

# Failed ballot measures make comebacks

(AP) – The looming election season looks to bring a bit of deja vu to anyone who's spent some time voting in Oregon.

In the last three decades voters have decided against legalizing marijuana, building a new casino near Portland and banning gillnet fishing on the Columbia River.

Variations on those ideas are among at least a half-dozen that appear to be on track to qualify for the ballot in November, and their proponents are hoping for a better outcome this time around.

Ballot measure advocates were rushing to collect last-minute signatures and turn in petition sheets to the secretary of state's office before a deadline last Friday.

Elections officials then have until August 5 to verify names and decide which initiatives have enough valid signatures to make it onto the November ballot. So far, only one initiative has been officially certified for the ballot—a measure sought by real estate agents that would prohibit transfer taxes on the sale of property.

Two Lake Oswego businessmen and a Canadian investment firm are trying again with a proposal to build Oregon's first nontribal ca-

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sino, despite a firm rejection at the ballot box just two years.

This time around, the proponents have opened the door to other nontribal casinos, restricted how close they can be to tribal casinos and tweaked the method of sharing gambling earnings with schools.

The casino proposal is actually two measures—a constitutional amendment creating a process of establishing nontribal casinos, and a separate law authorizing the specific casino at the former Multnomah Kennel Club dog track in Wood Village, just east of Portland.

The track is the same site where Bruce Studer, Matt Rossman and Clairvest Investment Group Inc., of Toronto proposed building two years ago.

Despite the similarities, proponents reject compari-

sons to the failed 2010 measure. "This development and its benefits to schools and the economy has never been fully introduced to the voters," said Anna Richter-Taylor, a spokeswoman for the project.

The new casino would be on the edge of the Portland metro area, far closer to Oregon's largest population center than the nearest existing casino, Spirit Mountain, about 40 miles southwest of downtown Portland.

### Gillnets

Another measure is re-emerging after far more time. Opponents of gillnet fishing say they have enough signatures for a ballot measure to ban the practice on the Columbia River. Conservation groups and the sport-fishing industry have tried unsuccessfully to convince the Legislature to outlaw the practice.

Gillnets trap fish by their gills and are used by commercial fishers harvesting hatchery salmon. Critics say the nets are indiscriminate and inevitably kill other fish and wildlife.

"The problem with gillnets is that they not only get targeted hatchery fish, but they also get those threatened and endangered species we're try-

ing to protect," said Eric Stachon, a spokesman for the ballot measure proponents.

Gillnetters warn that the measure would destroy their livelihood and decimate against the commercial fishing industry. Opponents also say the measure would drive gillnetters to the Washington side of the Columbia.

Voters last weighed in on gillnet fishing in 1992, rejecting a measure that would have limited fish harvests on the Lower Columbia to the most selective means possible.

### Legalization

A proposal to legalize marijuana could also make the ballot, more than 25 years after 74 percent of voters rejected the idea in 1986.

Two separate measures have been circulated and both have collected thousands of signatures. But Bob Wolfe, chief petitioner of one proposal, said his signatures are being invalidated at an unexpectedly high rate and his measure probably won't qualify for the ballot.

Paul Stanford, a longtime marijuana legalization advocate who is pushing a separate petition, said his Cannabis Tax Act is on track to qualify, even with a higher-than-usual rejection rate for signatures.

# Births

*Gabriel Henry Stwyer-Hoptowit*

Gerald Hoptowit Jr. and Brandi Jo Stwyer of Warm Springs are pleased to announce the birth of their son Gabriel Henry Stwyer-Hoptowit, born on June 22, 2012.

Gabriel joins brother Jessie, 5.

Grandparents on the father's side are Gerald C. Hoptowit Sr. of Wapato, Wash.; and Deborah J. George of Warm Springs.

Grandparents on the mother's side are Davis Stwyer Sr., and Laura Kelly, both of Warm Springs.

*Kadynce Navaya-Jo Thompson*

Aaron Joseph Thompson and Alexis J'nay Jim of Madras are pleased to announce the birth of their daughter Kadynce Navaya-Jo Thompson, born on June 28, 2012.

Kadynce joins brothers Saige, 6, and Joseph, 2.

