

A SLICE OF LIFE



Alaska Fishing Adventures' comprises the gorgeous recollections of 20 years of guiding fishers at Yes Bay Lodge, near Ketchikan, Alaska," David King of Astoria and Portland wrote, reviewing James "Jim" Bernard's new book. The front and back covers are pictured, along with a shot of Jim and some halibut, inset.

Warrenton residents Jim and his wife, Cherie, well known on the North Coast, were longtime operators of a fishing charter business on the Sea Tiger out of Hammond before he started working as a guide in Alaska.

"... Guides at Yes Bay Lodge are given nicknames," David noted, "and in his first day guiding guests, Jim earned the nickname 'Slice' by cutting into his index finger when baiting a guest's hook after netting a nearly 40-pound king salmon. As is the character of the man, Jim wrapped his finger in a towel and kept on fishing."

Jim's fishing philosophy? "Each day is brand new, a never been lived before day. Who knows what adventure awaits us? ... Thank you, Lord, for not letting us know."

Want a copy of the book? You can get it at <http://tinyurl.com/jimfishes>

"When I first met Jim and fished Buoy 10 and the open ocean," David recalled, "I asked him one day, 'How often do you fish?'"

"I fish every day that the Lord allows me," Jim declared.

MAKING A SPLASH



Love 'em or not, the Astoria sea lions in the East Mooring Basin are making a worldwide media splash. Last week, there were stories about them on several Oregon news outlets, the San Francisco Chronicle, Las Vegas News3 (KSNV), The Seattle Times, and NBC News, just to name a few. The shocker was an extensive and detailed story in the United Kingdom's Daily Mail (<http://tinyurl.com/DMsealions>).

Not surprisingly, all this publicity is attracting scads of tourists. The Ear went down to the mooring basin on Saturday, and there was a steady stream of out-of-towners heading out to look at the sea lions ... and probably frequenting to local businesses and restaurants, as well.

The Ear even spotted what appeared to be some enterprising soul doing some sightseeing in a boat, approaching the various sea lion locations for a closer look. A new local cottage industry, perhaps?

DON'T TRY THIS AT HOME OR ANYWHERE



This one would come under the heading of what my austere Yankee grandfather would have called damnfoolery, and is enough to make any Oregonian or Norwegian shudder. Even though the event in question happened last year, the video started making the media rounds fairly recently.

According to a story in the Mail Tribune (<http://tinyurl.com/tosscliff>), 31-year-old Building Antenna Span Earth (BASE) jumper Blake Burwell of Talent "arose in Norway one morning last June bent on adding a little spice to the increasingly tedious task of jumping off a 3,000-foot cliff." Huh?

"I woke up that morning and thought, let's try something new," said Burwell. "Normally, we just, you know, jump. But it just seemed like a good idea to have some friends join in." What he means is he had his friends grab him by the hands and feet and toss him off a cliff — a sheer wall called Kjerag.

He is pictured in a screen shot from his Facebook page, [www.facebook.com/BlakeBurwell](http://www.facebook.com/BlakeBurwell)

If you want to watch his leap to Internet fame, get out the Dramamine and go to <http://tinyurl.com/tosscliff2>

"I didn't really plan on it happening that way," Burwell told the Mail Tribune. "They didn't throw me very far. So it turned out to be pretty exciting." Clearly, he has a flair for understatement.

In One Ear



by Elleda Wilson

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BABY BOOM



KING5 reports that Pacific Whale Watch Association (PWWA) crews spotted another new calf among the endangered Southern Resident orcas of J-Pod, which makes it the fourth in three months (<http://tinyurl.com/orcanew>). A mother and calf are pictured in a photo courtesy of naturalist and researcher Jeanne Hyde and Maya's Legacy Whale Watching.

Hyde was onboard a whale watching vessel recently observing the J-Pod swimming off Galiano Island, British Columbia. At first she thought the calf was J50, who was born three months ago, but then was delighted when she realized it was a newborn, as it still had its fetal folds.

"J-Pod is certainly doing all it can to rebuild the ranks," Michael Harris, executive director of the PWWA, which represents 29 whale watch operators in Washington and British Columbia, told KING5. "Let's hope this baby boom means this endangered population has finally turned the corner."

HERE COMES PETER COTTONTAIL

After looking longingly at a chocolate bunny the other day, the Ear began wondering: Where do Easter bunnies — who lay eggs, mind you — come from, anyway?



History.com has an answer (<http://tinyurl.com/whybunny>):

"The exact origins of this mythical mammal are unclear, but rabbits, known to be prolific procreators, are an ancient symbol of fertility and new life. According to some sources, the Easter bunny first arrived in America in the 1700s with German immigrants who settled in Pennsylvania and transported their tradition of an egg-laying hare called 'Osterhase' or 'Oschter Haws.' Their children made nests in which this creature could lay its colored eggs."

