

STANDOFF: Cliven Bundy remained in federal detention

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and demanding the federal government turn over public land to local control.

This year, prosecutors in Nevada failed to gain full convictions in two trials against six defendants in the Bundy case who acknowledged carrying assault-style weapons during the April 2014 confrontation outside Bunkerville, 80 miles northeast of Las Vegas.

Two of them, from Idaho, were memorably photographed on a highway overpass pointing weapons at heavily armed federal agents facing hundreds of flag-waving protesters in a dry riverbed below.

The display forced a smaller group of agents to quit rounding up Bundy cattle and sent a shock wave across Western states, where the federal government owns most of the land and many ranchers chafe at grazing restrictions.

Cliven Bundy, 71, has become a states' rights icon. Hundreds answered calls on social media to protest and protect him.

His trial on 15 felony charges, including conspiracy, weapon counts and threatening and impeding a federal officer, had been expected to last four months. The defendants face the prospect of decades in prison.

"Awesome. But not yet complete," Ryan Bundy said outside the courtroom where he had asked the judge to remove house arrest restrictions for him, his brother and Payne. Navarro said she'd decide that question later.

"I believe there is no jury in this country that will convict us," Ammon Bundy said. "We have something most powerful, and that's the truth."

Cliven Bundy remained in federal detention in protest, although his lawyer was seeking his release. Payne declined to comment.

Acting U.S. Attorney Steven Myhre didn't immediately say whether he would retry the case.

Navarro spent 30 minutes in a packed courtroom citing evidence of misconduct by Myhre and his team.

The judge recalled prosecutors describing efforts to obtain records a "fantastic fishing expedition," "urban legend" and a "shiny object to distract the court" as they denied the existence of video and log book evidence of a sweeping government operation covering a vast range half the size of Delaware.

Agents also set up corrals for protesters well away from the activity and designated them "free speech zones."

Navarro said she was dismayed to learn some 3,300 pages of previously undisclosed FBI and Bureau of Land Management records were turned over to defense attorneys since Oct. 10. The deadline had been Oct. 1 ahead of the trial that opened in mid-November.

Some contained references to snipers and surveillance cameras on hilltops around the Bundy ranch, which prosecutors had insisted did not exist.

The judge called it impossible for defense teams to have fully prepared for the trial. She also offered some stunning disclosures. Despite written reports

predicting the Bundys would not resort to violence, Navarro said government officials mounted a "Bundy media campaign."

Government news releases later asserted that Bundy cattle were being rounded up because he failed to pay more than \$1.1 million grazing fees and penalties.

One threat assessment said the Bundys "will probably get in your face, but not into a shootout," the judge said.

Another report undercut a key claim by environmentalists and the government that Bundy cattle grazing in what is now Gold Butte National Monument caused any documented injury to tortoises.

The judge made no mention of a whistleblower memo by a former Bureau of Land Management investigator in the case that was made public last week.

It alleged widespread bad judgment, bias and misconduct during the planning and operation of the cattle roundup, as well as "likely policy, ethical and legal violations among senior and supervisory staff."

CARBON: Bill scheduled to be released Jan. 8

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their progress is light in the early years," Dembrow said. "Heavy emitters that are at risk of competition from other states or countries that don't have high standards they are going to be given allowances in early years to help them transition into the program. We want to keep it predictable and not have rate shocks."

The bill is scheduled to be drafted by Jan. 8 and released to the public that same week. Some of the highlights of the changes are:

- About 20 percent of the hundreds of millions of dollars generated from carbon allowance sales would go toward projects only in rural areas, addressing a concern that a cap-and-invest law would largely benefit already-thriving urban centers, such as the Portland metro area.
- Some of the proceeds also could be used to pay for "carbon sequestration" on farms, which could involve changes in cover plants and reducing soil disturbances.

- Rulemaking for the program will have legislative oversight. Some members of the business community resisted the idea of the Department of Environmental Quality having unilateral authority in rulemaking.
- Commissions and advisory groups on global warming would be consolidated into one advisory committee and one legislative committee.

Despite the changes, some business groups said they're still opposed to the idea. Jenny Dresler, director of state public policy at the Oregon Farm Bureau, is a member of a coalition campaigning against cap and invest, Oregonians for Balanced Climate Policy.

"Oregon has made tremendous progress toward reducing our carbon emissions and is now one of the cleanest economies in the country," Dresler said. "Driving up gas and energy prices on consumers, farmers and employers — as a cap and trade bill will do — will only result in fewer jobs and more pressure on family budgets. There are better ways to fight climate change, and Oregon is already at the forefront of that effort."

What's the cap, and what's the investment?

The cap limits the amount of carbon a business may emit to less than 25,000 tons of CO2 per year, beginning in 2021. Those that emit more than that amount — currently about 100 businesses in Oregon — would be required to buy market-priced allowances for the excess. The program essentially puts a "price" on emissions.

Meanwhile, the allowances would be sold at a North American auction and generate revenue that would then be invested in projects that slow climate change.

Supporters say the bill could generate hundreds of millions of dollars a year for those projects.

Investments could include rebates for electric vehicles, solar panels on homes or safety improvements on bicycle lanes, among other things, said Brad Reed of environmental advocacy group Renew Oregon.

"Oregonians really value where we live and making a cleaner economy. ... Once those investments start to show, then people are going to understand how beneficial this program is going to be," Reed said.

How much would it cost?

Cost estimates for starting the program have yet to be calculated. That process will begin once the bill is finished, Dembrow said.

