

Oregon voters to decide future of state's sanctuary law

By Andrew Selsky

Associated Press

INDEPENDENCE — Delmiro Trevino, a U.S. citizen born in Texas, was waiting for a meal in a restaurant in Independence, Oregon, in 1977 when three sheriff's deputies and a policewoman demanded he show documents proving he was an American.

"I was ashamed. It wasn't right, what they were doing," Trevino, now 67 with gray hair, said in an exclusive interview with The Associated Press.

The incident of racial profiling led to Oregon becoming America's first sanctuary state. But now, Oregonians are deciding in the Nov. 6 election whether to repeal the law, even as some other states, such as Vermont, have adopted sanctuary policies and others, like Texas, have banned towns from approving them.

Measure 105 in Oregon has become the most contentious ballot measure facing voters in the mostly Democratic state.

Rep. Sal Esquivel, one of three Republican state lawmakers who sponsored Measure 105, said states should help enforce federal law.

"Our nation cannot remain sovereign without laws that regulate which foreign nationals come here, when, and in what numbers," Esquivel wrote in the voters' pamphlet.

But among people of color — U.S. citizens and people in the country illegally — it has triggered memories of times when immigration roundups were common and raised fears that they'll be stopped by police.

The measure has split law enforcement.

Sheriff Thomas Bergin of Clatsop County, along Oregon's northern coast, said in a public letter that the sanctuary law "tells illegal immigrants that Oregon considers immigration law violations so inconsequential as to be unworthy of police and sheriffs' attention."

Fifteen sheriffs added their names to the letter. Twenty, including Baker County Sheriff Travis Ash, did not.

Law enforcement officers who oppose the repeal effort, such as Sheriff Pat Garrett of Washington County near Portland, said they need to direct their resources elsewhere instead of going after migrants, and that erasing the sanctuary law would make migrants afraid to report crimes when they're victims or witnesses.

"Throwing out the law would open the door to racial profiling, and would degrade community trust in law enforcement," state Rep. Diego Hernandez, a Portland Democrat, said in an email.

Latinos remember what it was like before the sanctuary law went on the books.

"The culture in the mid-20th century was, 'You can work here, but don't start looking at our girls or going to our churches,'" said Rocky Barilla, the first Latino elected to the Oregon Legislature. "Police were knocking on doors of apartment buildings. They set up roadblocks on Highway 99 and stopped people, especially if they were brown or Latino."

One winter night in 1977, three Polk County deputies and an Independence policewoman went into the Hi-Ho restaurant in the picturesque riverside city and confronted Trevino. Born in Weslaco, Texas, the soft-spoken Trevino had moved to Oregon with his family as a boy. He worked in a plywood mill.

One of the deputies grabbed Trevino by the arm, forcing him to stand as customers looked on. Like most Americans, Trevino didn't routinely carry a birth certificate or other proof of citizenship.

"They asked me if I am an American, and asked me if I had a passport," Trevino recalled.

The officers, acting on behalf of federal immigration agents, let him go after the policewoman said she recognized Trevino as a long-term local. Still, a deputy accosted him later.

Trevino was so bothered that he and his wife Oralia went to a legal aid group.

There, they found Barilla, who suggested Trevino sue the law officers and the Immigration and Naturalization Service. Trevino felt queasy about taking that step.

"I told my wife, I have to be strong because of what I was going to do, because this was the government. It's not a game," Barilla remembered while sitting in his house in Independence on a recent afternoon.

The lawsuit was settled in federal court in 1978, with the immigration service saying it would not encourage local law enforcement to make arrests on immigration violations, Barilla said.

Still, raids persisted in the state. In the 1980s, Barilla was elected to the Legislature, with the Trevino case strong on his mind. It prompted the Democratic representative to write the sanctuary state bill, which passed with bipartisan support in 1987.

"I worked with Republicans, who wanted a stable labor force," Barilla said in a telephone interview from Belmont, California, where he now lives. "The left saw it as an end to racial profiling. Law enforcement saw it as controlling their own goals and funds."

