

Fugitive arrested in manslaughter case in southern Oregon

MEDFORD (AP) — Police say they've arrested a fugitive wanted for 2012 manslaughter charges and an alleged rape in July.

The Mail Tribune reports police arrested 33-year-old Christopher Michael Linder Wednesday afternoon after a standoff.

Police say they tracked Linder to a Medford apartment, then tried and failed to contact him by cellphone.

With help from a SWAT team, police breached a window and arrested Linder. Police say he didn't resist.

Linder was booked into jail on rape, kidnapping, burglary and coercion charges. His bail was set at \$2 million.

Linder allegedly drove while under the influence in 2012 and caused the death of Casey Lee Sparks and injured Meredee Cropper. He had been out on bail for that case.

A warrant was issued for Linder's arrest after he failed to appear for trial in September.

Militia members occupy US building after protest

BURNS (AP) — A family previously involved in a showdown with the federal government has occupied a building at a national wildlife refuge in Oregon and is asking militia members to join them.

Ammon Bundy — the son of Nevada rancher Cliven Bundy, who was involved in a standoff with the government over grazing rights — told *The Oregonian* on Saturday that he and two of his brothers were among a group of dozens of people occupying the headquarters of the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge.

The protest began as a rally in support of Oregon ranchers facing jail time for arson.

Ammon Bundy posted a video on his Facebook page asking for militia members to come help him. He said "this is not a time to stand down. It's a time to stand up and come to Harney County," where Burns is located. Below the video is this statement: "***ALL PATRIOTS ITS TIME TO STAND UP NOT STAND DOWN!!! WE NEED YOUR HELP!!! COME PREPARED."

In an interview with reporters late Saturday night that was posted on Facebook, Bundy said he and others are occupying the building because "the people have been abused long enough.

"I feel we are in a situation where if we do not do

something, if we do not take a hard stand, we'll be in a position where we'll be no longer able to do so," he said.

Bundy said the group planned to stay at the refuge indefinitely.

"We're planning on staying here for years, absolutely," Ammon Bundy said. "This is not a decision we've made at the last minute."

Harney County Sheriff Dave Ward told people to stay away from the building as authorities work to defuse the situation, *The Oregonian* reported.

"A collective effort from multiple agencies is currently working on a solution. For the time being please stay away from that area. More information will be provided as it becomes available. Please maintain a peaceful and united front and allow us to work through this situation," Ward said in a statement.

An Idaho militia leader who helped organize the earlier march said he knew nothing about activities after a parade of militia members and local residents in

Burns walked past the sheriff's office and the home of Dwight Hammond Jr. and his son Steven.

Ammon Bundy's father, Cliven Bundy, told Oregon Public Broadcasting on Saturday night that he had nothing to do with the takeover of the building.

Bundy said his son felt obligated to intervene on behalf of the Hammonds.

"That's not exactly what I thought should happen, but I didn't know what to do," he said. "You know, if the Hammonds wouldn't stand, if the sheriff didn't stand, then, you know, the people had to do something. And I guess this is what they did decide to do. I wasn't in on that."

His son Ammon told him they are committed to staying in the building, Cliven Bundy told Oregon Public Broadcasting.

"He told me that they were there for the long run. I guess they figured they're going to be there for whatever time it takes and I don't know what that means," Cliven Bundy said. "I asked

him, 'Well how long can ya, how long you going to stand out there?' He just told me it was for long term."

Beth Anne Steele, an FBI spokeswoman in Portland, told The Associated Press the agency was aware of the situation at the national wildlife refuge. She made no further comment.

Some local residents feared the Saturday rally would involve more than speeches, flags and marching. But the only real additions to that list seemed to be songs, flowers and pennies.

As marchers reached the courthouse, they tossed hundreds of pennies at the locked door. Their message: civilians were buying back their government. After the march passed, two girls swooped in to scavenge the pennies.

A few blocks away, Hammond and his wife, Susan, greeted marchers, who planted flower bouquets in the snow. They sang some songs, Hammond said a few words, and the protesters marched back to their cars.

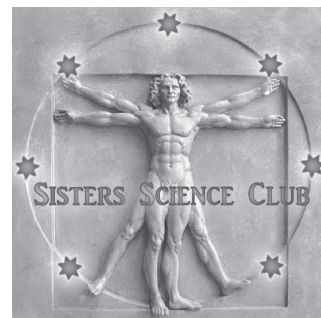
Sisters Science Club Schedule of Events

SECRETS FOR A HEALTHY BRAIN: Sunday, January 10. Robert Collins, MD, neurologist. What exactly does the human brain do? How do we keep it healthy as we age? What are some of the secrets that can help us? Sisters Library 1:30 to 3 p.m. Free. Sponsored by Friends of the Sisters Library (FOSL).

HOW DID WE GET HERE – CLUES FROM THE SOLAR SYSTEM: Tuesday, January 26. Scott Fisher, Department of Astronomy and Pine Mountain Observatory, University of Oregon. All elements are manufactured in exploding stars, many combine to form molecules, some travel through space on asteroids and reach planets. What can we learn about life on earth from our own solar system? The Belfry, 6 p.m. \$5 at the door. Club donors, teachers, and students are free.

FIFTH ANNUAL SISTERS SCIENCE FAIR: Saturday, February 20. Student and community exhibits, experiments, mouse-trap car contests, sci-art photography and much more. Sisters High School. 12 p.m.

SCIENCE AND SOCIETY: Tuesday, February 23, Jon Renner, Sisters High School. Science is a social, human phenomena ... an evolutionary process in which, as members of a global society, each of us has choices about the kind of lives we lead and the future we all might share. Some of us have choices that can affect billions at once, while others have much smaller ranges of choice ... choices that only affect a few, or even just our own selves in perhaps very small ways ... but each of us has choices. Understanding the natural world and the science that is used to investigate it is essential if we are to properly understand our place, and make choices wisely about our next steps. The Belfry, 6 p.m. \$5 at the door. Club donors, teachers, and students are free.



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