

OUR VIEW

# Don't hide sports betting financials

Sports betting is a multibillion dollar business. That's not going away.

So the state of Oregon's launch of its own sports betting through the Oregon Lottery makes sense. People over the age of 21 can now legally bet through a smartphone app.

Yes, sports betting can create serious personal, family and societal problems. If it is going to exist, it's better that the state puts some legal safeguards in place, protecting customers.

But it would be better still if the state would be transparent about its relationship with its lottery contractor, SBTech. Oregon sports betting should come out of the shadows.

SBTech is headquartered in the Isle of Man. The subsidiary that won the Oregon contract is registered in Malta. Many of the company employees actually work in Bulgaria.

Beyond that, there are some critical pieces of information missing.

Oregon Lottery officials refused to release a background investigation of SBTech by Oregon State Police. Officials did release a summary of the investigation. That's not the same thing. Lottery officials had even chosen to award the contract to SBTech before completing the investigation. To be fair, they could have backed out if the investigation found something untoward. Oregonians may never know if they found anything suspicious.

Oregon Lottery officials also refused to release the lottery's contract with SBTech. It allowed SBTech to black out large portions of its contract before releasing it to The Oregonian. SBTech blacked out most everything having to do with how it would be paid — even the definitions of things like revenues and fees.

Other states also use SBTech, including Delaware, New Jersey, Mississippi and Pennsylvania. There's some comfort in that. There'd be even more comfort, though, if the Oregon Lottery trusted Oregonians enough to be open about its relationship with its lottery contractor.

Lottery officials are essentially telling Oregonians: Never mind. The financial relationship in a deal worth millions doesn't matter. That's good enough for Gov. Kate Brown? That's good enough for Oregon legislators? Is it good enough for you?



## Your views

### Union County Law Enforcement Association: We endorse Sheriff Rasmussen

To the Editor:  
This letter is directed to the citizens of Union County.  
The Union County Law Enforcement Association is proud to announce the endorsement of Sheriff Boyd Rasmussen by unanimous decision in the upcoming 2020 election. The unanimous vote was composed of all 24 Union County Sheriff's Office union members from both the patrol and corrections divisions. This vote of confidence was reached over the course of multiple union meetings discussing Sheriff Rasmussen's previous, current and anticipated future performance.  
Sheriff Rasmussen has been the sheriff of Union County for 15 years. During those 15 years, Sheriff Rasmussen has proven his service to the citizens of Union County and his employees by exemplifying the Sheriff's Office mission statement: Leading with Honesty, Excellence, Respect, Integrity, Firmness, and Fairness with Compassion and Courage.  
The Union County Law Enforcement Association recognizes that there are two additional candidates running for this office. The union has taken into consideration all three candidates' qualifications and previous work experience. This includes personal knowledge as well as previous working relationships and leadership capabilities. The Union County Law Enforcement Association has unanimously decided to support Sheriff Rasmussen in his continued advancement of the Sheriff's Office and service of the citizens of Union County.

**Cody Bowen**  
*Union County Law Enforcement Association president*

### Rosenbaum: There are absolutely legitimate reasons for closing forest roads

To the Editor:  
I believe it is a reporter's duty to bring to the public accurate, fact-based information representing all sides of

### Write to us LETTERSTOTHE EDITOR

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an issue or event. This allows readers to form their opinions uncolored by the bias of the reporter. Thus Jayson Jacoby's piece "New Take on Old Roads" (The Observer, Oct. 18) violates the idea of what I feel is fair reporting.  
Jacoby writes that "Some people who advocate for closing roads to motor vehicles aren't satisfied with a legal ban on access. They also want the Forest Service to 'decommission' roads." And, "This strikes me as a waste.... It would also deprive the public — which is to say all of us, the owners of this land — of a way to enjoy the forests." If this is what he believes, he should write an editorial expressing his views and not subject the reader to his opinions on the trail.  
Jacoby totally disregards the absolutely legitimate reasons for closing roads and decommissioning some: preservation of habitat, preventing siltation and run-off into fish-bearing waterways, remedying years of unfettered logging and mining, protecting ungulates, preventing landslides, providing wildfire breaks that can be reopened if needed, limiting the spread of non-na-

tive plants and weeds, etc. Closed roads are legitimate and welcome places to hike and bike and hunt on foot and travel by horseback.  
Thankfully readers can express their opinions here. I think Jacoby's articles are often guilty of wordiness, weird self-deprecating humor, sometimes subpar spelling and grammar and poor research. He deserves a berm of his own.

**Michael R. Rosenbaum**  
*La Grande*

### Vigil: Looking for a semblance of decency within the Republican Party

To the Editor:  
Surely, it's time to stop pussy-footing around the issue. In addition to the obvious array of obscenities perpetrated on the nation, its people and the world by this president, Trump is also behaving consistently as an agent of a foreign adversary. Trump is waging a full-throttle war against our environment by attacking our clean air, clean water, climate and health. By ignoring science time after time, he is risking the very survival of human civilization. All this is undertaken in the interests of short-term profits for the wealthy few.  
What is equally obscene is that Republicans from D.C. to Salem are displaying a parallel lack of concern for protecting us from this assault. If only one Republican in Congress were to exhibit some integrity and spine and stand up against the disgusting performance in the White House, we'd have reason to think there remains in that party some semblance of decency.  
If only one Republican in Salem were to exhibit an ounce of honesty in addressing climate change in the state instead of promoting the lies and misinformation propounded by industry and the timber barons, we'd have reason to think there remains some semblance of decency within the Oregon Republican Party.

**Trisha Vigil**  
*Medford*

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Phone:  
**541-963-3161**

Toll free (Oregon):  
1-800-422-3110  
Fax: 541-963-7804  
Email:  
[news@lagrandeobserver.com](mailto:news@lagrandeobserver.com)  
Website:  
[www.lagrandeobserver.com](http://www.lagrandeobserver.com)  
Street address:  
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