

Quarterly Ascertainment Q4 for KBGE 94.9 The Bridge

October - December 2017

Local News features Monday through Friday beginning at 6am through 9am. Top and bottom of the hour with a duration of 3-4 minutes. Includes Public service announcements for community events in Cannon Beach, Seaside, Warrenton and Astoria. Local news with vital information on weather events and road closures.

Seaside Downtown Development Association.

The executive director of SDDA records a community affairs program for the downtown area and we air the program free of charge 9 times a week Monday through Wednesday. Monday 6:15am, 9:15am and 5:15pm. Tuesday 10:15am, 1:15pm and 6:15pm. Wednesday 7:15am, 12:15pm and 7:15pm

Duration 2:30

Topics included

Convention Center Expansion – Merchant needs during the non tourist season – Homelessness and vandalism

Major events and the impact upon local businesses.

Public Affairs

October

RJ Marx editor of The Cannon Beach Gazette/Seaside Signal

1. Hood to Coast and business grievances over the event
2. Seaside school's new location and land boundary issues.
3. Renovating the Sunset Empire Public Pool and Dogs were allowed to swim before they drained the water.
4. Tsunami preparedness and what happens in the aftermath. Grants for studies.

Public Affairs

Nov/Dec

RJ Marx editor of The Cannon Beach Gazette/Seaside Signal

1. Clatsop County firefighters come home after battling southern California Fires. "It was pure shock. Wow — I've never seen something like that before. I grew up in Seaside," Rich said. "Taking in all the burnt houses, seeing people coming back to find their houses was a very somber moment."
2. Short term rental properties are creating a stink in Gearhart where some resident want to keep the neighborhood community feel and are concerned about loud parties and congestion.
3. Water rates rise in Cannon Beach as residents feel the increase. The 20-year plan is required by the state, and projects would focus on rehabbing or replacing a variety of systems, including brittle water lines and water storage tanks.

4. Moments of glory arrived for the North Coast's high school sports teams. The Seaside boys basketball team made school history in March, winning its first-ever state championship.

Public Affairs Program heard Sunday morning at 7:00am

Duration 30:00

This Week with State Senator Betsy Johnson 10-6-17

Senator Johnson says weekly fire briefings for legislators have been discontinued, because the number of fires has been drastically reduced by rains and cooler weather. She notes, however, there are still fires burning in Oregon and discusses the latest information available.

Chetco Bar

General Info

Incident Name Chetco Bar Incident Number OR-RSF-000326

Location E/NE of Brookings in the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest, Kalmiopsis Wilderness Acres 191090

Start Date 2017-07-12 Cause Lightning

Percent Contained 97 Estimated Containment Date 2017-10-15

Residences Threatened 1 damaged, 6 destroyed

Other Structure Threatened 8 damaged, 24 destroyed

Fuel/Terrain Timber, brush and closed-canopy understory litter. Steep, rugged and inaccessible terrain. Lead Agency USDA Forest Service

Resources

Total People 402 Crews 5 Helicopter 2 Engines 10

Status A Burned Area Emergency Response (BAER) Team is on scene, assessing post-fire impacts. This team, comprised of scientists and resource specialists, is evaluating watershed conditions to determine the level of potential risk to human life, safety, property, and natural and cultural-heritage resources. The resultant analysis informs land managers' decision-making. The objective is to swiftly implement appropriate and effective emergency stabilization measures on federal lands to reduce risks from potential flooding and debris flow. Closures The Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest closure area has been reduced in size following completion of important repair work by fire personnel. Areas to the north and northwest of the Chetco Bar Fire are now open. To view the closure narrative and map, visit Inciweb at: inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/closures/5385/. As closures evolve, they are posted here – for ease of viewing and comparison.

Eagle Creek

General Info

Incident Name Eagle Creek Incident Number OR-CGF-000493

Location 1 miles south of Cascade Locks, OR Acres 48831

Start Date 2017-11-30 Cause Human Caused - Under Investigation

Percent Contained 46 Estimated Containment Date 2017-09-30

Residences Threatened 4 residences destroyed

Other Structure Threatened 0

Fuel/Terrain Timber Lead Agency USDA Forest Service

Resources

Total People 229 Crews 4 Helicopter 1 Engines 4

Status It continued to rain on the fire area yesterday, particularly in the western reaches. Temperatures at elevation were in the upper 40's. These conditions suppress the fire, but also challenge repair crews who are

now working in cold, wet conditions. Fire supervisors are reminding crews to pay additional attention to changing conditions like slippery roads and trails. The rains also make soils wet, which has forced a halt to some repair work in order to prevent soil compaction and damage to forest roads. Repair activities, such as brush chipping, have been progressing well, along with fire line repair in less sensitive locations and where the soils are not as moist. A high pressure system is expected to bring dryer conditions on Monday and repair work will continue when conditions are drier. The Burned Area Emergency Response (BAER) Team assigned to the Eagle Creek Fire continues its assessment work and is planning to release findings toward the end of next week. One product they are producing is a Soil Burn Severity (SBS) map. Using the SBS map, BAER Team members will run models to estimate changes in stream flows and geologic hazards such as debris flows and rock falls. This will be used to develop recommendations for actions to be taken to protect public safety and natural resources. We're happy to report on another positive outcome after the fire. The Franciscan Sisters of the Eucharist, who maintain a convent in the hills outside of Corbett, were evacuated during the fire. The fire came within 50 feet of their home, but thanks to the efforts of firefighters who implemented structural protection measures around the convent, and the efforts of their arborist to Firewise their property, the convent escaped without any damage. The sisters, along with their cats and goats, have been able to happily return to their convent and their mission.

