

Cliven Bundy loses bid to represent self

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Nevada cattleman and state's rights figure Cliven Bundy lost a courtroom bid to represent himself at his upcoming trial, after refusing Wednesday to recognize federal authority over grazing land at the center of a 2014 armed standoff with federal agents, his lawyer said.

U.S. Magistrate Judge Peggy Leen ruled after questioning the 71-year-old Bundy that he could not fire his attorney, Bret Whipple, even though Whipple filed court documents last week saying that Bundy dismissed him.

"I'm still on the case. We're set for trial," Whipple said following the ruling. "The court would not let him represent himself because he would not accept a court ruling that the land is owned by the federal government."

Bundy remains in federal custody. A spokeswoman for Acting U.S. Attorney Steven Myhre declined to comment about Leen's ruling. Myhre is the prosecutor in the Bundy case.

Whipple said in court filings that his attorney-client relationship with Bundy stopped after Bundy demanded that Whipple withdraw from the case.

The attorney said Wednesday he was bound by legal ethics and court rules to represent his client's wishes. He said he intended to appeal Leen's ruling to the trial judge, Chief District Judge Gloria Navarro.

Bundy, two sons and four other



In this 2014 file photo, Cliven Bundy stands at the Bundy ranch near Bunkerville, Nevada.

defendants are due for trial Oct. 10 — including two defendants whose retrial ended last month with acquittal on most charges but who still face assault on a federal officer and weapon counts.

Bundy, sons Ryan and Ammon Bundy, and defendants Ryan Payne of Montana and Peter Santilli of Cincinnati are accused of leading a conspiracy to enlist a self-styled militia to prevent federal agents from removing Bundy

cattle from what is now Gold Butte National Monument.

Cliven Bundy has long refused to recognize federal authority over public land where he said his family grazed cattle since the early 1900s.

The dispute echoes a nearly half-century fight over public lands involving ranchers in Nevada and the West, where the federal government controls vast expanses of land.

Activists ask Oregon to allow online signing for initiatives

EUGENE (AP) — Some Oregon activists are pushing for the state to implement a system that would allow voter signatures to be gathered electronically for initiative petitions.

A grass-roots effort is calling for petitions to be signed online so more initiatives can bypass the Legislature and go directly before voters, *The Register-Guard* reported on Wednesday.

Under the current initiative process, backers of proposed public policies are required to collect a set number of physical signatures with pen and paper in order to get a measure qualified for the ballot. Many successful initiatives typically involve financial backing to pay for people to gather signatures.

Of the 415 initiative petitions filed since November 2006, 27 have

qualified to go before voters.

David Carlson, the chief petitioner for the proposal, said a system that allows online signing would enable more initiatives without major financial backing to qualify. It would also make the process more convenient for voters, he said.

"We live in 2017. The internet is available and accessible to almost all Oregonians," Carlson said. "People do everything online."

Under the proposal, voters would sign petitions on a state website administered by the secretary of state. Voters' identities would be verified through a Social Security number or an Oregon driver's license number.

Our Oregon filed a challenge to the Oregon Supreme Court.

Speed of Medicaid payments depends on many factors

By CLAIRE WITHYCOMBE
Capital Bureau

SALEM — Although the state dispensed \$4.9 billion in medical assistance payments to coordinated care organizations in 2016, the Oregon Health Authority doesn't track how long it takes those CCOs to pay Medicaid service providers.

Medicaid serves 1.1 million Oregonians who meet certain income eligibility requirements. Oregon paid \$6.7 billion to health care providers who saw Medicaid patients in 2016.

Most people on the Oregon Health Plan are enrolled in one of the state's 16 coordinated care organizations — essentially, regional groups of providers that see OHP patients.

Each CCO has a contract with the Oregon Health Authority to provide Medicaid services for a monthly per-patient fee, known as a capitated payment. OHA makes those payments on the first of the month.

The CCO in turn pays its providers, and those arrangements

— including the length of time in which payments are made for medical services — vary from CCO to CCO.

For FamilyCare, a Portland-area CCO, more than 98 percent of its claims are paid within 30 days, according to spokesman Jack Coleman. Ninety percent are made within 14 days.

