

Guns

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That provision would impact sales of AR-15-style rifles, a popular class of firearm produced by multiple manufacturers. Many AR-15 models come standard with 30-round magazines.

High-capacity magazines that were purchased prior to the effective date of the bill will be exempted from the ban, according to Section 11(5)(a).

Also exempted from the ban are large-capacity magazines that have been permanently altered to hold no more than 10 rounds. Attached tubular ammunition-feeding devices on .22-caliber rimfire rifles and lever-action firearms are also not restricted to 10 rounds, according to Section 11(1), (A), (B) and (C) of the measure.

Penalties for failing to follow the guidelines set forth in Measure 114 vary from a Class A misdemeanor to Class B and C felonies for repeat offenses.

Hoping to save lives

The Rev. Mark Knutson, pastor of Augustana Lutheran Church in Portland, was one of the leading advocates behind Measure 114.

Knutson is a member of Lift Every Voice, an interfaith group seeking to reduce gun violence. The group arose following the deadly Pulse nightclub shooting in 2016 in Orlando, Florida, which led to the deaths of 46 people.

The work of crafting the measure

began with a group of around 60 individuals from across the state, according to Knutson. The group looked across the nation for gun measures that work and that have stood up to constitutional challenges.

The “legislative team,” a collection of retired lawyers and others with specialized skills selected from the larger group, wrote the Oregon measure.

“They crafted it from some of the best things around the country,” Knutson said.

Knutson has heard the constitutional concerns surrounding the measure and wants to assure people that the main objective in crafting the bill was to improve public safety and not to restrict people’s rights.

“Everything in this bill is proven to save lives. That’s what this is all about,” he said.

“It’s not meant to take anybody’s gun away,” he added. “Nobody is going to have their guns taken away. If you already own large-capacity magazines, you keep them.”

Knutson also noted that the purchase permit program in the measure is modeled after the state concealed weapons permit program, which is already in use.

When asked about the concerns rural law enforcement agencies have that implementing the measure will further strain their already limited resources, Knutson said he and his group will work with local sheriff’s offices to make sure they have the capacity to make the system work.

“We would never want to see the sheriff sitting there without the resources they need to do it properly and do it well and not put others at risk,” he said.

Knutson stressed that he doesn’t see the passage of Measure 114 as a victory over the gun lobby but rather a victory for the youth and future of Oregon. At the core of Lift Every Voice’s decision to take action was a religious obligation, he said.

Because love is at the core of every religious discipline in the world, Knutson thinks that love should guide the decisions of those who practice their faith. “If you love your neighbor, but your neighbor is being hurt or harmed, you need to do something,” he said.

Bad for business

The Outdoorsman, an outfitter’s shop in Ontario, has been selling firearms for over 80 years. Owner Julie Clark and managers Ron Smallwood and Jeremiah Hartman say Measure 114 is a poorly conceived law that will strip Oregonians of fundamental rights and could put retailers like them out of business.

“I think there’s a lot of stupid people out there who vote away their constitutional rights,” Smallwood said. “With the permits that are being required for firearms and nothing set up for them to issue permits at this time, (the new law) is basically going to shut down firearms sales.”

All three are in agreement that Measure 114 won’t make a difference in

combating gun violence and will only make it harder for law-abiding citizens to defend themselves against criminals, who don’t care what the law does or does not say.

The Outdoorsman sells everything you would need for your firearm, including magazines which hold more than the 10 rounds allowed by the measure. The passage of 114 means that those magazines and potentially other firearm sale operations will have to move across the Snake River into Idaho, where gun laws are less restrictive.

The Outdoorsman has been a fixture in Ontario’s business scene for decades. Despite that, Hartman said the business may have to move to Idaho to keep its doors open.

“They’re leaving us no choice. We pretty much have to move to Idaho for the survival of our business,” Hartman said.

The group said there have been a lot of threats to their business model over the years, but Measure 114 represents the most significant one that they can remember.

