

INITIATIVES: Not uncommon to see state legislators' names on initiatives

Continued from 1A

should be lowered. "It does take a lot of effort, for sure, but you don't want the ballot filled with a lot of marginal issues," she said.

Some issues that initiative sponsors try to get on the ballot do find more support in the state than others. Portland residents Christian Trejbal and Jennifer Rollins, chief sponsors of the Oregon Secession Act, have already withdrawn their petition after reporting to The Oregonian that they received waves of hate mail and death threats over trying to start an initiative to get secession from the United States on the ballot.

Another petition idea, currently waiting for approval to start gathering signatures, is called Repeal Sex Offender Registration Laws. Sponsored by Thomas Madison, a registered sex offender, it would abolish the sex offender registry.

Activists from Oregonians for Medical Freedom are working to get seven different vaccine-related initiatives approved for signature-gathering, including one forbidding schools from excluding unvaccinated children and another requiring doctors to provide information about vaccine-related deaths and injuries.

Although the referendum and initiative process was originally designed to give everyday citizens a voice, it's not uncommon to see state legislators' names on

initiatives they could not wrangle legislative votes for or referendums against laws they opposed during the last session. There are two initiatives and two referendums that are currently approved to gather signatures, and three of those measures have legislators as chief sponsors.

Rep. Mike Nearman, R-Independence, is a sponsor on an initiative that would cause all voter registrations to expire in 2020 and require anyone registering to vote after that date to register in person after showing proof of citizenship such as an original, certified birth certificate. Nearman has also joined Rep. Bill Post, R-Keizer in sponsoring a referendum against Senate Bill 719, which allows for a judge to issue an "extreme risk protection order" giving a person 24 hours to surrender all deadly weapons if they are deemed a threat to themselves or others.

Rep. Julie Parrish, R-West Linn, Rep. Sal Esquivel, R-Medford, and Rep. Cedric Hayden, R-Roseburg, are gathering signatures for a referendum against the tax on health care premiums passed by the legislature to help fund Medicaid for the 2017-2019 biennium.

Rep. Greg Barreto, R-Cove, has joined with Nearman and Esquivel on an initiative called Stop Oregon Sanctuaries, which would overturn the law that requires Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents to obtain a federal criminal arrest

warrant for undocumented immigrants for state or local law enforcement agencies to be required to turn them over to ICE.

"If we have laws, but cannot or do not enforce them, then what purpose do they serve?" Barreto said in an email. "... We have ICE for a purpose. The states should work with them, not against them and we should not interfere in their work."

That initiative is currently in the process of gathering the 1,000 sponsor signatures needed to start the approval process through the Secretary of State's office. Once a 16-step process is complete, the sponsors will be approved to start gathering the 88,184 signatures that type of initiative will require to get on the ballot.

Barreto said referendums and initiatives can be "either a blessing or a curse." He held up Measure 88, in which voters overturned a law allowing undocumented immigrants to receive driver's cards, as an example of the process working successfully.

"The vote of the people spoke loudly that they did not agree with the legislation that was passed," he said. "Sometimes, though, the risk to ballot measures is the voter may not have contemplated all the essential facts and arguments needed to make an informed decision. But this is not to underscore the will of the people."

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Headaches and raspy voices as wildfire smoke chokes U.S. West

By KEITH RIDLER
Associated Press

The smoke from massive wildfires hangs like fog over large parts of the U.S. West, an irritating haze causing health concerns, forcing sports teams to change schedules and disrupting life from Seattle to tiny Seeley Lake, Montana.

Air quality has been rated unhealthy across the region because of blazes that show no signs of abating. Officials said Friday that one of the worst U.S. wildfire seasons in terms of land burned is likely to keep scorching Western states and blanketing them with smoke until later this fall.

People in small towns to the populous San Francisco Bay Area have had enough.

"Last night, I went to sleep with the windows open and woke up with a stomachache and a headache," said Tresa Snow, who owns a hair salon in Brookings, Oregon, near a large wildfire. "I knew before I could even smell it that the fire was back. And you can hear my voice, kind of raspy. We're all kind of like that."

She said business has been down in the town near the California border.

"Businesses are closing because they don't have their help," Snow said. "People have been evacuating."

In the run-up to the long Labor Day weekend, several high school football teams changed their season-opening games to avoid the smoke, and other athletic events have been postponed.

In Southern California, an erratic wildfire just north of Los Angeles

forced the closure of Interstate 210, an essential link to routes in and out of town just as Labor Day weekend travel was starting.

Firefighters had reduced the raging flames, but the freeway was expected to be shut down all night.

The poor air quality has caused the cancellation of some performances at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival in Ashland and the Cycle Oregon Classic Ride, a 400-mile bicycle event this month.

Smoke from wildfires in British Columbia pushed down into western Washington in August, choking the region and prompting health officials to warn the Seattle area that children, the elderly and people with respiratory problems should stay inside.

