

Bonamici hears health care, climate concerns

Affordable Care Act draws an emotional response

By Brenna Visser
Cannon Beach Gazette

When Gearhart resident Arden Bryce heard Congresswoman Suzanne Bonamici tell the story of her and her daughter, Selah, on the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives back in May, she couldn't help but feel emotional.

Bryce emailed Bonamici earlier in the year when House Republicans first started proposing plans to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act. Bryce, whose daughter

has been diagnosed with autism and a host of other medical issues, said she worries about how she would be able to afford the medication her daughter requires.

Bonamici told Bryce's story on the House floor after voting against legislation that proposed eliminating coverage for pre-existing conditions and preventive care.

"How am I supposed to meet her needs without coverage?" Bryce said. "I hope the more personal connections we make, the more seriously Congress will take their jobs. I know (Bonamici) cared about health care before, but if she can carry this story in her heart it will keep making it personal."

Bryce was one of the many community members

who came to ask Bonamici, D-Oregon, questions about health care, climate change, tax reform and other topics at Tuesday night's town hall meeting.

Many in the audience expressed concerns about cuts to Medicare and other changes to health coverage proposed by the Trump administration, including Selah herself. Bonamici said there are bipartisan efforts to address the Affordable Care Act, and that any proposal would have to benefit people who use it.

"I'd be concerned about any health care proposal that undermines Medicare," Bonamici said. "This is the United States of America. There is no reason why anyone should go without health

care. I'll be fighting for you on that."

Bonamici also discussed her work as the co-chair of the bipartisan Oceans Caucus. Bonamici and her colleagues managed to include amendments that address harmful algal blooms and ocean acidification in the House bill to set funding levels for next fiscal year.

Her amendments increase funding for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Ocean Service to do coastal monitoring and assessment of harmful algal blooms — which can lead to toxins that shut down shellfish harvests — as well as help coastal communities respond to changing ocean conditions and how they affect fisheries and ocean health.

"Oregon's economic vitality is dependent on the health of our oceans and coastal communities," Bonamici said. "Climate change affects our economy."

While on the topic of climate change, some community members asked how Bonamici would improve the role of the federal government in battling the numerous fires that torched Oregon's forests this year.

"As we see more extreme weather events, we know climate change can exacerbate these events," Bonamici said.

Bonamici was one of many Western lawmakers who requested more emergency funding from Trump administration to fight wildfires throughout Oregon. She supports efforts to reform how

wildland firefighting is funded, she said.

In large events, the U.S. Forest Service often exhausts all its funding for wildfire suppression quickly, Bonamici said, which forces the agency to borrow money from other USFS accounts that would otherwise go toward fire prevention and forest management.

While there were no active fires on the North Coast this summer, more than 50 firefighters throughout Clatsop County were sent out to help fight fires in other regions of the state.

"When we have fires of this scope, it doesn't make sense to borrow from these other accounts to fight them," she said. "Let's have funding to manage these forests better."

Morgan to help with Astoria planning

By Katie Frankowicz
EO Media Group

A former Cannon Beach mayor will assist Astoria's Community Development Department while the city searches for a new director.

Mike Morgan, who was Cannon Beach's mayor from 2009 until 2015, will serve as interim city planner, helping City Planner Nancy Ferber tackle various projects in the department while the city searches for a replacement for former Community Development Director Kevin Cronin. City Manager Brett Estes, himself a former Astoria community

development director, will act as interim director in the meantime.

Cronin, who was hired in 2015, announced in September that he was leaving the department to pursue other opportunities. His last day was Friday, Oct. 6.

This isn't the first time Morgan has taken on city planning work with the city.

His time with Astoria dates back to the 1970s and he was the city planner from 1987 to 1991.



Mike Morgan

He has also served as interim city planner before, most recently to fill a gap in 2015 after longtime planner Rosemary Johnson retired.

"I've seen something like four decades of development here," Morgan said.

When he learned Cronin was leaving, he offered his services to the city. He will be in the Community Development office three days a week. At 71 years old, he's not interested in applying for Cronin's old job.

"I'm happy to have my freedom and help the city find a good person," he said.

Estes said the cost of hiring Morgan will depend on how long Morgan will need to stay on as interim planner, but it will cost less than paying a director's salary.

He said the city is also looking at how to use some of the salary savings to have planners with the Columbia River Estuary Study Taskforce review more permits. The organization works with cities and agencies along the Columbia River estuary in Oregon and Washington state, and already reviews some permits for Astoria. Planners there could have the capacity to take on more, Estes said.

Coast Guard hoists beachgoers stranded by tide

EO Media Group

The Coast Guard hoisted two women off a rock near Hug Point State Park Thursday, Oct. 12, after they became stranded by the incoming tide.

Watchstanders at Sector Columbia River in Warrenton received a request for assistance at 5:50 p.m. from the Seaside Police Department. An MH-60 Jayhawk crew from Air Station Astoria arrived around 6:30 p.m. and deployed a rescue swimmer. The women were hoisted and taken to emergency medical services in Cannon Beach.

CANNON BEACH POLICE LOG

Oct. 1

12:08 a.m., 3400 block S. Hemlock: Police respond to a request for a welfare check.

3:02 a.m., 100 block N. Hemlock: Overnight campers are advised they are breaking the law and are advised to leave.

7:09 a.m., 3400 block S. Hemlock: Dogs left for hours barking in a hotel room are removed from the room after police and hotel personnel are unable to contact the dogs' owner; the dogs are removed to the kennel. The owner was later located by police who escorted him to the kennel where he regained custody of the dogs.

Oct. 2

7:39 a.m., 400 block Oak Court: A burglary is reported at a construction site.

10:08 a.m., Ecola Creek and the beach: Police assist Oregon State Police with a report of a suicidal person whose car broke down on the highway. The person in question was located through their pinging phone at the estuary, in the ocean, and wearing a wet suit. Police say he was intoxicated. A trooper released him to the custody of his family who were on scene.

Oct. 3

12:23 a.m., Highway 101, Milepost 29: A

stolen vehicle was pulled over, occupied by 4 people. Charges against the driver included unlawful entry into a motor vehicle, unauthorized use of a vehicle, possession of a stolen vehicle, reckless endangering, criminal mischief, illegal alteration or display of a registration plate, failure to display plates on an expired out-of-state plate, operating a vehicle without driving privileges, and minor in possession.

Oct. 4

2:01 p.m., City Council chambers: A found earring was turned in to police headquarters.

Oct. 5

5:23 p.m., Haystack Rock: Subject was cited for climbing Haystack Rock.

Oct. 6

12:52 a.m., N. Hemlock and Adams: Police respond to a request for a welfare check.

2:23 p.m., 3500 block Pacific: A dog is impounded. The owner had been cited before for dog at large.

4:09 p.m., 400 block Fir Street: Police assist a person with finding their vehicle.

8:58 p.m., Highway 101, Milepost 31: Officer checked on subject said to be stumbling

in the roadway. Officer responding spoke with the subject who advised they were almost home.

9:28 p.m., Arcadia Beach: A person is arrested for driving under the influence of intoxicants.

Oct. 7

12:04 p.m., 900 block S. Hemlock: A disturbance is reported.

3:00 p.m., 3300 block S. Hemlock: Police conduct a welfare check on an individual.

10:35 p.m., Avenue A and S. Roosevelt: A person is arrested for DUI.

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Send resume and letter of interest to: EO Media Group, PO Box 2048 Salem, OR 97308-2048 or e-mail: hr@eomediagroup.com

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