

Bonamici: ‘As the gentleman pointed out earlier, there are definitional challenges’

Continued from Page 1A

Ellsworth took issue with the focus on a gun ban, saying rifles had been brought to schools before the phenomenon of mass shootings. He pointed to the presence of psychotropic drugs as a commonality among school shooters.

The causes of gun violence need to be figured out, Bonamici said, noting the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention was recently given authority to do research. Asked later by another person whether there is momentum to bring back the assault weapons ban, Bonamici said there are conversations about reinstatement, albeit not in the same form.

“As the gentleman pointed out earlier, there are definitional challenges,” Bonamici said.

There appears to be progress toward restricting bump stocks and high-capacity magazines, while doing more research on gun violence. “Universal background checks would be a really good start,” she said.

Amy Baker, executive director of Clatsop Behavioral Healthcare, commented on how mental health is not funded the same as medical, and on the need for community acceptance of people suffering with behavioral issues. Too much control lies with the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, which is outdated and needs to be overhauled, she said.

Dr. Sangkun “Sonny” Park, an Astoria doctor, also commented on how there is no hospital locally for people dealing with mental health issues.

The move away from institutionalization to community-based care has been mostly good but not properly funded, Bonamici said,

and communities need more options, especially in rural areas. She gave a shoutout to businesses like the Beaverton Bakery, honored by the White House in 2016 for hiring former drug court inmates to reduce recidivism, saying the community needs to help people in recovery overcome stigmas and return to the workforce.

Bonamici was asked what Congress is doing to help stem the opioid epidemic. There needs to be more evidence-based prevention programs and continued improvement in the battle against overprescription of opioid medications, she said.

“If you took the total number of opioids that were prescribed over the last year, everybody in the state — men, women and children — would have received 55 pills,” she said. “It’s on a downward trend as providers are educated about new practices.”

Ken Adams of Astoria commented on Bonamici’s support of citizenship for immigrants brought to America illegally as children but covered by the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program. He called on Bonamici to support making the federal E-Verify system mandatory for all employers. The congresswoman said she is concerned about the use of E-Verify before comprehensive immigration reform.

Asked about how she would work collaboratively with Republicans, Bonamici noted she has always been in the minority in her six years in the U.S. House.

“I don’t care whose idea it is, if it’s a good idea,” she said, adding many of her colleagues, despite having different approaches, all care about things like the economy, education and the environment.



Colin Murphey/The Daily Astorian

A street sign in Cannon Beach indicates where people should go if a tsunami strikes the coast.

Hospitality: ‘We’re seeing a shift’

Continued from Page 1A

‘Long way to go’

While on a road trip to educate Oregon Coast communities about emergency preparedness, Althea Rizzo of the Oregon Office of Emergency Management took a hard look at the hotels she stayed at after her presentations.

Some hotels had evacuation information for a tsunami in the room. Others didn’t. Some had signs showing an escape route. Many didn’t. When she would chat with front desk clerks about what to do in a disaster, some thought there was nothing to do to prepare.

“It’s very hit and miss along the coast,” Rizzo said. “And we have a long way to go.”

Rizzo, a state geohazards program coordinator, urges hotels to train staff on the basics of tsunamis and to take specific steps to prepare, such as food storage and evacuation drills. She also suggests hotels share evacuation information with guests through emails that confirm room reservations.

But engaging with the hospitality industry has not always been easy. Out of 20 sessions she conducted, only one member of the industry showed.

Some of the reluctance stems from a lagging fear that talking about tsunamis could deter tourism, she said. But often what keeps hotels from being prepared is a lack of time and resources.

“We can tell hotels they should have resources, but then those supplies need to be maintained and purchased — another cost in an already difficult industry,” she said.

Tiffany Brown, the emergency coordinator in Clatsop County, said she thinks attitudes are slowly changing locally.

“We’re seeing a shift. As the community gets their head around this threat, the mindset is shifting. It’s shifting from, ‘We don’t want to deter them from coming to the coast,’ to, ‘because awareness is growing, we have an obligation to educate them,’” she said. “This is important because they

come in contact with our most vulnerable population, which in this instance means people not familiar with the area.”

Local efforts

Greg Swedenborg, the general manager of The Waves Ocean Front Lodging in Cannon Beach, always knew tsunami danger was present on the coast.

But his journey to start preparing got kicked into high gear after The New Yorker published a piece in 2015 about the threat of a Cascadia Subduction Zone earthquake. Between community discussion and seeing increased tsunami safety signs around town, preparedness was brought to the forefront.

“There was definitely a spike in community interest after that article. I think that’s when (hospitality) started really getting proactive,” he said.

Swedenborg reworked the emergency protocol with his employees and started putting evacuation maps and informa-

tion in guest books — a practice that has become standard in most hotels in the city.

Some, like Beck-Sweeney, have gone further by providing go-bags for her employees, as well as encouraging homeowners to purchase go-bags to put in vacation homes for guests.

Communication and more consistent employee training are areas Beck-Sweeney and Swedenborg cited for improvement.

“We’re so spread out, there is no way to immediately reach everyone in an emergency,” Beck-Sweeney said. “But we knock on doors. We know how to track people down.”

Preparing has a cost, whether it be in the time it takes to evaluate procedures or in emergency supplies for guests.

“Being a small business, we just have to make the time to get this done. There’s always a million things to do, and it has to be a priority,” Swedenborg said. “We are doing better than we were, but we still have a long way to go.”

CEDR THANKS THE GENEROUS SPONSORS OF THE 2018 CLATSOP COUNTY JOB & CAREER FAIR!

Columbia Memorial Hospital
Fort George Brewery & Public House
Seaside Rotary Club Foundation
Warrenton Business Association

Bayview Transit Mix, Inc
City of Astoria

Greenwood Resources/Lewis & Clark Timberlands
Hyak Maritime

LCHRMA (Lower Columbia Human Resource Management Association)

Pacific Power

Aflac of Astoria
Fred Meyer

Sunset Parks & Recreation

Thanks also for the financial support from the NWESD and the Astoria, Jewell, Knappa, Seaside & Warrenton School Districts

Participation: 650 high school students! 150 college students & general job seekers! 83 employers!

Many Volunteers!

We could not have done it without your support!

CEDR
CLATSOP ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT RESOURCES

AMERICA'S
SBDC
OREGON

1455 N. Roosevelt, Seaside, OR • 503-338-2402
www.clatsoped.com • email: SBDC@clatsopcc.edu

LOST CAT



\$500 CASH REWARD

- NAME: Remy
- PRIMARY COLOR: Calico
- SECONDARY COLOR: Tortoiseshell marking
- SEX: Female
- WEIGHT: 13.12 lbs.
- OTHER CHARACTERISTICS: Black collar with pink hearts and crossbones, ID tag and Tile tracker. Has green eyes.
- LOST: 03/18/2018
- AGE: 4 years
- ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: She can be very aggressive with strangers if scared, and may bite.
- MEDICAL INFORMATION: Takes 5mg Elavil daily for separation anxiety.
- LAST SEEN: Seaside, Oregon, 11th Avenue/N. Franklin St., Seaside, OR at approx. 4 a.m. on 3/18/18.

*Please note that number is for Home Again and the representative will not have information about the reward. Reward offered by owner.

If found, please call
1-888-466-3242*

MICROCHIP #985112005812922