

Oregon

Medford man seeks end to daylight saving time

By **PARIS ACHEN**
Capital Bureau

Medford resident David Miles grumbles every year about having to turn his clocks forward in the spring and back again in the fall.

This year, Miles decided to respond differently by launching a ballot initiative Nov. 12 to end daylight saving time in Oregon.

"I complain almost every time there is a time change and do nothing about it, and I didn't want to be that guy anymore," he said.

A month later, Miles has 20 volunteers in 15 Oregon towns and cities who have gathered nearly 1,000 signatures — a first step toward placing an ini-

tiative on the ballot. He said he expects to hit the 1,000-signature mark by mid-December.

Once the volunteers pass that hurdle, they'll need to round up a total of 117,578 signatures to send the measure to voters in November.

The proposal abolishes daylight saving in 2018 and allows voters in individual counties to opt out through an election. Miles added that provision with Malheur County in mind. That county already follows Mountain time to be uniform with neighboring Idaho.

"The fringe benefit is other counties can decide to stay on daylight saving time, through general county election," Miles said.

Changing clocks back and

forth is disruptive to internal body clocks, sleep patterns and can even be dangerous, he said.

A 2014 study by University of Colorado at Boulder found that fatal traffic accidents spike by 17 percent on the Monday after clocks spring forward.

Daylight-saving began in the United States in 1918 to conserve electricity during the final days of World War I. It became a permanent ritual in 1966 with passage of the Uniform Time Act. The federal legislation was designed to end a confusing patchwork of different time zones in the country but allowed individual states to opt out. Arizona, Hawaii and some U.S. terri-

ories have chosen to stay on standard time.

Nowadays, the time change fails to accomplish the goal of saving energy, Miles said.

A University of California-Berkeley study found that a two-month extension of daylight saving time in Australia during the Sydney Olympic Games in 2000 failed to curtail electricity demand.

Earlier this year, there were proposals in several states to end time changes by either remaining on daylight saving or adhering to standard time year-round, according to the Washington Post.

Oregon Sen. Kim Thatcher, R-Keizer, introduced a bill in January that would have

let voters to decide whether to abolish daylight saving in 2021.

Dozens of Oregonians testified in favor of the proposal. Joanne DeWitt, one of those who submitted testimony, said daylight saving causes hazards while serving no purpose.

"I would like to see it go the way of other old dinosaurs," DeWitt said.

The legislation stalled in the Senate Rules Committee. Some lawmakers were concerned about being out of sync with Washington and California, according to Thatcher's office.

"I think once one state does it, the others will follow, and honestly, it isn't that big

of a deal," Miles said "I have never heard people in Arizona say, 'I hate being off time with Utah.' They always laugh at the rest of the country at daylight saving time."

Albany resident Carrie Davis, one of the volunteer petitioners, said she has always hated daylight saving time. Her opposition compounded when she had children.

"Now that I have kids, it is apparent to me when we try to change our daily schedule even by an hour, it is so impactful to our whole success through the day," Davis said. "Trying to get a toddler to go to sleep an hour later or an hour earlier is just challenging, for a superficial social agreement we don't need."

Baker County ranchers honored for sage grouse habitat work

By **ERIC MORTENSON**
Capital Press

A Baker County, Ore., cattle ranching couple who helped forge sage grouse habitat conservation agreements was honored during the Oregon Cattlemen's Association annual conference Dec. 5-6.

Mark and Patti Bennett, of Unity, were given the 2015 Riley Freeman Award, named for a past OCA wildlife committee chairman who saw the need for cooperation between private landowners and the state and federal agencies that regulate wildlife and natural resources.

The award was jointly established and is presented annually by the OCA and ODFW.

In honoring the Bennetts, ODFW Director Curt Melcher praised them as "model stewards" of their cattle ranch. Like many other Eastern Oregon ranchers, the Bennetts signed a voluntary conservation agreement to



Courtesy of ODFW

Oregon ranchers Mark and Patti Bennett were honored for their work to balance landowner rights and sage grouse habitat conservation.

maintain or improve habitat for greater sage grouse. Mark Bennett served on a rules advisory group that worked to balance the interests of landowners and regulatory officials.

"Bennett pushed for a reasonable approach to protecting sage grouse habitat while also protecting the economic

viability of Eastern Oregon and working lands," ODFW said in a news release.

The voluntary agreements in Oregon were a model for other states, and were a key factor in the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's decision in September to keep Greater sage grouse off the endangered species list.

Heifer drive beefs up scholarship

Fund swells to nearly \$120K

By **GEORGE PLAVEN**
EO Media Group

The Umatilla County Cattlemen's Association more than doubled its memorial scholarship fund in 2015 after auctioning off 37 heifers donated by local ranchers.

Producers in Umatilla and Morrow counties donated the animals, which were raised on Double M Ranch in Stanfield and auctioned in September. Other farms also gave cash or in-kind contributions, helping the UCCA Memorial Scholarship grow from \$47,734 at the end of 2014 to nearly \$120,000 today.

UCCA awards annual scholarships to students who graduated from high school in either Umatilla or Morrow county and are pursuing an agriculture-related degree in college. The 2015 scholarships were awarded to Tess Hamby, of Pilot Rock, studying pre-vet at Eastern Oregon University, and Maggie Collins, of Hepner, studying agriculture and teaching at Oregon State University. Both received scholarships for \$1,500, which were announced Saturday at



Photo contributed by Darcy Sexson

A group of 37 heifers were donated and auctioned off in September to support the Umatilla County Cattlemen's Association Memorial Scholarship.

the UCCA annual meeting in Pendleton.

