

Harney County judge prevails in recall

By ANDREW SELSKY
Associated Press

BEND — A local official who opposed the armed takeover of an Oregon wildlife refuge has prevailed in a recall vote.

Harney County Judge Steve Grasty, the top administrator of the sparsely populated high-desert county, faced a recall vote after he refused to allow the armed protesters to use a county building for a meeting. Unofficial results Tuesday night showed about 70 percent of voters rejecting the recall effort.

The vote underscored divisions that remain in the county more than four months after the 41-day occupation ended Feb. 11. The occupiers said they were protesting federal land-use policies.

Signs calling for voters to reject the recall effort, and a few of them supporting it, were on lawns and businesses all over Burns, the county seat, and on ranch fences.

The headquarters of the 188,000-acre Malheur National Wildlife Refuge,



Harney County Judge Steve Grasty, who faces a special recall election, speaks during an interview in his office Tuesday in Burns.

located 30 miles south of Burns, is still closed, though refuge roads are open. Refuge manager Chad Karges said he expects the headquarters to reopen in late summer or early fall.

At more than 10,000 square miles, Harney County is the largest county in

Oregon. With only 7,100 residents, it is also one of the least populated. But the world's attention was focused on it after protesters who came from out of state and took over the refuge headquarters in January.

Grasty told The Associated Press recently that he stands by his decision to deny use of a county building to the leader of the armed group.

"He had already taken over, with firearms, a whole compound of buildings. And (the request) didn't make sense to me, nor did it fit public policy about public safety," Grasty said.

More than two dozen occupiers were arrested amid the takeover, and one was shot dead at a roadblock confrontation with law enforcement. Several have pleaded guilty in federal court in Portland to conspiracy in exchange for the dismissal of a charge of firearms possession in a federal facility. Most of the remaining defendants, including leader Ammon Bundy, are scheduled to go to trial Sept. 7.



Paris Achen/Pamplin Media Group

Attorney General Ellen Rosenblum and Gov. Kate Brown announce two settlements with Volkswagen over an emissions-cheating scandal.

VW pays Oregon \$85M to settle emissions suit

By PARIS ACHEN
Capital Bureau

PORTLAND — The state and federal government have settled two lawsuits with Volkswagen related to the company misrepresenting the amount of emissions its diesel-powered vehicles produced.

The federal settlement, which has yet to receive final approval, requires Volkswagen to pay more than \$68.2 million into a trust to support diesel-emission reduction programs in Oregon and to make cash payments of \$5,100 each to 13,000 Oregonians who purchased the falsely marketed vehicles. Volkswagen also has agreed to buy back or fix certain VW and Audi diesel vehicles. Other states will receive similarly funded emission reductions programs.

In a separate multistate settlement reached by Oregon Attorney General Ellen Rosenblum and 37 other attorneys general, Volkswagen has agreed to pay \$570 million for violating state laws prohibiting unfair or deceptive trade practices. Oregon receives \$17 million of that payment.

Oregon was among six

states that led the investigation into the company's deceptive trade practices, in part because Oregon has the highest per-capita ownership of the affected VW vehicles in the nation, Rosenblum said.

The attorneys general investigation confirmed that VW and Porsche sold more than 570,000 2.0- and 3.0-liter diesel vehicles in the United States, concealing the existence of "defeat device" software installed in the vehicles. The software enabled the company to circumvent emissions standards for certain air pollutants.

VW and Porsche misrepresented the cars as environmentally friendly and compliant with federal and state emissions standards, Rosenblum said. In fact, the vehicles emitted harmful amounts of nitrogen oxides, she said.

Tuesday's settlements resolve consumer claims raised by 38 states, the federal government and car owners in private class action suits.

Rosenblum and Gov. Kate Brown made the settlement announcements Tuesday morning at the World Trade Center in Portland.

Corrections officer shot; one in custody

AUBURN, Wash. (AP) — Authorities say a state Department of Corrections officer and another man were wounded in a shootout in Auburn after the officer and others tried to serve an arrest warrant on the man.

The department says Kristoffer Rongen was working with the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives task force when he was trying to make an arrest and was fired upon Tuesday afternoon. Police say another officer returned fire, hitting the suspect.

