

From NYC to Cannon Beach, can't shake Trump

For reporters, Donald Trump threw down the gauntlet Thursday night at the Republican presidential candidate debate: "They're a very dishonest lot, generally speaking, in the world of politics."

I can only hope that I was not among those to whom he was referring. I kind of thought "The Donald" liked me.

I had been covering Trump since 1997, shortly after he purchased the 213-acre property he calls "Seven Springs." The property, located in New York's Westchester County, ironically had been owned by a newspaper family — Katharine Graham, the longtime publisher of the Washington Post, and before her, her father, Eugene Meyer, a financier and publisher who would have made Trump himself proud, purchasing the newspaper at a 1933 bankruptcy auction for \$825,000. Woodward and Bernstein were to follow many years later.

When Trump purchased the property for \$7.5 million — a considerable bargain, even 20 years ago — he inherited conservation easements, land covenants, along with woods and meadows home to forest creatures, native plants, even bald eagles.

As the new owner, Trump promptly sought to address the most crying need for that affluent Westchester community: a golf course. His intention was to bring a world-class course that would host his version of the Masters, replete with limos for oil sheiks and a helicopter pad to provide easy access for visiting golfers.

Studies quickly determined that the pesticides and chemicals used on the course would have potentially contaminated the nearby

CANNON SHOTS

By
R.J.
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That is the mark of a career politician: you can disagree with almost everything he says and does, and still be charmed as heck by the sound of his voice on the phone.

Mianus River, source of drinking water for 150,000 nearby residents. Traffic from limos would disrupt the town's miles of dirt roads and equestrian traffic. As for the helicopters, there was a bat's chance for approval, as Trump's new neighbor, corporate raider Nelson Peltz (star of the 1980s corporate exposé "Barbarians at the Gate"), had already been shot down by the town and courts in his bid for a heliport on his tony property, known as "High Winds," formerly owned by Readers' Digest founder Dewitt Wallace.

Reluctantly, Trump gave up dreams of the helicopters and the golf course, too, and why shouldn't he — he was building an international golf empire,

highlighted by the Trump National Golf Club in New York's nearby Briarcliff, with new courses in Scotland, Palm Beach, Los Angeles and the United Arab Emirates.

What followed was a decades-long fight to build luxury homes on the Seven Springs property, one that, as a newspaperman, allowed us to gleefully cover his every utterance. Homes — now that made more sense, especially with the crying need for affordable housing in the area. Each McMansion would be 12,000 to 16,000-square-foot, perfect for the aspiring billionaire. The environment figured not at all in Trump's plans: at a city meeting he told board members: "If you want squirrels, move to Vermont." (Read: Oregon, the West Coast equivalent of that green, anarchic state tucked into northern New England and represented by Socialist Bernie Sanders.)

There was one awkward moment as a reporter during a Seven Springs property site walk conducted by the local wetlands commission. I decided to tag along, figuring it was a public meeting and what better opportunity to gawk. Trump wasn't there, but his war cabinet was, and they were disconcerted to see a reporter with (gasp) notepad and camera. Perhaps they were frightened we would report on the sharp-shinned hawks or red-bellied woodpeckers nesting in the woods. Freedom of the press being what it was, I was told to take a hike. Off the property.

While local boards and commissions kept whittling down the plan, and lawsuits from the Nature Conservancy and nearby homeowners slowed the process, Trump ultimately won approvals



SUBMITTED PHOTO/CANNON BEACH GAZETTE

Seven Springs, one of the modest properties owned by presidential hopeful Donald Trump.

for Seven Springs in 2013, closing the loop on a 16-year process.

The most amusing recent encounter with "The Donald" came in 2009, when the Libyan dictator was still alive and committing atrocities. Moammar Gadhafi was at the United Nations to address the General Assembly and needed a place in New York to maintain his entourage, including his many wives and children.

Step up: Donald Trump.

Trump offered the use of Seven Springs estate on a short-term basis for Gadhafi's tent city. The Libyan contingent even went as far to set up on the property with lawn chairs and Bedouin-style tents. Only the resourceful thinking of a local town supervisor — the equivalent of a local city manager — could bring the dictator to his knees. It is widely believed that Supervisor Lee Roberts' adroit intervention in the affair prevented a possible international incident, as she shrewd-

ly invoked a local code forbidding temporary outdoor structures and sent the caravan packing.

