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Stalker, in California in the '70s and '80s. That timeline, as well as interviews with retired detectives, family members of victims, victims themselves and other normal people trying to solve a decades-old mystery, all come together in a captivating narrative brilliantly reported by McNamara, who unfortunately passed away a few years before *I'll Be Gone in the Dark's* publication. She is survived by her husband, comedian Patton Oswalt, who helped finish the book. Sacramento police made an arrest of a suspect a month after the book was published. — *Meerah Powell*

■ **Sagebrush Collaboration: How Harney County Defeated the Takeover of the Malheur Wildlife Refuge** by Peter Walker, Oregon State University Press, \$19.95

When a ragtag bunch of armed militants took over the tiny headquarters at Malheur National Wildlife Refuge one winter day in 2016, journalists from around the country converged on the nearby eastern Oregon town of Burns. Much of the national media got the story wrong in fundamental ways, casting it in romantic terms of an uprising of local gun-totin'

SAGEBRUSH COLLABORATION

How Harney County Defeated the
Takeover of the Malheur Wildlife Refuge

PETER WALKER



cowboys against the overbearing government. A journalist who got things right was University of Oregon geography professor Peter Walker, who — being on sabbatical that term — packed his car and headed to Burns as soon as he heard about the takeover.

Walker wrote extensively that winter on social media about the alienation felt by locals from the occupying militants, who — had they done any homework — would

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The Very Marrow of Our Bones by Christine Higdon. ECW Press, \$16.95.

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have realized that Harney County was probably the least likely region of the rural West to support such an uprising. What the Bundy family and its followers never understood was that ranchers, business owners, tribal leaders and environmentalists in Harney County had been engaged for decades in the often dull and always difficult business of negotiating agreements over regional land-use issues, from protection of the refuge to establishment of a federal wilderness area on nearby Steens Mountain. All those parties didn't necessarily love one another, but they had all earned mutual respect.

Walker's excellent and readable book about the occupation not only gets the details right — he pretty much lived in Harney County that winter and got to know all the players well — but sets the story in the greater national context that's now defined by President Donald Trump. Walker calls the occupation an abject failure. "Ammon Bundy seemed unable to grasp that, for most Harney County citizens, his cowboy hat did not make him local," he writes.

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