

# Witt Visits Vernonia

continued from page 7

**Veterans**  
**2645** Requires community colleges and public universities to establish a priority enrollment system for qualified students who are active members of Armed Forces of the United States or qualified veterans. This bill has already passed the House and is on its way to the Senate.  
**2539** Directs Department of Veterans' Affairs to submit reports related to delivery and usage of medical services by women veterans. "There's a great deal of speculation about why women veterans don't use the medical benefits they are entitled to and we need to see if there is something we can do to correct this," said Witt.  
**3116** Establishes a task force to study how to provide benefits and make recommendations for legislation for disabled

veterans through preferred worker programs. "This program would do several things," explained Witt. "It would indemnify the employer against paying if a disabled veteran employee was injured on the job. It would also provide for work site modifications. It would provide funding for tools, clothing, books, or other supplies that the veteran might need to work there. It reduces the risk and the front end costs for employers. It's a great way to get these folks back into the work force."  
  
The next three bills have all passed the House and are headed to the Senate.  
**Oversight & Accountability**  
**2532** Requires lender, or agent or affiliate of lender, in any advertisement or communication intended as induce-

ment to apply for or enter into reverse mortgage to include summary of certain provisions of reverse mortgage contracts. "This is a kind of a truth in advertising idea," said Witt.  
**2644** Provides that public body and its officers, employees and agents are not immune from liability for wrongful death of person who is covered by workers' compensation law if death occurred in course and scope of decedent's employment, death occurred as result of conduct of another person who is subsequently convicted of murder or found guilty except for insanity of murder and decedent was not employed by public body at time of death.  
**Energy, Environment & Natural Resources**  
**2534** Directs State Fish and Wildlife Commission to adopt rules prohibiting use of drones for angling or hunting. Witt said this had the backing and help of "virtually every hunting and fishing organization in the state who came out in support of it."  
**2536** Requires applicant for license, tag or permit to angle, take, hunt or trap to attest that applicant consents to inspection of license, tag or permit and taken wildlife in the field. "It used to be that Fish and Game could stop you at any time and check you, but that was ruled 'unreasonable search and seizure,' said Witt. "This would overcome that."  
**2537** Increases damages for unlawful taking or killing of wildlife. "This focuses on poaching and specifically on commercial poachers who are shipping these items like bear gallbladders and cougar paws overseas," said Witt. Witt noted that he has a history of enacting legislation that protect animals, includ-

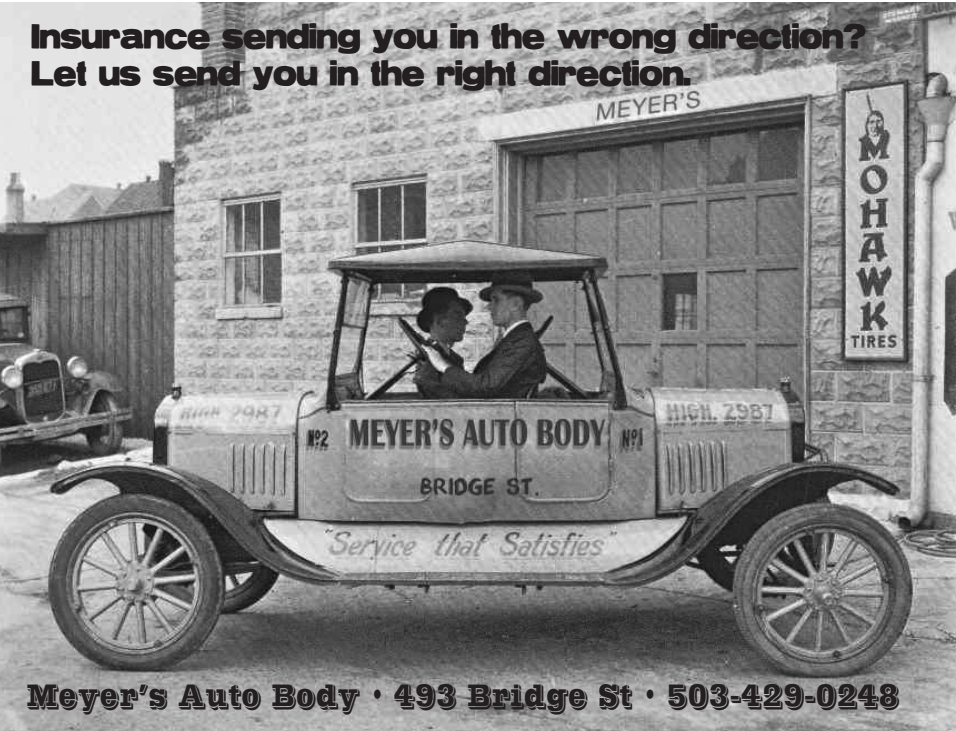
ing a ban on harvesting shark fins that went international.  
**3012** Establishes Oregon Hatchery Research Center Fund. "We have one of the best research centers in the world for hatchery production of fish and this is critically important because funding has been rolled back and its viability is on the line. This would re-establish funding," said Witt.  
**2833** Adds woody biomass to the types of green energy technology that contracting agencies must set aside 1.5 percent of contract price to include in public buildings. "This would make woody biomass eligible as a power or heating option in public buildings," said Witt. "It's been used effectively in several school buildings in rural parts of the state."

