

DON'T GO IN THE WATER



Good thing it's not swimming season. KOMO News reports that Ocean Shores, Wash., has a great white shark patrolling the waters (<http://tinyurl.com/oshshark>). How do they know? Last week a dead harbor seal was found on the beach, and the wildlife people suspected the worst when they noted the seal had been bitten by something very big.

So, the seal was shipped off to California for a necropsy, and the verdict is in: Yup, it was definitely killed by a great white shark. But instead of the businesses going into panic mode, as they did in the movie "Jaws," the mood is sanguine in Ocean Shores. "I think more people are going to want to come out and think 'Oh can we see a great white shark,'" said kite shop owner Andy Siass.

And there probably isn't a whole lot to worry about, anyway, since there hasn't been a shark attack in Ocean Shores in 26 years. Cue the "Jaws" theme ...

WILDLIFE GETAWAY



Travel Oregon and KGW's "Grant's Getaways" heads to the coast for stories fairly often, but this time Grant McOmie gave some much-deserved attention to the work being done at the Wildlife Center of the North Coast. It's on Oregon Highway 202 in Astoria, and is featured in McOmie's "Caring for Oregon wildlife" episode (<http://tinyurl.com/getawaywild>).

Run by Executive Director Sharnelle Fee, Assistant Director Josh Saranpaa, and with the help of 12 dedicated volunteers, the center specializes in rehabilitating birds so they can return to the wild.

Sharnelle's mission is straightforward. "Each year, we have wildlife species that get into trouble," she told McOmie, "and our jobs are to make them well." And they certainly work hard at it — Josh noted that the volunteer staff handles more than 2,000 birds a year. Pictured, in a photo by Jeff Kastner, volunteer Melissa Corvin works with a white pelican.

One of the major issues in many birds' recovery has been the small pieces of plastic they ingest. "Something like 85 percent of the fulmars we took in last year had plastic inside them," Josh reported. "The sharp pieces perforated their internal organs and the plastic leaches toxins and make them sick. When they are full of plastic they can't eat to fill up their stomachs properly."

Want to help the wildlife center continue its good work? You can donate at <http://coastwildlife.org>

"There is something about helping something that needs help," Josh explained. "It's fun, interesting and there are new challenges to deal with daily — it's a good way to give back."

HOW COULD THEY?



Goonie fans are wondering with bated breath which celebrities from the movie will attend the much-anticipated 30th anniversary June 5 to 7 here in Astoria. Pictured, some of the cast members in a screen shot from the movie. But don't get your hopes up, there's no spoiler here — sadly, the Ear has no idea who will show up.

However, the Ear does know who *won't* be coming, thanks to an article at NiagaraThisWeek.com (<http://tinyurl.com/niagcon>). Niagara Falls, N.Y., is holding a Comic Con the exact same weekend as Astoria's Goonie celebration (the nerve!), and three actors from the movie will be celebrating all three days of the anniversary there, instead of here: Sean Astin (Mikey), Robert Davi (Jake Fratelli) and Joe Pantoliano (Francis Fratelli). How could they?

COMMUNITY NOTES

SATURDAY
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.

Casino Game Night — 7 to 10 p.m., Cannon Beach American Legion Hall, 1216 S. Hemlock St. Fundraiser for Cannon Beach Preschool and Children's Center, features blackjack, craps, and roulette. Scrip available for purchase at the door (no minimum required), prizes donated by local businesses. For information, call 503-436-1040.

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 Dinners — 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

In One Ear



by Elleda Wilson

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

KRAKEN UP



Oak Harbor on Whidby Island, Wash., is in a bit of an uproar about the giant 8-foot tall \$33,000 Kraken sculpture created by Depoe Bay artist Bill Hunt, the Whidbey News-Times reports (<http://tinyurl.com/depoekraken>). The giant Pacific octopus, which is made of hammered copper, is depicted wrangling with a treated steel Nautilus submarine.

When the installation is complete, tentacles will climb a nearby pole, seeming to have run under the street to get there. A concrete base resembling ocean waves will also be added. The sculpture is pictured, with its creator kneeling on the right, in a photo courtesy of Ron Newberry of the Whidbey News-Times.

Actually, the original design — submitted four years ago by Hunt and his wife, Rebecca, who died last July — was of a harbor seal family and a kelp bed. Deemed too tame by the Oak Harbor Arts Commission, the Hunts upped their game.

The sculpture is decidedly a showstopper. The mayor of Oak Harbor, Scott Dudley, is left "scratching his head" about the choice of subjects. After all, the town has a "close relationship" with the Whidbey Island Naval Air Station.

"Being a premier naval town, would I have selected an octopus dragging down a submarine?" Dudley mused. "Probably not."

SHUFFLE YOUR TRUFFLE TO ASTORIA



Astoria received some national attention media again, courtesy of "The Goonies" and Huffington Post Travel in a blog post by Roadtrippers (<http://tinyurl.com/trippgoon>). All of the North Coast Goonies haunts are mentioned, and most are pictured, even Cannon Beach. So is the Iredale Shipwreck (which has nothing to do with the Goonies, but be that as it may). Chunk, doing the truffle shuffle in Astoria, is pictured in a screen shot from the movie.

