

Salem Scene

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The shortfalls for the 09-11 biennium will impact the lives of all Oregonians. It will require the Legislature to make even more difficult decisions and it will challenge us to prioritize the core services performed by government. The process for determining those reductions will require Oregonians to be patient and open to changes in the way we do business. In the words of Governor Kulongoski, "Oregon is a family. We must unite, putting partisan politics aside, and be smart, prudent and responsible in our planning to keep our family together and whole during these very trying times. Today is truly when the hard work begins."

Please be assured that I will work with the Governor, my colleagues at the Legislature, and you, the citizens of my district, to overcome the challenges before us. As always, I welcome your input.

SOME HELPFUL INFORMATION:

I want to tell you about the Government Contract Assistance Program (GCAP). GCAP, Oregon's only Procurement Technical Assistance Program, was established in 1986 under the Port of Coos Bay and went on to become a statewide program in 1988. Its mission is to provide training, workshops, conferences and individual counseling to literally thousands of Oregon businesses to assist them in procuring federal, state and local government contracts.

In the last five years, GCAP has helped Oregon small businesses obtain over \$170 million in both federal and state contracts, creating and retaining over 3000 jobs. They do not charge for their services and they have a long history of focusing on rural and distressed areas of our state. This is good news for our District's many small employers. If you know of any small businesses that would benefit from some technical assistance, please pass this information along. Rick Evans is the Executive Director

and he can be reached at re vans@gcap.org.

BILLS OF INTEREST:

- **SB 341** Requires the Dept. of Human Services to use savings from nursing home allocations to provide home and community-based care to seniors and persons with physical disabilities.
- **SB 390** Requires the Dept. of Human Services to verify lawful presence in US of applicants for public assistance.
- **SB 208** Provides that driving privileges of persons at least 15 years of age but under 21 years of age be suspended if minor is issued citation for attempting to purchase, purchasing, acquiring or possessing alcoholic beverages.
- **HB 2371** Restricts situations in which private entities may read or store infor-

mation that is electronically retrieved from individual's driver license, driver permit or identification card.

- **HB 2362** Allows Dept. of Education to make available assessment system that measures student's progress in achieving aca-

demic constant standards at current grade level, determines grade level of student's understanding, knowledge or ability, tracks and provides reports on progress of student and makes predictions of anticipated student progress.

Thelma's place offers respite care

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touched by Alzheimer's, Parkinson's or perhaps the challenges caused by a stroke, the Adult Day Service will expand and offer additional days and times.

Currently, the Adult Day Center is open on Wednesdays from 10:00 to 2:00 and provides a snack and lunch.

During the month of March, the program is being offered FREE for families to explore the possibilities!

Please make your advanced reservation or get more information by calling 503-266-5100. Visit our website at: <http://www.thelmasplace.org/>

Thelma's Place is a nonprof-it resource center that serves seniors and families affected by dementia regardless of financial means. We focus on respite, wellness, community and education via The Ever Changing Mind™, a brain strengthening program.

Ike Says . . .

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to figure out why they were there. It was not until I had a conversation with Gunny Cox from W.O.E.C. that I put the pieces together. While talking about the snow and the elk, he mentioned the elk herd on Scappoose-Vernonia Road at Frank Floeter's home, that was constantly in the road or bedded alongside of it during snow events. Then he said, "They bedded on that ivy and ate it to the roots." Now I had my answer, it was the ivy that the elk were after and, the next time I drove by Natal, it was even more obvious. The trees at Natal are covered with ivy and now there is a browse line as high as an elk can reach, on all the trees, including the ones right next to a home. Quite simply, the elk were starving to death and this was the best forage they could find, even though they had to be uncomfortably close to us humans.

While I have not heard of or seen any elk deaths, we can all

assume there were animals lost to the winter weather. The deer in our area were not as fortunate. The deer really suffered and many succumbed; Jim King reported a handful of dead deer along Timber road. Usually, finding dead animals is only the tip of the iceberg, predators scavenge most up quickly, and most are not out in the open but back in some brush patch. I suspect that this year's deer hunting will be dismal at best. Of course we are starting from a very poor deer population to begin with, so this is very bad news.

What was also observed during the snow event was how predators followed their food source down to where man is more observant. The W.O.E.C. crews saw four separate events of cougar activity in about a month's time. Jim actually discovered a deer killed right in the middle of Timber Road near the substation that was a cougar kill. The next day, the crew found another

cougar kill in the same area. Another cougar track was observed up in the Pumpkin Ridge area, another on Greasy Spoon road by Fishhawk Lake, and a cat was actually seen near the junction of Fishhawk Road and Highway 202. So the cats are here and most likely growing in number.

While winter is almost over for us humans, it is not over for the deer and elk. Until we get good spring sunshine and newly emergent forage growth, the herds will still be at risk. If we get a false start to spring, with sun that starts the grass growing and is then followed by long periods of rainy weather, we could lose a lot of animals due to the scours. The animals have to be running on empty right now, let's hope for the best.

Izaak Walton League, Nehalem Valley Chapter meets monthly on the 3rd Thursday at 7:00 p.m. Call 503-428-7193 for location.



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March 20 = 1st day of Spring