Fire Specific Data Stamp: This Info Updated 2017-10-01 13:35:17

High Cascades Complex

General Info

Incident Name High Cascades Complex Incident Number OR-RSF-000636

Location 9 miles NE Prospect Acres 80197

Start Date 2017-08-12 Cause Lightning

Percent Contained 34 Estimated Containment Date 2017-10-15

Residences Threatened

Other Structure Threatened 7 other minor structures (1 destroyed)

Fuel/Terrain Timber (litter and understory) Lead Agency USDA Forest Service

Resources

Total People 462 Crews 8 Helicopter 4 Engines 8

Status

West Zone:Current Fire Information: Interior smokes will visible on both fires until a season ending event which could take the form of rain or snow. Pup – 8,279 acres, 42% contained. Located northwest and southeast of Hershberger Lookout partially in the Rogue-Umpqua Divide Wilderness. The north indirect containment line along Forest Road (FR) 2840 has been cleaned up and equipment is repairing road damage. Merchantable logs are being hauled and decked for future use. Repair on secondary dozer and hand lines on the east side is 60% completed. Along FR 6520, vegetation and slash generated from indirect fire line construction is being hauled by 10 dump trucks to a near-by rock pit for storage and later processing into chips for transport to a co-generation plant in White City. This work is 40% completed. Broken Lookout – 19,181 acres, 27% contained. Located directly west of Union Creek on the southern end of the Rogue-Umpqua Divide Wilderness where it is burning on both sides of the Wilderness. Firefighters are repairing secondary dozer containment lines along the south and firefighter parking areas (drop points) along the southwest side of the fire. Along FR 700, chipping of vegetative debris generated from indirect fire line construction continues. Work is also progressing on repairing dozer line around the contained Cougar Fire.Behavior: The fire perimeters have little potential for movement. Expect cooler conditions to re-establish over the fire area limiting fire spread potential. Creeping and smoldering in heavy surface fuels will continue. Closures: The Rogue River Siskiyou National Forest has reduced the closure area east of Highway 62. Multiple area, trail, and Forest road closures still exist over both Forests. "Know before you go" by visiting <https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/5503> or your local Forest office. Know: the forecasted weather; road, trail and area closure information; and be aware of firefighters working in the vicinity of your recreational activities.

Fire Specific Data Stamp: This Info Updated 2017-09-30 09:18:11

Jones

General Info

Incident Name Jones Incident Number OR-WIF-170191

Location 10 miles NE of Lowell, OR Acres 10114

Start Date 2017-08-10 Cause Lightning
Percent Contained 89 Estimated Containment Date 2017-10-14
Residences Threatened
Other Structure Threatened 1 minor structure (1 destroyed)
Fuel/Terrain Large downed trees and standing snags. Green trees may be weakened from 2003 fire in same area. Lead Agency USDA Forest Service
Resources
Total People 182 Crews 4 Helicopter 1 Engines 5

Status

Yesterday's Activity – Repairing suppression lines is an emphasis at this stage. Stabilization measures taken by crews help prevent soil erosion, aid vegetation recovery, minimize damage to prime fish habitat, and conserve water quality. On the Jones Fire crews continued moving logs from trees felled as part of the suppression effort and hazard trees. Other efforts included mopping-up hot spots, backhauling equipment and chipping. Today's Operations - Firefighters will continue to seek and mop-up isolated hot spots on both fires, where safe to do so. On the Jones Fire chipping operations, fire suppression repair, felling of fire-weakened hazard trees continues. Weather and Fire Behavior – Warming/drying comes to an end today with a change in the weather that brings cooler temperatures and precipitation by afternoon. More showers are expected over the weekend and fire behavior should then be limited to isolated smoldering and minimal creeping under timber canopy.

Fire Specific Data Stamp: This Info Updated 2017-09-30 09:19:11

Senator Johnson also discussed a recent meeting of the Oregon Economic Development Council and says that agency is doing well and has just put out a robust agency plan. She also hopes the upcoming legislative session focuses on agency performance and budgets, and the Legislature doesn't try to do complicated bills or revisit controversial bills that did not pass in the long session.

This Week with State Senator Betsy Johnson 10-13-17

Senator Johnson says the most exciting event for her this past week was in Vernonia as they celebrated bringing a school project to completion. In the wake of severe flooding in 2007, Vernonia City voters approved a \$13 million bond in 2009 to build a new school complex in Vernonia. The new school, now a K-12 school, was completed during the summer of 2012 at a cost \$40 million. The new building was built above the flood plain to prevent future flooding. She says they reached out to the voters of Vernonia to extend the length of the bond to six years to retire some debt still owed on the project. She says there are still some issues, like a water right and athletic fields, but when you think about how a little town came together to make this happen, it is a big deal. She says former Oregon Governor Ted Kulongoski was there, who was instrumental in getting the project going. Senator Johnson rates Governor Kulongoski very high on the list of Oregon governors. She says he was, and is, the soldier's governor, noting how many eulogies he had to deliver for fallen soldiers during his time in office. She says he is a sensitive, smart, caring man, and though they don't always agree, she respects him. She says he served in all three branches of Oregon government.