The next two bills attempt to address concerns and complaints about pesticide applications and contamination, particularly aerial applications. "This is an area where Oregon would break out and be a leader," said Witt.  
**3428** Creates special certification requirements for pesticide applicators and public applicators who spray or otherwise apply pesticides by aircraft. Requirements include: applicator license, commercial pilot certificate, 50+ hours as applicator or trainee.  
**3429** Requires governing board of Pesticide Analytical and Response Center to adopt rules establishing standardized operating procedures for state agencies represented on governing board to receive and investigate complaints regarding use of pesticides. PARC board must maintain applicator licenses. Board makes semi-annual reports to legislature.

**Public Safety and Law Enforcement**  
**3381** Requires trial judge to inform jury of sentencing requirements.  
**2526** Requires person convicted of certain serious animal abuse crimes to register with law enforcement agencies. Again, Witt noted his previous record of legislating and supporting animal rights and protections.  
**HJM 3** Urges Congress to enact legislation requiring stabilization of crude oil prior to transport.

Vernonia's Voice would like to thank Representative Witt and his staff for making time to visit with us and discuss his work in the Salem during this legislative session.

Vernonia's Voice is published on the 1st and 3rd Thursday. Our next issue will be out April 16th.



NOTICE OF MEASURE ELECTION AND RECEIPT OF BALLOT TITLE-AMENDED

Filed in the Office of County Clerk 3/18/2015

Notice is hereby given that a ballot title for a measure referred by Vernonia Rural Fire Protection District has been filed with the Columbia County Clerk on March 18, 2015. The ballot title caption is Five Year Local Option Levy for Emergency Services Training and Operations.

Notice of Measure Election

AMENDED

SEL 803

District

Date of Notice

03/19/2015

Name of District

Vernonia Rural Fire PD

Name of County or Counties

Columbia

Date of Election

May 19, 2015

The following is the final ballot title of the measure to be submitted to the district's voters.

BalLOT Title Prepare with assistance from the district attorney or an attorney employed by the district.

Caption 10 words which reasonably identifies the subject of the measure

Fire year local option levy for Emergency Services Training & Operations

Question 20 words which plainly phrases the chief purpose of the measure

Shall the District levy taxes of \$0.32 per \$1,000 of assessed value for five years beginning 2015-2016 for training & operations? This measure may cause property taxes to increase more than three percent and will be payable from taxes on property or property ownership that are subject to the limits of sections 11 and 11b, Article XI of the Oregon Constitution.

Summary 175 words which concisely and impartially summarizes the measure and its major effect.

If approved, this measure would provide funding to the Fire District, for the salary and benefits package of a Training Captain. This person would be responsible for the training program from its infancy to long term maintenance. Duties of the Training Captain would include but not be limited to: Preparing and maintaining a training calendar, preparing and maintaining personnel training files, working with the Oregon Department of Public Safety Standard and Training, assembling drills and training materials, and organizing outside training to keep all staff certified and current. The Training Captain would also be required to respond to incidents during their work shift when applicable, thereby increasing daytime response personnel.

