

# The Dirt Road Economist:

by Oregon State Senator Dennis Linthicum

## Poison Fruit

Super majorities and the poison fruit of statism can grow in orchards on both the left and right sides of the road. We know this because history informs us and dictates what we will see tomorrow. Patrick Henry told us, "I have but one lamp by which my feet are guided, and that is the lamp of experience. I know no way to judge the future but by the past."

In today's newsletter, I am going to bypass several thousand bills that are in the Legislature. I'm going to skip-over the gross receipts sales tax, the carbon tax, the recent ban on plastic straws, as well as, the "mandatory requirement for vaccinations in exchange for education benefits" rigamarole.

Instead, I want to focus attention on the Oregon disarmament bill: SB 978. It is still alive and like a zombie is shuffling through the hallways of the marble palace. This bill continues to exist by the force of this administration's empty rhetoric and faulty logic.

SB 978 represents a purposeful and energetic effort for disarming Oregonians and infringing on their liberties. The sheer animosity leveled against law abiding citizens is inscrutable and illustrates a complete disrespect for our

2nd Amendment rights. The magical facade of "needed reform" is all that is necessary to mask the demolition of our constitutional liberties. It appears that the real goal is total disarmament of law-abiding Oregonians.

The pretense of the bill is that crime is pervasive; guns are unsafe; children are being killed and something needs to be done. Perfectly fine sentiment, yet, where are the statistics for Oregon's problems? Remember, the original SB 978 was a proposal for a reporting and fact-finding effort to determine which policy changes would effectively impact gun violence. Apparently, no one cares about the real data.

There are more firearms in Oregon than people. In the presence of millions of firearms and billions of rounds of ammunition how many unlocked, or unserialized firearms have been used in crimes? Additionally, there are more firearms in Oregon than vehicles, but there are more vehicle deaths than firearm injuries, where is the balance?

Unfortunately, the bill, as it stands, focuses on creating more arbitrary, capricious and unnecessary crimes that can't be universally enforced because

of the sheer scope of probable violations. This means selective enforcement opportunities will likely be used against political opponents while the issues associated with enforcement among racial or other protected classes will be pervasive. Actually, selective enforcement will certainly entrap any number of law-abiding citizens who might experience outlandishly improbable circumstances.

Among the 44 pages of over-reaching legalese, if a firearm is used to injure a person, or property, within two years of a gun transfer through sale, gift, or theft where a safety device was defeated by the crook, the owner of the firearm is held "strictly liable" for injuries.

The devious thrust of this language is aimed at discouraging and reducing firearm ownership through fear and financial intimidation. The "strict liability" language purposefully supports unjust and unfair treatment of gun owners because, as defendants, they will be held liable for some future event that is totally unrelated to their actions or intentions for a period of up to two years. Additionally, once the gun is stolen and the owner no longer has control, crimes

committed by the criminal impact the level and severity of criminal charges brought against the legal owner of the weapon.

Please follow that logic with care...

Let me illustrate using a vehicle equivalent: if someone steals your car for a joy-ride to the burger joint, your criminal charges would be minor. However, if they used your rig as the get-away car for a bank robbery your criminal charges would be more serious. Lastly, if the car-thieves get into a fatal accident, your criminal charges would pile up like roadside wreckage. So, if an individual follows best practices and locks their car in a well-lighted area, why would the state want to hold them liable for someone else's criminal activities? Clearly, fewer people would want to own cars under these circumstances.

While it appears that criminal violations are built upon solid circumstances (Sec. 5 - 9), the keystone is actually missing. Namely, the rules and minimum specifications required for trigger locks, cable locks, and tamper-resistant locks on all containers, buildings, rooms and doors which aren't yet defined. This means that legislators who vote for this

bill will have no idea what they are voting for in the way of future requirements. What if the rules require an absurd 1" Stainless Wire Rope EIPS IWRC - 6x37 Class cable? What would gun-owners do?

These rules won't come from mechanical engineers, but they will come from the governor's chosen one within the Oregon Health Authority, in consultation with State Police.

Keeping history as our guide, let's roll through some historic episodes and ask ourselves, "Who was in charge, the individual or the state?"

Consider Lenin's Bolshevik revolution, Stalin's Siberian Gulags, Mao's Great Leap Forward, Pol Pot's Khmer Rouge, Pasha's Armenian Genocide, or Maduro's Venezuela?

Far in excess of 100 million people lost their lives and are still suffering intense persecutions. What was the first liberty these regimes took from their targeted populations? Their guns! What did they lose next? Free speech; free association; eventually, their lives.

Did these regimes operate on the consent of the governed? No. Were these citizens able to resist the tyrannies that befell them? No. Could they protect their

lives, liberty and property? No.

The blow-back that I typically receive is that these episodes of genocide are so horrific they couldn't possibly happen here. Well, then, why the effort to disarm law-abiding citizens?

Thousands of Oregonians, from across all party lines – Republicans, Democrats, Independents, Greens and Non-Affiliated Voters – and across all backgrounds have written to me and are outraged at this anti-gun-owner bill.

