

Bill allowing gun ban in public buildings advances

By **Andrew Selsky**
Associated Press

SALEM (AP) — Democrats in an Oregon Senate committee on Thursday, February 25, unanimously approved a bill that would allow jurisdictions to decide whether people with concealed handgun license can bring guns into a public building.

Over the opposition of Republicans and numerous gun owners, the Judiciary Committee recommended the bill be passed by the full Senate with amendments. If it passes there, it would then go to the House.

Under current Oregon law, a person with a concealed handgun license can possess a firearm or other weapon while in a public building. The bill authorizes any city, county, commercial airport, school district, college or university to limit or preclude a concealed handgun licensee from possessing firearms in public buildings.

The issue is even more important in the aftermath of the January 6 assault on the U.S. Capitol, said Sen. Ginny Burdick, a Portland Democrat. In a virtual public hearing Monday on the bill, she cited a U.S. Department of Homeland Security bulletin on January 27 that warned extremists may be emboldened by the breach of the U.S. Capitol to target elected officials and government facilities.

“More than 300,000 Oregonians have concealed handgun licenses. Right now, all of these people have access to public buildings. As a person who works in the Capitol and has watched the armed protests at our Capitol and around the country, the

protections offered by Senate Bill 554 cannot come soon enough,” Burdick said.

Sen. Fred Girod, the Senate Republican leader, testified that he’d feel defenseless without a gun. He and his wife both have concealed handgun permits, he said.

“This building, I hate to tell you, is not safe,” Girod said, testifying by video from his Capitol office. “I’ll be darned if I’m going to be a sitting duck for someone that comes in here and wants to start shooting. That’s just not right.”

Sen. Kim Thatcher, a Republican and vice chair of the committee, said 2,000 pieces of written testimony have come in. It underscores the passion people feel in support of, and opposition to, gun control.

Many residents objected to the measure.

“Airports and schools will become an even more attractive target for criminals who don’t have to worry about a law-abiding citizen concealing the means to fight back,” wrote Anthony Fields of Milwaukie.

Proponents noted that jurisdictions would be able to decide how to proceed. For now, the law gives them no say in the matter.

“School districts are powerless to keep parents from bringing guns to parent-teacher conferences or to sporting events; city councils and county commissions cannot keep audience members from bringing firearms to contentious debate,” Burdick said. “In the Oregon Capitol we cannot keep angry protesters from bringing loaded AR-15s into the building. And yes, that has actually happened.”

FIRE DISTRICT: Staff and volunteers working to support vaccine effort

Continued from page 4

the Fire District added five additional phone lines to the three currently used. Even with eight available phone lines, and a cadre of volunteers staffing the lines, many people were unable to schedule an appointment.

“We had about 65 voice-mails on the COVID line by the time the appointment slots had been filled,” said Bialous.

“The overwhelming response when someone made it through and got scheduled was sincere

gratitude and excitement to get their vaccine,” said Spor.

“It is very important for the Sisters-Camp Sherman Fire District to be a partner in providing healthcare to Sisters Country residents,” said Roger Johnson, fire chief for the District. “We are happy to assist Deschutes County Public Health in their efforts to provide COVID-19 vaccinations to our most vulnerable citizens.”

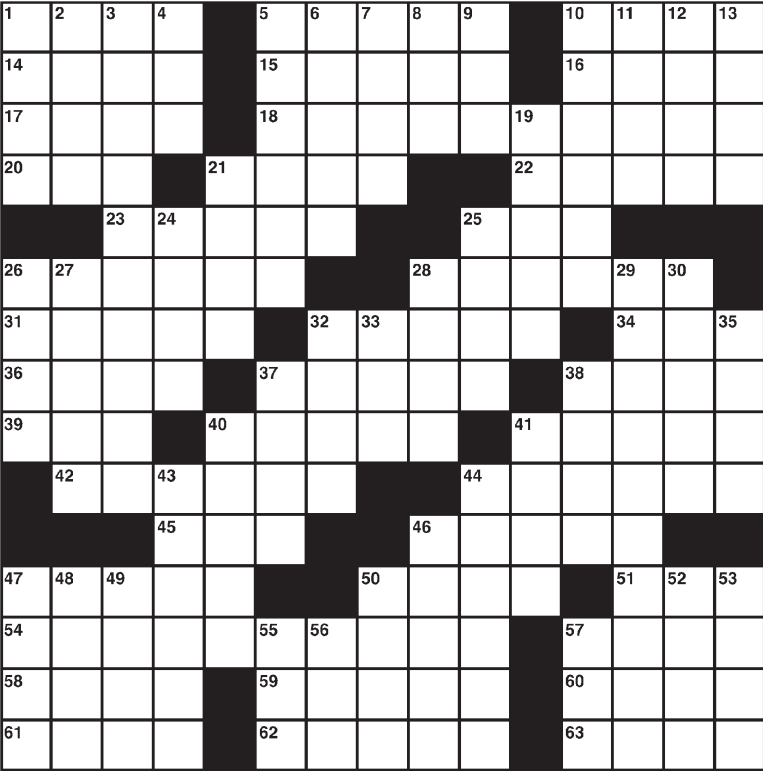
More information will be shared about future vaccine clinics when it is available.

