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ONE DOLLAR

From Congress to Cannon Beach



ERICK BENGEL — EO Media Group

U.S. Sen. Jeff Merkley, D-Ore., left, and Rep. Suzanne Bonamici, D-Ore., take turns responding to audience questions at the joint town hall forum, held Friday morning at the Cannon Beach Community Hall.

Sen. Merkley, Rep. Bonamici listen to locals at Friday town hall

By ERICK BENGEL
EO Media Group

CANNON BEACH — The social and political issues that matter most to North Coast citizens came before two of Oregon's prominent political figures Friday morning, when U.S. Sen. Jeff Merkley, D-Ore., and U.S. Rep. Suzanne Bonamici, D-Ore., held a joint town hall meeting at the Cannon Beach Community Hall.

"This is the part of the job we really enjoy — getting up here, talking to our constituents, finding out what's on their minds," Bonamici said.

The discussion made for a packed hour and touched on familiar local topics: from LNG to funding the Land and Water Conservation Fund; from getting federal recognition for the Clatsop-Nehalem Confederated Tribes to establishing a charter school in Cannon Beach.

LNG

The controversial Oregon LNG project, involving the company's plan to construct a terminal and pipeline for exporting the fossil fuel on the Skipanon Peninsula, became an urgent theme among the audience members.

By allowing Oregon LNG — which is controlled by a U.S. conglomerate headquartered in New York — to create a facility near the mouth of the Columbia River, "we would be throwing away this beau-



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Astorian Josie Peper asks whether the Lower Columbia River Estuary could qualify for federal protection as a National Scenic Area, like the Columbia River Gorge. The question came during a town hall meeting with Sen. Jeff Merkley and Rep. Suzanne Bonamici, held Friday at the Cannon Beach Community Hall.

tiful place that we have for the gain of someone else, somewhere else," said Roger Rocka, of Astoria.

Given that many scientists expect a massive Cascadia Subduction Zone earthquake to occur at an unknown future date — which may cause a tsunami to flood the Pacific Northwest coastline — LNG terminals "just don't belong in this hazardous area," Jan Mitchell, of Astoria said. "I just can't say enough

about how much this area opposes those operations."

Bonamici acknowledged that the LNG issue is often framed as a trade-off between creating jobs and protecting the environment.

"I understand there is a need to build the economy, especially rural economies. There are many ways we can do that without jeopardizing the safety of our residents," the congresswoman said. "And the

more I learn about the Cascadia Subduction Zone and the resilience issues, and what would happen on the coast 'when' — not 'if' (the earthquake occurs) — the more concerned I am."

Merkley said the "evolving science on natural gas" has changed the public's understanding of the LNG issue.

See TOWN HALL, Page 10A

Suspect ID'd in assault

St. Helens man still at large after manhunt

By KYLE SPURR
The Daily Astorian

Astoria Police are searching for Anthony Victor Lane, 30, St. Helens, in connection with the assault at gunpoint and robbery Friday morning on the 300 block of Alameda Avenue.



Anthony Victor Lane

Lane was identified as a suspect after many sources of information developed during the investigation Friday, police said. "We have been continuing to pursue it throughout the day," Astoria Police Chief Brad Johnston said Friday. "We talked with dozens of people."

See SUSPECT, Page 10A

STAY AWAY!

City puts up warning signs after sea lion spotted on Riverwalk

By DERRICK DePLEDGE
The Daily Astorian

A Steller sea lion, perhaps interested in a nice pilsner to pair with smelt, was spotted early Friday morning on the Astoria Riverwalk near Buoy Beer Co.

Bill Fornas, a real estate broker at Pete Anderson Realty, came across what he described on Facebook as "one big fat" Steller "laying smack dab between the trolley tracks by Buoy Beer" at about 6 a.m. during his morning run.

A photograph of the wayward sea lion taken by another witness was shared with the city's Parks and Recreation Department.

Fornas said later that he was not surprised, since the sea lions appear to be getting bolder. "There was one other fellow that was out there. I just chatted with him briefly. We both concurred it was best not to approach," he said.

The city responded by posting yellow-and-black signs along the Riverwalk warning people to avoid sea lions.

See SEA LIONS, Page 10A

Chaplain aims to bring light to 'shadow population'

Cynthia Livar hopes to empower North Coast Hispanics

Cynthia Livar, who moved to Seaside from San Antonio four months ago, wondered why Hispanics were not more visible.

Clatsop County is predominantly white, yet Hispanics make up about 8 percent of the population, according to the U.S. Census Bureau, so Livar expected to see more of a presence.

The new clinical chaplain at Providence Seaside Hospital said she discovered through



her work, her activity with Our Lady of Victory Church and her teaching at Clatsop Community College that many Hispanics hold more than one job to make ends meet.

"Granted, in San Antonio, we're poor, too. But it seems like you have to work a lot harder to be just as poor," Livar said during a "Latinos in Oregon" panel discussion sponsored by the Lower Columbia Diversity Project Thursday evening at the Judge Guy Boyington Building.

Work pressures, language barriers, cultural unfamiliarity and other obstacles can discourage Hispanics from being more active in civic life, Livar said, a distance that creates a kind of "shadow population."

Many transplants to the North Coast who come from multicultural regions of the country — 63 percent of the

See LIVAR, Page 10A



Cynthia Livar, a hospital chaplain, is active with the Lower Columbia Diversity Project.

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