

Bonamici Bulletin

By Congresswoman Suzanne Bonamici



There's been a lot of news lately, and I want to highlight a few actions Congress has taken that will help Oregon. First, Congress put an end to

the harmful practice of fire borrowing, which forced the Forest Service to spend wildfire prevention funds to fight wildfires, leaving less money for forest management. Second, Congress funded the Secure Rural Schools program, which helps rural Oregon counties pay for education, public safety, and other vital services. I was proud to contribute to these victories for Oregon and will keep fighting back on congressional gridlock and working hard to support all of our communities.

Here's what else I've been working on:

Town Hall Meetings

Representative democracy thrives when people participate fully and make their voices heard. I appreciate everyone who joined my six town hall meetings this spring in Portland, Beaverton, McMinnville, St. Helens, Forest Grove, and Astoria. We discussed a wide range of issues, including gun violence prevention, the opioid crisis, holding the Trump administration accountable, safeguarding our environment, and strengthening public education. It was especially inspiring to hear from students in McMinnville and Astoria who are working to

make their schools safe and raise their voices about gun violence prevention.

Gaining Work Experience in School

Work study helps students earn money while in college, and it should also be an opportunity to gain valuable experience that will lead to good jobs after graduation. I worked my way through community college with help from the Federal Work Study program, which opened doors and created opportunities for me. I want students in Oregon and around the country to have the same chance to succeed and to reach for a better future, so I've introduced legislation to modernize the Federal Work Study program. My bill, the Opportunities for Success Act, will help make college more affordable and will also promote programs that focus on career readiness so students graduate with relevant work experience in their field of study. There are many steps we can take to make college more affordable and accessible, and updating the Federal Work Study program is one key step.

Preventing Gun Violence

Many Oregonians have told me that they want Congress to pass legislation that will help prevent gun violence and keep their communities safe. I've been inspired by the courage and leadership of students from Florida, Oregon, and around the country who are speaking out and demanding change. Congress recently lifted the ban that prevented the CDC from studying gun violence as a public health issue. It's an important

step, but as a member of the House Gun Violence Prevention Task Force I know we can do more. In the coming months, I'll continue to work with my colleagues to strengthen universal background checks, get military-style weapons off our streets, ban bump stocks, and keep guns out of the hands of dangerous individuals. Congress needs to take action. The American people and future generations are counting on us to debate and pass gun violence prevention legislation.

Protecting Dreamers

President Trump is again playing games with the lives of hard-working Dreamers. A few months ago he said he wanted to protect Dreamers, but now he's turning his back on them. Dreamers have pursued an education and are working to make our communities better places to live; I won't stand idly by as this heartless Administration tries to deport them. I think about Miriam, my constituent who was brought to this country when she was less than a year old, and I can't imagine her being taken away from her husband, son, and the only home she has ever known. Congressional leaders must stand up to the President and pass the bipartisan DREAM Act.

You can find more updates about my work around NW Oregon and in Washington, DC on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and YouTube. You can also contact my Oregon and Washington, DC offices with questions, comments, or for assistance with a federal agency.

Citizens Invited to Represent Neighborhoods, Contribute to County Decision-making Process

Citizen Planning Advisory Committees advise Columbia County leaders on land use matters

Columbia County residents are urged to become more involved in representing their neighborhoods by running for election to Citizen Planning Advisory Committees (CPAC).

CPACs are volunteer organizations led by people who live or own property in their communities. Committee members are elected by their neighbors. The committees provide advice and recommendations to the Columbia County Land Use Planning program on land use matters being considered by the Planning Department, the Planning Commission, and the Board of County Commissioners. Land use topics can in-

clude applications, comprehensive plan amendments, zoning changes, design review, home business occupations, cannabis operating permits, and land divisions.

Columbia County has seven CPACs; each CPAC with the exception of the Mist-Birkenfeld committee, is divided into seven neighborhoods, with one committee member representing each neighborhood. To be elected to a seat on a CPAC a candidate must receive five votes from the neighborhood in which they live.

Elections take place in April for the communities of Scappoose-Spitzenberg, St. Helens-Columbia City, Tide Creek, Rainier-Fernhill, Clatskanie-Quincy, and Upper Nehalem. The Mist-Birkenfeld election will take place at a

later date to be determined.

"Being involved in a CPAC allows people to come together to learn about and discuss issues important to their neighborhoods," said Columbia County Chair Margaret Magruder. "This is an excellent way to interact with decision-makers and have an impact on community activities and interests."

To be eligible to vote residents must show photo identification proving they are at least 18 years old and that they live in the CPAC neighborhood where they will cast their ballot. Neighborhood property owners who don't reside at their property must show a tax statement proving they own property within the neighborhood where they are voting.

continued on page 16

VERNONIA'S
voice
reflecting the spirit of our community

Publisher and Managing Editor
Scott Laird
503-367-0098
scott@vernoniasvoice.com

Contributors

Congresswoman
Suzanne Bonamici
Chip Bubl
Tobie Finzel
Karen Kain
Aaron Miller
Karen Miller
Shannon Romtvedt
Robert Schattschneider

Photography

Karen Kain
Scott Laird

One year subscription
(24 issues) \$35

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

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

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

www.VernoniasVoice.com

NEW LOCATION



The BLACK BEAR
COFFEE COMPANY
Just Suck It Up!

FRESH ROASTED COFFEE
ESPRESSO • BAKED GOODS

OPEN EVERY DAY AT 6:00 AM

825 BRIDGE STREET
503-429-0214

Cedar Side Inn



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



FULL *dish* SPORTS
PACKAGE!

Happy Hour Mon-Fri 4-7

LIVE MUSIC

Sat, Apr. 21
DC Malone
& the Jones

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

"BIKER FRIENDLY"

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