Dorchester: Carlson painted party leaders as out of touch

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Dorchester President Tom Simpson has described the event, conceived by then-state Rep. Bob Packwood in 1965, as associated with the GOP but aimed at the moderate-middle of the electorate, allowing conversations sometimes missing from the Republican Party. Delegates come of their own volition to vote on candidates and issues.

This year's conference included a conversation on the effect of the Independent Party of Oregon, now the third largest in the state, and gun-owner culpability for crimes committed with their weapons by others. In the shadow of the recent Malheur National Wildlife Refuge occupation, attendees discussed who should own public lands, with a large majority of delegates favoring county control.

A populist year

Keynote speaker Tucker Carlson, co-host of Fox & Friends Weekend and founder



Oregon Republicans gathered over the weekend for the Dorchester Conference in Seaside.

of news site The Daily Caller, declared this a populist year. "This is a revolt of ordinary voters against those who sought to control the process without their involvement," he said.

Carlson painted the leadership of both the Republicans and Democrats as out of touch with their electorate, leading

to the ascent of candidates like Trump and Vermont U.S. Sen. Bernie Sanders with their populist messages. He said the Republican establishment has shut down debate on important issues like immigration and trade agreements, issues being raised by Trump.

"If you take a legitimate

concern and prevent it from being aired, do you think it goes away? Of course not. It festers. It emerges in the form of ... wait for it," Tucker said, pausing until someone uttered Trump's name "... Donald Trump, exactly right."

"So if you want to blame someone for this — or if you

want to give someone credit for it, depending upon where you stand — don't blame the voters," he said. "They're not in control, or haven't been until this year. Blame the people who short-circuited legitimate debate about real issues in order to preserve their own prerogatives."

Trump's weakness is flattery, Carlson said, which the

Washington establishment should use to try and influence him.

Treasurer hopefuls

Ted Wheeler's run for mayor of Portland has opened state treasurer, a partisan position, to a three-way race between Gudman, Telfer and Read.

The treasurer oversees more than \$90 billion of state investments. The treasurer also serves with the governor and secretary of state on the State Land Board, which oversees nearly 1.6 million acres of state land and resource assets.

Both Gudman and Telfer said Read is unqualified to be treasurer. Gudman added that Read wants to use the office as a stepping stone to a run for

governor. Telfer, a former Republican state senator now running as an independent, said the treasurer can be more than just a figurehead, using their bully pulpit to push for policies that protect the

state's investments. Gudman, a former board vice president and treasurer for USA Swimming, said the treasurer, above all other priorities, needs to maximize the state's return on investment.

Both said the treasurer could help put state lands back to profitable uses and railed against

the policies of Wheeler and state Democrats. Asked whether treasurer should be a nonpartisan position, they both said partisan politics should not play into the treasurer's job.

Tucker

Carlson

Gudman and Telfer both have an uphill battle. The last non-Democratic treasurer was Tony Meeker, a Republican elected in 1987.

Republican governor hopefuls speak at Dorchester

Pierce, Alley get five minutes to make case

By EDWARD STRATTON The Daily Astorian

SEASIDE — Republican gubernatorial hopefuls Bud Pierce and Allen Alley spoke in separate five-minute allotments at the Dorchester Conference Saturday, maligning the one-party rule in Salem and championing their ability to change the dynamic.

Alley, who filed a day before the March 8 deadline to be in the May 17 primary, has shaken up the Republican gubernatorial nomination, in which Pierce, a Salem oncologist who has largely selffunded his campaign, has been a clear front-runner since filing for election last summer.

'Ever since I entered the race last September, I have been ready for challengers in the primary," Pierce said in a release after Alley filed. "I don't take Allen's candidacy lightly, but I am still confident that I am the right candidate for this election."

the first Republican governor since Victor Atiyeh left office in 1987, and the first Republican to win a statewide election since

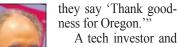
Only Pierce and Alley, largely seen as the two main contenders in the Republican nomination, spoke at Dorchester. Speaking at an earlier Republiwomen meeting was mechanical engineer Bob Niemeyer, Republican primary candidate in 2014 for the U.S. House of

Representatives.

Political class fight

After moderating a debate between state treasurer candidates Saturday, Alley had five minutes to explain himself.

"I'm running because I was at my grandson's fourth birthday party, and I looked at him and his little buddies sitting there, and I realized they have about the worst chance of graduating from high school of any group of 4-year-olds in the country," Alley said. "Educators used to say 'Thank good-Both are trying to become ness for Mississippi.' Now



Allen

Bud

former CEO of Pixelworks who ran unsuccessfully for the Repubgubernatorial lican nomination in 2010, Alley said the political class in Salem has let Oregonians down. He cited the state's nationbottom-dwelling four-year graduation rate, top-ranked per capita usage of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program in

2013 and the hundreds of millions spent on the failed Interstate 5 Columbia River Crossing and Cover Oregon online healthcare exchange.

He criticized legislative efforts such as the low-carbon fuel standard, which was approved but mired in discussions since 2009; the recently approved minimum wage increase and Initiative Petition 28, a proposed corporate tax increase on companies with more than \$25 million in sales.

We need to rise up and say 'no' to the political class," he said. "We need to say 'no' to rampant corruption, insider dealings and corporate welfare. We have to say 'no' to bridges to nowhere and websites for no one."

Since joining the race earlier this month, Alley has raised more than \$136,000. His donations include \$50,000 from Stephen Harder, CEO of Portland-based Harder Mechanical Contractors Inc., \$25,000 from Stimson Lum-

Appeal to moderates

Pierce, who had his five minutes after moderating a discussion about the effect of the Independent Party of Oregon on state elections, appealed to Oregon's moderate past as a way to turn around the party's fortunes in a state where a nomic growth and a pristine Republican has not been in the governor's office since Atiyeh in the late '80s, and no Republican has won a statewide race since 2002.

"The Republican Party must always stand for what is morally right," he said, intoning the memory of such famous Republican moderates as former presidents Abraham Lincoln and Theodore Roosevelt, Sen. Mark Hatfield and Gov. Tom McCall.

said Republicans must stand for both ecoenvironment.

"When you go to Salem, and you view the Democrats, it's a monarchy," Pierce said. 'It's an aristocracy.'

Instead of a CEO governor or authoritarian strong man, Pierce said, Oregon needs good business practices in agencies and leaders who minimize the government's power, handing it back to the people.

Pierce has raised more than \$1 million, about three-quarters of it from his personal



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