

LOTTERY GOES SOCIAL



The whole world must be on Facebook. The Ear recently received a press release from the **Oregon Lottery** promoting their Facebook page, www.facebook.com/ORLottery. And why should you care? Because they offer prizes, that's why.

"For over a year, the Lottery has been offering great prizes on our Facebook page," Oregon Lottery Online Marketing Manager Shad Barnes said. "By simply following us on Facebook and commenting on one of our giveaways, people are entered for a chance to win some really outstanding prizes."

For example, a chance to win tickets to the Cape Blanco Music Festival, or an all-expense-paid trip to Michigan to watch the Oregon State Beavers play the Wolverines.

"Given the odds of winning games like Powerball or Mega Millions, the odds of winning a Lottery Facebook prize are much better," the press release says.

And better yet, you don't have to buy a ticket to win. It's free.

GOING BUGS



An invasion of Volkswagens is expected today. Seriously. A vintage VW parts distributor in Ventura, Calif., hosts an annual vintage VW cruise from Canada to Mexico, called "Treffen" (www.airheadparts.com/treffen) now in its 17th year, Danielle Starr of Airhead Parts, sponsor of the cruise, told the Ear.

And Astoria is the first stop. The group will be here until Saturday morning, when they head out for Newport. Photos of previous Treffens are shown, courtesy of Airhead Parts.

"Treffen is German for 'to meet,' and in the spirit of meeting new friends and fellow VW enthusiasts, we have spent the past 16 years making Treffen the best possible experience it can be," Danielle explained. "Typically, we have cars participating from several states, with a few dozen that do the entire 1,700 miles. Along the way, we see hundreds more, at our event stops, with many joining for one to several days.

"The Treffen started out in 1998 as a VW Karmann Ghia only car show and lunch cruise, put on by Karmann Ghia Parts & Restoration. As KGPR grew, the business was expanded to include all air-cooled Volkswagen models under the name, 'Airhead Parts.' 2005 was the first year that Treffen included all vintage VW models."

"It's an eclectic group of people in interesting old cars," she added. "Young families with children, older couples, retirees — everyone comes together for 10 days in August as one big happy traveling VW family."

SAVE THE HISTORY



A forum on the **Coast Defense Study Group** website should intrigue North Coast history enthusiasts, as it features several then-and-now photos of **Fort Stevens**, with accompanying text (<http://tinyurl.com/fts-teve>). One of the photos is shown, of building a new road at the fort, around 1913. Several photos are of buildings that are long gone.

The forum had a link to a Facebook page, "**Harbor Defenses of the Columbia**," another bit of eye candy for history buffs. So who is behind all of the amazing photos? **Aaron Buda**, an Eagle Scout in his early 20s, of Washington.

"I'm both a historian and collector of items related to the Harbor Defenses of the Columbia River (Forts Stevens, Columbia, and Canby)," he told the Ear. "My main goal is to preserve, share, and honor the history of the U.S. Army Coast Artillery who served at the mouth of the Columbia for nearly 80 years, from the 1860s to the end of World War II, as well as educating the public about it through displays and living history."

"I am always interested in new photos, stories, or artifacts people may have related to the Harbor Defenses of the Columbia," he explained. Have some history to share with him? "Like" the Facebook page and send him a message, email aaron.buda@yahoo.com or call 360-880-0564.

"It is important history," Aaron added, "and must be saved and not forgotten."

In One Ear



by Elleda Wilson

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MAKING MOMENTS



On July 18 Sheriff **Tom Bergin** and his deputies surprised **Ronnie Bement** at his 65th birthday party, Ronnie's niece **Teresa Petersen** told the Ear.

"Ronnie was born in Vale and moved in 1955 to Portland so that he could attend school for special needs children," Teresa explained. "His parents chose to raise him rather than put him in an institution. In 1967, his family moved to Fort Stevens. When his father retired as an electrician in 1980, he traveled with his parents, **Jack and Laura Bement**, in their travel trailer named 'The Tired Tepee' to Mexico, Florida and Arizona."

"Time and time again people who meet him are amazed at his longevity," she noted. The National Down Syndrome Society (www.ndss.org) says that in 1983, the life expectancy was 25 for a DS child — and Ronnie was born in 1950. "That is an example of what love will do," Teresa observed. "Since his parents have gone to heaven, he has remained with family."

"Growing up in a western town, near the cattle sale yard and where his brothers rode horses, Ronnie was very impressed by being a cowboy," she recalled. "Western movies are his favorite, and he's always been the good guy who wore a badge and said, 'I am the sheriff.'" And that's how she came up with the idea of asking the sheriff to come to the celebration. "... I wanted to bless him, and make his 65th birthday special."

"The party was a huge success and started off with some police lights and sirens," she said. Pictured, from left, Sgt. **Alan Palmrose**, Sheriff Tom Bergin, Ronnie, and Marine Deputies **Wes Humphries** and **Justin Dimmick**.

"Knowing that Ronnie has far outlived his life expectancy for a person with Down syndrome," Teresa added, "his family and community of friends really value the memory, making moments to try to make his life fulfilling."