The suspect was hit multiple times and taken into custody, police said. Rongen, 46, was reportedly hit once in the leg.

Both were taken to Harborview Medical Center in Seattle. The DOC said in a news release that neither man is believed to have life-threatening injuries.

Officials say Rongen has worked for the department of 14 years tracking down offenders.

Deceased identified in Willamette Valley farm shooting

WOODBURN (AP) — Two of the three people fatally shot at a blueberry farm in northwest Oregon lived at the location, and the third person was the girlfriend of another resident who was not home at the time, authorities said Tuesday.

A fourth victim, a man, also was a resident at the farm in a quiet part of the Willamette Valley about 30 miles south of Portland. He suffered serious injuries, but he was expected to survive, Marion County sheriff's Lt. Chris Baldrige said.

The victims were identified as Ruben Rigoberto-Reyes, 60; Edmundo Amaro-Bajonero, 26; and Katie Gildersleeve, 30, of Logsdon.

Oregon State Police arrested Bonifacio Oseguera-Gonzalez, 29, a few hours after the shooting Monday on Interstate 84 near Mosier, about 100 miles northeast of the berry farm.

He was booked on three counts of aggravated murder and one count of attempted murder. Oseguera-Gonzalez



Oseguera-Gonzalez

pleaded not guilty to the charges in an initial court appearance Tuesday, *The Oregonian/OregonLive* reported.

It was not immediately clear if Oseguera-Gonzalez had retained an attorney, and Baldrige did not know. He was being held without bail.

Oseguera-Gonzalez acknowledged to authorities in an interview that he shot four people, according to a probable cause statement.

Authorities have not provided a motive or a relationship between Oseguera-Gonzalez and the victims except to say he frequented the berry farm.

Detectives are looking at all motives now, Baldrige said, including the possibility of illegal activity at the farm. The fourth victim has recovered enough to speak with investigators and has been interviewed, he said.

A marijuana grow near the farm is legal, is located on a separate private property and had nothing to do with the shooting, Baldrige added.

Corrections

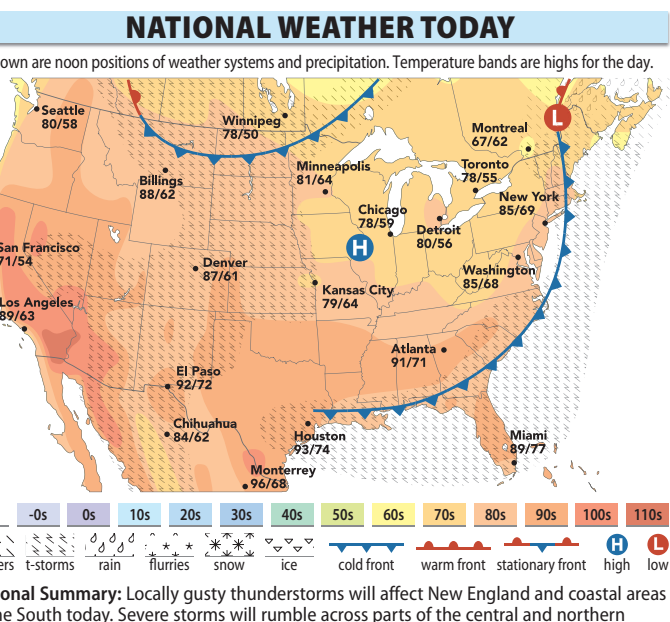
The East Oregonian works hard to be accurate and sincerely regrets any errors. If you notice a mistake in the paper, please call 541-966-0818.

Advertisement for East Oregonian newspaper containing subscription rates, advertising contact information, and classified/legal advertising details.

AccuWeather.com Forecast and Almanac section providing weather forecasts for Pendleton, Hermiston, and surrounding regional areas, including temperature and precipitation data.

Table of Regional Cities and World Cities with temperature forecasts for today and tomorrow.

WINDS, UV INDEX TODAY, and Regional Forecast details, including wind speeds and UV index levels.



NATIONAL CITIES table listing temperature forecasts for major cities across the United States.