

Oregon Senate approves raising legal tobacco age to 21

By Kristena Hansen
Associated Press

SALEM (AP) — Oregon is on track to potentially become the third state in the nation to raise its tobacco age minimum to 21 following Thursday's vote by Senate lawmakers.

Senate Bill 754 cleared the chamber in a 19-8 vote and now heads to the House. The measure would raise the legal age in Oregon for possessing and buying tobacco and nicotine products from 18 to 21 beginning next year, following the leads of Hawaii in 2015 and California in 2016.

State budget officials say the Oregon proposal would drop tax revenues by an estimated \$1.76 million — less than 2 percent of total tobacco revenues — in the upcoming

2017-19 budget, which has a \$1.6 billion projected shortfall. Total tobacco revenues account for approximately \$134 million of the total \$19.6 billion expected gross revenue to the state's general fund for the upcoming biennium.

Any potential revenue losses, however, could be recovered through other proposals currently being considered in Salem to raise the state's tax rates on tobacco products. The Oregon Health Authority also says the measure could take a bite out of the \$2.5 billion in tobacco-related medical costs that burden taxpayers every year.

But the bipartisan proposal was criticized by some Senate Republicans as discriminating against young adults who are otherwise legally old enough

to vote, join the military, own a house, drive a car and pay taxes.

"Are we a nanny state?" Republican Sen. Alan Olsen asked his colleagues during the debate. "Or do we believe in life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness?"

Senate Republican Minority Leader Ted Ferrioli characterized it as a "lack of trust" in young adults to make their own decisions and as a "great opportunity for young people to enter the thriving black market of bootleg cigarettes."

Under SB754, prohibited sales to minors under 21 would include vaporizers, electronic and traditional cigarettes, cigars, chewing tobacco, among others. There would be no crime penalties

for persons under 21 caught in possession; retail shop owners, managers and sales clerks would be on the hook for anywhere between \$50 to \$1,000 in civil, rather than criminal, fines should they be caught selling to those underage.

Sen. Elizabeth Steiner Hayward, one of the bill's Democratic sponsors, said she understands critics' concerns, but noted that voters and military members under 21, for instance, also can't legally

have a beer or, in places like Oregon, buy recreational marijuana.

"Nicotine and tobacco are one of the only substances that, when used as directed, will almost guarantee to kill you," said Steiner Hayward, who has lost several family members, including her father, to tobacco-related deaths. "There is a safe level of soda pop, there is a safe level of fast food. There is no safe level of tobacco."

Theater company serves up one-acts

The community is invited to attend "Now You're Talking: Sisters One-Acts 2017," at The Belfry, April 27-29 at 7:30 p.m., with a matinee showing on April 29 at 3 p.m.

More than 20 actors and directors from Sisters, Redmond and Bend will entertain you, move you and make

you laugh for the evening during these seven plays produced by the nonprofit Silent Echo Theater Company. Three of the plays will be making their world premiere, and the other four will make their Oregon premiere.

Tickets are available at www.bendticket.com: \$12 for

adults; \$10 for students and seniors (65 and older). Tickets can be purchased at the door (cash only): \$15 for adults; \$12 for students and seniors. For more information: silentechotheatercompany@gmail.com or 541-719-8779.

The Belfry is located at 302 E. Main Ave.

THE OLD STONE
— Friday, April 21 —
Jeffrey Martin & Anna Tivel
7:30 doors 8:00 show
\$10 adv \$15 door

— Friday, April 28 —
Head For The Hills
7:30 doors 8:00 show
\$12 adv \$15 door

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157 Franklin, Bend

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Going in Style (PG-13)
Fri-Sun 3:00, 5:15, 7:30
Mon-Thurs 5:15, 7:30

Personal Shopper (R)
Fri-Sun 2:30, 5:00, 7:15
Mon-Thurs 5:00, 7:15

The Boss Baby (PG)
Fri-Sun 2:15, 4:30, 6:45
Mon-Thurs 4:30, 6:45

Beauty and the Beast (PG)
Fri-Sun 1:30, 4:15, 7:00
Mon-Wed 4:15, 7:00
Thurs 4:15

Fate of the Furious (PG-13)
Thurs, April 13, 7:00

Movie times and titles are subject to change. Visit website or call for latest information.