For information on the safety, and other frequently asked questions about the vaccine, visit www.covidvaccine.oregon.gov.

The Nugget Newspaper Crossword

By Jacqueline E. Mathews, Tribune News Service

- ACROSS**
- 1 “Shoo!”
 - 5 Canaveral & Cod
 - 10 Ailing
 - 14 Candy ____;
 - Yuletide treat
 - 15 Make laugh
 - 16 Golfer’s focus
 - 17 As wise ____ owl
 - 18 Corridor
 - 20 Org. for Sharks & Stars
 - 21 “Nonsense!”
 - 22 ____ up on; studies about
 - 23 Narrow valleys
 - 25 “Ready, __, go!”
 - 26 Paper fold
 - 28 Visitors
 - 31 Place of refuge
 - 32 ____-talk; flatter
 - 34 Objective
 - 36 ____-fry; wok dish
 - 37 Spirited horse
 - 38 Suffix for honor or suit
 - 39 ____-tac-toe
 - 40 ____ steak; meat for London broil
 - 41 Soothes
 - 42 Fish hawk
 - 44 Walks leisurely
 - 45 Near the ground
 - 46 Treaties
 - 47 “Guilty” & “Not guilty”
 - 50 Piece of china
 - 51 Golf hole average
 - 54 Amounts
 - 57 Beauty mark
 - 58 Unusual
 - 59 Caroline, to RFK
 - 60 Bereavement
 - 61 NBA team
 - 62 Highest mountain range outside Asia
 - 63 Tie the ____; marry
- DOWN**
- 1 Read over quickly
 - 2 Money
 - 3 Painkillers
 - 4 Two and three and five
 - 5 Gangster Al
 - 6 Accumulate



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

- Last Week’s Puzzle Solved —**
- 7 Shove
 - 8 Sigma’s counterpart
 - 9 Body of water
 - 10 Items in a bedding package
 - 11 Neighbor of Illinois
 - 12 ____ in; wearing
 - 13 Islets off Florida
 - 19 Welcome warmly
 - 21 Nickname for Elizabeth
 - 24 Lion’s den
 - 25 Hauled into court
 - 26 Expense
 - 27 Numerical comparison
 - 28 Computer expert, often
 - 29 Piece of silverware
 - 30 Ridiculous
 - 32 Remain
 - 33 Actress Ming-Na
 - 35 Predicament
 - 37 Murdered
 - 38 Canberra’s nation: abbr.

T	H	E	N		P	R	E	P		S	T	A	R
H	O	M	E	R		R	O	A	R		H	O	B
I	R	A	T	E		A	T	R	O	C	I	O	U
S	A	N		C	A	N				P	R	E	T
				C	R	A	C	K		H	A	S	
O	R	I	O	L	E			S	E	P	T	I	C
N	E	P	A	L		P	R	E	S	S		M	A
C	H	A	D		L	O	F	T	Y		S	P	R
E	A	T		R	I	N	K	S		P	E	E	V
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E	X	H	A	L	E			U	P	S		O	F
T	R	A	V	E	R	S	E	D		E	R	N	I
C	A	R	E		I	O	W	A		D	E	A	L
H	Y	M	N		E	Y	E	S			F	L	E

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- 40 Winter coating
- 41 Lomond or Ness
- 43 LaGuardia arrivals
- 44 Tumors
- 46 Portion
- 47 NO followers
- 48 Banquet with roast pig
- 49 Be a breadwinner
- 50 Passed away
- 52 Too
- 53 Take a nap
- 55 ____ snap; instantly
- 56 Cheap metal
- 57 Coretta’s late hubby, for short

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