*Aden Amor Zarate*

Randy Zarate and LaTonia Smith of Warm Springs are pleased to announce the birth of their son Aden Amor Zarate, born on July 1, 2012.

Aden joins brothers Enso, 2, Carlos, 4, and Ray, 6.

Grandparents on the father's side are Herlinda

Hurecca and Salvador Zarate of Toppenish, Wash.

Grandparents on the mother's side are Rachel Macy and LeRoy Smith Jr., of Warm Springs. Great grandparents are Richard and Vivian Macy and Christine and LeRoy Smith Sr.

*Aidan Francis Jones*

Edward Jones and Madeline Brunoe of Warm Springs are pleased to announce the birth of their son Aidan Francis Jones, born on June 26, 2012.

Aidan joins brothers Ricky, 8, Seth, 6, and Jordon, 5.

Grandparents on the father's side are Allen Jones, and Raydine Spino.

Grandmother on the mother's side is Irene Brunoe.

*Elijah Aaron Gentry*

Antonio Gentry and El Freda Smith of Warm Springs are pleased to announce the birth of their son Elijah Aaron Gentry, born on June 30, 2012.

Elijah joins brothers Louie, 8, and Trevyn, 3.

Grandparents on the father's side are Michelle Gentry, of Gervais; and Antonio Soto, of Mexico.

Grandparents on the mother's side are Katie and Chief Smith of Simnasho.

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# Columbia River deal studied over ecology concerns

(AP) – Regulators are considering changes to the Columbia River Treaty with Canada to account for environmental concerns that weren't addressed a half-century ago.

Policymakers on both sides of the border are considering a rewrite to address concerns over endangered salmon and climate change as well as recreation and irrigation uses of the river.

The 1964 treaty resulted in three dams in British Columbia and the Libby Dam in Montana, boosting hydroelectric power production and reducing the threat of flooding in the river and its tributaries in the Northwest.

"Even though it's not commonly known, the treaty really runs the lives of everyone in the Northwest," said Suzanne Skinner, executive director of the Center for Environmental Law and Policy in Seattle. "It's the fulcrum, or balancing point, for everything we want from the river."

The treaty doesn't have an expiration date, but either country can cancel most of its provisions after September 2024, with a 10-year mini-

mum notice. If the U.S. or Canada wants changes, treaty talks could begin in 2014.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Bonneville Power Administration are reviewing the 20-page treaty in consultation with other federal agencies, the four Northwest states and 15 tribes.

The BPA and corps will make a recommendation to the U.S. State Department by the fall of 2013 that could lead to treaty talks the next year.

"We're trying to determine whether it's in the U.S.'s best interest to continue, modify or terminate the treaty," said Mike Hansen, a BPA spokesman.

In British Columbia, construction of the Duncan, Keenleyside and Mica dams flooded farms and displaced more than 2,000 residents. To compensate, the treaty gives Canada half of the benefit of downstream power production.

"They get a piece of the action," Hansen said, and that energy is valued at \$229 million to \$335 million per year.

Canada's cooperation helped reduce damage during the 1996 floods, which still

*"In 1964, no tribal rights were being enforced..."*

caused \$500 million in property damage in the Northwest, killed eight people in Oregon and came within inches of spilling over Portland's seawalls, Hansen said.

As regulators evaluate the treaty, they'll also look at how fish, wildlife and water quality are affected. Since the treaty was signed, 13 Pacific salmon stocks have received endangered species protection. The tribes want salmon addressed in the treaty.

"In 1964, no tribal rights were being enforced," said Skinner, with the Center for Environmental Law and Policy. "There were few environmental laws and people were still dumping stuff directly into the river."

Climate change also needs to be part of the discussion, she said. A warming climate is melting British Columbia's glaciers, which feed the river's headwaters, and diminishing mountain snowpacks in the Columbia Basin.

### Birthday wishes...

Happy Birthday to my Best Fren (Winnie) aka Winona R. Tohet. Wishing you the best, girlie! Always, your fren. DezjRae D. Boise

Happy 21st birthday, Cariene, from the

"Slumber Party Crew." Have fun!

Happy Birthday to my nephew Triston "Biscuit" Boise on July 23. Have a blast. Love, Desirae D. Boise, Auntie "Taz"

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