

Get informed before you shoot

Caylee Miller
Ad Manager

With the current climate and discussion in this country about gun ownership, people are flocking to gun shops, clearing shelves at outdoors stores and prepping their gun safes for what may come. The question is, where are all those guns going once they meet their new owner?

Per Oregon State law, carrying a weapon openly is acceptable as long as it is carried 3/4 exposed on a belt holster. Some people are comfortable carrying open; however others prefer a more unobtrusive approach. Enter the concealed handgun license (CHL).

Gun safety student Tawney Hollen explains that she chose to take the course with her husband who has guns and intends to get one for her. The choice to take the class was her first step.

"So I could decide, because I want to know everything before shooting and owning a gun," said Hollen.

To get the appointment to apply for your CHL in Clackamas County, you must be prepared to wait until the end of February at the earliest.

There are steps to take before the appointment to apply. The first is for a potential CHL candidate to take a gun safety course.

In order to take the safety course in this county, an applicant can contact the Clackamas Public Safety Training Center located at the corner of Sunnyside Blvd and SE 82nd Ave. There is a \$60 fee involved and classes are booked out for one to two weeks.

With the amount of rules and

hoops to go through, some people may think there has to be an easier, faster way to obtain their license. Safety class coach Willy Wilson explains there are no shortcuts.

"I don't know about you, but to me rules are a challenge: how do I get around them?" he said. "These are not rules; they are principles and are not to be gotten around."

There is also a \$65 fee to the sheriff's department for the license, as well as a \$15 fee for the fingerprint and background check. The license is good for four years and be prepared to set aside the additional \$50 for renewing your license before you are within 45 days of its expiration.

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”

Tawney Hollen
Gun Safety Student

Before even going into the time and money involved, the following requirements must be met for the sheriff to grant a license:

You must be a citizen of the United States or a legal resident alien who can provide documents that prove continuous residency in the county for at least six months.

You must have declared in writing to the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services the intent to acquire citi-

zenship status and present proof of the written declaration to the sheriff at the time of application for the license.

You must be 21 or older. You cannot be a convicted felon, or be convicted or found guilty of a misdemeanor. At the time of application, there can be no outstanding warrants for your arrest or be free on any form of pretrial release.

You must also demonstrate competence with a handgun per ORS 166.291(f).

If you are approved at your appointment, per ORS 166.292 (1) "the sheriff shall issue and mail or otherwise deliver to the applicant at the address shown on the application, within 45 days of the application."

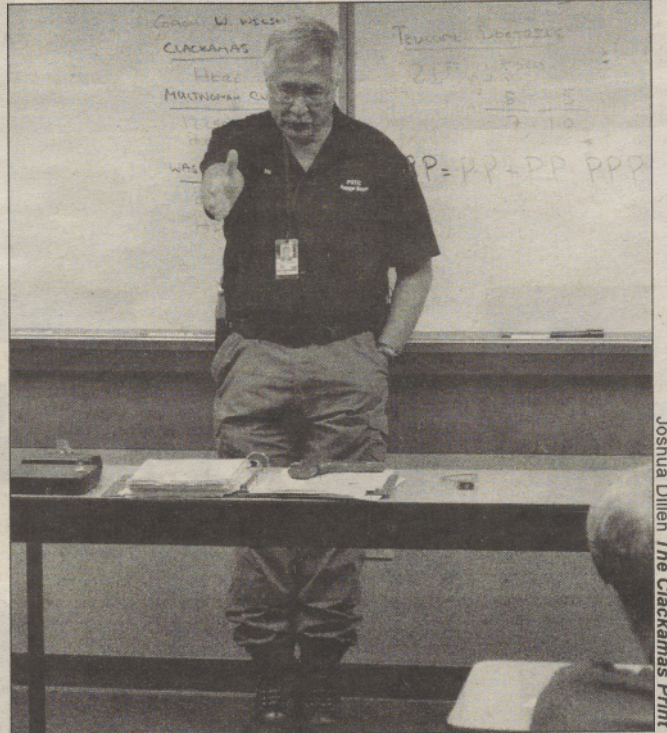
After receiving the physical license, you must keep it on your person at all times while carrying your weapon.