There was no comment from Trump.

While Trump often used underlings to do his dirty work, "The Donald" would occasionally be surprisingly accessible, especially when things were going his way.

There was always a frisson of excitement when our office manager put her hand over the mouthpiece and whispered: "Donald Trump's on the phone for you!"

And when he spoke it was as if you were the only person in the world. "R.J.!" he exclaimed. "Just wanted to make sure you heard the news!"

That is the mark of a career politician: you can disagree with almost everything he says and does, and still be charmed as heck by the sound of his voice on the phone.

Boac's Bird Notes SUSAN BOAC

Water and native plants draw more winged visitors

My observant husband Scott, gave me the topic for this article. He was left in charge of watering the gardens and pots while I was away at a conference last week. He adorably, sent me pictures of little squashes, new rose blooms and the sun gold tomato that was ripe (and quickly eaten). During this process, he noticed in a new way the many birds that visit our backyard and just what brings them there.

Longtime readers (thanks Mom) of this column know that we live on Neawanna Creek which attracts many birds and mammals. But he was noticing some of the other less noticeable little birds and the things they were doing.

This is not news to me! I can't think of many things I

enjoy more than watching a bird take a bath. We offer a shallow bowl of fresh water that attracts many birds to drink and bathe. I also keep a bare patch of dirt and sand for the birds to take dry baths. I love the little indentations they leave behind. I also grow sunflowers, snapdragons, fuchsia, dianthus and foxglove as a means to attract hummingbirds and song birds. I do put out bird food in the form of a couple of handfuls of sunflower seeds each morning. (It's eaten by the end of the day and I don't feel like I am feeding the raccoons who visit our yard each night)

I was delighted to see a Wilson warbler in the willow that I planted last year. We have reclaimed a portion of the bank from grass and



SUSAN BOAC

are planting native plants there. I am excited that twinberry has taken hold as well. This visit from the little warbler is confirmation that the project is "growing" along the right lines.

And lastly, we have a 20-foot grand fir between the house and the creek. Many birds use it's dense branches for protection from the Co-

per's hawks that nest nearby, picky tasty bugs from the needles, resting and I am sure, all kinds of birdy stuff.

One day this summer, when my mom was visiting, we reached a new record for a daily yard bird count. We identified 40 bird species! That was exciting.

NOTE: Something new! Please join a group of people on the first Sunday of the month for birding in the Cannon Beach area. We will meet at the Lagoon Trail parking lot on Second Street at 9 and bird until about 11 a.m. Bring binoculars and wear appropriate clothing. Everyone is welcome!

Susan has spent her life enjoying the great outdoors driving her avid birder parents around, she has taken up birding as a passion, to



SUSAN BOAC/FOR CANNON BEACH GAZETTE

Song sparrow drinking and bathing in the garden.

now the Oregon beach environs. After spending many pleasurable hours driving her avid birder parents around, she has taken up birding as a passion, to

the mixed emotions of her husband Scott. The Boacs reside on the Neawanna Creek in Seaside where their backyard is a birder's paradise.

Uncorked Ramblings STEVEN SINKLER

Columbia wine cruise offers tour of regional vineyards

It's hard to believe that we're already halfway through August. The Wine Shack has been busy with first-time visitors as well as long-time customers who are making their annual visit. This month, instead of covering a single topic in my column, I thought I'd get you caught up on things....

Big Puffin news!

The judges at the 2015 Oregon Wine Awards were fans of Puffin Wines! Our 2012 Puffin pinot noir, 2014 pinot Gris and 2014 Rose won Gold Medals at the Oregon Wine Awards earlier this summer. Additionally, our Puffin Red Blend won a Silver Medal. Four wines, four medals. The results confirm we are

on the right track!

While we're talking about Puffin Wines, here's some exciting news: There's going to be a new member in the Puffin "flock," Puffin cabernet sauvignon! We are teaming with John Derthick, Lujon Cellars' Winemaker, to deliver another powerhouse red Puffin Wine. We plan to launch Puffin cabernet sauvignon with a "wine release" party, so stay tuned for that event's date and time.

Bon voyage!

