

# Harney County braces for recall election after standoff

By GILLIAN FLACCUS  
Associated Press

Voters in a rural Oregon town are receiving ballots in the mail for a recall election targeting a judge who opposed the armed takeover of a federal wildlife refuge earlier this year.

Harney County Judge Steve Grasty decided to fight the recall even though he is retiring this year.

The recall has stirred passions in Burns, which held the national spotlight for weeks during the standoff at Malheur National Wildlife Refuge.

Ammon Bundy and others occupied the refuge this winter to protest federal land policy and the imprisonment of Dwight and Steven Hammond, two ranchers sent to prison for starting fires.

The 41-day standoff ended Feb. 11 and included the fatal shooting by police of rancher and occupation spokesman Robert "LaVoy" Finicum.

The recall election is June 28. Though his title is judge, Grasty's position is essentially chairman of the county commission.

He was outspoken in his opposition of the occupation and the ranchers holed up in the refuge. Their supporters



In this Jan. 4, 2015, file photo, Harney County Sheriff David Ward, left, speaks as Judge Steven Grasty listens in Burns.

blamed Grasty for not doing more to protect the Hammonds.

Some Burns residents are

rallying around Grasty as the recall election draws near. About 100 people attended a rally for him last week and

an ad running in the local newspaper this week will list the names of up to 150 supporters.

"I think he's done a really good job for us," said Jeanette Vinson, a nail technician who supports Grasty. "It's ridiculous. Why go through all this? Why put the county through this?"

Kim Rollins, who initiated the recall and gathered enough signatures to get it on the ballot, declined to comment.

Grasty said he'll be relieved when the election is behind him, no matter the outcome.

"I've always had good solid communication and relationships with folks and it's very humbling to go to the grocery store, to go to the hardware store and every time someone expresses support," said Grasty, who's served in his position since 1999.

The occupiers wanted the federal government to relinquish public lands and free the Hammonds. Neither demand was met.

Two of 26 defendants indicted on a conspiracy charge after the standoff have accepted plea deals.

A September trial has been scheduled for the remaining 24 defendants, including Ammon and Ryan Bundy.

# Union Pacific fined \$7 million in two years

PORTLAND (AP) — Union Pacific penalties have surpassed those of every railroad nationwide for the past two years, according to inspection records obtained by an Oregon newspaper after a company train carrying crude oil derailed and caught fire earlier this month.

The Federal Railroad Agency fined Union Pacific more than \$7 million from 2014 through 2015, *The Oregonian* reported. An Oregon Department of Transportation inspection found repeated safety violations the day before the company's train left the track June 3 along the Columbia River.

The issues listed by state inspectors appear unrelated to the derailment, which didn't hurt anyone but led to some evacuations. Some of the oil made it into the river, where it was captured by absorbent booms, officials said.

"There had been a history of violations that we thought were concerning," Oregon Department of Transportation rail administrator Hal Gard said. Inspectors were repeatedly visiting two yards, he said.

"That was intensive and intentional to get attention and make a point that

something's going on here and the program needs to be tightened up," Gard said.

Conductors left trains in Portland yards without setting brakes on multiple occasions, which an expert said could cause runaway trains.

"If we're on an incline, which most track has, it can be imperceptible that you have movement," retired state rail safety inspector Michael Eyer said. "They can start rolling. It's very serious. You just can't do that."

Inspectors also found four instances since September when switches were left unlocked and made it possible for anyone to pull a lever and reroute a train.

"Someone could throw a switch and derail the whole train. That is a very serious issue," Eyer said. "A train coming along would find itself at 40 mph suddenly running out of track or running into a parked train."

A Union Pacific spokesman said the railroad stands by its safety record.

"Our safety record is very good," spokesman Justin Jacobs said. "We take that obligation very seriously, and we commit that to our customers and the communities in which we serve."

# Salem police to stock ceremonial flags

SALEM (AP) — Police in Oregon's capital will keep ceremonially-folded American flags on hand to present to families of deceased veterans.

