



## Get the lead out

Former Astoria resident, SHERYL GINN, who now lives in Sitka, Alaska, posted an interesting tidbit on Facebook recently. "I used to enjoy EDLA ALLEN's memories in the COLUMBIA PRESS about growing up in Uppertown from the 1970s and 1980s," she wrote. "Here's part of one from Jan. 1, 1988:" "During many of my growing up years, we had a New Year's Watch get-together at home. In addition to the tradition riisi-puuro (rice pudding) and fruits and nuts, we had the NEW YEAR'S PREDICTIONS. This was done by melting lead in the old kitchen stove's hot fire in an iron dipper. Then the hot lead was poured by each into a tub of cold water. The different shapes that formed, sizzling in the water, were then the prophecy for the year — as, perhaps, a ship's shape would indicate a sea journey."

The Ear did a little research, and found this tradition is called UUDEN VUODEN TINA, and was used as a divination technique in ancient Greece. It is a New Year's tradition in Finland to this day, according to a Finnish blogger (<http://tinyurl.com/leadprophet>), who says that tin, lead or beeswax can be used. The photo shown is from the blog.

"Do any of Astoria's Finns do the lead predictions today?" Sheryl asks. Good question. Anyone know the answer?



## All that's left

Ever wondered what a place would look like in the aftermath of a catastrophic subduction zone event? NewRepublic.com (<http://tinyurl.com/OtsuchiPix>) featured images by Argentinian photographer ALEJANDRO CHASKIELBERG ([www.chaskielberg.com](http://www.chaskielberg.com)) taken a year and a half after the 2011 Japanese earthquake and tsunami.

He traveled to the fishing village of OTSUCHI — where 60 percent of the residential buildings were damaged or destroyed, and about 10 percent of the population was killed — and took haunting photos of the residents sitting in what's left of their former homes (a portion of one image is shown), which later became the Otsuchi Future Memories project.

If you ever think you need a reminder to "Be prepared!" just take a look at Chaskielberg's photos.



## Get ready for adventure

Former Astorian PATRICIA AGUILAR MORRISSEY's new bilingual children's book, "MAGDALENA'S PICNIC," has been released, published by Red Heart Books in Portland, and is available on Amazon.com (<http://tinyurl.com/magdapicnic>).

"I'm so excited!" she said in an email. The author and the book cover are pictured.

"My books focus on adventures, South American cultures, and using your imagination," Patricia, who grew up in Lima, Peru, writes on her Facebook page (<http://tinyurl.com/FacebookPAM>). "I believe in writing bilingual English-Spanish children's books that push a child's imagination to its limits."

"All children have an inherent role-playing ability and my goal is to encourage this quality through my stories," she explained. "I also strongly feel that children exposed to different cultures and languages develop into sensitive and well-rounded adults. My stories develop in faraway places and in different cultural settings, where my characters are always ready for adventure."

## COMMUNITY NOTES

### SATURDAY

**Lower Columbia R/C Society** — 8:30 a.m., back room at Uptown Cafe, 1639 S.E. Ensign Lane, Warrenton. Local Academy of Model Aeronautics (AMA) chartered radio control model aircraft club meets for breakfast and business. All model aircraft enthusiasts are welcome. For information, call 503-458-5196 or 503-325-0608.

**Columbia Northwestern Model Railroad Club** — 1 p.m., in Hammond. Group runs trains on HO-scale layout. For information, call Don Carter at 503-325-0757.

**Bingo & Chili Feed** — Chili at 4:30 p.m., bingo at 5:30 p.m., Norse Hall, Puget Island 144 Highway 409, Cathlamet, Wash.; \$5 per bingo card, cash prizes.

### SUNDAY

**Finnish Brotherhood, UFKB&S Lodge No. 2** — 1 p.m. birthday social, 2 p.m. installation of officers and initiation, Suomi Hall, 244 W. Marine Drive.

**National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Support Group** — 2 to 3:30 p.m.,

Seaside Public Library, 1131 Broadway. For anyone with friend or loved one suffering from a serious brain (mental) illness. For information, contact Myra Kero at 503-738-6165, or k7erowood@q.com, or go to [www.nami.org](http://www.nami.org)

**Line Dancing** — 5:30 to 8 p.m., Seaside American Legion, 1315 Broadway. For information, call 503-738-5111. No cost; suggested \$5 tip to the instructor.

### MONDAY

**Senior Lunch** — 11:30 a.m., Bob Chisholm Senior Center, 1225 Avenue A, Seaside. Suggested donation \$3 for those older than 60; \$6.75 for those younger than 60. For information, call Michelle Lewis at 503-861-4200.

**Columbia Senior Diners** — 11:30 a.m., Peace Lutheran Church (lower level), 565 12th St. Cost is \$5. For information, or to have a meal delivered, call 503-325-9693.

**Warrenton Senior Lunch Program** — noon, Warrenton Community Center, 170 S.W. Third St. Suggested donation of \$5 for seniors and \$7 for those younger than 60.

For information, or to volunteer, call 503-861-3502 Monday or Thursday.

