# Struggling rural county spends safety net cash on pro-timber video

The Oregonian/OregonLive

The six-minute video opens to ominous music and burning trees. After the flames are out, a narrator says, forests suffer from devastating neglect, turning into a "vast sea of dead, charred trees" that aren't reforested because of a maze of confusing, contradictory environmental regulations.

The music brightens as the answer appears: Salvage logging. The video concludes by urging viewers to call their elected officials "and tell them these federal lands... are too valuable to simply walk

The clip credits a tiny nonprofit called Communities for Healthy Forests and went online in early September, a day before Oregon Republican Rep. Greg Walden introduced a bill to harvest trees burned this summer in the Columbia River Gorge. Timber companies support

It's become routine for cryptically named interest on federal land

groups to push changes in federal policy that industry wants. The surprising twist this time: Federal money paid

Douglas County, a local government so broke it closed all its public libraries earlier this year, funded Communities for Healthy Forests to create the video. And it did so with federal safety net money meant to ease rural Oregon's dependence on timber revenue.

Commissioners awarded Communities for Healthy Forests a total of \$490,000 in federal money over the last two years, \$250,000 of it to make videos. Only one has been released.

The Douglas County commission's spending raises questions about a federal program called Secure Rural Schools, which has suffered from a lack of oversight since it was co-authored in 2000 by Sen. Ron Wyden, an Oregon Democrat.

program The gives counties part of what they once earned from logging before endangered species listings curtailed the harvest. Oregon has received \$3 billion, more than any other state.

Most of the federal money goes to roads and schools. But counties have wider leeway over a portion known as Title III, which was funded at \$14.3 million nationally in 2015.

Chris Boice, chairman of the Douglas County commission, said pro-salvage logging video counted as "education related to forestry." That's a use that Congress authorized for money received before 2008. Boice said the county had pre-2008 dollars on hand to pay Communities for Healthy Forests in 2015 and 2016.

But even back when education was an allowed purpose, the law said money could only be spent on afterschool programs.

The cash the county awarded Communities for Healthy Forests instead could have been used to boost the county's wildfire preparedness or pay firefighting costs, purposes allowed by Title III since it was created.

Internal and external audits have repeatedly found Title III money misspent over the last decade and urged reform. But all the recommended changes haven't been adopted.

who Wyden, wants Congress to reauthorize the program, said counties should be using the economic lifeline wisely to meet rural Oregonians' essential needs. In a statement, he said what The Oregonian/OregonLive found in Douglas County would spur him to ensure counties are held accountable for their spending if the program is renewed.

"A single dollar of Title III payments should not be wasted rehashing decades-old debates and siphoning taxpayer money away from its prescribed purpose of protecting our communities from wildfires," Wyden said.

Douglas County, the heart of Oregon timber country, has been one of the biggest beneficiaries under Title III, receiving \$4.3 million between 2010 and 2015.

## BRIEFLY

### Cops: Gun owner stops knife-wielding skateboarder

LEBANON (AP) — Police in Lebanon, Oregon, say a man pulled a gun on a skateboarder who was threatening a driver with a

Authorities told KPTV the incident happened Thursday night, when the 30-year-old skateboarder —Michael Van Gelder got into a confrontation with a driver.

A witness with a concealed carry permit saw what was happening and drew his weapon. He ordered the skateboarder to drop the knife.

Police say the skateboarder tried to run, but was stopped by the driver and the gun owner. They say the skateboarder struck the driver, who sustained a minor injury.

Court records list Van Gelder as a resident of Stevenson, Washington. He was booked into the Linn County Jail on charges of assault, menacing, disorderly conduct and unlawful use of a weapon.

He had not retained a lawyer or been appointed one as of early Friday afternoon.

# Portland man accused of selling passes

PORTLAND (AP) — Portland police arrested a man accused of using Craigslist to sell stolen passes to Disneyland.

Sgt. Chris Burley says a Portland woman purchased two three-day passes to the California attraction, only to discover at the front gate that the tickets had been stolen. The woman and her daughter had to buy new passes.

home. Police detectives searched Craigslist and found more three-day passes for sale. They arranged to buy some and sent an undercover officer to meet the seller.

Burley said Friday that 39-year-old Michael McCrobie of Portland was arrested shortly after selling stolen tickets to the officer. He faces charges of theft and computer crime.

A preliminary court hearing is scheduled for Oct. 12. Court records don't list an attorney to speak on his behalf.

### Ads blast lawmaker's stance on national popular vote bill

SALEM (AP) — A new ad campaign is targeting Senate President Peter Courtney for repeatedly blocking a bill that would permit Oregon to give all seven of its electoral college votes to the winner of the national popular vote during presidential elections.

National Popular Vote Inc., a California-based nonprofit, launched the ad campaign against Courtney on Thursday, the Statesman Journal reported.

