

MEASURE 101: 'This is an overwhelming victory for everyone who counts on Medicare'

Continued from 1A

"This is an overwhelming victory for everyone who counts on Medicare for their health care," she said.

In recent weeks Wentz stumped for the measure, saying the fate of more than 350,000 people added to the Oregon Health Plan as part of Medicaid expansion was uncertain if the measure failed.



Dan Lonai, Umatilla County Department of Administrative Services director, verifies a ballot total while counting ballots Tuesday at the Umatilla County Courthouse in Pendleton.

by federal dollars. result was a clear message Wentz said the election that "Oregonians are going

to band together against anyone who tries to take their health care away."

On Tuesday morning, Parrish said was still unsure what voters would decide. She suspected the timing of the special election could hinder turnout and chided Democratic colleagues for placing the measure on the January ballot instead of the November general election.

"I have no sense of what tonight's outcome will be," Parrish said. "Win or lose, health care is a mess. My colleagues have kicked the can down the curb to the next biennium."

The lawmaker, whose cell phone number appeared in the special election voters

pamphlet, maintained throughout the campaign that most of the \$320 million shortfall could instead come from elsewhere and that the tax hurts individuals, small businesses, school districts, college students and non-profits, while exempting unions and corporations like Nike.

"We set out to let the voters vote," Parrish said.

Sen. Bill Hansell, R-Athens, learned the results during a surprise birthday party thrown for him by friends. It was the only sour note of the night for him.

Hansell opposed the bill for two reasons. First, he said, he worries that this

type of assessment, which he believes is really a tax, could become a funding model for other programs. Secondly, the ballot measure language wasn't written by the Attorney General, but rather by legislators who supported it.

"If you could write your own measure, then you can present it in a way that's to your advantage," Hansell said. "I think that's what happened here. This whole process was flawed and nontransparent. A lot of voters in rural Oregon saw through that."

Contact Kathy Aney at kane@eastoregonian.com or 941-966-0810.

Undersea quake sends Alaskans fleeing from feared tsunami

By MARK THIESSEN and BECKY BOHRER Associated Press

ANCHORAGE, Alaska — A powerful undersea earthquake sent Alaskans fumbling for suitcases and racing to evacuation centers in the middle of the night after a cellphone alert warned a tsunami could hit communities along the state's southern coast and parts of British Columbia.

The monster waves never materialized, but people who fled endured hours of tense waiting at shelters before they were cleared to return home.

"This was a win as far as I could tell," said Marjie Veeder, clerk for the city of Unalaska, which is home to the international fishing port of Dutch Harbor in the Aleutian Islands. "We got advance warning and were so thankful for that."

The magnitude 7.9 quake in the Gulf of Alaska triggered the jarring alert that roused people shortly after midnight Tuesday. Fleeing motorists clogged some highways in their rush to higher ground. Many took refuge at schools or other shelters.

Even for Alaskans accustomed to tsunami threats and tsunami drills, the phone message was alarming. It read: "Emergency Alert. Tsunami danger on the



People line the hallway at Sitka High School Tuesday, in Sitka, Alaska after tsunami sirens and cell phone messages told residents to find higher ground after a 7.9 magnitude earthquake struck in the Gulf of Alaska.

coast. Go to high ground or move inland. Listen to local news."

There were no reports of damage, not even on Kodiak Island, the closest land to the epicenter. Only after the all-clear was sounded did a little levity emerge. In Kodiak, a customer's Facebook post suggested a post-evacuation meal at King's Diner: "Hungry? Tsunami got you up early?"

Eleanor King opened the diner at the usual time of 6 a.m. By the time customers started arriving, the excitement had passed and people

just sat around quietly eating their meals, speaking little of the quake.

The temblor reminded King of a deadly 1964 quake that generated tsunamis that killed 129 people and wreaked widespread devastation — events that remain vivid in the memories of many Alaskans.

"It started out just like the big one," she said. "It was very slow and rolling, a good resemblance to the big one. That's what scared us."

Tuesday's quake was recorded at 12:32 a.m. in the Pacific Ocean about 170

miles southeast of Kodiak, home to one of the nation's largest Coast Guard bases.

