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Motor Voter increasing registration

□ New law allows voters to register when they renew their driver's license

By Hope Neelson
Emerald Reporter

There's a new way to register to vote in Eugene, and the program has almost tripled the number of registered voters in Lane County.

The program is called Motor Voter. Under this three-month-old law, potential voters can fill out and leave their registration cards at any of the seven Department of Motor Vehicles in Eugene.

The plan is designed to make voter registration easy by allowing Oregon residents to register, or re-register, to vote while applying for or renewing driver licenses and state identification cards.

So far the results have been positive.

The Lane County clerical supervisor in elections, Cheryl Betschart, said the number of voter registration cards received each day has jumped from 78 cards a day to 218 cards.

Betschart said she thinks the convenience of the Motor Voter program caused the increase.

"When people are changing their drivers licenses, the question is right there if they want to re-register now or for the first time," she said.

It encourages people to register when before they had to mail in their registration, Betschart said.

Before the law passed, voter registration cards could be picked up at the post office and mailed in. But the new law now gives the DMV authorization to accept the cards and forward them to the state Elections Division.

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Raising family between classes tough

□ Student parents get creative, often juggling school, jobs and children to make it through college

By Karen Engels
Emerald Reporter

Cheryl Zevenbergen, 21, is in the "home stretch." She plans to graduate in June and wouldn't miss the pomp and circumstance of the ceremonies for anything. Neither would her 5-year-old daughter, Amy Christine, who will also be there to cheer mom on.

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Zevenbergen, a senior in psychology, is one of many student parents who often go unrecognized by their University classmates.

"People are surprised when they find out I have a 5-year-old," Zevenbergen said, adding that she sometimes feels older than her 21 years.

"I'm determined to finish. I don't want to be one of those statistics — a typical teen-age mom. I have to finish for this child," Zevenbergen said, gesturing toward Amy, a blue-eyed bundle of chatter busy coloring a drawing.

Zevenbergen is far from a "typical teen-age mom." She is completing her bachelor's degree in four years and has managed to minor in geology and accumulate a 3.84 GPA in the process. She doesn't take all the credit, however.

"I don't think I could have done this so easily or so fast without my mom," Zevenbergen said.

Her mother, Linda, has run a day care center in Springfield since Zevenbergen was in seventh grade. Until Amy began kindergarten this fall, she stayed with her grandmother while her mom attended classes.

For the first few years of college, "mom" was able to have a day off from classes every week to spend time with Amy. This year she has classes every



Photo by Jeff Paslay

Student parent Cheryl Zevenbergen, 21, and daughter, Amy Christine, 5, will celebrate graduation together in June.

day but is home by 1:30.

Zevenbergen said the hardest term was her first, with adjustments to college and two weeks of illness. She soon got into the swing, but "I still get a little nervous before each term," she said. Amy picks up on her mother's stress, especially during finals, Zevenbergen said.

Zevenbergen's student-parent path to a college degree began sooner than most of her University parent peers. When she had Amy between her sophomore and junior years at Springfield High

School, she said she never doubted she would finish her education. She held true to her self-promise.

Not only did she graduate on schedule, but she was class salutatorian with a 3.96 GPA and academic scholarships, which have helped sustain her through college along with financial aid and a part-time job at Fabricland.

She hopes to continue her education in elementary education but for now is looking toward June. "I'm looking for-

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OBSESSED

Eating disorders still prevail among college-age women.

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HOOTS OF PROTEST

An administrative law judge let the EPA drop out of the "God Squad" hearings over the northern spotted owl Wednesday.

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OPENER

Pac-10 hoops debut tonight when Oregon men face Cal at Mac Court.

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Speech to give better look at Soviet issues

□ Geography Professor Ron Wixman will explain how they've been affected by the rapid-fire changes in the region

By Carrie Dennett
Emerald Associate Editor

Almost nightly, the news shows pictures of a rapidly changing Soviet Union, but often it fails to explain how the lives of Soviet citizens are being changed.

Tonight from 7:30 to 9:30, Geography Professor Ron Wixman will provide a deeper understanding of the changing Soviet scene in "Restructuring of the USSR: Why and How," a public lecture and slide show that will be held in 100 Willamette.

He's been going to the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe since he was 17, and over the course of his 22 trips there, he has developed a strong interest in the region's many ethno-cultural differences.

He has not traveled to the Soviet Union — now called the Commonwealth — since the restructuring, although he was supposed to be there at the time the coup happened.

Wixman received his masters degree from Columbia University, where he studied Soviet national problems and the geography of the Soviet Union. He took up more in-depth studies in these areas to earn his Ph.D. from University of Chicago.

With two books on the Soviet Union under his belt, he is now writing a textbook on the geography of the

pre-restructured Soviet Union.

Wixman said he is giving his talk because of the number of requests he has received to talk to different groups about the restructuring.

One topic he will address is media coverage of the restructuring.

"The American media is covering incidents, not issues," he said.

Wixman said the media's tendency to show the Soviet people standing in line for food or rioting is no more an accurate depiction of their lives than scenes of homicides and homelessness are of American life.

"The media is not treating the issues of why the Gorbachev reforms failed, and why it is being restructured the way it is," he said.

Wixman said most "experts" on the Soviet Union spend their time in Moscow institutes talking with academicians. He went out to villages, factories and rural areas throughout the Soviet Union.

All of his contacts are the Soviet people. "That is why I am able to have a finger on what the Soviet public really wants," he said.

"As a geographer, what has interested me is the political territorial aspects of change, not the change in party politics," he said.

In the United States, he said, most political scientists study changes in Moscow politics, not economic, geographical and cultural changes in the rest of the Soviet Union.

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