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Kathy Aney/East Oregonian, File

A visitor to the Pendleton Gun Show inspects a firearm on Saturday, March 12, 2022, at the Pendleton Convention Center. The passage of Measure 114 on the November ballot in Oregon would make obtaining a gun more difficult and outlaw magazines that hold more than 10 rounds.

Report: Billions needed to close gap

Years of underfunding has led to widening gap between what schools need and what they get

By ALEX BAUMHARDT
Oregon Capital Chronicle

SALEM — To meet state education goals, Oregon schools are going to need more money from the Legislature, a new analysis finds.

Every two years, the Education Quality Commission estimates the funding required to operate “a system of highly-effective schools” in the state and recommends a budget to the governor and the Legislature.

For the 2023-25 biennium, the commission found that Oregon’s education budget needs nearly \$11.9 billion, or \$2.7 billion more than it currently receives.

“The state has made progress in recent years to narrow the investment gap between what it has historically budgeted for K-12 and what that system needs to achieve the state’s educational objectives,” the commissioners wrote. “Unfortunately, that progress has faced barriers.”

These include revenue shortfalls, the rising cost of goods and services and the discovery that some of the corporate taxes

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TAKING AIM against Measure 114

Opponents line up against Oregon gun control proposal on November ballot

By ISABELLA CROWLEY
The Observer

LA GRANDE — A measure requiring a permit, reporting of application data and safety training to buy a firearm in Oregon is set to appear on the November ballot. And gun rights proponents are taking stances against it.

Measure 114 also would outlaw magazines holding more than 10 cartridges.

“I’m not a fan of any infringement on Second Amendment rights,” said Union County Sheriff Cody Bowen.

The proposition, titled “Changes to Gun Ownership and Purchase Requirements Initiatives,” is one of the strictest gun control measures ever proposed in the nation, according to opponents.

“(Measure 114) will virtually end the sale of firearms in (the state),” Oregon Firearms Federation Executive Director Kevin Starrett said. “Where do you suppose all the smaller towns who rely on private gun clubs for training

are going to go for the live fire portion of the class? How often will they provide it? What costs will be created? How do those increased costs and barriers affect Black folks in inner-city Portland?”

Measure 114 would require a permit to obtain any firearm and it would outlaw magazines capable of holding more than 10 rounds of ammunition. If the measure passes, it would ban some commonly used pump shotguns because their capacity can exceed that limit. Further, Oregon State Police would be required to maintain a searchable public database of all permit applications.

Bowen is troubled by how the passing of Measure 114 would impact his deputies and potentially strain resources.

“The thing that worries me most is staffing wise,” he said. “Who’s going to provide the classes, who’s going to do the permitting?”

The initiative does not estimate the cost or analyze its impact on small local police departments.

The Oregon State Sheriffs’ Association estimated even if a person could somehow complete the required training, the permitting process could cost sheriffs almost \$40 million annually. But nothing in the measure provides any funding, and the fees included would not come close to

covering the costs.

“Numerous police departments and sheriff’s offices have agreed that complying with this measure will either be exorbitantly expensive or impossible,” Starrett said. “None have said they will be offering the training required to apply for the permit to purchase, which sheriffs and local police will be tasked with administering.”

Bowen believes that the proposed measure will not bring about the desired results. According to the sheriff, Measure 114 will not stop individuals with bad intentions from getting firearms, but will infringe on legal gun owners.

“We’re barking up the wrong tree. What we need to do is education. We need to work within family structures to teach kids about respecting human life and coping mechanisms, rather than restrictive laws,” Bowen said.

Recent mass shootings boost initiative drive

In early May, the almost all-volunteer Initiative Petition 17 to get the proposals on the ballot had gathered less than a third of the required signatures, Oregon Public Broadcasting reported. But that changed dramatically after shootings in Buffalo, New York, and Uvalde, Texas.

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Board votes to increase adult meals

No price hikes are on the horizon for student meals

By DICK MASON
The Observer

LA GRANDE — Lunch prices will jump 23% for adults in the La Grande School District in 2022-23, but all students will continue to be able to eat for free.

The La Grande School Board voted to boost the price of lunches for adults by \$1.10 to \$4.90 on Wednesday, Aug. 10. The school board was required to make the move by the federal government, according to Michelle Glover, the La Grande School District’s

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Bentz visits La Grande, vying for reelection

Congressman addresses several topics during town hall at Eastern Oregon University

By SHANNON GOLDEN
The Observer

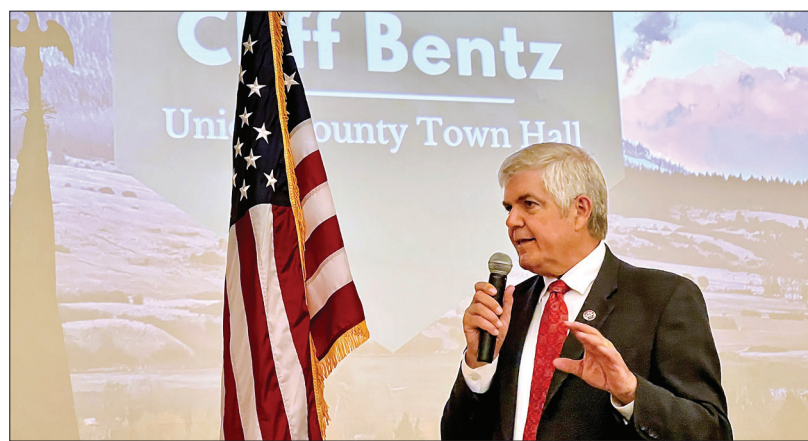
LA GRANDE — As part of his reelection campaign, U.S. Rep. Cliff Bentz, R-Oregon, hosted a town hall meeting at Eastern Oregon University — his alma mater — Thursday, Aug. 11, to speak to residents from around the region.

“The college is such an asset to this area and I’m so happy that it’s here,” Bentz said. “So happy to be here today.”

Bentz, a third-generation Oregonian, grew up on his family’s cattle ranches in Harney County. Growing up without resources like a telephone, television or electricity for several years, he said he recognized from an early age that the “proper approach to dealing with the government” was to be involved in politics.

“I realized that if we were going to be represented in Eastern

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Shannon Golden/The Observer

Congressman Cliff Bentz responds to a question during a town hall meeting in Eastern Oregon University’s Badgley Hall on Aug. 11, 2022.



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WEATHER Full forecast on the back of B section

Tonight 50 LOW Clear

Sunday 88/51 Sunshine and nice

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Email story ideas to news@lagrandeobserver.com. More contact info on Page A4.