Capitated payments to CCOs accounted for about \$4.9 billion of total payments to OHP providers in 2016, according to an audit released by the Oregon Secretary of State in May.

The rest — about \$1.8 billion — went to services for patients in a "fee-for-service" pool. Those people aren't members of a CCO.

For those patients, providers bill OHA directly for individual medical services.

The length of time it takes money for a specific medical service to get to a Medicaid provider depends on several factors, including the patient, the service and the provider.

With most commercial insurers, Hermiston's Good Shepherd Health System

negotiates a contract requiring payment within 30 days, and can enforce interest on payments that don't meet that deadline.

It typically receives payments for services for Oregon Health Plan patients in 20 to 25 days, spokesman Nick Bejarano said in an email Tuesday.

Good Shepherd has separate contracts with its coordinated care organization and with the state directly for fee-for-service clients.

Both contracts stipulate the payments be made in 45 days, Bejarano said, although they typically get payments in about half that time.

Patients on Medicaid are subject to pre-authorization, where a service, such as an ultrasound, has to get approved before a patient can receive it.

That requirement can cause delays. But payments for "clean" claims for fee-for-service patients that have been pre-authorized are made "in real time," said OHA spokesman Robb Cowie.

For OHA, routine procedures typically take 16 days to get

pre-authorization, whereas urgent pre-approvals are conducted within 72 hours, and emergent pre-approvals within 24 hours.

In some cases, the payments are processed manually, such as when there are issues with the claim like a duplication. Some providers submit claims by mail or fax, and the agency doesn't track response times to those claims, Cowie said.

The Oregon Health Authority also does not collect data on how long it takes CCOs to pay providers.

Recent issues with the state's system for verifying Medicaid eligibility have thrust the Oregon Health Authority's data systems into the legislative spotlight.

To manage payments, the agency uses a system called the Medicaid Management Information System, or MMIS.

The secretary of state's audit found in May that the MMIS successfully enrolled patients in CCOs and made payments.

The state auditor's review focused mainly on capitated payments to CCOs.

BRIEFLY

Oregon SOS Dennis Richardson plans trade visit to China

PORTLAND (AP) — Oregon Secretary of State Dennis Richardson says he's visiting China on a 12-day trade mission in November.

Richardson made 11 trips to China during his years as a state lawmaker, but this will be his first since getting elected to the statewide office last year.

Richardson said Wednesday that his flight is being paid for with money from his official travel budget, but he's using his own money to upgrade his seat on the 12-hour flight. Local Chinese governments will pay his expenses while in the country.

He says the mission will give Oregon businesses traveling with the delegation a chance to network with consumers, distributors, and Chinese officials.

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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AccuWeather.com Forecast

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
82° 52°	76° 49°	65° 47°	62° 42°	61° 45°

PENDLETON TEMPERATURE FORECAST

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
84° 47°	79° 52°	69° 48°	68° 44°	65° 46°

ALMANAC

PENDLETON

through 3 p.m. yesterday

TEMPERATURE	HIGH	LOW
Yesterday	80°	47°
Normals	73°	46°
Records	91° (1967)	27° (1911)

PRECIPITATION

24 hours ending 3 p.m.	0.00"
Month to date	0.91"
Normal month to date	0.48"
Year to date	12.28"
Last year to date	8.02"
Normal year to date	8.86"

HERMISTON

through 3 p.m. yesterday

TEMPERATURE	HIGH	LOW
Yesterday	80°	44°
Normals	74°	44°
Records	89° (1952)	30° (1945)

PRECIPITATION

24 hours ending 3 p.m.	0.00"
Month to date	0.36"
Normal month to date	0.39"
Year to date	7.01"
Last year to date	5.44"
Normal year to date	6.51"

SUN AND MOON

Sunrise today	6:50 a.m.
Sunset tonight	6:41 p.m.
Moonrise today	2:50 p.m.
Moonset today	none

	Full	Last	New	First
	Oct 5	Oct 12	Oct 19	Oct 27



REGIONAL FORECAST

Coastal Oregon: Sunny today; pleasant in the south with clouds and sun. Pleasant across the north.
Eastern and Central Oregon: Beautiful today with plenty of sunshine. Clear tonight.
Western Washington: Plenty of sunshine today. Occasional rain and drizzle at the coast tonight.
Eastern Washington: Brilliant sunshine today. Clear tonight.
Cascades: Sunny and nice today.
Northern California: Sunshine today; pleasant at the coast. Partly cloudy tonight.

