

**HERMISTON  
GIRLS ROAD  
TESTED**  
BASKETBALL/1B

**ORTHODOX  
FAITHFUL  
CELEBRATE  
CHRISTMAS**  
FAITH/7A



**Tip of the  
hat; kick in  
the pants**  
OPINION/4A



# EAST OREGONIAN

FRIDAY, JANUARY 8, 2016

140th Year, No. 60

WINNER OF THE 2015 ONPA GENERAL EXCELLENCE AWARD

One dollar

## Your Weekend



- Dancing with Your Hermiston Stars
- Daddy Daughter Dress Exchange
- Oldies Night at the Library 10th Anniversary

For times and places see Coming Events, 5A

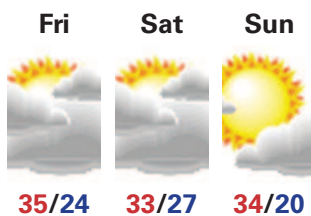
## Catch a movie



Courtesy Twentieth Century Fox via AP  
**Leonardo DiCaprio and Tom Hardy star in the gritty, frontier survival film, "The Revenant."**

For showtime, Page 5A

## Weekend Weather



## Watch a game



**Heppner vs. Irrigon**  
Friday, 6 p.m., at Irrigon

## Wheeler says energy loan program needs bailout

By HILLARY BORRUD  
Capital Bureau

SALEM — State Treasurer Ted Wheeler sent a letter to Gov. Kate Brown Thursday morning calling on the governor to stop the Oregon Department of Energy from issuing any new small scale loans because the loan fund has a \$20 million deficit and will require a taxpayer bailout.

The program was supposed to be self-sustaining, but loan defaults and delinquent payments have left it without enough money to cover its costs.

The bailout will likely

See BAILOUT/3A

## Sheriff asks group to leave

### Ward meets with Bundy to relay residents' wishes

By MANUEL VALDES  
Associated Press

BURNS — Three Oregon sheriffs met Thursday with an armed group occupying a federal wildlife refuge in southeastern Oregon and asked them to leave, after residents made it clear they wanted them to go home.

Harney County Sheriff David Ward, accompanied by two other sheriffs, asked Ammon Bundy and his group to respect the wishes of residents and end an occupation that began last weekend to protest federal land management policies.

"There are some positives that could come out of this," Ward told Bundy during their meeting at the intersection of two remote roads.

"Before this thing turns into something negative, which would ruin all of that, I think we need to find a peaceful resolution to help you guys get out of

See BURNS/8A

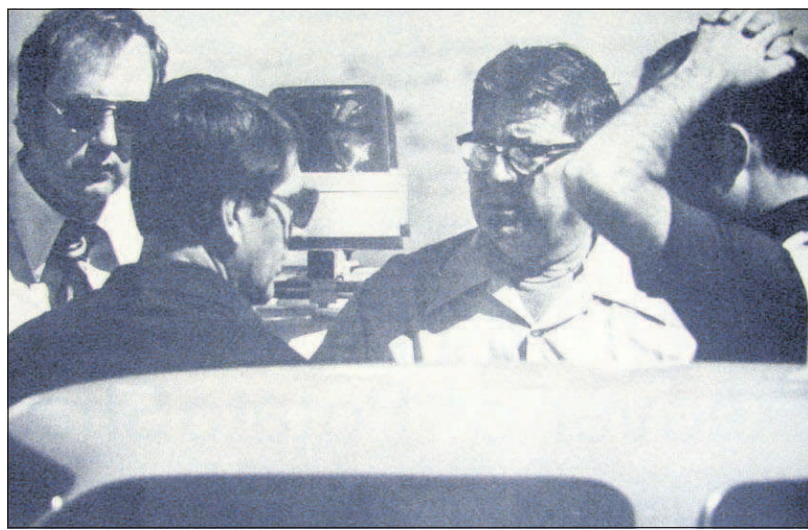


Beth Nakamura/The Oregonian via AP  
Harney County Sheriff Dave Ward meets with Ammon Bundy at a remote location outside the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge on Thursday near Burns.

## OUT OF THE VAULT

## Armed posse took over Stanfield potato shed in 1976

By RENEE STRUTHERS  
East Oregonian



EO file photo  
**ABOVE:** In this EO file photo, Dept. Dist Atty. David Gallaher, Dist. Atty. Jack Olsen, Sheriff William McPherson and Dept. Dist. Atty. Fred Bennet confer during a standoff at a Stanfield area potato packing shed near Stanfield Aug. 27, 1976. The shed was taken over by an armed posse in a dispute over land ownership.

