

Bill: 'I want people to be able to protect themselves'

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Senate Bill 501 from Sen. Rob Wagner and Rep. Andrea Salinas, both Lake Oswego Democrats, also would limit a person to two permits per month, one for a handgun and another for a rifle or shotgun. The bill also seeks to ban magazines holding more than five rounds, would require a background check to buy or receive ammunition and limit that to a maximum of 20 rounds every 30 days. The bill also would fine and jail people who don't report gun thefts within 24 hours of discovering the loss.

This kind of measure also raises concerns for Morrow County Sheriff Ken Matlack.

"I want people to be able to protect themselves, so I'm pretty open to Second Amendment issues," he said, barring, of course, people the law excludes from possessing guns, such as felons.

He said these kinds of laws hurt law-abiding citizens and aim to modify their behavior when their behavior is not the problem.

"Bad guys," he said, "are not going to count their rounds."

Lawmakers had until Friday to submit bills. The online Oregon Legislative Information System shows about a dozen bills that would regulate firearms, and the Wagner and Salinas proposal is the most restrictive. House Republican Leader Carl Wilson in a written statement this week said the bill's mandate for the permit "is the very definition of infringement on a right," and, "There is simply no way to make this palatable. No acceptable compromise."

Other bills look to expand gun possession. Senate Bill 322 would authorize the sheriff of one county to issue a concealed handgun license to eligible people from an adjoining county. Lt.



A selection of long rifles lines the wall in the sporting goods section of the D&B Supply store in Pendleton.

Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Sterrin Holcomb, of the Umatilla County Sheriff's Office, oversees concealed handgun licenses. She said the sheriff's office during the past six months issued 363 new licenses and 625 renewals. The adjoining county proposal, she said, carries a logistical concern.

People in counties with larger populations might apply for their concealed handgun license in a nearby county with a smaller population. Enough people do that, she said, and the smaller county soon lacks the staff to keep up with the demand.

Matlack said he does not oppose the idea, but Oregon law already allows someone who owns property in two counties to apply for a concealed handgun license in either. Moreover, he said, sheriffs have the authority to grant someone a concealed

handgun license depending on the circumstances. An out-of-state jewelry salesman, for example, might seek a license to protect self and property while working in an Oregon county. Likewise, he said, a Umatilla County family on a hike in Wallowa County wilderness might want to carry a gun.

"I don't know of any other justification you need to protect yourself and your family than when you're hiking, camping, and you're in the middle of nowhere," Matlack said.

The larger issue, he said, is Oregon does not recognize concealed handgun licenses from other states. He said he would like to see a nationwide system for concealed handgun licenses, but Oregon should at least reciprocate with its bordering states — Washington, Idaho and Nevada.

Gun regulation proposals in the 2019 Oregon Legislature

Senate bills

5 — Makes shooting range and person discharging firearm at shooting range strictly liable for injuries resulting from bullets that stray outside boundaries of a shooting range. Allows injured person to bring civil action against city or county that fails to regulate a shooting range after having notice of dangerous condition. Removes prohibition on local government regulation relating to shooting ranges.

87 — Allows gun dealer or person transferring firearm, ammunition or firearm component at gun show to establish minimum age for purchase of firearms, ammunition or firearm components, provided that minimum age is at least 21.

275 — Requires owner or possessor of firearm to secure firearm with trigger or cable lock or in locked container except in specified circumstances.

322 — Authorizes sheriff of county to issue concealed handgun license to eligible person residing in adjoining county.

323 — Provides person with privileges and legal defenses available to person with Oregon concealed handgun license if person is licensed to carry concealed handgun in another state that recognizes Oregon concealed handgun licenses.

501 — Requires person to secure permit before purchasing or otherwise receiving firearm.

House bills

2251 — Defines "assault rifle." Prohibits transfer of handgun or assault rifle to person under 21.

2291 — Establishes tax credit against personal income taxes for purchase of qualifying gun safes or locking mechanisms.

2298 — Directs Oregon State Police to create and maintain list of states that recognize Oregon concealed handgun licenses and require demonstration of handgun competency to obtain license that is similar to requirement in Oregon.

2479 — Authorizes sheriffs to collect the \$15 fee for the cost of the Federal Bureau of Investigation nationwide fingerprint check for a concealed handgun license.

2505 — Requires owner or possessor of firearm to secure firearm with trigger or cable lock or in locked container except in specified circumstances.

2546 — Creates a credit against personal income tax for the cost of the criminal history check the state requires for transferring a firearm.

2705 — Directs Oregon State Police to establish voluntary firearm Do Not Sell List using secure internet website.



Staff photo by Kathy Aney

Umatilla County Commissioner George Murdock thanks the crowd after receiving 2019 Man of the Year honors from the Pendleton Chamber of Commerce.

Chamber: 'To be up here is a great honor'

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McClintock was especially exalted for her work with Altrusa International of Pendleton, where she started the Backpack/Feed the Child program 11 years ago after discovering that many children in the area went hungry over the weekends.

What started as 20 backpacks filled with food at one school is now a program that serves 275 children across the Pendleton School District that operates with the assistance of various community service organizations and churches.

In addition to Altrusa, McClintock is a longtime school volunteer, a founding member of the Children's Museum of Eastern Oregon, and a board member on the boards for the Blue Mountain Community College Foundation and the Umatilla County Historical Society.

After walking up to the stage, McClintock recalled how Altrusa sent out ask letters to chamber members once the "bright idea"

was introduced.

