



for kids  
by kids



South End - The House of Mystery at the Oregon Vortex in Gold Hill, Ore.

## It's on the books

### Oregon's crazy laws



- It is against the rules to empty a can of corn as bait into the water while fishing.
- In Salem, it is illegal to fly a kite with wire or tinsel strings or tails. It is also illegal to fly a kite within 50 feet of a power line.
- In Salem, a person can only have three garage sales a year, each of them can only last three days.
- In Hood River, it is illegal to juggle without a license.
- In Klamath River, it's illegal to walk down a sidewalk and knock a snake's head off with your cane.
- In Marion County, religious ministers are forbidden from eating garlic or onions before delivering a sermon.
- In Oregon, it's illegal to pump your own gas. Believe it or not, you are expected to know how to do this in most other states.
- It is against code in Salem to use a "bean shooter, slingshot or any other contrivance used in shooting beans, stones, pebbles, or other substance or thing, in or upon any street, alley, or public place within the city."
- In Yamhill County, you cannot predict the future. The law actually bans the practice of fortune telling, astrology and other "mystic arts" because they are generally thought to be unsound and unscientific. It doesn't mean these can't be fun, but don't do it in Yamhill County.

## Vortex is Oregon at its strangest

BY LAUREN MURPHY  
Of No Adults Allowed

Balls don't roll up hill, it's a basic law of gravity, but there's a tiny place in southern Oregon that's breaking the rules. While it's widely debated whether or not the Oregon Vortex is a bunch of optical illusions or actually a center of paranormal activity; there is no debate that on those 22-acres of land, weird things happen.

Vortexes are associated with many things: crop circles, Stonehenge, Egyptian pyramids, ley lines (the alignments of religious sites and landmarks). On the other hand some people believe that vortexes are a result of magnetic or gravitational fields.

Before anything was built on the land there were rumors that Native Americans referred to it as the "forbidden" land. People would often find their horse refusing to go through that area.

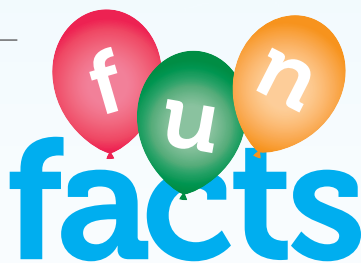
One of the things specific to the Oregon Vortex is its House of Mystery, a popular tourist attraction. Originally it was an assay office (a place to test the purity of a gem) built in 1904. Several years later, the office slid down the hill it was on and came to rest at a rather odd angle. Some claim that the weird angle of the house is what makes the illusions possible.

The Oregon Vortex and the House of Mystery have been investigated on *Fact or Faked: Paranormal Files*, *Supernatural*, alluded to in the video game *Sam & Max Hit the Road*, and is the inspiration for the *Gravity Falls* cartoon.

### jokeBOX

What comes after two days of rain in Oregon?

Monday



- Crater Lake is the deepest lake in the United States (Klamath County).
- Mill End Park is the world's smallest park (Portland).
- Oregon residents own a 25% of the United States' total llama population.
- The official state nut is a hazelnut.

Oregon is the only state with a state nut.

- The world's tallest barber shop pole is in Oregon (Forest Grove).
- Heceta Head lighthouse is the nation's most photographed lighthouse (Yachats).
- The Oregon Grape is the state flower.
- Oregon has more than 60 ghost towns, the most in the country.

• D River is the world's shortest river (Lincoln City).

- The Tillamook Cheese Factory is the largest cheese factory in the world.
- The Sea Lion Cave near Florence is America's largest sea cave.
- Archaeologists found evidence of humans living in Oregon's Paisley Caves as far back as 14,300 years ago (Paisley). It's some of the earliest evidence of human habitation in North America.



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