

Gun control: Hearings on proposed gun regulations

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The major draw for witnesses appeared to be Senate Bill 978, which contained 44 pages of new gun regulations, including provisions that allow retailers to raise the minimum age to buy a gun and regulating 3-D printed guns.

By 8 a.m. Tuesday, when public testimony was set to start on that bill, a long line of people still snaked around the Capitol basement, waiting to fill out a sign-up sheet to testify against the bill.

Capitol staff and lawmakers expected the crowds. Two committees took testimony: In the morning, the Senate Judiciary Committee heard testimony on Senate Bill 978, and the House Judiciary Committee heard testimony on House Bill 2013.

On March 23, gun rights supporters gathered in front of the state Capitol to protest efforts by the legislature to regulate guns.

The committees are expected to hold work sessions on the bills April 8.



Oregon Capital Bureau photo/East Oregonian
People sign up to testify against Senate Bill 978, which would allow gun retailers to raise minimum ages, impose secure storage requirements on gun owners and prohibit untraceable "ghost guns" printed by 3-D printers.

Under SB 978, Oregon retailers could set their minimum age to buy a gun at up to 21, and gun owners would have to secure their guns with a cable or trigger lock, or in a securely locked container.

The bill would also place strict regulations on 3-D printed, or "ghost" guns.

Under the proposed law, failing to transfer guns in a secure way and failing to report lost or stolen fire-

arms within 72 hours would be violations of law. The bill would also hold gun owners liable for any injuries that result within two years if their firearm is stolen and they don't report it.

People who transfer a firearm to a minor would, under the proposed law, need to directly supervise the minor using it, except for minors who own guns or have a valid youth hunting license.

There would be liability to the person who transferred a gun to a minor if the minor injured someone or damaged property using the gun and didn't directly supervise that minor.

The law would also require the state's health agency to establish rules for minimum specifications for trigger locks, cable locks and containers that have tamper-resistant locks on them by Jan. 1.

If a person who leaves a firearm in a place where they know a minor is likely to gain access to it, and a minor does gain access to the firearm, they would be committing a Class A violation, with exceptions if the firearm was properly stored.

Unlawful storage of a firearm would become a Class B misdemeanor if a minor gets ahold of an unsecured firearm and "exhibits the firearm in a careless, angry, or threatening manner," and a Class A misdemeanor if the minor kills or injures another person after getting an unsecured gun.

River: Improved habitat for steelhead, chinook

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"We are really happy to be able to begin this project," said Mary Hawkins, Director of the Wallowa Band Nez Perce Homeland Center in Wallowa. "It's been a goal for a long time that started with Joe McCormack's vision."

The idea of a river restoration project began about a decade ago. The first concept was to reconstruct meanders in the main channel. But that would have impacted neighboring properties. So the Homeland Project considered a side channel that entered the property above what is now the Storie Street foot-bridge. But that location was too shallow to bedrock to create a suitable channel.

The new design, crafted by BPA, will create several small channels, all on the Homeland Project property, beginning about 400 feet downstream from the foot-bridge to the Homeland Project. They will carry water from the river, and return that flow to the river, producing relatively deep, narrow aquatic habitat for juvenile fish.

The multiple channels will create some characteristics of a braided stream. They include 12 pools that will be 3 — 5 feet deep to provide first class rearing and over-wintering habitat for juvenile Chinook



Ellen Morris Bishop
The new small side channels will be constructed at the west end of the Tamkali property. Nez Perce volunteers from the Yakima Reservation will relocate the sweat lodge, seen in the distance.

salmon. This is important because juvenile Chinook overwinter here in the upper part of the Wallowa/Grande Ronde River basin. Those fish arrive at Snake River and Columbia River dams later in the year than fish that over-winter lower in the system. Some years these late Wallowa County arrivals have much better survival rates. So overwintering here is an important migration and survival strategy for Chinook. Providing habitat for these fish is important. The critical deep pools in small channels have become scarce because rivers were channelized in the past, and wetland areas with small channels were often

filled in to provide agricultural fields.

"There are three things that juvenile fish need for a good survival rate," said Menton. "First, multiple small channels with deep pools. Second, lots of woody debris in the them. And finally, quiet pools extended off the small channels for young fish to collect and rest." The details of channel and pool design include these factors as well as prescriptions for the size and types of rocks in the

channel bottom.

Restoration of riparian and wetland habitat and plants will be part of the project as well. "Plants will include willows, sedges, and small fruit bulrush," said Katie Frenyea, fisheries biologist and Northeast Oregon Project Leader for Nez Perce Tribe's Department of Fisheries and Resource Management in Joseph. "These three plants together may be able to out-compete reed canarygrass."

Reed canarygrass is a tall, aggressive, perennial and highly invasive ornamental grass that diminishes wetland and riparian habitat for birds and mammals. It has a considerable foothold on some portions of the Homeland Project's land. The wetland restoration plan includes several other strategies to control, and perhaps vanquish it, including placement of a cover of fine clays in areas where the reed canarygrass is well-established. "We've found that it can't sprout through a fine-grained clay substrate," Frenyea said. "We think that between the clays and the combined bull rush, sedge, and willow plantings, we'll have it more under control."

Fire Science: Class offers hard work, employment

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With the help of ODF employees and their equipment, student Steven Beckman lays down a wet line with a fire hose in order to create a fire perimeter as other students start small fires with drip torched that contain a mixture of diesel and gasoline.

The boys are serious about their work but enjoying themselves. The banter is good-natured, and the students and ODF employees get along well. The class and ODF personnel are finished burning the pasture and the ditch in front of the Kilgore home in time to get back to school in time for the bus or athletics.

Senior Steven Beckman said he's firefighting this summer and took the class because of hearing Fulfer talk about it.

"I really like challenges — that's why I like to wrestle," Beckman said. The way he talked, it's pretty hard, so I'm excited for that. I'll learn a lot and make a lot of money for college."

Junior Hadley Miller said Fulfer recruited him for the class. Although he's too young to fight fire this year, he'll help Fulfer instruct next year. He likes the class because of the opportunity to be outdoors and he enjoys the burns and using the chain saw.

"It's a good class to have, and if you apply for a firefighting job, this class looks really good on that," he said.

Senior Kade Kilgore said he's heard Fulfer talk about fire science since the teacher arrived here when Kilgore was in the eighth grade and he's glad he took the class. His favorite part is running the chain saw. He also noted the need for firefighters.

"As the summers get hotter and drier, people need to start filling these jobs, and this class is a great way to get your foot in the door."

As for Fulfer, he's looking forward to future incarnations of the class.

"It's really been a highlight of my year, and it's going to be a highlight of every year, I think," he said. "I look forward to teaching it."

Album: Release show to feature visual artists

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the album as bare bones as possible with minimal contributions from others. Kinzie's father contributed banjo on one track and Steele's father contributed saxophone on another.

"I think it's important to spend time improving some stuff and maximizing sound while taking away other stuff, so that you have really nice patterns and colors shining," Kenzie said.

The songs are a varied lot, with an intense jazz piece focusing on social justice while another

focused on the first female Canadian trapper, which is a contemplative piece. Another celebrates a local masseuse.

All of the songs were composed after June of 2016, but none are completely new as Kinzie believes that recording a song immediately after composition misses opportunities for improvement.

"There's always little insights you get about an artistic piece blocked from view when it's immediately completed, taking one's time is an approach I find to be very helpful."

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<p>WALLOWA</p> <p>SUNDAYS 7 p.m. Wallowa Assembly of God Church 205 S Alder St.</p>	

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