Senator Johnson says the fire caucus is in a bit of a holding pattern at the moment. She is reluctant to turn the fires into a political issue, and she wants to get to an Oregon response that involves the state's congressional delegation. Some of the issues include initial attack, salvage and reforestation, roadless and wilderness areas, and how the feds manage their forests. She says the fire in the Gorge brought home the point to many Portland legislators that fires are not just in some remote location. She believes this fire season will end up burning more acres than 20 years of the Tillamook Burn. She says she wants the fire caucus to be prudent and not turn this into a divisive issue. She says one of the reasons Oregon has been able to get a wildfire insurance policy from Lloyd's of London because of the state's reputation for initial attack. She says the federal forest policy just doesn't make sense. She says the insurance policy does not cover the economic damages suffered because of the fire to festivals and events that were cancelled, business that are gone, and others. She says she doesn't know how to fix this, but just shoveling money at communities isn't enough. She says the state needs to work

with communities to find recovery solutions, and she says there will be a finite amount of money available.

Senator Johnson says there are continuing conversations in Tillamook with ODOT as major work is being done on the Highways 101 and 6 intersection. She says ODOT has fallen in love with a couple of traffic devices-- one called a bulb out is hard to see on a map, so residents were not ready for the reality of having them. Curb extensions (also called bulb-outs) extend the sidewalk into the parking lane to narrow the roadway and provide additional pedestrian space at key locations; they can be used at corners and at mid-block. Curb extensions enhance pedestrian safety by increasing pedestrian visibility, shortening crossing distances, slowing turning vehicles, and visually narrowing the roadway. Generally, these benefits are greater the further the bulb-out extends into the roadway and the tighter the turn radius created by the bulb-out, but should be balanced against roadway characteristics and the needs of large vehicles to navigate turns. Curb extensions can often be lengthened to create public spaces, landscaped areas, or transit waiting areas. They can also be employed as neck-downs or chokers, traffic calming techniques that reduce vehicle travel lanes. Curb extensions can have the following benefits:

- Increased pedestrian visibility at intersections through improved sight lines
- Decreased pedestrian exposure to vehicles by shortening the crossing distance
- Reduced vehicle turn speeds by physically and visually narrowing the roadway
- Increased pedestrian waiting space
- Additional space for street furnishings, plantings and other amenities
- Reduced illegal parking at corners crosswalks and bus stops
- Facilitated ability to provide two curb ramps per corner

Although curb extensions have many benefits, they may not be appropriate in all circumstances. Use of curb extensions should consider the following:

- They may be more expensive to construct than other measures
- They can reduce flexibility of the roadway in construction routing
- They can reduce future flexibility in making changes to the location of bus zones, roadway lane layout, or crosswalks

Bulb-outs should also be considered as one among many strategies to enhance pedestrian safety and streetscape character; in some cases, median refuges, raised crossings, other improvements, or a combination of strategies may be more appropriate.

Senator Johnson says ODOT was also willing to find a different solution for pedestrians, eliminating a concrete barrier known as 'the pork chop' because it is in the shape of a pork chop.

This Week with State Senator Betsy Johnson 10-20-17

Senator Johnson has been working on the Oregon Manufacturing Innovation Center in Scappoose. She met another innovator from the Advanced Manufacturing Research Center in Sheffield, England who has come up with a way to track air craft information while the craft is in flight. She says this is a big deal because prior to this, aircraft equipment could only tell a pilot when something has failed. This mirror technique allows people on the ground to monitor the craft and warn about any potential equipment problems based on the mirrored tracking. She was in Portland with a Boeing representative talking about OMIC, and also met with the president of Portland Community College, and she says PCC has now appointed someone to be their liaison with OMIC.

Senator Johnson says transportation continues to be a big issue she's working on throughout Senate District 16. She says she really appreciates the Tillamook Chamber of Commerce for being the interface between the public and ODOT regarding the work going on Highway 6 and 101. She says there have been some changes made-- a concrete structure that could have posed a traffic hazard for trucks known as a pork chop has been removed and she says ODOT will also look at how far curb extensions called bulb-outs extend. She says she always working with ODOT on pedestrian crossing issues in Clatskanie. She says the city would like to put in lights that are turned on by pedestrians who want to cross Highway 30 in Clatskanie. She says ODOT wants to put a barrier on the highway, which would cost 180 thousand dollars that ODOT would have to pay for. She

says it costs much less to pay for the right of way, and then the city would be for the lights. She is also working on safety improvements in Columbia County and whether those would be located at Millard or Bennett Road. She says traffic congestion is becoming increasingly problematic, especially in the Portland area. She says some constituents have asked her about a possible bypass for Cornelius Pass Road, but there are a number of obstacles to making that happen. She says whatever happens on that road, it won't happen quickly.

Senator Johnson says the fire caucus has had a couple meetings with Oregon's congressional delegation, and she wants to be sure whatever comes out of the fire caucus, it is non-partisan, and an Oregon response to the devastating wildfires that ravaged the Gorge and other parts of the state. She says she and State Representative Brad Witt recently spoke to an environmental law class about natural resource issues-- he about what happened in the last session, and her speech was about what to do about federal forest policy and how we fight fire. She will be taking a part in a fire recap meeting with Oregon Forest Industries, and she says sometimes, it takes a while for the gears to engage, and the first priority is get the fires out. She says while many are, there are still some burning, like the Eagle fire and another in the Jefferson wilderness. She says the cost of fighting the fires has not, to her knowledge, been calculated yet, and then there is the economic damage suffered by property and business owners.

