

A working vacation...



PHOTO BY JERRY BALDOCK

Eastern Washington University students working on a Habitat for Humanity home during a spring break build.

GUN CONTROL: Opponents say measures ineffective

Continued from page 14

to a year in jail and a \$6,250 fine. A second offense would be a felony, with a potential sentence of up to 10 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine.

The bill would take effect 90 days after it's passed.

The debate is falling along familiar lines. Gun-control advocates say the bill would make it tougher for people who shouldn't have guns to get ahold of them. They acknowledge that background checks won't prevent all gun-related violence, but they say the background-check requirements haven't caught up with the information tools of the Internet age.

“ My goal is to keep individuals who shouldn't have access to guns from having easy access to guns. — Floyd Prozanski

“My goal is to keep individuals who shouldn't have access to guns from having easy access to guns,” said Sen. Floyd Prozanski, a Eugene Democrat who is sponsoring the bill.

Gun-rights supporters say the bill would trample on their 2nd Amendment right to bear arms. They say the bill will only affect people who try to abide by the law, because crafty criminals won't be deterred from finding a weapon. They also complain that the Oregon State Police background-check system sometimes returns faulty results.

“If they were saying, ‘Yes, it's an inconvenience for you people, but at least we're

getting bad guys off the street,’ I'd still object to it philosophically, but they'd have a practical argument,” said Kevin Starrett, head of the Oregon Firearms Federation. “But they're not getting bad people off the street.”

The Senate Judiciary Committee is holding a public hearing on the measure 8 a.m. Wednesday at the state Capitol in Salem. Members of the public are invited to testify, but there's no guarantee that everyone will get a chance.

Oregonians can also email or call their senator. Contact information for all 30 senators is on the Legislature's website, www.oregonlegislature.gov.

For the past four years, the Oregon Senate's 16-14 divide between Republicans and Democrats has been a roadblock for gun-control initiatives. Democratic Sen. Betsy Johnson of Scappoose, who represents a rural area and takes a skeptical eye toward gun restrictions, has joined all 14 Republicans to block them.

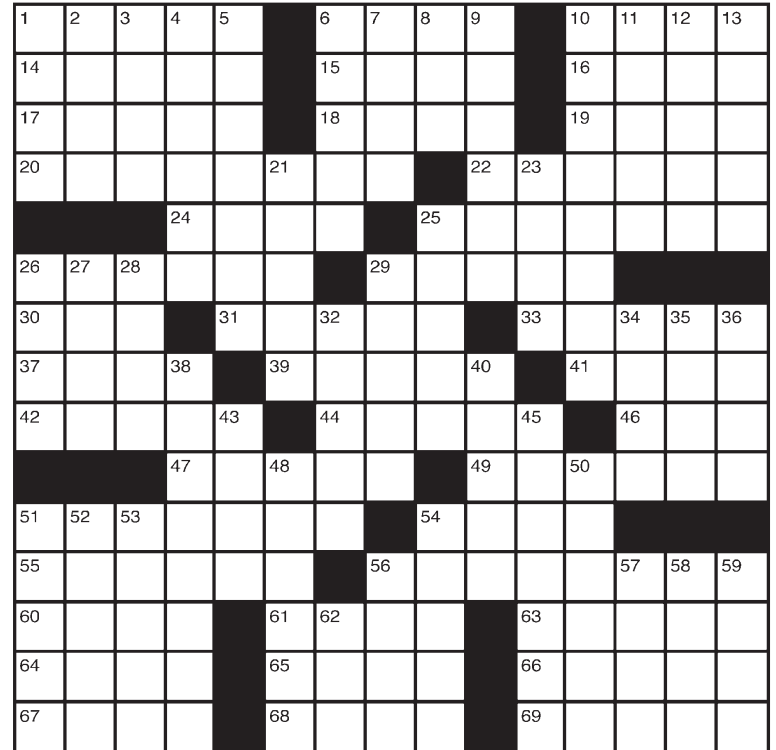
But after Democrats picked up two additional seats in the November election, the bill now faces much stronger prospects of success. The tougher challenge could be in the House, where lawmakers face more frequent elections and haven't been asked to weigh in recently on gun control. Democrats have 35 of the 60 seats, however, so the bill can survive even if four Democrats are opposed.

The Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence says Oregon would be the eighth state to require background checks on private gun sales and the fifth since the 2012 shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary in Newtown, Connecticut. The seven states with expanded background checks are: California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, New York, Rhode Island and Washington.

The Nugget Newspaper Crossword

By Jacqueline E. Mathews, Tribune News Service

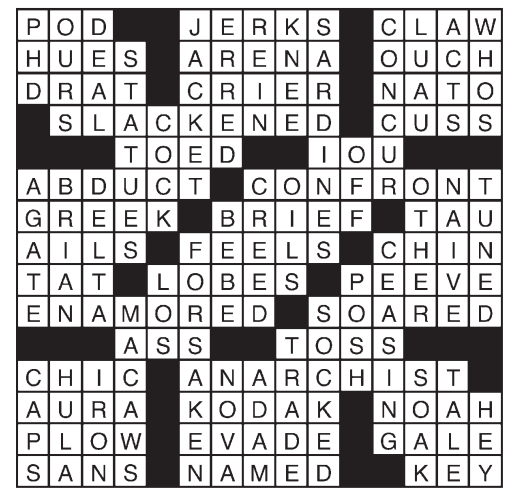
- ACROSS**
- 1 Chocolate substitute
 - 6 Polaris or Vega
 - 10 Crew members' needs
 - 14 Over and ___; beyond
 - 15 Easy gait
 - 16 Provo's state
 - 17 More impolite
 - 18 Singles
 - 19 Movement of the waves
 - 20 Time without end
 - 22 Lassie, for one
 - 24 Short fast race
 - 25 Reviewer of the financial books
 - 26 Soft yarn made from goat hair
 - 29 Overuse the mirror
 - 30 Baseball's ___ Ripken, Jr.
 - 31 Valleys
 - 33 Bursting at the ___; too full
 - 37 Wedding cake section
 - 39 Drink served warm or hot
 - 41 Strike with the open palm
 - 42 Snooze
 - 44 Cotton ___; carnival treat
 - 46 Gentleman
 - 47 George M. ___
 - 49 Tune
 - 51 Of the national government
 - 54 Rank and ___; common folks
 - 55 Slate clearer
 - 56 Endures longer than
 - 60 Blyth & Sothorn
 - 61 Zealous
 - 63 Western state
 - 64 S, M, L or XL
 - 65 Warble
 - 66 Firm refusal
 - 67 Leoni & others
 - 68 Warm rice drink
 - 69 Say "Hi" to
- DOWN**
- 1 "Take ___"; parting words
 - 2 Lie next to
 - 3 ___ a bike; pedaled
 - 4 Strain oneself
 - 5 George ___ Shaw
 - 6 Laziness
 - 7 Acting award
 - 8 Primate
 - 9 Save from peril
 - 10 Silhouettes
 - 11 Leaning
 - 12 AM/FM device
 - 13 See-through
 - 21 Sir ___ Newton
 - 23 Elegant poems
 - 25 Willful burning of property
 - 26 Parts of a play
 - 27 Metal fastener
 - 28 Joy
 - 29 Nut variety
 - 32 Skin-numbing injection
 - 34 To boot
 - 35 Housekeeper



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

4/1/15

— Last Week's Puzzle Solved —



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- 36 Lively
- 38 Court breaks
- 40 Let in
- 43 Tiny skin opening
- 45 Shouting
- 48 Keep bothering
- 50 Director
- 51 Banquet
- 52 Bert's buddy
- 53 Actor Tony ___
- 54 Cheat a little
- 56 Pig's comment
- 57 Keep for later
- 58 "How do I love ___? Let me..."
- 59 Categorize
- 62 By way of

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