In closing, President Dwight D. Eisenhower said, "If all that Americans want is security, they can go to prison. They'll have enough to eat, a bed and a roof over their heads. But if an American wants to preserve his dignity and his equality as a human being, he must not bow his neck to any dictatorial government."

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# ILLINOIS VALLEY FUNERAL DIRECTORS

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## Save the date

### May 10

**Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser**, The IVHS Speech and Debate team invites you to a spaghetti fundraiser to assist in the cost of sending Zoe Brock to represent us at the World Schools National Debate tournament being held in Dallas, TX in June. Friday May 10 5:30-7:30 p.m. at IV High School. Cost: adults \$8, children 12 and under \$5, menu includes: spaghetti with meat sauce or pesto, salad, bread, lemonade/coffee. We will also be having a silent auction with some great things to bid on including: A nights stay at Out-n-About Treehouses, Wild River gift certificates, handmade "Welcome" sign, Grants Pass Downs season passes, hand crocheted blanket, and many other items, (cash/check only, auction winners will be announced at 7 p.m.)

### May 11

**"Spring Wine Stroll"** Saturday, May 11, 2 p.m. - 6 p.m. downtown Grants Pass Calling all wine lovers- Tickets are now on sale for the Annual Spring Wine Stroll. The Wine Stroll is hosted by the Grants Pass & Josephine County Chamber of Commerce. For over 20 years this special event has been held in beautiful Downtown Grants Pass. Participants stroll from location to location sampling amazing wine and delicious food. The Stroll is May 11 2-6 p.m. Tickets are \$30 Pre-Sale and \$35 Day-Of. Tickets are available for purchase at Blind Georges, Frank N Stene's, the Chamber and online [www.grantspasschamber.org](http://www.grantspasschamber.org). Check in and glass pick up is 12 - 4 p.m. the day of the event in front of Blind Georges. Host locations and wineries will be released at a later date. Please note this is a 21 and over event and each participant must personally check in with a valid ID. OLCC regulations also stipulate that children may not accompany adults attending this event.

### May 11

**The Illinois Valley Garden Club Plant Sale** will be held May 11, 2019 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Western Plaza (True Value Hardware). For sale will be house plants, garden start plants and vegetables, outdoor plants and trees, a country store, bake sales with yummy goodies, Mother's Day gifts, cut flowers in vases, and other gift and garden items. 50% of all items sold are used to provide a scholarship, two if we earn enough money, to a graduating senior from Illinois Valley High School with experience and an interest in horticulture and gardening. Come early, they sell out of many plants early.

**Join Mountain Stars Quilt Guild** for our meeting Saturday, May 11 from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. The meeting is held at Live Oak

Grange, 120 Gardiner, Rogue River, An Early Bird activity, a quilter's version of Left, Right, Center starts at 9:30. Bring 10 5" squares to play. The fabric will be your playing chips. Lunch at 11 is a potluck. Bring a favorite dish to share. Nationally known instructor, Anelie Belden, will present 'The History of Irons' including a display that shows how irons have changed over centuries. Enter to win fat quarters by bringing one with polka dots. Enjoy a show and tell time when you can bring a favorite quilt to show the group. This event is free to anyone interested in learning more about quilting and meeting a great group of friends. For questions contact Marie Finch at [mfinch@charter.net](mailto:mfinch@charter.net) or visit our website at <http://www.msquilters.com>

**IV Little League Annual Bake Sale** this Saturday May 11, Jubilee Park during the home games starting at 9 a.m - 4 p.m. Come enjoy some sweet treats and watch a ball game

### May 18

**Pregnancy Center of I.V.** is holding it's Annual Spring FUNdraiser at the Senior Center in Cave Junction on Saturday, May 18 noon to 2 p.m. Picnic lunch @ \$10 per person with Food, Silent Auction, Music, Fellowship, and more Food. Come join us for some good ole fashioned Picnic Fun!!

**\*Kerbyville Museum's 60th birthday Bash** Saturday, May 18 from 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.-Annual "Free Admission Day" - Donations will be accepted.--cookies and punch (as long as they last!) -Door prizes including several One Year Museum Memberships!-Tour the Historic 1880 Naucke House and its new "Laundry Room" complete with a 1913 Judd Eelectric Washing Machine!-See the new "Fred Berry Barb Wire Collection" inside the new Barb Wire Shop adjacent to the Barn & Blacksmith Shop -Do you have your family's branding Iron? If so, please bring it and we will "brand" a wood block with your brand to add to the outside of the Barb Wire Shop!-see the "Crystals and Fossils of the World" exhibit inside the Main Museum.

**\*Clothes Giveaway** -Free clean clothes -Saturday, May 18 from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.at Takilma Bible Church, 10343 Takilma Rd.

### May 22

**\*The Madrone Adventist Elementary School** will be sponsoring a Student Entrepreneur Fair May 22 from 3 - 6 p.m. at the Old Umpqua Bank Parking Lot in Cave Junction. The Public is welcome; there will be food, fun and more! The students will be learning how to run a business and they have put a business plan together.

