

BUNDY: In 2014 owed \$1.1M in fees and penalties

Continued from 1A

property rights advocates in a number of cases in the state, served as Bundy's attorney. But Hansen told the judge that Bundy plans to get another lawyer for trial.

Hansen said Bundy's refusal to enter a plea was a statement that he couldn't have done anything wrong because federal law doesn't apply.

Bundy has consistently denied U.S. government authority over rangeland around his 160-acre cattle ranch and melon farm in Bunkerville, about 80 miles northeast of Las Vegas.

Federal BLM officials said in 2014 that he owed more than \$1.1 million in fees and penalties for grazing hundreds of cows illegally for about 20 years.

"Mr. Bundy feels like he needs to stand up for the rights of all Americans in all states, and for the states to be the owner of public land and

not the federal government," Hansen said outside court. "In the West, the government owns that's wrong."

Bundy's second court appearance in Nevada drew about 100 protesters, including some carrying guns on their hips and others wearing cowboy hats, waving American flags and toting signs calling for Bundy's release. Nevada allows open-carrying of guns.

The scene was peaceful, with chants like "U-S-A!" and "The FBI lied and a man died!" and "Wake up America!" directed toward passing vehicles. The death referred to the fatal shooting on Jan. 26 of Robert "Lavoy" Finicum by Oregon state police.

In Oregon, the Deschutes County sheriff's office released hundreds of pages of documents Thursday including forensic reports and interview transcripts from its investigation of Finicum's death. The

55-year-old from Cane Beds, Arizona, was a key figure in the occupation of the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge.

A prosecutor in Oregon determined this week that the shooting was justified. Two officers said they believed Finicum was moments away from drawing his pistol and shooting one of their colleagues.

"I didn't want to wait for him (Finicum) to bring out a firearm, because I knew that by the time that I was able to recognize and deal with it, that he could have very likely shot" the third officer, one state trooper told investigators.

In Las Vegas, uniformed and plainclothes police and U.S. marshals remained largely unseen, but cameras in a conspicuous portable police surveillance tower kept close watch on the demonstration. No arrests were reported.

Jaime Spears, who traveled from St. Augustine, Florida, sold \$20 T-shirts bearing the

phrase "Whatever it takes." It recalls Bundy's vow to resist a federal Bureau of Land Management round-up of cattle from public rangeland in the protected Gold Butte area around his ranch.

"We're thanking everyone for their support and their prayers," Carol Bundy said on the sidewalk. The mother of 14 maintained the federal government has no jurisdiction to hold her husband and four of her sons, who are among 19 people charged in the April 2014 standoff.

Bundy was arrested Feb. 10 when he arrived at Portland International Airport on his way to visit sons Ammon and Ryan Bundy in jail. They were arrested Jan. 26 on charges that they led a 41-day armed occupation of a federal wildlife refuge near Burns. Cliven Bundy was returned last week in custody to Nevada.

Convictions in the case in Las Vegas could result in penalties up to life in prison.

Linn County moves forward with forest trust lawsuit

By PARIS ACHEN
Capital Bureau

Linn County Board of Commissioners announced Thursday it is ready to file a class action suit seeking more than \$1.4 billion damages from the state for breach of contract in management of forestland in 15 counties.

The county notified the state of its intent to file the lawsuit Jan. 13 on behalf of 150 taxing districts that benefit from sales receipts from harvests off of Oregon Forest Trust Lands. So far, the county has received no proposal from the state to address its claims, according to a county news release.

The districts include schools, public safety, libraries and other services in Benton, Clackamas, Clatsop, Columbia, Coos, Douglas, Josephine, Klamath, Lane, Lincoln, Linn, Marion, Polk, Tillamook and Washington counties.

"The state's contractual obligation is to manage our forests in a way that benefits both rural counties and the environment," Roger Nyquist, chairman of the Linn County Board of Commissioners, said in a statement. "They're not doing that, and rural communities are paying the price. I believe that a jury will reach the same conclusion."

The lawsuit is scheduled to be filed at noon Thursday in Linn County Circuit Court, Nyquist

said. Once filed, it's up to the court to decide whether to grant the lawsuit class action status.

Kristen Grainger, Gov. Kate Brown's spokeswoman, said she is not authorized to comment on pending litigation.

The county claims the state has habitually violated its contract with Forest Trust Land counties since 1998 by executing a management plan. That plan has shortchanged the counties of \$35 million in revenue annually since 2001, Nyquist said.

That unrealized revenue has contributed to higher poverty rates and stunted employment opportunities in timber counties, according to the county's claim.

"This is a straight-forward breach of contract case," said John DiLorenzo, Linn County's attorney. "The state's breach has strained county budgets and impacted public safety, education and other basic services local citizens need. They're not getting the benefit of their bargain with the state."

The county claims that the breach of contract began in 1998 when the state adopted a new rule that "de-emphasized revenue generation for the counties in exchange for other objectives." That rule resulted in less revenue for Forest Land Trust counties compared with the revenue generated on other forestland the county claims.

