

## Quick takes

### Tribal member killed

Knowing this young man was taken from his wife, children and family was enough. It seems people forget: Crimes on the reservation get you federal charges!

— Abby Farrow-Stapleman

### County health department targets smoking

Oh come on! People who smoke are going to smoke because they want to! They don't do it because they see an ad, or because of where the cigarettes are located in the store. What a stupid waste of energy.

— Lezlee Weller Gunsolley

If tobacco advertisements are so innocuous with little to no effect on the general public, why does the tobacco industry invest hundreds of millions of dollars on it?

— Chad Elliot DeFalco

It's really very easy. You don't like it — don't do it. Whatever it applies to. There are drunk driving accidents because people are irresponsible. Accountability goes a long ways.

— Kori Allen-Schmaltz

### Marijuana taxes roll in

Better to have the money go to the state than the cartels!

— Malvin Jamison

Good! Put it towards our children's education: music and art programs, teacher's salaries.

— Jamaica Brooks

One of the great lessons of the Twitter age is that much can be summed up in just a few words. Here are some of this week's takes. Tweet yours @Tim\_Trainor or email editor@eastoregonian.com, and keep them to 140 characters.

## Blue Mountain forest plan will consider new alternatives

We are writing to share an update on the revision of the Blue Mountains Forest Plans, which will guide the management of approximately 5 million acres of the Malheur, Umatilla and Wallowa-Whitman national forests. To begin, we want to acknowledge those who have been involved in this forest plan revision process. We have been encouraged by how much you value your public lands, and we thank you for helping to shape how we manage these national forests on behalf of the American people.

Over the past year, as part of a public re-engagement effort, we have visited with over 700 individuals in 24 public listening sessions held in communities across eastern Oregon, eastern Washington and western Idaho. Although we have heard differences of opinion about how to best manage these spectacular landscapes and ecosystems of the Blue Mountains, most agree that these national forests should continue to be managed for the many uses and benefits they provide, both now and into the future.

We found the input shared during the public re-engagement process to be very helpful, and we are using this input in a variety of ways. For example, the public listening sessions have brought additional context to the 2014 formal comments and have given us a better understanding of how different alternatives may affect our diverse public.

In response, we are currently crafting two new alternatives, which we will analyze in detail in the environmental impact statement:

- The first alternative will emphasize

restoration and has been informed by formal public comments, re-engagement input and revised recommendations by Forest Service resource specialists.

• The second alternative will build upon the first. This alternative would considerably increase the pace of forest restoration during the plan period (15 years) by moving a larger portion of the forested landscape toward the desired conditions — i.e., thinning densely forested stands, reducing fire severity and decreasing the risks posed by insects and diseases.

We will provide public updates with new information as we develop these additional alternatives and continue with the analysis of other alternatives within the EIS. While we seek to be responsive to all of our diverse public, any alternative we consider must be analyzed for compliance with federal laws, regulations and policies governing national forest management. Also keep in mind that the forest plan revision is still a work in progress, and the deciding officer (the regional forester) has not made any final decisions.

What are the next steps? The final product of this forest plan revision process will include three separate forest plans — one for each of the Malheur, Umatilla and Wallowa-Whitman national forests. Before these forest plans can be finalized, we will consult with federal agencies on the Endangered Species Act and

continue our government-to-government consultation with appropriate American Indian tribes. We will also continue to address questions and concerns from all of you who continue to be interested in Blue Mountains forest plans.

When the final EIS, three revised forest plans, and three draft records of decision are ready, these documents will be available for public review for 60 days during the objection period. Individuals and entities that submitted substantive formal comments during the opportunities for public comment may file an objection if they do

not feel their issues were satisfactorily addressed. Once the objection process is finished, the regional forester will sign each forest's record of decision.