**Astoria Rotary Club** — noon, second floor of the Astoria Elks Lodge, 453 11th St. Guests always welcome. For information, go to [www.AstoriaRotary.org](http://www.AstoriaRotary.org)

**Warrenton Kiwanis Club** — noon to 1 p.m., Doogers Seafood and Grill, 103 U.S. Highway 101, Warrenton. For information, call Darlene Warren at 503-861-2672.

**Parkinson's Support Group** — 1 p.m., Peace Lutheran Church library, 565 12th St. For information, call 503-338-8469 or 503-440-1970.

**Peninsula Quilt Guild** — 1 p.m., Peninsula Church Center, 5000 N Place, Seaview, Wash. Newcomers welcome. Bring nonperishable food donation. For information, call Janet King at 360-665-3005.

**Seaside Lions Club** — 5 p.m., West Lake Restaurant & Lounge, 1480 S. Roosevelt Drive, Seaside. For information, call 503-738-7693.

**Pacific County (Wash.) Democrats**

— 7 p.m., South County Building, 7013 Sandridge Road in Long Beach, Wash. For information, email Diane Knutson at [dknutson69@yahoo.com](mailto:dknutson69@yahoo.com)

### TUESDAY

**Tobacco Free Coalition of Clatsop County** — 9 to 10:30 a.m., Clatsop County Health and Human Services, 820 Exchange St. Anyone interested in tobacco use prevention and education welcome. For information, call Steven Blakesley at 503-325-8500 or Alissa Dorman at 503-325-4321, ext. 5758.

**Do Nothing Club** — 10 a.m. to noon, 24002 U St., Ocean Park, Wash. Men's group. For information, call Jack McBride at 360-665-2721.

**Senior Lunch** — 11:30 a.m., Bob Chisholm Senior Center, 1225 Avenue A, Seaside. Suggested donation of \$3 for those older than 60; \$6.75 for those younger than 60. For information, call Michelle Lewis at 503-861-4200.

**Columbia Senior Diners** — 11:30 a.m., Peace Lutheran Church (lower level), 565

12th St. The cost is \$5. For information, or to have a meal delivered, call 503-325-9693.

**La Leche League of Astoria** — 11:45 a.m. to 1 p.m., Grace Episcopal Church nursery room, 1545 Franklin Ave. Topic is: "Breastfeeding: The Healthy Choice." For those interested in breastfeeding; mothers, babies and toddlers welcome. For information, call Megan Oien at 503-440-4942 or Janet Weidman at 503-325-1306.

**Astoria Lions Club** — noon, Astoria Elks Lodge, 453 11th St. Prospective members welcome. For information, contact Charlene Larsen at 503-325-0590.

**Line Dancing for Seniors** — 1 to 3 p.m., Astoria Senior Center, temporarily located at 1555 W. Marine Drive in the old Astoria Yacht Club. For information, call 503-325-3231.

**Warrenton Alzheimer's Support Group** — 2 to 3:30 p.m., 2002 S.E. Chokeberry Ave., Warrenton. Support and

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## In One Ear



by Elleda Wilson

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## Who's your mama?

The birth of a calf named J50 in the endangered Southern Resident KILLER WHALE J Pod in the Salish Sea off the Washington Coast caused quite a stir recently. In case you're wondering, the distinctly unimaginative name is comprised of the pod letter (J, K or L) plus the number of its birth order.

Soon after the happy arrival, a question was raised. Was there midwifery involved? KEN BALCOMB of the CENTER FOR WHALE RESEARCH, who confirmed the calf's birth, thinks there was. Baby J50 is pictured, swimming with J16, initially believed to be the calf's mother, in one of Balcomb's photos.

But then the scientist started wondering if J16 really is the mother. After all, she is about 43 years old, which is considered too old to reproduce. Now he thinks the real mother is J36, and noted that "bite marks on the baby indicate another orca may have helped deliver the baby by pulling it out of the womb with its teeth," the article said. "He and other researchers believe J16 may be the orca midwife and grandmother to the new orca. (He) said J16 may be helping her daughter recover from a difficult birth by babysitting J50."

If the baby survives, it will be the first Southern Resident to make it in the past two years, and will raise the population of the three pods to 78. Here's hoping ...



## 'Coffee and a Bagel' take the cake

Gearhart resident and recent Pacific University graduate GAVIN BROWN, pictured, was honored at Eugene International Film Festival. His short animated film, "COFFEE AND A BAGEL," was named the Best Animation Short Short in the festival, which draws submissions from filmmakers around the world, according to a press release from the university (<http://tinyurl.com/gavinshort>).

The 3D computer animation film features an elderly recently widowed man who decides to brave the Internet and was Brown's senior project as a film and video major. It was inspired by Gavin's observations at an Internet cafe while he was studying abroad. He's off to a good start — in addition to winning the film award, he's a video editing and motion graphics intern for the PORTLAND TRAIL BLAZERS.