Left wing nonprofit files complaints against Freedom Foundation

By PARIS ACHEN
Capital Bureau

A nonprofit organization that combats right wing organizations' activities in the Pacific Northwest has accused a local conservative charity of violating federal rules for tax-exempt status.

The Northwest Accountability Project has filed complaints against the Freedom Foundation with the Internal Revenue Service, the Washington Attorney General's Office and most recently, the Oregon Attorney General's Office. Both nonprofit organizations are based in Washington but also operate in Oregon.

The complaints allege that the Freedom Foundation has violated restrictions on lobbying and other political activities for organizations with tax-exempt status and is operating for the benefit of the Republican Party and other conservative groups.

Northwest Accountability Project asked the IRS to revoke the foundation's tax-exempt status and requested that the attorney general's offices investigate the foundation to determine whether it is operating as a charity. Sixteen other

organizations, including labor unions and progressive groups, joined in the complaint to the IRS.

David Tucker, an IRS spokesman, said federal law prohibits the agency from discussing complaints. Kristina Edmunson, spokeswoman for the Oregon Department of Justice, said her agency had received the complaint Tuesday and had yet to review it.

Northwest Accountability Project claimed in a statement that it "has uncovered evidence from Freedom Foundation leadership and staff that their covert purpose is to attack labor unions in order to 'defund the political left' and advance certain conservative candidates, a clear violation of IRS and state rules."

For instance, the organization claims that the Freedom Foundation held a fundraiser on April 23, 2014, in Vancouver for Lynda Wilson, a Republican candidate for the Washington state Senate.

Maxford Nelson, director of labor policy at the Freedom Foundation, said the event was a foundation tour, where Wilson spoke.

Nelson claimed the complaints against the Freedom

Foundation are politically motivated.

"It's a mixture of false allegations and factual ones that they, of course, put their spin on, but none of it is indicative of any criminal activity" by the Freedom Foundation, Nelson said.

The Freedom Foundation has spearheaded a series of anti-union lawsuits in Oregon and Washington that have targeted unions' lifeblood — mandatory union fees.

For instance, the foundation is representing a Deschutes County home care worker who recently sued her union for barring her from opting out of membership dues in the wake of a Supreme Court decision that exempted home care contractors from compulsory union fees.

In June 2014, the Supreme Court ruled in *Harris v. Quinn* that because home care workers are contractors in state-subsidized programs, rather than public employees, they have no obligation to pay fees to a union with which the state has a collective bargaining agreement.

The Northwest Accountability Project formed in October with 501(c)(4) status.

Unlike the foundation, it has no tax-exempt status. As such, the organization is legally allowed to engage in lobbying, spend unlimited money, endorse candidates and does not have to disclose the names of all contributors.

"The organization was formed as a watchdog of right wing organizations," said Heather Weiner, spokeswoman for the Northwest Accountability Project. "It just so happens that the Freedom Foundation is so far out there that it is the one we're focusing on."

Weiner said the organization receives donations from community organizations, progressive groups and labor unions.

The foundation reported more than \$2.1 million in revenue in 2014 but is not required to report the source of its donations. The State Policy Network and Donors Trust are among groups that have reported contributing money to the foundation, according to an October story by *The Olympian*. The newspaper reported Knowledge and Progress Fund, which is partly led by Charles Koch, has helped to fund Donors Trust.

Corrections

An article in Wednesday's *East Oregonian* provided the incorrect position for which Stephen Haddock is running for re-election in Morrow County. He is the county surveyor.

The March 10 article "Former CIA agent talks to Sunridge students about his time undercover" misstated the nature of a scholarship Bryan Wright received. It was a partial scholarship.

The *East Oregonian* works hard to be accurate and sincerely regrets any errors. If you notice a mistake in the paper, please call 541-966-0818.

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AccuWeather.com Forecast

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Occasional rain	Spotty showers in the afternoon	Mostly cloudy with a shower	Cloudy with a couple of showers	Mostly cloudy, a shower; breezy

PENDLETON TEMPERATURE FORECAST

54°	41°	54°	37°	55°	38°	50°	36°	52°	36°
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HERMISTON TEMPERATURE FORECAST

56°	40°	57°	35°	58°	38°	54°	38°	56°	37°
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ALMANAC

PENDLETON
through 3 p.m. yesterday

TEMPERATURE	HIGH	LOW
Yesterday	60°	46°
Normals	54°	34°
Records	76° (2015)	16° (1948)

PRECIPITATION
24 hours ending 3 p.m. 0.15"
Month to date 0.67"
Normal month to date 0.37"
Year to date 3.04"
Last year to date 1.55"
Normal year to date 2.92"

HERMISTON
through 3 p.m. yesterday

TEMPERATURE	HIGH	LOW
Yesterday	63°	48°
Normals	56°	33°
Records	73° (2015)	15° (1948)

PRECIPITATION
24 hours ending 3 p.m. 0.05"
Month to date 0.51"
Normal month to date 0.32"
Year to date 2.00"
Last year to date 1.06"
Normal year to date 2.59"

SUN AND MOON

	First	Full	Last	New
	Mar 15	Mar 23	Mar 31	Apr 7

REGIONAL FORECAST

Coastal Oregon: Rain today; arriving in the afternoon across the north.