Barilla said Trevino played a key role in the issue.

"He's the real Rosa Parks of the Oregon sanctuary movement," Barilla said.

Former Baker man charged with sodomy

A former Baker City man accused of committing a sex crime against a 12-year-old girl during a June 19 underage drinking party in Baker City was arrested last week in Idaho and brought to the Baker County Jail on Friday.

Zachary Zimmerman, 22, of Meridian, Idaho, is charged with second-degree sodomy, a Class B felony that on conviction has a mandatory minimum prison sentence of 75 months, District Attorney Matt Shirtcliff said.

Zimmerman was scheduled to be arraigned today at 1:15 p.m. in Baker County Circuit Court.

A Baker County grand jury indicted Zimmerman on Aug. 30 on the sodomy charge. He is accused of receiving oral sex from the girl during the party, Shirtcliff said.

Zimmerman had apparently moved to Meridian between the party and his indictment, Shirtcliff said. The district attorney said there is no evidence that Zimmerman moved to avoid arrest.

Police in Idaho stopped Zimmerman on a different matter last week and arrested him on the Baker County warrant. Shirtcliff said police are still investigating the June 19 party, and it's possible at least one other adult will be charged.

COUNCIL

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The city charter allows the Council to meet without a quorum, but councilors can't make any decisions without a quorum.

The agenda for Tuesday's meeting is the same as for Oct. 23 except the discussion about reaffirming an agreement with Baker County regarding the transient lodging tax has been postponed.

Councilors will consider creating a separate fund in the budget for reveue from sales of property the city owns in the Elkhorn View Industrial Park.

According to a report from City Manager Fred Warner Jr., the city could divert revenue from industrial park lane sales into a fund designed for "incentive job creation" and to pay for "capital projects that enhance community development."

The Council earlier this month agreed to sell 1.38 acres at the industrial park for \$22,537 to a Baker City business that sells sewing patterns and apparel fabric.

The city owns 65 acres at the park, which is at the northwest corner of the city.

Tuesday's meeting will be the last before the Nov. 6 election, in which voters will elect at least three new councilors (there are four openings, but incumbent Schiewe is among the 10 candidates on the ballot). Newly elected councilors will be sworn in during the Council's first meeting in January 2019.

NEWS OF RECORD

FUNERALS PENDING

Bill and Veryl Waldron: Memorial service Nov. 10 at 11 a.m. at Pine Valley Presbyterian Church in Halfway. Friends are invited to join the family for a reception immediately following the service at the Halfway Lions Hall. That evening at 8 p.m. a celebration of Bill and Veryl's life continues with live music at Wild Bill's restaurant and lounge in Halfway. Online condolences may be shared at www.tamispinevalleyfuneralhome.com

POLICE LOG

Baker City Police
PROBATION VIOLATION: Elizabeth Donnale Buchanan, 33, 1908 Chestnut St., 1:57 a.m. Sunday in the 1200 block of Court Avenue; jailed.

DISORDERLY CONDUCT: Angela Denis Cookson, 44, 2450 Broadway St., 4:23 p.m. Saturday at Broadway and Fourth streets; jailed.

WARRANT ARREST (Morrow County): Justin Lee Harding, 35, Baker City, 2:15 p.m. Friday in the 2100 block of Second Street; jailed.

Baker County Sheriff's Office

DRIVING WHILE SUSPENDED: William Marcus Bond, 42, Newport, 10:26 p.m. Saturday on Interstate 84, Milepost 329 eastbound; cited and released.

FIRE CHIEF

Continued from Page 1A

Baker City received 17 applications for the chief's job, and a committee interviewed seven candidates. Clark was

one of two finalists who interviewed with Warner. The other was Glen Bahde of Georgia.

Baker City has the council-manager form of government, in which the city manager is responsible for hiring

employees.

The City Council is not involved in personnel matters with one exception — councilors have the authority to hire and fire the city manager.

OBITUARIES

Continued from Page 2A

Mike Hammer

Baker City, 1937-2018

William "Mike" Hammer, 81, of Baker City, died on Oct. 23, 2018, at his home.

