Prosecutor says Ryan Bundy hatched jail escape attempt

PORTLAND (AP) — A federal prosecutor says standoff figure Ryan Bundy was working on a plan to escape from a Portland jail.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Geoff Barrow dropped the bombshell at a hearing Monday in which Bundy and his brother Ammon sought to be released as they await trial on charges stemming from the January takeover of a national wildlife refuge in Oregon.

In trying to show Ryan Bundy is a flight risk, Barrow said deputies searching Bundy's cell in April found torn sheets braided together in a 12- to 15-foot rope, as well as extra towels, pillow cases and food.

Bundy denied he was attempting an escape, telling U.S. District Court Judge Robert Jones it is "self-serving speculation" and "simply not true."

Barrow said Bundy's excuse to jailers was that he's a rancher and was practicing braiding. In court,



In this Jan. 8 file photo, Ryan Bundy walks through the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge near Burns. A U.S. District Court Judge ruled that the trial of Ryan Bundy and others charged in the occupation will remain in Portland.

Bundy told the judge he used the rope and towels for additional comfort.

Court records show Bundy hasn't been charged with any crime related to the episode.

The leading figures in January's takeover of the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge have been behind bars for nearly six months. They contend the 41-day

occupation was a peaceful protest, and getting out of jail will help them prepare for their September trial on conspiracy and weapons charges.

To win release, the brothers must convince Jones they are not a danger to the community and will return to Oregon in September. Jones said he'll decide Tuesday whether to

The brothers also face the possibility of being sent to a Nevada jail, where they are accused of taking part in a standoff with federal agents at the ranch of their father, Cliven Bundy.

Judge Jones noted that Ammon Bundy seems unlikely to flee the country. The Emmett, Idaho, resident has a wife, six children, owns a fleet-maintenance business and resides on a property that includes an orchard with 240 apple trees. But the judge worried about him returning for trial.

'He might want to hole up like his father did for two years," he said. "I'm still concerned about that."

Ammon Bundy took the stand late in the hearing, explaining that he and the other occupiers took action to protest the imprisonment of two Harney County ranchers and publicize their belief that the federal government has taken unconstitutional control of too much Western land.

Idaho Power looking for buy-in on solar from customers

By KEITH RIDLER Associated Press

BOISE, Idaho — The Idaho Power electrical utility is proposing the construction of a solar power project that would be funded by customers who take out subscriptions to guarantee it gets built, the company said Monday.

The company recently filed an application with the Idaho Public Utilities Commission to launch the project on land southeast of Boise, which would be the state's first utility-owned solar power production facility. The 500-kilowatt solar

project would involve the installation of solar panels on an area the size of two football fields and power about 730 homes, said company spokesman Brad Bowlin.

It would be a so-called "community solar project" aimed at attracting customers who can't install solar panels on their homes because they rent, live in communities with rules prohibiting solar panels or have houses shaded by

Most of the project's \$1.2 million construction cost would be paid by customers who take out subscriptions, said Bowlin.

If approved by the commission, Idaho Power would offer about 1,500 subscriptions costing \$740 per 320-watt solar panel. Buyers would receive credit for their portion of the solar array's output on their monthly bill over the 25-year life of the project. "There are a lot of folks

who are interested in solar power, and especially locally solar generated power,' Bowlin said.

Bowlin said the subscription-based business model is aimed at assessing whether there's enough interest in building the solar project. The utility has 516,000

Idaho and customers in eastern Oregon. Those who don't want to participate will not face any charges for the project, Bowlin said.

The amount of energy that would be generated by the solar project is a tiny fraction of the 3,200 megawatts the company is occasionally called on to supply on a hot summer day. Much of that is supplied by the company's 17 hydroelectric projects on the Snake River and its tributaries, as well as coal and gas plants, which can produce less expensive power than solar

Bowlin warned that participants won't save money on their monthly energy bills except for a tiny monthly deduction over 25 years that pays back the initial \$740 solar project construction subscription cost.

"This is intended for folks who want to support the development of solar energy,'

Meanwhile, the company will learn more about solar energy as costs to produce it decline and regulations come into force requiring reductions in carbon emissions.

The commission decide whether the project's business model is good for the state and consumers, commission spokesman Gene Fadness said via email.

It wants to make sure customers "will feel their investment makes sense from both an economic and an environmental perspective,' he said.

A decision is likely in the

If the project is approved, Idaho Power will advertise the program.

It would be built by June unless customers take out less than about 1,200 subscriptions, meaning the project would probably not go forward, Bowlin said.

Superintendent steps down amid lead scandal

PORTLAND (AP) The superintendent of public schools in Portland, Oregon, is stepping down from her role, effective immediately, after the release of a scathing report on the district's handling of high levels of lead found in schools' drinking water.

Carole Smith has been superintendent since 2007. Several weeks after the lead scandal at two Portland schools broke this spring, she announced plans to retire within a year.