Smoke has affected the Montana town of Seeley Lake to such a degree that health officials urged people to escape the pollution weeks before an order Tuesday to evacuate part of town because of the encroaching fire.

The town's air quality had hourly pollution readings classified as hazardous in 26 days in August, topping out the ability of the monitor to measure the pollution in many cases. It was considered hazardous Friday, too.

"There aren't even the correct health categories to describe what they're seeing," air quality specialist Saran Coefield said.

Most of the smoke entering Washington state this year is coming from neighboring states and British Columbia, said Joye Redfield-Wilder of the state Department of Ecology.

"I'm smelling smoke in my office right now," she said.

BRIEFLY

Two charged in armed tavern robberies

PORTLAND (AP) — Police have arrested two men in connection with a spree of armed robberies at Portland taverns.

Sgt. Chris Burley said 32-year-old Deron Crain was arraigned Friday on more than a dozen counts of first-degree robbery. The other man, 33-year-old Johntae Hammond, was already in a Vancouver, Washington, jail after being arrested on a parole violation. He is awaiting extradition to Oregon.

The men are accused of 13 holdups over a frightening 5 1/2-week stretch in June and July.

After a break of more than a month, a North Portland tavern was hit Aug. 18.

Police make arrest in 1998 killing of teen

SALEM (AP) — Police have made an arrest in the killing of a teenager outside a convenience store almost 20 years ago.

Salem police Lt. Dave Okada said Friday that 16-year-old Alfredo Lopez-Nabor was fatally shot after a gang-related fight on May 9, 1998. Investigators developed probable cause to arrest Fernando Cortez, but the suspect who was 19 at the time fled to Mexico.

A Salem police detective reopened the investigation a decade later as a cold case. He found that Cortez had returned to the U.S., and was possibly living under a false name in California.

The detective, Jamie Vasas,

arrested Cortez on a murder charge this week in Oxnard, California. He's in the Ventura County Jail, awaiting extradition back to Oregon.

Narcotics unit arrests doctor in drug raid

CORVALLIS (AP) — An Oregon county narcotics enforcement unit arrested an emergency room doctor and five other people while conducting raids on two houses.

The *Corvallis Gazette-Times* reported Thursday that the doctor is accused of turning marijuana into an oil form, which makes the plant much more potent.

Marijuana is legal in Oregon, but it is not legal to turn the plant into oil without a license. Authorities say the

suspects also had more marijuana than state law allows.

Mark Craig Rose faces two counts of manufacturing marijuana items, two counts of delivery of marijuana and two counts of possession of more than 4 ounces of marijuana.

Officers seized ecstasy, user amounts of methamphetamine and a total of 200 pounds of marijuana from the two houses.

Seattle police question fired officer's payout

SEATTLE (AP) — The Seattle Community Police Commission is questioning the \$100,000 payout given to a former Seattle police officer who was fired over her arrest of an elderly African-

American man.

The *Seattle Times* reported Thursday that the commission is seeking a meeting with Police Chief Kathleen O'Toole and City Attorney Pete Holmes and has requested documents related to the payout settlement.

Former Officer Cynthia Whitlatch, an 18-year police veteran, received the settlement after she appealed her firing for biased and overly aggressive policing.

Corrections

The *East Oregonian* works hard to be accurate and sincerely regrets any errors. If you notice a mistake in the paper, please call 541-966-0818.

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AccuWeather.com Forecast

TODAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
HOT	HOT	HOT	HOT	HOT
Very hot	Near-record temperatures	Very hot	Partly sunny and very hot	Very hot

PENDLETON TEMPERATURE FORECAST

100° 66°	101° 64°	97° 64°	96° 65°	98° 61°
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HERMISTON TEMPERATURE FORECAST

101° 60°	104° 61°	100° 65°	98° 64°	101° 61°
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PENDLETON
through 3 p.m. yesterday

TEMPERATURE	HIGH	LOW
Yesterday	93°	56°
Normals	83°	54°
Records	102° (1893)	36° (1905)

PRECIPITATION
24 hours ending 3 p.m. 0.00"
Month to date 0.00"
Normal month to date 0.02"
Year to date 11.37"
Last year to date 7.36"
Normal year to date 8.40"

HERMISTON
through 3 p.m. yesterday

TEMPERATURE	HIGH	LOW
Yesterday	92°	56°
Normals	84°	53°
Records	101° (1967)	39° (1965)

PRECIPITATION
24 hours ending 3 p.m. 0.00"
Month to date 0.00"
Normal month to date 0.01"
Year to date 6.65"
Last year to date 5.00"
Normal year to date 6.13"

SUN AND MOON

Sunrise today	6:18 a.m.
Sunset tonight	7:31 p.m.
Moonrise today	5:39 p.m.
Moonset today	2:30 a.m.

