

JUST PULL UP YOUR SHOELACES



Almost a year ago, there was an Ear story about Anna Harrington of Meridian, Idaho, who left Astoria to walk across 14 states to Boston to raise money and awareness for Shriners Hospitals for Children (www.annaswalk.com).

She had wanted to walk across the U.S. for a worthy cause since she was 12, but what inspired her to finally hit the road was her nephew, Matthew Harrington, who developed scoliosis, and was treated at the Shriners Hospital in Sacramento, Calif. "My walk across America is my way to show my appreciation for all they did to help my nephew," she said.

Well, 3,800 miles, nine Shriners Hospital visits and six pairs of shoes later, she made it. She arrived in Boston in late January. Pictured, Anna is making her way to the Atlantic Ocean Jan. 25 with some friends to officially end her journey. The photos are from her Facebook page, www.facebook.com/SupportAnnasWalk.

While Anna posted little about her experience online, a blogger gave an account of the last 33 days of her walk at (<http://tinyurl.com/annalar>), noting, "I am certain she never realized how many lives she would touch."

Writer Frosty Woodridge (<http://tinyurl.com/annacolo>), who met her in Colorado, shared what keeps her going. "Everyone faces obstacles in life," she told him. "Just pull up your shoelaces and get moving."

THE GIFT



For the last two years, there has been a good deal of worry about young Marcus Bolles, pictured, who was diagnosed with desmoplastic small round cell tumor in December 2012, after a stomach ache landed him in the hospital. Trips to New York were needed for specialized treatment and surgery for the aggressive and deadly form of cancer, and the community really stepped up to the plate, donating to fundraisers to help cover the expenses.

With all that being said, it's about time for some good news. "Marcus hit his two-year mark Dec. 8 — that is the average life expectancy for this disease from diagnosis," his mother, Melanie Bolles, told the Ear. "At this time he remains cancer-free 10 months now! Only 15 percent of those diagnosed will make it to five years."

"We will continue to check every 90 days, and pray for a continued miracle," she added. "But most of all we are living, making the most of the gift we have been given. Loving one another, and not taking anything for granted."

HALF OFF

Here we go with another casting call: This one's for Season 6 of ABC's reality TV show "Extreme Weight Loss," and the auditions are from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Feb. 28 at the Moda Center, 1 N. Center Court St. in Portland.



"Do you have around 50 percent of your body weight to lose?" the press release asks. "Are you ready to change your life? Eyeworks USA is now casting men and women across America who are ready to lose weight and live the life they've been dreaming of. Our transformation specialists and expert trainers, Chris and Heidi Powell, will work with you over the course of one year to help transform your mind and body."

For lots more information, and to preregister, go to www.extremeweightlosscasting.com. For the audition, bring a non-returnable photo of yourself. Can't make it to the casting call? You can submit a video at the link just mentioned.

For those who need an extra boost to audition: "Make this the most important year of your life," casting associate Vincent James Arcuri wrote, "the year you get the weight off and your life back!"

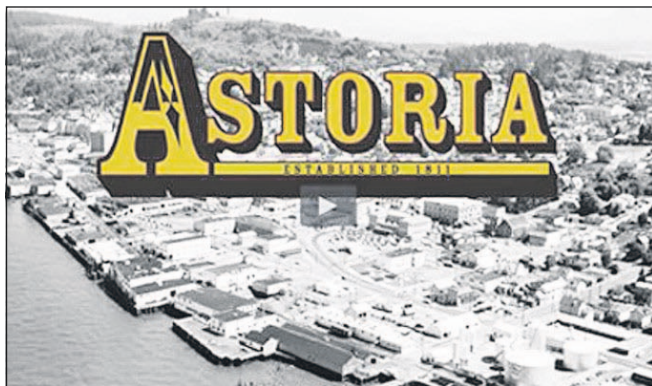
In One Ear



by Elleda Wilson

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SECOND CHANCE



Feeling left out because you didn't see Oregon Public Broadcasting's documentary "Oregon Experience: Astoria" last weekend when it was shown here in town? A screen shot from it is shown.

