OPINION

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the Astoria!

Founded in 1873

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PUBLISHER'S NOTEBOOK

the Astorian A RICH RESOURCE FOR SERVICES, BUSINESS AND AMENITIES THE GEARHART HOTEL COMES ALIVE IN NEW MUSICAL **County DRIVERS WANTED** sheriff aims to retire Bergin was elected in 2004 By NICOLE BALES The Astorian

OUR MISSION REMAINS THE SAME AS *IT HAS SINCE 1873 — A COMMITMENT TO* RELEVANT, CREDIBLE LOCAL NEWS AND INFORMATION FOR OUR READERS, AND THE BELIEF THAT A WELL-INFORMED

PUBLIC KEEPS OUR COMMUNITY STRONG.

RIGHT NOW, THERE'S PROBABLY A SHORTAGE OF 50,000 TRUCK DRIVERS

IN AMERICA. THERE ARE TONS OF JOBS OUT THERE.

Coffee, waffles at food cart pod

Menu expands at 11th and Duane streets near City Hall

Mail delivery is working well

KARI

BORGEN

Tt's been almost three months since The Daily Astorian became The Astorian, delivered three days a week by mail. So how's that working for us?

Thanks to our readers, advertisers and employees, most of the time it's working really well.

As of last week, we had 22 less print subscriptions than when we changed delivery the first of May. That's not what we like, but it is what we expected. What we didn't expect is that we are selling an average of 98 more copies a day in stores and racks than we did three months ago. Plus we have 29 more digital subscriptions than we did on May 7.

Our advertising is up over the same time last year. And our expenses are significantly reduced with the changed delivery and schedule. Three days a week, mail delivery has proven to be a good business model for The Astorian.

So what does that mean? Why should you care?

The Astorian did not cut staff or reduce local news content. The news we were publishing in five days is all still there in three weekly issues.

Is it important for you to know how your public officials are dealing with building heights, traffic issues, homelessness and vacation rentals? You bet it is. That's why we pay our reporters to go to public meetings, research the documents and interview affected people on local issues, so you can learn the facts to make decisions on voting, shopping and living here.

What about the latest entertainment, your kids' school activities, the score of the Warrenton base-

ball game? We pay reporters to cover those

Our team works daily, and posts news online daily. In fact, our traffic to dailyastorian.com last month was more than 134,000 users and nearly half a million page views. Because we are members of news-sharing organizations Associated Press, Tribune Regional News Service and EO Media's other newspapers, the news we offer goes far beyond just our county If you've ever wondered why a story you read

in print or online from us was on Portland television, it's because it was first reported in The Astorian and picked up from us through a news-sharing agreement. That's how news published here can impact the rest of the state, Northwest, even the nation.

Those reporters and pages, print and online, are paid for with advertising and subscriptions. Your subscription dollars help pay for local journalism to be delivered to you. The bulk of our revenue, however, comes from advertising. Local businesses reach you, our readers, with their information by buying ads in print, online, social media and email from The Astorian. Advertising helps our local businesses prosper by growing their sales and customer base, and that helps

keep locals employed producing the newspaper. The other revenue for our business comes from printing other regional news. The Astorian serves as the regional printing facility for newspapers in the Lower Columbia region, including the Columbia Press in Warrenton, Hipfish, Tillamook Headlight Herald, North Coast Times in Manzanita, Cannon Beach Gazette, News Guard in Lincoln City, Clatskanie Chief, St. Helens Chronicle and most recently added, the Wahkiakum Eagle.

Of course we print EO Media Group owned newspapers too — The Astorian, Chinook Observer, Seaside Signal and Coast River Business Journal. As other printing facilities in Tacoma, Olympia, Centralia and Longview have closed, we've made a commitment to provide small newspapers a high-quality printing facility by investing in a new press tower and upgraded distribution equipment.

That's a long way of saying that's why we think it's important to make good business decisions like three-day-a-week mail delivery at The Astorian. Our mission remains the same as it has since 1873 — a commitment to relevant, credible local news and information for our readers, and the belief that a well-informed public keeps our community strong. We plan to continue to employ local journalists, customer service and production staff for many years to

Please contact me with questions or comments at kborgen@dailyastorian.com, or mail to 949 Exchange Street, Astoria.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Kari Borgen is publisher of The Astorian.

OTHER VIEWS

Selected editorials from Oregon newspapers

Register-Guard, on U.S.-Mexico border

Springfield physician and an Ore-Agon politician have given hope to an expectant mother and her family.

Dr. Lauren Herbert, a pediatrician and infectious diseases specialist in Springfield, joined Sen. Ron Wyden and other Oregonians in visiting the U.S.-Mexico border this past weekend to get a firsthand look at the conditions facing migrants. They came away deeply disturbed by the conditions under which migrants were housed at facilities in El Paso, Texas, and Otero County, New Mexico.