Better yet, in a move that must have given the Astoria-Warrenton Area Chamber of Commerce goosebumps, in large print at the end of the story, the writer urges folks to hasten to Astoria for the Goonies 30th reunion in June, which "involves costumes, beer and the world's largest truffle shuffle!" Batten down the hatches.

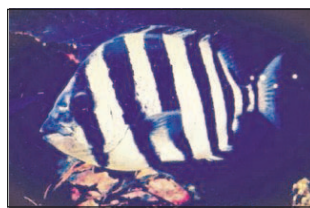
IS THAT TSU?

In 2013, some striped beakfish (native to Japan) were found swimming around cozily inside a fishing boat that got torn loose in the 2011 Japanese tsunami, floated across the Pacific Ocean, and wound up landing on the Long Beach (Wash.) Peninsula.

Branded an invasive species, only one of the beakfish was allowed to live, and Tsu (as she was named) went to live happily ever after at the Seaside Aquarium. Tiffany Boothe's photo of Tsu at the aquarium is shown.

Now, believe it or not, another beakfish has shown up, according to the Statesman Journal — this time in a crab pot in Port Orford (<http://tinyurl.com/newtsu>). Yes, it's alive, and quite pleased with the razor clams Keith Chandler at the Seaside Aquarium suggested feeding it. The new Tsu, who is estimated to be 1 to 2 years old, for now is going to a quarantine facility at the Hatfield Marine Science Center in Newport.

"... It is unlikely to have left Japan in the 2011 tsunami," noted Sam Chan, an invasive species expert, "but a boat could have been milling around Asian waters for the past two 2-3 years and then picked up the fish and ridden the currents over. The big question is — are there more of these?"



TAKE A CHANCE



OK, it seems like spring, but it's never too soon to start thinking about things like having enough firewood on hand for the next winter. So how about a raffle for one cord of seasoned fir firewood, already cut and split?

Sandy and Joey Gaffney, pictured, are holding the raffle, which ends with a May 1 drawing, and tickets are \$5 each or three for \$10. Which ain't bad, when you consider a cord of wood is probably worth about \$150. They'll deliver the wood to the Clatskanie/Rainier areas, otherwise you've got to pick it up — not too big a deal while gas prices are reasonable, for a change.

The couple, who are members of the Clatskanie Baptist Church, want to join a church mission team going to Brazil to work with underprivileged children. The money they raise from the firewood raffle would help out with travel, accommodations and other necessary expenses.

Interested in giving them a hand? Go to the raffle's Facebook page, <http://tinyurl.com/missionwood> for information. To buy raffle tickets, email Sandy weekdays at sandy@lighthouselaw.com. Be sure to include your name and phone number, so she can call you back.

"My husband and I have never gone to Brazil," Sandy explained. "We get to take our 11-year-old granddaughter with us, and we are all excited to be a part of making a huge difference in many lives."

So what will they do in Brazil? "(We're) blessed to be part of working on whatever is needed," she told the Ear, "and getting to spend time with a lot of children needing lots of love and hugs."

GOOD DEED INDEED



Feeling misanthropic? A good deed ought to perk you up. "Today after a basketball game, my fiancé Derrick Wing and I went to Fred Meyer," Warrenton resident Natasha Homi posted on Facebook. The couple are pictured.

"Well, when we got back into the truck I figured that I lost my phone. I turned on the light to check and couldn't find it. Then my fiancé finds a note on his windshield."

"Found a phone sitting on the ground outside your passenger door," the note said. "I put the phone in the bed, up against your cab. Have a good night."

Good Samaritan, this is for you: "Whoever you are, you are amazing," Natasha wrote. "Made my day. Thank you!"

PADDLE OUT



Aloha and RIP Jack Brown (of Cannon Beach)," Astorian Michael Covert wrote. "On Sunday, Feb. 22, the North Coast surf community gathered in an unprecedented display of solidarity to celebrate the life of one of their own — Jack Brown (pictured in a photo by Lexie Hallahan) — who died at age 95 on Feb. 4."

"Jack was a retired firefighter who took up surfing to help heal his injured back, and surfed up until he was 88 years old!" Michael explained. "Surfers in general are a fiercely independent breed of people, but Jack Brown transcended all levels of this group by his unflappable humanity, grace and wonderful sense of humor."

"Over 200 people gathered at the Cove in Seaside to pay their respects to a man that was a hero to all; approximately 88 surfers took part in a traditional 'Paddle Out' (pictured inset) to commemorate a life well lived and he will not be forgotten." For information about the paddle out, and photos, check out the "Oregon Surfing: Past and Present" Facebook page (<http://tinyurl.com/OreSurf>).

"May your heavenly waves always be shoulder high, winds off-shore, and the sun always shining!"

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.

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.

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 disorder, 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 Dinners — 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, tem-

porarily 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>

Wickiup Senior Lunches — 11:30 a.m., Wickiup Grange Hall, 92683 Svensen Market Road. Free for those older than 60 (\$3 suggested donation), \$6.75 for those younger than age 60. For information, call Michelle Lewis at 503-861-4200.

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 Dinners — 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.

Blood Pressure Checks — noon to 2 p.m., Astoria Senior Center, temporarily located at 1555 W. Marine Drive in the old Astoria Yacht Club. For information, call 503-325-3231.