The National Popular Vote bill had passed in the House in 2009, 2013, 2015 and 2017 but was killed in the Senate by Courtney, said John Koza, the nonprofit's chairman. The nonprofit is running a 16-second advertisement, a Facebook page and website which promises to spread ads against Courtney on Google and Facebook as part of the campaign.

The campaign's goal is to inform voters of Courtney's record with the bill, Koza said.

A statement by the Democratic senator suggests he has changed his stance on the bill since the most recent election cycle.

# stolen Disneyland

She reported the fraud Tuesday after arriving

## 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.

#### ICE targets sanctuary cities, arrests 33 in Northwest By CONRAD WILSON in Oregon ruled detainers ICE said during the "Safe

Oregon Public Broadcasting

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement announced Thursday targeted hundreds of people in sanctuary cities, including Seattle and Portland, during a four-day operation called "Safe City."

ICE said it targeted communities that don't honor the agency's detainers and "where ICE deportation officers are denied access to jails and prisons to interview suspected immigration violators.

A detainer is a request ICE makes to local jails to hold people in custody that it suspects have entered the country illegally. They allow ICE to eventually assume custody of the person and potentially begin deportation proceedings.

In 2014, a federal judge

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were not a legally sufficient way to hold someone in prison. After the ruling, sheriffs in Oregon and other states stopped honoring the requests.

Since then, even sheriffs sympathetic to ICE's mission have asked the agency's officers to go before a judge and get a warrant — something they've not been willing or able to do.

ICE misreported the number of people arrested during this latest sweep in the Northwest at least two times, an ICE spokeswoman confirmed Friday.

The latest figures from ICE indicate 26 people were arrested in Washington state, including in Vancouver, Seattle, Federal Way, and Everett. The agency arrested seven people in Oregon cities that included Salem, Portland and Gresham.

City" operation it prioritized "criminal convictions. pending criminal charges, known gang members and affiliates, immigration fugitives and those who re-entered the U.S. after deportation.'

The agency said people with active DACA status were "not targeted for arrest."

The Trump administration has criticized sheriffs who don't cooperate with federal detainer requests.

Earlier this month, U.S. Attorney General Sessions spoke in Portland where he criticized law enforcement leaders and politicians for directing officers to refuse detainers.

"The result is that police are forced to release the criminal alien back into the community without regard to the seriousness of his crimes or the length of his

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rap sheet," Sessions said. "They should, according to law and common sense, be processed and deported.' Following his speech,

Sessions met with several law enforcement officers from the Portland area. County Multnomah

Sheriff Mike Reese said that Sessions "refused to acknowledge" the 2014 court ruling against ICE detainers during the closed door meeting.

'Sanctuary jurisdictions that do not honor detainers or allow us access to jails and prisons are shielding criminal aliens from immigration enforcement and creating a magnet for illegal immigration," ICE Acting Director Tom Homan said in a statement Thursday.

"As a result, ICE is forced to dedicate more resources to conduct at-large arrests in these communities," he said.

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#### AccuWeather.com Forecast MONDAY **SUNDAY TUESDAY TODAY WEDNESDAY**

Cool with periods Cool with clouds Mostly sunny and Cool with clouds Partly sunny, breezy and cooler of sun and sun cool and sun PENDLETON TEMPERATURE FORECAST 47° 41° 59° 38° 61° 36° **70°** 51° 43° 39° 65° 35° 69°

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

**TEMPERATURE** HIGH LOW Yesterday <u>Normals</u> 93° (1932) 28° (1919) **PRECIPITATION** 24 hours ending 3 p.m. 0.91' Month to date Normal month to date 0.53

12.28' Year to date Last year to date Normal year to date 8.91' **HERMISTON** through 3 p.m. yesterday

**TEMPERATURE** HIGH LOW Yesterday 44 <u>Normals</u> 93° (1967) 25° (1985) **PRECIPITATION** 24 hours ending 3 p.m 0.00' 0.36"

Normal year to date **SUN AND MOON** Sunrise today

Oct 12

Normal month to date

Year to date

Oct 5

Sunset tonight 6:37 p.m. Moonrise today 4:13 p.m. 1:14 a.m. New First Full Last

Oct 19

6.54

6:52 a.m.

Oct 27

Seattle Spokane Wenatchee 62/51 67/45 Tacoma Moses 63/46 Lake Olympia Aberdeen Yakima 70/45 61/51 64/45 70/40 Longview Kennewick Walla Walla 64/51 72/49 Astoria 63/50 Hermiston Pendleton 58/38 The Dalles 70/51 67/52 Salem La Grande 59/40 66/49 Albany Corvallis 66/49 John Day 66/46 Ontario 9 59/42 Bend Eugene 70/43 65/46 60/38 Burns Medford 69/43 Klamath Falls 7.01" 5.44"

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

REGIONAL FORECAST Coastal Oregon: Clouds and sun today with

Eastern and Central Oregon: Cooler today with times of clouds and sun. Partly cloudy Western Washington: A brief shower or

Partly cloudy tonight; a snow shower in the mountains. Cascades: Considerable cloudiness today with a stray shower.