It prompted the warning across thousands of miles of Alaska's southern coast, from Attu in the Aleutian Islands to Canada's border with Washington state. Kodiak is about 200 miles south of Anchorage, the state's largest city, which was not under a tsunami threat.

Elsewhere in the United States, Washington state, Oregon, California and Hawaii were under tsunami watches, which eventually

were lifted. Officials in Japan say there was no tsunami threat there.

The state has an active tsunami-readiness program, and many communities have sirens and evacuation plans.

In British Columbia, sirens blared and officials banged on doors to wake people from their sleep as a tsunami warning was issued along a large swath of the Canadian province's coastline.

"I just heard the firetrucks going around, honking their horns and on the loud speaker saying there is a tsunami warning," said Gillian Der, a University of British Columbia geography student who is studying on Haida Gwaii, off the coast of British Columbia. "It was very apocalyptic."

Chris Alemany, who lives in the Vancouver Island community of Port Alberni, Canada, said he was sleeping soundly with earplugs when his 10-year-old son barged into his bedroom and woke him up.

Alemany had not heard the sirens, even though they are a block and a half from his home. When he took out his earplugs, the noise was

"really, really loud," and it became clear quickly they needed to evacuate, he said.

The family decided to flee to Alemany's parents' home. They had to decide on the fly whether to take their dog and three cats. They didn't, in spite of their son's protestations.

"I've never seen so much traffic on our roads," he said. "At 3:30 in the morning, it was like there were 4,000 extra people in town or something because everybody was headed up the street."

The time between the siren sounding and the all-clear was tense, and his son and daughter were scared. "But in the main, I think people kind of knew what they needed to do and just waited for information," he said.

Back in Alaska, people reported on social media that the quake was felt hundreds of miles away, in Anchorage. Reports varied about how long the quake's shaking lasted, depending on location.

The quake was the planet's strongest since an 8.2 magnitude in Mexico in September.

Corrections

The East Oregonian works hard to be accurate and sincerely regrets any errors. If you notice a mistake in the paper, please call 541-966-0818.

EAST OREGONIAN

— Founded Oct. 16, 1875 —

211 S.E. Byers Ave., Pendleton 541-276-2211 333 E. Main St., Hermiston 541-567-6211 Office hours: Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Closed major holidays

www.eastoregonian.com

To subscribe, call 1-800-522-0255 or go online to www.eastoregonian.com and click on 'Subscribe'

East Oregonian (USPS 164-980) is published daily except Sunday, Monday and postal holidays, by the EO Media Group, 211 S.E. Byers Ave. Pendleton, OR 97801. Periodicals postage paid at Pendleton, OR. Postmaster: send address changes to East Oregonian, 211 S.E. Byers Ave. Pendleton, OR 97801. Copyright © 2018, EO Media Group

Subscriber services:

For mail delivery, online access, vacation stops or delivery concerns call 1-800-522-0255 ext. 1

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

Table with 3 columns: Subscription type, Local home delivery rate, Savings off cover price. Includes EZPay 52 weeks, 26 weeks, 13 weeks.

Single copy price:

\$1 Tuesday through Friday, \$1.50 Saturday

Circulation Manager:

Marcy Rosenberg • 541-966-0828 • mrosenberg@eastoregonian.com

ADVERTISING

Advertising Director: Marissa Williams 541-278-2669 • adirector@eastoregonian.com Advertising Services: Laura Jensen 541-966-0806 • ljensen@eastoregonian.com Multimedia Consultants: Kimberly Macias 541-278-2683 • kmacias@eastoregonian.com Jeanne Jewett 541-564-4531 • jjewett@eastoregonian.com Dayle Stinson 541-278-2670 • dstinson@eastoregonian.com Angela Treadwell 541-966-0827 • atreadwell@eastoregonian.com Audra Workman 541-564-4538 • aworkman@eastoregonian.com Grace Bubar 541-276-2214 • gbubar@eastoregonian.com

