

Land cont'd from pg 3

The Bureau of Land Management manages a combined 385,000 square miles (997,000 square kilometers) in those states.

Colorado Republican Rep. Scott Tipton introduced a similar measure in the House, and three Democrats signed up as co-sponsors: Reps. Kyrsten Sinema of Ari-

• Much of Bears Ears National Monument in Utah, created by President Barack Obama and greatly reduced by Trump, is on Bureau of Land Management land.

• Rancher Cliven Bundy's long battle against federal control of public land, which culmi-

“Some Westerners have long argued federal land managers should be closer to the land they oversee

zona, Jared Polis of Colorado and Ed Perlmutter of Colorado.

Some Westerners have long argued federal land managers should be closer to the land they oversee, saying Washington doesn't understand the region. Now they have a powerful ally in Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke, a Montanan who is leading President Donald Trump's charge to roll back environmental regulations and encourage energy development on public land.

Zinke said in September he wants to move much of the Interior Department's decision-making to the West, including the Bureau of Land Management, which is part of the agency.

The Washington Post reported last month Zinke's plan includes dividing his department's regions along river systems and other natural features instead of state borders, and using them to restructure oversight.

A big part of the bureau's job is to lease drilling, mining and grazing rights on public land to private companies and individuals. That puts it at the center of a heated national debate over how those lands should be managed, and by whom.

Some recent disputes:

nated in a 2014 armed standoff in Nevada, began on bureau acreage.

• More than 50,000 square miles (123,000 square kilometers) of Bureau of Land Management land in the West is at the heart of a debate among conservationists, ranchers and energy companies over how much protection to give the shrinking population of the greater sage grouse, a ground-dwelling bird.

The bureau manages more public land than any other federal agency, ranging from about 1 square mile (3 square kilometers) in Virginia to nearly 113,000 square miles (293,000 square kilometers) in Alaska. That doesn't include national parks or national forests, which are managed by other agencies.

It has about 9,000 employees, with fewer than 400 in Washington. The rest are scattered among 140 state, district or field offices.

“The larger issue is that states and counties that are predominated by public lands are deeply affected by decisions made by BLM,” said Kathleen Sgamma, president of the Western Energy Alliance in Denver.

Read the rest of this story at TheSkanner.com

Lawsuit cont'd from pg 1

Hayes, fatally shot Merle Mikal Hatch in 2013. In March, a Multnomah County grand jury declined to indict Hearst in connection with Hayes' death.

The tort claim letter, attached to the press release, also notes the Hayes family has not been successful in their attempts to get more information about what happened the morning Hayes died.

“Our knowledge of the circumstances of the incident is somewhat limited, largely due to the fact that the only non-law enforcement officer to witness the shooting, Quanice, is dead,” the letter reads. “While the Grand Jury proceedings in this case were recorded and made public, the process was inherently one-sided: the District Attorney's office presented evidence to the grand

jurors that the shooting officer could not possibly have known, and presented evidence designed to vilify Quanice while painting the shooting officer in a highly positive light, making it seem as

“The only non-law enforcement officer to witness the shooting, Quanice, is dead

if the officer had no choice but to shoot Quanice. We disagree. Moreover, the city has refused to provide us records in its possession, despite repeated requests. Therefore, we again request you provide us all documentation in

the city's possession that describes or documents this incident in any way. This request includes any 911 recordings, police reports, scene photographs, CAD recordings, MOAT text messages, data from employee phones, dispatch recordings, notes, internal affairs investigations or other similar investigations from within the city or outside agency, documents in your possession produced by others including but not limited to autopsy photographs – relevant to the incident, communications with insurance providers, and any other documentation of any description

related to this incident.”

A crowdfunding website to help with the Hayes' family's legal fees, www.crowdjustice.com/case/quanice, will go live on Thursday at noon.



PHOTO COURTESY OF VANCOUVER AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH

Church Seeks Children for Easter Choir

The historic Vancouver Avenue First Baptist Church in North Portland is once again gathering children who love to sing, from the ages of four years to 14 from the community for the Easter Celebration taking place April 1. Four scheduled choir rehearsals will take place March 10, 17, 24 and 31 at 3 p.m. at the church location of 3138 North Vancouver Avenue. Following each rehearsal session, lunch will be provided for the children prepared by a host of local adult chaperones. Free Transportation services are also available upon request for each rehearsal. For more information and or to sign your child up, please contact Raymond Burell at (503) 593- 5285/or at raymondburell@hotmail.com, or contact the church office directly at (503) 282-9496.

Measure cont'd from pg 1

ing punished for crimes that are products of circumstance,” said White, who is African American.

Earlier this month, the Oregon Council on Civil Rights published a report in partnership with the Oregon Justice Resource Center – “Youth and Measure 11: Impacts of Mandatory Minimums” – that includes some damning statistics on racial disparities in Oregon's juvenile justice system. It found:

- Black youth make up 15.5 percent of Measure 11 indictments, but only 1.8 percent of the general population in Oregon;
- Black youth were nearly three times as likely as White youth to face a Measure 11 charge, and nearly five times as likely to be indicted;
- Black youth face conviction at rates 12.5 times greater than White youth for Measure 11 offenses, only slightly less than their overall rate of referral;
- Latino and Native American youth were also significantly overrepresented relative to White peers.

The report notes that while Black youth indictments are more likely, they are less likely to lead

to a Measure 11 conviction.

But an indictment can still reshape the course of a young life, and the report connects the dots between disproportionate rates of incarceration and other prob-

“I was very, very, very illiterate when it came to law or my rights

lems hampering Oregon's Black communities, namely economic mobility.

In Oregon, nearly 30 percent of Black families live in poverty, and the median income of a Black family as of 2010 was \$15,000 lower than White families.

“The economic disparity among Oregonians of color is compounded by the fact that the children in these communities are all statistically more likely to have a parent in prison,” the report said.

“For me I think the most surprising thing is how much science and research that has been done over the past couple of decades and how our criminal justice policies aren't really connected to that,” Bobbin Singh, the founding

executive director of the Oregon Justice Resource Center, told *The Skanner*.

Measure 11, he noted, was passed in a political climate where politicians in both parties, both locally and nationally, campaigned on “tough on crime” platforms – and youth who got in trouble were described as “super predators” who could not be reformed. In the decades since, scientific research has shown that the brain continues to develop through one's 20s, suggesting youth who receive adequate support have a good chance of turning their lives around.

“It was all politics of fear and anger. There was nothing grounded in any evidence,” Singh said.

Singh notes that for certain crimes, district attorneys have discretion in whether they can refer a teenager to the adult court system, and he hopes more DAs use it to keep young people in juvenile courts. He and Roberta Phillip-Robbins, who chairs the Oregon Council on Civil Rights, would also like to see changes that address root causes.

Read more at TheSkanner.com



Quanice Hayes

FACEBOOK PHOTO