"Within 90 days we had \$20,000," she said.

The announcement speeches usually mete out clues before signaling the winner, but if they included the Man of the Year's alma mater in the beginning instead of the end, it would have been a dead giveaway.

In a sea of Beaver and Duck fans, George Murdock's passion for his Washington State University Cougars stands out.

But Murdock was recognized for his contributions to Pendleton, not Pullman, Washington.

Over his time in Pendleton, Murdock has been a cattle rancher, a publisher for the *East Oregonian*, and the superintendent of the InterMountain Education Service District.

After retiring, Murdock was voted onto the Umatilla County Board of Commissioners and was recently re-elected to a second term.

Known for his "hearty hellos" and his "positive vibe," Murdock was

also recognized for being involved with Greater Oregon Behavioral Health Inc., Pendleton Downtown Association, Umatilla County Fair Board, and the Wildhorse Foundation, among other nonprofits.

After a few jokes, Murdock got serious about the men and women who had preceded him as first citizens.

"I would have been perfectly content to live in their shadow," he said. "To be up here is a great honor."

Man and Woman of the Year weren't the only winners who took home awards Friday.

Other winners include:

Business of the Year: Hodgen Distributing

Employee of the Year: Greg Duchek of Duchek Construction

Boss of the Year: Harry Geller of St. Anthony Hospital

Customer Service of the Year: Pendleton Police Department

Tourism Excellence Award: Pendleton Whisky Music Fest

President's Award: Chuck Wood

CTUIR: Office likely to be operational in a few months

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Francke said he didn't know exactly how funding for the office would be split, but said it would likely be similar to the way county veterans' service offices are funded — half by the county, and half by the state. The employees are all on county payroll, but the state handles officer training and certification.

Sams said the office will likely be

operational within a few months. He said the new state designation will help residents and tribal members with VA claims, especially for health issues stemming from their time in the service.

"This process streamlines it, so we're within the state and federal system," Sams said.

He said the tribes started discussing the potential of a Veterans' Service Office about a

year ago.

The office will be only the second tribal veterans' service office in Oregon, with the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs getting one last summer. Sams said he hopes other tribes will follow soon.

"I think other tribes will see Warm Springs and Umatilla as models they can use, and hopefully their veterans can get those benefits," Sams said.

Director: 'I fell in love with Eastern Oregon. I'm staying'

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The topic had been of interest to Bonnie Sager of Pilot Rock, and under Lund-Jones' encouragement, Sager catalogued timber cultures across the county and took pictures of their remnants.

The timber culture exhibit led to an interesting discovery at a neighboring exhibit dedicated to century farms: Many of the farms that are 100 years old or older were located in the same place as the tree grows started under the Timber Culture Act.

"An exhibit like this really opens it all up," she said.

Like the exhibits, Lund-Jones' career has some surprises of its own.

Although she grew up on a "near-century farm" of her own in northwest Iowa, Lund-Jones started her career in academia.

She taught at St. Peter's University in New Jersey and Pennsylvania State University before taking a position at New York University in the 1970s.

As a professor at NYU's Tisch School for the Arts, she taught film language and history at the prestigious performing and visual arts program that counts Angelina Jolie and Martin Scorsese among its alumni.

After facilitating the start of her students' careers, Lund-Jones soon felt the pull to start a new career of her own.

She sought the mentorship of Barbara Kirshenblatt-Gimblett, the chair of the performing studies department who also had extensive experience in museum work.

With her help and NYU's tuition remission program, Lund-Jones was able to get an advanced degree in museum studies.

With the degree in hand, she got a job with the Museum of the City of New York before landing back in Iowa in 1996 to take a curator position with the Danish Immigrant Museum, which is now known as the Museum of Danish America.

With her background in agriculture and her experience with museums and culture, Lund-Jones thought she would be a good fit when she interviewed for the executive director position at Heritage Station Museum in 2009.

The museum agreed and

she suddenly found herself in Eastern Oregon, a very different place than the previous trips she had taken to the coast.

Lund-Jones said she came to the museum at a time when the newness of its 2003 expansion was starting to wear off and the economy was in the throes of recession.

She focused on organizing volunteers to help maintain the collection and was involved in starting a new exhibit on the water of the Umatilla River.

As one of Umatilla County's dominant industries, Lund-Jones said wheat was a natural follow-up exhibit.

But Lund-Jones decided to step down before Umatilla Gold debuts in August.

With Umatilla Gold and other new projects in the works, Lund-Jones said the museum needed someone with more of a promotional background to highlight the museum's new experience.

A sales representative for the Elkhorn Media Group before becoming the historical society's director of development and membership in February 2018, Kari Brooks fits that bill.

Promoted to take over as executive director, Brooks said she wants the museum to be a destination for all tourists visiting Umatilla County and returning visitors who haven't been to the museum in a while.

She also wants people to know that the museum just isn't about the history of Pendleton, but the whole county.

In the meantime, Lund-Jones is ready to start a third career.

She said she's long been interested in writing children's books and has even shared some work with her close friends.

In her retirement, she would like to work toward creating a published piece of work.

Instead of local history, Lund-Jones said the themes in her children's stories are more interested in the intersection of children's and adult's imaginations, exemplified by works like "Peter Pan" and "Winnie the Pooh."

And although Lund-Jones' new job wouldn't tie her to a specific place, she has no plans to return to Iowa or New York.

"I fell in love with Eastern Oregon," she said. "I'm staying."