

# Oregon must comply with Real ID Act

The Oregon legislature is in a stare down with the federal government, one it is likely to lose.

At issue is the adoption of federal standards for driver's licenses and state-issued identification cards in Oregon that can be used at secured areas, including airports.

The law requiring it, the Real ID Act of 2005, was enacted as a result of the 9/11 attacks and the subsequent war on terrorism. It requires higher standards of proof of U.S. citizenship or proof of lawful status in the U.S. in order for state-issued IDs to be valid for federal purposes, such as at airport security points or when entering federal courthouses or other secure federal facilities.

**GUEST EDITORIAL**

From the Capital Press

The Transportation Security Administration, which oversees airport security, has said it intends to stop accepting noncompliant IDs on Jan. 22, 2018. States that are still noncompliant — but have been granted deadline extensions — will face a hard deadline of October 2020, when Homeland Security has said it will require all air travelers to carry a Real ID-compliant license. At that point, residents from noncompliant states will be required to present other identification which does meet Real ID requirements, like a passport, to fly domestically or to enter federal courthouses or other secure federal facility. Passports are already required for international air travel.

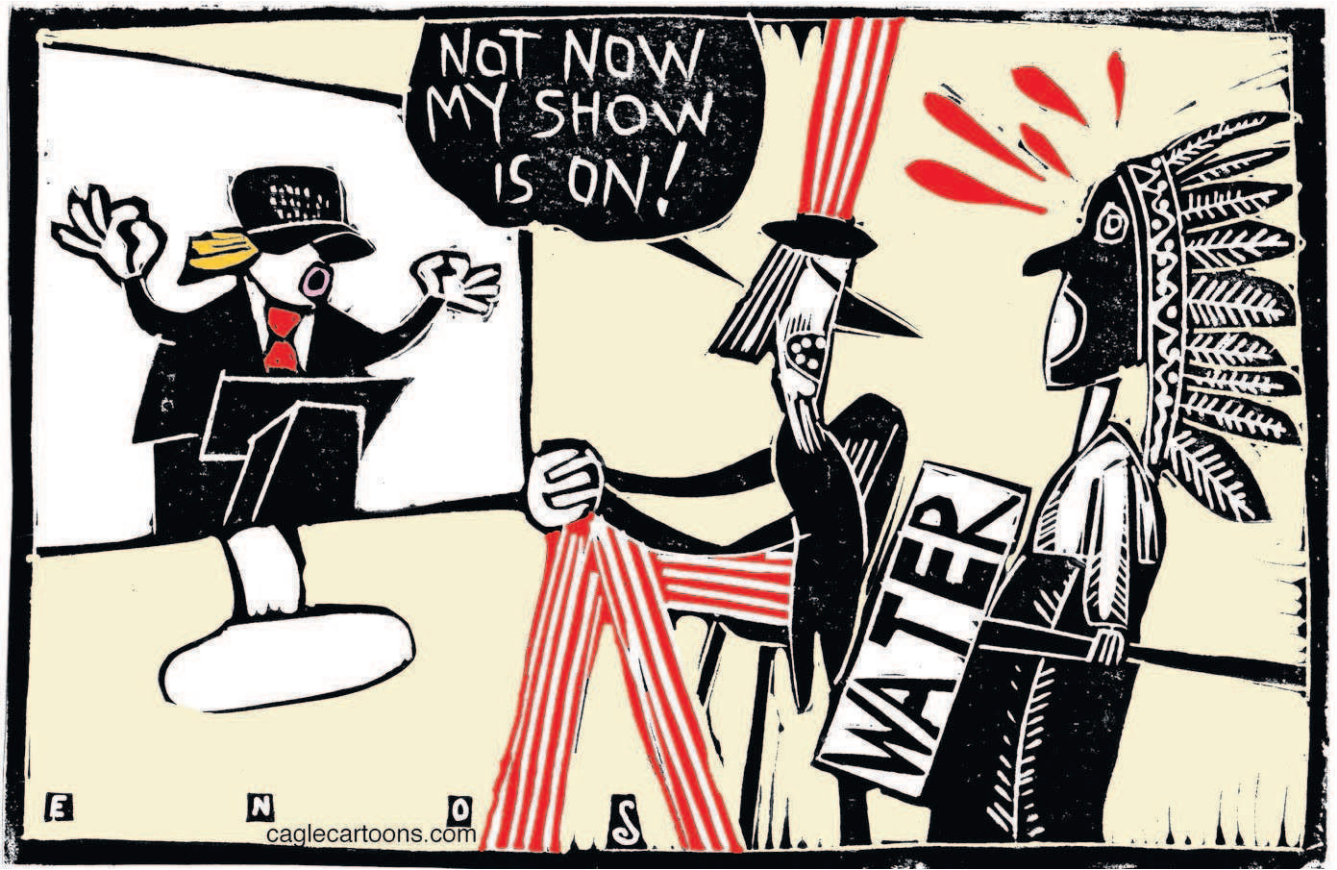
Across the country, 21 states currently comply, but others including Oregon have fought the law, saying it is an overreaching, unfunded federal mandate. In 2009, Oregon lawmakers prohibited the Department of Motor Vehicles from spending state funds to comply with the act. They have argued that many of the requirements were too expensive to undertake, and they have asked for extensions each year, which have been routinely granted. Just this month, the state was granted another extension, but this time only until June 2017, essentially just enough time for the Legislature to reconsider its position. Oregon lawmakers have said they will continue to seek extensions, which if granted, would make its deadline for full compliance in 2020.