You really missed a good one, as the film features lots of old footage of the canneries and horse seining on the river, and scads of archival photos and drawings/paintings to chronicle Astoria's history. Just some of the narrators are Mac Burns and Liisa Penner of the Clatsop County Historical Society, author Peter Stark, and Sam Johnson of the Columbia River Maritime Museum.

Never fear, you, too can now be part of the "in" crowd, as OPB has posted the 29-minute film online at <http://tinyurl.com/opbastoria>. Feel better now?

WHEN CABBAGE IS KING



The Ear, who has a black thumb, is always intrigued by the fruitful endeavors of green thumb types. Josi Coggins, an elementary school student who lives in Enterprise (pictured), is the National Bonnie Plants Cabbage Program's Oregon State Winner with a 21.6 pound cabbage. She'll receive a \$1,000 savings bond from Bonnie Plants.

Third-grade teachers who are interested in out-cabbaging each other are welcome to find out how their class can participate in this year's contest at <http://bonniecabbageprogram.com>

The Ear is dreaming of coleslaw, sauerkraut, stuffed cabbage and kimchi. Break out the Beano.

STRIKE A POSE



The voting ("likes") for the Astoria Pinup 2015 on the Mundel Makeup Artistry Facebook page (www.facebook.com/Mundel-MakeupArtistry) was fast and furious for the 14 contenders, "each (photographed) with their own unique theme that they love about Astoria," Ashley Mundel reported.

Ashley, along with Patricia VonVintage of VonVintage Imagery, organized and ran the contest, which featured Astoria women from all walks of life. Between them, they did the pin-ups' hair, makeup and photography, while local businesses provided the locations and vintage props. The duo created the competition "to help gals in our area get published, and it took off from there," Ashley explained.

In first place, with the most points, is Taylor Dugan; in second place is Tara Hopman-Dyrset, and in third place is Kalla Jae. All three are pictured. Taylor wins the grand prize, a two-page spread in Foxy Lady Pin-Up Magazine, an online ad campaign with Astoria Brewing, and \$100. She will also be the "Working Girl" in a two-part photo series, inspired by Kick Ass Coffee.

The Astoria Pinup 2015 photos will be on display at Pier 11 during Astoria's Second Saturday Art Walk on Saturday, and Ashley hopes people will take note. "Please come down and view all the amazing work these Astoria women have put in to showcase our wonderful historical community."

IT'S ELEMENTARY

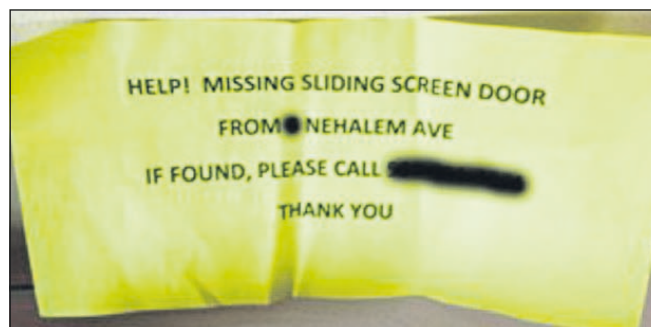


Last week, Jeffrey Nelson wrote in, wondering why "Saturday Night Live" used a photo of what clearly appeared to be John Jacob Astor Elementary School on Franklin Avenue, yet changed the name to Astoria Elementary School. The image appeared Jan. 31 at the start of a Career Day skit starring guest host J.K. Simmons. The Ear wrote to NBC inquiring, and expects to hear back sometime after hell freezes over and defrosts again.

The school name change remained a mystery until local sleuths came to the rescue. Astorian Carol Thomas wrote in with an explanation: "'Kindergarten Cop' modified the name during filming," she said. "(SNL) probably got the picture from movie footage ... I'm a union stagehand and know many people who worked on movie shoots in Astoria." And, she included a photo like the one shown, which is a still shot from <http://tinyurl.com/astorkind>. Yes, that's Arnold Schwarzenegger running down the front steps of the school after his class drove him bonkers.

Kudos additionally go to Lewis Nimmo of Astoria, who also recognized why the name was changed, and called in and left a message. The Ear is very grateful to have such knowledgeable (and observant) readers!