In closing, we would like to express our appreciation for your involvement in the stewardship of your national forests. We are committed to using the information you have provided to shape the revised forest plans. Over the coming months, we will strive to keep the lines of communication open through the sharing of information via email, mail, phone and the web. Please refer to [www.fs.usda.gov/goto/BlueMountainsPlanRevision](http://www.fs.usda.gov/goto/BlueMountainsPlanRevision) for the most up-to-date information, and if you have any questions, please email [bluemtnplanrevision@fs.fed.us](mailto:bluemtnplanrevision@fs.fed.us).

Steven K. Beverlin is forest supervisor of the Malheur National Forest, Genevieve Masters is forest supervisor of the Umatilla National Forest and Thomas Montoya is the forest supervisor of the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest.



STEVEN BEVERLIN  
Comment



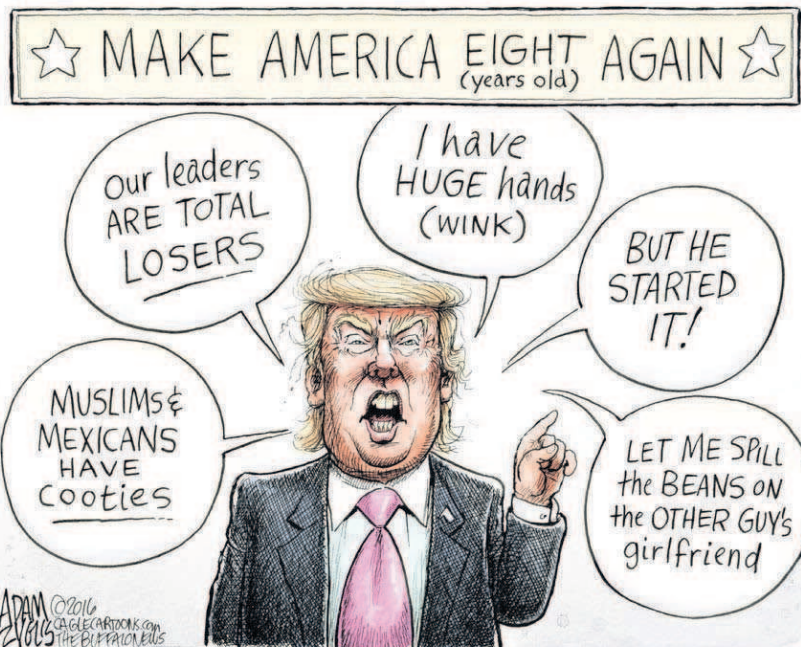
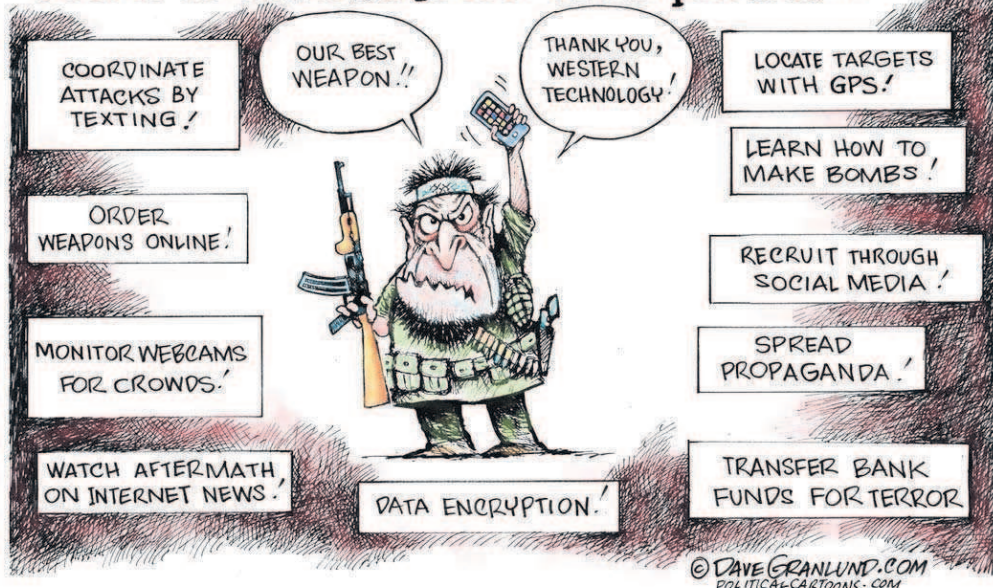
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THOMAS MONTOYA  
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## 9 out of 10 terrorists prefer smartphones ...



