

La Grande High School student leads drive for justice

Reagan Davis seeking presidential pardon for former CIA agent

By DICK MASON
EO Media Group

LA GRANDE — A La Grande High School senior wants justice for a former CIA agent she believes was betrayed by his country.

Reagan Davis is leading a drive to get a full presidential pardon for John Kiriakou, a former CIA agent. Kiriakou in 2007 became the first U.S. government official to publicly confirm the CIA used waterboarding when interrogating al-Qaeda prisoners. Kiriakou in 2012 was indicted on four charges, including three for allegedly violating the Espionage Act. He later pleaded guilty to one count of passing classified information to the media, thereby violating the Intelligence Identities Protection Act. His plea deal spared journalists from testifying in a trial.

The Justice Department



Kiriakou



EO Media Group Photo/Dick Mason

La Grande High School senior Reagan Davis is leading a drive to obtain a presidential pardon for former CIA agent John Kiriakou, who blew the whistle on the agency's waterboarding of al-Qaeda prisoners.

dropped all other charges against Kiriakou, who received a 30-month prison sentence in 2013 and served 23 months.

Davis said she believes Kiriakou, who lives in Pennsylvania, was indicted on the four charges as retaliation for his revelation about waterboarding in 2007.

"He received cruel and unique punishment because

of what he revealed about the government," Davis said.

The LHS student said people such as Kiriakou should receive a cloak of protection from the government, not court indictments.

"Whistle-blowers are supposed to be protected," she said.

Davis has created a petition, now online, which asks that Kiriakou, 55, be granted

a full presidential pardon.

"We strongly believe the charges Mr. Kiriakou faced from the Obama Justice Department were unfair and that he is deserving of a full pardon," the petition statement reads.

A total of 535 people as of Tuesday afternoon have signed the petition, including 100 LHS students, along with individuals liv-

ing in Morocco, Greece and Australia. Davis is hopeful the petition will draw increasing interest, boosting the chances Trump will see it and give it serious consideration.

Davis said because Kiriakou is now a convicted felon he lost his government pension and is ineligible for many jobs. Receiving a pardon would erase the felony conviction from his record.

She makes reference to this in her petition statement.

"John Kiriakou is an amazing man with a whole life ahead of him. Without a pardon for Mr. Kiriakou, he will never be able to do things he still has yet to complete," Davis wrote.

Davis believes Trump may consider pardoning Kiriakou because he was convicted under the Obama administration.

"Pardoning him would undo something the Obama administration did," Davis said, explaining that mentioning this likely would help him on the campaign trail in 2020 while running for re-election.

Davis learned of Kiriakou's story while preparing to ask questions of him for a presentation he made at the high school via a Skype call. Davis and all students in John Lamoreau's American

history classes asked questions of Kiriakou during the October session. She said she was moved by Kiriakou's presentation, learning not only about how the felony conviction affected his life but also how his time in prison cost him custody of his children and his marriage.

The high school senior also was impressed with the upbeat and giving attitude Kiriakou maintains regardless of his circumstances. She noted while in prison he helped fellow inmates earn their GEDs. He shared this and more with the La Grande students.

"He opened up about things," Davis said.

Following the Skype session, Davis sat alone with her thoughts in the school's AV auditorium.

"I thought, 'This is crazy.' It opened my eyes to how the justice system works," she said. "I sat there and I teared up."

Soon after, Davis decided to start a drive to get a pardon for Kiriakou. She has been heartened by the response she has received from fellow students and community members.

"It has made me extremely proud (to be a part of this community)," she said.

Forecast for Pendleton Area

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Breezy in the a.m.; cloudy, mild	Breezy in the a.m.; cloudy, mild	Cloudy and cooler; rain at night	Clouds limiting sunshine	Times of clouds and sun

AccuWeather

DOWNLOAD THE FREE APP

PENDLETON TEMPERATURE FORECAST									
59°	51°	59°	39°	45°	34°	44°	26°	40°	28°
HERMISTON TEMPERATURE FORECAST									
62°	49°	59°	41°	47°	36°	47°	28°	40°	29°

OREGON FORECAST

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

ALMANAC

PENDLETON through 3 p.m. yest.

TEMP.	HIGH	LOW
Yesterday	41°	27°
Normals	39°	25°
Records	62° (2017)	-7° (1984)

PRECIPITATION

24 hours ending 3 p.m.	0.18"
Month to date	0.60"
Normal month to date	0.92"
Year to date	12.18"
Last year to date	9.48"
Normal year to date	12.39"

HERMISTON through 3 p.m. yest.

