



'Spare Parts' goes Hollywood

"Josh's movie has premiered!" wrote Astorian JANET NIEMI, who is justifiably excited. She's referring to her son, writer JOSHUA DAVIS (www.joshuadavis.net). The movie, "SPARE PARTS," starring GEORGE LOPEZ, JAMIE LEE CURTIS and MARISA TOMEI, is based on Josh's book, "Spare Parts," available at Amazon.com (http://tinyurl.com/jd Spare). The book expands on the true story he originally wrote for Wired magazine several years ago, "La Vida Robot."

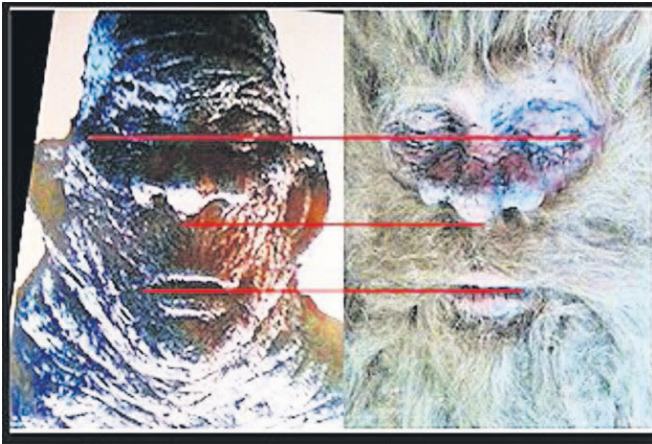
Pictured, the movie poster, and inset, a photo of the writer. The film is now in theaters.

"(The movie) is about four undocumented Hispanic high school students (in Arizona) who form a robotics club under the leadership of their school's newest teacher, Fredi (George Lopez)," Janet explained. "With no experience, 800 bucks, used car parts and a dream, this rag-tag team goes up against the country's reigning robotics champion, MIT. Guess who wins?"

In an interview with The Arizona Republic (http://tinyurl.com/jd Spare2), Josh said he first learned of the students' triumph from a high school press release that caught his eye.

"It's an underdog story," Josh told the reporter. "It taps into something that resonates with a lot of us. These kids had almost no budget. They basically had no formal training. They were going up against the best universities in the country that had massive budgets and were sponsored by the largest corporations in the world. It's a David and Goliath story. It says something to us about the human spirit and inspires us to do great things."

Asked what the story means to him, personally, Josh responded, "I think I've told more than 40 national-magazine stories, but this is the one closest to my heart. The book is a labor of love. It's the work that I'm proudest of."



Say it ain't so

Oh rats. The Ear was terribly disappointed (but not surprised) that the corpus delicti hunter RICK DYER's been hauling around the country — and showing off for a fee — ain't a BIGFOOT carcass at all, according to a Huffington Post story about the skulldugery (http://tinyurl.com/hoaxfoot).

In his tearful confession, it came out that Dyer used CHRIS RUSSELL, owner of TWISTED TOYBOX (www.twistedtoybox.net) in Spokane, Wash., to create the fake critter, named HANK the Bigfoot. Shown, in a photo by Russell: left, an early clay model of the head; and right, Hank's completed face. No, the monster costume-maker wasn't in on the gag — he thought he was making a prop for a movie. Naturally, Hank has retired. Stay tuned for the next Bigfoot sighting.



Fanning in the rain

"SUNSET MAGAZINE was recently in Astoria for a photo shoot," Astorian ANGELA SIDLO told the Ear. She is pictured inset, and in front with the blue fan.

"We met the photographer at dinner," she explained, "He was disappointed that the GARDEN OF SURGING WAVES had no activity this time of year. So I suggested our TAI CHI GROUP for some traditional Chinese exercise. He was delighted. A win-win situation!"

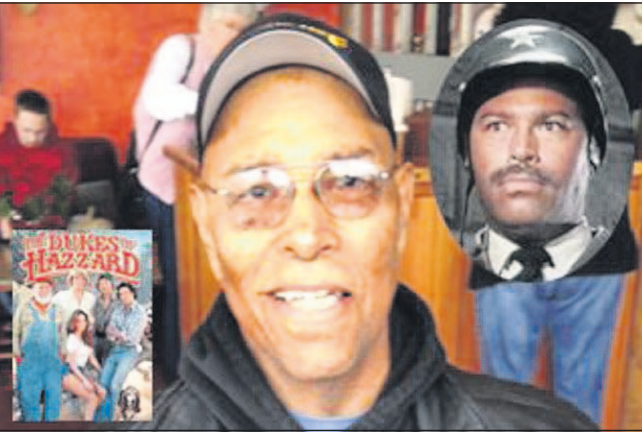
My tai chi class showed their talent in the garden with Yang Style Fan Form and Sun Style 12 Form in the rain, while the Sunset Magazine cameras clicked away." The article will be published sometime in 2015.

