

# Inquiry: Democrats have been divided over impeachment

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The congresswoman raised concerns Friday about recent comments by Trump that he would take opposition research from foreign governments before the 2020 election. Ellen Weintraub, the chairwoman of the Federal Election Commission, issued a statement reminding candidates it is illegal to solicit or accept anything of value from a foreign national in connection with a U.S. election.

Indivisible North Coast Oregon's rally Friday was one of many across the nation over the weekend on impeachment. Deb Vanasse, an organizer with the group, called on people to fan out into the community and advocate for the impeachment inquiry.

Democrats, who control the House, have been divided over impeachment. If the House were to impeach Trump, a trial would be held in the Senate, where Republicans hold the majority and would decide the fate of the Republican president.

Trump, who is preparing to



Edward Stratton/The Astorian

**U.S. Rep. Suzanne Bonamici, D-Oregon, spoke during a rally Friday by Indivisible North Coast Oregon outside the Barbey Maritime Center in Astoria.**

formally announce his reelection campaign, said Saturday on Twitter: "Despite the Greatest Presidential Harassment of all time by people that are very dishonest and want to destroy

our Country, we are doing great in the Polls, even better than in 2016, and will be packed at the Tuesday Announcement Rally in Orlando, Florida. KEEP AMERICA GREAT!"



Photos by Edward Stratton/The Astorian

**More than 150 students graduated with degrees and career certificates from Clatsop Community College on Friday.**

# Bonamici: Tenure in office largely focused on education, science and the environment

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To help pay for college, she worked at Lane County Legal Aid, a group providing legal assistance to low-income people. After college, she became a consumer protection attorney for the Federal Trade Commission and later entered private practice in Portland representing small businesses.

After having children, Bonamici took a break from practicing law. She later advocated for education funding locally and in Salem and became a legislative assistant in 2001.

Voters elected her to the state House in 2006, the state Senate in 2008 and the U.S. House in 2012. Her tenure in Congress has largely focused on education, science and the environment.

"The lessons I learned starting



**U.S. Rep. Suzanne Bonamici, D-Oregon, spoke at Clatsop Community College's graduation Friday in Patriot Hall.**

in community college and at Legal Aid shaped my future in ways I couldn't imagine at the time," she said. "I'm confident that your

experiences here at Clatsop Community College will shape your future as well, and very likely in ways you cannot imagine now."

# School: District will relocate students to temporary classrooms during construction

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Contractors also still need to confirm the presence of asbestos in the stucco at John Jacob Astor Elementary, said Casey Cunningham, a consultant with Cornerstone Management Group Inc., the project manager for the school district.

Astor Elementary is the same vintage as the Gray School campus. The school district also faces potential asbestos issues at Astoria Middle School, where the bulk of the bond will be spent tearing down a classroom wing and replacing it with a modernized, three-story academic hall.

"At the middle school, we have some flooring concerns that we need to address, and we'll take care of that with them, develop a design document that will try to attack that during Christmas and spring break so that we're not dealing with asbestos when the construction starts," Cunningham said.

The school district is also waiting for approval from the state to replace aging boilers as early as this summer at Astor Elementary, Hoppes said.

Most major construction will begin in phases between spring and summer next year

and wrap up between 2021 and early 2022, including the installation of secured entrances at all campuses.

About two-thirds of the bond will pay to replace the classroom wing at the middle school — where staff lament over ill-fitting, triangular classrooms without natural lighting or enough ventilation — with the new academic hall by early 2022. Each floor will contain identical learning communities for sixth, seventh and eighth grades. Support areas of the school will also be modernized, while the track will be resurfaced.

The school district will relocate students to temporary classrooms within the middle school during construction.

Around \$20 million of the bond will enclose the corridors around the high school campus to improve security. Shop, art, music and science classrooms, along with the auditorium, will be modernized.

Astor Elementary will receive \$9 million worth of improvements. An old cafeteria downhill from the main building will be remodeled into a multipurpose cafeteria, kitchen and activity room. Kindergarten classrooms will be added, along with more covered play areas.

# Nikkila: Enchantment with the North Coast's beauty never faded

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Iowa. She remembers how her dad would joke about her mom's Norwegian phrases.

"He said she couldn't say anything but 'yah,'" Nikkila said. "So when he asked her to marry him, she said 'yah.'"

Growing up, Nikkila recalls the extreme cold and the rope that stretched from their farmhouse to the outhouse during the winter, so they wouldn't get lost in the disorienting blizzards.

She also remembers attending a one-room schoolhouse and writing on slates rather than paper. Her hobby has always been reading, especially history, biographies and mystery.

Norma and her two sisters ended up marrying three Nikkila brothers of a neighboring Finnish family. Norma married Richard Nikkila in 1935. They would have two sons, Lloyd and Norm.

Leading up to the Great Depression, her father-in-law started buying parcels of land around his farm, and when the market crashed, the land lost its value. When her father-in-law died, they became financially responsible for the farm.

With no way of affording the farm and few prospects for making a living in North Dakota, they decided to leave and move West.

They traded their washing machine for a car and sold their belongings. Norma's husband spent \$40 out of the \$200

they had for new tires, and they moved to Uniontown — known as Finn Town — in Astoria in 1941.

Richard Nikkila found a job as a longshoreman. Norma got a job at Tongue Point during World War II.

After her sons graduated high school, Norma went to work as a splitter at Bumble Bee Cannery. She was a longtime union member, serving as president for one year.

Her enchantment with the beauty of the North Coast never faded. She remembers how enamored she was by the trees and the ocean when she first arrived.

Nikkila credits her longevity to a life of hard work. Her youngest son, Norm, said she has the ability to adjust to life's changes and get along with everybody. She also comes from a long line of centenarians.

"She's very impressive," said Rosetta Hurley, a life enrichment coordinator at Clatsop Care. "She is beloved here. She is inspirational to everyone. She has a high level of awareness and has kept it for all these years, and she is very gracious with people."

Although Nikkila is not physically independent, Hurley said, "she has an independence of spirit."

Her friends and family are planning a birthday party. Even though it's June, they are confident Santa will make an appearance.



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