This Week with State Senator Betsy Johnson 10-27-17

This week's show focuses on the CMH-OHSU Knight Cancer Collaborative. It is a comprehensive community cancer program for radiation oncology, medical oncology and infusion services, serving adult patients in the Columbia-Pacific region of Northwest Oregon and Southwest Washington. The Cancer Collaborative enables Columbia Memorial Hospital and the OHSU Knight Cancer Institute to provide the most advanced cancer care where our patients live and to more effectively use our collective resources.

Services:

Personalized cancer and hematology treatment plans

Radiation therapy

Chemotherapy and infusion

Infusion suite with specially trained nurses

PET CT and other diagnostic services

Quick test results

Second opinions and checkups

Custom financial consultation

Integrative therapies

Resource center for education and personal items

Communication with referring physicians

Your Cancer Care Team

It takes a village to provide comprehensive cancer care. These are just a few of the caregivers who provide support along the way:

Oncologist: Works in close collaboration with other oncologists and cancer researchers to diagnose and develop treatment plans for cancer patients.

Nurse Navigator: Guides people newly diagnosed with cancer along the path from diagnosis to survivorship.

Care Planner: Acts as patient's advocate and emotional support; connects patient with community support.

Triage Nurse: Serves as the go-to person during treatment for questions and helps to manage side-effects.

Pharmacist: Mixes each patient's unique chemotherapy cocktail.

Dosimetrist: Develops each patient's custom radiation therapy plan to best target the cancer.

Former mayor of Astoria, Willis Van Dusen, talks about the partnership between the hospital, the city, Western Recology, and others that allowed the hospital to get the land for the new center, build a new stadium for the high school, cap a landfill, and get the new center built. Senator Johnson credits Van Dusen with being the impetus for making all this happen. CMH CEO Erik Thorsen also discusses the center and how unusual it is for a community the size of Astoria to have a center of this nature. According to the Daily Astorian, Chris Laman, the hospital's director of pharmacy and oncology services, said radiation sessions are commonly divided into nine equal installments of about 20 to 30 seconds of radiation a day, five days a week for nearly two weeks. Each year, the hospital estimates, 75 to 100 people travel from the North Coast region to Portland, Longview,

Washington, or Seattle for radiation therapy, sometimes dedicating most of a day for seconds of therapy. The hospital expects 1,800 such radiation-therapy visits after the first year of operation.

Laman said the hospital's setup for radiation therapy in Astoria will mirror OHSU's, down to the same linear particle accelerator from Swedish radiotherapy equipment manufacturer Elekta used at the Knight Cancer Institute. The accelerator directs a beam of radiation at a patient's tumor during treatment to irradiate cancerous tumors.

"It has to be perfectly level," Laman said. "The machine has to know the beam is going exactly to the right spot."

The walls of the chamber around the accelerator are 3 1/2-feet thick on the bottom and sides, and 7 1/2-feet thick on top. Keeping the concrete and the 28,000-pound accelerator level are 280 aggregate stone piers dug into the ground underneath.

The linear accelerator, being shipped across the Atlantic Ocean, through the Panama Canal and up to Los Angeles, will then be trucked up the West Coast in boxes, delivered to the building in early July to be assembled, installed, tested and certified over a 2 1/2-month period. Laman said the accelerator will likely be ready for use in early October, shortly before the building's expected grand opening Oct. 12. Parts of the center will open to patients in September. In 2008, Sangkun "Sonny" Park reached out about bringing cancer treatment services to Astoria. In 2010, the hospital partnered with OHSU to create a cancer care clinic, temporarily in the CMH Health & Wellness Pavilion. After a \$300,000 grant from the Astoria Development Commission for renovations, the cancer center moved into the Park Medical Building, where it provides 2,500 infusion and chemotherapy visits per year, expected to increase to 3,000 at the new center. Patients receiving infusions will face a bank of windows on the second floor with expansive views of the Columbia River. But some infusions can last six to seven hours, Laman said, meaning the hospital needed chairs that patients would like to be in for long periods. The hospital had general contractor P&C Construction build a mock-up of the infusion center in Fort George Brewery's Lovell Showroom and invited three chair vendors to bring their models to be tested and voted on by patients, staff and others from the community. "Over the last few years, there's been more and more research showing that it's not just the chemotherapy or the radiation that really gets the patient through this process," Laman said. "It's sort of a multidisciplinary team that takes care of the patient." In addition to exam, positron emission tomography and CT scanning on the first floor, the hospital will provide a financial planner to take patients through the financing of cancer treatment. The hospital will also offer support groups and counselors; beauticians to help with cosmetics, shaving and hair care during treatment; a yoga instructor; a massage therapist, acupuncturist and a naturopath to help deal with side effects of treatment naturally; and a patient resource center for wigs, prosthetics and other products for people going through treatment. The hospital expects to more than double its staff from 17 now to 37 by the end of 2018 at the new building. OHSU, which provides the region's only oncologist for diagnoses and prescribing treatment, will provide an additional medical oncologist and a radiation oncologist, opening more appointments for patients. OHSU will also link the local doctors with further support and expertise of specialists in Portland.

