

Three Oregon lawmakers avoid ethics complaint over wolf bill

PORTLAND (AP) — Three Oregon lawmakers have avoided a possible state investigation into whether they knowingly misled their colleagues earlier this year in Salem about the intent of House Bill 4040, the controversial so-called wolf delisting bill.

The discord stems from the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission's November delisting of the gray wolf as endangered and the Legislature's subsequent creation of HB 4040 to block wildlife advocates' lawsuit against the state. The lawsuit, which asks for a judicial review of the delisting decision, was reinstated this week after being dismissed in April on grounds of mootness by HB 4040.

State Reps. Sal Esquivel,

Greg Barreto and Brad Witt initially told their House colleagues in February that the bill — which upholds the delisting decision into state law — would not, nor was it intended to, impact any litigation or request for review. The discussion changed when the bill advanced to the Senate, where lawmakers openly debated their potential meddling in legal matters.

The case was dismissed on grounds of mootness by HB 4040 in April — but was reinstated on Tuesday — and Eugene-based plaintiff Cascadia Wildlands filed complaints the next month with the Oregon Government Ethics Commission against the three lawmakers for their statements. The group says they broke a state

ethics law banning lobbyists and public officials from knowingly making false or misleading statements to other public officials.

The law falls under the ethics commission's jurisdiction, except when it comes to lawmakers, who can only be held accountable by other lawmakers, according to records obtained by The Associated Press. This special exclusion for state legislators is found in the Oregon Constitution, which says felonies, treason and breaches of peace are the only exceptions.

On July 1 the complaints were dismissed without review of the allegations' merits, Ron Bersin, the commission's executive director, told AP.

"Apparently the Oregon

Constitution permits legislators to lie with impunity to their colleagues and the public in order to pass legislation," Nick Cady, attorney for Cascadia Wildlands, told AP. "Hopefully, Oregon will take action to correct this state of dysfunction in our Legislature."

Witt, a Democrat, did not respond for comment, although he's previously denied any wrongdoing.

Republicans Esquivel and Barreto issued a joint statement to AP, calling the complaints an "attention-seeking stunt, and one that has no place in our political process. We are pleased that these frivolous complaints have been promptly dismissed and that this matter has been put to rest."

PENDLETON

Committee looks at putting housing study into action

By ANTONIO SIERRA
East Oregonian

With the meat of a Pendleton housing study already completed, the committee tasked with putting it together wrapped up its duties by reviewing how the city would take action on the study's recommendations.

"It shows a need for housing at both the entry level, the mid level and the higher income level," said John Turner, mayor-elect and the chairman of the committee. "It shows a need for sale units as well as rental units. The task for us over the next few years is how we're going to make that happen."

To build this kind of housing, the study made a number of recommendations, including:

- Starting discussions with large employers about providing financial assistance to their employees
- Providing financial assistance or tax abatement to developers to help cover infrastructure costs, similar to the deal between the city and the Pendleton Heights subdivision
- Formalize an anti-bligh campaign
- Attract builders of entry level housing
- Partner with the Round-Up City Development Corp. to start a revolving loan fund for builders and contractors to help construct or renovate housing
- Infill existing lots
- Establish periodic home shows for first time buyers
- Create or recruit a nonprofit housing association that would build homes or renovate existing structures.

Several committee

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— John Turner, mayor-elect, chairman of the committee

members suggested drafting a declaration of cooperation between the city and other community organizations to help achieve these goals.

City Manager Robb Corbett proposed utilizing the Restore Pendleton Committee.

"They've really struggled with accomplishing much beyond the community clean-up and also grant applications for the community development block grant," he said. "Those are really the two mainstay efforts of that group, but taking on these goals would allow stakeholders to participate. It wouldn't be the creation of a new committee and it would give them focus."

Turner will present a revised draft of the housing study to the Pendleton City Council at its July 19 meeting for final approval.

"We are never going to solve the Pendleton housing issue, but we can manage it," he said. "It's sort of like the Israeli-Arab peace process. You're never going to solve that either, but you can work at it."

Contact Antonio Sierra at asierra@eastoregonian.com or 541-966-0836.

At filing deadline, status of initiative petitions undecided

By PARIS ACHEN
Capital Bureau

SALEM — The fates of several initiative petitions were still undetermined Friday — the deadline for petitioners to gather signatures and submit potential measures for November's ballot.

The campaign for a measure to dedicate funding for high school dropout prevention programs turned in additional signatures after falling short of the required

88,114 in a previous submission. The Secretary of State's Office still has to verify those signatures. The office has until Aug. 7 to verify signatures for all of the proposed measures.

Initiative Petition 65, Oregonians for High School Success Initiative would require the Legislature to dedicate a certain percentage of new state revenue to dropout prevention, career and college readiness programs through grants to Oregon high schools.

Petitioners also planned to submit additional signatures by the end of Friday for initiative petitions 49 and 50, said Molly Woon, a spokeswoman for the Secretary of State's Office.

IP 49 requires a two-thirds majority vote for the Legislature to declare an emergency. Lawmakers have increasingly used an emergency clause in bills, which removes voters' constitutional right to contest the legislation at the ballot.