Caught in the middle

Grant County Sheriff Todd McKinley said he doesn’t believe the law is constitutionally valid but that his office would use its discretion in deciding how to enforce it.

Concerns are numerous for McKinley. His office would have to implement a database for all the purchase permits and square up all the logistics to provide live fire training to all poten-

tial gun owners in the county — something McKinley doesn’t think he has the resources to accomplish.

“There are 7,100 citizens in the county,” the sheriff said. “If half of them want to get their permit, that’s 3,500 people. That’s a lot of people to train to get permits in a short amount of time so they can go exercise their constitutional rights. It’s going to be expensive, and we do not have the funding to do that.”

Aside from the financial concerns, McKinley said he has constitutional concerns with the bill as well. “I feel it is completely unconstitutional, because it actually enacts basically Nazi Germany-type gun registration,” he said.

The stated goal of the measure misses the mark, added McKinley, who doesn’t see criminals following any type of gun regulations in their pursuit to obtain firearms.

“It’s a useless measure,” he said. “It did nothing but enable an element, and this one is just criminalizing people further than are otherwise law-abiding.”

Despite those concerns, McKinley said his office will have to comply with the permit process so Grant County citizens can exercise their constitutional rights to keep and bear arms.

“We are not in favor of it at all, my office isn’t, but in order to keep people’s constitutional rights alive to be able to purchase firearms if the permit process comes about, that’s what we have to do,” he said. “We’re going to have to do it. I may have to pull staff off of patrol to help assist in that process, which will further make us short-handed.”

Escape

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wrestling with that, with the idea of escape. Should we escape? Should we not?” Korver said.

In December 2021, after more than 60 days under guard, the group began to reevaluate the notion of an escape.

“Different things had happened leading up to that point. After some things we’d seen we were pretty sure these gangsters didn’t have our best interests in mind,” Korver said.

She said many members of the group were “feeling like maybe God wants us to step out and try to escape.”

Korver said others were not so sure.

“There were definitely some others who did not feel good about it yet,” she said.

Planning an escape

In December, one member of the group — a man named Wes — decided to test the level of security around the house and small yard, Korver said.

“One of the young men decided, ‘I am going to try to go into the bushes,’” she said.

A 4- to 5-foot-tall viney plant formed a fence-like hedge



Melodi Korver/Contributed Photo
Melodi Korver, her husband, Ryan, and their two children, center, pose with the eight other hostages for a photo on Dec. 16, 2021, shortly after returning to the Haitian mission following their escape after 62 days in captivity.

around most of the small yard, and an outhouse with an open back faced the bushes.

Wes pretended he needed to use the outhouse and then slipped out the back.

“The guards never noticed he was missing,” Korver said. “They weren’t keeping an eagle eye on all of us all of the time.”

The group had developed a prearranged signal to let Wes know when it was safe for him to come back into the yard.

“We could see a footpath going past on the north edge of the compound,” Korver said.

“And there was a big mango tree, maybe 20 feet away. And so we knew if we could get out of the compound and out to that

mango tree and that footpath, well, you’d be on the main path then at least.”

Meanwhile, Korver’s husband was praying.

“He said, ‘God, if you don’t want us to escape, send Wes out of those bushes just all discouraged about it,’” she said.

When Wes came out of the bushes at the prearranged signal “he just had this silly grin on his face,” she said. “He was like, ‘Guys, we can do this.’”

Korver said her husband felt God say, “This is what I want you to do.”

“It just felt very, very clear to him that God was saying, ‘You need to take your family and leave this place,’” she said.



Melodi Korver/Contributed Photo
Melodi Korver’s daughter, Laura, is held by a friend of the family, Edithe Clergy, in Haiti in 2021.

The hostages had fallen into a routine over the months.

“In the morning and then at 1 p.m. and then in the evening before we went to bed, we’d gather and all sing, pray, and just have a sharing time together,” she said.

At the 1 p.m. session, Ryan Korver told the group he felt he “had clearance to go.”