In addition to using local subcontractors under general contractor P&C Construction, the hospital has worked with 17 local artists on art installations throughout the building, including a mosaic and sculptures by ceramicist Richard Rowland and handmade paper lighting features by HiiH Lights. The hospital is using more than \$13 million in bonds to pay for the project. And in January, the CMH Foundation completed a fundraising campaign of more than \$3 million from local and regional donors. "So many people have worked together to bring radiation therapy to the community and to build this state-of-the-art cancer treatment center," the hospital's CEO Erik Thorsen said. "This has been one of the greatest community-supported projects that I have witnessed in my career. The new CMH/OHSU Knight Cancer Collaborative will reduce the incredible burden cancer causes for so many people in our community."

This Week with State Senator Betsy Johnson 11-3-17

Senator Johnson attended the Portland Business Alliance annual meeting this past week, and the Oregon Manufacturing Innovation Center was the star of the dinner. She says a high-ranking Boeing official spoke glowingly of OMIC and the promise that it has for Oregon's manufacturing industries. She says a big company from Germany was there as well, part of the many people who come to Oregon to see Adrian Allen of the AMRC in England that OMIC is based on. She says because Boeing was the principal partner with AMRC, the

initial focus was airplane-related. She says AMRC started out on land that was a spent coal mine and is now some of the most valuable land in England. She says AMRC now serves as a model for similar set ups around the world, including Scappoose. She says OIT, PSU and PCC are involved as well as manufacturing companies like Silver Eagle, Daimler, Boeing and Vigor. She says they will be making manufacturing techniques greener, faster and safer and hopefully create more opportunities for business. She says PCC has hired Chris Holden, who will be responsible for launching, maintaining, and further developing the Oregon Manufacturing Innovation Center Training Center in strong collaboration with industry, academic and government partners.

Senator Johnson says there will be some very significant changes when the 2018 legislative session begins in February, Senate Republican Leader Ted Ferrioli and Ways and Means Co-Chair Richard Devlin are both leaving the legislature for the Power Planning Council. Senator Johnson hopes Cliff Bentz is picked to replace Ferrioli as minority leader. She says there are a lot of people leaving the house, including State Representative Mark Johnson who will head the new organization that was Associated Oregon Industries, Knute Buehler is running for governor and Sal Esquivel is also leaving. She believes both Devlin and Ferrioli will be approved by the Senate coming up in mid-November. Senator Johnson has asked to be appointed Co-Chair of Ways and Means by Senate President Peter Courtney, with the departure of Devlin from the legislature. She says she has seniority and she is currently the vice co-chair. She has been on Ways and Means her entire legislative career, and she believes she would be a good choice.

Senator Johnson will be a judge at a culinary competition and United Way fundraiser in Clatsop County called Iron Chef Goes Coastal. She will be speaking with several service organizations including Kiwanis and the Farm Bureau. She will also be attending numerous Veterans Day events coming up on November 11th. She says Dr. George Brown is retiring from the Legacy Hospital system, which she says will be an enormous loss to Oregon's health care transformation process. She says the veterans in Tillamook do a big event at the blimp hangar on 11/11. She is also getting ready for legislative days coming up November 13-16.

This Week with State Senator Betsy Johnson 11-10-17

Senator Johnson says she thinks the less than 30 percent turnout for this past week's special election was pathetic. She says it is sad more people did not participate in exercising their voting rights, noting she just attended a veterans event in Columbia County that featured 2 WW II veterans, and veterans are the reason we still have a right to vote. She says even as easy as Oregon makes it to vote through the mail, people still do not do it. She says the issue she watched most closely was a \$180 million dollar Portland Community College bond that did pass, though it did not do well in Columbia County. She says the bond does not cover putting a campus in Columbia County, and that may account for the bond not doing well. She says the bond will cost about 40 cents a thousand of property value and lasts 16 years. She says Columbia County is still waiting for PCC to honor its promise to have a physical presence there.

Senator Johnson talks about the hospital tax and the upcoming ballot measure in January. The Elections Division received a Modified Ballot Title from the Attorney General on November 1, 2017, for Referendum Petition 2018-301, proposed for the January 23, 2018, Special Election. Approves temporary assessments to fund health care for low-income individuals and families, and to stabilize health insurance premiums. Temporary assessments on insurance companies, some hospitals, and other providers of insurance or health care coverage. Insurers may not increase rates on health insurance premiums by more than 1.5 percent as a result of these assessments Chief Petitioners: Julie Parrish 1968 Carriage Way West Linn, OR 97068; Sal Esquivel 11 Corning Court Medford, OR 97504; Cedric Hayden PO Box 459 Lowell, OR 97452. She says if the hospital tax is struck down, the 2018 legislature will have its hands full trying to figure out a way to come up with the funding provided by that tax.

Senator Johnson attended the Clatsop County United Way fundraiser, Iron Chef Goes Coastal, at the Seaside Civic and Convention Center this past week. She talks about the event and says it raised thousand of dollar for charity.

This Week with State Senator Betsy Johnson 11-17-17

Senator Johnson has been in Salem for most of the past week for Legislative Days. She says the Senate has confirmed the appointments of two, soon-to-be former Senators, Richard Devlin and Ted Ferrioli, to the Power Planning Council. Those are paid positions and the two cannot remain in the Senate and take those jobs. Senator Devlin is the co-chair of Ways and Means and Senator Johnson says there is plenty of jockeying for position going on to see who takes his place. She says Republican State Senator Jackie Winters has been chosen to head the Republicans in the Senate. She also says 'gripe gate' continues, with allegations of sexual harassment floating around the building. Senator Johnson says in her opinion, it is not useful to be digging back into allegations that in some cases are decades old, and are now being brought forward, is causing the Legislature to lose focus on doing its work. She says while she certainly does not condone boorish behavior, she wonders why more wasn't made of these issues at the time, and if criminal conduct was suspected, why wasn't a police report filed? She says people expect the Legislature to conduct itself properly with minimal drama.

