



INSIDE MAKE AN ADVENTURE ON THE PENDLETON CHARM TRAIL

MEASURE 114

Talking aim at gun control

Oregon gun rights advocates line up against proposal on November ballot

By JOHN TILLMAN
East Oregonian

PENDLETON — A measure requiring a permit, reporting of application data and safety training to buy a firearm in Oregon is set to appear on the November ballot. And gun rights proponents are taking stances against it.

Measure 114 also would outlaw magazines holding more than 10 cartridges.

“First and foremost, I hope voters will take the time to educate themselves on the measure and review it line by line,” Umatilla County Sheriff Terry Rowan said. “Measure 110 might not have passed had people studied it. Proponents sold it as breaking the cycle of addiction, but didn’t focus on legalizing the most dangerous drugs, so that addicts would no longer be compelled to seek treatment. Similarly, Measure 114 advocates focus on stopping gun violence, but the public really needs to evaluate its language.”

The proposition, titled “Changes to Gun Ownership and Purchase Requirements Initiative,” is one of the strictest gun control measures ever proposed in the nation, according to opponents.

“(Measure 114) will virtually end the sale of firearms in (the state),” Oregon Firearms Federation Executive Director Kevin Starrett said on July 26. “Where do you suppose all the smaller towns who rely on private gun clubs for training are going to go for the live fire portion of the class? How often will they provide it? What costs will be created? How do those increased costs and barriers affect Black folks in inner-city Portland?”

Measure 114 would require a permit to obtain any firearm, and it would outlaw magazines capable of holding more than 10 rounds. If the measure passes, it would ban some commonly used pump shotguns because their capacity can exceed that limit. Further, Oregon State Police would be required to maintain a searchable public database of all permit applications.

Rowan also said he was convinced the measure is a direct violation of the U.S. Constitution’s Second Amendment.

See Guns, Page A8

Pendleton’s Grain Craft mill erupts into a RAGING INFERNO

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Flame shoots from the Grain Craft flour mill in Pendleton the morning of Wednesday, Aug. 10, 2022. Photos by Kathy Aney/East Oregonian

PENDLETON — Fire erupted early Wednesday morning, Aug. 10, at Grain Craft flour mill in Pendleton. By midmorning, first responders were waiting for the possible collapse of the structure.

Pendleton Assistant Fire Chief Tony Pierotti said this blaze kicked off at about 4:30 a.m., and all signs point to the massive structure as a total loss.

Pendleton Fire Department, Umatilla Tribal Fire Department, Umatilla County Fire District No. 1 were the first to respond to the scene at 501 S.E. Emigrant Ave. Soon after, fire departments from La Grande and Boardman also were responding.

Pierotti said silos were at full capacity of finished grain, so the fire fuel load was extreme.

Fire may have burned through the night

Pendleton and other fire departments on Aug. 9 at 2:55 p.m. responded to the mill on a report of white smoke. Pierotti said a “rubber boot” that is part of the sifter may have caught fire. Crews had to get a hose up top to shoot water into a silo to put out the fire. Crews that day were at the mills for about six hours.

Grain Craft, the third largest flour miller in the United States, owns the mill and employs 22 people there. The company issued this statement:

“Early (Wednesday) morning a fire erupted at the Grain Craft flour mill in Pendleton, Oregon. There have been no injuries reported and our focus remains on the safety and well-being of our team members and the surrounding community. We are supporting all authorities as they contain the fire and mitigate the damage where possible. We are still working to understand the situation, however everyone is safe, and we will update when we have more information.”

Pierotti said chlorine tanks at the site were far enough away they were not an explosion risk. Still, fire crews doused the tanks with water as a precautionary measure. He also said nearby buildings were another concern.

“All these other buildings around are considered exposures,” he said. “Then we go defensive. It’s gonna come down, the goal is to make sure it doesn’t go anywhere else.”

See Fire, Page A1



A Pendleton firefighter sprays water on flames shooting from the Grain Craft flour mill on the morning of Wednesday, Aug. 10, 2022.