WWW.SISTERSMOVIEHOUSE.COM
541-549-8800

The Belfry

April 22 / Sat / 8 PM
Joe Leonardi's Birthday Party Extravaganza
A night of community celebration and song!

April 27 / Th / 7:30 PM
April 28 / Fri / 7:30 PM
April 29 / Sat / 3 & 7:30 PM
Silent Echo Theater Company
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SISTERS ENTERTAINMENT EVENTS

Wed. ~ April 5

Sisters Saloon Texas Hold 'Em Tournament 7 p.m. Every Wednesday! For more information call 541-549-7427 or go to sisterssaloon.net.

Thursday ~ April 6

Sisters Saloon Karaoke Night! 9 p.m. Every Thursday, no cover! For more information call 541-549-7427 or go online to sisterssaloon.net.

Friday ~ April 7

Sisters Saloon Live Music with Bill Powers & Benji Nagel 8 to 11 p.m. No cover for bluegrass, folk & country! For information call 541-549-7427 or go to sisterssaloon.net.

Paulina Springs Books Author Reading with Robert Heilman 6 p.m. Heilman will read from and sign "Overstory Zero: Real Life in Timber Country." Free! Refreshments provided. For more info call 541-549-0866.

Saturday ~ April 8

Cork Cellars Live Music with Doc Ryan 7 to 9 p.m. No cover! For additional info call 541-549-2675 or go online to corkcellarswinebistro.com.

Sisters Saloon Live Music with Thomas T and the Blue Chips 8 to 11 p.m. No cover for blues! For more information call 541-549-7427 or go online to sisterssaloon.net.

Sisters Fire Hall Open House for Sisters-Camp Sherman RFPD 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Free! Tour the facility, see the equipment, meet fire personnel, watch demos, learn about volunteering and more! Questions? Call 541-549-0771.

Wed. ~ April 12

Sisters Saloon Texas Hold 'Em Tournament 7 p.m. Every Wednesday! For information call 541-549-7427 or go to sisterssaloon.net.

Thurs. ~ April 13

Sisters Saloon Karaoke Night! 9 p.m. Every Thursday, no cover! For more information call 541-549-7427 or go online to sisterssaloon.net.

Friday ~ April 14

Paulina Springs Books Author Reading with Les Joslin 6 p.m. Joslin will read from and sign "Deschutes National Forest." Free! Refreshments provided. For info call 541-549-0866 or go to paulinasprings.com.

Sat. ~ April 15

Sisters Saloon Live Music with Burnin' Moonlight 8 to 11 p.m. No cover for bluegrass & blues! For additional information call 541-549-7427 or go online to sisterssaloon.net.

Cork Cellars Live Music with Mike Biggers 7 to 9 p.m. No cover! For additional information call 541-549-2675 or go online to corkcellarswinebistro.com.

Sunday ~ April 16

Creekside Park Annual Easter Egg Hunt 12:40 p.m. for age group divisions (for ages infant to 11). The hunt starts at 1 p.m. Presented by the Sisters-Camp Sherman & Cloverdale fire departments. Limited parking; arrive early! For info call 541-549-0771.

Tuesday ~ April 18

Sisters Movie House Screening of a Live Performance of "The Crucible" 6:45 p.m. Recorded live from London's Old Vic Theatre. One-time-only presentation, part of the "Spring into Culture" series. Tickets are \$15. Purchase at 541-549-8833 or at sistersmoviehouse.com.

Wed. ~ April 19

Sisters Saloon Texas Hold 'Em Tournament 7 p.m. Every Wednesday! For additional information call 541-549-7427 or go online to sisterssaloon.net.

Thurs. ~ April 20

Sisters Saloon Karaoke Night! 9 p.m. Every Thursday, no cover! For more information call 541-549-7427 or go online to sisterssaloon.net.

Saturday ~ April 22

Cork Cellars Live Music with Bill Keale 7 to 9 p.m. No cover! For additional info call 541-549-2675 or go online to corkcellarswinebistro.com.

Paulina Springs Books Author Reading with Marie Bostwick 6 p.m. Bostwick will read from and sign "The Promise Girls." Free! Refreshments provided. For info call 541-549-0866 or go to paulinasprings.com.



The Events Calendar listings are free to advertisers. Submit by 5 p.m. Fridays to teresa@nuggetnews.com