

Tour of the district



Sherri Barber/The Coloradoan

Cole Jensen, wax chaser at Art Casting of Colorado in Loveland, works Friday as Donald Manzullo, left, chairman of the House Committee on Small Business, and U.S. Rep. Marilyn Musgrave take a tour of the facility with Scott Goss.

Musgrave answers questions, visits small business

By LINDSAY RENICK MAYER

LindsayRenickMayer@coloradoan.com

Local residents and officials peppered U.S. Rep. Marilyn Musgrave with questions about affordable health insurance, energy prices and immigration during her visit Friday to Northern Colorado.

Colleen Laeger, board president of ElderCare Connections, who attended the breakfast sponsored by the Northern Colorado Legislative Alliance, said Congress needs to address the issue of affordable health insurance.

"The No. 1 problem small businesses face is affordable health care, not only for employees, but employers,"

Laeger said.

Musgrave said she advocates health savings accounts and association health plans that would allow small businesses to pool their resources to compete with big businesses for low-cost medical coverage.

Weld County Commissioner Mike Geile told Musgrave she should encourage alternative fuels to help mitigate the cost. As an environmental and security measure, Musgrave has proposed a resolution calling for a quarter of the country's energy to be renewable by 2025.

"I think when we move toward renewables, we're going to have a bright future for

agriculture and we'll lessen that dependence on foreign sources of oil," Musgrave said in an interview with the Fort Collins Coloradoan.

Making the country safe also depends on securing the borders before implementing a guest worker program, Musgrave said.

Musgrave supports the bill proposed by Rep. James Sensenbrenner, R-Wis., which, with amendments, would make it a felony to be in the United States or aid someone who's here without proper documentation.

In her visit to Northern Colorado, Musgrave praised small businesses and discussed how

the federal government should be supporting them.

"If we can make this a climate for small businesses to grow and thrive, reward ingenuity and hard work, we know we'll have more jobs, and that really boosts the economy," Musgrave told the Coloradoan.

After taking a tour of the Art Castings of Colorado foundry in Loveland, Musgrave praised the museum as an exemplary small business.

"The good thing about this small business is that this foundry provides a stable income and benefits for these artists who work here," Musgrave said.