

Local GOP: 'I think we have a great man to lead our country'

Continued from Page 1A

At the Dorchester Conference, the annual gathering of Oregon conservatives in Seaside in March, Ohio Gov. John Kasich topped Trump as the most favored candidate. But Trump won two-thirds of the vote in the Oregon Republican primary in May, and slightly more in Clatsop County.

Bob Shortman, the chairman of the Clatsop County GOP, said Trump has stood out since Dorchester and consolidated his support.

"I think we have a great man to lead our country," he said. "Every vote will count, and Republicans have to work together."

Ed McNulty, chairman of the NW Tea Party, said he is ready for an outsider.

"They've tried all the politicians, and they didn't work,"



Some welcome Trump as a political outsider.

Edward Stratton/The Daily Astorian

he said. "He's a businessman, and I think he'll be good for America."

Local Democrats were less

enthusiastic about the Trump nomination.

Clatsop County Commissioner Dirk Rohne, a former

Republican who switched to the Democratic Party amid the liquefied natural gas debate in 2011, doubts

Trump's earnestness.

"Like Howard Stern, I think he's a shock jock and will pretty much say any-

thing," Rohne said. "If you were to take him seriously, you should be alarmed about what he has to say."

Rohne said Clinton, the Democrat and former U.S. secretary of state, is more pragmatic and experienced to lead.

Larry Taylor, chairman of the Clatsop County Democrats and a pledged delegate for U.S. Sen. Bernie Sanders, is worried about the global effects of Trump's rhetoric.

"I think if he was elected president, it would be a complete disaster and put the nation at risk," Taylor said. "He's reckless with international relations, and he could easily plunge us into the next world war."

Despite their misgivings about Trump and the state of the Republican Party, both Rohne and Taylor said the U.S. needs more than one powerful political party.

Obama rejects Trump depiction of US in crisis

President defends record on crime, immigration

By DARLENE SUPERVILLE and BRADLEY KLAPPER
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama fiercely rejected Donald Trump's depiction of an America in crisis on Friday, arguing that violent crime and illegal immigration have plunged under his leadership to their lowest rates in decades.

Looking toward November's election, Obama said, "We're not going to make good decisions based on fears that don't have a basis in fact."

At a news conference alongside Mexico's president, Obama sought to undermine two pillars of Trump's speech Thursday night in which he accepted the Republican presidential nomination. Trump said that if he is elected, "safety will be restored" at home and abroad.

"This idea that American is somehow on the verge of collapse, this vision of violence and chaos everywhere, doesn't really jibe with the

experience of most people," Obama told reporters.

The violent crime rate, he said, has been lower during his presidency than any time in the last three or four decades. While he acknowledged an uptick in murders in some U.S. cities this year, Obama said the violent crime rate today was still far lower than when Ronald Reagan was president in the 1980s.

Obama used the same marker for immigration, describing today's rate of illegal border crossing as only a third of what it was during the Reagan administration, and lower than any time since.

Speaking after an evening when Trump laid out his case to be the next commander in chief, Obama grimaced noticeably when a reporter suggested the billionaire businessman's message appeals to working-class Americans.

"It's not really clear how appealing it was," Obama said.

Obama said he will let the U.S. public decide if the vision of Republicans or Democrats for the nation is more persuasive. Hillary Clinton, Obama's 2008 primary rival and then his secretary of state, will receive the Democratic nomination next week. She is expected to announce her running mate soon.

Roden: Trial is set to begin in September

Continued from Page 1A

criminal mistreatment. She was sentenced to more than 15 years in prison, contingent on her truthfully testifying at Roden's trial.

Roden is serving an eight-year prison sentence for violating probation from a previous domestic violence conviction in Clatsop County.

Testimony about Roden's background will be used to help counteract the gruesome depictions by prosecutors of life inside the Seaside apartment he shared with Wing.

Witnesses for Roden include his close friends, sister, half brother and sixth and third grade teachers.

Angela Hollingsworth, Roden's paternal aunt, is expected to describe Roden's father as a violent and abusive addict who mistreated Roden and his mother before he committed suicide when Roden was 3 years old. Hollingsworth claims she never saw any of the anger, meanness and violence in Roden that was so apparent in his father.

Barbara Rogers, Roden's stepaunt, plans to explain how Roden was profoundly affected by his father's suicide and how he was never accepted by his mother or his

stepfather. Roden was desperate to fit in with his new family, but was treated differently than his stepsiblings and he became depressed as a result, Rogers says.

