

U.S. Senator Ron Wyden holds town hall event

By Caitlyn May
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U.S. Senator Ron Wyden described himself Sunday night as a first generation Jewish kid whose father fled the Nazis in the 1930s. Not all of his family, however, escaped and it was a reality Wyden called upon in telling a nearly sold out town hall, "Nobody is free unless everyone is free."

The line garnered one of the many thunderous rounds of applause from the several hundred residents who came out to hear the senator mark his 793rd town hall, this time at Lane Community College in Eugene. As one member of the audience pointed out to the senator, the reaction was not completely unexpected. In Eugene, where over 60 percent of residents identify as democrat, Wyden acknowledged that he was speaking to a room that already agreed with him and urged those in attendance to reach out to those on the other side of the aisle.

Questions, however, echoed the national discourse focusing on President Donald Trump and the possible consequences of executive orders and cabinet picks, particularly Trump's choice to lead the Environmental Protection Agency, Scott Pruitt.

"The head of an agency that relates to something in the Oregon gene pool, clean air and water, has spent his entire life trying to dismantle the laws he is now asked to carry out," Wyden said of the choice.

Pruitt, former Oklahoma Attorney General, routinely sued the EPA to block laws regarding the protection of the environment. He was confirmed by a vote of 52-46.

Senator Wyden also touched on the ongoing reports that the Trump campaign was in communication with Russia stating that it was his belief a special prosecutor would be called on to investigate possible business ties between Trump and Russia.

News reports concerning the connection have been popping up since the last leg of the election with new allegations taking hold recently after Trump-appointed National Security Advisor Michael Flynn resigned. Flynn had previously denied any wrong doing before admitting to speaking with the Russian ambassador concerning Obama-placed sanctions on the country prior to Trump's inauguration. The White House denied any cooperation between the campaign and Russia after conflicting reports concerning Flynn's departure emerged. Initially, White House staff noted Flynn resigned. Trump later said he had fired Flynn. Most recently, President Trump noted the media was to blame for its treatment of the former U.S. National Security Advisor.

Wyden cited newly confirmed U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions' support of a special pros-

ecutor for Hillary Clinton during the campaign and FBI head James Comey's decision to discuss a potential investigation 11 days prior to the 2016 election in commenting on a possible investigation into Trump's relationship with Russia. "This cannot be swept under the rug. It's a security issue and it speaks to the legitimacy of government."

Focusing closer to home, Wyden took several questions concerning health care and the choices Oregonians would be faced with if the Affordable Care Act were repealed.

"It's clear all the promises on the campaign trail that the plan would be better, it would be cheaper, he told us it would be great but they called it 'repeal and replace,'" Wyden said of plans to repeal the ACA. "It looks like, now, it's 'repeal and run.' If you want to see chaos, repeal the Affordable Care Act."

Wyden went on to explain to the crowd that 65 percent of the Medicaid budget went to nursing home costs. "These are the folks who have been your quiet neighbors," he said. "They didn't go on vacation, they sent their kids to school, they did everything right. Growing old costs money and they exhausted their savings."

Other topics included during the 90-minute town hall were Supreme Court nominee Neil Gorsuch, the Trans Pacific Partnership, potential Democratic National Committee candidates and who Wyden would support for the role and freedom of the press. In addressing possible DNC chair candidates, Wyden said he had agreed not to use town halls to discuss such things and would be happy to discuss it in the parking lot after the event. As for freedom of the press, he noted that outside forces citing "Fake news" and other contributing factors could create a slippery slope" that would see journalists no longer "writing investigative pieces because they can't afford the legal costs."



U.S. Senator Ron Wyden held his 793rd town hall meeting on Sunday, Feb. 19 at Lane Community College in Eugene. The senator spoke on both national and local, issues including the current administration, health care and immigration.

NEWS FROM OUTSIDE THE GROVE

Submitted by Lil Thompson

Please support the Crow Middle/High School students, Leukemia & Lymphoma "Pennies for Patients" campaign. It continues through February 27. Contact the office at 541-935-2227 to see how you may donate.

Applegate Elementary is still looking for volunteers to read with students during Dr Seuss week - February 27 - March 2. It is a fun and rewarding experience. Contact Megan Leturno at 541-935-2100 or email her at mleturno@cal.k12.or.us

If you know of anyone interested in attending school in our district, the open enrollment is happening in March. There is more individual help and smaller class size. The middle/high school has many interesting electives. There is still music and band in our schools and a great learning environment.

Look forward to seeing everyone at the Lorane Grange spaghetti dinner and bingo evening this Saturday, February 25 starting at 5:30 pm. Bingo begins at 6:30 pm. The progressive blackout has grown. The last winner was February a year ago. Dinner is \$6 for adults which includes unlimited beverages and desserts. Children eight and under are \$3. Those coming only for bingo may purchase dessert and beverages for only \$2. Tell your friends to come out for a fun evening in Lorane, close to home with delicious food and lots of visiting and laughter.

Mark your calendars..Spring Break is March 25 - March 31.

All you talented community members: the RAC/Lorane Grange talent show is coming in April.



Encourage children to floss

Children should learn that flossing is just as important as brushing.

Learning to brush their own teeth is a lesson all children must master. Although parents ultimately may have children who become proficient at brushing their own teeth, getting them to floss is generally more difficult.

The National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention found that 41 percent of children aged 2 to 11 had tooth decay in their first teeth. Dental caries are common among children, likely because they have not become proficient at taking care of their teeth.

Soft, sticky foods are commonplace in young kids' diets, and these can promote decay. Even well-intentioned gummy vitamins can be sources of dental decay. Oftentimes, these foods become lodged between the teeth or on the surface of molars. If left in contact with the teeth for too long, food particles become a source of carbohydrates for oral bacteria, and cavities may appear as a result.

To remove food particles from between the teeth, children must floss, advises the American Academy of Pediatric Dentists. It is recommended that parents help their children to floss as soon as two teeth are touching and continue to do so until the child is around the age of 8, when a child should have enough dexterity to do it on his or her own. Flossing is essential to making sure children do

not experience cavities at an early age, and it can establish practices that promote oral health throughout life. Despite being so important, many parents fail to encourage flossing or are at a loss as to how to make it enjoyable and effective.

Although regular dental floss is one of the first tools for flossing, the dexterity required to wind the floss around little fingers and then thoroughly clean the teeth may discourage children. Parents can look into the wide array of flossing helpers available at the store. In fact, many age-appropriate flossers are now available that feature fun designs and smaller profiles to fit into kids' mouths more easily. Flossers may be attached to a handle to make back teeth more accessible and promote more effective flossing. Manufacturers such as DenTek, Butler GUM, Plackers Kids, Dr. Fresh, Oral-B, and Brush Buddies offer children's flossers.

Kids who shy away from flossing may be more likely to use a children's water flosser. In lieu of string floss, a water flosser uses a pressurized stream of water to dislodge food from between teeth. Although a water flosser may be more messy, children may enjoy the opportunity to "play" with water and the cleaning sensation provided.

To prevent the buildup of plaque and the development of dental caries, parents should educate children about proper flossing techniques.

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