And, just so you know, the (probable) world's largest Easter egg, made in Argentina in 2012, was 27 feet high, 16 feet wide, and consisted of 8,800 pounds of chocolate over a wooden frame (<http://tinyurl.com/egg8800>). Yum, or yikes?

MINE, ALL MINE



The Cannon Beach History Center and Museum's archivist recently discovered an image of a (World War II) mine that washed up on the shore of Cannon Beach," Elaine Murdy-Trucke, executive director of the museum told the Ear. "There is no date on the photo, but the thought was early 1950s." The photo is shown, courtesy of the museum ([www.cbhistory.org](http://www.cbhistory.org)).

The photo reminded the Ear of a frightening story at Yahoo.com, which should be of interest to World War II history buffs: The war is still very much a part of everyday life on the Pacific island of Peleliu (Palau) (<http://tinyurl.com/boomisle>). Once a contentiously fought over strip of land, rusting remnants of the war are everywhere, from plane wrecks, to discarded tanks and artillery, not to mention ordnance. For example, 600 pieces of ordnance (land mines, hand grenades and mortars) were removed from a maze of tunnels people had been blithely wandering through, sightseeing.

A group called Cleared Ground ([www.clearedground.org](http://www.clearedground.org)) started a cleanup in 2009, and so far has removed 32,000 items of live ordnance. "They had them in the backyard, they had live grenades in the school as part of a history project," a group co-founder said. "They were using them as doorstops, old ladies were using them to hammer nuts on, not realizing they were dangerous. This one lady had one right next to a barbecue."

"What happened to this (Cannon Beach) mine, or the numerous others that washed ashore along the coastline is unclear," Elaine added. "Perhaps the U.S. Navy confiscated them? We certainly hope that no one is using this is a garden decoration somewhere."

CAN YOU HELP?



Norma Jean

Local animal victims Bonnie, Hazel and Norma Jean (pictured) need assistance!" Rita Smith of River Song Foundation declared (<http://riversongfoundation.org>).

"These kitties are all requiring long-term veterinary care and multiple surgeries to recover from long-term neglect, abandonment and outright abuse," she explained. "Norma Jean had injuries consistent with being thrown from a car or up against a wall. She had to have one eye removed, and had multiple lacerations and evidence of a prior broken pelvis. Hazel has suffered unknown trauma and will need long-term rehabilitation. Bonnie has had two surgeries so far, and had multiple issues."

Rita has done so much for local abandoned pets, and she needs a hand. If you would like to help, please donate at River Song's fundraiser page, <http://tinyurl.com/help3kits>. Or, to donate pet food, supplies or money, or to volunteer, call 503-785-3690 or email [riversongfoundation@yahoo.com](mailto:riversongfoundation@yahoo.com)

"These (three kitties)' expenses are outside the scope of our budget!" Rita confessed. "Please help us by contributing and/or by spreading the word. Thank you!"

PURPLE SAILS



Looks like they're back," Tiffany Boothe of the Seaside Aquarium wrote. "While walking along the beach, you may have noticed slimy, iridescent blue discs. These discs are a type of animal called Velella velella, commonly known as Purple Sails or By-The-Wind Sailors. They can reach a size of 4 inches in length and 3 inches in width." Her photos of the critters are shown.

"Purple Sails have a clear 'sail' that catches the wind and pushes them across the ocean's surface," she explained. "When the wind blows from the west, these little guys get stranded on the beach. Once washed ashore, they either become food for a variety of beach-dwelling creatures or turn into the translucent 'sails' you see on the beach."

"Purple Sails do not sting their prey; they capture their food with small sticky tentacles. Velellas feed on fish eggs and small planktonic copepods (tiny crustaceans). Found in most oceans, Purple Sails are frequent visitors to the Oregon Coast."

BBC GOES TO THE GOONDOCKS



The Goonies' guide to the US Pacific Northwest

Lloyd Seely sent the Ear a link to a delightful BBC story by David G. Allen, "The Goonies' guide to the US Pacific Northwest" for the BBC's online travel section (<http://tinyurl.com/BBC-goon>). Cannon Beach gets some love from Allen for its part in the movie, but Astoria shines. Pictured, the Goonie House.

"... The film's best casting: hilly, green, wet Astoria, Oregon. The foggy coastal hamlet with colourful Victorian homes is dripping with cloudy discontent but also rife with verdant possibility. It may not look like much at first glance ... but treasures await if you explore."

And from there, the writer goes on to extol Astoria's many virtues via the film's shooting locations around town.

He interviewed Micah Dugan at the Oregon Film Museum, who told him, "It used to be salmon and timber and now it's Goonies." As if to prove it, Allen then provides a link to the 30th Anniversary Goonie Celebration. A BBC story plugging an event in Astoria? Whoda think it?



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