

# Jailed Bundy defends Sheriff Palmer

By STEVEN DUBOIS  
Associated Press

PORTLAND — Ammon Bundy, the jailed leader from the armed takeover of Malheur National Wildlife Refuge, has come to the defense of a sheriff who is being investigated by the state.

The state agency that licenses police officers is looking into complaints that Grant County Sheriff Glenn Palmer twice met with occupiers who traveled to visit him during the 41-day standoff that ended Feb. 11. If Palmer is found to have violated standards, he could lose his police certification.

The occupiers and their defense attorneys have portrayed the standoff as a peaceful protest in which the group was exercising its

right to free speech. Ammon Bundy said in a recording posted Sunday on the Bundy Ranch Facebook page that Palmer was the only Oregon sheriff who didn't get caught in the "political deception" that the people of Burns were in danger during the occupation.

"Sheriff Palmer went to the source and found out the truth," Bundy said. "He found out that we at the refuge stood for the Constitution," and the protesters "love this country and would not hurt another person."

The Department of Public Safety Standards and Training received nine complaints about Palmer, sheriff since 2000 of the politically conservative county that neighbors the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge.

One was filed by Valerie Luttrell, manager of emergency communications for the city of John Day. She said federal and state authorities viewed Palmer as a security leak, and therefore kept local officials out of the loop during the Jan. 26 traffic stop that led to the arrests of the standoff's leaders and the shooting death of occupier Robert "LaVoy" Finicum.

The group was on its way to a community meeting with supporters in Grant County, which Palmer attended. In a video from the traffic stop, Finicum yells to police: "Just shoot me. I'm going to meet the sheriff. The sheriff is waiting for us."

Luttrell wrote that the 911 dispatch center received many calls during the standoff from people praising

Palmer for supporting the occupiers and their demand that the government free two ranchers imprisoned for starting fires. The group also wanted public lands relinquished to local control.

Palmer belongs to the Constitutional Sheriffs and Peace Officers Association, which describes itself as the "last line of defense standing between the overreaching federal government and your Constitutionally guaranteed rights."

He did not immediately return a phone message Monday. He has previously declined to speak about the investigation.

Bundy was one of 26 people arrested in connection with the occupation. All are charged with conspiracy, and some are accused of additional crimes.

## BRIEFLY

### Washington wolf population grows by 32 percent

OLYMPIA, Wash. (AP) — The number of wolves in Washington state grew by about 32 percent last year.

The Department of Fish and Wildlife's annual survey found at least 90 wolves in the state by the end of 2015. That was up from at least 68 wolves counted in 2014.

The survey released Monday confirmed at least four new wolf packs in Ferry, Okanogan, Pend Oreille and Stevens counties. There are now 18 wolf packs and at least eight breeding pairs.

Gray wolves were all but eliminated from Western states in the last century, but are now recovering in several states.

The state says there were fewer conflicts between wolves and livestock than in the previous year. Wolves were responsible for killing seven cattle and injuring one guard dog. Seven wolves died for various reasons.

Researchers used aerial surveys, remote cameras, wolf tracks and signals from radio-collared wolves to count the animals.

### Helicopters to drop wood mulch on scorched land

BAKER CITY (AP) — Seven months after Baker County fought its largest wildfire ever, a helicopter has returned to the region — this time with wood instead of water.

The Baker City Herald reports that the chopper is dropping hundreds of tons of wood mulch on land burned by the

Comet-Windy Ridge fire. The Forest Service hired Mountain West Helicopters of Provo, Utah, for the work.

The mulch is expected to stabilize steep slopes that were stripped of vegetation by the fire.

Ray Lovisone of Wallowa-Whitman National Forest is overseeing the work. He says it will reduce the risk of mudslides in Stices Gulch and along Highway 245.

Lovisone says the work focuses on about 88 acres where the combination of steep ground and high-intensity fire has caused a high risk of slides.

### Poulsbo police chief resigns amid investigations

POULSBO, Wash. (AP) — The police chief in Poulsbo has resigned after investigations into his conduct.

The Kitsap Sun reports Poulsbo Police Chief Al Townsend resigned Monday, saying in a resignation letter he believes he had become a distraction for the city and the police department.

Townsend, who had been chief since early 2013, had been the subject of recent investigations by the city into whether he had a romantic relationship with an officer. He has denied any wrongdoing and Poulsbo Mayor Becky Erickson says he was cleared of the allegations.

Erickson says Townsend resigned after she told him he would be placed on administrative leave as the city looked into what she called "other information."

The department's deputy chief since February, Andy Pate, has been named interim chief.

# Prineville Railway traffic on track for record year

By AARON WEST  
The (Bend) Bulletin

PRINEVILLE — Business is heating up at Prineville's Railway and Freight Depot.

