

Lawyer pleads not guilty

By Steven Dubois
Associated Press

PORTLAND (AP) — The attorney for a leader of the armed occupation at an Oregon wildlife refuge pleaded not guilty Friday to charges he faced after federal marshals tackled him for refusing to stop arguing with the judge when his client was acquitted last fall.

Marcus Mumford had won the case in October but demanded U.S. District Judge Anna Brown release Ammon Bundy, who helped take over Malheur National Wildlife Refuge last winter to oppose federal land policy.

The judge said Bundy had to stay behind bars because he faced charges in Nevada stemming from a 2014 armed standoff with federal authorities at his father's ranch.

Marshals providing courtroom security surrounded the agitated lawyer before tackling him to the carpet. They pressed a stun gun against his body as he writhed and screamed.

Mumford was charged with two misdemeanors for failing to comply with federal officers and impeding

their work. The maximum penalty for each offense is 30 days in jail and a \$5,000 fine. A trial has been scheduled for April 17.

Mumford did not make a statement Friday. His attorney, Michael Levine, entered the not-guilty plea on his behalf.

Several defense attorneys from the standoff case went to the federal courthouse in Portland to show their support for Mumford. Oregon's federal public defender, Lisa Hay, wore a pin saying, "Free Marcus Mumford."

He helped get seven defendants acquitted of conspiracy to impede federal employees from doing their jobs during the 41-day standoff in Oregon.

Matthew Schindler, who represented Bundy co-defendant Kenneth Medenbach, said officers' allegation that Mumford adopted a boxer's stance during the confrontation is a lie.

"Wouldn't it just be terrific after we got all those people acquitted of impeding federal employees, that Marcus would get convicted of it," Schindler joked. "It's just too perfect."

Biomass testing delayed at coal plant

PENDLETON (AP) — Portland General Electric says it'll determine whether Oregon's last remaining coal-fired power plant can run entirely on biomass in the next couple of months.

The East Oregonian reports PGE had planned to conduct a test burn at the Boardman plant using woody debris by the end of December. But the test has been delayed due to the utility having to keep up with an increased electricity demand brought on by winter weather.

PGE spokesman Steve Corson says the full-day biomass test burn will now be held sometime in the first quarter of the year.

The utility has been looking into whether the coal plant can run on an alternative source of fuel, instead of installing costly emissions upgrades.

The facility faces closure if PGE can't decide on an alternative fuel source by 2020.

Sisters students shine in Honor Band...



PHOTO PROVIDED

Five Sisters students participated in the Central Oregon Honor Band where middle and high school musicians rehearsed for only two days before performing a program at Bend Senior High School which included "Star Wars: The Force Awakens" and "Scarborough Fair." Pictured are Jack Ogan (tuba), Sisters Director of Bands Tyler Cranor, Shea Robertson (flute), David Novotny (flute), Dalton Gonzales (trumpet) and Max Springer (kneeling with trumpet).

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