

# Seaside struggles most with chronic absenteeism

## Statewide rate has worsened

By Edward Stratton  
The Daily Astorian

Seaside students continued to struggle the most with chronic absenteeism relative to their peers in Clatsop County and statewide last school year.

Chronic absenteeism is defined as missing at least 10 percent of the school year. Nearly one-quarter of Seaside students were considered chronically absent last school year, according to state attendance reports, a nearly 1 percent increase from the year prior and up 7.5 percent from 2014-15.

Around one-third of Seaside kindergartners and high schoolers last school year were considered chronically absent.

"I think that we certainly need an improvement in our attendance," said Sheila Roley, the school superintendent in Seaside. "It has become close to the top of our priority list."

The school district has a highly mobile population, with families sometimes moving out of the district and not letting the district know, Roley said. Families busy with work during the summer also take breaks during the school year to spend time together, racking up absences,



SEASIDE SCHOOL DISTRICT

The Seaside School District's new campus under construction in the Southeast Hills could impact absenteeism rates.

she said.

The district this year started a colloquium period during which students check in with a teacher or other staff member four to five days a week. Having adult mentors is key to keeping students engaged, along with creating interesting academic opportunities, Roley said.

Seaside will soon move to a new K-12 campus in the hills east of the city center. It remains to be seen whether a more rural campus cuts into absenteeism, but the district will be taking certain measures in response to the new location, such as closing campus during lunch, Roley said.

More than one-fifth of students statewide were considered chronically absent last

school year. The rate is one of the worst in the nation and has consistently grown worse over the past several years from 15.2 percent in 2013-14.

Aside from Seaside, county schools have shown more progress in regards to the absenteeism rate and trended lower than the state. Fewer than 9 percent of the 157 students in the rural K-12 Jewell School last school year were chronically absent, far below the district's 21.5 percent rate in 2016-17 and 24.5 percent in 2015-16. Jewell's rate was the lowest in the county, followed by 15.9 percent in Astoria and 16.8 percent in Warrenton. Knappa's chronic absenteeism rate surpassed the state's at 21.7 percent last year, but was down from 22.3

percent the two years prior.

Astoria's chronic absenteeism rate last school year decreased by 4 percent overall from 2016-17. The school district recently began the Strive for Five campaign to publicize the importance of attendance. Craig Hoppes, the school superintendent in Astoria, said the district has made a lot of progress, and has seen the results borne out in better test scores, but ultimately wants to get below 10 percent chronic absenteeism.

"We've never communicated like this at the high school or districtwide to parents about the importance of attendance," he said of Strive for Five.

The rate of chronic absenteeism has traditionally been highest among kindergartners and high school juniors and seniors. While more than one-fifth of kindergartners statewide were chronically absent, the rate was only 10 percent in Jewell, 12.3 percent in Astoria and 12.8 percent in Warrenton. More than 30 percent of kindergartners in Knappa were chronically absent last school year, along with one-third in Seaside.

More than 29 percent of high schoolers were chronically absent statewide, compared to 23.4 percent in Astoria and 24.3 percent in Warrenton. Seaside and Knappa were the only districts to surpass 30 percent and the statewide rate.

State schools chief Colt Gill, an appointee of Gov. Kate Brown, has faced criticism for planning to withhold completed school report cards until after the November election. The report on chronic absenteeism was due out more than a week ago, but had been tentatively pushed back to Nov. 1 without explanation before a surprise decision to release complete school performance data Friday, according to The Oregonian.

The state recently created its own attendance campaign, Every Day Matters, as part of a goal of Brown's to have 90 percent of incoming high

school freshmen graduate with a diploma or through a GED exam.

"We know that every day a student attends school means an additional opportunity for learning," Gill said in a news release. "Our Every Day Matters campaign is one part of a larger effort throughout the state to improve attendance. Reducing chronic absenteeism requires all of us to do our part. Schools need to make sure students are welcomed and engaged. Families need to recognize the importance of attendance and every community needs to look at local barriers that can impact student attendance."

