



With violence making headlines, gun control and mental health issues become hot topics for debate.

# Popularity perks for packing heat

Joshua Dillen  
 Co-Editor-in-Chief

Explosive is one way to describe the sales of firearms locally following the recent proliferation of tragic shooting events in the news these days. In addition to a frenzied discussion among gun control advocates and those with a determined and specific belief in the Second Amendment, area residents are buying guns, ammunition and accessories at a vigorous pace.

Business at one local gun store seems to prove this right. According to Tim Greve, marketing director at Northwest Armory,

their business is doing very well and not just since the Clackamas shooting or the Newtown, Conn. shooting.

"The Saturday after the Presidential Election, we had our record sales day ever," Greve said. "After the recent tragic shootings in December, our sales eclipsed that record and have stayed dramatic and steady since then."

Last Saturday afternoon on McLoughlin Blvd., at the south end of Milwaukie, the gun store had an overflowing parking lot. The sound of horns, copious amounts of pedestrians and several vehicles jostling for a spot to park made the lot more similar to one during a Black Friday sale.

A well-armed man stationed at the entrance to the sales room

greeted all customers who make it past two huge stuffed moose heads in the small entry.

"I'm sorry sir, I can't let you in until someone leaves," Anthony Holley said to a man at the front of a line that included seven people waiting to cross into the sales floor.

Holley, a security guard employed by Executive Security Services, was busy managing the huge influx of people into and out of the bustling business. His company provides crowd control, customer service and security services for the store. It was clear he had a very busy job to do as gun enthusiasts almost overwhelmed the antler-filled cubicle of the entryway.

The line quickly moved into

and out of a brightly lit store filled with glass cases of handguns and racks filled with rifles of all kinds. Shelves held boxes of ammunition of all calibers that people were piling into a friend's or their own arms. Small groups of shoppers, families and couples entered and left at a rapid pace. Grins and excitement were obvious from all of them.

Making sure guns do not get into the wrong hands is top priority, according to Greve. Besides background checks and other requirements of Oregon law, employees at Northwest Armory have to scrutinize customers in other ways.

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For more on our continuing **WTF** series, see also "Get informed before you shoot" on page 2.



Jacklyn Maddux performs at the Third Rail Repertory Theatre at the Portland Center for Performing Arts in Susan Mach's play, "A Noble Failure," which runs through Feb. 3.

Contributed by Owen Carey

## Playwright's passion is welcome on stage

Anna Franz  
 The Clackamas Print

Sue Mach, a local playwright in Portland and a faculty member at Clackamas Community College, has recently had the world premier of two of her plays at local theaters in Portland, "A Noble Failure" as well as "The Lost Boy."

"A Noble Failure" is being performed by the Third Rail Repertory Theatre at the Portland Center for Performing Arts in the Winningstad Theater in downtown Portland and had been nominated for the Angus

L. Bowmer award at the 2012 Oregon Book Awards (OBA.)

The play takes place in present day United States, in the Fillmore, Calif. school district. This play addresses the issues pertaining to the public education system, specifically in reference to the No Child Left Behind Act as well as Common Core Assessments.

"Testing is just a measure," Barbara (portrayed by Maureen Porter) said to a young math teacher, Darren during the course of the performance.

"No, it's not. Not when schools are closing because of it," Darren (played by John San Nicholas) replied.

Passionate about the issue, Mach is an accomplished playwright and educator. She received her MA in playwriting from Boston University, has premiered multiple plays in multiple cities including New York and has not only been nominated for, but has received many awards, including the Oregon Book Award for Drama. She is currently teaching literature and composition classes at the Oregon City Campus here at CCC and she has been a faculty member at the college for more than 15 years.

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