"Proof that Astorians don't let a little rain stop them from having fun!" she added.

In One Ear

by Elleda Wilson

ewilson@dailyastorian.com (503) 325-3211, ext. 257



An arresting sight

"Guess who was lunching at the BLUE SCORCHER BAKERY & CAFE Thursday, Jan. 22?" TERRY ANDREWS queried. A rhetorical question, to be sure, as he promptly provided the answer. "SHERIFF LITTLE from the popular 1980s TV show, 'DUKES OF HAZZARD,'" he replied.

"DON PEDRO COLLEY is an Oregon native from Klamath Falls (he still lives there) who had a long career in Hollywood in movies and TV shows including 'Daniel Boone' and 'Starsky and Hutch.'" The actor is pictured at the Blue Scorcher, and as Sheriff Little (inset).

"In the 'Dukes of Hazzard,' Colley was the hulking chief law enforcement officer of neighboring Chickasaw County," Terry reminded the Ear, "who had a tendency to punch and kick fenders and doors off of cars he wrecked, in anger. The ill-tempered sheriff hated Bo and Luke immensely, and they were well aware that they were not allowed to enter his county."

"Colley, who was wearing a baseball cap emblazoned with the word 'sheriff,' was friendly and conversant, explaining that he was on a tour promoting some of the old TV classics and stopped in Astoria to get a feel for the flavor of the town." Want to know more about him? Check out www.donpedrocolley.net

"When told that Colley was having lunch at the Scorcher, (the bakery) co-founder JOE GARRISON said he had cut his teeth on that show," Terry observed. "Probably many others of his generation did, as well."



Just the ticket

"DONNA JENSEN-MULLINS started shaking and was speechless when she realized the KENO 10-SPOT ticket she purchased during a dinner date with her husband at BUOY 9 RESTAURANT AND LOUNGE in Hammond was worth \$200,000," PATRICK JOHNSON of the Oregon Lottery reported.

Donna, who is a nurse, and lives in Warrenton, is shown in a photo courtesy of the Oregon Lottery. "I just play Keno sometimes when we are out to dinner, for the fun of seeing if I won," she said. "I am having a lot of fun!" When she checked the ticket, she had no idea how much she won, but was told she had to go to the Oregon Lottery headquarters in Salem to claim her prize.

"I had the next day off, so I thought I would drive to Salem and check it out. I figured I had won \$600 or \$1,000," she explained. "No way did I think I won this much." Even after taxes, she took home about \$134,000, which is nothing to sneeze at.

"I can't even believe I won," she added. "We will most likely go on a family vacation, and I want to see about setting up a college fund for my grandchildren."

What did you say?

HUMBOLDT SQUID speak to each other by changing their color in a flash from red to white, and even with the evolution of the SQUID-CAM, attached to a tube that fits over the squid's body, scientists can only guess what they are saying to each other.

But the squid interaction makes for a great video, and it seems they are just as nasty to each other as they are to every other critter. You can see the National Geographic clip here: http://tinyurl.com/squidlight. A screen shot is shown.



There was no mention of how the notoriously vicious cephalopods were outfitted with cameras. The Ear bets that's a helluva good story, though.



Are you ready?

Did you know that the last major CASCADIA SUBDUCTION ZONE EARTHQUAKE and tsunami just had its 315th ANNIVERSARY? It happened Jan. 26, 1700, and the OREGON OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT wants you to be aware of it.

More importantly, they want you to be ready for the next one, so they've got a website chock full of links to information and videos about how to prepare, and what to do when "The Big One" hits, at http://tinyurl.com/cascadia-info.

Better yet, one of the links is to a comic book, "Without Warning," about a teenager who goes to rescue her little sister after a massive earthquake. A couple of screen shots of the comic are shown.

All in all, the message is simple: As the Boy Scouts' motto goes, "Be prepared!"