In the next couple of months, a new deal the railway struck last year with a transport services company will give the short-line railroad the equipment to heat liquid to scorching temperatures. The new boiler, a machine that can make the most viscous liquids watery with heat, will allow for unloading and loading of liquid products that haven't been able to move in and out of Central Oregon before.

Superior Bulk Cargo, the Chicago-based company that will own and operate the boiler at the freight depot north of Redmond where the Prineville Railway's tracks tie in to the main north-south line, is setting up its facilities now. And when the boiler goes online later this spring, Superior Vice President of Operations Steve Lowman said the railway will be able to move a completely new kind of product.

"The rail car will arrive to the site transporting a liquid, and then we'll hook the boiler up to the car and

we'll heat it using steam," he said. "We'll heat it, maintain it and transload the product from the rail cars to trucks. Think thicker-based products. Syrup, molasses, that kind of thing. If it's thick, it flows very slowly, so as you heat it up it flows easier."

Add that new liquid product to the various goods the railway already moves, and the oldest municipal-owned railroad in the country is on track for a record year, Operations Director Matt Wiederholt said.

"Our car count is going up; we're having a stellar year," he said. "Right now, we're over where we were the whole year last year, and we still have four more months. We should beat last fiscal year by at least 300 carloads."

The projected year-end total for carloads is 874, a roughly 50 percent increase from 583 in 2014-15, according to the railway's numbers. Projected revenue shows a similar success story. The railway expects to bring in \$839,600 by the end of the year, a 42 percent increase from the \$590,366 it brought in last year.

It's a big turnaround from about a decade ago, Wiederholt said.

Back in 2004, the railroad

wasn't making enough money to sustain itself and was eating away at the slush fund it had built up in the 1960s, when the local logging industry made the railroad so successful the people of Prineville didn't have to pay taxes.

"We were not operationally viable," said Wiederholt, who the city hired for the job in 2004. "We were milking money out of that slush fund. The city considered shutting (the railway) down."

But instead of closing the doors on the railway, built nearly a hundred years ago in 1918, it decided to invest instead. Using the slush fund money, the city built 133,000 square feet of warehouse space, which allowed customers to unload and load cargo on-site, and even set up shop on the premises.

The two clients and 80 carloads the railroad had in 2004 — a low point, Wiederholt said — began to turn around. Now with 32 service agreements, more freight depot built in 2013 and the ability to move new kinds of product with the boiler, Wiederholt said it nearly feels like the 1960s again.

The boom can be traced directly back to the service agreements, which are

contracts the railway's customers enter into to use its facilities. Customers pay the railway to load and unload the goods they're bringing into Prineville, as well as for the railway's warehouse space to store the products.

"We haul everything from tires, lumber, magnesium chloride de-icer, animal feed, diesel — those are our primary commodities right now," Wiederholt said. "Tires are our biggest shipper right now. Les Schwab — all of their domestic tires come in by rail."

The fact that the railway is municipal-owned is a benefit to customers, Wiederholt said. While a privately operated railroad is in the business of making money, the Prineville Railway's priority is supporting the local economy by creating business and jobs. The customers don't seem to mind.

"The biggest difference is the service," said Dustin Corwin, Prineville branch manager for Carson, a fuel transport company. "It's like a corporation versus a mom-and-pop business. That's how I would compare the two different types of railway. I think Prineville is extremely customer service-oriented."

## Corrections

The Umatilla County Veterans' Services office in Milton-Freewater is open Thursdays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., and the Pendleton office's hours are Monday through Wednesday and Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Incorrect information was printed in the March 9, 2016, East Oregonian in a brief on page 5A.

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	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Sun and clouds with a shower	Partly sunny	Sunny	Partly sunny	More clouds than sun

### PENDLETON TEMPERATURE FORECAST

48°	33°	50°	29°	47°	27°	51°	33°	54°	39°
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### HERMISTON TEMPERATURE FORECAST

54°	30°	54°	27°	51°	28°	52°	31°	54°	38°
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### ALMANAC

#### PENDLETON

through 3 p.m. yesterday

TEMPERATURE	HIGH	LOW
Yesterday	51°	36°
Normals	55°	35°
Records	80° (1934)	11° (1906)

PRECIPITATION  
24 hours ending 3 p.m. 0.08"  
Month to date 0.88"  
Normal month to date 0.56"  
Year to date 3.25"  
Last year to date 1.70"  
Normal year to date 3.11"

#### HERMISTON

through 3 p.m. yesterday

TEMPERATURE	HIGH	LOW
Yesterday	54°	36°
Normals	57°	34°
Records	79° (1934)	10° (1944)

PRECIPITATION  
24 hours ending 3 p.m. Trace  
Month to date 0.63"  
Normal month to date 0.44"  
Year to date 2.12"  
Last year to date 1.11"  
Normal year to date 2.71"

### SUN AND MOON

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

Shown is today's weather. Temperatures are today's highs and tonight's lows.