## All the good that trees can do

By DAVID C. POWELL  
Pendleton Tree Commission

In summer, if you stand on a typical Pendleton street and look around, what do you see? Homes, sidewalks, perhaps grassy lawns or landscaped rock areas and some trees. When viewed from a street or sidewalk, the trees may not seem especially plentiful.

But what if you went to the top of south hill and looked across to north hill, with Pendleton nestled in the valley below? From this high vantage point, trees seem much more abundant. You are now looking at Pendleton's urban forest.

What are some benefits from Pendleton's urban forest? Trees increase property value and add beauty to our urban environment, but they also provide some advantages that might surprise you:

- Trees reduce cooling and heating costs. When placed properly on the south or west side of a home, shade trees can reduce air conditioning costs by up to 40 percent. For this reason, the Sacramento Municipal Utility District provides up to 10 free trees to each homeowner to reduce air conditioning demand. Planting a windbreak of conifer trees can reduce wintertime heating costs by blocking prevailing winds from the west.

- Shaded streets are happy streets. A study addressed this question: Is pavement condition on tree-shaded streets better than on unshaded streets, all else being equal? The answer is a resounding yes — more shade means more time between repaving. And large amounts of shade aren't necessary — having only 20 percent of a road surface shaded results in 60 percent savings in resurfacing costs over 30 years. During high summer temperatures, unshaded pavement binder breaks down or evaporates.

- Trees influence people's emotional wellbeing. Viewing trees and nature, even if just from a window, has a beneficial effect on job satisfaction. Many studies found that hospital patients with window views of trees recover significantly faster and with fewer complications than patients without such views. And medical patients viewing trees

and forests, even if only in pictures or artwork, feel less stress and have lower blood pressure.

In June 2015, Mayor Houk appointed six members to Pendleton's new tree commission, a group of citizen volunteers charged with guiding a community tree management program. A tree commission was authorized by city council. The tree commission works with public trees within the city of Pendleton, primarily those located in Olney Cemetery and city parks.

How will the tree commission assist with Pendleton's urban forest? Here are a few of the ways:

- Tree City USA. The commission will pursue Tree City USA status for Pendleton. Tree City USA communities have demonstrated a commitment to caring for and managing their public trees. Nearly 60 Oregon communities participate in this program (Echo has been a Tree City for more than 25 years.)

- Utilize urban trees after they die. After an urban tree dies, it can still provide benefits. The commission helps the city work with the Umatilla tribes to use dead trees for river restoration projects (such as Meacham Creek) or to have the wood used in other helpful ways.

- Respond to a severe November 2014 freeze event. Pendleton experienced a severe freeze event in early November 2014, when many trees were killed or injured. The commission explores options for helping citizens replace and dispose of their dead trees.

- Maintain an inventory of Pendleton's public trees. Pendleton has more than 2,100 public trees in 38 sites across the city. The commission helps the city keep an inventory of these trees, including ongoing assessments of their condition and health.

- Assist with tree maintenance activities. The city's trees have the same needs as your trees — they need to be trimmed (pruned) correctly, and protected from lawnmower, string-trimmer and deer-rubbing damage. The commission will help meet these needs for city trees.

- Maintain a list of recommended trees. The city maintains lists of acceptable and prohibited street trees; the commission helps

### Free tree giveaway

When: Sat. April 9, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.  
Where: Roy Raley Park  
What: 700 free tree and shrub seedlings handed out on first-come first-serve basis, as well as planting and pruning demonstrations.

maintain these lists. If the November 2014 freeze killed one or more of your trees, you could consult the acceptable tree list when selecting a replacement tree.