GO FLY A DOOR



"Only in Astoria," Bonnie Little wrote, referring to the note shown. "This message appeared in my mailbox on the South Slope this morning, after last night's (Feb. 4) windstorm."

Of course, the Ear wondered if the wandering door had been found, so a call to the message-writer was in order. "I searched forever," door-owner Lee Clinton told the Ear. "I was determined to find it. I had attached vinyl to it because it was leaking, and with the vinyl on it, it became a kite."

"It was yanked out of the frame," Lee explained, "it flew up in the air 40 feet, and over the neighbor's house, and into the woods next to them." She found it at the bottom of a small ravine. "It was in great shape, so I could put it back into my sliding glass door, held down by three bags of birdseed."

"Perseverance pays," she noted. "It's a great view, but the wind really slams me. It's a dramatic place to live, isn't it?" Indeed.

GUARDIAN ANGEL



Seaside Jimmy Cole posted a whopper of a video on Facebook (<http://tinyurl.com/normhero>) about a blind Labrador retriever named Norman, pictured, who saved a young girl from drowning in the Necanicum River. Norman himself was rescued in 1993 by Annette McDonald, who lived with her husband, Steve, near the Necanicum.

One summer day in July 1996, Lisa Nibley and her brother, Joe, were swimming in the Necanicum when the tide suddenly changed. Joe managed to get out of the water, but Lisa became caught in a strong current, and was being swept upstream. She was in trouble, and exhausted from struggling, but no one could hear her screams for help.

As luck would have it, Annette had stayed home from work that day, and took Norman for a walk on the beach. Somehow he heard Lisa, and suddenly bolted away from Annette, ran over 100 yards, jumped in the water and swam toward the struggling girl. Annette caught up and yelled to Lisa to call Norman so he could find her by the sound. Once Norman located Lisa, he towed her to shore, guided by Annette's voice.

"I knew he was my guardian angel," Lisa said, "and someone had sent him to save me."

News of Norman's heroism traveled far outside of Clatsop County, and he and Lisa were featured on the cover and in a story in the July 14, 1997 "Hero Pets!" issue (<http://tinyurl.com/normhero2>).

"It really was a miracle how it all came together," Annette recalled. "Maybe God does that to get your attention, and maybe to humble us a little."

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.

Valentine's Day Pet Adoption Event — 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., Safe Harbor Animal Hospital, 90334 U.S. Highway 101, Warrenton. For information, call Clatsop Animal Assistance at 503-861-7387 or go to www.dogscats.org

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 Alzheimer's & Other Dementia Family Support Group — 2 to 3:30 p.m., first-floor conference room, Clatsop Care Center, 646 16th St. Open to all family members of people with dementias. For information, call Rosetta Hurley at 503-325-0313, ext. 222, or email support@clatsopcare.org

Line Dancing for Seniors — 6 to 7:30 p.m., Astoria Senior Center, temporarily located at 1555 W. Marine Drive in the old Astoria Yacht Club. For information, call 503-325-3231.

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.

TUESDAY

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.

Warrenton Caregiver Support Group — 1:30 to 3 p.m., 2002 S.E. Chokeberry Ave., Warrenton. Support, information and resources for caregivers. For information, call Grace Bruseth at 503-738-6412.

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>

Lower Columbia Hospice Be-

reavement Support Group — 4:30 to 6 p.m., Wellness Pavilion, third floor conference room, 2265 Exchange St. Open to age 18 or older. For information, call 503-338-6230.

North Coast Chapter, ABATE of Oregon — 5:30 p.m., Astoria Moose Lodge, 420 17th Street. All are welcome. For information, call 503-791-7253.

Head Injury Support Group — 6 to 7:30 p.m., Pacific Northwest Occupational Therapy Clinic, 1396 Duane St. For information, call 209-791-3092, email pnwhigroup@gmail.com or go to www.pnwhigroup.vpweb.com

Peninsula Arts Association — 6 p.m., PAA Office, Long Beach Depot Building, Third Street N. and Pacific Highway, Long Beach, Wash. All are welcome. For information, call 360-665-6041 or go to <http://beachartist.org>