This measure is estimated to cost taxpayers an average of \$0.32 per thousand of assessed value each year. For the owner of a home or property owner, the estimated annual average cost would be \$32 per \$100,000 of taxable assessed value. The levy would raise approximately \$65,284 in fiscal year 2015-16; \$66,926 in 2016-17; \$68,699 in 2017-18; \$70,314 in 2018-19; and \$72,072 in 2019-20.

Explanatory Statement 500 words that impartially explains the measure and its effect, if required attach to this form.

If the county is producing a voters' pamphlet an explanatory statement must be submitted for any measure referred by the district governing body and if required by local ordinance, for any initiative or referendum.

Measure Type

County producing voters' pamphlet

Local ordinance requiring submission

Explanatory statement required

Referral

Yes

No

Not applicable

Yes

No

Initiative

Yes

No

Yes

No

Yes

No

Referendum

Yes

No

Yes

No

Yes

No

Authorized District Official Not required to be notarized

By signing this document, I hereby state that I am authorized by the district elections authority to submit this Notice of Measure Election and I certify the above ballot title is true and complete.

Name

Earl Dean Smith

Title

Fire Chief

Work Phone

503-429-8252

Signature

03-18-2015

Date Signed

Notice is hereby given that a measure election conducted by mail will be held on Tuesday, May 19 2015. An elector may file a petition for review of this ballot title in the Columbia County Circuit Court no later than 5:00 p.m. March 31, 2015 (which is the 7th business day after receipt.) ORS 255.155 This notice is published pursuant to ORS 255.145 by Elizabeth E. Huser, Columbia County Clerk.

NOTICE OF MEASURE ELECTION AND RECEIPT OF BALLOT TITLE

Filed in the Office of County Clerk 3/18/2015

Notice is hereby given that a ballot title for a measure referred by Vernonia Rural Fire Protection District has been filed with the Columbia County Clerk on March 18, 2015. The ballot title caption is Vernonia Rural Fire Protection District General Obligation Bond.

Notice of Measure Election

SEL 803

District

Date of Notice

03/18/2015

Name of District

Vernonia Rural Fire PD

Name of County or Counties

Columbia

Date of Election

May 19, 2015

The following is the final ballot title of the measure to be submitted to the district's voters.

BalLOT Title Prepare with assistance from the district attorney or an attorney employed by the district.

Caption 10 words which reasonably identifies the subject of the measure

Vernonia Rural Fire Protection District General Obligation Bond

Question 20 words which plainly phrases the chief purpose of the measure

Shall the District issue general obligation bonds not to exceed \$500,000? If the bonds are approved, they will be payable from taxes on property or property ownership that are not subject to the limits of sections 11 and 11b, Article XI of the Oregon Constitution.

Summary 175 words which concisely and impartially summarizes the measure and its major effect.

If approved, this measure would provide funds for capital costs including:

\* The purchase of fire apparatus;

\* Upgrade existing fire apparatus and equipment;

\* Purchase firefighting and medical equipment to outfit said apparatus and pay bond issuance costs.

The bonds would mature not later than ten (10) years from the date of issuance. The measure is estimated to cost taxpayers an average of \$0.2621 per thousand of assessed value each year. For the owner of a home or property owner, the estimated annual average cost would be \$26.21 per \$100,000 of taxable assessed value.

Explanatory Statement 500 words that impartially explains the measure and its effect, if required attach to this form.

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Measure Type

County producing voters' pamphlet

Local ordinance requiring submission

Explanatory statement required

Referral

Yes

No

Not applicable

Yes

No

Initiative

Yes

No

Yes

No

Yes

No

Referendum

Yes

No

Yes

No

Yes

No

Authorized District Official Not required to be notarized

By signing this document, I hereby state that I am authorized by the district elections authority to submit this Notice of Measure Election and I certify the above ballot title is true and complete.

Name

Earl Dean Smith

Title

Fire Chief

Work Phone

503-429-8252

Signature

03-17-2015

Date Signed

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