Full	Last	New	First
Sep 5	Sep 12	Sep 19	Sep 27

Shown is today's weather. Temperatures are today's highs and tonight's lows.

REGIONAL FORECAST

Coastal Oregon: Hazy sun and smoky today, but sunnier across the north. Partly cloudy tonight.

Eastern and Central Oregon: Very hot today with scorching sunshine; smoky near the Cascades with hazy sun.

Western Washington: Plenty of sun today. Clear tonight. Plenty of sun tomorrow.

Eastern Washington: Plenty of sunshine today; however, hazy sun toward the Cascades and in central sections.

Cascades: Hazy sunshine and very hot today; smoky in the south. Clear and mild tonight.

Northern California: Mostly sunny today. Very hot in central parts; pleasant elsewhere.

REGIONAL CITIES

	Today			Sun.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Astoria	80	57	s	78	56	s
Baker City	100	51	s	101	53	s
Bend	101	61	pc	98	59	pc
Brookings	77	60	pc	80	62	pc
Burns	97	51	s	99	55	s
Enterprise	96	56	s	98	57	s
Eugene	96	58	pc	97	58	pc
Heppner	98	64	s	99	63	s
Hermiston	101	60	s	104	61	pc
John Day	101	62	s	102	63	pc
Klamath Falls	97	55	pc	95	56	pc
La Grande	97	55	s	99	55	s
Meacham	96	52	s	97	53	s
Medford	106	67	pc	103	65	pc
Newport	73	54	pc	71	54	s
North Bend	77	56	pc	73	54	pc
Ontario	98	58	s	100	64	s
Pasco	98	56	s	101	58	pc
Pendleton	100	66	s	101	64	pc
Portland	96	64	s	96	64	s
Redmond	103	56	pc	101	56	pc
Salem	98	63	pc	99	63	s
Spokane	94	62	s	96	62	s
Ukiah	98	54	s	98	53	s
Vancouver	95	62	s	96	62	s
Walla Walla	99	71	s	100	69	s
Yakima	100	59	pc	102	62	pc

WORLD CITIES

	Today			Sun.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Beijing	82	62	t	82	65	pc
Hong Kong	91	80	t	92	82	r
Jerusalem	85	68	s	89	71	s
London	69	52	pc	66	58	c
Mexico City	70	56	t	69	57	t
Moscow	71	55	pc	69	48	pc
Paris	70	49	t	71	56	pc
Rome	80	60	t	78	57	pc
Seoul	82	64	s	81	64	pc
Sydney	70	53	s	81	61	pc
Tokyo	75	66	r	80	70	pc

WINDS

(in mph)	Today	Sunday
Boardman	NE 3-6	WSW 4-8
Pendleton	N 4-8	NW 6-12

UV INDEX TODAY

1 3 5 5 3 1

8 a.m. 10 a.m. Noon 2 p.m. 4 p.m. 6 p.m.
0-2, Low 3-5, Moderate 6-7, High; 8-10, Very High; 11+, Extreme

The higher the AccuWeather.com UV Index™ number, the greater the need for eye and skin protection.

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NATIONAL WEATHER TODAY

Shown are noon positions of weather systems and precipitation. Temperature bands are highs for the day.

National Summary: Rain and localized flooding from Harvey will reach the mid-Atlantic today. Heavy storms will hug the southern Atlantic coast. Storms will dot the Upper Midwest and Southwest. Heat will build in the West.

Yesterday's National Extremes: (for the 48 contiguous states)
High 113° in Chino, Calif. **Low 27°** in Doe Lake, Mich.

NATIONAL CITIES

	Today			Sun.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Albuquerque	89	63	pc	90	64	s
Atlanta	83	64	pc	85	64	s
Atlanta City	68	65	r	78	64	pc
Baltimore	66	61	r	79	59	pc
Billings	95	62	s	97	57	s
Birmingham	83	64	pc	85	64	pc
Boise	98	66	s	100	65	s
Boston	70	56	pc	70	61	r
Charleston, SC	86	72	t	89	71	pc
Charleston, WV	65	58	r	78	60	pc
Chicago	76	59	t	82	67	s
Cleveland	67	57	t	77	60	pc
Dallas	93	73	pc	93	75	pc
Denver	90	61	s	96	61	s
Detroit	68	56	pc	78	60	pc
El Paso	92	67	s	94	68	s
Fairbanks	59	38	pc	63	46	s
Fargo	81	56	pc	90	56	s
Honolulu	87	74	pc	86	72	pc
Houston	91	72	pc	91	72	pc
Indianapolis	75	59	pc	83	63	s
Jacksonville	87	71	t	88	72	t
Kansas City	82	63	s	89	70	s
Las Vegas	104	81	s	103	82	pc
Little Rock	85	66	pc	89	70	pc
Los Angeles	98	79	pc	92	74	pc
Louisville	71	58	r	82	65	pc
Mem						