REGIONAL CITIES

	Today			Fri.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Astoria	73	55	s	63	50	sh
Baker City	78	35	s	77	41	pc
Bend	79	48	s	66	37	c
Brookings	68	54	pc	63	52	sh
Burns	74	35	s	73	37	pc
Enterprise	76	41	s	76	43	pc
Eugene	84	52	s	66	46	sh
Heppner	79	52	s	73	48	pc
Hermiston	84	47	s	79	52	pc
John Day	77	51	s	78	46	pc
Klamath Falls	78	41	s	69	36	c
La Grande	78	44	s	77	44	pc
Meacham	76	43	s	75	42	pc
Medford	88	53	s	72	47	pc
Newport	68	55	s	61	51	sh
North Bend	68	57	s	65	51	sh
Ontario	78	45	s	79	54	pc
Pasco	83	49	s	78	52	pc
Pendleton	82	52	s	76	49	pc
Portland	84	57	s	66	52	sh
Redmond	81	43	s	69	35	c
Salem	85	55	s	67	49	sh
Spokane	78	50	s	77	48	pc
Ukiah	77	41	s	73	40	pc
Vancouver	83	57	s	65	52	sh
Walla Walla	82	58	s	77	53	pc
Yakima	82	48	s	74	44	pc

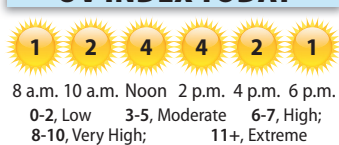
WORLD CITIES

	Today			Fri.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Beijing	74	48	s	79	52	s
Hong Kong	93	80	s	91	82	t
Jerusalem	77	60	s	76	62	s
London	68	55	pc	66	51	sh
Mexico City	71	57	t	72	57	t
Moscow	51	39	c	49	43	c
Paris	69	58	pc	75	55	t
Rome	67	56	pc	75	55	pc
Seoul	76	50	s	71	58	s
Sydney	76	56	c	76	59	s
Tokyo	79	66	r	76	65	pc

WINDS

(in mph)	Today	Friday
Boardman	NE 4-8	WSW 7-14
Pendleton	N 4-8	WSW 6-12

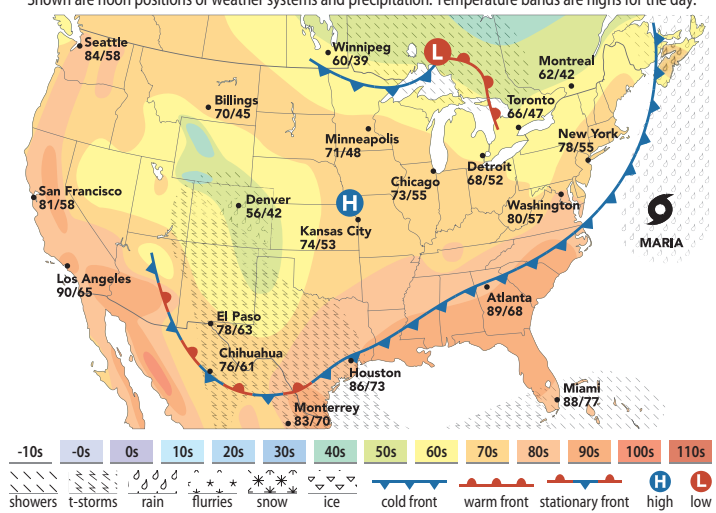
UV INDEX TODAY



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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 97° in Thermal, Calif. Low 16° in Bodie State Park, Calif.

NATIONAL CITIES

	Today			Fri.			Today			Fri.			
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W	
Albuquerque	68	54	r	65	53	pc	Louisville	76	55	s	78	53	pc
Atlanta	89	68	s	86	68	s	Memphis	81	61	s	81	61	