

Oregon Democrats call for party unity in wake of Trump victory

Seek to end rift left over from bitter primary

By **CLAIRE WITCOMBE**
Capital Bureau

SALEM — Seemingly energized by a common enemy — President Donald Trump — the Democratic Party of Oregon convened for a leadership reorganization in Salem this weekend.

Many candidates for party positions spoke of uniting the party in the wake of a divisive presidential election by appealing to rural voters and fostering an overall culture of inclusivity.

While the presidential election revealed fractures within the national Democratic party — roughly along the lines of those who supported U.S. Sen. Bernie Sanders, I-Vermont, and those who supported former U.S. Secretary of State

Hillary Clinton — those fault lines were felt in Oregon, as well.

In its report on recent accomplishments, the party characterized the election of Trump and the party's loss of the Oregon Secretary of State's Office as "heartbreaks." Republican Dennis Richardson won the office over state Labor Commissioner Brad Avakian, a Democrat.

Atkins new chairwoman

On Sunday, Democratic Party of Oregon delegates elected former Oregon Secretary of State Jeanne Atkins to chair the party.

Atkins is a former staffer for U.S. Sen. Jeff Merkley, D-Oregon, and was appointed secretary of state in early 2015, when then-Secretary of State Kate Brown became governor after the resignation of former Gov. John Kitzhaber.

Atkins, who did not seek election to the office and intended to retire from pub-

lic service, said she was motivated to jump back into politics by Trump's election.

In a speech before party delegates cast their votes, Atkins acknowledged the party's recent setbacks.

But she said Oregon Democrats have had successes as well — such as the recent passage and implementation of the country's first automatic voter registration law and raising the state's minimum wage.

Atkins said she seeks to include and mobilize the ranks of people she said were turning to the Democratic party to "resist the dark vision of Donald Trump and his fellow Republicans."

"Our task is to open our organization to them," Atkins said, "to encourage and work alongside these new organizations and individuals to make change, and to do our job of electing leaders who endorse our Democratic values of fairness, justice and opportunity."

Taylor was challenger

Her opponent for chair, Larry Taylor of Astoria, who has been involved with the party on the local, state and national level for 20 years, said that Oregon Democrats had sent a message to party leadership in last year's election that they wanted a change.

"In Oregon, (voters) elected a Republican as secretary of state, and 28 out of 36 counties voted for Trump," Taylor said. In some counties east of the Cascades, more than 70 percent of voters cast their ballots for Trump, according to the Secretary of State's Office.

Taylor also communicated a sense of urgency in maintaining the party's hold on the state Legislature, saying that Democrats needed to run in races for all state legislative seats.

In the most recent election, one state Senate seat flipped from blue to red, as the late Sen. Alan Bates, D-Medford, who died in August, was replaced by Alan DeBoer, a

Republican from Ashland, in a special election last year.

Across the board, Oregon Democrats are eager to maintain their hold on the governorship.

Gov. Brown, who was elected in November to finish the term of her predecessor, is up for reelection in 2018. A Republican has not held the position since the late Vic Atiyeh, who served from 1979 to 1987.

Some divisions within Oregon's Democratic Party were not only over presidential candidates, but philosophy.

'Move on'

Saying he sought to restore trust and confidence in the party, new male Vice Chairman Valdez Bravo called on party members to "move on" from the 2016 campaign.

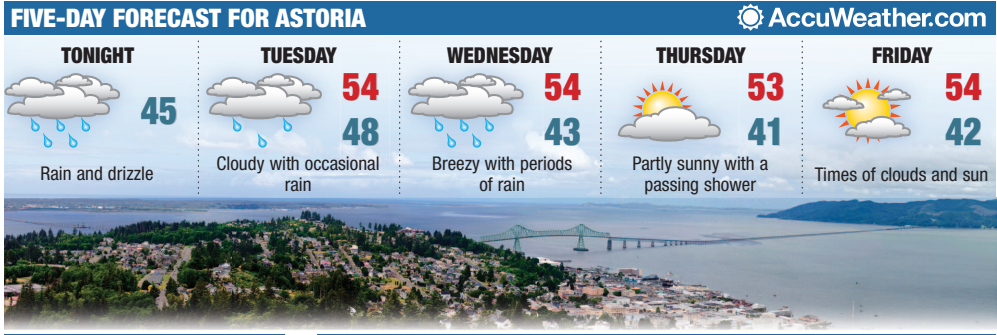
"If we're to accomplish our bold ambitions and fight against a fascist right-wing agenda, then we have to stop seeing each other as Bernie versus Hillary," Bravo, who

ran unopposed, said. "We have to stop seeing each other as establishment versus grassroots. We have to stop seeing each other as radical versus liberal, and quite simply, we have to stop seeing each other as us versus them."