"Ms. Rogers has unique insight into who Mr. Roden is and what his childhood was like," the defense lawyers wrote in court documents.

Other friends and family who were close to Roden during his Georgia upbringing are willing to testify about his "positive and loving manner." They will describe generous acts and how Roden was an animal lover who was kind to the pets he kept during his childhood.

Joseph Bales, Roden's best friend, will testify that he never saw Roden become violent, and he refused to fight even when attacked on several occasions. Bales, a special forces soldier, says if he was looking for a trustworthy and loyal friend to take into battle with him, he would not hesitate to choose Roden.

The cost of round-trip airfare, rental car, hotel room and food for each witness has been approved by the Oregon Public Defense Services Commission.

The trial is scheduled to begin in September in Clatsop County Circuit Court.



Danny Miller/The Daily Astorian

Audience members shield their eyes from sunshine as Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Isabel Wilkerson speaks at Fort George Brewery.

Ourselves: Her goal is 'to reach the human heart'

Continued from Page 1A

dovetailed with two centennial celebrations: the birth of the Pulitzer Prize, and the dawn of the Great Migration, the roughly 60-year period when 6 million African-Americans fled the segregated Southern states to regions that held more promise and possibilities for them.

Remarking on recent videos of what many viewers perceive as police brutality against African-Americans, Wilkerson cautioned against "focusing on a particular moment and feeling that that is all that there is" — against making assumptions or jumping to conclusions based on those isolated moments.

"I think that what we should remind ourselves is, we're looking at a screenshot, a moment in time," she said.

Like people walking into the middle of a movie, "you don't have the whole story," she said. "And I don't mean the whole story of a particular case, I mean the whole story of how we got to where we are, right now, in this country."

"It almost feels as if we're in this karmic moment where we are called upon to face our history, called upon to reckon with what has not been dealt with in the past," she continued. "And we are in such desperate need of seeing our common humanity."

'Marching and migrating'

That history became the basis for "The Warmth of Other Suns," a book that took Wilkerson 15 years to write and involved more than 1,200 interviews.

Wilkerson tells the Great Migration story through the eyes of three African-Americans; one moved to the West, another to the Midwest and the third to the Northeast. Together, the protagonists represent the three major migration streams.

Fifty years after the Emancipation Proclamation, 90 percent of African-Americans in the U.S. lived in the South, "almost, in some ways, held hostage. They were not really truly free to go," Wilkerson said.

"They were living in a caste system. They were living in a feudal order. They were living in an artificial hierarchy in which everything that you could and couldn't do was based upon what you looked like," she said.

Within that cruelly oppressive system, African-Americans were consigned to work in fields and as domestics. The lucky ones became teachers or ministers of those doing the menial work.

"The majority of these people had never been outside the county into which they had been born. They had no idea what this wider world might actually look like," she said.

A decision to leave the South, based on scant information and rumors of freedom and work elsewhere, meant leaving "all that they had known for some place that they hadn't seen," she said.

In a sense, the Great Migration was a form of protest: "They were protesting with their bodies. That was the one thing that they could do, was to leave, and it took a lot of courage."

The people who made the journey were "the advance guard for what would become the civil-rights movement," she said, positing that, for African-Americans, the 20th century was all about "marching and migrating."

"They became the only group of Americans who had to act like immigrants just to be recognized as citizens."

'A space for empathy'

While on book tours, Wilkerson noticed that "older white people" tend to become the angriest about the subject matter in "The Warmth of Other Suns" — angry because they didn't know about it. They have trouble, she said, believing that their lives overlapped with this period, and nobody seemed to talk about it.

"There's this feeling of having been cheated of information and an understanding of what was going on," she said.

Because many people still do not know the true history of the African-American experience in the U.S., they find themselves ill-equipped to diagnose, much less address,

the problems that emerge from that history.

"We love our country, and we know the rich heritage of our country, and we know how important our country is on the world stage," she said, "and yet, there are aspects of our country that we may not know, but that affect how things happen, even to this day."

Though laws in the U.S. have changed to accommodate the rights of African-Americans, "that didn't mean the hearts had been changed," she said. The goal of her book is "to reach the human heart, and to open a space for empathy."

And to supply some of the historical context that helps make current events more explicable.

The traumatic videos and the controversy surrounding them are reminders that "these challenges, these tensions, these unresolved questions, these divisions and disparities are not just in the South, and they're not in the past," she said. "It forces you to have to think about our country differently than what we might have been led to believe."



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