

On the Shelves

By Shannon Romtvedt

Friends of the Library Raffle

The Friends of the Library are raffling a \$50 value prize (\$25 Islands Grill and \$25 R&S Market Gift Certificates). The raffle box is in the Library, \$1 for a chance to win. The raffle is a fundraiser to support Library programs and services. It's a difficult time to raise money for organizations and projects, so on behalf of the Friends, thank you so much to everyone who donated to support us. And thank you to R&S Market for allowing a table in the store for the raffle on two different Saturdays.

Drawing for the raffle will be held over Salmon Festival weekend. Watch for more details coming soon about a booksale this year! We are hoping to host one the 1st weekend of October (Salmon Festival weekend). If you would be interested in helping with the booksale this year, please contact the Library (503) 429-1818 and leave your contact information. The Friends of the Library will be in touch with you ASAP.

Summer Reading Participation

We did not know what to expect for our Summer Reading program this year with all the changes and new regulations for businesses during the pandemic. In past years we have had 150 - 175 kids (birth - age 14) sign up for the program and we were able to host 3-4 professional performers and programs. This year we offered online sign-up and outdoor pick-up and had 101 kids sign up (reaching our goal of 100!). Thank you to kids and families for participating. We had 54 complete

the program. All finishers earned a free book and were able to enter prize drawings.

Grand Prize winners this year: Nyamithyst Buck, Layla Abbott, Aeleigha Mandes, Stetson Taylor, Tyler Bryson, Jiayi Cox, Renaud Smith, Jayzen Mandes, Théo Smith, Arabel Ameral, Alyce Stevens, Nicole Taber, and Ayla McCollm.

Thank you to Islands Grill, Jack's Hobo Bakery, and Vernonia's Voice for sponsoring our Summer Reading program. And to all the businesses on Bridge Street that participated in the scavenger hunt. Thank you to Isabelle Martinez, Emily Burton, and Courtney Fennell for combined effort creating Slime packets for kids and filming an instruction video. They were a big hit with kids! And oh so messy 😊

Courtyard Storytimes

Tuesdays in August, 10:30 am - 11:15 am Stories, activities, and a take home craft. Limited to 10 children. Designed for children preschool age - early elementary. For the safety of other families, do not bring sick children to the Library. Masks required for adults in the storytime area.

Fall Online Story Series

The Library will be working with several individuals in the community to post a story on our Facebook page every Friday in the fall. Each video will include a different storyteller from the community and a little information about their passion, role in the community, hobby, or other interesting facts they would like to share. A craft will go on the Library's outdoor pick-up cart to correspond with the theme of the story each

week. More information to come as we develop a schedule of readers! If interested in participating in this project, please contact Shannon Romtvedt at the Library (503) 429-1818 or shannonr@vernonia-or.gov .

Did You Know: Library Board Position Open

Thank you to Myrrhina Kibben for four years of service on the Library Board! Myrrhina finished her term in June and there is now a position open on the Board. We are looking for an individual interested in supporting the Library and being part of a seven member team to review policies, services, and make recommendations for the Library to City Council. Applications are available at the Library and online <https://www.vernonia-or.gov/forms/#employment-and-volunteering> (look for the City Committee Application). For more information about the position, contact Shannon Romtvedt at the Library or Stephanie Borst, City Recorder.

Summer Hours & Contact Info:

(Fall Hours TBA)
Monday, Wednesday, Friday: 10 am - 5 pm
Tuesday: 12 pm - 7 pm
Thursday: 12 pm - 7 pm (By appointment only)
Outdoor pick-up cart in service during all regular open hours
Phone: (503) 429-1818
E-mail: library@vernonia-or.gov
Website: www.vernonia-or.gov/departments/library/

Salem Report: Second Special Legislative Session



By Representative Brad Witt, House District 31

The Second Special Session called by Governor Brown to deal with the coronavirus-caused revenue shortfall, was completed in a one-day marathon effort. The Oregon Constitution requires legislators to approve a balanced budget, and so that was our top priority, as it is unlikely that Oregon will receive additional pandemic-related stimulus federal funds.

Fortunately, we have healthy reserves, so instead of having to cut nearly \$1.2 billion, we were able to draw \$400 million from the education reserve fund

to keep our K-12 public school funding intact. We also tapped \$200 million from funds set up to help pay down our PERS deficit.

The budget bills we approved will reduce general fund spending by \$362 million, with the most reductions coming from human services programs. Earlier this summer, there were proposals to close the Correctional Facilities at North Bend and Lakeview, but budget writers cited the importance of maintaining those facilities that provide living-wage jobs in their rural areas and removed those institutions from the cut list.

While our primary focus was budgetary, we also passed two Senate

Bills aimed at helping Oregonians who have been waiting weeks and months for their Unemployment Insurance benefits.

- SB 1701: Raises the cap on how much a worker can earn before their earnings affect their Unemployment Insurance benefit amount. Currently the cap is tied to either ten times the minimum wage, or a third of the individual's total benefit amount. The benefit is lowered dollar for dollar for money earned over the cap. SB 1701 raises the cap to a flat \$300.

- SB 1703: Allows the Department of Revenue to share income-related information with the Employment department to expedite confirmation of income and benefits determinations for those who qualify for the Pandemic Unemployment Assistance Program (PUA). PUA payments are for those who are self-employed, do gig work, are contractors who have lost their jobs and wages but do not typically qualify for unemployment benefits.

I was happy to support these bills that will help the thousands of workers who have been struggling to get the unemployment benefits they have earned and are due.

Another policy issue we took up during the day-long Second Special Session is the issue of limiting police use of deadly force and barring most usage of chokeholds. This measure easily passed

the House floor vote, with bi-partisan agreement that the change is meant to increase professionalism in law enforcement and to bring Oregon up to the standards reflected in U.S. Supreme Court rulings from the 1980s.

The COVID-19 pandemic restrictions required that the Capitol remains closed to the public, but I believe we missed the opportunity to do more to allow public participation. The budget is balanced, and the one-day Second Special Session has been described as "whirlwind" but legislators are elected to do the work of our constituents and public access and testimony, even when done remotely, is an important tenet of our democracy.

Even when the Legislature is not in session, my staff and I are working to help constituents from HD 31. If you need help or have an issue of concern, please contact my office, we monitor the email and phone daily, and look forward to hearing from you.

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>

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