

Initiative petition seeks gun storage requirements

By **CLAIRE WITHYCOMBE**
Capital Bureau

SALEM — Advocates want to get a second gun-related measure on the statewide ballot in November.

Initiative Petition 44, filed Monday, would create additional storage, transfer and reporting requirements for gun owners.

The petition’s filing follows the Feb. 14 shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Fla., and subsequent student walk-outs and marches in support of tightening gun regulations.

It also follows another statewide initiative petition, IP 43, that would ban the sale of certain types of firearms in Oregon and require current owners of those types of guns to undergo a new background check and register them.

The new measure filed on Monday would amend state statutes to require that a person who owns or possesses

a firearm to “secure the firearm with a trigger or cable lock engaged or in a locked container equipped with a tamper-resistant lock.”

It would also require a person who “owns, possesses or controls” a firearm to report if the gun was stolen or lost within 24 hours of learning of the theft or loss. Additionally, it would require people transferring firearms to do so with a trigger or cable lock engaged or in a locked container with a tamper-resistant lock.

Transfer is defined in the measure as “the delivery of a firearm, including, but not limited to, sale, gift, loan or lease of the firearm.”

Finally, the measure would require that a person transferring a firearm to a minor must directly supervise the minor’s use of the firearm.

Under the measure, gun owners would also face liability for injuries that result from failure to meet those requirements, unless the



E.J. Harris/EO Media Group

A selection of long rifles lines the wall in the sporting goods section of the D&B supply store in Pendleton. An initiative petition filed Monday would require that a person who owns or possesses a firearm to “secure the firearm with a trigger or cable lock engaged or in a locked container equipped with a tamper-resistant lock.”

injury “results from a lawful act of self-defense or defense of another person.” The liability would apply for five years after a violation of the measure, such as an unsecured transfer.

One of the petitioners, Paul Kemp, says part of the impetus

behind the measure was the death of his brother-in-law, Steve Forsyth, who was killed in the Dec. 11, 2012 Clackamas Town Center shooting.

The shooter, who killed Forsyth, 45, and Cindy Ann Yuille, 54, and injured a 15-year-old girl, before killing

himself, stole the gun, a Stag Arms AR-15, from a friend.

“Most folks who have guns are pretty good about securing them,” Kemp, himself a gun owner, said. “The problem is, there’s too many folks who aren’t.”

The idea, says Jake Weigler, a spokesman for Oregonians For Safe Gun Storage, which supports the petition, is to create an enforcement system in the event that a crime is committed, similar to how adults can be held liable if they furnish alcohol to a minor.

The state doesn’t go around searching your liquor cabinet, but if, for example, a minor gets into a car accident while intoxicated and authorities learn that an adult purchased or provided them alcohol, then the law can be enforced.

Kevin Starrett, head of the Oregon Firearms Federation, criticized IP 44, and said that a gun owner should have the right to store the gun in a manner they see fit and that

is in line with their “personal circumstances,” such as whether or not there are young children in the home.

“This is not how you solve the problem of people who use guns in a criminal fashion, by punishing people who don’t use guns in a criminal fashion,” Starrett said.

Starrett also took issue with a section of the measure that would hold a gun owner who transferred a gun without securing it — either with a trigger lock, cable lock or secured container — liable for another person’s injuries for five years after the gun is transferred.

Gun control advocates have tried to pass similar legislation in prior legislative sessions, mostly focused on preventing minors’ access to firearms.

Petitioners are aiming for the November 2018 ballot. In order to go forward in the ballot title process, the petitioners must collect 1,000 sponsorship signatures.

Former energy tax credit employee sentenced

By **PARIS ACHEN**
Capital Bureau

PORTLAND — A former administrator for the Oregon Department of Energy’s troubled Business Energy Tax Credit program has been sentenced to five years in federal prison for accepting \$300,000 in bribes to participate in a money laundering scheme and defrauding the IRS.

Joseph J. Colello, 57, of Salem, also was sentenced to three years of supervised release and more than \$81,000 in restitution, according to the U.S. Attorney’s Portland District Office.

“Government employees are called to be stewards of taxpayers’ dollars and interests. Instead, this defendant chose to betray his obligation and defy public trust,” said Billy Williams, U.S. Attorney

for the District of Oregon. “Plain and simple, corruption erodes confidence in government.”

As a pass-through program manager for the Business Energy Tax Credit program between June 2012 and March 2015, Colello helped businesses sell their credits by locating buyers he found through his job at the state and negotiating transfers, according to court records. He and a co-conspirator, who has not been named because of an ongoing investigation, made it appear as if the co-conspirator was brokering the deals. They charged sellers a 1-2 percent fee, undercutting other brokers who typically charged 10 percent for the same service.

The co-conspirator founded a sham company to receive commission payments from sellers and

conceal earnings from the IRS, according to court records.