But Smith sped up her departure to Monday after the release of the findings of an independent probe. It concluded the district's efforts to test water, fix problems and notify the public have been inadequate for 15 years.

Tom Koehler, school board chairman, said in a statement that officials will select Smith's interim replacement this summer while searching for a permanent leader.

Man dies going over 100-foot Lava **Canyon Falls**

STEVENSON, Wash. (AP) — The body of a 25-year-old Beaverton, Oregon, man has been recovered from Muddy River after he slipped and went over the 100-foot

high Lava Canyon Falls. The Skamania County Sheriff's Office received a 911 call on Sunday reporting that James Fowler was trying to across the river just above the falls when he stepped on a partially submerged rock

and the swift water swept him over the falls.

The site was about 20 miles northeast of Cougar, Washington in the Gifford Pinchot National Forest.

Officials say that Fowler's body was seen floating face down below the falls. A witness tried to reach Fowler but the rugged terrain turned him back.

Search crews aided by a fixed-wing aircraft searched Sunday night and Monday morning. At about 12:30 p.m. Monday, Fowler's body was recovered. His body was taken to the Clark County Medical Examiner's Office.

State penitentiary inmate dies at local hospital

SALEM (AP) — An inmate at the Oregon State local hospital, but officials are not yet releasing any details.

Penitentiary has died at a

The Oregon Department of Corrections issued a release Monday that said 27-year-old James Howland died unexpectedly and that the Oregon State Police Criminal Investigations Unit is conducting an investigation.

Howland was taken off site for medical care on Friday and was pronounced dead Monday afternoon, officials said. Officials said no other details were available.

Howland has been in the custody of the Department of Corrections since August 2014 and was serving time for four counts of unlawful use of a vehicle in the first degree out of Marion County.

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.

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WEDNESDAY THURSDAY SATURDAY A t-storm around Partly sunny and Sunshine and Mostly sunny Sunny and this afternoon beautiful beautiful PENDLETON TEMPERATURE FO 81° 57° 85° 55° 90° 62° 86° 59° 88° 55° 86° 60° 89° **56°** 94° 64° 59° 58° Seattle **ALMANAC** Spokane 75/58 Wenatchee 78/58 81/60 Tacoma Moses 74/56 Lake Pullman Aberdeen Yakima Olympia 85/57 77/53 67/57 HIGH LOW 86/56

PENDLETON through 3 p.m. yesterday **TEMPERATURE** Yesterday Walla Walla Kennewick 73/57 <u>Normals</u> 87/60 108° (1960) 43° (1915) Astoria 84/60 69/57 **PRECIPITATION** Enterprise Hermiston 24 hours ending 3 p.m Pendleton 76/50 The Dalles 86/60 Month to date Normal month to date 0.18 83/60 Salem La Grande 7.32 Year to date 78/52 77/57 Last year to date 5.00' Normal year to date Albany Corvallis 76/54 **HERMISTON** John Day 77/54 through 3 p.m. yesterday 81/50 Ontario 🤵 Bend Eugene

78/52

Medford

83/57

73/47

Klamath Falls

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

REGIONAL FORECAST

TEMPERATURE HIGH LOW Yesterday <u>Normals</u>

109° (1960) 43° (1945) **PRECIPITATION** 24 hours ending 3 p.m 0.01 0.30" Month to date Normal month to date 4.94' Year to date 3.25" Normal year to date 5.86'

SUN AND MOON

(23)			(- 3-5)					
Full	Last	New	First					
Moonset	today		5:19 a.m.					
Moonrise	today	8:20 p.m.						
Sunset to	night	8:38 p.m.						
Sunrise to	oday		5:25 a.m.					

July 26 Aug 10 July 19 Aug 2

sun today, except variable cloudiness across the north. Eastern and Central Oregon: Mostly sunny today; a thunderstorm in spots across the north and near the Cascades.

sun today with a shower in places. Partly

cloudy tonight.

Coastal Oregon: Clouds breaking for some

today; an afternoon shower in spots in the north. Cascades: Partial sunshine today with a stray shower Western Washington: Times of clouds and

Burns

Northern California: Low clouds followed by sunshine at the coast today; plenty of sunshine elsewhere.

Eastern Washington: Partial sunshine

93/61

Caldwell

90/60

REGIONAL CITIES

	T	oda	y	1	Wed.				
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W			
Astoria	69	57	C	70	56	рс			
Baker City	80	48	t	82	44	S			
Bend	73	47	рс	80	49	рс			
Brookings	63	51	рс	64	52	рс			
Burns	83	45	рс	83	45	S			
Enterprise	76	50	t	78	50	S			
Eugene	78	52	рс	82	52	рс			
Heppner	79	53	t	83	51	рс			
Hermiston	86	60	рс	89	56	рс			
John Day	81	50	рс	86	51	S			
Klamath Falls	78	42	S	82	43	S			
La Grande	78	52	рс	81	50	S			
Meacham	75	50	рс	78	48	S			
Medford	83	57	рс	90	58	рс			
Newport	63	53	C	64	52	рс			
North Bend	67	54	рс	67	55	рс			
Ontario	93	61	S	90	58	S			
Pasco	85	60	рс	89	58	рс			
Pendleton	81	57	t	85	55	рс			
Portland	77	61	рс	78	61	рс			
Redmond	78	46	t	85	47	рс			
Salem	77	57	рс	81	57	рс			
Spokane	78	58	рс	80	56	рс			
Ukiah	74	47	t	78	45	рс			
Vancouver	76	60	рс	77	59	рс			
Walla Walla	81	61	t	86	62	рс			
Yakima	86	56	рс	88	59	рс			

