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County to vote on Second Amendment ordinance

The measure to prevent firearm regulation may conflict with state law

By ALEX CASTLE
East Oregonian

UMATILLA COUNTY — Local voters have one countywide ballot measure to decide on this November — Measure 30-145, also known as the Second Amendment Sanctuary Ordinance.

But whatever fate the measure meets on Nov. 3, it's unclear how the ordinance will prevent regulation of firearms for Umatilla County residents.

Umatilla County District Attorney Dan Primus has read the measure and said his office's role will continue as usual regardless of the outcome.

"My understanding is we'll continue to follow the laws of the state of Oregon," he said. "When we take the position we do at the prosecutor's office in Umatilla County, just as any other prosecutor in the state, we take an oath to uphold the law of the state of Oregon. So, we're going to continue to do that."

Umatilla County Sheriff Terry Rowan, who is running unopposed for another four-year term in November, said he read the measure "months ago" but wasn't familiar enough with it to offer an opinion.

"It all comes down to how the document is worded, and will it withstand litigation," he said. "That's certainly always the challenge."

Measures bearing similar language as Measure 140-35 and its intent are before voters in Clatsop, Columbia and Coos counties, while others were rejected from the ballot in other counties, such as Curry and Harney.

"This ordinance would prevent Umatilla County and its employees from devoting resources or participating in any way in the enforcement of any law or regulation that affected an individual's right to

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ON THE OPINION PAGE

This November, Umatilla County voters will vote on the Second Amendment Sanctuary Ordinance. **Page A4**



Ben Lonergan/East Oregonian
Eastern Oregon Correctional Institution is visible behind a sign welcoming people to Blue Mountain Community College in Pendleton on Monday, Oct. 5, 2020.

State prison system wants to cancel contract with BMCC

By ANTONIO SIERRA
East Oregonian

PENDLETON — Blue Mountain Community College sits on a hill overlooking Eastern Oregon Correctional Institution, and for decades, the college has sent educators down the hill to teach adult education classes to inmates behind prison walls.

As the program draws to a close, that relationship is now in jeopardy.

In late August, the Oregon Department of Corrections told BMCC and other community colleges across the state that it intended to end its educational contracts in 2021. For BMCC, that means losing out on a \$3 million annual contract that encompasses 27 jobs across three state prisons: EOCI, Two Rivers Correctional Institution, and Powder River Correctional Facility in Baker City.

BMCC President Dennis Bailey-Fougner said the college wasn't consulted ahead of the department's decision.

"That was news to us, to be honest with you," he said.

With dozens of jobs at stake, Bailey-Fougner said the state's prisons benefit from having experienced educators lead the program.

BMCC is now working with



East Oregonian, File
Inmate tutor Fabian Solis helps fellow inmate Wayne Woodruff understand a math question during a GED class on Jan. 25, 2018, at Eastern Oregon Correctional Institution in Pendleton.

a coalition of college administrations and unions to try to get the state to reverse its decision.

But the department of corrections remains firm that significant changes need to be made to the prison's adult education programs, which include GED courses and English as a second language classes.

"DOC has an unprecedented budget shortfall and this change allows for significant savings," department communications manager Jennifer Black wrote in a statement.

"Repurposing contract dollars for DOC staff positions will give the department greater

flexibility in the delivery of adult basic education programming, will increase weekly classroom hours, allow for consistency between institutions as (adults in custody) transfer from one institution to the next, and enhance case management information-sharing both during the AIC's incarceration phase and as AICs transition to the community."

In a Sept. 30 letter to the Oregon Community Colleges Association, department Director Collette Peters wrote that the state prison system started the year with a \$110 million projected shortfall and

has spent the ensuing months making cuts, slashing \$25 million from its budget before the Oregon Legislature lopped off another \$2.4 million in August.

Canceling its contracts and creating 70 positions internally would save the department \$1 million, or about 6% of the \$16.4 million DOC spends over its two-year budget cycle on outsourcing its adult education programs.

But the department thinks it could cushion the blow of future budget cuts in a different way, by offsetting some of its staff reductions.

"(The) conversion allows for the creation of a substantial number of (department) staff positions, establishing positions for qualified staff to go into in the event their positions are impacted by future layoffs," correctional division staff wrote in a policy memo.

In an Oct. 6 email, department communications coordinator Vanessa Vanderzee wrote that instructors would be expected to have a bachelor's or master's degree depending on the position, but existing prison staff could also fill positions for coordinators, lab supervisors and administrators.

Pete Hernberg, the president of BMCC's faculty union, said prisons could actually see a dip

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OSU hall of fame team has ties to Pendleton

Kyle Rosselle, Richard Seigler both part of hall of fame Oregon State football team

By ANTONIO SIERRA
East Oregonian

PENDLETON — The 2000-01 Oregon State University football team brought together players from across the country to produce one of the school's best teams of all time, but the team also had two Pendleton connections.

Kyle Rosselle and Richard Seigler are members of a team that was recently inducted in the Oregon State University Athletics Hall of Fame, a ceremony honoring them postponed by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Steve Fenk, an associate athletic

director at OSU, said the team will get an "actual celebration" sometime in 2021.

But what links together Rosselle and Seigler is more than just the years they spent at Oregon State. For Rosselle, Pendleton is the hometown that springboarded both his football and post-football careers. For Seigler, Pendleton is the town he chose to settle down in to further his own professional career.

A Hall of Fame year

Rosselle may have become the rare

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Ben Lonergan/East Oregonian
Richard Seigler poses for a portrait in the office of his practice, Enrich Therapy, in Pendleton on Wednesday, Sept. 28, 2020.



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