# Bonamici deals with issues at town hall

## Congresswoman shares views in Cannon Beach

By Brenna Visser  
Cannon Beach Gazette

National issues, such as concerns about climate change and partisan gridlock in Congress, were at the forefront at a town hall hosted Sunday, Oct. 21, by U.S. Rep. Suzanne Bonamici.

The visit was a part of a tour across the 1st Congressional District to answer questions from constituents. Most concerns were centered around whether any progress could be made on Bonamici's priorities, such as expanding health care, college affordability or curbing climate change, with a Republican-held Congress and White House.

"When I got elected to Congress, I knew I'd be in the minority, but that doesn't mean I expect my constituents to expect I do nothing because I'm in the minority party," the Democrat said. "You find common ground."

Bonamici cited her work with Rep. Don Young, R-Alaska, to develop the Save Our Seas Act, a bill that reauthorizes the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's marine debris Program through 2022. She also mentioned bipartisan work with then-Rep. Jim Bridenstine, R-Okla., that was necessary to pass the Weather Forecasting Improvement Act of 2014, a bill aimed at bettering coordination of NOAA's research and forecasting operations.

While bipartisanship is possible, Bonamici said she is concerned about the lack of over-

sight she feels lawmakers have over the Trump administration. Bonamici highlighted the U.S. Department of Education and the Environmental Protection Agency, in particular.

"The current Congress has not done a good job to provide oversight to this administration," Bonamici said. "We've seen story after story about them not doing their job or about a culture of corruption... we need to crack down where oversight is needed."

This issue dovetailed into the concerns some in the audience had about whether a recent report published by the Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change — a group of scientists convened by the United Nations — was being taken seriously by Congress. The report described the global effects of climate change by 2040.

Bonamici said, as a member

of the House Science, Space and Technology Committee, she was disappointed by the Trump administration's lack of response to the report.

"The administration didn't even understand who (the Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change) were," she said.

Bonamici said she still believes progress can be made through educating people and communicating about issues like ocean acidification and renewable energy resources, and that those conversations need to be tethered to job retraining and education in the oil and coal industries.

"We can grow our renewable energy industry," Bonamici said. "But we have to talk about it in a way where those working in industries like coal don't feel like we're taking away their livelihood and their whole history."

### CANNON BEACH POLICE LOG

- Oct. 12**  
Four incidents of overnight camping are reported.  
**11:05 p.m.**, 400 block 12th Avenue: Police assist Seaside Police breaking up a house party where subjects were arrested.
- Oct. 13**  
One incident of overnight camping is reported.  
**10:15 p.m.**, Second Street: Police respond to a report of an intoxicated female who ran away from her mother following a verbal argument. Police are unable to locate. Mother called police back later to say her daughter was returning to the hotel.
- Oct. 14**  
Seven incidents of overnight camping are reported.
- Oct. 15**  
**11:22 a.m.**, 300 block N. Chinook:

- Police respond to a request for a welfare check. The person is fine.
- Oct. 16**  
**4 p.m.**, Highway 101: Police assist Oregon State Police with a motor vehicle accident.
- Oct. 17**  
Three incidents of overnight camping are reported.  
**6:18 p.m.**, Haystack Rock: Police assist with a water rescue.
- Oct. 18**  
One incident of overnight camping was reported.  
**11:56 a.m.**, Police headquarters: A lost necklace is reported.
- Oct. 19**  
One incident of overnight camping is reported.  
**7:32 p.m.**, Elk Creek Road: Police respond three times over the next hour to an intoxicated woman

- who tells police she is concerned her neighbors are bikers and devil worshippers. Police speak with the neighbors, who are a family with young children. No bikers or devil worshipping found.
- Oct. 20**  
**2:09 a.m.**, Police transport to hospital for medical attention an intoxicated woman reported on Broadway for refusing to leave a business; in the patrol car, the woman banged her head against the cage in the car.
- Oct. 21**  
Three incidents of overnight camping are reported.
- 5:37 p.m.**, Police assist motorist with a dead battery.
- Oct. 22**  
**5:11 p.m.**, 1100 block Spruce: Police respond to a disturbance between neighbors.
- Oct. 24**  
**8:53 a.m.**, Highway 101: A possibly injured owl reported on the highway is gone on police arrival.  
**3:24 p.m.**, Police assist a person locating their vehicle.
- Oct. 25**  
**7:36 p.m.**, Highway 101: Police assist with a situation where a car drove into a ditch.