Eastern and Central Oregon: Periods of rain today, but a couple of showers near the Cascades.

Western Washington: Mostly cloudy today with periods of rain in the afternoon. Periods of rain tonight.

Eastern Washington: A passing shower today, except periods of rain toward the Cascades.

Cascades: Cloudy today. A little rain; periods of snow, accumulating 1-3 inches in the south.

Northern California: Rain and a thunderstorm today; heavy snow, accumulating 4-8 inches in the interior mountains.

REGIONAL CITIES

	Today			Sat.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Astoria	53	43	r	50	43	r
Baker City	53	35	r	54	30	sh
Bend	51	37	sh	45	34	sh
Brookings	55	45	r	50	45	r
Burns	49	33	sh	47	32	sh
Enterprise	53	35	r	50	32	sh
Eugene	55	44	r	51	41	r
Heppner	54	40	r	52	35	sh
Hermiston	56	40	sh	57	35	sh
John Day	55	38	r	52	35	sh
Klamath Falls	50	35	r	46	33	r
La Grande	55	39	r	54	33	sh
Meacham	52	40	r	50	32	sh
Medford	57	42	r	52	39	r
Newport	54	44	r	51	44	r
North Bend	55	47	r	53	46	r
Ontario	57	38	r	60	39	sh
Pasco	55	41	sh	57	36	c
Pendleton	54	41	r	54	37	sh
Portland	56	44	r	52	42	r
Redmond	53	35	sh	49	32	sh
Salem	55	42	r	52	42	r
Spokane	52	42	pc	50	36	sh
Ukiah	52	38	r	49	34	sh
Vancouver	54	43	r	49	43	r
Walla Walla	57	45	sh	56	41	sh
Yakima	53	35	r	55	32	c

WORLD CITIES

	Today			Sat.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Beijing	47	20	s	50	28	pc
Hong Kong	60	57	c	66	61	c
Jerusalem	67	52	s	72	61	c
London	51	34	pc	52	35	pc
Mexico City	66	36	pc	75	42	pc
Moscow	43	33	pc	37	25	sn
Paris	52	34	pc	52	44	pc
Rome	60	45	sh	63	47	sh
Seoul	39	28	s	45	33	pc
Sydney	84	70	pc	84	71	s
Tokyo	44	39	r	49	40	pc

WINDS

(in mph)	Today	Saturday
Boardman	N 3-6	WSW 6-12
Pendleton	NNW 3-6	SW 7-14

UV INDEX TODAY

1	2	2	2	0	0
8 a.m.	10 a.m.	Noon	2 p.m.	4 p.m.	6 p.m.

0-2, Low 3-5, Moderate 6-7, High; 8-10, Very High; 11+, Extreme

The higher the AccuWeather.com UV Index™ number, the greater the need for eye and skin protection.

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NATIONAL WEATHER TODAY

Shown are noon positions of weather systems and precipitation. Temperature bands are highs for the day.

National Summary: A slow-moving storm will continue to bring heavy rain and flooding to a large part of the South Central states today. A Pacific Ocean storm will bring drenching rain to the West coast with showers inland.

Yesterday's National Extremes: (for the 48 contiguous states)
High 91° in Thermal, Calif. Low 12° in Alamosa, Colo.

NATIONAL CITIES

	Today			Sat.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Albuquerque	70	43	s	62	39	pc
Atlanta	79	62	c	79	62	c
Atlanta City	62	39	s	59	48	pc
Baltimore	66	41	s	64	50	pc
Billingham	60	41	c	70	42	c
Birmingham	76	65	c	76	62	t
Boise	63	43	r	60	41	pc
Boston	56	36	pc	59	43	s
Charleston, SC	83	59	pc	80	61	pc
Charleston, WV	66	48	pc	70	57	c
Chicago	56	38	s	62	50	sh
Cleveland	47	35	s	62	47	pc
Dallas	65	56	r	69	56	pc
Denver	72	37	s	69	41	pc
Detroit	55	33	s	62	45	pc
El Paso	72	47	s	75	50	s
Fairbanks	29	10	s	29	7	s
Fargo	65	40	s	66	47	pc
Honolulu	78	70	pc	79	71	pc
Houston	75	59	t	73	60	sh
Indianapolis	62	46	pc	66	56	sh
Jacksonville	84	58	s	81	62	pc
Kansas City	67	49	pc	67	53	sh
Las Vegas	80	52	pc	70	51	pc
Little Rock	62	58	r	71	58	sh
Los Angeles	66	48	r	66	51	pc