

State website offers information access

State government has rolled out a powerful new website that lets citizens easily customize their view of data from state agencies and comment right on the site, the Oregon Department of Administrative Services announced March 22.

The website, Data.Oregon.gov, also lets visitors interact with state records, create their own charts, graphs, calendars and maps, and save them online. Visitors may even suggest new "datasets" for displaying information not yet available on the site.

"Our goal is to enable state government to interact more directly with the citizens of Oregon, and this new site is a powerful way to help make that happen," said Kris Kautz, acting-director of the state Department of Administrative Services. "We want to transform the way government works, and that means making it easy for Oregonians to get information about agencies and offer their views about what they see."

Kautz also noted that Oregon is among the first states to

employ this new technology. The White House has used the technology since 2009, making available records on visits to the White House and staff salaries.

Oregon's use of the technology is more far-reaching, Kautz said. The site displays information in a wide range of datasets, including state agencies' expenditures, buildings leased by state government, salaries of state workers, state contracts with private businesses, and more than 60 others. Forty new datasets are already in the testing and evaluation stage. The offerings will continue to grow as viewers suggest more datasets.

"You don't need to be a technology expert to use Data.Oregon.gov," Kautz said. "The site is easy to use and very flexible. Countless Oregonians have said they want more access to the information that state agencies collect, and this new resource gives them that access."

In addition to offering visitors immediate access to a vast array of facts and records,

Data.Oregon.gov lets them do the following:

- Post comments about the data right on the dataset.
- Use the data to create charts, graphs, maps and calendars, which users can share with others. "Creating displays is as easy as posting to YouTube," Kautz said.
- Suggest new datasets for the state to display.
- Create or participate in discussion forums, where visitors may share their views and concerns with state agencies and the public.
- Download the data in any of eight formats, something researchers and scientists will appreciate.

Users may filter or sort the data any way they want. They may also embed it in their own blogs and websites.

"Pioneering comes naturally to Oregonians," Kautz said. "With Data.Oregon.gov, we're blazing a new 'Oregon Trail' that leads to more citizen involvement and openness in state government."

Bits & Bites

By Jacqueline Ramsay



March 12th – I am reclining in space #16 today, munching on an apple for my lunch. I've worked two crossword puzzles, arguing with about seven of the words. Some I strongly disagree with, I may have to dig out my big Red Book when I get home.

There are 16 of us on dialysis this shift. One is in isolation. That means Hepatitis C. Eight are men, so that leaves eight women. Gee, I can count. Three men sleep, one

has a laptop disc movie machine, so he laughs a lot, one brings his newspaper from home and reads every page, another is a sports nut – watches any and all sports (rather loudly, I may add). One has had double foot/leg surgery (he's diabetic and not doing so well). The eighth one chews gum all day. Well 3-1/2 hours any way. Honest. Of the women; two read, three sleep, two others watch TV, that leaves me. I'm the odd gal out. I read, do crossword, eat apples and pretzel mix, and knit and write. If I get bored, I may watch NCIS on TV.

I do not sleep. If I did, I'd be awake all night. Once in awhile, I may converse with a neighbor, but mainly each is wrapped in their own world.

I've run dry for now so I'm going to knit again – I've only got an hour and 45 minutes to go.

Oh yes – the wind is blowing, the rain is falling and the sky is blue, black and grey, it's bored too.

An update on knitting during dialysis: I was enjoying my new found freedom and one of the staff came up to me and I thought, "Uh, oh, I'm in trouble." No, no way. She asked me if I would teach her how to knit. Of course, I said, "SURE." So my next day on "dy", I had extra yarn and needles. She was having so much fun one of the floor nurses came over, "My grandma showed me how when I was seven." Said I, "Would you like a refresher course?" Her answer was yes so I said I'd bring yarn and needles (to see if she was really interested). I could draw this out, but the short story is – It was contagious. The wife of a patient asked me to teach her (she's forgotten what she knew) and one more nurse is joining the line. So, I have four students to brighten my 3-1/2 hours of just sitting and trying to keep from being bored. Hallelujah.

50 Years Ago This Month

The April 6, 1961, issue of the *Vernonia Eagle* included the following news story on the front page:

The premiere of the movie, Ring of Fire, occupied the attention of the city council Monday evening when Louis Towne, president of the chamber of commerce, told of plans being made for its showing here May 14 and proposed to the council that Andrew Stone, producer of the movie, be named honorary mayor for that day and that the star, David Janssen, be named honorary chief of police or fire chief. The council indicated willingness to go along with the plans and will take definite action at the next council meeting.

Representatives from the Vernonia Saddle club appeared to request a definite agreement between the club and the council regarding the portion of Anderson park designated for horse show use so that their interests would be protected in the matter of improvements they might make. The matter was referred to the city attorney.

James Johns, general chairman for this year's Friendship Jamboree, was present to discuss various details relating to that celebration and to ask additional police assistance with the parade and logging and horse events.

Other matters discussed included grass seeding of Anderson park, reports on survey of timber owned by city which showed none ready for cutting now, consideration of problems relating to the cemetery upkeep, and various other small items. Routine paying of bills completed the business of the evening.

The April 27, 1961, issue of the *Vernonia Eagle* included the following news story on the front page:

A meeting was held at Robert C. Lindsay's home Monday evening after the athletic banquet for the purpose of setting up a committee which would draw plans for the refurbishing of the Boy Scout cabin in the city park.

Those who attended the meeting and the groups they represented are as follows: E. V. Robertson

and Earl Ray, Explorer Scouts; Don Cameron, Calvin Bass and Robert C. Lindsay, Boy Scouts; Leslie Caron, Scout neighborhood commissioner; Don Wantland and Paul Well, Brigadiers; Linn Michener, Cub Scouts; Dick Nightwine and Wally Grosche, square dancers.

E. V. Robertson was elected as chairman of the committee which is made up of one representative of each group wishing to use the Scout cabin. The committee, with the help of the organizations, will make the cabin an asset to the community and also provide a very modern meeting place for civic organizations.

Present plans call for a new roof, plywood and paint interior, two new bathrooms, wiring, plumbing, kitchen and refinish all floors. The city park department is providing some of the funds.

All persons who have time, equipment, or materials to donate, please contact E. V. Robertson, HA 9-5379.

Others on the committee are: Don Wantland, Dick Nightwine, Linn Michener and Calvin Bass.

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