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## Local, state gun initiatives challenged

### Second challenge to state 'assault weapons' ban ballot title

By Claire Withycombe  
Capital Bureau

A second legal challenge was filed Thursday against a certified ballot title for IP 43, a proposed ballot measure that would ban certain types of semi-automatic firearms and large-capacity magazines.

The Oregon state director for the National Rifle Association and the legislative committee chair of the Oregon Hunters' Association say the certified ballot title issued by the Attorney General's Office doesn't comply with state laws on ballot title

language.

It's the second request for Supreme Court review of the controversial ballot title. Another petition was filed Wednesday by an Oregon lobbyist whose clients include the NRA.

Both petitions for review object to the language used in the ballot title. The certified ballot title currently states:

"Prohibits 'assault weapons' (defined), 'large capacity magazines' (defined), unless registered with State Police after background check. Criminal penal-

See *SECOND*, Page A16



EO Media Group file photo  
**An initiative aimed at prohibiting enforcement of laws that restrict gun possession in Grant County has been challenged and awaiting a ruling by Judge William D. Cramer Jr.**

### Grant County firearms initiative challenged

#### Signature gathering on hold until ruling

By Richard Hanners  
Blue Mountain Eagle

An initiative aimed at prohibiting enforcement of laws that restrict gun possession in Grant County has been challenged and is awaiting a ruling by Grant County Circuit Court Judge William D. Cramer Jr.

In the meantime, Ron Rue of Prairie City, who submitted Measure 12-72 to Grant

County Clerk Brenda Percy on May 3, has not been authorized to begin gathering signatures, Percy told the Eagle.

According to the summary provided by the Grant County District Attorney's Office, Rue's Second Amendment preservation ordinance, if approved by voters, would make unconstitutional in Grant County "any law or regulation that restricts a person from possessing firearms, ammunition and firearms accessories" and "would require the Grant County sheriff to review federal, state and local laws affecting firearms, firearms accessories and/or am-

munition."

The initiative also provides for a fine of up to \$2,000 for an individual or \$4,000 for a corporation for those who violate the measure.

A petition challenging Percy's determination that Measure 12-72 should be placed on the ballot was submitted by Mark Webb of Mt. Vernon on May 14. Webb maintains that "given the scope of its subject matter," Rue's initiative "goes well beyond the matters of county concern" allowed under the state's initiative process.

See *FIREARMS*, Page A16



### New technologies highlighted at Mass Timber Rising Summit

By Phil Wright  
EO Media Group

**B**ill Gamble stood before the crowd Thursday in the Sandbox and touted the work to restore its health.

The Sandbox Vegetation Management Project encompassed 16,000 acres in the Blue Mountains near Union in the Upper Catherine Creek Watershed. Gamble is the U.S. Forest Service ranger for the La Grande District. He oversaw the work that resulted in a more open and natural forest while selling 16 million board feet of timber. The project wrapped up in 2015.

The crowd was a couple dozen academics, forest managers and industry insiders who were attending the Mass Timber Rising Summit in La Grande. The Sandbox, Gamble said, is an example of good, smart work to keep the forest healthy. Around 1.2 million acres of the Blue Mountains needs some kind of restoration, he said.

That includes thinning and timber sales, which the mass timber industry wants and needs.

Mass timber is about engineering load-bearing structures of wood and using those to build big, such as Framework, the 12-story high rise going up in Portland this fall. Nearly all of the building is wood in one form or another, including cross-laminated timber, or CLT, which

See *TIMBER*, Page A16

EO Media Group photos/E.J. Harris  
Participants walk through a cleared section of forest while on a tour during the Mass Timber Rising Summit north of Union. LEFT: Associate professor Lech Muszynski talks about the benefits fires can have on a forest ecosystem.

### Timber Innovation Act gains backing in Senate

#### Bill would aid development of mass timber for construction

By George Plaven  
EO Media Group

A bipartisan group of U.S. senators secured the inclusion of most of the provisions from the Timber Innovation Act in the 2018 Farm Bill proposed by the Senate.

In a letter to Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Chairman Pat Roberts, R-Kansas, and ranking member Debbie Stabenow, D-Michigan, the senators pushed for the proposal to promote mass timber

products such as cross-laminated timber panels used in building construction. The committee will review the bill today.

The included provisions would establish a new research and development program under the USDA for mass timber. U.S. building codes currently do not recognize mass timber as official construction materials, leaving the products without a standard rating system for fire and earthquake

See *ACT*, Page A16



EO Media Group file photo  
**A worker guides a glulam beam into place Oct. 3, 2017, during construction of the First Tech Credit Union headquarters building in Hillsboro.**

## SHOCK COLLARS FOR WOLVES?

### Joseph teens' invention getting noticed

By Steve Tool  
EO Media Group

While ranchers, government employees and environmentalists argue about the best way to manage the state's wolf population, two students from Joseph Charter School are proposing their own solution.

The two eighth-graders, Ian Goodrich and Corin Armentrout, think a territory-boundary collar would do the trick.

The boys are students in teacher Tim Bombasci's Joseph Middle School science class, which spent time in a "Real World Problems" unit.



Ian Goodrich

Although neither lives on a ranch or raises cattle, they said they both knew the problem was a concern to local livestock operators.

So the 14-year-olds are working to develop a collar that gently punishes wolves when they move too near livestock through the use of either modest electric shock or emitting high-pitched signals that wolves eschew.

"Our original idea was to



Corin Armentrout

would give it a shock and hopefully stop it from getting at cattle," Armentrout said.

The two said transmitters could be installed on fence lines every 2 miles or so. They built a prototype of the devices but did not have access to a GPS at the start, a problem they lat-

er solved. Battery life is also a challenge.

The boys have also floated the idea of installing a solar panel on the collar.

County extension agent John Williams talked to the two about their project after a classroom presentation.

"I think it's an interesting idea, and I'm glad to see young people thinking," he said.

Williams noted that others have unsuccessfully bandied the idea about for some time. It's even been tried on cattle to keep them from grazing in riparian areas, but the weight of the device proved prohibitive.

"The methodology of their (the boys') thinking is ingenious, and that's where solutions are found," he said. "I applaud them for their presentation, which was well thought out. I appreciate what they're doing and the school for helping them think outside the box."

The two said Williams had a number of good ideas for contacts and examples of ideas already tried by others along with suggested improvements.

Further talks with a technical expert on the subject elicited suggestions of different parts

See *COLLAR*, Page A16

