

Trump pardons Oregon ranchers who inspired refuge standoff

Ranchers were convicted in fires

By **JILL COLVIN** and **ZEKE MILLER**
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump has pardoned two ranchers whose case sparked the armed occupation of a national wildlife refuge in Oregon.

Dwight and Steven Hammond were convicted in 2012 of intentionally and maliciously setting fires on public lands. The arson crime carried a minimum prison sentence of five years, but a sympathetic



Les Zaitz/The Oregonian
Rancher Dwight Hammond Jr. greets protesters outside his home in Burns in 2016.

federal judge, on his last day before retirement, decided the penalty was too stiff and gave the father and son much lighter prison terms.

Prosecutors won an appeal and the Hammonds were resentenced in October 2015 to serve the mandatory minimum.

The decision sparked a protest from Ammon Bundy and dozens of others, who occupied the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge near the Hammond ranch in southeastern Oregon from Jan. 2 to Feb. 11, 2016, complaining the Hammonds were victims of federal overreach.

The armed occupiers changed the refuge's name to the Harney County Resource Center, reflecting their belief that the federal government has only a very limited right to

own property within a state's borders.

Bundy was arrested during a traffic stop, effectively ending the protest. Another key occupier, Robert "LaVoy" Finicum, was fatally shot that day by Oregon State Police.

In a statement today, White House press secretary Sarah Sanders called the decision to resentence the Hammonds "unjust."

"The Hammonds are devoted family men, respected contributors to their local community, and have widespread support from their neighbors, local law enforcement, and farmers and ranchers across the West," she said. "Justice

is overdue for Dwight and Steven Hammond, both of whom are entirely deserving of these Grants of Executive Clemency."

U.S. Rep. Greg Walden, an Oregon Republican who supported the pardons, applauded the president.

"Today is a win for justice, and an acknowledgement of our unique way of life in the high desert, rural West," the congressman said in a statement. "I applaud President Trump for thoroughly reviewing the facts of this case, rightly determining the Hammonds were treated unfairly, and taking action to correct this injustice.

"For far too long, Dwight and Steven Hammond have been serving a mandatory minimum sentence that was established for terrorists."

The pardons are the latest in a growing list of clemency actions by Trump, who has been using his pardon power with increasingly frequency in recent months.

Trump has been especially pleased with news coverage of his actions, which included commuting the sentence of Alice Johnson, a woman serving a life sentence for drug offenses whose case had been championed by reality television star Kim Kardashian West.

Scarborough: Plans to rid himself of bad influences

Continued from Page 1A

Neaman was taken by ambulance to a hospital, where his spleen was removed. He then was taken via Life Flight to Oregon Health & Science University in Portland for further treatment.

Scarborough and Garfias were arrested a week later in La Mesa, California.

Scarborough originally faced charges of first-degree assault, second-degree assault, first-degree robbery, first-degree burglary and felon in possession of a firearm. He pleaded no contest to first-degree burglary as part of an agreement with the Clatsop County District Attorney's Office. The plea means he does not accept guilt but recognizes prosecutors have enough evidence for a conviction.

'My life's fallen apart on the street. It's a long time, but I do agree with this plea petition.'

Shaun Scarborough
Seaside man who was sentenced to more than 8 1/2 years in prison

Garfias was charged with first-degree assault, second-degree assault, first-degree robbery and first-degree burglary. She is scheduled for a final resolution conference in August.

For the burglary charge, Scarborough was sentenced to five years in prison. He will also serve a consecutive sentence of more than 3 1/2 years for violating probation in a separate case in which he was convicted of being a felon in possession

of a firearm.

In that case, Scarborough allegedly stood in a kitchen and held a knife to his throat for nearly two hours last year as Seaside police attempted to arrest him. After a standoff, he was struck by a stun gun and arrested.

The standoff came after a reported disturbance at the apartment where Scarborough fled in a car. Police found a handgun while searching the car.

Scarborough reached a

plea deal with prosecutors in that case to serve three years probation and more than 3 1/2 years in prison if he violated the terms.

Scarborough said Monday that, at the time of his California arrest, he didn't know what he would tell Circuit Court Judge Paula Brownhill. He had appeared in her courtroom for sentencing in the standoff less than two weeks before the hotel shooting.

"My life's fallen apart on the street," Scarborough said. "It's a long time, but I do agree with this plea petition."

Scarborough said he plans to use the prison time to kick a drug addiction and rid himself of bad influences, adding he wants to be able to take care of his two children.

"I've got things to do," he said.

Suicide: Police had responded to Barnhart's suicidal threats several times before her death

Continued from Page 1A

Clatsop Behavioral Healthcare, the county's mental health contractor, came under scrutiny after Barnhart's suicide.

Astoria police had responded to Barnhart's suicidal threats four times in the months before her death. The police had pulled her from the bridge a week before her suicide and taken her to Columbia Memorial Hospital, where she was seen by a doctor and mental health worker and released.

The suicide, documented by The Daily Astorian, unearthed long-standing concerns about the quality of mental health care in the county. Internal and state reviews led to a management shake-up among top

administrators at the mental health agency and promises to improve crisis response.

The family's lawsuit, filed last year, alleged the mental health agency was negligent and sought \$950,000 in damages. The suit also named Columbia Memorial and an emergency room doctor, but the hospital and doctor were dismissed from the claim last year. As part of the settlement, Barnhart's family agreed to dismiss the county from the suit.

Artanya Barnhart, one of Barnhart's daughters, who represented her mother's estate, also agreed she would not publicly make any derogatory remarks about the county to the news media or on the internet about the events alleged in the legal action.

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