

Oregon governor pushes for stronger gun laws

By Kristena Hansen
Associated Press

PORTLAND (AP) — In the wake of recent mass shootings, Gov. Kate Brown says it's time for Congress and the Oregon Statehouse to end the partisan gridlocks on gun reform and strengthen state and federal laws on assault weapons, background checks and illegal firearm purchases, among others.

Brown's calls on policymakers are part of a series of new gun-related efforts in Oregon she revealed Friday in Portland, alongside Democrats Sen. Ron Wyden and Rep. Suzanne Bonamici plus several local gun-control advocates and religious leaders.

The Democratic governor said state lawmakers "must" pass new laws during next year's session that would close loopholes and place prohibitions on certain firearms.

She wants to make sure people who shouldn't own a gun aren't able to buy one because authorities weren't able to complete a background check within the state's required three-day

waiting period — a gap Brown has already vowed to readdress in 2017 after that proposal failed at the Legislature earlier this year. She proposes closing another loophole by broadening the scope of illegal possession for those involved in cases of stalking or domestic violence.

Brown also pressed for a statewide ban on future purchases of extended-capacity magazines, referencing the nation's deadliest-ever mass shooting last month at a gay Orlando nightclub that killed 49 people and wounded more than 50 others.

"Those magazines allowed him to fire his weapon repeatedly without stopping to reload, without pause that might have given his victims or law enforcement a chance to stop him," Brown said.

Additionally, Brown rallied Congress to outlaw assault rifles nationwide and Bonamici made similar calls on her congressional colleagues, such as streamlined federal mandates on background checks. Bonamici said she was disappointed that Congress recessed this week without addressing

gun reform yet again, and their "thoughts and prayers of silences are not enough."

Other actions by Brown, who's running to keep her gubernatorial seat in November, include executive orders on Oregon State Police to keep a five-year record of state firearm transactions, which state law already authorizes. State police would also be ordered to proactively notify local authorities when a prohibited person attempts to buy a gun.

Kevin Starrett, executive director of the Oregon Firearms Federation gun-rights group, responded with some terse words for Brown's characterization of the Orlando shooting.

"That guy was in the building for three hours — does she think he never reloaded in three hours?" Starrett told The Associated Press. "It's just incredibly ignorant, stupid garbage that comes out of these people's mouths. The reason those people died was because they weren't prepared to protect themselves."

Starrett also criticized Brown's orders on state

police. He noted the agency already dispatches troopers to the scene when a prohibited person tries buying a gun, a policy change that former Gov. John Kitzhaber called for two years ago in the absence of such requirement by state law.

"This is her great breakthrough? That the cops are actually going to talk to each other?" Starrett said. "This is embarrassing. It really is."

Republican lawmakers in the Oregon House, on the other hand, said they're cautiously open to having dialogues on gun violence, so long as the rights of responsible Oregonian gun owners are taken into full account.

"Sadly, this element of the conversation is all too often an afterthought for politicians in Salem," Rep. Mike McLane, the chamber's minority leader, said in a statement. "We can and, indeed should, do more to address violence in our communities, but I firmly believe that these solutions should be borne out of bipartisan consensus and honest efforts to find common ground that works."

Metke to be celebrated at Elk Lake event

Sisters naturalist Jim Anderson and his wife, lepidopterist Sue Anderson, will be among the presenters at an event celebrating Luther Metke starting at 2:30 p.m. on Sunday, July 24, at Elk Lake Resort.

Luther Metke Revisited will celebrate the legacy of Metke's log cabins.

Metke came to Oregon in 1907, and in 1917 he got into the logging business in Bend and began building log cabins. He admitted that at first they "weren't much to look at." But as he kept at it, he got better and better and eventually built landmarks that are still standing today. He was a key builder on Camp Sherman's historic Community Hall.

There will be several showings of a documentary film on Metke's life and work.

Attendees will rendezvous at 2:30 p.m. at the Elk Lake Lodge parking lot.

Quilt Drawing

for

FURRY FRIENDS
FOUNDATION
501(c)(3)

100% of the proceeds go to Furry Friends Foundation.

"Friends of Furry Friends" quilt was pieced by Valerie Fercho-Tillery. The bold colors and incredible detail make this a spectacular quilt.

The quilt is currently on display at
The Nugget office, 442 E. Main Ave.

Bring your pup by for a dog cookie and have a look!

Tickets may be purchased at The Nugget office
or online at our website
www.furryfriendsfoundation.org.



Tickets are \$1 each, six for \$5 or
go for it, 25 for \$20.



Info: 541-549-9941



"Friends of Furry Friends" - by Valerie Fercho-Tillery (46"w x 59"h)