Eastern Washington: Clouds and sun today.

Northern California: Low clouds followed by sunshine at the coast today; partly sunny

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#### **REGIONAL CITIES** Today Sun. Hi Lo W 63 44 sh Astoria 63 50 sh Raker City 34 c 38 pc 55 29 sh 60 30 c Bend Brookings 67 52 50 s 51 64 59 Enterprise 58 38 c 34 sh 46 pc 41 sh 41 c Eugene 62 Heppner 51 pc 42 pc 30 pc 40 c 43 pc 39 c 27 pc 70 59 John Day Klamath Falls 59 57 35 c 34 sh 37 c 41 pc 45 pc 47 c

La Grande Meacham 43 pc 49 pc Medford 69 Newport 62 61 49 pc 43 pc North Bend Ontario 71 64 65 48 pc 47 pc 51 sh Pasco Portland 35 pc 49 pc Redmond Salem 41 pc 38 pc 51 sh Spokane Vancouver 63 62 49 pc 40 c Walla Walla Yakima

#### **WORLD CITIES** Today

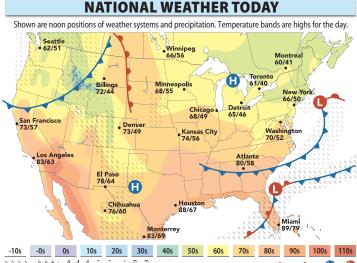
Hi Lo W Hi Lo W Hong Kong Jerusalem 82 sh 90 83 t 59 s 57 pc 62 s 54 r 64 London 66 59 pc 34 c 53 pc 57 pc 58 s 58 pc Mexico City 70 48 70 45 34 pc Moscow **Paris** 64 58 r Rome Seoul 72 58 r 72 55 s 77 67 pc Sydney 53 pc 64 pc Tokyo WINDS

(in mph) Today Boardman WSW 10-20 Pendleton

> **UV INDEX TODAY** 2 3 4 3 3 2 3 1

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. ©2017



National Summary: Downpours will drench Florida as showers dot the Northeast today. Showers and storms will occur from the central Plains to the central and southern Rockies. Rain and snow will fall on the Northwest. Yesterday's National Extremes: (for the 48 contiguous states)

warm front stationary front

High 101° in Thermal, Calif. Low 17° in Bodie State Park, Calif.

NATIONAL CITIES													
	Today			Sun			Today				Sun.		
	Hi	Lo W	Hi	Lo	_		Hi	Lo		Hi		W	
Albuquerque Atlanta	72 80	57 pc		54 59	s pc	Louisville Memphis	74 82	51 61	s pc	78 83		s pc	
Atlantic City Baltimore	69 69	55 c 47 pc	67 70	52 47	S	Miami Milwaukee	89 65	79 51	t s	89 69	80	t	
Billings Birmingham	72 83	44 pc	56	39		Minneapolis Nashville	68 79	55 52	S	67 81	56	sh	
Boise Boston	64 57	41 sh 47 r		38 50	C	New Orleans New York City	89 66	74 50	S	84	74	рс	
Charleston, SC	82 69	60 pc		62 48	рс	Oklahoma City Omaha	78 73	57 57	pc	78 74	62	S	
Charleston, WV Chicago	68	49 s	73	57	S	Philadelphia	68	52	pc pc	72	52		
Cleveland Dallas	65 85	45 s 63 s	73 87	49 68	S	Phoenix Portland, ME	99 61	43	s pc	98 69	45	S	
Denver Detroit	73 65	49 t 46 s	70 68	42 50	-	Providence Raleigh	60 76	46 49	-	68 72		-	
El Paso Fairbanks	78 43	64 c 33 sf	85 49	64 34		Rapid City Reno	76 75	49 43		65			
Fargo Honolulu	66	57 pc		51 75		Sacramento St. Louis	84 75	57 52	S	84 77	- 55	S	
Houston	88	67 pc	90	72	рс	Salt Lake City	67	46	s pc	58	40	рс	
Indianapolis Jacksonville	71 84	47 s 72 r	74 78	54 71	s t	San Diego San Francisco	77 73	65 57	pc pc	74 75		pc s	
Kansas City Las Vegas	74 92	56 pc	75 91	62 66	pc	Seattle Tucson	62 98	51 66	sh s	60 97			
Little Rock	82 83	57 s 63 s	81 80	66		Washington, DC Wichita	70 78		pc	72 80	54		

Weather (W): s-sunny, pc-partly cloudy, c-cloudy, sh-showers, t-thunderstorms, r-rain,

sf-snow flurries, sn-snow, i-ice.