



Dorchester surprises Seaside with move

GOP gathering heads to Salem

By R.J. Marx
Seaside Signal

The Dorchester Conference, a perennial gathering of Republicans at the Seaside Civic and Convention Center, is splitting up with an old friend.

The conference, which has drawn U.S. presidents and national and state political leaders to Seaside for the past 46 years, booked the spring conference at the Salem Convention Center. The conference features “a new look, new direction and new location” in promotion for the March event.

Access to legislators at the state capital, a search for a more centralized location, divisions within the membership and program changes were among reasons for the relocation, said Tom Simpson, Dorchester’s immediate past president.

“This was not a decision we made lightly,” Simpson said. “We looked not only at the last couple of years, we looked at where things are going in Oregon and the population as a whole. We needed to make a fundamental shift.”

Founded by Packwood

The conference was founded in 1965 by Bob Packwood, the future U.S. senator. Their first meeting at the Dorchester House in Lincoln City brought 200 Republicans and launched what is today the nation’s oldest political conference.

The event moved to Seaside in 1970 and has been a feature of the community since. While the conference is not formally affiliated with the GOP, the guest list is a Who’s Who of the Republican Party: George H. Bush, Ronald Reagan, Nelson Rockefeller, Karl Rove and Jack Kemp, along with every Oregonian of note from the last half-century.

Simpson described the Dorchester Conference as “center-right” on the political spectrum.

This year’s conference featured Fox News contributor Tucker Carlson as keynote speaker and state candidates, including members of the Independent Party of Oregon.

The bruising November election drove an ideological wedge among membership, which in a presidential straw poll strongly rejected the candidacy of Donald Trump.

In the aftermath of the election, the Dorchester Conference has seen a “small but significant” drop in membership, both from the left and the right.

“I know a number of lifelong Republicans who have walked away from the party because of this last election,” Simpson said.

On the right, the Oregon Liberty Alliance describes itself as “a coalition of organizations that share a common mission to support Oregon candidates that uphold conservative values and protect our freedoms.”

“The social conservatives have a new place to go,” Simpson said. “I know they were upset with how Dorchester dealt with social issues. That’s OK — it’s a free marketplace.”

Access to Republican leadership in Salem provides another incentive for the move, Simpson said, with opportunities for “more face time” with elected officials.

Seaside is just too far for many conference attendees, Simpson added, many of whom live in the eastern part of the state.

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Jaime Daniels and Katie Bulletset designed “Where There’s Smoke, There’s Fire” for Providence Seaside Hospital Foundation’s Festival of Trees.

EDWARD STRATTON/EO MEDIA GROUP

Festival of Trees rocks around the Christmas tree

By R.J. Marx
Seaside Signal

This year’s Providence Seaside Festival of Trees broke all records for attendance and giving. More than 1,500 people came to the daytime community event between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. and 312 guests at the evening gala pledged more than \$160,000, far surpassing the goal of \$138,000. ¶ The numbers “blew all records out of the water,” Executive Director Kimberly Ward of the Providence Seaside Hospital Foundation said. The evening’s special appeal to fight cancer raised \$52,000, more than double last year’s appeal amount.



JEFF TER HAR/FOR SEASIDE SIGNAL

Haley Hadduck reads to kids at the Festival of Trees community event.

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Seaside artist raises eyebrows

Display, inspired by Trump’s election, spurs concerns

By Lyra Fontaine
EO Media Group

The painting in the window of T. Anjuli Salon and Gallery features a nude woman with her legs open.

Artist Billy Lutz’s “Rape of Mother Earth” portrays the sun, mountains, trees and waters, along with indigenous people and “force rings” that represent “all that exists which is unseen.”

The display, inspired by Republican businessman Donald Trump’s election as president, has drawn complaints from some because of the graphic images.

Allegorical figures — women pregnant or breast-feeding — depict the earth’s fertility. A graph pattern representing the rationality of capitalism is encroaching upon the wildlife and “capturing nature.” On the graph, Lutz painted figures wielding weapons and a cross, a criticism of what he called “corporate Christianity.”

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Thriller nears finish line

By Eve Marx
For Seaside Signal

Seaside’s turn on the big screen comes closer as crew members put finishing touches on “Seaside,” the movie, which was shot in April.

“We are almost finished,” director Sam Zalutsky said, speaking from his home in New York City. Post-production — including color correction, sound edit and sound design are expected to reach completion in about a month. “The movie is a love letter to my home state,” he said.

Zalutsky said he was drawn to do a film about Seaside after spending so much time here as a youth.

“My parents have a home in



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Matt Shingledecker and Ariana DeBose at Funland in the movie “Seaside.”

Arch Cape and I’ve spent a lot of time there,” Zalutsky said.

“The Oregon coast landscape has so seldom been caught on film,” he added. “I knew I could do a visually dynamic

film, and of course I had use of my parents’ beach house not just as a location, but as a place to live during the shooting.”

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