



Lou Solitske

Seaside Vietnam War Veterans Memorial, officially dedicated last Saturday.

# Memorial: The City Council gave its blessing to the project

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Kent Pollock, who came from Phoenix, Arizona, for the dedication, said he was amazed at how many of his classmates are remembered on the wall, including his brother, Craig Pollock, Class of 1965.

In 2016, Hansen teamed with Jennings, Crayton Morris, John Alto and others to launch a fundraising effort and make sure each of Seaside's Vietnam veterans received recognition. They painstakingly sought out all those who had attended the high school who had served in the war.

Seltzer Park, on the east side of Sunset Boulevard in the Cove, was chosen as the memorial site for its historical connection to the community, view of the beach and accessibility to visitors. The City Council gave its blessing to the project.

The city's Public Works Department cleared, excavated and installed the monument in March 2020. They



R.J. Marx

Veterans came from throughout the West for the dedication.

later added sidewalks, landscaping and wheelchair accessibility.

Designer Tony Goiburn, of OM Stone, cre-

ated the monument using laser sketching and weather-coated the granite before installation.

"I've done big giant ones

and really tiny tree memorials," Goiburn said at the dedication. "And they all mean something to me. This was a very wonderful proj-

ect because not only those names — and we went through the list of names a million times — but their stories came out."

Karl Marlantes, the Seaside High School grad who went on to write about his decorated war service in "Matterhorn: A Novel of the Vietnam War," described the city in the '60s.

"When we grew up, everybody talked about their fathers and their uncles being in the service," Marlantes said. "We call it the military today, but we saw it as the service. You felt like you were part of the republic. And just like you have to pay taxes to make the roads work, sometimes you have to serve to keep the republic safe. And that's what we felt."

Seaside's high participation in the war was "unique to this little town," he said. "The percentage of kids that went over there was huge. There's five or six dead from this tiny little city, which is really unusual."

Marlantes was awarded

a Bronze Star, two Navy Commendation Medals for valor, two Purple Hearts and 10 air medals. He also writes candidly about his struggle with post-traumatic stress disorder.

"You heard people say, 'Oh, gosh, you're a Vietnam veteran, welcome home,'" Marlantes said. "And quite frankly, it sounded a little hollow to me sometimes. It's a little bit lame, you know. I came home, as all of you did, and it wasn't a very good welcome."

In Seaside, it was different.

"There was this feeling that we were always part of this community and always welcome," Marlantes said. "The girls and the women were always there for us and our friends were always there for us. And that's what this is all about. Our friends, our neighbors, our classmates who we went to school with. They were always there for us. And now this is a monument to that solidarity and that love and that friendship."

# Coaster Theatre reopens playhouse with 'The Picture of Dorian Gray'

Seaside Signal

After 18 months of closure due to COVID-19 restrictions, the Coaster Theatre Playhouse will reopen Oct. 1 with the drama, "The Picture of Dorian Gray." Mask and vaccination requirements will be in place.

The play will be presented at 7:30 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays through Oct. 30. Admission is \$20; tickets can be purchased at the theatre box office (503-436-1242) or online at coastertheatre.com. Space is limited as seats will be socially distanced by groups.

Written by Oscar Wilde and adapted by Gloria Gonzales, the play involves Dorian Gray, a wealthy and beautiful young man who sits for a portrait. He worries that his youth and beauty will fade. Dorian curses the portrait, which he believes will one day remind him of the beauty he has lost. In a fit of distress, he pledges his soul if only the painting bears the burden of age, allowing him to stay forever young. He has made a pact with the devil.

This sets Dorian on a dark path that twists his soul while he keeps the appearance of youth and beauty as time moves forward.

Coaster Theatre Executive Director Patrick Lathrop directs the play. The cast includes Katherine Lacaze (Dorian Gray), Margo McClellan (Margaret), John Hoff (Lord Henry Wotton), Rhonda Warnack (Lady

Henry Wotton), Terri Baier (Sybil Lane) and Margaret Hammitt-McDonald (Mrs. Lane).

Crew members include Colleen Toomey, stage manager; Judith Light, costumes; Mick Alderman, set builder and light and sound designer; Juan Lira, set painter; and Nancy McCarthy, light booth operator.

To ensure everyone's safety, patrons must show proof that they are fully vaccinated when they enter the

Coaster Theatre. Patrons may display proof of vaccination with the original vaccination card, a legible copy of their vaccination card or a legible digital copy of their vaccination card in addition to a matching photo ID.

Those unable to be vaccinated, such as children under 12, people with medical conditions preventing vaccination, or those with religious beliefs that prohibit vaccination, must provide proof of a negative COVID-19 PCR

test taken within 72 hours of the performance start time in addition to a matching photo ID.

Face coverings also are required at all times for everyone inside the theater regardless of vaccination status. Acceptable face coverings are listed on the theatre's website.

Any patron not wearing a face covering, regardless of a medical exemption or age, will not be admitted to enter the Coaster Theatre.

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