IP 50 prohibits release of

specific voter information without voters' express consent.

The campaign for IP 67 turned in 135,538 signatures, but those also were yet to be verified. IP 67 allows Oregon Lottery funds to be used to pay for outdoor education programs.

Whether the campaign for IP 68 — which prohibits the sale of products made from 12 endangered species — had collected enough signatures also remained unknown late Friday.

Malheur wildlife refuge occupier Blaine Cooper pleads guilty

PORTLAND (AP) — An Arizona man pleaded guilty to conspiracy for his role in the armed occupation of a national wildlife refuge in Oregon and was nearing a resolution to charges he faces from a 2014 standoff with federal agents at Cliven Bundy's Nevada ranch.

Blaine Cooper, 37, of Humboldt, Arizona, admitted to a federal judge in Portland on Thursday that he appeared in a video with occupation leader Ammon Bundy,

urging patriots to show up at the refuge with firearms, *The Oregonian*/OregonLive reported.

Federal prosecutors had no evidence that Cooper carried a gun at the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge, but Assistant U.S. Attorney Craig Gabriel said the man was part of the first convoy of people to arrive there on Jan. 2, starting an occupation that lasted nearly six weeks.

The group had been in Burns, Oregon, protesting the

return to federal prison of two ranchers convicted of setting fires.

Court records show Cooper will be sentenced Nov. 18. He's expected to receive six months in prison, with credit for time served, and six months in a either a halfway house or home detention.

He's the seventh defendant to plead guilty in the case. Another 19, including Ammon Bundy, are awaiting trial.

Meanwhile, it was revealed in court that Cooper has

reached a tentative deal in the Nevada case, likely pleading guilty to two charges.

Krista Shipsey, Cooper's defense lawyer, asked Cooper's co-defendants and others to respect his choice.

"It's incredibly hard for him to be here today," Shipsey said. "He felt he needed to take care of this, but I hope they respect this is what's best for him."

Cooper had wanted to resolve the cases for a long time, she said.

EAST OREGONIAN

— Founded Oct. 16, 1875 —

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Office hours: Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
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East Oregonian (USPS 164-980) is published daily except Sunday, Monday and Dec. 25, by the EO Media Group, 211 S.E. Byers Ave., Pendleton, OR 97801. Periodicals postage paid at Pendleton, OR. Postmaster: send address changes to East Oregonian, 211 S.E. Byers Ave., Pendleton, OR 97801. Copyright © 2016, EO Media Group

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AccuWeather.com Forecast

TODAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
Times of clouds and sun	Breezy with clouds and sun	Partly sunny and delightful	Partly sunny and nice	Sunshine and pleasant
74° 55°	72° 54°	78° 53°	82° 54°	83° 57°

HERMISTON TEMPERATURE FORECAST

TODAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
80° 60°	77° 57°	82° 56°	86° 56°	88° 56°

ALMANAC

PENDLETON

through 3 p.m. yesterday

TEMPERATURE	HIGH	LOW
Yesterday	71°	58°
Normals	87°	57°
Records	106° (1968)	41° (1911)

PRECIPITATION

24 hours ending 3 p.m.	0.20"
Month to date	0.20"
Normal month to date	0.08"
Year to date	6.72"
Last year to date	5.00"
Normal year to date	7.69"

HERMISTON

through 3 p.m. yesterday

TEMPERATURE	HIGH	LOW
Yesterday	77°	61°
Normals	87°	57°
Records	104° (2012)	40° (1981)

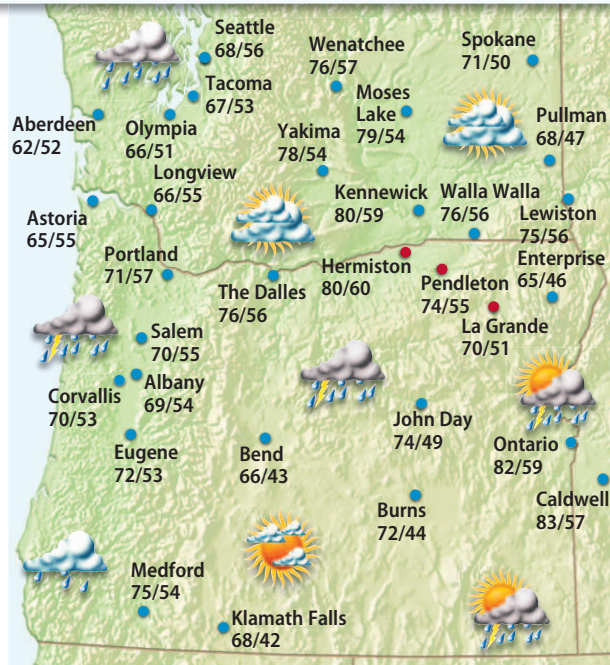
PRECIPITATION

24 hours ending 3 p.m.	0.09"
Month to date	0.09"
Normal month to date	0.06"
Year to date	4.73"
Last year to date	3.16"
Normal year to date	5.79"

SUN AND MOON

Sunrise today	5:15 a.m.
Sunset tonight	8:45 p.m.
Moonrise today	11:03 a.m.
Moonset today	11:46 p.m.