Senator Johnson says a group called SOAR, which is the state's organization that deals with drones. She says the group came to her to discuss going outside the regular budget channels and get money from the governor's budget. She says three test areas for unmanned aerial systems testing have been delineated-- one in Pendleton, one in Warm Springs and one in Tillamook. She says in Tillamook, a company called Near Space is working with balloons that can go to the very limit of the atmosphere. In Warm Springs, they are focusing on drones for firefighting and surveillance of power lines. In Pendleton, a program called Vahana. According to its website, Project Vahana started in early 2016 as one of the first projects at A³ (pronounced "A-cubed"), the advanced projects and partnerships outpost of Airbus Group in Silicon Valley. At Vahana, we are passionate about personal flight. The aircraft we're building doesn't need a runway, is self-piloted, and can automatically detect and avoid obstacles and other aircraft. Designed to carry a single passenger or cargo, we're aiming to make it the first certified passenger aircraft without a pilot. We aim to fly a full-size prototype before the end of 2017, and to have a productizable demonstrator by 2020. Senator Johnson says the question is, has SOAR been designed to be the conduit through which money flows to these three test areas or does SOAR then go into competition with those it was designed to serve? She believes SOAR is supposed to serve the companies that are working in these test areas, and not go into competition with them.

Senator Johnson says she will be taking some time off during the Thanksgiving holiday and is looking forward to it. She says December tends to be a somewhat slower month for her, as many people have their minds more on their holiday plans than on work. She says she has meetings coming up this week with equestrians interested in talking about equestrian campgrounds in Clatsop County, and she will also be making a presentation in Eugene regarding her thoughts on firefighting.

This Week with State Senator Betsy Johnson 11-24-17

NOTE:

This is a rebroadcast of the 9-1-17 show.

Senator Johnson says she is unhappy with the federal government's firefighting efforts after two fires that might well have been quickly contained are now burning thousands of acres of Oregon land. She says she got a briefing on the fire situation Thursday morning and will be getting weekly briefings until the fire season is over. She says this is a subject she will be bringing to the 2018 Legislature, and she lays much of the blame for these wildfires getting out of control at the feet of the federal government.

Special guest on the show, Gerry Boyce, is the director of Aqualiner Ltd, a United Kingdom company that has a product that will allow underground pipelines to be repaired without having to dig up the road.
Customer benefits

Its small site footprint means less environmental impact from road works and the smell of solvents/chemicals
Aqualiner can line sewers in critical conditions
The liners don't shrink and are close-fit
Because the liner is thermoplastic-based, the process can be stopped, started or reversed if necessary
Thermoplastic composite liners weld to themselves, so liners can always be 'over-lined' to build up additional strength or longevity in the future
The process can line round bends and offset joints
It can line in wet conditions
Joints and laterals are visible and thus easy to locate on CCTV
Low surface energy means improved flow through, and reduced risk of build-ups or contamination, in the sewer.

Environmental benefits

Aqualiner's MIPP structural liners have virtually unlimited shelf life, and don't need impregnating with liquid resins. This significantly reduces health and safety concerns to both the contractors installing the product and the public

- No solvents or chemicals are used or emitted into the environment

- All materials are recyclable and there's no need to send waste to expensive hazardous waste sites

- No hazardous chemicals means no risk of contamination on site

- The process has a small footprint, potentially requiring only 2 vehicles on site.

Health and Safety benefits

The materials utilised by Aqualiner contain no chemicals or solvents considered hazardous to health, and there are no water heating or steam generation hazards involved in the process. This eliminates:

- The breathing in of solvents

- Dermatological skin reactions

- The splashing of eyes with chemicals (particularly curing agents) which can cause blindness.

Water quality benefits

With no hazardous chemicals utilised in the process, there's no risk of any chemicals being leached out into the water. Neither is there any possibility of on-site chemical contamination of local waterways.

Material benefits

The process can line a wide range of existing pipe material:

Pipe materials Aqualiner has successfully lined include cast iron, bitumen-coated cast iron, asbestos-reinforced concrete, clay and PVC

It should be noted that PVC water pipes widely installed during the 1970s and 80s are prone to bursting due to inherent production defects. In France there are over 150,000 km of PVC pipe which needs to be either repaired or replaced, and Aqualiner is one of the few options capable of repairing the pipes underground without digging up the road.

Adrian Allen says OMIC has taken 2 million dollars in state funding and managed to turn that into more than 20 million dollars in investments in OMIC over the past two years. He says OMIC is still in its infancy, but it is his belief that it will flourish and help Oregon's economy the same way the AMRC in Sheffield, England has helped the UK economy.

This Week with State Senator Betsy Johnson 12-1-17

Senator Johnson says the Oregon Manufacturing Innovation Center continues to move forward quickly. She says OMIC's focus is on finding new, innovative technology to support manufacturing cleaner, greener, faster and lighter ways to make things that fly, move or float. She has been approached by someone who was interested in having a global warming research project for high school students, but she says that is not the focus

of OMIC. Companies that sign up to be part of OMIC pay substantial fees and are responsible for deciding what kinds of research and development will be done at OMIC. She says the academic piece will be handled largely by Portland Community College, and part of that will be PCC locating a campus in Columbia County, something that Senator Johnson has been asking about for the past two decades. She says the land piece is nearly in place, and it is time to move ahead.