Bravo said he believed the party had a chance to strengthen in Oregon's predominantly Republican-leaning rural counties by sending more resources east of the mountains and emphasizing party leadership in individual counties.

Lupita Maurer, who was elected Sunday as the party's female vice chairwoman, said in remarks prior to her victory that the party needed to go beyond "lip service" to a strategy of working in all Oregon's counties, and that the party needed to help counties develop programs to foster Democratic leadership on the neighborhood level.

The Capital Bureau is a collaboration between EO Media Group and Pamplin Media Group.



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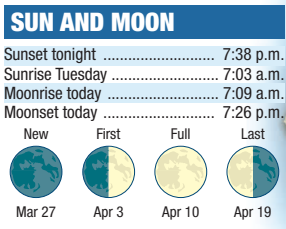
Astoria through Sunday.

Temperatures

High/low	51°/43°
Normal high/low	55°/40°
Record high	72° in 1994
Record low	29° in 1996

Precipitation

Sunday	0.76"
Month to date	13.44"
Normal month to date	6.35"
Year to date	31.32"
Normal year to date	23.74"



UNDER THE SKY

Tonight's Sky: The new moon will be at 7:57 p.m. Enjoy the Milky Way Galaxy under a moonless night sky.

Source: Jim Todd, OMSI

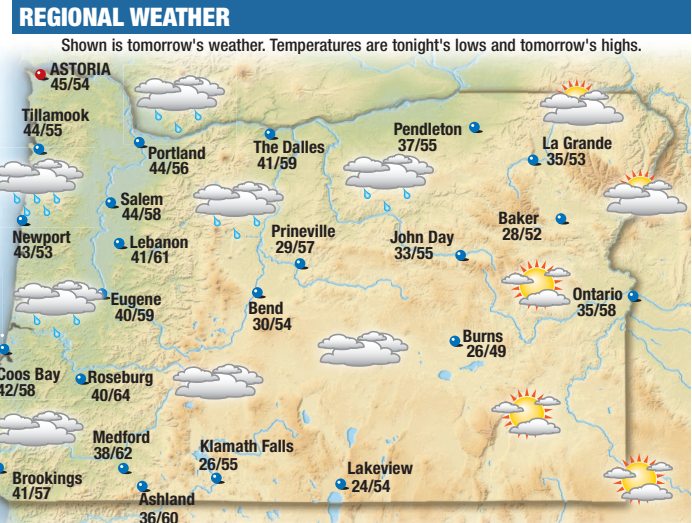
TOMORROW'S TIDES

Astoria / Port Docks

Time	High	Time	Low
2:17 a.m.	8.9 ft.	8:36 a.m.	0.2 ft.
2:36 p.m.	8.8 ft.	8:47 p.m.	0.2 ft.

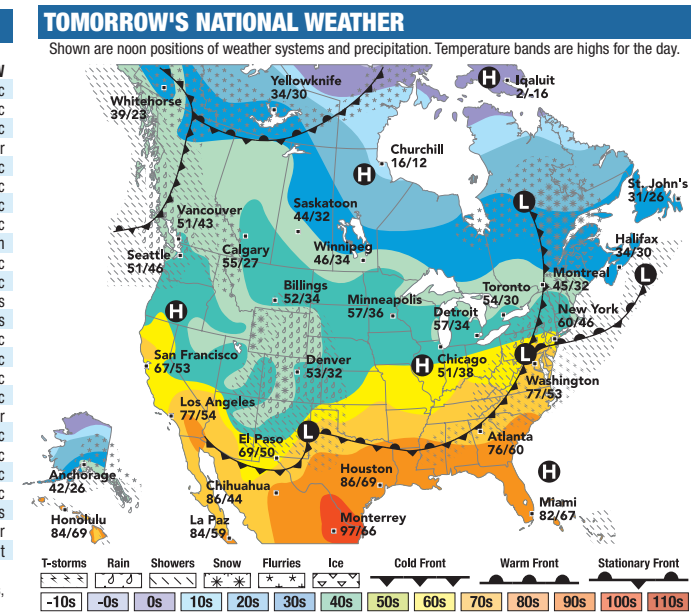
NATIONAL CITIES

City	Today	Tues.
	Hi Lo W	Hi Lo W
Atlanta	77 62 c	76 60 pc
Boston	45 39 r	48 39 c
Chicago	53 38 r	51 38 c
Denver	62 36 pc	53 32 r
Des Moines	54 41 r	57 40 pc
Detroit	63 45 c	57 34 pc
El Paso	80 56 s	69 50 pc
Fairbanks	28 9 s	25 12 c
Honolulu	84 70 sh	84 69 sh
Indianapolis	66 54 c	63 44 c
Kansas City	58 44 r	63 49 pc
Las Vegas	72 53 pc	72 53 s
Los Angeles	73 53 t	77 54 s
Memphis	76 53 t	73 58 pc
Miami	81 65 pc	82 67 pc
Nashville	78 59 c	74 52 pc
New Orleans	82 68 pc	82 68 pc
New York	62 51 r	60 46 r
Oklahoma City	69 47 pc	70 58 pc
Philadelphia	68 54 r	72 50 c
St. Louis	66 51 r	65 51 c
Salt Lake City	49 37 sh	53 34 c
San Francisco	62 50 pc	67 53 s
Seattle	51 44 r	51 46 r
Washington, DC	75 60 pc	77 53 t



