



El Nino's storms hitting Calif. NATION/6A

# EAST OREGONIAN

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 6, 2016

140th Year, No. 58

WINNER OF THE 2015 ONPA GENERAL EXCELLENCE AWARD

One dollar

## Occupiers make demands

### Bundy wants land transfer, then will go home

By REBECCA BOONE  
Associated Press

BURNS — A leader of the small, armed group that is occupying a remote national wildlife preserve in Oregon said Tuesday they will go home when a plan is in place to turn over management of federal lands to locals.

Ammon Bundy told reporters at the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge that ranchers, loggers and farmers should have control of federal land — a common refrain in a decades-long fight over public lands in the West.

"It is our goal to get the logger back to logging, the rancher back to ranching," said the son of Nevada rancher Cliven Bundy, who was involved in a high-profile 2014 standoff with the government over grazing rights.

The younger Bundy's anti-government group is critical of federal land stewardship, but environmentalists and others say U.S. officials should keep control for the broadest possible benefit to business, recreation and the environment.

The armed group seized the refuge's headquarters Saturday night. Roughly 20 people bundled in camouflage, earmuffs and cowboy hats seem to be centered around a complex of buildings on the 300-square-mile high desert preserve.

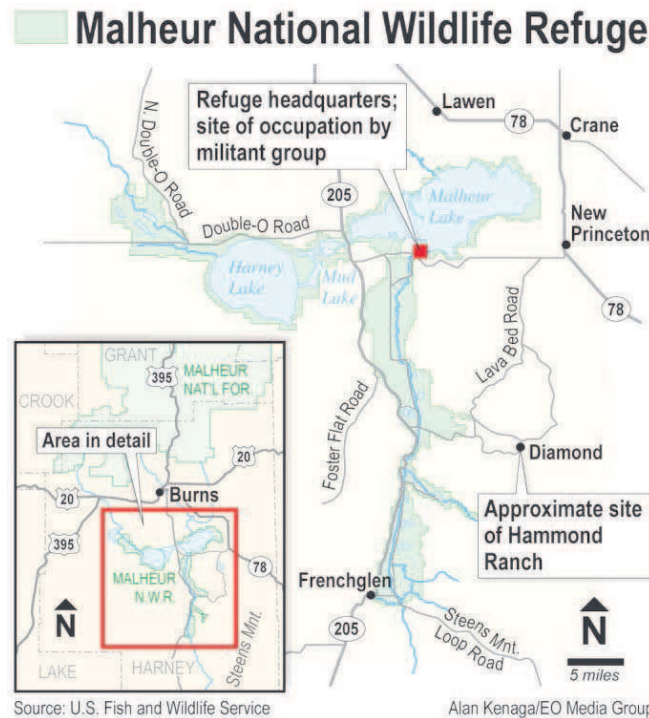
As the takeover entered its third day, authorities had not moved in and had not shut off power to the refuge, Arizona rancher LaVoy Finicum said. On Tuesday evening, Finicum said he believes federal officials have issued warrants for the arrest of five group members — including himself and Ammon Bundy — but offered no details.

See RANCHING/2A



AP Photo/Rick Bowmer

LaVoy Finicum, a rancher from Arizona, who is part of the group occupying the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge speaks with reporters during a news conference at the refuge Tuesday near Burns.



Source: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Alan Kenaga/EO Media Group

### Sheriff: Armed protesters will face charges

By AMELIA TEMPLETON  
Oregon Public Broadcasting

In a wide-ranging interview Tuesday, Harney County Sheriff David Ward urged members of the community to distance themselves from the armed men occupying the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge.

"I think if one person gives them a Snickers bar, they're going on national media and claiming that the community supports them," he said.

"If you're giving them support, you're just prolonging the situation." Ward has called a community

See SHERIFF/2A

### Hammond case ignites local tea party

Public lands at heart of meeting

By GEORGE PLAVERN  
East Oregonian

Harney County ranchers Dwight and Steven Hammond are back in prison for starting fires on public lands in 2001 and 2006, but at least one of the family's allies believes they won't be serving their full five-year sentences.

Dave Duquette, of Hermiston, works with the national nonprofit Protect the Harvest and met at length with the Hammonds in Burns before Saturday's rally broke off into an armed occupation of the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge.