One man, who had been opposed to an escape attempt, said Wes’ jaunt into the bushes showed him it was time to go.

“And just like that everyone was on board. Everyone was united,” Korver said.

Getting away

On Dec. 15, at about 3 a.m. the group made their escape bid. They walked out of the yard, down the trail and hiked more than 10 miles.

They were in jungle, it was night, and they were clearly not Haitians. So many things could have gone wrong.

As they walked, they did not encounter any other people.

“I felt so strongly that God was in this. Even the fact we had hiked pretty much 10 miles without meeting anybody,” Korver said.

They walked until they reached a main highway at about 8 a.m. Then they met a Haitian man who had a cellphone.

The group called the mission and immediately someone was on the way to pick them up. Korver said in her mind there is no doubt God intervened that night.

“It’s a miracle. If you’ve been in Haiti, it’s so full of people. And that no dog came out and barked. There were three guards sitting in the yard who were on their phones. We just prayed that God would blind their eyes and their ears,” she said.

After they were picked up and brought back to the mission, the FBI flew the group to the United States.

“The FBI had been heavily involved pretty much from day one,” Korver said, adding while they were in captivity, the group noticed from time to time a plane circled nearby throughout the day.

The FBI never confirmed the plane was searching for the hostages, but Korver said she is sure it played a role.

Korver said she felt the presence of her young children helped with the kidnapers.

“They would bring special treats for the children,” she said. “They would sometimes bring them bananas and mangos.”

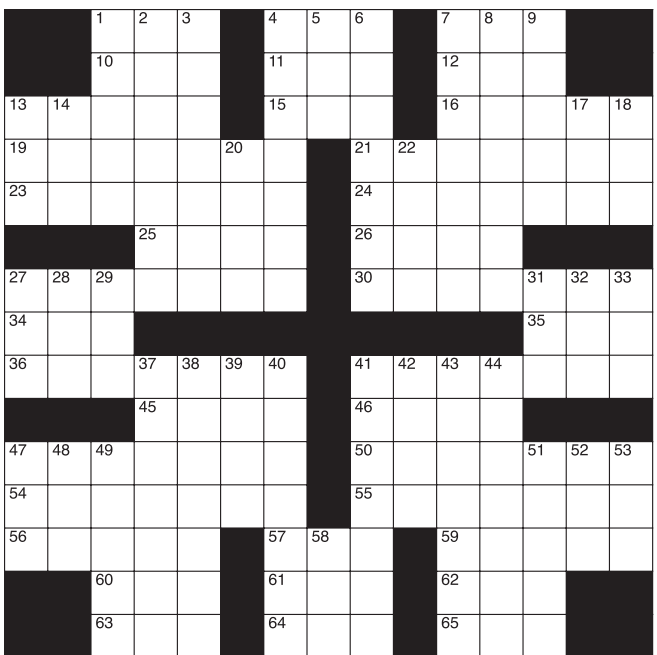
Korver said the children seemed to believe they were on some “weird camping trip.”

“I do not feel like they are traumatized by the whole thing,” she said. “It’s just something that happened.”

God, she said, also played a role in protecting the group from sexual assault and other trials.

Korver said she feels that while their story is important — especially the group’s reliance on faith — many Haitians are kidnapped on a regular basis but their stories are never heard.

“Because we were Americans, it was all over the news,” she said. “There’s probably several hundred Haitians kidnapped right now and they never make the news.”



