



PHOTO BY DOUGLAS BEALL

California quail.

Sisters Country birds

By Douglas Beall
Correspondent

The California quail [*Callipepla californica*], also known as the valley quail, inhabit thick brush and sagebrush areas throughout Central Oregon.

The topknot or plume, made of six feathers, is black in males and brown in females. Nesting in late spring, the female scratches out a depression under a bush and lays 12 to 16 cream-and-brown-colored eggs. Incubation takes 20-22 days. When the

chicks hatch they are off and running, eating seeds and bugs.

In winter, California quail live in coveys that can be as many as 200 birds. The males will act as sentinels and often crow from brush piles or fence posts.

When quails form coveys, they are referred to as a “battery,” “shake,” “flush,” “drift,” or a “rout” of quails.

To view more images of the California quail, please visit my website and enjoy the small things: <http://abirdsingsbecauseithasa.com/recent-journeys>.

Lawsuit over shooting death of LaVoy Finicum dismissed

PORTLAND (AP) — A federal lawsuit related to the shooting of rancher Robert LaVoy Finicum has been dismissed.

Oregon Public Broadcasting (OPB) reports the civil suit was filed in U.S. District Court of Oregon by Ryan Payne, Shawna Cox and others who were associated with the Bundy family’s 2016 occupation of the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge.

They claimed that FBI agents, Oregon State Police and other officials violated their civil rights by using excessive force and “ambushing” them on the day Finicum was shot and killed.

Chief District Court Judge Michael Mosman dismissed all counts in the lawsuit Friday, saying “It’s time to put a fork in this case.”

The lawsuit was filed in January 2018.

Many of the original defendants in the case, including FBI agent W. Joseph Astarita and Oregon Gov. Kate Brown, had already been dismissed over the course of nearly two years of litigation.

Beware of gift card phone scams

A local retailer reported on Facebook an encounter with a patron who was subjected to a phone scam involving the purchase of gift cards.

The retailer was suspicious about the circumstances in which the patron sought to purchase several specific cards, made inquiries and dissuaded the patron from making the purchase.

Phone scams requesting the purchase of gift cards are common. According to the Federal Trade Commission Consumer Information website: “the caller will often tell you to go buy a popular gift card, frequently, iTunes, Google Play, or Amazon. The caller will tell you to get the card at a particular store near you — often Walmart, Target, Walgreens, or CVS. They may even have you buy several cards at several stores. Sometimes, the caller will stay on the phone with you while you go to the store. Once you buy the card, the caller then will demand the

gift card number and PIN on the back of the card. Those numbers let them immediately get the money you loaded onto the card. And once they’ve done that, the scammers and your money are gone, usually without a trace.”

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