'YES, THEY HAPPEN HERE'



Nostalgia Nook, first ran May 25, 2012: Researchers from the U.S. Geological Survey have an ongoing project at the mouth of the Lewis and Clark River, Coastal Hazards Specialist **Patrick Corcoran**, who is the Oregon Sea Grant County Leader at the Oregon State University Clatsop County Extension, told the Ear.

"They excavated a small section of the river bank to reveal the history of tsunami inundations," he explained, describing the photos shown, which were taken in April.

"The horizontal brown 'lines' in this cross-section indicate the last four tsunamis. While finding of tsunami layers in this location is not a new discovery, it is still dramatic to actually look at these deposits." Not to mention scary.

"The key message is: 'Yes, they happen here. We get what Japan got,'" he warned. "It's easy to be complacent ... However, this image shows that we get large earthquakes and tsunamis fairly regularly in geologic time. The dates of these tsunamis are roughly 1700, 1400, 900, and 400 A.D."

When tsunamis hit the coast, they drag marine sand and debris upriver. Then, as the tsunami wanes, a layer of sand is deposited over the flooded area. "The abrupt layer of compressed vegetation overlain with marine sand," Patrick continued, "is the classic mark of a tsunami deposit."

The researchers are gathering information to make new, updated tsunami inundation maps. One of the things they look for, Patrick said, is **foraminifera**, ocean-dwelling protozoa that get deposited inland by large tsunamis. By mapping where they find the foraminifera, they can tell how far inland the tsunami came.

"The vegetation, the sand composition and the marine critters reveal a long history of big earthquakes and tsunamis in the region," Patrick observed. "Understanding our natural history can better prepare us for the next time the foraminifera come to town."

SWAN SONG FOR WATER SAMPLERS



National University of Singapore scientists have developed a nifty pollution-seeking **water-sampling robot**: The **NuSwan** (New Smart Water Assessment Network), being tested in Singapore, Gizmag.com reports (<http://tinyurl.com/swantest>).

The idea came about to make water testing equipment aesthetically pleasing to the eye, and more harmonious with the natural setting around a body of water. A NuSwan is pictured, courtesy of the NUS Environmental Research Institute.

The swans have an onboard GPS system to autonomously cruise around in the water, and the data they pick up is transmitted by Wi-Fi. When their batteries run low, they automatically return to the charging station. No, their little feet don't paddle, in case you're wondering. And, they're built to be tough, and withstand collisions with small boats.

But it's not just all about aesthetics. NuSwans are expected to be "less expensive, quicker and logistically simpler" than having humans out in boats doing the same job.

Can't you just imagine a few of these floating around on Cullaby Lake?

GOING HOME



Remember the 800-pound chestnut **Torii Gates**, part of a shrine, that washed up on the Oregon Coast two years after the 2011 Japanese tsunami? They've been put on display in Portland's **Japanese Garden**, and are attracting quite a crowd, according to KGW.com (<http://tinyurl.com/shrine-tops>). Photos of the gates are shown, on the beach and in the garden (inset) courtesy of screen shots from a KGW video clip.

The tsunami destroyed 300 shrines, so it took the Japanese Garden a year to find out where the shrine was originally located. The man who donated the gates in the 1980s, who is now in his 80s and lives in the fishing village of Hachinohe, had tears in his eyes when he was told they had been found, and would be returned.

In October, the gates go home, where they will be restored so the shrine can be rededicated on the fifth anniversary of the tsunami. The gates will be accompanied by a special gift: Visitors to the Japanese Garden are sending their good wishes in notes that are being collected, and will be folded into 1,000 origami cranes — to symbolize hope and longevity — by Portland school children.

HOT DAISIES?



The Internet has been a-twitter (literally) with photos of some **mutant daisies** — one of them is pictured — that are growing about 70 miles from the **Fukushima** nuclear plant, which was badly damaged during the 2011 Japanese earthquake and tidal wave. Many have been speculating the weird daisies are evidence of serious radiation leaks emanating from the plant. Not so, says the Huffington Post (<http://tinyurl.com/mutdaisy>): It's a fairly normal deformity called fasciation.

"I don't think people should freak out," **Beth Krizek**, a biologist at the University of South Carolina Krizek said. "They're not that unusual."

You can put away your Geiger counter now.

COMMUNITY NOTES

SATURDAY
Detachment 1228 Marine Corps League — noon, Uptown Cafe, 1639 S.E. Ensign Lane, Warrenton. For information, contact Lou Neubecker at 503-717-0153.

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 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

Knochlers 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.

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 Church, 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 — 1:30 to 2:30 p.m., Astoria Senior Center, temporarily located at 1555 W. Marine Drive in the old Astoria Yacht Club. For information, call 503-325-3231.

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 Ma-

sons 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

Help Ending Abusive Relationship Tendencies — 10 to 11:30 a.m., The Harbor, 1361 Duane St. HEART covers subjects related to the effects of domestic violence on children, parents and other family members, dynamics of power and control, and how to recognize red flags. For anyone in an abusive relationship, or who knows someone who is. Call Audrey Williams ahead to reserve a spot at 503-325-3426, ext. 104.

Open Sewing Gathering — 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Homespun Quilts, 108 13th St. For information, call 503-325-3300 or 800-298-3177 or go to <http://homespunquilt.com>

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