# BUSINESS DIRECTORY

**FLOORING**

**COREtec**  
the Original  
Luxury vinyl planks and tile.

**Carpet Corner**  
Flooring Installation

you walk on our reputation

3470 Hwy 101 Suite 102 • Gearhart, Oregon  
503.739.7577 • carpetcornergearhart.com

**PAINTING**

Licensed • Bonded • Insured  
CCB# 89453

Randy Anderson  
36 Years Experience

**Anderson Painting**

(503) 738-9989 • Cell (503) 440-2411 • Fax (503) 738-9337  
PO Box 140 Seaside, Oregon 97138

www.andersonpainting.biz

"Custom Finishing"

**CONSTRUCTION**

**BOB McEWAN CONSTRUCTION, INC.**

EXCAVATION • UNDERGROUND UTILITIES  
ROAD WORK • FILL MATERIAL  
SITE PREPARATION • ROCK

OWNED AND OPERATED BY MIKE AND CELINE McEWAN

**503-738-3569**

34154 Hwy 26, Seaside, OR  
P.O. Box 2845, Gearhart, OR

SERVING THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST SINCE 1956 • CC48302

**LANDSCAPING**

Laurelwood Compost • Mulch • Planting MacMix  
Soil Amendments

YARD DEBRIS DROP-OFF  
(no Scotch Broom)

**503-717-1454**

34154 HIGHWAY 26  
SEASIDE, OR

**Laurelwood Farm**

**CONSTRUCTION**

**COASTER**  
construction, LLC

"Helping shape the character of Cannon Beach since 1973"

Residential • Commercial • Remodeling  
New Construction • Storm Damage Repair  
Full Service Custom Cabinet Shop

**503.436.2235**

www.coasterconstruction.com • CCB# 150126

**STORAGE**

**STORAGE AVAILABLE**

**CANNON BEACH BUSINESS PARK**

**10' x 10' Heated**

Contact Holly at 503-436-2235

**LAWN CARE**

Free Estimates • Storm Clean-Up

**JIM'S LAWN CARE**  
**503-325-2445**

LAWNS • SHRUBS • GUTTER CLEANING  
BARK • BRUSH CLEARING & REMOVAL  
WEEDING • HAULING • MONTHLY RATES

**Dining on the North Coast**

Excellence in family dining found from a family that has been serving the North Coast for the past 52 years

Great Breakfast, but that's not all...  
Great lunch and dinner menu, too!  
Great pasta, steaks & seafood!  
Homemade Clam Chowder, Salads!

Seaside • 323 Broadway • 738-7234 (Open 7 Days)  
Cannon Beach • 223 S. Hemlock 436-2851 (7am-3pm Daily)  
Astoria • 146 W. Bond • 325-3144

**PIG 'N PANCAKE**

Sounds of modern jazz as rendered by  
BJ Marx, John Orr, Dave Gager & Joe Church  
These guys are taking the North Coast by storm

**SWING, BOP, COOL**

Admission \$10  
PERFORMANCE 7PM-9PM

HIGHMAN CENTER FOR THE ARTS  
594 LANEDA AVE. • MANZANITA  
503.368.3846

SATURDAY 10 NOVEMBER

Cannon Beach Leather

Remy Scully  
LEATHER Since 1966

Schott N.Y.C.  
Whet blu WILL

LEATHER GOODS  
ESTABLISHED 1966

Brighton, Oregon  
Osgood Masley

239 N. Hemlock • Cannon Beach • 503.436.0208