

Salem Report

By Representative Brad Witt



We received some great news from Washington, D.C., as Congress approved \$900 billion dollars in much needed

Coronavirus relief. The package includes \$284 billion for another round of small business aid through the Payroll Protection Program, \$300-per-week federal unemployment boost for 11 weeks, \$600 stimulus checks for those making up to \$75,000, more money for schools and hospitals, and an extension of an eviction moratorium.

No one wants to exacerbate the housing crisis and put thousands of Oregonians out of their homes in the middle of winter, and that is why I joined other Oregon lawmakers to approve House

Bill 4401 which extends the eviction moratorium and creates a \$200 million fund to support small landlords and tenants. Landlords can apply to the new landlord compensation fund, and receive money to cover some missed rental payments. However, they are required to forgive 20% of their tenants' past-due rent. While 80% repayment is helpful, it seems unlikely that landlords can maintain financial stability while giving up one-fifth of their income for an extended period of time. That's why I believe we need to make support for landlords a priority as we move forward in our efforts to provide relief for pandemic-related impacts.

We also approved HB 4402 to provide limited liability for schools, administrators, and teachers that follow the pandemic-related directives and best practices. The education of our children is vitally important, and for many that

can best be accomplished in-person. But at the same time we need to safeguard the health of our students, faculty, and staff members until the Coronavirus is under control.

Senate Bill 1801 will allow cocktails-to-go which should provide another funding stream for independent restaurant owners who are struggling to keep their doors open during these trying times.

Finally, the Legislature approved \$600 million for additional COVID-19 and Wildfire recovery. This money will be distributed by the Legislative Emergency Board in the coming weeks.

In what the media has labelled an anti-shutdown protest by the far right, various militia followers, conspiracy ideologues, and Patriot Prayer adherents stormed our State Capitol during the Legislative Special Session.

Several of the protestors brandished firearms while others wore body armor, gas masks or helmets and pepper-sprayed Oregon State Police Troopers who were trying to maintain order. I support the right of assembly and lawful protests, but it stretches the imagination to think that people who don protective gear, and arm themselves with firearms, metal pipes, pepper spray and other chemical weapons are attending a demonstration with good intentions. As a result of the unlawful assembly four people were arrested and another person is being sought on various charges.

In the coming weeks, I will be working with other lawmakers, community leaders, and constituents to prepare for the upcoming 2021 Legislative Session.

Even when I'm not in Salem, I'm still working on issues that impact our lives. We check our messages daily, so if you have a comment, concern, or need help with a state issue or agency, please contact my office. I look forward to hearing from you.

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Website:

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

CLASSIFIED ADS

HELP WANTED

Corrections Technician

Columbia County, OR EOE

Deadline 1/22/2021

Apply at ColumbiaCountyOR.gov

Classified ads are \$5/month up to 50 words, published in two issues.

Email: Scott@VernoniasVoice.com or call (503) 367-0098.

Vernonia Police Blotter

December 15-31, 2020

Arrests/ Reports Taken

- December 25, 2020 Arrest for Arson 1 that occurred near Bridge Street
- December 27, 2020 Arrest on a Warrant near East Bridge Street

Citation/Other

- December 17, 2020 Cited for No Operator's License and No Insurance

near Jefferson Avenue

- December 18, 2020 Cited for Illegal Burning near Jefferson Avenue

Vernonia Police Department responds to calls that do not always end in Arrest, Report, or Citation. 12/15/2020 through 12/31/2020 VPD had 96 calls for service.

Vernonia City Council Meetings and Closures

Please check the City's website for details on upcoming City Council Meetings scheduled for 7:00 pm:
Tuesday, January 19, 2021
Monday, February 1, 2021
www.vernonia-or.gov

City Closures are scheduled for:
Monday, January 18, 2021
Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday

Dates and times subject to change

The Transfer Station is scheduled to be open on the 2nd and 4th Saturday
January - October
January 9 & 23
February 13 & 27

There may be limits on oversized items (mattresses, couches, etc.) and the number of vehicles in the yard at one time.

Dates are subject to change

The Mist-Birkenfeld RFPD

Board of Directors will meet by teleconference for their regular board meeting Tuesday, January 19, 2021 at 7:00 pm. Due to COVID-19, District patrons may attend Board meeting by conference call only.

Call In: U.S. (Toll Free):

1-866-899-4679

Access Code: 486-174-133



<http://www.mistbirkenfeld-rfpd.org>

HOW TO SEND LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Vernonia's Voice welcomes and requests your thoughts, opinions and ideas. Please include your name, address and phone number, limit your letters to 300 words or less. *Vernonia's Voice* reserves the right to edit, omit, respond or ask for a response to letters submitted. We will print letters space permitting. Deadline is the 1st and 3rd Monday of each month. Email: scott@vernoniasvoice.com or mail to: Letters, PO Box 55, Vernonia, OR 97064.

AA Meetings

Open Meetings

Mondays & Thursdays 6:30-7:30 pm
Vernonia Christian Church
410 North Street

Or find a meeting at:
<https://www.oregonaadistrict18.org/>

Columbia Humane Society

Purr-fect Pals



Zinnia is right around 11 weeks old and this little girl is very sweet

once she warms up. She loves to play and will make a great addition to a quiet household. She has not been exposed to dogs, but does not seem to mind other cats. We also don't know how she is going to do in a home with kids as she has no previous experience. If you are

interested in meeting Zinnia we ask that you please obtain an application by emailing adoption@columbiahumane.org. Once we have an approved application on file we will then schedule a time for you to come and meet her. Her adoption fee is \$125.

Featured Dog



the shelter if you have already emailed for an application. Generally emails are answered within 24-48 hours. Due to small staff we are stretched thin and do the best we can at getting back to people as soon as possible.

Dulce is a very sweet, seven year old chihuahua mix who enjoys being around other pups. She's a bit wary at first, particularly on leash, but warms up pretty quickly. She is cautious but friendly with people and is a bit sensitive to startling. She loves to sit on laps and cuddle but she is a tad afraid of being picked up. She is a rather stout and hardy chi mix (pretty atypical for that group) and is so enthusiastic about walks that she doesn't seem to mind the rain that much. She's an energetic and tough girl so she can go for nice long walks and is also happy chilling at home all day. We haven't seen how she acts around cats. She is definitely a sit-by-the-window-and-guard-my-property kind of dog so whoever adopts her will need to be tolerant of her barking at pretty much everything or should be willing to work with her on that. Dulce does have cherry eye in both eyes and a prominent luxating patella although the vet advised that it won't necessarily inhibit her ability to go on walks as it's something she's dealt with her whole life. Dulce loves to snuggle completely under the covers (head and all) and is just overall a very precious and sweet little pup. If you are interested in meeting Dulce, we ask that you please email animalwelfare@columbiahumane.org to obtain an application. Once we have an approved application on file, we will then put her foster home in touch with you in order to schedule a meet and greet. We ask that you please DO NOT call