

Gun control legislation will likely create animosity

Guns from Page 4A

Nevertheless, it will pass and will be trumpeted as making the public safer. Meanwhile, the bill assisting ex-felons in the job market makes for a curious counterpoint. If you support Prozanski's gun bill, take note. Say you're an employer and you also hate guns. You may find yourself unwittingly offering a job to someone

who has committed armed robbery. If you then want to rescind the job offer, you may have some explaining to do to a state official. House Bill 3025, also called the ban-the-box law because of the box on some job applications asking if an applicant has a criminal record, would restrict how private employers can interview job applicants. No inquiry could be made about an applicant's

criminal history, nor could a background check be conducted, until after a job has been offered. Only then could the employer seek a background check. If something turned up, the employer could rescind the offer if the conviction was related to the nature of the job. The applicant could then appeal to the state Bureau of Labor and Industries. It's popular to say that this is a well-intentioned law,

but you know what? It isn't. This is the kind of law that creates animosity. The bill as currently written is clearly designed to give one select group of job applicants a cudgel – the threat of legal action – to force compliance from employers. In this job market, there are a lot of qualified people who can't find suitable work. Why should ex-felons get a special break? There are already federal tax incentives to encourage

employers to hire ex-felons. The Work Opportunity Tax Credit Program has been around since 1996 and has been renewed ever since. Some employers have made it known that they like to hire people with criminal backgrounds. Dick Withnell, a Salem auto dealer, has spoken at legislative hearings about hiring employees out of prison. He's to be commended for that. But it's his

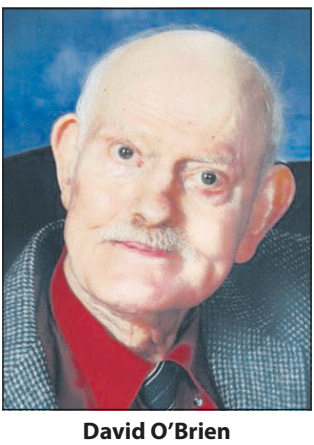
choice. Freedom of choice is a beautiful thing. It's better than political force. The ban-the-box bill has had a hearing before the House Business and Labor Committee, where advocates for ex-felons and prisoner's rights were well-organized with their testimony. If it doesn't pass this session, like Prozanski's gun bill it will likely come around again.

Obituaries

David O'Brien

Dec. 27, 1933 — April 1, 2015

David O'Brien, a longtime resident of Cannon Beach, passed away on April 1, 2015, following an illness that had lasted several months. Many people knew him as the man who zipped around town in his golf cart in the early years, and then in his power wheelchair, always with a smile, and always ready to enjoy a good joke. David attended the Community Church, worked, volunteered at the Cannon Beach Conference Center, and was the founder of Tryad Ministries. David was born in his parent's home in Portland, Ore., on Dec. 27, 1933. He attended Grout Elementary School in SE Portland. One of the photographs shows David driving the family tractor when he was about 13 years old, with his younger sister, Ellen Clibbon, and his younger brother, the late Shaun O'Brien. David trusted in Christ as his savior while he was young, leading to a lifelong desire to help others learn about the saving grace of Jesus Christ. In 1961, when David was 27, his family moved to British Columbia. While in



David O'Brien

Canada he gradually became aware that he needed to be on his own. So nine years after moving to Canada, he returned to the U.S., moving in with his brother, Mike, in Portland. David described those days by saying, "Work was scarce, and so I worked a little in a Christmas booth and sold things door-to-door. Looking back I can see how much I needed that time to prepare for the future." While in Portland, David became involved with Handicapped Youth For Christ, and regularly attended their leadership meetings. As he became more involved, he also wanted to further his education, both in the Bible and regular schooling. He earned



his GED, but still felt he needed to learn more about the Bible. When problems with his adult foster care caseworker caused some difficulties, he felt he needed a break and he arranged to spend some time during the summer at the Cannon Beach Conference Center. While at the Conference Center, David learned about Ecola Hall, the school now known as Ecola Bible School. He knew that was the Bible education he need-

ed. He spoke with the dean of Ecola Hall, who thought David would have a hard time with the class material, but he finally agreed David could give it a try. The dean recommended that David start with the spring semester, but David couldn't wait to get started, so he filled out the application for the fall semester. A short time later he received a letter — Ecola Hall had rejected his application. Not one to give up, David

worked out an arrangement in which he could attend Ecola Hall and live off campus. David called this an important part of God's plan: "I would later see how important that rejection would be in God's overall plans for my life. Since I lived off campus, I had the opportunity to become a member of the community of Cannon Beach and didn't have to leave when school was over." In 1975, David's pastor mentioned that he had re-

corded the Bible for radio. That gave David the idea to record the Bible for the handicapped, and that was the beginning of Tryad Ministries. Under his leadership, Tryad Ministries became involved in bringing God's word to the handicapped in a variety of ways, and it continues today to serve the handicapped through an annual conference in Cannon Beach. David is survived by his sister Ellen (Bob) Clibbon, brother Mike (Greta) O'Brien, Jim Haley (brother-in-law) and various other family members. The community and his family will always remember David as an individual who loved God, and life, and had the tenacity to always deal with adversity with a smile. In lieu of flowers, please make memorial gifts to his place of work before retirement, the Cannon Beach Conference Center, P.O. Box 398, Cannon Beach, OR 97110, or to the Cannon Beach Community Church, P.O. Box 37, Cannon Beach, OR 97110. David's celebration of life will be held at the Cannon Beach Conference Center May 17, at 3:30 p.m.

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