- CLUES ACROSS**
- Single Lens Reflex
 - People of southern Benin
 - One who is learned (abbr.)
 - Neckwear
 - Solid water
 - A way to work the soil
 - Inspiring
 - Pick up
 - It wakes you up
 - Parcel
 - Popular dog breed
 - Lets out a sigh
 - Embedded into the surface
 - Hard liquors
 - One from Scotland
 - Satisfy
 - Used to introduce a contrasting statement
 - Antidepressant drug type (abbr.)
 - Similar
 - Winged horse
 - Soft drink maker
 - One who doesn’t live up to expectations
 - Nursemaid
 - Inheritor
 - Hot, often dusty wind
 - Serves as an introduction
 - Earned top billing
 - Mansion
 - A partner to a carrot
 - War-horse
 - Midway between northeast and east
 - It checks the heartbeat
 - Aquatic salamander
 - CNN’s founder
 - Being precisely suitable and right
 - Strongly alkaline solution
- CLUES DOWN**
- Pinocle trick
 - A system of connections
 - Emblems of royalty
 - Work with a soft hand
 - Plant cultivated in Peru
 - A timid man
 - Lacking intellectual depth
 - A way to order
 - Intoxicating
 - Mimic
 - Surfers use it
 - Small Eurasian deer
 - Popular Miller beer
 - Finds out about
 - Unusual
 - Small European viper
 - Indicates before
 - Birth swine
 31. 7
 - Useful keyboard key
 - Letter of the Greek alphabet
 - Edible mollusk
 - Stitched up
 - Utilized
 - ___ in tradition
 - A way to get through
 - Let off
 - Fashionable source of shade
 - In due time
 - Printing speed
 - A major division of geological time
 - Nocturnal, cat-like mammal
 - ___ de la ___
 - After B
 - Unusual
 - Former money of the EU

WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to adoption.

YPLAP

Guess Who?

I am an actor born in Missouri on November 29, 1964. I appeared in such TV series as “Fame” and “L.A. Law” before moving on to films. I won an Academy Award in 2004. In recent years, I joined the Marvel Universe opposite Robert Downey, Jr.

CRYPTO FUN

Determine the code to reveal the answer!

Solve the code to discover words related to adoption. Each number corresponds to a letter. (Hint: 10 = A)

A. 15 11 20 14 4
Clue: Youngster

B. 26 13 10 18 4 20 10 6
Clue: One who protects

C. 10 4 2 17 24
Clue: Take in to care for

D. 5 10 23 20 14 12
Clue: Group of united persons



Puzzle solutions can be found in today’s classifieds

SUDOKU

5								9		
9	1					4				8
6						2	3			
		7	8			3				
						7	1			6
							6	4		2
						1				9
8		4	3							

Level: Intermediate

Fun By The Numbers
Like puzzles? Then you’ll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

ADOPTION WORD SEARCH

F I N A L I Z E D A O C H I L D R E N D
L T K G F O S T E R Z Q A L D C A P A Y
S S Z Z K E T Z D B H T N M C Z K D D
R H O M E S T U D Y V B A T T O R N E Y
A S F D E L A E S P U V O S I S P N B Z
L N V H M V K P R O S P E C T I V E O Z
C O N F I D E N T I A L I T Y K Q R A M
N H G B B I Z L I C E N S E D H Y P I S S
T R I A D V Z D T H M K N Q H A D S S T
F U G P Q A C O N S U L T A N T Z K I S
L O H B H P L A C E M E N T S G V I S Q
B P L N O R G A N I Z A T I O N S N T O
L E I S M A P K Y H R E I S S O D S A T
A N S B I R T H P A R E N T B A O H N A
G L C P I V C L O S E D O P H C P I C F
E B R F K T I D O Y N D K V O H S P E K
N O I T P O D A D I R V F Q O F E O B B
C T N E M H S I U Q N I L E R U C V T M
Y R S B U B A O T P G N I N E E R C S Q
R N C Z N O I T U L O N S I N D L F M C E

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards.

WORDS

ADOPTION	CLOSED	FOSTER	PLACEMENTS
AGENCY	CONFIDENTIALITY	HOME STUDY	PROSPECTIVE
ASSISTANCE	CONSULTANT	KINSHIP	RELINQUISHMENT
ATTORNEY	DISSOLUTION	LICENSED	SCREENING
BIRTH PARENT	DOSSIER	OPEN	SEALED
CHILDREN	FINALIZED	ORGANIZATIONS	TRIAD