

FINICUM: 470 tickets were sold before the event and another 218 at the door

Continued from 1A

She recounted the jury's acquittal of seven of the occupants on federal conspiracy charges to thunderous applause, adding her husband should have been among them.

"Our family is truly grateful that some of them have been able to return home to their families, and we are praying for all those who are still incarcerated, unjustly, for their immediate release," she said. "We hope for the same outcome for the next seven that are still on trial and for those in Nevada."

Finicum played several videos made by her husband before and during the occupation, which explained he supported the occupation because he believed the federal government was overreaching and overly-regulating farmers and ranchers.

She urged those in attendance to become involved however they can in their local communities.

"One man can make a difference," she said. "He did make a difference."

A crowd of more than 500 gathered Saturday night at the Grant County Fairgrounds for what was billed as "The meeting that never happened."

Unlike the Jan. 26, 2016, event LaVoy Finicum, Ammon and Ryan Bundy and other occupation leaders were en route to when stopped by police, no picketers were lined up outside. The atmosphere was calm and peaceful.

The crowd at the 2017 meeting was a mix of veterans, former law enforcement, ranchers and residents from across the country who came to hear speakers on the Constitution, media and LaVoy Finicum's beliefs.

Burns resident Hunter Davis said he attended the meeting to learn about the Constitution and the rights it granted him.

"The government doesn't want you to know about the rights you have and what powers you have and how much you control you actually have over them," he said.

Grant County resident and event organizer Jim Sproul said 470 tickets were sold before the event and another 218 at the door, at \$15 each. He estimated there were 650 in attendance,



More than 500 people attended "The meeting that never happened" Saturday at the Grant County Fairgrounds.

Reunited in John Day

By MAXINE BERNSTEIN
The Oregonian/OregonLive

Four of the seven defendants who were acquitted last fall — Jeff Banta, Shawna Cox, Kenneth Medenbach and Neil Wampler — were together again at Saturday's meeting. They slapped each other on the back and hugged each other.

Cox, who came from her home in Utah, stood by a table, selling and signing copies of her book, "Last Rancher Standing: The Cliven Bundy Story a Close-Up View."

"This is the first time I ever got to John Day," said Cox, a back-seat passenger in Finicum's truck when he sped off from a traffic stop on U.S. 395 and then crashed into a snowbank at a police roadblock. State police shot him after they say he emerged from his truck and reached at least two times into his jacket to grab what police suspected was his gun. He had a loaded 9mm gun on him at the time, police later said.

including 250-300 locals.

Speakers presented information on a variety of topics related to the role of government.

Former Fox News radio show host and investigative reporter Kate Dalley said the "mainstream media" lies and is heavily influenced and infiltrated by the federal government. The federal government is overreaching and using the media to "keep the masses asleep," she said.

"They are crafting the mainstream media to turn patriots into terrorists. They seek to discredit anyone who stands up for their property rights. They will turn the nation against you. They will imprison you. They will kill you," Dalley said. "Why? Because the government has to control the land to control the people."

She applauded the Bundys

and the Malheur occupiers. Dalley praised the occupation and said the refuge occupiers were peaceful.

"If you want to fear someone, if you want to fear a movement, fear those seeking to undermine your rights that reside in the highest positions of power in this country, fear those that conspire to keep the masses asleep, fear those that seek to imprison patriot-loving Americans."

Author Bill Norton and his 15-year-old daughter, Laine Norton, spoke on the importance of property rights. Bill Norton said the reason personal property is so important is that it is purchased with an individual's life and liberty.

"We are not anti-government," he said. "We love government. We love very clearly defined boundaries, very clearly limited government with separation of

On her way to John Day, Cox said she drove by the spot where Finicum was killed. "I didn't think it was going to be that tough," she said.

In the three months since she was acquitted in the federal conspiracy case, Cox said she's been "so busy trying to help the other people" — the seven other defendants set to face trial next month, as well as Ammon Bundy, his brother, Ryan Bundy, and their father Cliven Bundy, who await trial in Nevada in the 2014 standoff with federal agents near the elder Bundy's ranch.

Jeff Banta, who also was acquitted last fall, said he drove 14 hours from Nevada to attend the meeting. "It's great to be here," he said. "It's great to be a free man."

