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ONE DOLLAR

Otters odyssey

Death of two
at-risk sea otters
at Long Beach
sparks inquiry

By KATIE WILSON
and MATT WINTERS
EO Media Group

LONG BEACH, Wash. — Two dead northern sea otters have washed up on Long Beach in recent weeks, a surprise since the marine mammals — which are classified as endangered in Washington state — are not known to live here.

Biologists with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the lead agency looking into the deaths, believe the otters likely picked up a deadly protozoa and may not have died here at all.

A mature female sea otter found on May 27 by a home-school group just north of Cranberry beach approach is frozen and now on its way to Madison, Wis., where it will be examined at the National Wildlife Health Center lab run by U.S. Geological Survey. They will test the organs and look for lesions on the brain.

It could be months before people here know exactly how or why the otter died.

Another otter washed ashore about a week or 10 days earlier closer to downtown Long Beach and was too decayed for scientific analysis.

"They very well could have floated from anywhere up north," said Fish and Wildlife Services Biologist Deanna Lynch.

Though some people suspected recent high levels of a marine toxin called domoic acid off the Long Beach Peninsula could have contributed to the otters' deaths, Lynch says it is far more likely to be protozoal encephalitis, a disease otters can pick up through their food.

Historical context

Most of the world's sea otters live in coastal Alaska, according to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. They have only recently started making a comeback in Washington state.

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GOONIES Goonies? For many, a shrug



JOSHUA BESSEX — The Daily Astorian

Signs directing people where to park and walk to find the Goonies house adorn Duane Street.

Plenty of locals never got the fuss over the classic cult flick

By DERRICK DePLEDGE
The Daily Astorian

Some things that are popular are hard to explain: Justin Bieber. Kale. "The Goonies." Wait, Goonies? Heretical as it may seem, plenty of people in Astoria never got the allure around the 1985 adventure comedy.

The novelty, even pride, that a charming, coming-of-age Hollywood tale was set and filmed in Astoria and Cannon Beach is easy to understand. The international cult following — 30 years after the movie was released — is something else.

Chris Wood, a production manager at Video Horizons, was a teenager in the 1980s and remembers the buzz around the filming. He gives the movie a 7 out of 10 — IMDb users rate the flick a 7.8 — but sheepishly worries he might have a hometown bias.

Video Horizons features "The Goonies" in a "Made in Astoria" section near the front counter, along with "Kindergarten Cop," "Free Willy" and "The Ring." Goonies T-shirts are on sale for \$21.95.

"It didn't get robbed of any Oscar nominations that year," Wood said of "The Goonies." "But it was still a decent picture."

Wood said he does not really understand the cult following or why, whenever people from Astoria travel and say where they live, the response is often so predictable.

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GOONIES WEEKEND



Movie fans converge on Astoria this week for the 30th anniversary of "The Goonies," the lovable 1985 adventure comedy about a ragtag bunch of youngsters who save their Uppertown homes from being razed for a country club golf course.

The Daily Astorian has planned a week's worth of coverage. Visit www.dailyastorian.com for updates.

Coverage

• **Today:** Plenty in Astoria never understood the cult following around the movie; a treasure hunt using geocaching.

• **Friday:** A peek inside The Goondocks, the nerve center of the celebration; a recap of the beach party and bonfire in Cannon Beach.

• **Monday:** Scenes from a long weekend of Goonie excess.

• **Tuesday:** An Ecola State Park ranger opens a behind-the-scenes window into the park's cameo in the movie.

Share your favorite moments on The Daily Astorian's Facebook page at www.facebook.com/DailyAstorian.

Check out **The Goondocks**, a website from the Astoria-Warrenton Area Chamber of Commerce, at www.thegoondocks.org for a full list of activities.

Highlights

• **Today:** One-Eyed Willie Treasure Hunt, all day, Astoria Armory.
• Beach gathering and bonfire, 7 p.m. to 10 p.m., Ocean Lodge, Cannon Beach.

• **Friday:** Shot in Astoria bus tours, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Astoria Armory.
• Block party and concert, 4 p.m. to 2 a.m., Astoria Event Center.

• **Saturday:** Growing up Goonie with Jeff Cohen (Chunk), 10:30 a.m. to 11:45 a.m., Liberty Theater.

Autograph signing with Jeff Cohen (Chunk), 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., Liberty Theater McTavish Room.

Farewell to Warren Field with a group Truffle Shuffle and outdoor movie screening, 6 p.m. to 11:30 p.m., John Warren Field.

• **Sunday:** Truffle Shuffle 5K Fun Run, 8:30 a.m. to 10 a.m., Tolovana Park, Cannon Beach.

Hunt for Goonies gold on your phone



JOSHUA BESSEX — The Daily Astorian

Amy Faulkner, event production manager at Geocaching, holds a replica copper bones movie prop. Several Goonies props including the copper bones, the doubloon, and the map will be used in the geocaching event.

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Daily Astorian

A Seattle company is helping fans of the "The Goonies" search for One-Eyed Willy's treasure using their smartphones as a map.

Geocaching, a company based on the GPS-driven hobby, created the One-Eyed Willy Treasure Hunt for this weekend's 30th anniversary of the movie, along with a related brewery and distillery tour of Astoria.

To access either, visit www.gooniesguide.com

The hunt starts at noon today and runs until 5 p.m. Sunday. Treasure hunters can win Goonies-related prizes when they find all 20 geocaches. The first 500 people at Geocaching's information booth at the Goondocks — inside the Astoria Armory at 1636 Exchange St. — get a free tasting glass for the brewery tour.

Eric Schudiske, a spokesman for Geocaching, said there will be 20 different locations around Astoria in the hunt, including six movie shoot locations and 14 businesses with puzzles to solve for hidden codes.

"When the site goes live, you'll see all 20 locations, and you'll be able to click on them individually and get information," he said.

"The treasure hunt was designed to accentuate and highlight aspects of the movie that were the most memorable."

The geocaches all link to parts of the movie and landmarks around Astoria, with names like Jail Break, Mr. Walsh & The Museum, Police Chase, Fifty Dollar Bill, The Goonies Oath and Ye Intruders Beware.

Creating a treasure hunt

Amy Faulkner, an events

production manager for Geocaching, is behind the props and other clues hunters will look for at each geocache.

"This is my childhood dream," she said Tuesday at Astoria Coffee Co., one of the 26 businesses she has been working with to make the treasure hunt and brewery tour a reality.

Faulkner said that with 15,000 people expected to visit Astoria for the Goonies celebration, she conservatively estimates about 10,000 people will take part in the treasure hunt.

The businesses she worked with have a connection to the movie, such as the Astoria Coffee Co. at 36th Street and U.S. Highway 30 that stood in as a convenience store in a deleted scene after the Goonies found the treasure map in the attic.

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