The co-conspirator deposited more than \$1.3 million in income from the commissions charged to sellers of the tax credits between 2012 and 2015, the court documents show. The co-conspirator would transfer part of the funds into a personal account from which he would issue biweekly cashier’s checks as a kickback to Colello for a portion of the fee. During the three-year period, Colello accepted more than \$300,000 in bribe payments for his role in the scheme.

He pleaded guilty March 15 to one count each of conspiracy to engage in monetary transactions in property derived from specific unlawful activity, conspiracy to defraud the IRS and filing a false income tax return.

Oregon challenges citizenship question on the 2020 census

By **PARIS ACHEN**
Capital Bureau

Oregon Attorney General Ellen Rosenblum, 17 other state attorneys general and six cities filed suit Tuesday to block a citizenship question on the 2020 Census.

The state attorneys general are concerned the question will discourage immigrants from participating.

Rosenblum joined New York Attorney General Eric Schneiderman in New York City to announce the lawsuit, which was filed in U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York.

“The Census is part of the bedrock of our democracy. The U.S. Constitution guarantees an accurate census be taken every 10 years. Adding a citizenship question to the Census form has a deliberate and intended chilling effect on participation,” Rosenblum

said. “As state attorneys general we are committed to making sure every voice is heard, and we believe that every person in America counts.”

Accuracy in the census is important for providing appropriate federal funding to states, apportioning congressional seats and Electoral College votes and drawing state and local voting districts.

Even a 1 percent undercount on the 2010 Census would have dramatically reduced Oregon’s federal Medicaid funding by \$23 million, said Kristina Edmunson, a spokeswoman in Rosenblum’s office.

Under the Constitution, the

U.S. Census Bureau has an obligation to determine “the whole number of persons in each state.” Yet demanding citizenship information in the census is expected to reduce participation among immigrants and could cause a population undercount, which would disproportionately harm states with large immigrant communities, according to a news release from Rosenblum’s office.

The lawsuit against the Trump administration is based on the Enumeration Clause of the U.S. Constitution and the Administrative Procedure Act, which permits courts to set aside unlawful or arbitrary and capricious agency decisions.

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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TODAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

SUNDAY

Mostly cloudy with a shower

Mostly cloudy with a few showers

Mostly cloudy with a shower

Mostly cloudy with a little rain

Cloudy and breezy with a shower

PENDLETON TEMPERATURE FORECAST

57° 44° 58° 47° 63° 47° 59° 45° 57° 41°

HERMISTON TEMPERATURE FORECAST

62° 45° 61° 47° 65° 49° 60° 48° 62° 44°

ALMANAC

PENDLETON

through 3 p.m. yesterday

TEMPERATURE

HIGH	LOW
Yesterday 57°	29°
Normals 59°	38°
Records 83° (1944)	18° (1918)

PRECIPITATION

24 hours ending 3 p.m.	0.00"
Month to date	Trace
Normal month to date	0.14"
Year to date	3.71"
Last year to date	6.27"
Normal year to date	4.10"

HERMISTON

through 3 p.m. yesterday

TEMPERATURE

HIGH	LOW
Yesterday 55°	32°
Normals 62°	38°
Records 83° (1992)	19° (1972)

PRECIPITATION

24 hours ending 3 p.m.	0.00"
Month to date	Trace
Normal month to date	0.07"
Year to date	2.38"
Last year to date	4.93"
Normal year to date	3.18"

SUN AND MOON

Sunrise today	6:30 a.m.
Sunset tonight	7:27 p.m.
Moonrise today	none
Moonset today	9:08 a.m.

Last

New

First

Full

Apr 8

Apr 15

Apr 22

Apr 29

Seattle 50/46

Wenatchee 56/40

Spokane 45/36

Tacoma 52/44

Moses Lake 56/41

Pullman 45/40

Yakima 61/42

Kennewick 61/45

Walla Walla 55/46

Lewiston 52/43

Enterprise 51/37

La Grande 52/40

Portland 58/48

The Dalles 61/46

John Day 56/42

Ontario 61/42

Caldwell 60/43

Burns 57/36

Klamath Falls 61/41

Medford 70/49

Aberdeen 53/48

Olympia 53/44

Longview 54/47

Salem 61/46

Albany 60/46

Corvallis 61/45

Eugene 62/44

Bend 59/41

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

REGIONAL FORECAST

Coastal Oregon: Cloudy today and tonight; a little rain across the north.

Eastern Washington: Clouds and sun today with a shower in places, except a snow shower in the mountains.

Cascades: Low clouds today; periods of rain; however, a passing shower in the south.

Northern California: Mainly cloudy today and tonight.

Eastern and Central Oregon: Cloudy today with a couple of showers; times of clouds and sun in the south.

Western Washington: Cloudy today and tonight with a little rain.

