folksiness couldn’t disguise that the out-of-town occupiers are shifting from their carefully cultivated image as peace lovers who are here to help struggling residents.

Bundy repeated a promise that he and others made in a community meeting

the night before in the town of Crane. The militants will back up their warning with rapid response teams ready to rush to the defense of anyone “abused” by a federal agency, he said.

“We’ll protect them,” he said.

Bundy also made clear his group, which calls itself Citizens for Constitutional Freedom, isn’t leaving anytime soon.

Since the occupation started Jan. 2, the protesters have provided shifting accounts of what they want and when they would leave. Two weeks ago some said the group would leave if Harney County residents said they should. Two widely attended community meetings gave them their answer: Go. The

occupiers packed not a single bag.

Last week the group’s leaders indicated that they would divulge their “exit” plan at their own community meeting in Burns. That got delayed when county officials refused to let them use any public buildings, forcing the detour to Crane on Monday that drew a crowd of about 30.

Yet in Crane, Bundy and other leaders of the occupation never spoke of plans to leave the refuge.

The protesters have been steadfast in claiming that their main goal is to turn federal land in Harney County over to local ownership, either to private parties or to county government.

On Tuesday, Bundy offered a more expansive agenda

that reaches out to the logging industry. He said federal forests in the county hold a seven- to 10-year supply of downed timber that would be used to reopen the local sawmill. He said the occupiers would help with projects to clean up the forest and use wood debris to generate power locally and energize Harney County.

“It will take some time to accomplish,” he said.

Bundy, the son of Nevada rancher Cliven Bundy, who had his own famous run-in with federal authorities, put out a call for fresh recruits to join the effort if they could provide skills to make the ideas move ahead.

About an hour later and 8 miles down the road, another protest took place by citizens

outraged by the occupation. Kieran Suckling, executive director of the Arizona-based Center for Biological Diversity, assembled a half-dozen protesters overnight as a counterweight to the attention Bundy and his group get with their daily news conferences.

Suckling and his protesters brought their own signs: “Bundys Buffoons Get Out” and “Armed Takeover is Un-American” among them.

“They are spurring a revolution but not the revolution they wanted,” Suckling said.

He expects those who are passionate about public lands from across the country will step up to oppose the occupation in Oregon, he said.

“The Malheur does not belong to the Bundys,” he said.

Rising tensions in Harney County boiled over Tuesday night during a community meeting to discuss the armed standoff at a national wildlife refuge outside Burns. Eighteen days since brothers Ammon and Ryan Bundy led an armed takeover of the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge, a rift has opened among community members. While locals argued, the Bundy brothers and their followers sat silently in the audience.

KELLY HOUSE/STAFF



9th Circuit rules against rancher in grazing case

By Scott Sonner
Associated Press

RENO — Siding with the government in a decades-old battle over grazing rights, a federal appeals court overturned a lower-court ruling in favor of a Nevada rancher and strongly admonished a judge in Reno for abusing his power and exhibiting personal bias against U.S. land managers.

In a pair of decisions issued Friday, the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled the late Wayne Hage of Tonopah and his family were guilty of trespassing cattle on federal land illegally without a grazing permit and should be subject to fines. The appellate court based in San Francisco also determined that U.S. District Judge Robert Clive Jones had no legal basis to find employees of the Bureau of Land Management and Forest Service in contempt of court for doing their jobs.

In remanding the case back to the lower court in Reno, a three-judge panel of the 9th Circuit took the unusual step of ordering a different district judge to handle the case.

Such a move is warranted “only in rare and extraordinary circumstances, such as when the district court has exhibited personal bias or when reassignment is advisable to maintain the appearance of justice,” Judge Susan Graber wrote in the 3-0 decision.

Jones, a former bankruptcy judge in Las Vegas who was appointed by President George W. Bush in 2003, has had his share of conflict with the 9th Circuit

Court. His rejection of same-sex marriage in Nevada in 2012 was overturned by the appeals court in 2014. So was his 2012 effort to pull “None of These Candidates” off Nevada’s ballots.

More recently, Jones was overturned in September 2015 when the 9th Circuit revived a lawsuit against the Nevada Health and Human Services Department over the issue of disenfranchising potential low-income and disabled voters.

In a 104-page ruling in May 2013, Jones largely agreed with the Hages’ argument that they didn’t have to have a grazing permit because they had existing water rights that entitled them to run their cattle on the federal land in north-central Nevada about 200 miles north of Las Vegas.

The 9th Circuit disagreed. “Defendants openly trespassed on federal land,” Graber wrote. “The ownership of water rights has no effect on the requirement that rancher obtain a grazing permit ... before allowing cattle to graze on federal lands.”

Jones issued a wide-ranging injunction against the government at the time, ordering the two federal agencies to issue grazing permits to the Hages and to obtain permission from his court before issuing any future trespass notices against them. He also found two government workers — Thomas Seley of the Bureau of Land Management and Steven Williams of the Forest Service — in contempt of court for their continued attempts to force the Hages to comply with the law.

Harney

Continued from A1

But the audience of perhaps 300 people had plenty to say, and it seemed the cork had come out of the county.

One woman said she appreciated the attention Bundy had brought to rural issues but told him, “Get the hell out of my county.”

Another man gestured at Bundy and gave him the same message.

“Are you happy you did this to our community?” he said.

Another woman, shaking in anger, called out Bundy for the fear he’s caused in local schools, which closed for a week after the occupation began. She yelled across the gym at him, telling him to leave and “go to jail where you deserve to be!”

At one point, someone yelled, “Let Ammon speak.” Another retorted: “He’s not

from Harney County.”

Bundy’s brother Ryan and a leading occupier, Jon Ritzheimer, sat in bleachers across the gym. After one woman gave an impassioned speech, Ryan Bundy stood, shook her hand and sat down. Ritzheimer raised his hand for a turn to speak but didn’t get the chance.

Police presence was heavy, with uniformed officers inside the gymnasium, lining the entry hall, and posted outside.

Ammon Bundy wasn’t the only one catching brickbats. Public officials, particularly Grasty and Harney County Sheriff Dave Ward, took a verbal pummeling.

One man, who said he was from Eugene, pressed Ward about what he was doing to end the occupation and what was the role of the FBI.

“Just tell the truth,” he barked.

One speaker pressed Grasty and others to not ignore questions posed by

the audience.

“We deserve a response when we ask a question of our local officials,” said the woman, shaking and in tears as she spoke.

But the prosecution of rancher Dwight Hammond Jr. and his son Steven also drew heated comments. Some speakers were incensed that the Hammonds had to return to prison recently to serve a longer sentence after a court found their original sentencing was illegal.

One speaker said the sentence revealed “an overreaching federal government.” Instead of talking about who needs to go home from Harney County, she said, “we need to talk about who needs to come home.”

A 25-year resident of Harney County said Bundy “hijacked the Hammonds” for his own cause. He said as long as Bundy and his group hold the refuge, the Hammonds have no hope for clemency or any other relief.