Several flags have already been stocked in police fleet supervisor vehicles, Salem Police Lt. Dave Okada told *The Statesman Journal*. Officers came up with the idea after the recent death of a World War II veteran.

The man died of natural causes, but Oregon law requires police to respond to

unattended deaths. Officers Chad Galusha and Adam Waite, both veterans, learned about the man's World War II service during the investigation.

Waite went out of his way to find an American flag to honor the man, according to Galusha, which inspired Galusha to propose keeping flags on hand for such occasions.

"We got to talking about it, and we thought it would be a great tribute to the veterans and the family and a great honor for the Salem Police

Department if we could provide that service to the families," Galusha said.

Okada said supervisor vehicles will be equipped with flags thanks to the "simple, yet honorable, suggestion."

An initial batch of flags was donated by Virgil T. Golden Funeral Services.

Several members of the Salem Police Department who also served in the military held a folding ceremony for each flag.

Officers have already bestowed the program's first flag upon a veteran. Donated flags will also be used to honor fallen police officers and firefighters.

## Corrections

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.

# Baker Co. considers allowing mining of dredge tailings

BAKER CITY (AP) — Baker County is considering proposals from companies interested in mining for gold in dredge tailings on county-owned land.

The *Baker City Herald* reports that several mining companies have previously contacted the county about the 1,900 acres of tailings east of Sumpter. Their interest was spurred by record-high gold prices in 2011.

Gold prices have dropped since then, and

the county received no responses to a solicitation sent in 2013.

County Commission Chairman Bill Harvey says the situation interested parties have again contacted Baker County about the dredge tailings, although he would not name them.

Commissioners asked the county official who oversaw the 2013 effort to gather more information and present it at a future meeting.

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## AccuWeather.com Forecast

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Some sun with a shower; cooler	Mainly cloudy and cool	Mostly cloudy	A shower around, mainly later	An afternoon t-storm in spots

### PENDLETON TEMPERATURE FORECAST

66°	40°	66°	47°	65°	43°	71°	43°	75°	48°
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### HERMISTON TEMPERATURE FORECAST

70°	41°	72°	49°	72°	47°	76°	46°	80°	51°
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### ALMANAC

**PENDLETON**  
through 3 p.m. yesterday

TEMPERATURE	HIGH	LOW
Yesterday	73°	51°
Normals	77°	52°
Records	98° (1974)	35° (1910)

**PRECIPITATION**  
24 hours ending 3 p.m. 0.00"  
Month to date 0.38"  
Normal month to date 0.67"  
Year to date 5.97"  
Last year to date 4.99"  
Normal year to date 7.22"

**HERMISTON**  
through 3 p.m. yesterday

TEMPERATURE	HIGH	LOW
Yesterday	75°	58°
Normals	79°	53°
Records	99° (1933)	41° (1952)

**PRECIPITATION**  
24 hours ending 3 p.m. 0.00"  
Month to date 0.12"  
Normal month to date 0.31"  
Year to date 4.35"  
Last year to date 3.14"  
Normal year to date 5.45"

### REGIONAL FORECAST

Coastal Oregon: Mostly cloudy today with a shower and thunderstorm around.

Eastern Washington: Clouds and sun today with a shower in places. Partly cloudy tonight.

Eastern and Central Oregon: Cooler today with times of clouds and sun, a passing shower.

Western Washington: Variable clouds today with a shower and thunderstorm around.

Cascades: Today: showers around; snow level as low as 4,500 feet. Spotty showers tonight.

Northern California: Partly sunny and cooler today. Partly cloudy tonight.