REGIONAL CITIES

City	Today	Tues.
	Hi Lo W	Hi Lo W
Baker City	50 28 r	52 33 c
Bend	48 30 sn	54 39 c
Brookings	53 42 r	57 47 c
Eugene	55 40 r	59 48 r
Ilwaco	51 46 r	52 48 r
Klamath Falls	47 26 c	55 36 c
Medford	55 38 sh	62 45 c
Newberg	54 43 r	58 47 r
Newport	51 43 r	53 47 r
North Bend	54 43 r	58 50 c
Olympia	52 42 r	51 46 r
Pendleton	55 37 pc	55 43 c
Portland	54 44 r	56 47 r
Roseburg	56 40 r	64 47 c
Salem	55 44 r	58 48 r
Seaside	51 46 r	53 48 r
Spokane	50 34 c	47 39 c
Springfield	54 40 r	62 48 r
Vancouver	54 43 r	56 47 r
Vancouver	60 38 pc	57 41 c



Diver rescued in Tillamook Bay

Associated Press

WARRENTON — The U.S. Coast Guard helped rescue a diver near the entrance to Tillamook Bay.

A Coast Guard spokesperson in Seattle says two boats

and a helicopter were dispatched Sunday after an alert that multiple divers were in distress.

After the rescue of the first distressed diver, the search continued until the second diver surfaced and returned to shore

without assistance. A third diver had already made it back to shore and was not in distress.

The Coast Guard says the rescued diver is a 54-year-old man who was taken to Tillamook Regional Medical Center.

Providence Seaside helps to prevent falls, stay active

The Daily Astorian

SEASIDE — Providence Seaside Hospital presents "Preventing Falls: Staying Healthy and on Your Feet" from 3:30 to 5 p.m. Thursday in the hospital's Education Room A, lower level, at

725 S. Wahanna Drive. Ways to prevent a fall are discussed, and the presentation includes a short introduction to tai chi.

There is no cost for this event, but registration is required. To register, go to www.providence.org/classes or call 800-562-8964.

Program helps entrepreneurs

The Daily Astorian

The Oregon Technology Business Center, with support from the Janette G. Drew Fund of the Oregon Community Foundation, is seeking an entrepreneur from the North Coast to participate in a six-month Virtual Incubation Program beginning April 14.

The program offers intensive education and mentor-

ing to rural entrepreneurs. Jim McCreight, an organizer of the program, said downtown Astoria spice shop Pat's Pantry used the program to open a second location in Portland.

The program is limited to between 12 and 15 entrepreneurs. The total six-month cost is \$79. Information and an application can be found at www.otbc.org/vip. The deadline to apply is April 3.

DEATHS

March 24, 2017

ENSLOW, Susan M., 69, of Astoria, died in Astoria. Hughes-Ransom Mortuary & Crematory in Astoria is in charge of the arrangements.

March 25, 2017

ENGBLOM, Robert Harris, 90, of Knappa, died in Knappa. Caldwell's Luce-Layton Mortuary in Astoria is in charge of the arrangements.

PUBLIC MEETINGS

TUESDAY

- Clatsop Care Health District Board**, noon, Clatsop Care Memory Community, 2219 Dolphin Ave., Warrenton.
- Astoria Library Board**, 5:30 p.m., Library Flag Room, 450 10th St.
- Warrenton City Commission**, 6 p.m., City Hall, 225 S. Main Ave.
- Seaside Airport Advisory Committee**, 6 p.m. City Hall,

989 Broadway.

Astoria Traffic Safety Advisory Committee, 6:30 p.m., City Hall, 1095 Duane St.

WEDNESDAY

- Cannon Beach Tourism and Arts Commission**, 1 p.m., City Hall, 163 E. Gower St.
- Astoria Watershed Forest Practices Open House**, 6 p.m., City Hall, 1095 Duane St.

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Obituaries may be edited for spelling, proper punctuation and style. Death notices and upcoming services will be published at no charge. Notices must be submitted by 9 a.m. the day of publication.

Obituaries and notices may be submitted online at www.dailyastorian.com/forms/obits, by email at ewilson@dailyastorian.com, placed via the funeral home or in person at The Daily Astorian office, 949 Exchange St. in Astoria. For more information, call 503-325-3211, ext. 257.

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