Senator Johnson says there will be several new faces in Salem, with the departure of Senators Richard Devlin and Ted Ferrioli, and a number of House members, including John Huffman and Mark Johnson. Senator Johnson says the selection is handled by county commissioners in the affected districts, and notes that Devlin's seat is receiving a lot of interest from lobby groups like the trial lawyers and unions. She says the person selected must meet all the criteria for a legislator and must also live in the district and be a member of the same political party as the departing legislator. She says there is a big learning curve for any new legislator, including learning about the concerns and issues in their district. She believes it is likely Republican State Representative Cliff Bentz will be tapped to replace Senator Ferrioli, and she notes, that while Bentz is a veteran legislator, he has only represented half of Ferrioli's Senate District, and will have to quickly get up to speed on the issues concerning his new Senate District. She says the legislature also has its own terminology, which can take awhile to learn.

Senator Johnson says a ballot measure Oregonians will be voting on January 23rd deals with the hospital provider tax passed by the Legislature in the previous session. She says while the solution that passed was not the only one possible, it is the hand we are dealt. She says voters will either vote 'Yes' to affirm the Legislature's decision, or 'No' to scuttle it. She says if the 'No' vote prevails, the Legislature will have to find another way to keep 350 thousand Oregonians added to the Oregon Health Plan as participants. She says the bill passed by slim margins, and resulted in about 950 million dollars worth of federal matching money-- money that won't be available if there is a 'No' vote. She says the election being held in January is unusual, but it was done so the Legislature could deal with the outcome, should the hospital provider tax bill be overturned. She hopes the focus of the 2018 short session will remain focused on things like paying the forest fire fighting bill, agency performance, receiving the revenue forecast and be minimalist in nature.

This Week with State Senator Betsy Johnson 12-8-17

Senator Johnson says she has been working on the Oregon Manufacturing Innovation Center for most of the past week. She says they continue to proceed with getting a physical location in Columbia County for Portland Community College. She says she has also been working with the Regional Solutions team about getting their calendar ready for next year.

Senator Johnson says her Regional Solutions team has on its agenda for next year work on dredging at the Westport Ferry in Clatsop County that could include a landing in Westport to move goods. A road in Neskowin is also being contemplated, as right now, there is only one road in and out of Neskowin. Work with the Port of Astoria around Tongue Point to deal with the variety of property owners and the roads that need to be sorted out so predictable development can happen, particularly now that Tongue Point has been sold and manufacturing will be occurring there. She says they are also looking at ways to help Wheeler deal with flooding issues that require a lot of planning and finding solutions Wheeler can afford.

Senator Johnson work continues on the Salmonberry Trail project, a project to use the old Tillamook Bay railroad line as an 86 mile long recreational trail between Banks and the coast. She says the line is not in operation, due to flooding damage in 1996 and 2007, which would cost \$50 million dollars to fix. She says the goal is to create a unique experience for users that would take them from the outskirts of Portland to the Oregon Coast. She says the trail would be used by walkers, runners, bicyclists, equestrian users and others. She says a lot of work needs to be done to clean up the line and create the trail. She says an enormous amount of effort has gone into the planning. She says the city of Banks is thrilled, the community of Timber not so much. She says dairy farmers are concerned about the public traversing their land as well. She says there have been no decisions on the trail's alignment, funding has yet to be obtained, and it will be many years before the trail is operational.

This Week with State Senator Betsy Johnson 12-15-17

Senator Johnson talks about the passing of former Oregon House Speaker and mayor of Portland, Vera Katz. Senator Johnson says she knew Katz for a long time, and says Katz and Senator Johnson's father, Sam, were unlikely friends. She says Sam was male, Catholic, Republican, and rural, while Katz was female, Jewish, Democrat and very urban. Senator Johnson says when there was a tribute for her father on the House floor, Speaker Katz left the podium and went to her own desk to make her remarks, a sign of great friendship. She says Katz' fingerprints are on a great number of Portland projects, including the Pearl District, and Chinese garden.

Senator Johnson says she was in Tillamook this past week to help a dairy farmer who is having problems with the Department of State Lands over a ditch and another fight with that agency over waterway leases. She is trying to make sure someone who is leaving a lease not be hit with big bills for cleaning up problems caused by structures that have been in the water over 100 years. Senator Johnson has been asked for her opinion on what characteristics the next head of the Oregon Youth Authority needs to have. She also met with CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) and the Chief Justice of the Oregon Supreme Court to discuss funding for his agency. She says the Chief Justice is also the manager of Oregon's court system. She says she does not want to go back to a time when Oregon courts are not open five days a week. She worked on some transportation issues as well.

Senator Johnson bought a fire engine with two teddy bears as drivers for a girl at a holiday fundraiser in Columbia County. She will be taking Governor Brown's Economic Development Advisor on a tour of Columbia County this coming week, including stops at OMIC, the Port of St. Helens and various other sites. She will also be meeting with constituents, attending an Oregon Business Development Board meeting, a meeting in Salem to discuss the possible combination of the PEBB and OEBB, the Public Employees Benefits Board and the Oregon Educators Benefits Board. She will also be attending a meeting regarding broadband and other communication products for the state of Oregon.