Should you ever be in a situation in which officers become involved, having your permit handy will smooth many bumps. From the mundane 9 mph over the speed limit traffic stop, to more intense situations, if the law is involved it is important to be prepared, up front and cooperative.

Trainer Stu Nakamura is very clear when he tells his class "real world gun fights get real ugly real fast."

There are certain places that are statewide gun free zones, CHL notwithstanding. Those include any federal facility, posted private property, national forests, Indian reservations or property and any courthouse.

Private businesses may also post conditions regarding possession of firearms on their premises. If in doubt, call ahead and



Trainer Stu Nakamura teaches the Gun Safety course at Clackamas Public Safety Training Center.

Joshua Dillen The Clackamas Print

research their conditions before going.

Clackamas Community College does allow for a current CHL holder to bring their weapons on campus.

So to recap for those feeling the gun buying urge who would like to take that weapon anywhere but home, becoming a CHL holder in Clackamas County will take anywhere from four to 16 weeks as of January 2013, cost a minimum of \$140 and will ensure that you are prepared to use it.

GUNS: Sales boom as new laws loom

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"If somebody is clearly mentally disturbed or clearly under the influence of intoxicants or not in full care of their mental abilities, we will refuse sale," Greve said.

The kind of customers the store is seeing has evolved as well. Greve said that women and first time gun owners are a growing segment. Small concealable handguns have been very popular among these buyers.

Some of them, he explained, have expressed that they want to be ready to defend their homes because they feel law enforcement may be too late.

"These first time gun buyers know that a bad man can do a lot of harm in a few moments," Greve said. "First responders have a limited ability to protect the public until they actually make it to the

scene of the crime."

Greve added that they have seen a surge in seasoned gun enthusiasts buying specific models, magazines and clips, and even ammo they were concerned may be banned by new legislation.

Tony McCartney, a locksmith from St. Helen's, bought a Ruger 9mm. It was his first handgun purchase. He plans on using it for personal safety and to protect his family. McCartney agrees assault rifles and large capacity magazines and clips should be limited while respecting the right of Americans to own guns.

"I think the handguns and the hunting guns are fine. It's too many in the clip we don't need," he said. "Background checks are a good deal. Make sure that people are safe with guns."

Washington resident Ryan Washburn, 19, owns an AR-15 and was at the store buying

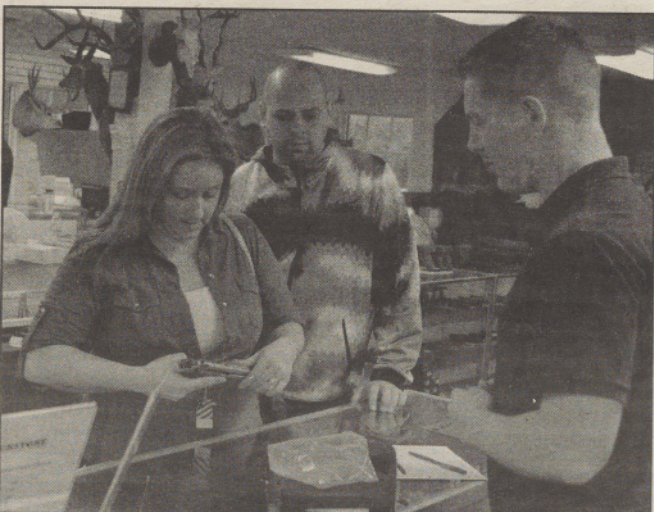
ammo while shopping with his family. The Clark Community College student expressed a different interpretation of the Second Amendment. While agreeing with some aspects of current gun law, he had a different view than McCartney about gun ownership and interpretation of the Second Amendment.

"I feel it's our right and our duty to own firearms in case the government chooses to act out against the will of the Constitution," said

Washburn. "The registration of firearms I do not agree with. I think that it's unconstitutional."

He did express that he supports the current laws that require background checks before an individual can purchase certain types of guns.


Whoever is buying the guns these days and whatever their motivation, it is clear gun ownership is not going away for many Americans.



Julie Tate examines her new 9mm Beretta handgun as her husband Brad looks on. Salesman Dale Clarke completes her fingerprint form.

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