

Salem Report

By State Representative Brad Witt



In recent legislative news, I carried HB 2294 on the House floor. This bill deals with deer attractants and mandates that attractants be derived from cervids that are certified to be Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) free. CWD is one of the most horrid terminal diseases known to wildlife officials and is now found in 26 states and two Canadian Provinces. There is no treatment for CWD, and once a deer, elk, or moose contracts this disease it is terminal. I sponsored HB 2294 to protect deer, elk, and moose in our state, and much like an invasive species, we are better off to prevent the introduction of the CWD disease than try to eradicate it once it is in the state. I'm happy to report that the bill received a unanimous vote in the House and now moves to the Senate for consideration.

Dams and dam safety was a topic of concern in the Natural Resources Committee where a Public Hearing was held on HB 2085. Water storage is essential to meet Oregonians' water needs for drinking, agriculture, recreation, and is critically needed during the summer months and in drought conditions. The consequences of dam failure include risk to life, property, and infrastructure, and potential water shortages.

The Oregon Water Resources Department has been working with stakeholders in drafting HB 2085 to ensure safety and minimize risk to lives, property, and infrastructure, while balancing landowners' need for water. Proper maintenance and safe operation is necessary to keep the benefits of water storage and prevent failures. Factors contributing to dam failure include lack of maintenance, deterioration, design or construction, spillway failure, operational errors, and natural disasters such

as landslides, floods, and earthquakes.

HB 2085 would replace Oregon law that was adopted in 1929 and applies only to non-federally regulated dams, water, and wastewater. The past 90 years have brought advances in dam design, and greater understanding of floods and earthquakes, as well as best practices policies. This new legislation will also address policy gaps and integrate 10 recommendations from the 2017 integrated water resource strategy. Owning a dam comes with inherent responsibilities and the legislation will clarify those responsibilities, while establishing a process to ensure that removal of high or significant hazard dams are done safely to protect people, property, and infrastructure. The Department has identified the need for additional amendments to the bill and is continuing to work with interested stakeholders to craft workable legislation.

Email: Rep.BradWitt@oregonlegislature.gov

Phone: (503) 986-1431

Address: 900 Court St NE, H-382, Salem, OR, 97301

Website: <http://www.oregonlegislature.gov/witt>

Where do you read the Voice? Show us where you have traveled. Submit your photo by email to: scott@vernoniasvoice.com

VERNONIA'S
voice
reflecting the spirit of our community

Publisher and Managing Editor
Scott Laird
503-367-0098

scott@vernoniasvoice.com

Contributors

Chip Bubl
Korina Buehrer
Nancy Burch
Tobie Finzel
Shannon Romtvedt
David Spackman
Representative Brad Witt

Photography

Scott Laird
Tsubaki Photo

Vernonia's Voice is published on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month.

One year subscription (24 issues) \$35

Vernonia's Voice, LLC
PO Box 55
Vernonia, OR 97064
503-367-0098

Want to advertise?
Have an article?
Contact: scott@vernoniasvoice.com

NATAL GRANGE

Community

FLEA MARKET

67528 NEHALEM HIGHWAY NORTH

SATURDAY, APRIL 27TH
9 AM – 5 PM

SUNDAY, APRIL 28TH
9AM – 4 PM

NO WIFI OR CELL SERVICE
CASH/CHECK ONLY

FOOD AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE

FOR MORE INFORMATION
503-755-2737 MARY LOU BUSCH

All In

Pub & Eatery

FULL DISH SPORTS PACKAGE!

Happy Hour Mon-Fri 4-7

"BIKER FRIENDLY"

EVENTS

Sat, March 23
Texas Hold 'em

- Specialty hamburgers
- 8 Draft beers & mixed drinks
- 5 Craft beers on tap
- Pool tables & satellite TV
- Free Wi-fi
- Beer & Kegs to go

Sun - Thurs 11 AM - Midnight • Fri - Sat 11 AM - 2:30 AM
733 Bridge St, Vernonia • 503-429-9999

STORAGE. TOP

Need more room?

See us for the lowest prices **GUARANTEED!**
Debit/Credit now accepted

5x10 \$39	10x10 \$69	10x20 \$99	RV Storage \$149
-----------	------------	------------	------------------

Outside storage available
Totally fenced and gated
Padlocks available

58605 Nehalem Hwy South • P.O. Box 292
Vernonia, Oregon 97064
(503) 429-7867

10-6 Tue-Sat
12-4 Sun

Cedar Side Inn

Full Dish Sports Package
Big Screen, featuring Pac 12 games

Taco Tuesday
from opening until 9pm
3 hardshell or 1 softshell \$4.25

Ladies' Night
every Thursday 6pm-close

• Free Pool • Free WiFi • Specialty Pizzas

Check our Facebook page for daily specials and upcoming events
756 Bridge Street, Vernonia 503-429-5841