

From Gearhart to Ukraine: Sondland testimony blocked by Trump

By R.J. MARX
Seaside Signal



U.S. Department of State
Gordon Sondland, hotelier and U.S. diplomat. He and his wife own a home on South Ocean Avenue in Gearhart.

U.S. Ambassador to the European Union Gordon Sondland, who had been expected to testify before Congress on Tuesday, is a part-time Gearhart resident. That deposition was blocked by President Donald Trump, as Sondland's role remains a key part of impeachment proceedings.

While not a matter of congressional oversight, his house on South Ocean Avenue has been the subject of chatter, by residents both pro and con.

Sondland and his wife Katherine Durant, purchased

down and replaced with the two-story home there today.

South Ocean Avenue Neighbor Margaret Marino described Sondland and Durant as people who "truly love the beach and view it as a place to retreat with their families and dearest friends."

The Sondlands "are neighbors that deeply care," Marino said.

According to Gearhart public records, the home has approximately 5,552 square feet, four bedrooms, five-and-a-half baths with a lot size of 1.11 acres. The home is currently valued at about \$1.1 million, according to realtor.com.

But others say the diplo-

mat's house has "the dubious distinction" of having been extended beyond the traditional westernmost development line on Gin Ridge, thereby blocking the headland and ocean views of his neighbors.

"A Seattle native, he (Sondland) irked Portland's establishment in 2008 when he built a house on Ocean Avenue in the coastal town of Gearhart," Willamette Week journalist Nigel Jaquiss wrote in 2013.

Homes there typically do not obstruct the views of others, Jaquiss wrote. "Sondland ignored that practice when he built his \$1.2 million beach house."

All the houses on the west side of Gearhart's "Gin Ridge" were built on a line that gave each house the maximum view west including Tillamook Head to North Head and everything in between, Gearhart's Jim Furnish said Monday. "Sondland disregarded that and got approval to build west of the line destroying some views their neighbors had for over a hundred years."

Sondland is one of three diplomats, along with special envoy to Kurt Volker and William "Bill" Taylor, the charge d'affaires at the U.S. embassy in Ukraine, said to have discussed the statement Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelensk-

kiy would issue in support of an investigation into Hunter Biden, son of the former vice president and presidential candidate Joe Biden.

As the negotiations in a phone call between Trump and Zelenskyy, progressed, the Associated Press reported this week, Sondland said Trump "really wants the deliverable," said to be information on Hunter Biden's relations with a Ukraine energy firm.

Sondland is founder and chairman of Provenance Hotels and co-founder of the merchant bank Aspen Capital. He was a major donor to the Trump 2016 presidential campaign.

POLICE AND FIRE SAFETY LOGS



Sept. 28

9:34 a.m., 1200 block S. Holladay: Gas station personnel advise police of customer who left the premises without paying.

1:05 p.m., 1200 block Beach Drive: Property crimes are reported.

3:59 p.m., Ocean Shore and Turnaround: Police are advised by anonymous complaint of male genitalia drawn in the sand.

4:57 p.m., Ocean Way: A subject is arrested and charged with driving while intoxicated.

6:13 p.m., 500 block Avenue A: A person is arrested and charged with driving under the influence of alcohol.

9:57 p.m., 1200 block S. Roosevelt: A person is arrested and charged with driving under the influence of alcohol.

Sept. 29

11:33 a.m., 12th and Prom: A reported possible drug transaction police say was actually a person passing their hotel room key to their significant other.

7:18 p.m., 1100 block Broad-

way: Police make contact with subject in the process of setting up a transient camp between the library and the church; subject is warned of unlawful lodging.

7:29 p.m., Avenue A: Kids playing football in an alley are complained about by a neighbor; officer advises youths of the complaint; they say they will play elsewhere.

8:00 p.m., Pacific Way, Gearhart: Police assist Gearhart PD with a disturbance.

Sept. 30

4:40 a.m., 1700 block 12th Avenue: A camper reporting a bear or cougar had gotten into their food was told after police located the animal it was not a bear or cougar, but a raccoon.

3:36 p.m., Police headquarters: A person came in for their annual sex offender registration.

10:39 p.m., Police headquarters: A person's learner's permit to drive a motor vehicle is found; the permit is stored in found property.

Oct. 1

1:17 p.m., Avenue G and Lincoln: A transient observed to be setting up camp in a wooded area is warned of unlawful lodging ordinances.

2:42 p.m., Necanicum: Fraud is reported.

6:00 p.m., 1100 block S. Downing: Property crimes are reported.

8:48 p.m., 2400 block Oregon Street: A disturbance is reported.

Oct. 2

12:18 p.m., 1000 block S. Downing: A person is arrested on a warrant.

11:43 p.m., 12th and Roosevelt: Police assist Oregon State police with a traffic stop.

Oct. 3

8:26 a.m., Avenue A: A subject is given notice they've been trespassed.

11:40 p.m., East End B: Reporting party advises police of transients walking towards an area to set up camp. Police responding find only one camp, which is disposed of.

12:47 p.m., 2300 block Ocean Vista: Reporting party alerts police to multiple dogs barking at a residence; police responding say there is only one dog who was barking at a yard worker doing work at the residence.

1:31 p.m., Police headquarters: A person came in to register as a sex offender.



Sept. 28

1:46 a.m., 500 block Beach Drive: Emergency medical response.

Sept. 29

7:44 a.m., Seventh Avenue and S. Downing: Fire investigation.

Sept. 30

6:39 p.m., Avenue B and Holladay: Emergency medical response.

Oct. 1

11:33 a.m., 3300 block Bayview Terrace: Emergency medical response.

3:33 p.m., Avenue S/Seaside Storage: Emergency medical response.

Oct. 2

12:18 a.m., 1000 block S. Downing: Emergency medical response

2:12 p.m. 400 block S. Roosevelt: Emergency medical response.

3:36 p.m., 2100 block N. Holladay: Emergency medical response.

Oct. 3

11:47 p.m., Highway 202: Assist other agency.



California woman has a car vs. deer encounter

On Tuesday, Oct. 1, at 6:22 p.m., on Highway 101 by Surf Pines Lane, a 73-year-old woman from Fresno, California, reported making contact with a deer who ran out into the road in front of her while driving a rental vehicle. The vehicle sustained damage to the front end. No human injuries were reported. The status of the deer is unknown.

Vehicle engine catches fire

On Sunday, Oct. 6, at 12:58 a.m., a passing motorist notified police about a vehicle on fire on Highway 26 near MP 1. Seaside police and fire responded on scene along with an Oregon State trooper. The driver stated he was traveling east when smoke started coming from the engine. The driver pulled over to the east shoulder and the vehicle was quickly engulfed in flames. Gary's Towing responded and the vehicle was removed from the highway. The driver, a 30-year-old male, was not injured.

Census 'listers' coming to local neighborhoods

Seaside Signal

The U.S. Census Bureau has begun its AddCan project. They will perform this first field operation for the 2020 Decennial Census through mid-October.

Census staff, referred to as "listers," have been in neighborhoods verifying addresses for the 2020 Census. Approximately 35% of all addresses in the nation will be verified by Listers.

The lister will display a Department of Commerce/US Census Bureau identification and carry a U.S. Census briefcase.

They also have a map called the 2020 Census In Field Address Canvassing Viewer which indicates exactly which housing units will be contacted. Using the + and - button in the upper left hand corner, you can see more detail by street.

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