This Week with State Senator Betsy Johnson 12-22-17

Senator Johnson talks about what she calls "The Christmas Surprise". which seems to happen every year. It has usually involved an urgent problem, and often the Oregon Department of Human Services. In years passed, when Dr. Bruce Goldberg was the head of DHS, there would be many phone calls on Christmas Eve and Day, trying to help someone with a desperate need, like getting a child with a serious illness into Doernbecher Children's Hospital, or getting someone immediate surgery. She hopes there is no surprise like that this year, and will spending the holiday in Central Oregon. She and her husband will also be placing a wreath on the grave of Governor Tom McCall in Redmond, something they do every year.

Senator Johnson has been meeting with a lot of people about the Oregon Manufacturing Innovation Center, and took the governor's economic development advisor on a tour of Columbia County. She met with the new head of PGE, something she says is important for Columbia County, after PGE built a 300 million dollar gas turbine there. She has been talking to Governor Brown's staff about Court Appointment Special Advocates and Oregon Volunteers to figure out where those programs should fall in the state agency system, and they should be funded. She also met with the president of Portland Community College and senior staff to discuss their plans for a physical presence in Columbia County. Senator Johnson says the recent PCC bond measure did pass, but failed miserably in Columbia County, likely because the people of Columbia County are not convinced PCC will extend its services and establish a physical presence there. After the meeting, Senator Johnson says she is optimistic that things are moving forward, and it may well be sooner rather than later that PCC will follow through with what it has promised for a very long time.

Senator Johnson says the biggest question for the 2018 session is the upcoming ballot measure on the hospital provider tax. She says if that measure fails in January, there will be a big hole in the state budget that

will need to be filled, and that would likely dominate the session. She says Senate President Peter Courtney has appointed himself as co-chair of Ways and Means, a position Senator Johnson wants, and says she is qualified for it. She says in a short session, there isn't usually a lot of Ways and Means work, but that January election on the hospital provider tax could change that. Senator Johnson has also been appointed to co-chair a joint audits committee. She wants to make that committee able to dig more deeply into state agencies and their performance. She hopes fangs can be put in that committee and do meaningful work on audits. She wants to keep the committee away from political concerns, and focus on how agencies are doing their work both on the performance side and the money side, and be able to hold those agencies accountable for that. She will also continue to be on Ways and Means, co-chair the Ways and Means subcommittee on Transportation and Economic Development and a member of the General Government subcommittee of Ways and Means. She again hopes the short session will be focus, minimalist and concentrated on dealing with true emergencies, paying bills and checking agency performance. She says on the provider tax ballot measure, there is work underway to look at potential options if it fails. She says if they have to come up with a large amount of money, it will take some pre-planning and diligence to formulate where that money comes from. She says the work is in less formal settings than committee meetings, since the Legislature is not in session.

This Week with State Senator Betsy Johnson 12-29-17

Senator Johnson talks about the upcoming ballot measure on the hospital provider tax voters will decide on in January. She says when the Affordable Care Act came into being, the federal government was very generous with Oregon, but it was always the understanding the states would eventually have to contribute more for the state medicaid programs. She says 350 thousand people were added to the Oregon Health Plan, and because of decreased federal funding to Oregon, the legislature had to find more money to keep those people insured. She says the way the tax worked prior to the Legislature's action in 2017, Oregon's big hospitals would send a dollar to the feds, and it would come back with more money attached. The state would then return the hospital's dollar and keep the additional money to pay for the Oregon Health Plan. What the legislature did in 2017 changed that, making a real tax. Now, the big hospitals send their dollar, and they get all of it back except for .07 percent. The smaller hospitals in Oregon are also participating, but they get all of their dollar back. In addition, a health insurance premium tax was imposed of 1.5 percent-- which is the most controversial part of this. She says in January, voters will either vote 'Yes' to affirm what the Legislature did, or 'No' to strike it down. If the measure fails, Senator Johnson says the 2018 short session will be dominated by figuring out how to fill that hole in the budget. She says in the case of a 'No' vote on the ballot measure, the state will either have to find a new revenue source or cut people from the Oregon Health Plan. She says the legislature also changed the date of the election from November to January, the theory being that if Oregonians repudiated the work of the Legislature, it would be better to begin working on the fix sooner rather than later. She says disagreed with that decision because she doesn't like the Legislature messing around with elections.

Senator Johnson says one of the happiest moments of the 2017 Legislative session was passing the largest veterans budget in the history of the state of Oregon. She says they beefed up County Veterans Service Officer funding, provided flexible money so if new programs appear on the horizon, there would be funding available. She says it was a pretty emotional moment when her committee voted on the budget. She says they restored 10 million dollars Governor Brown had cut from her budget, added the 18 million dollars from the lottery, approved by voters, and also found more money for housing and other veterans services.

Senator Johnson says the transportation package passed in July was a big issue in 2017. She says though people may expect congestion to be noticeably better now, that is not the case. She says these projects are not immediate fixes that will solve the issue. She says, however, because there are specific projects called out in the transportation package, the areas where those projects will happen will see some immediate relief. She says there was also funding for public transit, which got a substantial investment in the package. She says the challenge for ODOT will be the really big projects in the Portland area, and she says ODOT will be back before the Legislature in 2018 to look for a lot more people to accomplish those projects and that will be controversial. She says the real work of that transportation package is just beginning. Senator Johnson says during the session, there was an exchange during the deliberations on the package between the head of a union and one of the four legislators putting together the transportation package, State Senator Brian Boquist.

