

Conference: One key topic focused on how the Republican Party can stay relevant in Oregon

Continued from Page 1A

that candidate. She expressed the desire to once again make Oregon a swing state that will induce presidential candidates to make campaign stops.

Discussing the issues
How the Republican Party can stay relevant in Oregon was one of the most significant and complicated topics discussed by the group.

As of February, 37.7 percent of Oregon voters were registered Democrats; 32.5 percent were registered non-affiliated, independent or minority parties; and 29.8 percent were registered Republicans, according to the Oregon Secretary of State's Office. The Grand Old Party hasn't nabbed the governorship since Vic Atiyeh led the state in the 1980s.

Small groups of people were separated around tables. Each table generated a few ideas that then were presented to the entire group. Some of those ideas included marketing the party as being full-spectrum and socially diverse.

A few attendees suggested the party is out of touch with mainstream views and sometimes isolates individuals who don't believe in all components of the general party platform.

Marshall Kosloff, of Lake Oswego, said the party needs to more appropriately address the concerns specific to Oregonians, such as health care costs, tax increases and making post-secondary education accessible to all people. Those state-specific issues, he said, must be elevated above the main issues targeted by the national Republican Party.

"The voters have moved away from our core positions," said attendee Jim Parker. The party must be willing to reposition itself to be aligned closer to voters' ideals and concerns, he said.

Other attendees suggested it's not Republican ideologies that have strayed from popular opinion but rather how they're



Attendees line up at a microphone to share their thoughts with the entire group of attendees at the 51st annual Dorchester Conference in Seaside, held Friday through Sunday. Throughout the conference, the group discussed how to keep the Republican Party relevant, economic sanctions, government interference in public transportation and terrorism and counterterrorism.

communicated to the general public or the candidates selected to represent the party. Rather than shifting to the center, they said, the center must be shifted to the right.

Kathy Lamberg, of Lane County, and several others said the Republican Party must work harder to show it is genuinely concerned with the welfare of constituents. Lamberg, who ran for state representative of the 14th district last year, said that can be accomplished by "bringing a personal relationship to people" and expressing "the idea that we really care."

- Other suggestions included:
- Expanding the party's social media presence;
 - Marketing the party in a more appealing way and with better commercials;
 - Communicating how the Oregon Republican party is different from the national party and George W. Bush's regime;
 - Reaching out to new voters as soon as they register;
 - Broadening the party's po-



Attendees at the 51st annual Dorchester Conference in Seaside discuss how the Republican Party can stay relevant in Oregon, one of the four issue discussions featured at the conference. About 300 people, primarily from the Republican Party, attended the conference, this weekend.

- sitions and policies; and
- Behaving more like Democrats, by being less rude and unpleasant.
- Saturday also featured a debate on the issue of Uber, taxis and town cars as forms of transportation and what actions a government should take to ensure the public is safe and the playing field is level when

economic sanctions against Cuba and should the policy be reversed and the sanctions re-imposed to try to bring regime change for the good of the Cuban people? A majority of conference attendees voted "no," although a few spoke against the way in which the sanctions were lifted and felt the U.S. didn't get any concessions in the process.

On Saturday afternoon, the group broke into subgroups to discuss immigration reform, the police state and, again, terrorism and counterterrorism.

Making a change next year

U.S. Rep. Greg Walden, R-Ore., gave the keynote speech expressing disappointment in the current federal administration and touting the importance of the 2016 election for the Republican Party.

Many leading Democrats, Walden said, including Obama and former U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, are lack-

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— Rep. Greg Walden, R-Ore., 2nd District

ing in transparency, violating the law and U.S. Constitution, isolating allies and cozying up to countries that pose a threat to U.S. interests. He also expressed distaste for former Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, saying he and Rep. Pete Sessions, R-Texas, had made it a mutual goal to "get her fired."

Walden spoke about what he believes are some recent Republican victories, such as electing the country's youngest person to office, Rep. Elise Stefanik, R-N.Y.; flipping Florida's 26th Congressional District with Carlos Curbelo; and electing the first black Republican woman in Congress, Rep. Mia Love, of Utah.

"As we get ready for 2016," Walden said, "you got to realize (the Democrats) may have the elites and they may have the liberal press and all the bureaucracy in Washington on their side, and they'll use every lever — this administration is all about Chicago-style politics — but we have the spirit of freedom and the will of the American people to move forward and win. We have to prevail. ... You know what the consequences are if we don't. Can you imagine a third term of Barack Obama headed up by Hillary Clinton? That is what we will get, and it's not what we can afford."

