

Salem Report

By State Representative Brad Witt



As we all know, Oregon has a history of “firsts”: First with a bottle bill; first with a beach bill; first to fully implement vote-by-mail; first to require real

estate licensure, etc. Next week, we will consider another first: HB 3521 directs all designated voter registration agencies to provide the Secretary of State with age, residence and citizenship data, and the digital signature of each person who meets the qualifications set by secretary rule. If this bill passes, we will be the first state in the nation to make voter registration nearly automatic for most of the population, unless individual citizens opt to exclude themselves.

What is a designated voter registration agency? This is any agency that is already qualified, such as a state or county election office, DMV, etc. Added to these will be any agency that:

- Records and stores digital copies of signatures
- Collects age and residence data
- Processes citizenship documentation

Within 14 days after the citizen

fills out these forms, they will be provided the opportunity to opt out if they truly do not wish to vote. It is our sincere hope that few people will do so, and that increasing the convenience quotient will also increase voter participation. Typically, less than 60% take the time to vote. If we are truly serious about having a robust democracy, then we have to try every conceivable method to encourage every eligible vote!

Two bills that were heard in my committees this week included: SB 836 (Business & Labor); and SCR 14 (Ag & Natural Resources):

SB 836: This bill would fix an unintended consequence of previous legislation. Under current Oregon statute makeup artists, like those who work in the film and television industries, are required to be licensed by the Oregon Board of Cosmetology. Oregon is the only state in the nation that has this requirement. Those in favor of the bill stressed the differences between makeup artists and beauticians: that makeup artists work for entertainment and not aesthetics; that makeup artists do not work on the general public; and that the person being made up does not pay the artists, a production company does.

Significantly, over 15 major movies and television shows have been shot or partially shot in District 31, from Sauvie Island, Banks and Hillsboro near

the Metro area to Clatskanie, Rainier and Vernonia. Each of these has been an economic boon to our local economies. To the extent that the Legislature can continue to be hospitable to the studio industry, our communities and state will continue to benefit.

SCR 14: Makes Oregonite and Josephinite the official twin state minerals of Oregon. We heard testimony regarding the importance of promoting education through the earth sciences. Here are some interesting facts: 1. In 1965, California became the first state to have an official rock, mineral or gem stone. 2. In that same year the Oregon Senate passed a measure making the thunder egg our official state rock. 3. Since that time, 22 states now have an official mineral. 4. No other state holds the honor or privilege of having a mineral named after itself or a location within the state. 5. For that matter, no other state has a twin mineral. 6. Oregonite and Josephinite, so closely tied chemically to rocks from outer space, bravely represent our voyage into the 21st Century and into the exploration of frontiers beyond Earth. 7. Always at the forefront, in the pioneer spirit of our people, Oregon will have the honor of being the first state with namesake minerals, and twins at that. I would like to think that this reflects our ability to do everything twice as well as other states!

are the fourth leading cause of death and a leading cause of adult disability in America, we need to pay more attention to prevention. Dr. Alan Bates, a State Senator and physician from Ashland, introduced SB 375A, which establishes a ten-member Stroke Care Committee in the Oregon Health Authority to analyze stroke data and to develop a plan for continuous improvements in the quality of stroke care.

Strokes can be a devastating event. Many of us have family and friends that have been affected. Much has been learned over the last couple of decades about ways to prevent stroke, how to identify the signs and then to act FAST. This simple acronym, FAST, will remind us what to do if either we or someone we encounter is having a stroke:

F – Face Drooping: Does one side of the face droop or is it numb?

A – Arm Weakness: Is one arm weak or numb?

S – Speech Difficulty: Is speech slurred, are they unable to speak/hard to understand?

T – Time to call 911: If the person shows any of these symptoms, call 911 immediately!

As with a heart attack, every moment counts. Hopefully, the data collected by this special committee will assist our health care providers and state agencies to develop better, more effective programs for all Oregonians.

Please enjoy the pictures that follow and thanks for taking the time to read my newsletter...have a great weekend!

I thought I would take a moment to raise everyone’s awareness about the fact that May is American Stroke Month. It is estimated that 80% of strokes are preventable, and since they

Local Author Publishes Novel - Reception May 24 *continued from page 12*

forced to make choices about who they are and what they stand for, choices that define them.

In Taran Leigh, the dragons that once flew freely over the land are imprisoned in the stone cells of the lair, exploited by men whose path to wealth depends on the destruction of ties that bind the village. Treasa dreams with the captive dragons, both terrified of their fury and stung by their longing for a sliver of blue sky. Her visions bring glimpses of her own unknown past and hints of a future catching up with her, clues to her myth and the secrets hidden by a mother who has grieved her whole life.

The lair’s riders sense the dragons’ increasing savagery, yet Conall longs to fly, to grasp their power, subdue them and soar. He is blind to

his own brutality, until a curved talon rends his flesh and dragon scale, and the World shifts. Treasa and Conall discover they have no choice but to fight for the dragons’ freedom.

The intended audience for Myths of the Mirror is teens and adults with minimal violence and one delicately-handled sexual encounter, a bit of romance, magic and philosophy, mystical dragons and a host of endearing characters.

The book was released in May and is available through Amazon, Barnes & Noble, and, of course, Made in Vernonia. A copy should be available on Vernonia library shelves soon. Peach has four more completed books in the publisher’s hands and is tapping away on her fifth. Browse previews of all her books at www.mythsofthemirror.com.

Coastal Mountain Sport Haus

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and elk often wonder around the property. A bobcat even stopped by one day for some guests.

The Crinklaws have eight head of cattle on the property, which seem to be a real favorite of their guests. “Our cows are real friendly and very approachable and so people like to visit with them,” says Crinklaw. “People find them very relaxing.” The cattle are a specialty breed of beef cattle, Piedmontese, one of the oldest breeds in the world. Any beef the inn serves their guests comes from their own cattle.

Coastal Mountain Sport Haus is a full service inn, serving breakfast, lunch and dinner to their guests. Crinklaw says she is happy to pack to-go lunches for those heading out on day excursions. Crinklaw says she tries to source her produce and other food items locally as much as possible.

The inn is appointed with hardwood maple trim, cedar siding, slate tile floors, and black walnut counters in the shower rooms. Built with large timber beams, it feels like a lodge. Crinklaw

points out that there are no clocks anywhere at the Sport Haus. “We want people to forget about time when they come out here,” she says. “It’s amazing to watch the transformation of people from when they arrive for a weekend to when they leave on Sunday.”

Four bedrooms with half baths allow for eight guest to stay very comfortably. Two rooms have California King Beds, two have a pair of single beds. A media room with a large screen television gives guests a place to relax and be entertained.

“Each season the natural environment presents special moments and experiences for our guests, and it is a joy to be able to share these events with our visitors while they are here,” says Crinklaw.

The Coastal Mountain Sport Haus is located at 66845 Nehalem Hwy. North, Vernonia Oregon. Visit their website www.coastalmountain-sporthaus.com or you can also visit their Facebook page.

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