First	Full	Last	New
July 11	July 19	July 26	Aug 2



REGIONAL FORECAST

Coastal Oregon: Periods of rain and a thunderstorm today; however, a shower in spots in the south.

Eastern and Central Oregon: A couple of showers and a thunderstorm today, except dry across the north.

Western Washington: Rather cloudy today with some rain and a thunderstorm.

Eastern Washington: Times of clouds and sun today; a shower or thunderstorm in spots in the north.

Cascades: Mostly cloudy today with a couple of showers; cool. Brief showers tonight.

Northern California: Clouds and sun today. Partly cloudy tonight.

REGIONAL CITIES

	Today			Sun.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Astoria	65	55	r	67	56	c
Baker City	69	47	c	60	39	t
Bend	66	43	sh	62	42	sh
Brookings	59	50	c	60	51	c
Burns	72	44	pc	64	37	t
Enterprise	65	46	t	56	43	t
Eugene	72	53	t	71	50	sh
Heppner	70	51	pc	67	49	pc
Hermiston	80	60	pc	77	57	pc
John Day	74	49	t	64	49	t
Klamath Falls	68	42	pc	62	35	sh
La Grande	70	51	c	63	47	t
Meacham	67	48	sh	61	47	t
Medford	75	54	pc	71	54	c
Newport	61	53	t	63	51	c
North Bend	65	55	c	65	51	c
Ontario	82	59	pc	70	50	t
Pasco	80	57	pc	79	56	pc
Pendleton	74	55	pc	72	54	pc
Portland	71	57	r	70	58	c
Redmond	71	46	sh	66	40	sh
Salem	70	55	r	72	54	sh
Spokane	71	50	pc	70	51	c
Ukiah	67	45	c	61	45	t
Vancouver	69	56	r	69	57	c
Walla Walla	76	56	pc	73	55	t
Yakima	78	54	pc	78	54	pc

WORLD CITIES

	Today			Sun.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Beijing	97	77	s	99	77	s
Hong Kong	95	83	pc	92	81	pc
Jerusalem	86	68	s	87	69	s
London	75	62	pc	72	59	pc
Mexico City	77	54	t	76	53	t
Moscow	70	53	t	70	56	r
Paris	82	63	s	86	63	pc
Rome	86	68	pc	87	69	pc
Seoul	87	70	s	86	70	pc
Sydney	63	53	pc	65	55	pc
Tokyo	76	71	r	85	74	pc

WINDS

(in mph)	Today	Sunday
Boardman	WSW 7-14	WSW 8-16
Pendleton	W 6-12	W 10-20

UV INDEX TODAY

1 3 5 7 5 2

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

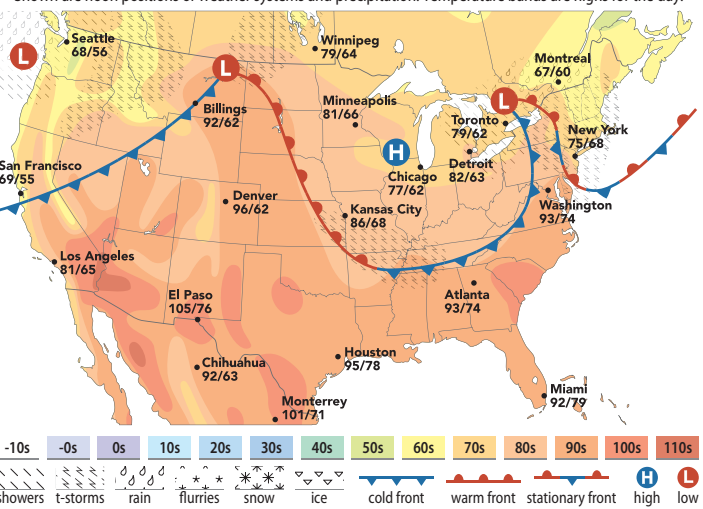
0-2, Low 3-5, Moderate 6-7, High; 8-10, Very High; 11+, Extreme

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.



Yesterday's National Extremes: (for the 48 contiguous states)
High 111° in Needles, Calif. Low 32° in West Yellowstone, Mont.

NATIONAL CITIES

	Today			Sun.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Albuquerque	98	68	pc	98	68	pc
Atlanta	93	74	t	89	73	t
Atlanta City	81	72	t	84	68	pc
Baltimore	91	69	t	88	65	pc
Billings	92	62	t	76	52	c
Birmingham	92	74	t	87	73	t
Boise	83	56	pc	86	50	t
Boston	67	62	sh	69	61	t
Charleston, SC	100	79	t	98	79	t
Chicago, WV	85	65	pc	82	64	pc
Chicago	77	62	pc	83	64	pc
Cleveland	81	65	pc	82	63	s
Dallas	96	79	pc	98	78	pc
Denver	96	62	t	96	59	pc
Detroit	82	63	t	84	65	s
El Paso	105	76	pc	106	79	s
Fairbanks	76	58				