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Gun storage advocates file petition

Supporters think lawmakers can pass a storage law in 2020

By **CLAIRE WITHYCOMBE**
Oregon Capital Bureau

SALEM — Advocates are reviving efforts to require Oregon gun owners to securely store their guns.

Supporters filed an initiative petition Thursday, July 18, to bring the issue to voters again in November 2020 if the Legislature fails to pass similar legislation next year.

The petitioners — Henry Wessinger and Jenna Palsalacqua, both of Portland, and Paul Kemp, of Happy Valley — want to reduce injuries and deaths associated with guns that have been accessed unlawfully, or by children.

Supporters filed a similar petition last year, but withdrew it after it became clear they didn't have time to gather enough signatures in support to get it on the ballot. They then advocated for lawmakers to pass a storage law this year.

But their idea collided with the legislative session's fiery politics.

A major gun control bill, which included the storage requirements, was killed as part of negotiations in May, when Senate Republicans refused to attend floor sessions in protest of a new business tax.

Gov. Kate Brown brokered a deal where majority Democrats would drop the gun bill and a second bill tightening vaccination requirements for public school students to get the Republicans to come back.

And when Senate Republicans walked out for the second time, spanning more than a week in late June, time was lacking to bring

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EO SPOTLIGHT



Staff photo by Kathy Aney
Bud tender Ashleigh Sauvie waits on a customer on a busy Sunday morning at Kind Leaf in Pendleton.

marijuana tourism LIFTS OFF

One marijuana store in Pendleton has 100,000 out-of-area customers per year

By **PHIL WRIGHT**
East Oregonian

PENDLETON — The parking lot at Kind Leaf in Pendleton started to fill Sunday morning after the big music festival. Most of the vehicles displayed Idaho license plates — travelers stopping at one of Pendleton's three marijuana stores before leaving town.

Jake, his wife and their close friends drove from Idaho to take in their first Pendleton Whisky Music Fest (the *East Oregonian* did not



Staff photo by Kathy Aney
Nick Krenzler retrieves some hybrid buds for a customer on a busy Sunday morning at Kind Leaf in Pendleton.

include his last name due to concerns because marijuana is not legal in Idaho). They love to sightsee and travel, he said, and they stayed at a hotel in Hermiston and dined out.

He said he has been to several marijuana stores in Oregon and liked what he found at Kind Leaf.

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City steps up tax collection on Airbnb rentals

By **ANTONIO SIERRA**
East Oregonian

PENDLETON — The city's vacation rental market used to revolve around Round-Up, but companies like Airbnb mean it's now a year-round business.

The number of Airbnb operators has grown large enough that the city of Pendleton has taken steps to regulate the emerging market.

The city modernized its lodging tax ordinance in July 2018 to include "vacation rentals by owner," and on June 12, City Attorney Nancy Kerns sent out a letter to Airbnb operators to remind them that they too needed to obtain a city business license and pay the city's lodging room tax.

She also spelled out the penalties if any vacation rental owners failed to comply.

"Violations of this ordinance, such as operating a lodging facility when not properly licensed and certified, and failure to remit lodging taxes to the City when due, are violations of City ordinance which are subject to citation and potential penalty of \$500 per day in violation," she wrote.

Five self-described Airbnb businesses acquired a license in June, although there are more listed on the Airbnb website.

About a dozen property owners were offering up their homes to visitors in early November, a month that falls into the Pendleton tourism off-season.

Websites like Airbnb and VRBO allow any property owner to act as a hotelkeeper.

The websites offer a platform where the owner offers their room or house to potential visitors, who book the vacation rental the same way they would a hotel room.

Finance Director Linda

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PENDLETON

Seattle Cossacks return to Bike Week

By **ALEX CASTLE**
East Oregonian

PENDLETON — George Wright, 15, has been riding on the Seattle Cossacks' signature Harley-Davidsons since he was in the womb.

When his mother, Leah Wright, was pregnant and informed his father, Jimi Wright, that her water had

broken, Jimi ran to start the truck. As he ushered Leah to the vehicle, she shook her head.

"No, I want to take the bike," she said.

"You want to take the bike?" Jimi responded, surprised.

So with his mother 9 months pregnant with him, George took his first ride on

a motorcycle to the hospital. Jimi recalls feeling a sudden slap on his back as the nurses arrived and shepherded Leah into the hospital. An older woman had just hit him with her purse and was scolding him for his recklessness.

"I had just wanted to feel the cold air," Leah

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Staff photo by Ben Lonergan

Members of the Seattle Cossacks Motorcycle Stunt and Drill team perform at the Pendleton Convention Center Friday afternoon.



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