Since the October verdict, Neil Wampler, who served as a cook at the refuge during last winter's occupation, said he's been happy staying out of the limelight, back at his home in Los Osos, California.

"I hardly even go anywhere," he said. "But I couldn't miss this meeting."

powers. ... It's others who are trying to break those boundaries down that are truly the anti-government folks."

Attorney Garret Smith spoke on the role of a constitutional sheriff and claimed, if one had been involved in the events last year in Harney County, the outcome could have been drastically different. He asserted the sheriff's job is to represent the people who elected him and stop federal overreach.

Federal and state agencies had become outlaws, Smith said, and it fell to constitutional sheriffs with the support of the people to keep them in check.

He warned of the government indoctrinating students and advocated for those in attendance to remember what they learned during the meeting and to study documents such as the Constitution for themselves.

SHOOTING: Murillo serving six years in prison for assault

Continued from 1A

He arrived at his apartment at 645 S.E. Fourth St., Hermiston, and saw Murillo and Bedolla coming at him, Enyon said. Flores started for the back of the residence to get a gun and bullets began to fly.

Police received reports of at least 10 gunshots at 3:16 a.m. The shooters fired through a screen in an open window, Enyon said, and two rounds struck Flores in the buttocks.

Flores shot back with an AK-47, hitting Bedolla in the forearm, before the gunfire stopped.

The injured shooters had the same plan — get to the

hospital — and both were taken in private vehicles.

Enyon said he did not know why Murillo fought at the bar or what was behind the gunfight, but it all could be gang related.

While Bedolla waits in the county jail, Murillo is serving almost six years in state prison for second-degree assault. He pleaded guilty Jan. 20 in Morrow County Circuit Court to stabbing a man in August at a party in Irrigon.

He committed that crime while out on bail. Murillo also is serving a concurrent year for the bar fight after pleading guilty in late December to misdemeanor fourth-degree assault.

ODOT: Could do more to reward employees, hold them accountable

Continued from 1A

according to the report. "There were no example of individuals who considered themselves a 'dissenting voice.'"

ODOT management performed poorly in laying out a shared vision with strategic clarity, as well as in setting performance standards to achieve that vision, according to the consultants.

"Furthermore, organizational standards, such as operational goals ... are deployed inconsistently, leaving ODOT without clear standards to direct how the organization should operate most effectively," they wrote.

While ODOT does a good job in creating clear roles and responsibilities, and recognizes good performance in non-financial ways, it could do more to reward employees and hold them accountable, with more of an emphasis on results, according to the report.

It quoted several employee comments gathered during a survey, including "We need to ensure accountability for performance and behavior problems ... High-level managers can talk the talk, but poor performers and poor behavior is still tolerated ... Good employees currently work hard through internal motivation and personal dedication to high quality service, not because the agency rewards them."

The consultants found that clear roles and responsibilities for the Oregon

Transportation Commission, which oversees ODOT policy, and other governing bodies also were "inconsistently and vaguely defined, particularly in the areas of governance, strategy, and performance management, partly due to ambiguous charters and interpretation."

The agency received good marks from the consultants for engaging people who have interest in transportation projects, including local governments, lobbyists and the public, in project development.

"I am very pleased with the outcome," ODOT Director Matt Garrett wrote in an email to staff. "The report paints the picture of a strong, high-performing government agency that, like all organizations, has opportunities to improve, and it gives concrete advice on how we can do so."

Garrett noted that the report "calls out ODOT's supportive and collaborative leadership style as a strength and suggests complementing that approach with a more directive and challenging management style."

The findings were based on interviews with management, experts, interest groups and surveys, including a survey of more than 2,700 ODOT employees. ODOT's performance on several indicators were compared with other western states with departments of transportation of similar size and found to generally perform better than average. The states used for comparison were Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Nevada, Utah and Washington.

The next step is for the Department of Administrative Services to take the findings and options and turn them into concrete recommendations to deliver to the governor, the Oregon Transportation Commission and the Legislature, said Matt Shelby, a DAS spokesman.

"These are McKinsey's complete set of findings; this report concludes the bulk of McKinsey's work," Shelby said.