### May 23

**\*Grants Pass writers** will share their work, writer's life and craft at the Author's Book Fair Thursday, May 23, 6-9 p.m. at the Grants Pass Museum of Art, 229 SW G Street in Grants Pass. This is a great opportunity to find out what local authors are writing about, for budding authors to learn about the process, and for the reading public to find some good summer reads. From mysteries to memoirs, members of the Author's Innovative Marketing (AIM) group will discuss their genres, characters, and plots so readers know the back-story of every book on display. It will be hard to leave this event without an armload of books to take home and find out how they end. For more information go to [aimforwriters.com](http://aimforwriters.com).

### June 22

**\*Birds & Brews** at Deer Creek Center, 1241 Illinois River Rd. 7 a.m. - 6 p.m. Selma, Fundraiser for Siskiyou Field Institute. Live music beginning at 2 p.m. Fire Your Boss and Intuitive Compass. Also birding, hikes & mini-classes from 7 a.m. Food Vendors & ice cream, critters from Wildlife Images, local microbrews activities for kids, raffles & silent auction. Tickets \$20, includes a SFI glass, and 4 taster tokens - Under 18 free with paying adult. For more info call 541-597-8530 or visit [thesfi.org/birdandbrews](http://thesfi.org/birdandbrews).

### Ongoing

**\*Cave Junction Homeless Alliance (CJHA) Meeting** Sunday, 4-6 p.m., St. Patrick of the Forest, W. River St. St. Patrick Soup Kitchen Sunday is a new weekly soup and bread feed held in conjunction with CJHA meetings. The event is sponsored by Street Services, supported by a caring community, and serves those who are hungry. NOTE: If you are interested in providing a soup, bread, beverage, or volunteering for this weekly community service please contact: Jimmy Evans E-Mail: [jevans@cjhomeless.org](mailto:jevans@cjhomeless.org) Phone: 541.592.2407 (Message) PM: Messenger

**\*CJ NEX (Needle Exchange)** Mondays from 12-3 at the Immanuel United Methodist Church across from Shop Smart. Free HIV and Hepatitis C testing as well as needle exchange, overdose response and naloxone training.

**\*Weekly Community Watch** meetings are every Monday, 5:30 p.m., at Wild River Pizza, CJ. We help you build your neighborhood watch, fire emergency preparedness program, Immediate Alert Notification system (smart phone), 2-way radio service. Contact Guenter 541-415-1929 or [ivwatch541@gmail.com](mailto:ivwatch541@gmail.com).

**\*Line dancing** in Cave Junction, Free, for more information call 541-415-1410. Wednesday beginners line dancing group from 10 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. meets at the Church of Latter Day Saints, 207 South Junction Ave. Entrance and parking in the back. Friday beginners line dancing group meets at Wild River Pizza, 249 Redwood Hwy. Line dancing practice from 5 -6 p.m. and dancing from 6-7 p.m. to live music from Jay Barley. Saturday beginners group meets at the Healthy U, 535 E. River St. beginners 11 a.m. - noon and more advanced noon - 1 p.m.

**\*The Sheriff's Office Substation** in Cave Junction is now open Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 10 to 2. Volunteers are still needed to staff another day and expand hours. Applications are available at the substation or online at <http://www.co.josephine.or.us/Files/Volunteer>. For information call 541-474-5123.

**\*Public Health Clinic-** Location: I.V. Family Coalition, 535 E. River St., CJ, 1st Thursday of every month. Services offered STI Testing/Treatment, Women's Health Exams (Annuals/Problem Visits), Birth Control (All Methods Available), Pregnancy Testing, Pre-pregnancy counseling. 3rd Thursday of every month: STI testing/treatment, birth control counseling (methods limited), Pregnancy Testing, Immunizations. Call 541-474-5329 for an appointment, and make sure to tell the receptionist to schedule you in CJ. Walk-ins welcome! Hours: 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

**\*The Illinois Valley Democrats** meet quarterly at the I.V. Family Coalition. Join with like-minded people Saturday from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the I.V. Family Coalition, 535 E. River St. in Cave Junction. Join with like-minded people for camaraderie and to plan actions in support of the Democratic agenda. Call Anita 541-592-3073 to confirm meeting days. Check us out on FB!

**\*Cave Junction Patrol, LLC** is looking for volunteers. CJ Patrol is a private citizen volunteer organization dedicated to effectively addressing heretofore-unchecked property crime in our city and neighborhoods. The primary mission of CJ Patrol is to prevent, interrupt, report and decrease property crime in the city of Cave Junction. Call 541-592-9665 or visit [cjp patrol.org](http://cjp patrol.org).

**\*Committee Meeting STATE OF JEFFERSON** Josephine County 1st Thursday of each month at 5:30 p.m. 3rd Thursday of each month at 6 p.m., Wild River Pizza in Cave Junction.

# Illinois Valley News

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