

# A presidential moment



Walter Trumbull portrays President Abraham Lincoln in his one-man show "Lincoln: For the People" at the Seaside United Methodist Church.

REBECCA HERREN/SEASIDE SIGNAL

## Sixteenth president recalled onstage

By Rebecca Herren  
Seaside Signal

The words of a young Abraham Lincoln, and as the 16th President of the United States, are as relevant today as they were then. Lincoln fought for the inclusion of all people who come to this country. He spoke out fervently in favor of women's suffrage and for assisting all foreigners who wanted to make a life in this great nation. And, as it was with slavery, America was and still is divided.

Standing just shy of Lincoln's 6-foot-4-inch stature, Walter Trumbull brought Lincoln's words to life in his one-man show "Lincoln: For the People" on June 23 at Seaside United Methodist Church, where he first performed eight years ago.

A slide show of Civil War pictures preceded the recitations, as did an introduction and singing of Julia Ward Howe's stirring "Battle Hymn of the Republic" led by Debbie Vail.

His show comprised a chronological first-person narrative of Lincoln's humble origins growing up on Little Pigeon Creek farm to Lincoln's troubling years in the White House. It wasn't just a monologue of Lincoln's speeches, but an intimate portrayal into the man who

freed people from the bonds of slavery while saving the Union. It was a look of Lincoln during his political years intertwined with recollections of childhood memories that influenced his path and character.

Though Lincoln was a man who took his job as president seriously, he was a storyteller with a good sense of humor and liked to make jokes. He loved reading and was a great fan of poetry, once considering himself a future poet.

Under the large oak trees on the farm, Lincoln wrote his first poem: "Abraham Lincoln, hand and pen, he will be good, but God knows when."

Afterwards, his mother broke out in laughter, but his father who remained stoic said, "Abraham, that explains you perfectly."

The idea of slavery was personal for Lincoln. During his childhood, it was law that fathers owned their children in all manners, even to hiring them out for labor. Lincoln was 17 when he was hired out as a laborer chopping wood and splitting rails for 25 cents a day. He didn't like the idea and thought of himself as an indentured servant, but he respected his father and accepted this as a duty to help him.

At age 18, he left his father's farm to forge his own path. It wasn't long thereafter when he came face to face with slavery while working on a flatboat

heading toward New Orleans. About two weeks later, he witnessed a well-dressed man leading a dozen slaves through the streets. Shackled at the ankles, he treated them as common stockyard pigs, kicking them if they spoke as if they were nothing.

Being opposed to the oppression of all peoples, this experience sickened Lincoln and left such an impression, he decided to study law and eventually run for office. He ran for a seat on the Illinois General Assembly in 1832, but lost that campaign. He ran again in 1834 and won. Two years into his service, Lincoln made his first public declaration against slavery. He tried again in 1849, this time proposing an amendment to abolish slavery in the District of Columbia, but lost.

These defeats did not deter Lincoln as he continued his service in the political arena. It was the Electoral College and not the popular vote that elected Lincoln the first Republican president in 1860. Lincoln won re-election to his second term, this time by the popular vote against George McClellan who wanted to reinstate slavery and restore the Union, as it was prior.

Lincoln knew well the growing power of capitalism's threat to justice and liberty to all mankind, as it was promised in the Declaration of Independence. He understood that plantation owners in the South wanted free labor and slavery to endure forever. Slavery was the catalyst the South needed to start the Civil War and as he saw it, the elephant in the halls of Congress was slavery.

During his presidency, Lincoln stood strong against many threats and foes, and it was his belief of "all men are created equal" that ended his life.

Trumbull's performance leaves one with a deeper awareness of the power of Lincoln's words and actions in both his public and private life that showed Lincoln's deep love he had for his nation, his family and for all people.

Trumbull has written variations of his Lincoln show bringing in more and more information about the man and myth. He says he started right after Barack Obama was elected president in 2008, and dedicates his show to his father who was a collector of modern day Civil War memorabilia. He has made a YouTube video reciting Lincoln's second inaugural speech, receiving more than 70,000 views; it is as realistic as if witnessing it in person.

As the country celebrated another Independence Day, Americans continue to be thrust into a period of intense political polarization, anger and distrust; potentially jeopardizing the ideals for which Lincoln so honestly fought.

Trumbull has lived in Seaside since 2000. He studied to be an opera singer pursuing a degree in opera performance and theater at Denison and Kent State universities. He enjoys the local arts scene and has performed at both the Coaster and Liberty theaters. Trumbull says he is at the point where he hopes to take his Lincoln show on the road.

# Providence Seaside weathers cutback gale

## Higher costs, lower subsidies stress system

By R.J. Marx  
Seaside Signal

Providence Seaside Hospital, the city's largest employer with 375 employees, is bracing for changes amid a changing health care landscape.

Members of the hospital's corporate office responded to comments after an Oregonian report of "aggressive cost-cutting and layoffs" by Providence Health & Services early this month.

For Oregon-based caregivers — including those at Providence Seaside Hospital — there are no planned layoffs, wrote Providence Health & Services Regional Chief Executive Officer Dave Underriner in a letter to employees this week.