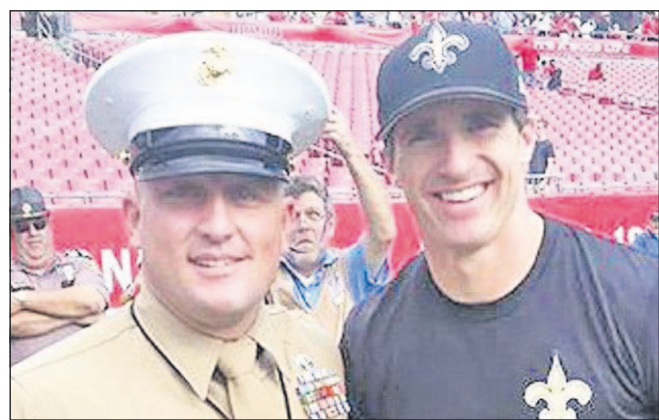
## Floating, floating, over the bounding main

North Coaster PAM CHATER spotted a group of sea lions that were rafting together recently about 50 feet off Cannon Beach. A photo of RAFTING SEA LIONS is shown, courtesy of the Caspar Community Newsletter ([www.casparcommons.org](http://www.casparcommons.org)).

"We have seen this on several occasions last week, some with large pods," she told the Ear. "We Googled them, and it seems they do this behavior when they are resting, and they group together for protection. They sleep on their backs with their flippers in the air."

On the phenomenon rafting, SealSitters.org had this to say: "Rafting is an unusual behavior in which a number of sea lions will cluster together and rest or sleep, often submerged with only a flipper or nose visible above water. Typically, this will occur in areas where there is no suitable haul-out. This behavior is believed by biologists to be a method of thermoregulation (regulating the body temperature)."

"(Rafting) is a rare phenomenon to see," Pam said. "Way cool."



## 'A true Saint'

Astorian SUSAN SLAPE-HOYSAGK reports that her oldest son, JEREMY BOUTIN, a 1995 graduate of Astoria High School, pictured, left, had an opportunity to meet DREW BREES, pictured right, quarterback of the New Orleans Saints, at the New Orleans/Tampa Bay, Fla., NFL game Dec. 28.

Jeremy, a gunnery sergeant in the U.S. Marines stationed at McDill Air Force Base in Tampa, is a "huge Saints fan," according to his wife, KERRI HAMMOND BOUTIN, and was at the game as part of a flag detail. Brees shook Jeremy's hand and thanked him for his service.

Taken later in the day, there's also a video clip called "Drew Brees signs autograph for true Saint," that is posted on the Saints' official website at <http://tinyurl.com/boutinbrees>. Just to top things off, the Saints won, beating the Tampa Bay Buccaneers 23-20.



## A home away from home

Q13FOX ran a story recently about Ocean Park, Wash., resident PVGZ ADDAMS, pictured inset, who was so touched by a story about a homeless man who had been robbed in Seattle, that he drove up there, determined to find the man and give him a PORTABLE SHELTER he had built (<http://tinyurl.com/pvgzhouse>).

Pvgz didn't find the man, but he did find MICHAEL WHEELER, pictured, who is also homeless, and was delighted to receive the insulated shelter, complete with wheels, a lock, carbon monoxide detector, and a box of toiletries.

Now Pvgz is a man on a mission, and he is raising money to build more Hvgz Portable Homeless Shelters at [www.gofundme.com/portable-shelters](http://www.gofundme.com/portable-shelters). "As the weather gets colder, more and more people living on the streets are going to succumb to frost bite, hypothermia, pneumonia, and possibly death due to lack of dry, warm shelter," he explains on the website. "This cause means a lot to me, as I was homeless myself for a period of time."

For now, Pvgz plans on making the shelters with off-road bike tires, and light enough to pull by hand. However, the long-range goal is to purchase some property and build a community, "where we would teach about gardening, water catchment/purification, wind/solar power, and other self-sustaining knowledge, to help give them an extra hand."

Also, Pvgz envisions starting a business employing the people they've helped to make more portable shelters, and to "help more people get on their feet."

"Please, help us, help them," Pvgz requests. "Anything you can give toward this cause will be greatly appreciated."

"I hope the world will have a lot more people like him," a happy Michael Wheeler told Q13FOX. "I hope he gets a lot of help so he can do this for other people. I don't want to be the only one this happens for."



## The end

"Here's the skull I found," RONALD FOSS wrote in an email to the Ear, and attached was the photo shown, of the BONE next to a quarter, for size. He wanted to know what kind of animal it came from. So, the Ear sat down and researched skulls until the cows came home, and went back out again, but with no success.

Finally, consulting an expert seemed like a good idea, so an email with the photo was sent to PROF. MADONNA L. MOSS, who is in the Department of Anthropology at the University of Oregon, and who is also the curator of zooarchaeology at the Museum of Natural and Cultural History in Portland. Her reply was pithy and to the point: "This is NOT a skull. It is the synsacrum of a bird."

Huh? More research. Merriam-Webster says a synsacrum is: "a solidly fused series of vertebrae in the pelvic region in birds, dinosaurs, and pterosaurs ..." To make it a bit clearer, StudyRoom.us says the synsacrum "corresponds to the rump." So actually, it's a bird butt.

But what kind of bird? The Ear doesn't know, and the professor didn't say. That part of the puzzle remains a mystery.