### REGIONAL FORECAST

Coastal Oregon: Cloudy today; showers; however, dry in the south.  
Eastern Washington: Clouds and sun today with a shower in places, but a snow shower in the mountains.  
Cascades: Cloudy and cold today with snow showers, accumulating a coating to an inch.  
Northern California: Partly sunny today. Warmer in central parts; cold in the interior mountains.

### REGIONAL CITIES

	Today			Wed.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Astoria	50	38	sh	52	37	pc
Baker City	41	23	c	44	20	sf
Bend	43	28	c	49	27	pc
Brookings	54	43	c	60	46	pc
Burns	41	26	c	47	23	pc
Enterprise	38	24	c	41	22	sf
Eugene	50	38	sh	56	34	pc
Hepburn	46	30	r	49	29	pc
Hermiston	54	30	pc	54	27	s
John Day	41	34	c	48	34	sf
Klamath Falls	48	25	c	55	26	pc
La Grande	43	27	sh	46	25	pc
Meacham	39	24	c	43	20	pc
Medford	56	37	c	62	37	pc
Newport	50	43	sh	56	41	pc
North Bend	54	45	sh	60	42	pc
Ontario	49	32	c	53	29	pc
Pasco	55	30	pc	56	28	pc
Pendleton	48	33	pc	50	29	pc
Portland	50	39	sh	56	35	pc
Redmond	46	26	c	52	24	pc
Salem	50	40	sh	57	35	pc
Spokane	45	27	pc	46	27	pc
Ukiah	38	26	c	44	23	sf
Vancouver	48	37	sh	54	35	pc
Walla Walla	49	35	sh	53	31	pc
Yakima	55	29	pc	57	27	s

### WORLD CITIES

	Today			Wed.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Beijing	59	32	pc	66	39	s
Hong Kong	65	61	pc	70	66	c
Jerusalem	56	45	pc	54	44	pc
London	52	41	c	49	37	pc
Mexico City	81	51	s	81	52	pc
Moscow	32	21	pc	37	30	sf
Paris	53	36	pc	50	35	pc
Rome	58	43	sh	58	44	sh
Seoul	49	34	pc	52	35	s
Sydney	79	67	t	77	67	sh
Tokyo	52	38	s	56	45	c

### WINDS

(in mph)	Today	Wednesday
Boardman	WSW 8-16	WNW 3-6
Pendleton	WSW 8-16	W 4-8

### UV INDEX TODAY

0 1 2 3 2 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.

showers t-storms rain flurries snow ice  
cold front warm front stationary front high low

National Summary: Rain will linger in New England as severe storms roll through part of the Midwest today. Windy conditions will sweep over the Plains. Snow showers will dot the Rockies as rain dampens the Northwest.

Yesterday's National Extremes: (for the 48 contiguous states)  
High 98° in Cotulla, Texas Low 10° in Clayton Lake, Maine

### NATIONAL CITIES

	Today			Wed.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Albuquerque	66	37	s	64	35	s
Atlanta	81	62	s	78	56	c
Atlanta City	60	48	pc	62	45	pc
Baltimore	62	46	r	70	45	sh
Billings	48	30	c	46	25	sf
Birmingham	82	60	s	77	54	c
Boise	45	32	c	49	31	pc
Boston	49	42	r	58	43	c
Charleston, SC	85	62	s	86	62	pc
Charleston, WV	70	53	pc	69	45	pc
Chicago	61	46	t	68	41	pc
Cleveland	56	48	pc	59	43	pc
Dallas	82	56	s	78	51	pc
Denver	50	25	s	49	25	pc
Detroit	58	47	pc	61	41	pc
El Paso	77	49	s	79	48	s
Fairbanks	18	10	sf	17	5	sf
Fargo	51	35	r	43	31	sn
Honolulu	83	70	pc	77	65	pc
Houston	85	65	pc	80	67	c
Indianapolis	71	49	pc	64	43	pc
Jacksonville	87	60	s	85	62	pc
Kansas City	67	41	c	62	37	pc
Las Vegas	72	52	r	74	53	s
Little Rock	82	47	pc	73	45	pc
Los Angeles	77	56	s	84	57	s
Louisville	75	53	pc	65	47	s
Memphis	80	50	pc	74	48	pc
Miami	85	68	s	85	67	pc
Millwaukee	48	42	t	54	37	c
Minneapolis	55	40	r	47	35	sh
Nashville	81	54	s	71	45	pc
New Orleans	83	68	pc	81	68	c
New York City	58	49</				