The state will achieve some cost savings by participating in the same auction market as California and the Canadian provinces of Quebec and Ontario, the senator said.

The program will drive up the cost of fuel and electricity. Electric rates could climb by about 1 to 3 percent, Dembrow said. It's unclear how much fuel prices could increase.

A study by the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality indicated the costs could have an inordinate effect on people in low-income and rural communities because they already spend a larger percent of their income on fuel.

Dembrow has proposed using another chunk of the program's proceeds for utility payment assistance for low-income Oregonians.

CHARITY: Online shopping has impacted Red Kettle donations

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requests haven't led to "donor fatigue" for many people.

"Most of it's unsolicited," he said. "I had a relative pass away, and her family suggested I give donations to one of their charities. They've been sending me requests ever since."

Lt. Ricky Scruggs of the Salvation Army in Pendleton said his organization is one of those experiencing a drop in donations at their Red Kettle stations outside local stores.

"The season isn't over, but it's probably going to be down 12 to 15 percent from last year," he said.

Scruggs, who coordinates Salvation Army efforts for the county, attributed the decrease to a few factors.

First, he said, the number of people that use cash has gone down, and many times, the Salvation Army bell-ringers are nowhere near an ATM. The Salvation Army counts on change and small bills, and many people don't carry them anymore.

Scruggs said online shopping has also impacted the Salvation Army's collections, as more shoppers don't even set foot in a store for holiday gifts anymore.

Finally, he said dips in giving usually coincide with an improvement in the economy.

"When it's weaker, people know that people are struggling," he said. "When the economy is better, giving is actually a little less."

One generous mystery donor also appears to have disappeared.

"The last four or five years, someone put \$100 bills wrapped in a \$1 bill," he said. "We'd find that in kettles throughout the season."

Scruggs said this year, staff have not found the unique donations.

"That almost accounted for the 12 to 15 percent," he said.

Scruggs was quick to point out that he wasn't complaining, and that when



Mike Ferguson loads donated gifts and a food box in the back of an SUV while working at the Salvation Army on Wednesday in Pendleton.



Food boxes containing all of the ingredients for a turkey dinner sit organized in the gymnasium at the Salvation Army waiting to be distributed on Wednesday in Pendleton.

people do give, they're charitable. This week, he said, the Salvation Army was passing out full turkey dinners to people who signed up. Fundraising for those turkeys received a lot of support and assistance from the community.

John Carraher said he and Lynda are members of AARP, and wondered if they were targeted more because they're retired.

Virginia Beebe, of the Hermiston Senior Center, said she hadn't heard the same complaints from her peers about excessive pleas for money. But she said she has noticed some unsolicited donation requests. She said her mother passed away in 2008, and had been

a donor to the Alzheimer's Association.

"In the last month, I've received three letters saying, 'This is a reminder you asked for,'" Beebe said. "I was kind of amazed, as there had never been any request in the first place."

Kricket Nicholson, Executive Director of United Way of Umatilla and Morrow counties, said organizations have to consider specific things when soliciting from those who may be tired of opening their wallets.

"Part of what United Way does is make sure there's a real need, and make sure they handle the money right," Nicholson

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— Lt. Ricky Scruggs, of the Salvation Army in Pendleton

said. United Way represents about 20 local organizations such as the Boardman Senior Citizens, Children's Museum of Eastern Oregon, Domestic Violence Services and the Stanfield Food Basket. Each year, Nicholson visits local businesses and organizations, gives a presentation about United Way and asks people to donate.

Nicholson said she understands why people might get tired of being asked to give.

"When you open your mailbox messages, if you do give, they triple the amount of junk mail you get," she said.

But she added that when people are looking at their taxes and considering a charitable contribution, it can be appealing to give to a needy organization.

"It's always a matter of picking and choosing," she

LEACH: Horizon Project started in Milton-Freewater in 1978

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He also has the important job of emptying used grease from the fryers into a special dumpster, and sweeping up garbage from the parking lot. Avila said seeing all of the cigarette butts on the ground out front always makes him frustrated that people don't clean up after themselves.

He keeps a good attitude, though.

"He's a huge jokester," she said. "Your shoe's untied," he responded, looking at Shockman. She laughed, but refused to fall for the trick.

"I tease these guys all the time," Leach said.

When he's not working at Taco Bell, Leach builds model cars, erector sets and other hands-on projects. One of his favorite things to do is shop at Hobby Lobby in the Tri-Cities for new models and then "tinkering" with them.

Leach grew up in California, then moved to Oregon with family



Mark Leach walks past his fellow employees in the kitchen carrying fountain drink lids while working Tuesday at Taco Bell in Hermiston.

after his brother got a job in Nyssa. After both of his parents passed away, Leach moved to a group home run by Horizon Project, which he has been involved with for nearly a decade.

Horizon Project started in Milton-Freewater in 1978 and expanded its services to Hermiston in 2002 and Pendleton in 2004, according to their website. The organization aims to give individ-

uals with intellectual disabilities more independence and an opportunity to participate in activities outside their home. The organization offers employment services such as job training, community job placement and direct employment at their recycling operation in Milton-Freewater. They also offer housing services, including group homes and semi-independent living arrangements, and provide daytime activities for individuals who are not able to be employed.

Longtime Pendleton residents might recognize the name Mark Leach from the Mark Leach Memorial Award, given to Pendleton High School athletes in remembrance of an intellectually disabled man known as "Pendleton's number one sports fan" who passed away in 2003. The two Mark Leaches are not related, as far as anyone at Horizon Project knows.

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