

CITY/REGION

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SECTION B

Smith: Anti-gay bias can be OK

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■ **Senate race:** "Religious reasons" are valid for a landlord to keep out gays, the candidate says.

By HARRY ESTEVE
The Register-Guard

PORTLAND — Republican U.S. Senate candidate Gordon Smith said Friday that he believes it is OK in some circumstances to discriminate against homosexuals.

At a news conference at his campaign headquarters, Smith was asked whether it is all right for a landlord

to refuse to rent an apartment to a gay person simply because the person is gay.

"There may be circumstances where someone for religious reasons would not want to" rent to a gay person, "and I would not want to compel them to do so," Smith said.

The statement is the furthest Smith has gone to define his views

on gay rights.

In past interviews, Smith has said he doesn't like to see homosexuality promoted, but that he has no desire to persecute gays.

Democratic candidate Ron Wyden and representatives of the gay community were quick to condemn Smith's comments.

"That sounds like he's giving the green light to people who discriminate," Wyden told reporters in Salem after a speech to local labor groups. Smith "would be willing to allow discrimination against those who are

gay with respect to housing," Wyden said.

Margaret Butler, co-director of the Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Alliance at the University of Oregon, said, "it's disappointing that Smith is unaware that freedom of religion is limited when that freedom hurts another group of people."

"Discrimination against any group of people is clearly detrimental to America and quite un-American," Butler said.

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criminal trespass. Each remained in the Douglas County Jail in Roseburg on Friday night in lieu of \$35,000 security.

The three bull elk were part of a large herd that frequently grazes along Highway 38, five miles east of Reedsport. The area where the killing occurred is in full view of a wildlife viewing wayside.

A poacher or poachers took the head and hindquarter of the largest of the animals, believed to be about a six-point bull. The rest of the bull and all of a three-point and four-point bull were left on the ground.

Sgt. Stephen Ross of the Coos Bay state police office said the arrests resulted from "the overwhelming support provided by the community of Reedsport and concerned citizens throughout the state who took the time to call and provide information."

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Gay rights has become an issue in the campaign because of the highly publicized endorsement of Smith by the Oregon Citizens Alliance, a group that opposes civil rights protections for homosexuals.

The reason Smith summoned reporters to his Lake Oswego campaign office was to release two new attack ads against Wyden he has begun airing on TV.

One ad goes after Wyden for claiming he wants to protect Medicare programs, while having voted on six different occasions to make cuts in Medicare funding.

The other accuses Wyden of "lying" in one of his campaign ads, which highlights Smith's association with the OCA. Wyden's ad states:

"Gordon Smith has been endorsed by the Oregon Citizens Alliance. And Gordon Smith has voted with the OCA in support of their radical agenda."

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On one trip between the jail and courthouse, Gill said Hayward told him he wanted to spray the deputy in the face with a large dose of LSD.

"He said, 'I'd like to see you fried. I'd like to see you tweak. I think that would be cool,'" Gill testified.

Hayward's father, James Hayward of Prineville, testified that he was generally absent during his son's formative years.

"I'm guilty of that," said Hay-

Smith defended calling Wyden a liar.

"I believe the ad is untruthful," Smith said. "I believe it bears false witness."

At the news conference, Smith restated his opposition to OCA-backed anti-gay rights initiatives. But he does not plan to reject the OCA's endorsement.

"You sign on to my agenda. I don't sign on to your agenda," Smith said about groups that endorse him.

Wyden said Smith should distance himself from the OCA by refusing its endorsement.

"If he wanted to, he could have said, 'Look, I don't want your endorsement,'" Wyden said. "If the OCA had come to me, I would have been very blunt, I would have been very straightforward. I would have said I do not want your endorsement."

ticularly rancorous.

Although he suspected his son used drugs, Hayward said he "didn't really discuss it" other than to demand that no drugs be brought into his house. After Michael Hayward admitted using LSD, James Hayward said the boy promised never to do it again.

He said the boy never suffered physical abuse in the home and never threatened others.

"He got maybe three spankings in his whole life," James Hayward

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