While we understand Oregon's initial reluctance to comply, it's time to start implementing the changes.

Congress enacted the law more than a decade ago and aviation safety remains a deep concern. The Real IDs will help ease some of the worries. The security measures also make the licenses and ID cards harder to replicate and they have the potential to reduce fraud and identity theft.

Additionally, technology and expense issues that existed in 2005 along with security concerns about the cards' data shouldn't be a factor today. Experts say better technology and security now exists at far less cost than it did then. And on some of the concerns, like data security, the states should already be addressing those issues regardless of the Real ID requirements.

Failure to take the needed implementation steps will eventually force all residents who want to board a plane or enter a federal courthouse to spend the time and money themselves to obtain a compliant ID when one could easily exist otherwise through state-issued driver's licenses.



## Election season: all tricks, no treats

Scary stories being told, people dressing themselves up, skeletons on display and the promise of sweet treats.

It's election time — yay!

Halloween and voting season falling so close together on the calendar made me notice a few similarities between the two, which has turned into what I like to call The Reverse-Halloween Theory of Politics. Check this out. With Halloween you have a whole bunch of eager folks approaching strangers with the expectation of receiving a reward for presenting themselves in a certain way. Elections are pretty much the mirror image. There's a few people carefully fine-tuning their appearance and promising good things while knocking on doors, robo-calling, running TV and radio ads, mass mailing and such. Both can result in indigestion and even decay, but asking for votes in big down-and-dirty campaigns essentially is just backwards Halloween.

Here is the Political Halloween Theory applied to ballot measure advertising: "Vote yes on Ballot Measure Blah-ty-Blah. It's a king-size candy bar."

"No on Measure Such-and-Such. Proponents would have you believe it's a candy bar, but really it's a stale popcorn ball packaged around a wormy apple that may or may not have razor blades inside. Not even new razor blades. They might be old ones. And rusty. You can believe



**AND FURTHERMORE**

Jon Rombach

me because I'm standing in a hazelnut orchard wearing gloves, apparently just taking a brief moment out of my hazelnut gathering to film an ad."

The Yes crowd comes back with someone in a flannel shirt, or otherwise sensibly dressed, sitting relaxed at a kitchen table enjoying a soothing cup of tea and/or coffee, depending on the demographic, pointing out that hazelnuts can be in the candy bar — and it just goes on and on until election coverage finally ends, which is like Thanksgiving. And if your candidate or cause wins it's like Christmas, and let's just stop there. I don't want to wander any further toward the neighborhood of political science with this hard-hitting politics-as-holiday analysis.

But hold on a tick. About that political science. What is even remotely scientific about politics? I don't get that matchup. It's like real things were being paired up for teams and the coach or PE teacher in this example took a look at what they had to work with and said, "Business, you and Administration are a team. Sports and, uh ... Medicine. You two team up."

Politics is jumping up and down, all excited, saying "pick me, pick me." Science is busy thinking about dark matter. Coach runs out of logical combos and just gives up and says, "Politics and Science, you're together." Everybody laughs because they know there's no way Politics and Science are going to win. But Politics loves it. "Oh yeah, me and Science? We're good buddies. Played dodge ball together. Matter of fact, I'm going as Science for Halloween. I know this neighborhood where every house gives out king-size candy bars. Used to be folks that gave out popcorn balls, but me and my other buddy, Jerry ... you met Jerry Mander? Well, we adjusted the boundaries and now it's nothing but sweet, sweet caramel, nougat, tax breaks and hazelnuts at every door. It's my favorite holiday."