Boatyard: 'Having a boatyard adjacent to a log yard isn't working too well'

Continued from Page 1A

"I'm trying to find solutions that could maintain the boatyard's operations," Knight said, adding that he'll be meeting, hopefully today, with representatives from DEQ, Division of State Lands, Business Oregon and the Oregon Department of Transportation.

If DEQ assures him the boatyard can operate, with illicit discharges, while not being fined, Knight said, that would change the Port's direction.

A DEQ representative has said that the only potential fines would come from not installing a treatment system by June 30, 2016, as mandated in August. In late December, the Port submitted a treatment plan for a bio-filtration system on the western edge of Pier 3, on land leased to the Port by DSL. A spokeswoman from the DSL said it has had no communication from the Port about siting a treatment center there.

Not following the plan
The Port's 2001 and 2010 master plans both envisioned a marine-industrial cluster, including a 300-ton boat haul-out and indoor working space. The concept helped draw companies like Englund Marine & Industrial Supply and Bornstein Seafoods to the Port's central waterfront. Columbia Pacific Marine Works literally moved its 10,000-square foot mechanics workshop to a new plot of leased land near the boatyard.

Pier 3 was used as collateral on a \$10.5 million loan to relocate Bornstein Seafoods onto Port property, the stipulation being that the Port would follow its master plan. The plan was amended in 2010 to include the potential for log exports on piers 1 and 3, to accommodate Westerlund Log Handlers. The state accepted the amendment in exchange for 10 percent of the gross revenues from logs being put into the infrastructure of Pier



An Englund Marine and Industrial Supply customer makes the short walk from the store back to the Port of Astoria's Pier 3 boatyard. Kurt Englund has said the close proximity of the boatyard to his store is one of its advantages.



The 88-ton Travelift haul-out machine transports a 27-foot sloop into one of 40 work spaces at the Pier 3 boatyard. The machine was purchased by the Port of Astoria in August 2004.

3 to make it a deep-draft shipping port, partially to take pressure off surrounding tenants.

In April, Astoria Forest Product took over for Westerlund, immersed in litigation with China National Building Materials, and placed a debarker on Pier 3 last summer. In August, its yard manager, Dave Daggett, said the company would need the entire pier, and that it was in the Port's plans to move the boatyard.

The Port has allowed AFP to

use the boatyard as a one-way lane for trucks coming and going from Pier 3. Tenants have complained about the traffic and dust making it hard to paint boats. Before assigning Columbia Pacific's building and lease with the Port to Englund Marine late last year, co-owner Bob Zakrzewski said his kind of work with engines wasn't compatible with all the debris coming from logs. Knight seems to agree.

"I just don't like it, it's far too

crowded," he said of the current arrangement. "Having a boatyard adjacent to a log yard isn't working too well."

And the issues won't abate any time soon. The Port's seen a quick succession of several ships since early February, when the Bunun Fortune spent two weeks loading at Pier 1 because of labor-shipper disputes on the West Coast. The Zambesi left the Port over the weekend; the Maren Bulker's pulled in to be loaded; and Knight said another vessel is already scheduled for March 22.

Counselor: 'One of the biggest needs ... in the district is comprehensive mental health services'

Continued from Page 1A

"When you have a critical mass of 750 kids, and many receiving services, it makes sense to make it convenient," WGS Principal Tom Rogozinski said.

Anderson covers Astoria, where one of her children and many of her CBH clients already attended. A fellow CBH counselor Megan Stallter splits her week between WGS, Knappa and eventually Jewell. Seaside will soon start a similar service through CBH.

After the Astoria School District voted 3-2 to not research the concept of a school-based health center in May 2013, it created a health and wellness goal to investigate the issues facing students.

"One of the biggest needs we've had in the district is comprehensive mental health services," Astoria Superintendent Craig Hoppes said. He added that super-

intendents talk about it at a countywide level in their meetings. "It's a big problem, especially in rural areas."

The only costs to the districts is the space they provide for the counseling. Although people invariably see who is coming out of her office, Anderson keeps privacy screens on the windows, doesn't keep patients waiting outside and instead has them called from class.

Anderson said she didn't think the effect of counseling in the school would be so substantial, but even Greater Oregon Behavioral Healthcare, which recently provided a yearlong grant to fund a mental health counselor at Warrenton High School, has taken notice of the initiative.

"There's no research on it yet," said Anderson. "This could be huge for me. This might be great research material for my doctorate."

— By Edward Stratton

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