"As we work to develop the recommendations, we still have McKinsey on contract and will work in consultation with McKinsey to develop the recommendations, but the recommendations themselves will be coming from DAS," Shelby said.

The 69-page report was released Monday to the EO Media Group/Pamplin Media Group Capital Bureau in response to a public records request for the document.

Portland Tribune reporter Nick Budnick contributed to this report.

DOOR: Alzheimer's patients have trouble with depth perception

Continued from 1A

get anxious or aggressive and start to wander. A lot of times, residents tried to get out that door."

It's called "exit seeking" behavior, a strong desire to leave the building and wander. Assistant Director Jessica Raphael read about other facilities that disguised doors as bookcases or turned them into murals. She hired Pendleton artist Laurie Doherty to paint a scene on the double doors.

Doherty designed a bucolic scene that included mountains, trees, a meadow, a pond and a variety of animals — fish, beaver, ducks, a squirrel and a fat robin.

"When I painted the details, some of the residents watched me work," she said. Since completion around Christmastime, the banging has all but stopped, said Thompson and Raphael.

In the other part of the facility — home for 25 assisted living residents — another door was camouflaged as a set of bookshelves to deter occasional exit seeking activity in at least one occupant.

Sundowning is only one of many challenges for Alzheimer's patients and their caregivers. People with the disease have trouble with depth perception and distinguishing other visual information. A white table against a white wall may blend together. Tiles may appear as scattered objects.

"A black rug on a light-colored floor — they commonly see that as a hole," Thompson said. "They'll walk around it."

Thompson said staff who



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

An exterior exit door has been camouflaged with a wrap to make it appear as a bookshelf at the end of one hallway at Juniper House in Pendleton.

serve Alzheimer's patients must be cognizant of those challenges. At Juniper, she said, even the color of dishware was chosen with care.

"In our unit, we have red plates, red bowls and red cups," Thompson said. "When you have a white plate with potatoes and chicken, it all blends together. Rather than looking at a monochromatic surface, red plates provide contrast."

With Alzheimer's patients, Raphael said, the idea is to figure out what makes each person feel comfortable and normal.

"We help them live the

life they are familiar with," she said. "That may be the newspaper and coffee in the morning and tea in the afternoon, whatever it takes to feel normal."

An Alzheimer's living center in Ohio, the Lantern, has taken that notion to the extreme. Each resident's room has a front porch and window with shutters to mimic the style of the '30s and '40s when most of the residents were children. Grass-like carpet covers the hallways. The fiber optic ceiling appears as sky, which dims and brightens depending on time of day. Birds chirp

through speakers and appetizing aromas are pumped into the unit to get residents in the mood for meals.

At Dementia Village, in the Netherlands, residents live in stylized homes from bygone eras. Instead of hallways, the facility is a village with town square, garden, theater and stores where no money changes hands. Caregivers dress in street clothes.

Care at the Juniper House comes with less staging, but plenty of compassion, Raphael said.

"Providing an environment that is calming and feels homey — that's the goal."

Valentine Headquarters
Flower/Candy Bouquets • Stuffed Animals • Balloons • Jewelry • Purses & More!
Put a smile on the heart with the power of flowers.
HWY 395, HERMISTON
541-567-4305
Mon-Sat 8am-6pm • Sun 12pm-5am
www.cottagefloweronline.com

Ugandan Kids Choir
EXPERIENCE THE MUSIC OF AFRICA
February 3rd - 5:30p.m. • Bob Clapp Theatre, BMCC Pendleton
The Ugandan Kids Choir, a group of ten talented Ugandan children, have been given hope through Childcare Worldwide's Sponsorship Program and now they are here to spread that hope to audiences all across the United States. The choir has performed nationwide at churches, schools, at Hawsleyland, on King 5 Television's "New Day Northwest," at Qwest Field, home of the Seattle Seahawks.
By coming to this event, you will enjoy traditional African song and dance, as well as help children in need all around the world. So don't miss this unique and authentic performance by the children of the Ugandan Kids Choir.
Hosted by the ARTS AND CULTURE SERIES
Questions? Contact atimmmons@bluecc.edu
Blue Mountain Community College is an equal opportunity educator and employer. For a full EEO disclosure statement please visit www.bluecc.edu/EEO.