**RIGHT:** In this EO file photo, posse leader Donald Goodwin sits in a police car following his arrest for his part in taking over a Mikami Brothers potato packing shed near Stanfield Aug. 27, 1976.

The armed takeover of the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge near Burns wasn't the first time a disgruntled group has taken over property in a dispute over ownership of Eastern Oregon land. A group of seven armed gunmen, including an avowed member of the Posse Comitatus, took over a potato shed near Stanfield on Aug. 27, 1976, claiming the land rightfully belonged to them.

Fifteen employees of the Mikami Brothers potato packing plant on Despain Gulch Road seven miles east of Stanfield were turned away at

See VAULT/8A



RENEE STRUTHERS  
Out of the Vault



## Obama tears into the NRA

By JOSH LEDERMAN  
and KEVIN FREKING  
Associated Press

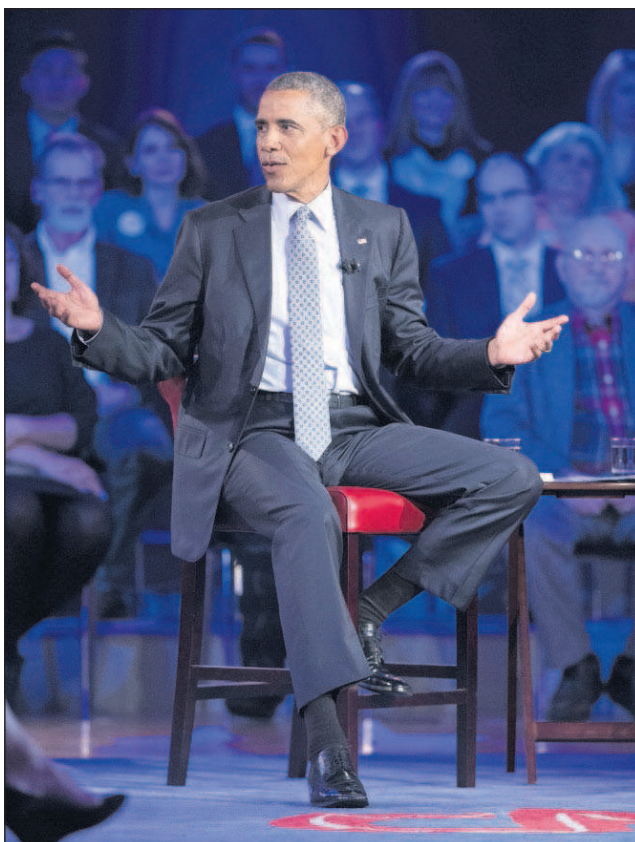
FAIRFAX, Va. — President Barack Obama tore into the National Rifle Association on Thursday as he sought support for his actions on gun control, accusing the powerful lobby group of peddling an "imaginary fiction" that he said has distorted the national debate about gun violence.

In a prime-time, televised town hall meeting, Obama dismissed what he called a "conspiracy" alleging that the federal government — and Obama in particular — wants to seize all firearms as a precursor to imposing martial law. He blamed that notion on the NRA and like-minded groups that convince its members that "somebody's going to come grab your guns."

"Yes, that is a conspiracy," Obama said. "I'm only going to be here for another year. When would I have started on this enterprise?"

Obama defended his support for the constitutional right to gun ownership while arguing it was consistent with his efforts to curb

See OBAMA/8A



AP Photo/Pablo Martinez Monsivais  
President Barack Obama answers questions during a CNN televised town hall meeting at George Mason University in Fairfax, Va., Thursday.

## Clean energy plan would oust coal by 2030

By GEORGE PLAGEN  
East Oregonian

Oregon's two largest electric utilities are taking an aggressive swing at lowering their carbon footprint.

The plan still needs lawmakers' approval, but if passed, Pacific Power and Portland General Electric say they will stop using coal by 2030 and double their renewable energy mandate by 2040.

The proposal would not affect consumer-owned utilities like the Umatilla Electric Cooperative or Columbia Basin Electric Co-op. Together, Pacific Power and PGE account for 70 percent of electricity sales statewide. Pacific Power serves 17,847 customers in Umatilla County.

Large utilities in Oregon are already required by the state's renewable portfolio standard to generate 25 percent of power renewable sources — such as new wind or solar farms — by 2025. Under the agreement, Pacific Power and PGE say they will ramp that total up to 50 percent by 2040.

Both utilities would also phase coal out

See ENERGY/3A



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