Classified & Legal Advertising

1-800-962-2819 or 541-278-2678 classifieds@eastoregonian.com or legal@eastoregonian.com NEWS To submit news tips and press releases: call 541-966-0818 or email news@eastoregonian.com To submit community events, calendar items and Your EO News: email community@eastoregonian.com or call Tammy Malgesini at 541-564-4539 or Renee Struthers at 541-966-0818. To submit engagements, weddings and anniversaries: email rsruthers@eastoregonian.com or visit www.eastoregonian.com/community/announcements To submit sports or outdoors information or tips: 541-966-0838 • sports@eastoregonian.com Business Office Manager: Janna Heimgartner 541-966-0822 • jheimgartner@eastoregonian.com COMMERCIAL PRINTING Production Manager: Mike Jensen 541-215-0824 • mjensen@eastoregonian.com

AccuWeather Forecast. TODAY: Cloudy, a little rain; breezy. THURSDAY: Intermittent snow and rain. FRIDAY: An afternoon shower. SATURDAY: Occasional rain and drizzle. SUNDAY: Cloudy with a little rain. Includes temperature forecasts for Pendleton and Hermiston.

ALMANAC. PENDING: through 3 p.m. yesterday. TEMPERATURE: HIGH 51°, LOW 33°. RECORDS: 63° (1935) -20° (1930). PRECIPITATION: 24 hours ending 3 p.m. 0.09". HERMISTON: through 3 p.m. yesterday. TEMPERATURE: HIGH 49°, LOW 36°. RECORDS: 60° (1947) -26° (1930). PRECIPITATION: 24 hours ending 3 p.m. 0.02". SUN AND MOON: Sunrise today 7:25 a.m., Sunset tonight 4:50 p.m., Moonrise today 11:19 a.m., Moonset today none. Includes moon phase icons for Jan 24, Jan 31, Feb 7, Feb 15.

REGIONAL CITIES forecast table with columns for Today and Thu. (Hi, Lo, W). Cities include Astoria, Baker City, Bend, Brookings, Burns, Enterprise, Eugene, Heppner, Hermiston, John Day, Klamath Falls, La Grande, Meacham, Medford, Newport, North Bend, Ontario, Pasco, Pendleton, Portland, Redmond, Salem, Spokane, Ukiah, Vancouver, Walla Walla, Yakima.

WORLD CITIES forecast table with columns for Today and Thu. (Hi, Lo, W). Cities include Beijing, Hong Kong, Jerusalem, London, Mexico City, Moscow, Paris, Rome, Seoul, Sydney, Tokyo.

WINDS forecast table with columns for Today and Thursday (in mph). Boardman: S 6-12, SSW 6-12. Pendleton: S 10-20, SSW 7-14.

UV INDEX TODAY. 0 0 1 1 0 0. 8 a.m. 10 a.m. Noon 2 p.m. 4 p.m. 6 p.m. 0-2, Low; 3-5, Moderate; 6-7, High; 8-10, Very High; 11+, Extreme.

NATIONAL WEATHER TODAY. Map of the US showing weather systems and precipitation. Forecast for the Midwest and East with snow showers from the upper Great Lakes to the Appalachians. Includes yesterday's national extremes: High 84° in Hollywood, Fla., Low -18° in Angel Fire, N.M.

NATIONAL CITIES forecast table with columns for Today and Thur. (Hi, Lo, W). Cities include Albuquerque, Atlanta, Atlanta City, Baltimore, Billings, Birmingham, Boise, Boston, Charleston, SC, Charleston, WV, Chicago, Cleveland, Dallas, Denver, Detroit, El Paso, Fairbanks, Fargo, Honolulu, Houston, Indianapolis, Jacksonville, Kansas City, Las Vegas, Little Rock, Los Angeles, Louisville, Memphis, Miami, Milwaukee, Minneapolis, Nashville, New Orleans, New York City, Oklahoma City, Omaha, Philadelphia, Phoenix, Portland, ME, Providence, Raleigh, Rapid City, Reno, Sacramento, St. Louis, Salt Lake City, San Diego, San Francisco, Seattle, Tucson, Washington, DC, Wichita.