Then, traveling across the border to Ciudad Juárez, the Oregonians met a Mexican woman who was suffering complications late in her pregnancy, needed medical care but faced a months-long wait before U.S. border officials would even consider

the family's request for asylum. Her situation changed when Wyden intervened with the assistance of Herbert and others. The U.S. border officers soon began processing the family's asylum request and promised that the woman would be taken to a hospital for evaluation.

Meanwhile, countless other families remain huddled across the border, waiting to apply for asylum in the U.S., and thousands more children and adults already are held in U.S. facilities.

The Trump administration claims the conditions at the detention centers are fine and appropriate. That is not what was found by the Oregon delegation of Wyden; Herbert; Rabbi Michael Cahana, senior rabbi of Congregation Beth Israel, Portland; and Stephen Manning and Ian Philabaum of the Portland-based Innovation Law Lab.

A humanitarian crisis exists on both sides of the border. The violence and poverty that pervade much of Mexico and Central America has caused thousands to flee northward. Yet the U.S. greets them with a bureaucratic morass that offers neither hope nor dignity, housing them in

deplorable conditions until their future is

Astoria planners

reverse course on

building heights

It is unconscionable that the U.S. government would treat anyone this way crowded together, unable to sleep, and without adequate medical care or hygiene regardless of their citizenship or immigration status. Children will face lifelong consequences from this traumatic

treatment. We have criticized Oregon's congressional delegation for not doing more to keep the border crisis in the public eye and to achieve improvements. Wyden acted. His border visit this past weekend gained national attention, underscoring why congressional delegations should have unimpeded access to these facilities.

Sen. Jeff Merkley and Reps. Peter DeFazio, Earl Blumenauer and Suzanne Bonamici also were bringing the issue home to Oregonians, touring Portland shelters for migrant teens who crossed the border without parents or legal guardians. Their oversight tour on Sunday left the lawmakers impressed with how Morrison Child & Family Services provides the youth with decent hygiene, health care and education. That was is in sharp contrast with what Wyden, Merkley and others have witnessed down south.

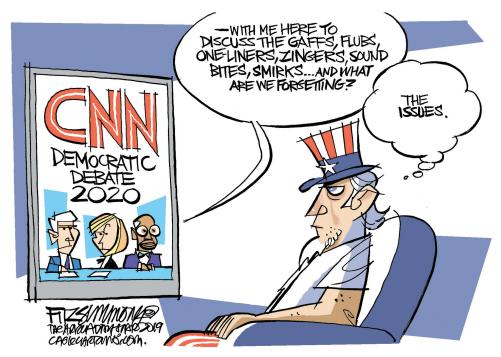
As for the pregnant woman whom Wyden assisted at the border, the senator's staff on Tuesday said, "The mother was examined by a medical professional and cleared to travel to her sponsor's (her father's) home where she can receive further care."

That is welcome news.

Wyden said U.S. officials illegally had blocked the family's opportunity to apply for asylum. Without Wyden and without Herbert, who knows what would have happened to the family.

Bend Bulletin, on funding killed for disaster detection systems

¬ ov. Kate Brown told reporters that the Legislature's decision not to extend the state's disaster detection systems was



one of the "biggest disappointments" of this year's session.

Brown wanted \$12 million for early warning systems for wildfires and earthquakes. She put the money in her budget. The money was there in House Bill 5005. And then on June 25 it was zapped.

What happened?

Some sort of deal was hashed out in secret. The amendment that zeroed out the funding was anonymous. It passed out of a Ways and Means subcommittee without debate to explain why the funding was cut.

You shouldn't be shocked. That's the way a lot of Oregon government is done. Sure, many legislators say all the right things about transparency and accountability in government. But they don't always walk the talk.

What's interesting about this episode is that two of the state's leading Democrats were on the subcommittee that killed the money — House Speaker Tina Kotek and Senate President Peter Courtney. In other words, one of Brown's biggest disappointments of the session happened right under the nose of the fellow leaders of her party.

Maybe they don't talk to Brown about her priorities. Maybe they disagree. Maybe they made tough choices among several programs. Shouldn't that debate be in the open so Oregonians can understand not only what their government is doing but

how the decisions are made?

The wildfire detection system that got cut is called ALERTWildfire. It is a system of cameras operated in remote areas that enable firefighters and first responders to discover and monitor wildfires. It's run by a consortium of universities, including the University of Oregon. The devastating Camp Fire of 2018 that killed more than 80 people in California provided more urgency to expand the system in Oregon. Some of the first cameras in Oregon were installed on Blue Mountain and Steens Mountain. But the program needs money to create a larger network. The anonymous person or persons behind the amendment killed the funding for this session.

ShakeAlert is a similar system of sensors designed to enable advance warning of earthquakes. It could give a public warning from just several seconds to a few minutes. That's not ideal, but it's better than nothing. Oregon doesn't have enough sensors for it to work. California and Washington have made more progress. As for the funding, the anonymous person or persons behind the amendment killed it, at least for the time being.

Oregon's laws underscore that the public is entitled to know what the government is doing and how decisions are made. Instead, what the public gets is episode after episode of secret deals in Salem.