- Encourage civic groups to plant urban trees. Local civic groups (Lions Club, etc.) are often interested in planting urban trees or purchasing trees for city crews to plant in parks. The commission works with these groups to encourage urban tree planting.

What can you do to support your share of Pendleton's urban forest? Here are a few ideas:

- Appreciate and care for your trees. Trees are a valued part of our landscape. Treat them well — trim them correctly (please don't top them) and protect them from lawnmower, deer and string-trimmer damage.

- Keep your trees hydrated and nourished. As your trees grow, be sure they receive enough water and fertilizer to keep pace with their increasing size. Big trees need more goodies (water, nutrients) than small trees. Mulch around the base of your trees to conserve water you provide for them.

- Participate in Pendleton's Arbor Day celebration. Arbor Day is America's national tree holiday, when we honor the important role trees play in our lives. Oregon appreciates trees so much that we celebrate a full Arbor Week — the first week in April.

The Umatilla National Forest partners with Pendleton's Parks & Recreation Department to provide an Arbor Day celebration each year.

Dave Powell is a member of Pendleton's Tree Commission. Other tree commissioners are Chris Johnson, Alan Kendrick, Andy Lisinger, Richard Prowse, and Jon Staldine.

## Let's end our belief in Western fairy tales

By REP. RAÚL M. GRIJALVA  
Writers on the Range

Last month, a federal court indicted the armed extremists who took over the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge in eastern Oregon on multiple counts of felony conspiracy, making threats and other serious charges. The property damage they caused, which is still being assessed, will likely be charged to the American taxpayers on whose behalf they claimed to be acting.

While they and their patron, Nevada rancher Cliven Bundy, now face the prospect of years behind bars, their ideology still enjoys considerable support in Washington and shows no signs of going away. The same figures who hailed the militia as patriots and defenders of the Constitution are advancing plans to transfer enormous tracts of federal land to state and local control, which all too often is a step away from selling them off to the highest bidder.

It's easy to forget now, but when the Oregon standoff was at its peak, few Beltway Republicans offered a word of protest. All too often, we heard that a band of confused, gun-brandishing fanatics had legitimate grievances and good reason to invade a national wildlife refuge. One of my colleagues, Idaho Republican Rep. Raúl Labrador, a founding member of the House Freedom Caucus, even suggested they were engaged in a "peaceful" act of "civil disobedience."

On Jan. 6, to restore some balance to the conversation, I offered a resolution of disapproval, calling on the militia to leave the refuge peacefully and surrender to local officials. My colleagues across the aisle ignored it, and no one cosponsored it.

Instead, the Federal Land Action Group, a coalition

headed by two House Republicans, is continuing to conduct roundtables calling for the same kinds of federal property giveaways the Bundy group described as its main goal. These efforts are not supported by the Constitution. Unfortunately, given the economic dislocation happening across the West, many Americans see federal land transfers as a chance to return to the good old days: free land, plentiful resources and a blank check to treat the Earth like a bottomless gold mine.

The people selling this fantasy know better, and they need to level with the people they represent before the Malheur standoff is repeated. That begins with telling the truth about the West. Because of episodes as diverse as the Louisiana Purchase and the federal government's shameful genocide against Native American tribes, Uncle Sam once owned most of our country's property — not because of any theft from state or local officials but because of the often messy ways in which we became a nation.

Until we tell the truth about the West — how it came to be, and what it was, what it is now, and what it can become in the future — we can't have a real discussion about job training, clean energy expansion and other forms of government reinvestment that will improve the quality of life in these areas.

Better federal, state and local government policies will ensure that Western communities have time to plan for the future and that working people can continue to earn a good living. An imaginary version of the past is a sad indulgence and fails to help any of us.

Arizona Rep. Raúl M. Grijalva is a contributor to Writers on the Range, an opinion service of High Country News.