Services for Mike will take place in the spring of 2019.

Mike was born on Feb. 21, 1937, at Klamath Falls to William and Helenmarr (Grissom) Hammer. He attended Redmond High School and graduated in 1955. After high school, Mike joined the U.S. Navy and served four years. He went to Oregon State University after he got out of the Navy.

He worked as an air traffic controller

for the Federal Aviation Administration for 28 years until his retirement.

On March 10, 1992, he married Phyllis Bemrose in Reno, Nevada. He enjoyed hunting, fishing, blackpowder firearms, reading, hiking, camping and canoeing. He was a member of Kiwanis, Red Cross, Meals on Wheels, Toastmasters, and Boy Scouts of America. His accomplishments include excelling in his career with the FAA and many years of service to his community in Kiwanis and Boy Scouts of America.

Survivors include his wife, Phyllis Hammer of Baker City; his daughters,



Mike Hammer

Holly Shima of Lincoln, California, and Kristy Holcomb of Redmond; his son, Daniel Hammer of Redmond; his stepdaughter, Melony Baker of Bend; 7 grandchildren and 3 great-great grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his son, Loren Dell Hammer; his mother, Helenmarr Wimp; his father, William H. Hammer Sr.; and his stepmother, Louise Hammer.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to McEwen Missionary Services through Gray's West & Company Pioneer Chapel, 1500 Dewey Ave., Baker City, OR 97814.

To light a candle in memory of Mike, or to leave a condolence for his family, go to www.grayswestco.com

RECOVERY

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Roger said he never quite understood the experience they described.

"I'm one of them now," he said. "It's an odd feeling. Weird."

Roger said he knows, intellectually, what happened to him because so many witnesses told him.

Yet the event still lacks the full sense of reality that comes from a personal memory rather than only hearing others describe their memories.

Even so, Roger said he understands, if not quite completely, how devastating the experience was for some of those witnesses.

One man told him recently that after seeing the horse trample Roger, "I just can't believe you're still here."

Roger himself is convinced he wouldn't be here if not for the efforts of the Baker City Fire Department paramedics, and doctors David Richards and Steven Delashmutt and the staff at Saint Alphonsus in Baker City.

"I want to extend a special thank you to them," he said.

Indeed, Roger said he has

"There's really a lot of supportive people around here and I thank each and every one of them."

— Roger Coles

received "phenomenal" care throughout his ordeal, from the doctors at the Boise hospital where he spent 20 days, to the many therapists — physical, occupational and speech — who have helped him recover since.

He also urges everyone to buy a membership in Life-flight. Roger is glad he did so — the helicopter flight cost almost \$50,000.

"It was an expensive ride and I didn't even get to enjoy it," he said with a rueful laugh.

Roger, who grew up riding horses and has been bucked off many times, said the incident — what he calls a "freak accident" — has not diminished his love for horses or for the bronc and

bull riding events.

He has been the secretary for the organization that puts them on for 11 years, and he plans to remain in that position.

"But my wife says I'm not going back to the gate," Roger said.

Although the effects on his right arm have been the most troublesome physical damage, Roger said he also has lost almost all of his senses of smell and taste.

His neurosurgeon said

that isn't unusual given the severity of Roger's injuries, and the senses might never return.

"I'm a pretty picky eater anyway," Roger said with another laugh.

In the meantime the physical therapy will continue.

Roger said that although he's pleased with the progress he's made, he is also impatient.

"Am I better than I was three weeks ago? Yes. But I

want to be back where I was before the accident. Time's what it's going to take, but I just have that frustration."

He pauses and then repeats that last word, almost as though it is a mantra.

"Frustration."

But the difficult recovery has been made easier, Roger said, by the encouragement of so many people.

"There's really a lot of supportive people around here and I thank each and every one of them," he said.

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Bruce Nichols for Commission Chair

Elect

BRUCE NICHOLS

(R) BAKER COUNTY COMMISSIONER

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