Maryann and I are looking forward to sailing on Un-Cruise's new Columbia Valley Wine Cruise from Aug 15-22. As the on-board "wine expert," I will be leading winery



STEVEN SINKLER

tours, giving daily wine talks and pairing the wine and food for the week-long cruise. We will visit wineries in Hood River, Milton-Freewater and Walla Walla before coming to Cannon Beach for a couple of hours. We love cruising and wine, so this should be a perfect week. Our week's cruise is almost sold out,

but there is still availability on the following weeks.

Provisions 124 is a hit!

Cheese is king at Provisions 124! We stock our cheese display each week and customers empty it each week. We are focusing on small, local creameries making delicious cheese and our customers have responded. One of our favorites is River's Edge "Up in Smoke," which is a smoked chevre, wrapped in a maple leaf and misted in bourbon. Yes, it's delicious.

Hood to Coast hits the Wine Shack

Oregon's iconic 200 mile relay race, "Hood to Coast," takes place on Aug 28-29 and The Wine Shack will be there. The Wine Shack's

twelve person Hood to Coast team, "Stop Wine-In and Run" has been training for months. The race starts on Friday morning at Timberline Lodge with a steep downhill leg. "Dangerous Dan" Floyd is our team's lead-off runner and takes on this challenging leg. The race continues through Friday night and ends approximately 31 hours and 200 miles later, on the beach in Seaside. Yes, we think this is fun.

Two quick picks for August

I didn't want to wrap this up without mentioning two wines customers have been raving about this summer:

White wine fans have enjoyed Bergevin Lane's "Linen" sauvignon blanc. This delicious wine presents cit-

rus and apricot flavors with a crisp acidity that makes it perfect to enjoy with salads, seafood or just a sunny summer day. I haven't checked the crystal ball recently, but there's a good chance that "Linen" is going to be a candidate for our prestigious "Wines of the Year" list.

For red wine lovers, Sleight of Hand's Spellbinder is a great, well-priced red blend. Made by Trey Busch, one of my favorite winemakers, Spellbinder is a blend of cabernet sauvignon, merlot and petit verdot. This wine pairs nicely with grilled foods and pasta dishes.

Enjoy the remainder of summer and remember to drink responsibly. We want to see you again at The Wine Shack (and Provisions 124).

NEWS IN BRIEF

Encore Dance Studio open house

Encore Dance Studio will hold an open house and customer appreciation event to kick off the studio's 20th anniversary celebration. Festivities take place at 3631 Highway 101 North in Gearhart, Tuesday, Aug. 25, 4 to 6 p.m.

Instructors will be available to answer questions, give studio tours and help students choose classes for

the fall. Dancewear will also be available for purchase. Online registration is open now at www.getyoudancing.com.

This fall encore is offering more than 70 classes per week in two locations. Classes are available for all ages from 2 1/2 to adult. School bus drop-off and transportation is available from Seaside Heights. For more details, visit www.getyoudancing.com or call 503-717-1637.

New Clatsop park passes available

The Clatsop County Parks Division is offering a new one-price annual transferable park pass. The \$30 pass can be used in any of the three fee-use county parks — Carnahan, Cullaby Lake and John Day — and can be transferred between any number of vehicles. The new pass replaces the tiered pass (\$25 for one vehicle plus \$5 per additional vehicle) to improve conve-

nience for the parks division and park users. Tiered passes already sold this year will be honored to the end of their expiration date.

For more information on Clatsop County parks go to www.co.clatsop.or.us.

Parkinson's disease program slated

One of the state's leading experts in the treatment and research of Parkinson's disease will be the featured

speaker at an educational program in Seaside on Aug. 14.

Dr. Richard Rosenbaum, a neurologist and medical director of the Portland Parkinson's Program, will give a presentation from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. at the Bob Chisholm Community Center, at 1225 Ave. A. The program is being offered through the Parkinson's Resources of Oregon, a Portland-based nonprofit that helps people with Parkinson's disease through sup-

port groups, classes, conferences, personal support and advocacy.

People with Parkinson's disease, their family members and care partners, are encouraged to attend Rosenbaum's lecture at the library. The event is free; registration is required. For more information, call Parkinson's Resources of Oregon at 503-594-0901 or 800-426-6806, email info@parkinsonsresources.org or visit www.parkinsonsresources.org.