The orphan tsunami

Speaking of the Cascadia anniversary, just as the 2011 Japanese earthquake sent a tidal wave our way, the 1700 event here sent one to Japan. Samurai, merchants and peasants kept records of the rising waters, but couldn't figure out what caused the phenomenon, since there was no local disturbance.

Want to learn more about how the connection to the Pacific Northwest was made, and about the event itself? Check out "THE ORPHAN TSUNAMI OF 1700: Japanese Clues to a Parent Earthquake in North America" (http://tinyurl.com/orphan1700), which you can read online. A drawing from the book is shown.

North Coasters might be especially interested in studies of the evidence left behind on our coast by the 315-year old event, some of which is visible to this day.



Mystery message solved

If you will recall, in a late November edition of this column, there was mention of a MESSAGE IN A BOTTLE found by JIM MCNEELY, which was brought to the Ear by his friend, Astorian PETER ROSCOE. Jim discovered the bottle at the bottom of the Sunset Beach approach while clam digging.

The poignant message was from a young girl who missed her deceased mother and wished her a happy birthday. Jim speculated it was written by someone local, and that it had been tossed in the water fairly recently. "It's a mystery who she is, and who her mother was," he noted, "and we may never know."

Well, on Tuesday, out of the blue, a letter arrived at The Daily Astorian, dated Jan. 14: "Hi, my name is TRINITY ELLIS and I'm the person who wrote the message in the bottle. I'm actually not local, I live in Yamhill, Ore., and go to Yamhill Carlton Intermediate School. I also am a sixth-grader."

"We did the messages in the bottles 'cause it was my mom (ANDREA ELLIS)' birthday. We (my dad CORY ELLIS, my brother DEVIN ELLIS, my best friend ASHLEY TRIMBLE, and her mom ANNA MIESNER) were at the beach and had planned to go to do messages in bottles for her. My mom died due to heart problems (a heart attack) on July 16, 2013." Trinity sent photos of herself with her mother, and one of those is shown.

"And I also wanted to tell you we threw those messages in the bottles on Nov. 5, 2014," she added. "This is for you guys, since you thought you wouldn't find out who this one's mom and her were. Plus, I'm OK with you putting this in the paper if you like." And here it is. Thank you, Trinity.

COMMUNITY NOTES

SATURDAY
Astoria Flying Club — first meeting, 10 a.m., conference meeting room at Lum's Auto Center, 1605 S.E. Ensign Lane, Warrenton. West Aviation and Aviation Adventures created the club. For information, email AstoriaFlyingClub@hotmail.com, go to www.facebook.com/astoriaflyingclub, or call 503-338-9306.

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.

SUNDAY
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

Knockers Pinochle Group — 1 p.m., Bob Chisholm Community Center, 1225 Avenue A, Seaside. Cost is \$1 per regular session per person. Players with highest and second highest scores split the prize. Game is designed for players 55 and older, but all ages are welcome.

Astoria Toastmasters — 6:30 p.m., Hotel Elliot conference room, 357 12th St. Visitors welcome. For information, go to www.toastmasters.org or call 503-894-0187.

Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance — 7 to 9 p.m., Room A, Columbia Memorial Hospital, 2111 Exchange St. Open to all those diagnosed with a mood dis-

order, or have a family member or friend diagnosed, or who think they might have depression or bipolar disorder. For information, contact Patricia Fessler at 503-325-8930.

TUESDAY
World War II Warbirds — 8 a.m., Labor Temple Diner, 934 Duane St.

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.

Astoria Kiwanis Club — noon, El Tapatio, 229 W. Marine Drive. For information, call Robert McClelland at 503-894-0187 or Susan Brooks at 503-741-0186 or 503-338-4994.

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.

Spinning Circle — 3 to 5 p.m., Astoria Fiber Arts Academy, 1296

Duane St. Bring a spinning wheel. For information, call 503-325-5598 or go to http://astoriafiberarts.com

Evergreen Masonic Lodge No. 137 — 6:30 p.m. dinner, 7:30 p.m. meeting, 201 N. Holladay Drive, Seaside. All Masons and their families are welcome. For information, call 503-717-0808.

WEDNESDAY
Moms Offering Moms Support Club — 9 a.m., Capt. Gray Port of Play, 785 Alameda Ave. For information, go to www.momsclubofastoria.org or email president@momsclubofastoria.org

Open Sewing Gathering — 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Homespun Quilts, 108 10th St. For information, call 503-325-3300 or 800-298-3177 or go to http://homespunquilt.com

See NOTES, Page 2B