Randy Mills, extension livestock agent for OSU, said the idea for a heifer drive started last year with Mike and Patsy Taylor of Double M Ranch and Top Cut Feedlot. They agreed to take on the additional cattle and raised the animals from March through October.

The heifer auction was the first major fundraiser for the UCCA Memorial Scholarship since the fund was established in 1992. Mills said the association will now be able to offer more or larger scholarships to local students in future years.

"The investment of the beef industry in this two-county area just shows how important the education of our youth is," Mills said.

More than 40 ranches, businesses and individuals contributed to the fundraiser, with

Double M-Top Cut Feedlot listed as the premiere sponsor. UCCA has already deposited \$73,859 from the heifer drive, and more is expected to come.

UCCA President Clint Sexson said the community stepped up in a big way to support the scholarship.

"There's tremendous support for the youth in this community," Sexson said.

Melinda Platt, co-chairwoman of the UCCA Scholarship Committee, said promoting education in agriculture sciences is near and dear to everyone who donated.

The UCCA Memorial Scholarship is set up through the Oregon Community Foundation. For more information about the scholarship fund, or to make a donation, contact Mills at the OSU Extension Service office at 541-278-5403.

Forest Plan could be finalized by early 2017

By **GEORGE PLAVEN**
EO Media Group

The U.S. Forest Service could finalize its revised land management plans for the Blue Mountains National Forests by early 2017, following a yearlong re-engagement process with the public.

The plans will essentially guide management decisions on the Umatilla, Wallowa-Whitman and Malheur national forests for the next 10-15 years. While the documents do not approve any site-specific projects, they do set goals and desired conditions on approximately 4.9 million acres of public land.

Forest plans are supposed

to be updated every 15 years to reflect changes in the landscape and science, though the current Blue Mountains Forest Plan is from 1990. Forest supervisors unveiled a draft version of the revised plan last year, which was met with criticism.

The negative feedback was so overwhelming that regional forester Jim Peña allowed more time in January to meet with stakeholders and find common ground on issues including road access, wilderness and commercial logging. Since then, the Forest Service has held public workshops across Eastern Oregon to hear new ideas and solutions.

Despite some continued

rumblings, the supervisors say the input they've gathered has led them in a positive direction.

"Overall, the engagement process has helped us to better understand our public," said Tom Montoya, supervisor on the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest. "There's been folks on all sides of the issue who have provided really good comments to find some balance."

However, Montoya admitted he was frustrated during a recent meeting Nov. 2 in La Grande, where nearly 200 people packed the Blue Mountain Conference Center. Tempers flared, and Montoya said he later heard from people who told him they felt threatened.

Norm Cimon, a retired Forest Service employee of 26 years, said the discussion was not closely moderated and broke down into a free-for-all.

"Given the anger that's built up from the rhetoric that's been thrown around, there's going to have to be better management of these meetings," Cimon said.

Cimon, who serves on the board of directors for Oregon Rural Action, a La Grande-based environmental nonprofit, said the tone was set by a letter from state Rep. Greg Barreto, R-Cove, accusing the Forest Service of "bureaucratic ineptness."

Re-engaging with the public is absolutely worthwhile, Cimon said, but he felt Barreto's letter didn't help the situation.

"I hate that kind of talk. I really do," Cimon said.

In his letter, Barreto says "The overreaching heavy hand of government continues to pursue its stranglehold on the rural parts of the state, our way of life and our pursuit of happiness." He also wrote, "The preservationists along with you, the federal government, are teaming up to keep local people from our public lands."

Northwest Agricultural Show

Everything for Every Farmer... Under One Roof.

Ticket Prices (12 & Under Free!)

Single Day: \$10/Adult, \$8/Senior
Multi-Day: \$18/Adult, \$14/Senior
Parking: \$8 (\$7 Carpool)
Free Parking on Thursday!

Attending a Grower Meeting?
Get in FREE with your name badge!

The Northwest's Largest Ag Show!

January 26-28, 2016 | Portland Expo Center

FFA Day
Tuesday • 9AM - 6PM
Sponsored by Premier Northwest Insurance

FAMILY DAY - Wednesday
Get the whole family in on one \$20 ticket! 9AM - 8PM
Sponsored by Northwest Farm Credit Services

Free Parking Day
Thursday • 9AM-3PM
Sponsored by Kubota Tractor Corporation

- 7 acres of indoor exhibit space filled with the latest equipment, supplies, and services specific to agriculture
- FREE pesticide recertification courses offered every day! Plus a full slate of growers meetings & exhibitor seminars.
- New, centralized location for the Tasting Room showcasing local breweries, wineries & artisans
- FFA Day on Tuesday complete with FFA Alumni & Supporter Reception at close of show
- Family Day returns on Wednesday: One price for the entire family, no matter how big!
- Free Parking on Thursday!
- Exclusive Screening: "Ground Operations: Battlefields to Farmfields" Movie & Veteran-to-Farmer Seminar - Thursday at 10am!

Location: Portland Expo Center | 2060 N Marine Dr. | Portland, OR 97217
www.nwagshow.com | www.nwagshow.com/facebook

CONTACT YOUR CAPITAL PRESS MEDIA CONSULTANT TODAY!
Or Call 800-882-6789
www.capitalpress.com

WATER

The #1 Issue in the West!

This section will provide valuable background and an insightful look at the current water situation with a forecast of what may happen in the future.

Reach our print and online readers by advertising in this special section.
Ad space deadline is Jan. 8, 2016

Capital Press Ag Weekly will focus on this most crucial resource in an award-winning special section.

Publishes Feb. 5, 2016

Capital Press
The West's Ag Weekly

CONTACT YOUR CAPITAL PRESS MEDIA CONSULTANT TODAY!
Or Call 800-882-6789
www.capitalpress.com