WORLD CITIES

	Т	oda	Wed.				
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W	
Beijing	78	72	t	77	72	r	
Hong Kong	90	81	C	90	82	C	
Jerusalem	85	68	S	85	69	S	
London	89	70	S	85	61	t	
Mexico City	73	52	t	71	51	t	
Moscow	78	66	sh	79	63	r	
Paris	94	70	S	91	64	t	
Rome	88	67	S	86	68	S	
Seoul	88	73	рс	89	74	t	
Sydney	74	58	pc .	67	57	r	
Tokyo	85	75	pc	83	72	рс	

WINDS

(in mph) Today **Boardman** SW 6-12

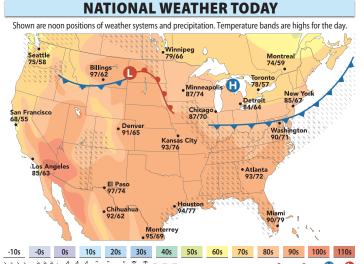
Pendleton

Wednesday SW 6-12 WNW 4-8 WNW 4-8

UV INDEX TODAY 4 🛢 7 🛢 6 🛢 4 🛢 2

8 a.m. 10 a.m. Noon 2 p.m. 4 p.m. 6 p.m. **0-2**, Low 3-5, Moderate 8-10, Very High; 11+. Extreme The higher the AccuWeather.com UV Index™ num-

> Forecasts and graphics provided by AccuWeather, Inc. ©2016



National Summary: Locally heavy storms will extend from Virginia and southeastern Maryland to Tennessee and Iowa today. Storms will dot the Southeastern and Southwestern states as showers cool part of the Northwest. Yesterday's National Extremes: (for the 48 contiguous states)

warm front stationary front

High 109° in Needles, Calif.

Low 24° in Bodie State Park, Calif.

NATIONAL CITIES													
	Т	oda	у	Wed.				Today		ау		Wed.	
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W		Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Albuquerque	92	70	рс	92	69	рс	Louisville	91	73	t	92	73	рс
Atlanta	93	72	t	93	73	рс	Memphis	97	79	рс	99	80	рс
Atlantic City	84	70	-	81		S	Miami	90	79	sh	89	78	sh
Baltimore	88		рс	86	67	S	Milwaukee	85	68	S	84	72	рс
Billings	97	62	t	95	62	рс	Minneapolis	87	74		92	77	t
Birmingham	94	76	-	97		рс	Nashville	93	73	-	96		
Boise	92	60		90	63		New Orleans	93	79		93		pc
Boston	81	64		80	66		New York City	85	67		82	69	
Charleston, SC	90	75	-	89	74	-	Oklahoma City	94	73		98	74	-
Charleston, WV	86	63	-	86	64	-	Omaha	91	78		99		pc
Chicago	87	70		85	73		Philadelphia	88	69	S	85	68	-
Cleveland	83	62	-	87	66	-	Phoenix	106	88	рс	108		
Dallas	96	80	-	100	80	-	Portland, ME	77	55	рс	80	59	
Denver	91		рс	97		рс	Providence	84	61	рс	81	63	-
Detroit	84	64	-	87	68	-	Raleigh	90	70	t	88	68	
El Paso	97		рс	97	75	рс	Rapid City	98	65		104	67	
Fairbanks	65	54		64	50	sh	Reno	88	56		91	58	-
Fargo	88	72		95	72	рс	Sacramento	85	55	S	87	54	
Honolulu	89	77	sh	89	76	рс	St. Louis	95	77	рс	96	80	-
Houston	94	77		97	77	рс	Salt Lake City	100	75		99		
Indianapolis	88	69	-	86	72		San Diego	77	67	рс	79	68	pc
Jacksonville	91	71	t	92	72	t	San Francisco	68	55	рс	69	55	pc
Kansas City	93	76	рс	96	78	рс	Seattle	75	58	рс	77	58	рс
Las Vegas	107	84	S	108	85	рс	Tucson	98	78	t	101		
Little Rock	96	77	рс	98	77	рс	Washington, DC	90	71	рс	87	72	-
Los Angeles	85	63	рс	87	65	S	Wichita	96	76	рс	99	78	S

Weather (W): s-sunny, pc-partly cloudy, c-cloudy, sh-showers, t-thunderstorms, r-rain, sf-snow flurries, sn-snow, i-ice.