"That doesn't mean we will not continue our regular stewardship of business, making decisions that can change employment for some caregivers, but we are not having Oregon region-wide layoffs," Underriner said. "Financially in Oregon, we are doing OK and meeting our budget."

In 2016, Providence Seaside Hospital saw more than 1,000 inpatient admissions, with 146,000 outpatient visits, including more than 10,000 in the emergency department.

"In 2017, we are running ahead of those figures, and definitely expect to exceed those 2016 totals," Providence Health & Services Communications Director Gary Walker said Tuesday.

## Higher costs, lower reimbursements

Lower government health care reimbursements are driving higher costs throughout the system, Underriner said.

Since the start of health

care reform in 2011, Providence cut \$340 million in costs in Oregon, he said. But new state taxes on hospitals and health insurance, along with uncertainty at the federal level "means we need to continue to focus on meeting the needs of the community in light of the revenue we receive," Underriner said. "We are busier than ever, serving thousands more patients, but there continues to be a fundamental shift in reimbursements to cover the costs. It's unlikely that reimbursements will improve anytime soon."



Dave Underriner

Providence's 50 hospitals handled more than 1 million Medicaid patient visits in 2016. The Renton, Washington-based company was forced to subsidize the unfunded portion of Medicaid at a cost exceeding \$1 billion, said Providence spokeswoman Colleen Wadden.

The current year is bringing more of the same, she said. This is all a dramatic contrast to 2014 and 2015, when many large hospitals enjoyed windfall profits, in large part because Medicaid eligibility was loosened and millions of Americans joined the program. Oregon alone added more than 400,000 to the Medicaid rolls, and many flocked to hospitals for long-delayed treatment.

"This trend is continuing into 2017," Underriner said. "We are a safety net for many patients, especially those with Medicaid, and we are deeply committed to continuing to serve this vulnerable population."

The state Legislature passed the \$550 million Oregon Health Authority budget and a hospital and provider tax package that allows the state to continue covering health care for low-income families.

# Mobile summer camps build hard science skills

Camp from Page 1A

systems, creating wind turbines and building handmade speakers.

"In a lot of small, rural communities, they're not going to have classes with many of these activities," said Rachel Johnson, a senior bioengineering major at OSU.

Johnson was one of four OSU students facilitating Seaside's Center for Outreach in Science and Engineering for Youth Mobile Science and Engineering Camp, operated by the Precollege Programs at OSU in partnership with the Oregon Coast STEM Hub.

Gearhart Elementary School fifth-grade teacher Erica Acton served as the local host. Students from the Seaside School District could participate in the camp, which included lunch and materials, at no cost.

## Stress-free environment

The mobile summer camps — which so far have been held in Tillamook, Lincoln City, Astoria and Seaside, and next will travel to Coquille and Brookings — offer several benefits, according to Johnson. The campers are in a comfortable, familiar environment with their friends and peers from school. Additionally, the camp is an outlet where they can learn STEM-related information without the pressure of impending tests or homework assignments.

Sometimes, Johnson said, students will show up feeling reluctant about the idea of doing "more school," so to speak. During the two days of camp, however, the instructors have the pleasure of showing the campers how enjoyable it can be to engage the STEM topics by providing hands-on application.



KATHERINE LACAZE/FOR SEASIDE SIGNAL

**Rachel Johnson, a camp leader and bio engineering major at Oregon State University, talks with local students while working on building a water infiltration system.**

When it comes to building and retaining children's interest in STEM topics at the middle-school age, that's "a big step in the right direction," said camp instructor Apoorva Ayyagari, another senior bioengineering major at OSU.

"It's an easier way to piece together information that's being thrown at you," she said.

## 'Just problem-solving'

Most students are exposed to science, math and technology by the time they are entering ninth grade, but engi-

neering can be a more elusive subject for children. Acton felt the camp was especially successful in exposing the students to what engineering entails and making the topic accessible to them.

"It's really just problem-solving," she said.

Johnson agreed most of the activities they do with the campers put a heavy focus on critical thinking and problem-solving. Each project involves multiple variables, which allows the students to play around with changing one or two and seeing how that affects the outcome. If changing one variable doesn't accomplish what they hope, they can address another.

What strikes the instructors as particularly interesting is how creativity varies considerably from school to school, and even from student to student.

During the first activity, students were put into teams, and each team had to use plastic pipe and connectors to build a freestanding dog sculpture. This activity helped them warm up to the idea of

engineering as problem-solving, as well as group work and sharing and listening to others' ideas.

One group chose to have their dog sitting, instead of standing on all fours. Although unconventional and surprising compared to the structures made by other groups, it wasn't "a wrong answer within the specifications of the problem," Acton said. Similarly, when the students build solar-powered cars from kits, "not a single car looks the same," Ayyagari said.

In general, the young students seem more apt to exercise creative thinking and personalized approaches than adults, Johnson said, adding, "They don't see the obstacles we see."

In another activity, held on the second day of camp, the instructors talked to the students about college admissions and the professions available in the STEM disciplines. The purpose, Ayyagari said, was "to encourage them to pursue education after high school and inform them on the benefit of doing so."

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