REGIONAL CITIES					
	Today			Thu.	
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo
Astoria	54	47	r	55	48
Baker City	57	38	c	59	39
Bend	59	41	sh	56	40
Brookings	57	47	c	55	50
Burns	57	36	sh	55	35
Enterprise	51	37	c	54	40
Eugene	62	44	r	56	47
Heppner	57	43	c	57	45
Hermiston	62	45	c	61	47
John Day	56	42	sh	56	45
Klamath Falls	61	41	c	55	40
La Grande	52	40	c	56	43
Meacham	49	40	c	54	42
Medford	70	49	c	62	48
Newport	55	47	r	54	48
North Bend	58	47	c	56	49
Ontario	61	42	c	63	47
Pasco	60	42	pc	58	41
Pendleton	57	44	c	58	47
Portland	58	48	r	58	51
Redmond	61	38	sh	58	37
Salem	61	46	r	58	49
Spokane	45	36	pc	49	30
Ukiah	51	38	c	54	41
Vancouver	56	48	r	56	50
Walla Walla	55	46	c	58	48
Yakima	61	42	c	58	41

WORLD CITIES					
	Today			Thu.	
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo
Beijing	50	34	c	51	38
Hong Kong	82	72	pc	82	72
Jerusalem	75	55	s	75	52
London	53	40	t	53	42
Mexico City	77	54	pc	76	55
Moscow	44	30	pc	46	39
Paris	59	44	t	53	41
Rome	62	53	t	63	47
Seoul	64	47	r	52	46
Sydney	76	67	sh	80	67
Tokyo	75	54	pc	60	58

WINDS					
(in mph)	Today			Thursday	
	B	M	P	B	M
Boardman	SW	6-12	ENE	3-6	
Pendleton	SW	6-12	ENE	4-8	

UV INDEX TODAY

0

1

1

1

1

0

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.

Forecasts and graphics provided by AccuWeather, Inc. ©2018

NATIONAL WEATHER TODAY

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

National Summary: Drenching rain and locally gusty thunderstorms will affect the East Coast today, while much colder air blasts across the Midwest on strong winds. A weak storm will bring clouds and some rain to the Northwest.

Yesterday's National Extremes: (for the 48 contiguous states)
High 93° in Thermal, Calif. Low -17° in Lake Yellowstone, Wyo.

NATIONAL CITIES

	Today			Thur.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Albuquerque	73	49	s	74	51	c
Atlanta	61	38	pc	66	50	s
Atlantic City	59	34	t	48	37	s
Baltimore	66	32	t	52	38	pc
Billings	41	27	sh	28	13	sn
Birmingham	63	36	pc	69	50	pc
Boise	57	43	pc	61	47	sh
Boston	62	31	r	46	31	s
Charleston, SC	78	43	t	66	46	s
Chicago	49	29	c	54	44	pc
Cleveland	38	24	pc	41	31	c
Dallas	43	28	c	42	34	pc
Denver	66	47	s	74	63	pc
Detroit	65	37	pc	63	35	pc
El Paso	41	26	sf	44	31	pc
Fairbanks	80	57	s	86	61	s
Fargo	30	16	s	37	17	s
Honolulu	28	18	pc	29	10	c
Houston	82	75	sh	83	72	sh
Indianapolis	72	51	s	77	67	pc
Jacksonville	42	27	pc	50	39	pc
Kansas City	82	51	t	69	52	s
Las Vegas	44	36	s	58	33	c
Las Vegas	85	64	pc	87	63	pc
Little Rock	61	36	s	64	49	pc
Los Angeles	72	55	pc	70	55	pc

	Today			Thur.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Louisville	50	30	pc	58	47	pc
Memphis	57	38	s	65	52	pc
Miami	86	69	sh	83	70	pc
Millwaukee	34	21	c	38	26	c
Minneapolis	29	16	s	36	16	sf
Nashville	55	33	pc	64	49	pc
New Orleans	70	35	t	74	60	s
New York City	64	34	t	46	36	pc
Oklahoma City	58	41	s	70	49	pc
Omaha	44	32	s	54	26	c
Philadelphia	64	34	t	49	38	pc
Phoenix	90	66	s	92	66	pc
Portland, ME	57	27	r	43	26	s
Providence	61	31	r	47	31	pc
Raleigh	70	35	t	61	44	s
Rapid City	45	25	pc	40	14	sf
Reno	71	45	pc	68	45	r
Sacramento	73	49	pc	69	55	c
St. Louis	43	31	s	55	38	c
Salt Lake City	63	45	pc	65	47	pc
San Diego	67	57	pc	67	58	pc
San Francisco	62	51	pc	65	57	c
Seattle	50	46	r	56	49	r
Tucson	88	58	s	89	58	pc
Washington, DC	67	36	t	56	44	pc
Wichita	57	40	s	68	41	pc

Weather (W): s-sunny, pc-partly cloudy, c-cloudy, sh-showers, t-thunderstorms, r-rain, sf-snow flurries, sn-snow, i-ice.