

# THE DAILY ASTORIAN

144TH YEAR, NO. 55

DailyAstorian.com // THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2016

ONE DOLLAR



## Monumental warning



Capital Press

A sign posted in Jordan Valley opposes the Owyhee Caanyonlands National Monument in Malheur County. Jordan Valley is nearly surrounded by the proposed monument.

## Obama's designation of a national monument in Maine has some Oregon ranchers concerned

By SEAN ELLIS  
Capital Press

**J**ORDAN VALLEY — President Barack Obama's recent creation of a national monument in Maine, despite local opposition, has Malheur County residents concerned.

Ranchers and other Malheur County residents formed the Owyhee Basin Stewardship Coalition this year to fight a proposed 2.5 million-acre national monument in an area of the county known as the Owyhee Canyonlands.

Malheur County residents voted 9-1 earlier this year in opposition to the proposal, which is being pushed by the Oregon Natural Desert Association, an environmental group in Bend, and Portland's Keen Footwear.

Monument opponents believe supporters will ask President Obama to use his authority under the Antiquities Act to create the Malheur County monument.

In August, Obama declared 87,500 acres of land in northeast Maine as the Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument.

Residents who live near that site also opposed that plan, as did the state's governor, legislature and congressional delegation, according to the Washington Post.

"It does heighten the concern he's going to do it,"



AP Photo/Jacquelyn Martin

President Barack Obama, shown here speaking at Yosemite National Park in June, recently created a national monument in Maine despite local opposition. Ranchers in Oregon are concerned the president might do the same in Malheur County.

Jordan Valley rancher Mark Mackenzie said about the Maine declaration.

### Not entirely the same

The two cases are not entirely the same. The Maine parcel was gifted to the government by the founder of the Bert's Bees product line, while the site of the proposed Owyhee Canyonlands National Monument is already controlled by the federal Bureau of Land Management.

Even though the Maine monument involved private land "and had a little differ-

ent twist to it, I didn't sleep very well that night," Mackenzie said.

Opponents worry a monument designation will severely impact the county's No. 1 industry, ranching, as well as mining, hunting and recreation because of restrictions and regulations that would come along with it.

"Of course the national monument in Maine is causing concern," Malheur County rancher Sean Cunningham told Capital Press in an email.

He said a lot of his operation's recent business deci-

sions are taking into consideration "whether our backyard becomes a monument and how that'll affect our daily operations."

After the Owyhee Basin Stewardship Coalition ran a TV ad on MSNBC in the Portland region during the Democratic National Convention urging people to oppose the proposed national monument, its membership increased by about 2,500 in 10 days, said Mackenzie, who is a member of the coalition's board of directors.

See RANCHERS, Page 10A

## US slowdown would drag Oregon down

State's economy still healthy

By PARIS ACHEN  
Capital Bureau

Committee on Finance and Revenue and the House Revenue Committee.

SALEM — Oregon's economy remains "healthy across the board," outperforming other states in job growth and other indicators, state economists told lawmakers in Salem Wednesday.

But the economists also warned that a slowdown in the U.S. economy would likely drag down the state's economic boom.

"Given that Oregon has traditionally very much synchronized with the U.S.

business cycle and our revenues are very much tied to personal income, this is something we are watching very closely," said state economist Mark McMullen.

Lawmakers heard the forecast Wednesday at a joint meeting of the state Senate

The state's quarterly economic forecast showed employers in the state continue to add nearly 5,000 jobs per month, double the rate of U.S. job growth, McMullen said.

"It is really unsustainable right now how fast we're growing," McMullen said. "We're adding about twice as many jobs as we are workers so at some point this has to balance out."

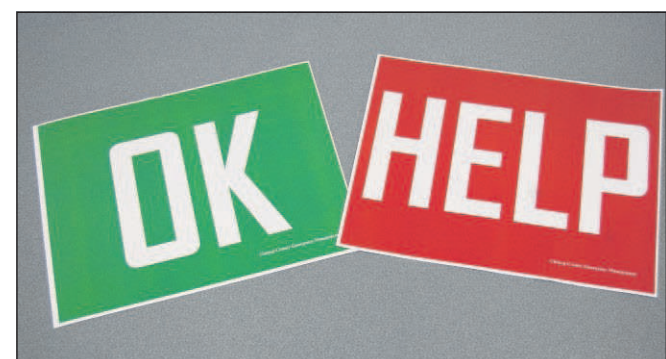
The brisk job growth has created a tight labor market, which is driving up wages, said state economist Josh Lehner. Retiring baby boomers are expected to make that labor market even tighter, Lehner said.

But the national economic picture is not as bright.

See ECONOMY, Page 10A



Mark McMullen



Submitted Photo

New signs could help emergency responders prioritize after an earthquake or winter storm.

## 'OK/HELP' signs could help guide emergency response

Residents could use the tool in a crisis

By KYLE SPURR  
The Daily Astorian

With the flip of a sign, Clatsop County residents can now tell emergency responders if they need help or if they are OK.

County agencies and businesses are partnering in September — National Preparedness Month — to start a new 'OK/HELP' sign program.

The signs — with "OK"

written on one side, and "HELP" written on the other — are being offered for free to residents to use after an emergency.

A resident can put the sign in a front window to help emergency responders tasked with checking on residents door-to-door after an earthquake, tsunami or winter storm.

Clatsop County Emergency Manager Tiffany Brown said she ordered 5,000 signs that were delivered last week to various public and private entities. Already, she said, some

See SIGNS, Page 10A

## Losing out to China, some workers embrace Trump

This is part of *Divided America*, AP's ongoing exploration of the economic, social and political divisions in American society.

By PAUL WISEMAN  
Associated Press

HANNIBAL, Ohio — Crushed by Chinese competition and feeling betrayed by mainstream politicians, workers in the hills of eastern Ohio are embracing Donald Trump and his tough talk on trade.

For decades, they and others living across the Ohio River in West Virginia found work in coal mines and at a local aluminum plant — union



jobs, with good pay and generous benefits.

But those jobs are going, if not gone.

Coal is being wiped out by stricter environmental rules and competition from cheap natural gas. The Ormet aluminum plant? It's out of business, doomed by China's domination of the global aluminum market.

In an angry election year, some of America's angriest voters live in places like Monroe County where local economies have been punished by

price competition with China. Their frustration has fueled support for the Republican presidential nominee, with his belligerent rhetoric about the need to outsmart America's economic rivals, tear up unfair trade deals and re-establish America as the world's dominant player.

"This is Trump country," says John Saunders, an official with the United Steelworkers in nearby Martins Ferry, Ohio.

### High unemployment

The disaster that's unfolded here isn't obvious at first glance, not in a region known

See WORKERS, Page 10A



AP Photo/Paul Vernon

A pile of rubble lies next to a dust collector for a carbon storage room of the former Ormet plant, at the site in Hannibal, Ohio. For decades, many workers in the area found work at the aluminum plant, which closed in 2014.