TEMP.	HIGH	LOW
Yesterday	34°	30°
Normals	39°	27°
Records	60° (1933)	-5° (1984)

PRECIPITATION

24 hours ending 3 p.m.	0.03"
Month to date	0.13"
Normal month to date	0.94"
Year to date	5.08"
Last year to date	7.32"
Normal year to date	9.41"

WINDS (in mph)

	Today	Sat.
Boardman	SSW 7-14	SW 4-8
Pendleton	S 10-20	SSE 8-16

SUN AND MOON

Sunrise today	7:32 a.m.
Sunset tonight	4:13 p.m.
Moonrise today	1:01 a.m.
Moonset today	1:08 p.m.

New

First

Full

Last

Dec 25

Jan 2

Jan 10

Jan 17

Northeast Oregon forests get nod for carbon sequestration

East Oregonian

CORVALLIS — A study by Oregon State University researchers has identified forests in the western United States, including in Northeast Oregon, that should be preserved for their potential to mitigate climate change through carbon sequestration, as well as to enhance biodiversity.

The study showed that not logging those forests would be the carbon dioxide equivalent of halting eight years worth of fossil fuel burning in the western lower 48, the scientists found, noting that making land stewardship a higher societal priority is crucial for altering climate change trajectory.

The findings, published in Ecological Applications, are important because capping global temperature increases at 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels, as called for in the 2016 Paris Agreement, would maintain substantial proportions of ecosystems while also benefiting economies and human health,

according to scientists.

"The greater frequency and intensity of extreme events, such as wildfires, have adversely affected terrestrial ecosystems," said study co-author Beverly Law, professor of forest ecosystems and society in the OSU College of Forestry. "Although climate change is impacting forests in many regions, other regions are expected to have low vulnerability to fires, insects and drought in the future."

Law, Oregon State forestry professor William Ripple, postdoctoral research associate Polly Buotte and Logan Berner of EcoSpatial Services analyzed forests in the western United States to simulate potential carbon sequestration through the 21st century.

The five-year study supported by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Institute of Food and Agriculture identified, and targeted for preservation, forests with high carbon sequestration potential, low vulnerability to drought, fire and beetles, and high biodiversity value.

Largely through the burning of fossil fuels, which releases the greenhouse gas carbon dioxide into the atmosphere, the Earth has already warmed by 1 degree Celsius. Arctic sea ice is declining at the fastest rate in 1,500 years, sea levels have risen more than 8 inches since 1880, and extreme weather events are becoming more common and damaging.

Atmospheric CO2 has increased 40% since the dawn of the Industrial Age. According to the National Atmospheric and Oceanic Administration's Global Monitoring Division, the global average atmospheric carbon dioxide concentration on Jan. 1 was 410 parts per million, higher than at any time in at least 800,000 years.

"Smart land management can mitigate the effects of climate-induced ecosystem changes to biodiversity and watersheds, which influence ecosystem services that play a key role in human well-being," said Buotte, the study's corresponding author.

NATIONAL EXTREMES

Yesterday's National Extremes: (for the 48 contiguous states)

High 73° in Hollywood, Fla. Low -32° in Antero Reservoir, Colo.

NATIONAL WEATHER TODAY

Shown are noon positions of weather systems and precipitation. Temperature bands are highs for the day.

-10s	-0s	0s	10s	20s	30s	40s	50s	60s	70s	80s	90s	100s	110s
showers	t-storms	rain	flurries	snow	ice	cold front	warm front	stationary front	high	low			

BRIEFLY

Illness forces another Oregon school district to close

HALSEY — The Central Linn School District has shut down after dozens of students came down with the flu and norovirus.

KVAL-TV reports Central Linn Elementary and Central Linn Junior/Senior High School were closed Wednesday and Thursday.

After weeks of monitoring, school officials said a rapid increase of cases this week

became a high concern. More than 20% of elementary school students and 30% of high school students have been out sick.

Symptoms include stomach cramps, diarrhea, vomiting and dehydration.

This closure comes after Sweet Home and Greater Albany schools were also hit with the bug.

The school district plans to fully disinfect schools and reopen after holiday break on Jan. 6.

— Associated Press

CORRECTION: In the Page A3 story "Tamarack Entertainment raising funds to buy Spout Springs Ski Area," published Wednesday, Dec. 18, the story incorrectly said the resort opened last season after a two-year hiatus. The resort's owners announced last winter that it would reopen after a two-year hiatus, but later said it would remain closed.

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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