This has been the 2016 edition of the "And Furthermore" Voters Guide. Remember to fill in the bubbles on your ballot carefully and do not put frowny faces in the little ovals next to things you don't like, as was recommended in previous versions of this guide. One final tip: Bundle all political mailings into large bales. They are useful as retaining walls. Now get out there and pick through the candy bars and stuff you don't care for as much and don't forget to vote.

Jon Rombach is a quasi-political scientist and local columnist for The Chieftain.

## 'Busy' is how we roll in this county

A friend texted me recently, apologizing for not getting in touch sooner because she had been so busy.

I responded, "'Busy' is how we roll in Wallowa County."

I'm learning how to hunt and had a whitetail doe tag. As we drove around, a friend who has lived and breathed this Wallowa Land for decades spent a lot of time teaching me about the habits of deer and their movement during the fall. Of how they are driven by their need for water and feed, and how weather conditions are a big factor.

We mostly stayed on the backcountry roads. I didn't always know where I was. That is, I couldn't show you on a map, but when we would top out on a ridge, I could make a mental note, "Okay, Finley Buttes are over there." Or "There's the Divide." Chief Joseph Mountain was my main bearing point.

Interspersed in these stories were comments about my driving. "Slow down, Katherine." By day 5 I wasn't hearing that so often.

I never realized how much hunting can keep a person busy. Hours and hours are devoted to scouting. Nor did I real-



**WALLOWA GAL**

Katherine Stickroth

ize how much work comes with success. The field dressing, loading, hanging, then cutting and packaging of meat — lots of work.

Much was taught to me, some was learned — mostly that I don't have any idea what I'm doing most of the time. At least that keeps me teachable. And a great deal could be said on the value of a patient friend.

My most favorite time of this hunting season was one afternoon, somewhere, we were scouting on foot. He showed me tracks of deer and elk who had just walked that trail. I heard the pounding hoof beats of departing elk, just before he told me to sniff and smell the musky odor of those elk.

We hiked for about a mile, gaining on elevation. After the sun dropped over the mountains, we turned back. I was

watching for tracks again, then looked up and stopped.

It was a "freeze-frame" moment.

I heard the creek murmuring below us, hidden within a velvet carpet of ponderosa pine sprinkled with bright yellow tamarack spires. Beneath a near-full moon, the Seven Devils were gold-tinted against a clear blue sky. My friend was still walking ahead of me. Just then a hawk rose to become airborne, banking in flight to where its white underside was fully exposed just above my friend's white cap.

The beauty of this wildness, of the freedom to be here, and this time with a treasured friend all hit me at once and caught my breath away.

At the end of my hunting season, I was pretty tired. I soon forgot that fatigue. In a few months, the meat will be gone, and I'll forget about that while next summer I eat mostly garden gleanings.

Yet never, ever will I forget the image of that captured moment in Wallowa County. I like where "busy" takes me.

Katherine Stickroth is a freelance writer and blogs at allowagal.com.

## Misleading opposition to Measure 97

A serious lie is being told about Measure 97 that anyone with basic logic must scratch their head over. The purpose of Measure 97 is to remove the cap on the corporate gross sales tax for sales greater than \$25 million. One argument used in opposition to the measure is that higher tax costs will be passed along to the consumer. But aren't state and local taxes deductible from federal income taxes?

In short, a corporation affected by Measure 97 will actually be reducing its federal tax liability with an increase in Oregon taxes. Yes, overall they will pay more taxes regardless of whether it goes

**LETTERS to the EDITOR**

to the state or the federal government, but right now these \$25 million gross sales accounts are being taxed with the "minimum tax."

One study shows that of the companies "that make over \$100 million in Oregon sales a year, about half pay minimum taxes (0.02 percent)"

It is an old question: where do you get your tax revenues? Large corporations in Oregon suggest if the state needs more revenue, tax the consumer

(sales tax) and leave our profits alone. There are approximately 960 corporations out of 400,000 that will be affected by Measure 97.

Multi-billion dollar corporations (examples Walmart, Chevron, Wells Fargo) are paying for the "No" on Measure 97 campaign, not the small businesses that won't be affected.

Keep in mind the stipulation that revenue from Measure 97 is to be used to provide additional funding for education, health care and services for senior citizens.

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