Duquette defended the Hammonds and weighed in on the militia's presence during a meeting of the Greater Hermiston Area Tea Party Monday evening at the Stafford Hansell Government Center. About 20 people attended the meeting and decried what they see as a gross injustice on the part of the federal government.

The group also heard from a retired U.S. district forester about the Blue Mountains Forest Plan Revision, and group Chairman Rob Lovett said they intend to pursue coordination with the Forest Service — similar to movements in Grant and Baker counties.

At the heart of both issues is the perceived mismanagement of public land and domineering attitude of agencies like the Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management. Lovett said citizens need to unite under a single voice to protect their rights.

"We want to prevail over the federal government, for freedom and for liberty," Lovett said.

That unity seemed to splinter in Burns, where a march to support the Hammonds was overshadowed by armed militants occupying the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge. Duquette said he has since swapped text messages with Ammon

See TEA PARTY/2A

### PENDLETON Council approves \$300k grant to hire UAS range manager

By ANTONIO SIERRA  
East Oregonian

Courtesy of SOAR Oregon, the Pendleton City Council unanimously approved a \$300,000 grant from SOAR Oregon, a not-for-profit focused on promoting the UAS industry in Oregon.

that's been vacant for several months.

At a Tuesday meeting, the Pendleton City Council unanimously approved a \$300,000 grant from SOAR Oregon, a not-for-profit focused on promoting the UAS industry in Oregon.

But the \$300,000 grant does not come without strings.

The money is dispersed evenly over two years, and to access the second year of funds, the city must meet a series of benchmarks.

Within the first six months of the grant, the range must sign three customers to testing contracts, have two customer applications in the process of obtaining Federal Aviation Administration authorization to test and two applications approved by the FAA.

On a quarterly basis, the range must facilitate 10 test flights, host 10 test days for customers and meet a certain number of test hours.

SOAR Oregon does give the UAS range some leeway in meeting those benchmarks. If the city doesn't

See PENDLETON/8A

### Obama goes it alone on gun control

Affect on violence may be modest

By RYAN J. FOLEY and ERIC TUCKER  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama's move to tighten controls on guns could curb the unregulated buying and selling of weapons over the Internet and at gun shows. But the overall effect on violence in the U.S. could prove to be modest.

"It's not ever going to be difficult to get a firearm, just like it's not ever going to be difficult to get illegal drugs," said James Jacobs, a New York University law school professor. "What makes us think that we can now create a regime that will make guns hard



AP Photo/Tom Lynn, File

In this Oct. 21, 2012 photo, police stand with guns drawn at the entrance to Brookfield Square Mall across from the scene of a shooting at Azana Salon in Brookfield, Wis.

to obtain for someone who wants to obtain them?"

The president used his executive authority Tuesday to clarify that anyone "in the

business" of selling firearms must obtain a federal license and conduct background checks on prospective buyers, regardless of where

the sales take place.

Currently, many private sellers online and at gun shows do not bother to get licenses, and weapons sales over the Internet have become a booming business.

The White House and others can't say how many transactions the step will block or how much bloodshed it may prevent.

But the new controls probably wouldn't have prevented many of the grisly mass shootings around the country that have led to demands for tighter gun laws, and may affect only a tiny fraction of the nation's 30,000 annual gun deaths.

Studies in the last decade have shown that criminals are more likely to get guns directly from friends or

See GUNS/8A

### Lawmaker wants \$120M in bonds for transportation

By HILLARY BORRUD  
Capital Bureau

SALEM — A state lawmaker from Wilsonville wants Oregon to issue as much as \$120 million in bonds to pay for transportation projects starting in 2016.

Rep. John Davis, R-Wilsonville, said he plans this month to introduce an interim bill, to start tackling the state's backlog of highway, bridge and

other transportation projects ahead of a larger transportation funding package that lawmakers could pass in 2017.

Oregon needs the money in order to compete for a share of the \$800 million in federal grants for freight projects, which will be available this year as a result of the transportation funding bill Congress passed in December, Davis said. He hopes to motivate other lawmakers and the governor to start working now on a larger state

transportation funding bill they could pass next year.

"The (federal) funding starts immediately in 2016 for this," Davis said of the freight project grant program. "We're in a tenuous spot because Washington passed a transportation package, Idaho passed a transportation package, and California always has money ... That's a significant thing

See TRANSPORTATION/8A