### REGIONAL CITIES

	Today			Wed.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Astoria	60	46	t	62	47	c
Baker City	59	35	pc	57	36	sh
Bend	55	30	pc	57	36	c
Brookings	58	45	pc	58	46	c
Burns	61	35	pc	54	33	sh
Enterprise	55	37	pc	53	40	sh
Eugene	63	41	sh	66	45	c
Heppner	62	38	pc	63	42	c
Hermiston	70	41	pc	72	49	c
John Day	60	38	pc	57	42	sh
Klamath Falls	59	37	pc	55	33	sh
La Grande	59	35	pc	59	41	sh
Meacham	57	34	pc	56	40	sh
Medford	66	45	pc	68	46	c
Newport	57	45	sh	58	46	c
North Bend	60	46	sh	62	47	c
Ontario	72	49	pc	68	47	sh
Pasco	71	43	pc	72	46	c
Pendleton	66	40	pc	66	47	c
Portland	61	50	t	66	51	c
Redmond	59	32	pc	61	37	c
Salem	62	45	t	65	48	c
Spokane	60	41	pc	64	45	c
Ukiah	55	34	pc	56	39	sh
Vancouver	60	47	t	64	47	c
Walla Walla	66	46	pc	68	47	c
Yakima	67	38	pc	70	44	c

### WORLD CITIES

	Today			Wed.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Beijing	72	62	sh	89	65	pc
Hong Kong	91	82	t	90	82	t
Jerusalem	91	74	s	92	62	s
London	65	54	t	65	52	t
Mexico City	73	57	t	72	54	t
Moscow	69	51	c	73	64	pc
Paris	65	54	t	64	53	t
Rome	78	63	pc	78	66	s
Seoul	85	69	pc	78	66	t
Sydney	69	52	s	68	51	s
Tokyo	79	68	pc	75	69	c

### WINDS

(in mph)	Today	Wednesday
Boardman	WSW 10-20	W 4-8
Pendleton	WSW 8-16	WNW 4-8

### UV INDEX TODAY

1	4	6	7	5	2
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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:** Showers and thunderstorms will extend from the Southeast states to the northern Plains today. Storms can be severe over the central Plains. Showers will cool northern New England and the Northwest.

**Yesterday's National Extremes:** (for the 48 contiguous states)  
High 105° in Wink, Texas      Low 26° in Bridgeport, Calif.

### NATIONAL CITIES

	Today			Wed.			Today			Wed.			
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W	
Albuquerque	89	60	s	93	61	s	Louisville	91	75	pc	90	75	t
Atlanta	92	75	t	89	74	t	Memphis	89	77	pc	96	78	t
Atlanta City	74	61	pc	77	64	pc	Miami	91	77	pc	89	77	t
Baltimore	82	62	pc	81	66	t	Minneapolis	75	63	c	84	63	r
Billings	85	51	pc	76	54	t	Minneapolis	75	66	t	78	61	c
Birmingham	91	74	t	89	75	t	Nashville	92	74	pc	92	74	t
Boise	69	49	pc	67	49	sh	New Orleans	90	79	t	92	78	t
Boston	76	61	s	77	60	pc	New York City	81	63	s	86	67	pc
Charleston, SC	94	78	s	92	78	t	Oklahoma City	96	75	pc	98	75	s
Chicago	89	65	pc	88	69	t	Omaha	88	67	t	94	68	s
Cleveland	79	65	pc	86	68	t	Philadelphia	82	60	pc	86	64	pc
Dallas	95	78	pc	96	77	pc	Portland, ME	71	55	pc	77	54	pc
Denver	81	55	pc	89	58	s	Providence	79	58	s	83	60	pc
Detroit	76	62	c	82	65	t	Raleigh	90	72	s	90	73	t
El Paso	98	70	s	101	71	s	Rapid City	79	53	pc	88	58	s
Fairbanks	62	44	pc	72	53	pc	Reno	75	51	s	68	42	pc
Fargo	73	60	t	77	55	pc	Sacramento	78	52	s	72	49	s
Honolulu	83	75	pc	83	74	sh	St. Louis	94	78	pc	98	75	t
Houston	91	76	pc	93	75	pc	Salt Lake City	84	63	s	89	62	c
Indianapolis	86	72	t	89	71	t	San Diego	69	62	pc	68	61	pc
Jacksonville	93	74	t	93	74	t	San Francisco	66	54	pc	66	54	pc
Kansas City	89	69	t	95	72	s	Seattle	59	48	t	64	48	c
Las Vegas	98	74	s	95	72	s	Tucson	99	67	s	102	67	s
Little Rock	90	78	pc	96	78	pc	Washington, DC	83	66	pc	82		