

Oregon to join suit over Obamacare

CONNOR RADNOVICH
STATESMAN JOURNAL

Oregon is joining a group of state attorneys general filing suit against the federal government to stop the Trump administration from halting billions in Obamacare subsidy payments to insurance companies.

Oregon Attorney General Ellen Rosenblum said in a statement Friday that Oregon and 15 other states are joining California's lawsuit against President Donald Trump and the White House's "rash, ill-conceived decision."

"The President should be in the business of helping — not wrecking — Americans' financial bottom lines and access to quality health care," Rosenblum said. "We deserve better from our leader."

The lawsuit comes a day after a late-night filing to the District of Columbia Circuit of the U.S. Court of Appeals, in which the Department of Health and Human Services said it would halt the so-called

cost-sharing reduction payments because they weren't being appropriately funded.

The filing included a legal opinion from U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions expressing that conclusion, largely rested upon the lack of expressed congressional appropriation for those payments.

Cost sharing payments help reimburse insurance companies that provide cheaper co-pays and deductibles on health insurance to low-income individuals. The Congressional Budget Office estimated there would be \$7 billion in payments in 2017.

In a separate statement, the Department of Health and Human Services said the payments would be stopped "immediately." The next payment is scheduled for Oct. 18.

Following this decision, California's Attorney General Xavier Becerra said he would file suit and, since, other attorneys general nation-

wide have announced their support.

On Twitter, Becerra called stopping the payments "reckless and sabotage."

President Trump has threatened for months to end the payments and on Friday described them as "almost a payoff" to insurance companies.

America's Health Insurance Plans and Blue Cross Blue Shield released a joint statement saying there would be "real consequences" from the decision.

"This action will make it harder for patients to access the care they need. Costs will go up and choices will be restricted," the statement said.

Oregon's Democratic senators also came out against the administration's decision. Sen. Ron Wyden said stopping the payments would raise costs and goes against one of Trump's main promises to make insurance more affordable.

"After making payments for the past nine months, the president has



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decided to pull out the rug from under families who simply want affordable health care," Wyden said.

Meanwhile, Sen. Jeff Merkley said that this is just the latest attempt by the White House to active-

ly sabotage the country's health care system.

"Access to health care is a life-or-death issue. Period. This despicable sabotage campaign is the definition of playing politics with people's lives, and it

must end immediately," he said.

Contact the reporter at cradnovich@statesmanjournal.com or 503-399-6864, or follow him on Twitter at @CDRadnovich.

App could help save cardiac arrest victims



METCOM 911 is looking to add Pulse Point, a system that connects skilled members of the public with anyone undergoing cardiac arrest, to their computer-aided dispatch console. SPECIAL TO THE APPEAL TRIBUNE

The area's 911 call center, based in Woodburn, is seeking donations from the community to purchase a system that connects skilled members of the public with anyone undergoing cardiac arrest.

Pulse Point, is a system that METCOM 9-1-1 staff would like to add to their computer-aided dispatch console. Because of its cost — \$42,250 — they're asking donors to help.

The cost to users of the Pulse Point system would be free, however. Anyone with an iPhone or Android can download the app, which allows him or her to see active fire and medical emergency calls of any nature for any

agency. It also includes radio transmissions. In a cardiac event, every second is precious. Even modern EMS agencies benefit from the public stepping in and helping in these cases.

The American Heart Association estimates that effective bystander CPR — including compression-only CPR — can double or triple a victim's chance of survival.

If there is a cardiac arrest in the area of a user with the app, it will show where AED's (Automatic External Defibrillators) are located and provide instructions for CPR and AED usage. The user may be able to respond and help until units can arrive

on scene.

In the first 6 months of 2017, METCOM has received 133 calls for service that were coded as "cardiac arrest," in which CPR would likely have been indicated, according to a news release.

Anyone interested in making a tax-deductible donation [Tax ID: 93-1179507] can write a check referencing "METCOM Pulse Point," and mail to the call center, take it to any local fire district, or drop it at a Columbia Bank branch.

Mail donations

METCOM 911
1060 Mt. Hood Ave
Woodburn, OR 97071

Barn dance at Oregon Garden on tap for Oct. 21

SILVERTON — For the seventh year in a row, the Oregon Garden is holding its annual dance and barbecue in the Great Hall.

Dance the night away, enjoy food and drinks, and listen to country music from 6 to 11 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 21.

Dance tickets are \$25 presale and \$22 for Garden Members; this includes admission, line dance lessons, and one beer. Dinner and dancing tickets are \$40 presale and \$37 for Garden Members.; this includes dinner by Adam's Rib Smokehouse.

Overnight packages are also available at the Oregon Garden Resort, just steps from the event. Visit <http://www.oregongarden.org/events/barn-dance/> for more details and to purchase



C.J. Nugent twirls his girlfriend, Amanda Smith, both of Lebanon, during last year's Barn Dance at the Oregon Garden. This year's event is planned for Oct. 21, 6 to 11 p.m. ANNA REED / STATESMAN JOURNAL

tickets. Double "H" Western Wear is a major sponsor.

LETTERS

Deer belong in Silverton too

Only a mean-spirited person would advocate killing deer for trying to survive in habitat that was taken away by progress. (Silverton council considers solutions to nuisance deer, Oct. 4.) Subdivisions and apartment complexes are creating a bedroom commu-

nity out of what has been a friendly small town community.

If you don't like being in a rural area, then stay in Portland or Salem. Deer have been a part of Silverton forever.

Yes, they can be pests at times, but I've never heard of anyone here being attacked by one. Your neighbor's off-leash dog is more dangerous than

an deer.

How could the idea of two curious deer going with you on a morning run do anything but make you smile? Enjoy the fact that you live in a town where people are still kind enough to stop at intersections and let the doe and her fawn cross the street safely.

Doris Robinson
Silverton

Church Directory

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
303 N. Church Street Silverton, OR 97381
Phone: (503) 873-8656
Pastor Leah Stolte-Doerfler
Sunday School 9:15 a.m.
Service time 10:30 a.m.
Nursery Available

Trinity Lutheran Church, ELCA
Free Saturday Lunches
500 N 2nd Street
Silverton, OR 97381
(503) 873-2635
Sunday, Worship 11am
www.trinitysilverton.org
trinitysilverton@gmail.com

ST. MARY'S CHURCH
Pastor: Fr. Philip Waibel
575 E. College St. 503-845-2296
Weekday Mass 6:50 a.m.
Saturday Vigil Mass 5:30 p.m.
Sunday masses 7:30 a.m., 10 a.m., and 12:30 p.m. (Spanish Mass) at St. Mary Parish. Mass for Holy Rosary Mission at Crooked Finger is at 10:00 a.m.
Confession: 3:30 - 5:00 p.m. on Saturday

SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST COMMUNITY CHURCH
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