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Water under the bridge



Compiled by Bob Duke

From the pages of Astoria's daily newspapers

10 years ago this week — 2005

Astoria was named on national TV Tuesday as the top place to retire in the nation.

The piece was aired on ABC's Good Morning America.

Baby-boomers are soon going to be in their 60s and that means the largest segment of the population is getting ready to retire, presenters noted. New York-based real estate specialist Barbara Corcoran and her staff talked to thousands of retirees and real estate brokers to compile their list of the five best places to retire based on different kinds of lifestyles.

Here are her findings, plus the average home price.

1. Astoria. Best place for people who want some peace and quiet. The average home costs \$156,000.
2. Sparks, Nev. Best place for physically active adventure seekers. The average home costs \$360,000.
3. Amelia Island, Fla. Best place for beach lovers and nature lovers. The average home costs \$360,000.
4. Yaletown (Vancouver), Canada. Best place for the young at heart. The average home costs \$500,000.
5. Ann Arbor, Mich. Best place for retirees looking for culture. The average home costs \$340,000.

Residents and visitors may walk the new Cullaby Lake Wetlands Interpretive Trail at its official unveiling at noon Wednesday.

The 1.5-mile pedestrian and bike path hugs the perimeter of freshwater conifer wetlands at Cullaby Lake County Park. The trail and a viewing platform are wheelchair accessible. Educational signs developed by county staff spotlight the importance of the wetlands.

This is the way the bubble ends: not with a pop, but with a hiss.

Housing prices move much more slowly than stock prices. There are no Black Mondays, when prices fall 23 percent in a day. In fact, prices often keep rising for a while even after a housing boom goes bust.

So the news that the U.S. housing bubble is over won't come in the form of falling sales and rising inventory, as sellers try to get prices that buyers are no longer willing to pay. And the process may already have started.

50 years ago — 1965

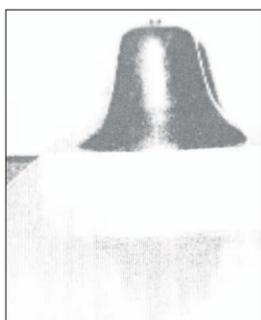
More than 1,000 Oregon and Pennsylvania Army National Guardsmen moved into Camp Rilea Saturday to officially begin their annual two weeks of field training.

This year Oregon Guardsmen were joined by 375 Automatic Weapons Battalion, 213th Artillery, Pennsylvania National Guard, who were flown to Oregon by Air National Guard troop carriers to participate in the field training as part of the U.S. Continental Army Command's operation Sky-Thrust II.

The Army Corps of Engineers has decided that if the proposed Puget Sound-Columbia River Canal is to be built, it must produce economics benefits sufficient to pay off the cost in not more than 60 years.

Col. C.C. Holbrook, Seattle district engineer, told a meeting of the State Canal Commission Monday night about the engineers pay-out for the proposed \$400-million waterway.

Capt. Merle Adlum, Seattle, commission chairman, said the state agency was optimistic about the prospects of proving the economic benefits of the canal which would link Puget Sound with the Columbia River by way of Grays Harbor.



Eleanor Wimber/Submitted Photo
Brass ship's bell was recovered from sand in Neah-kahnie mountain underwater cave by Steve Miscoe of Seaside.

On a recent trip into the Neah-kahnie mountain underwater cave made by Robert B. Nash and Steve Miscoe, Miscoe noticed a metallic circle in the sand, near the entrance. He inserted his fingers under each side, carefully lifting it up and found that he held a brass ship's bell, which had been nearly buried in the sand upside down. He emptied the sand, but found no clapper in the bell.

Seven trainees received certificates Monday morning during the first formal graduation ceremony at Tongue Point Job Corps Center.

75 years ago — 1940

Germany sent hundreds of airplanes over Britain today in an almost continuous attack along the south and southeast coasts which London newspapers called "one of the biggest air battles ever fought."

The first big run of salmon this season today swarmed in the lower Columbia where many fishermen caught more than 1000 pounds Sunday night. Some hauls of more than a ton were reported. It appeared likely that the "high boat" would tip the scales at almost 4000 pounds.

The first steel truss for the roof of the seaplane hangar at the Tongue point Naval Air Station collapsed as it was being placed this morning at 9:15. An official announcement said no one was injured. The heavy steel truss, anchored on the west side at the top of steel columns, settled on the hoisting machine at the east end of the north side of the structure.

Teachout adds to our golden age of biography

As I approached the conclusion of *Duke*, Terry Teachout's biography of Duke Ellington, I had a bittersweet moment. With Ellington's death and funeral approaching, I didn't want the book to end. Teachout is one of the reasons why we live in a golden age of biography.

Teachout's challenge was to reckon with Ellington's massive musical output, his public and mostly hidden private personalities and the role of race in a career that spanned the Jim Crow era and the beginning of post-Civil Rights Act America.

Ellington lived on a grand scale. He maintained a large orchestra, principally so that he could hear his new compositions on the day he wrote them. During the ugliest years of racial animosity, Ellington hired a private railway car for his band, so they would have a place to sleep and eat during Southern engagements. Yet, the man who is widely acknowledged as America's greatest composer viscerally feared being socially dismissed as inferior.

It is supremely ironic that President Richard Nixon — whose political machine authored the Southern Strategy — gave Ellington the recognition that was overdue. It was a star-studded East Room birthday party, with Nixon playing Happy Birthday, and presenting the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

Teachout is a remarkable talent in his own right. In addition to being *The Wall Street Journal's* theater critic and a biographer, he has played the bass in a jazz band.

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Bernardo Bertolucci's epic *1900* opens with a dwarf wandering through an Italian landscape wailing, "Verdi is dead. Giuseppe Verdi is dead."

The Italian composer Verdi and Queen Victoria died within five days of each other in January 1901. Creatures of the 19th century, their cultural shadows fall even into this century.

In his will, Verdi dictated that he be given a pauper's funeral. That happened, with his casket carried on a crude cart, drawn by one horse. Days later the Italian government intervened, and he was given a funeral that still ranks as the largest in the nation's history.

When the Milan funeral procession reached the cathedral, Arturo Toscanini led a chorus of 800 in "Va pensiero" (Hasten thoughts). Verdi lodged this magnificent song in the

'The time has come,' the Walrus said,
'To talk of many things;
Of shoes — and ships — and sealing wax —
Of cabbages — and kings —'

Through the Looking-glass



of Cabbages and Kings



Louis Panassié via wikimedia

Duke Ellington with his band in the movie "L'aventure du jazz," in 1971.

Duke Ellington lived from the Jim Crow era to see the Civil Rights Act become law.

middle of his opera *Nabucco*, which had its debut in 1842, when the Austrian government ruled Italy. "Va pensiero" became an Italian anthem. "A powerful depiction of all human aspiration amid disappointment" is how William Berger describes the chorus in *Verdi with a Vengeance*.

Seattle Opera mounted his first production of *Nabucco* last Saturday. Opening night was such a sensation that curtain calls went on for more than 10 minutes. My wife and I renewed our connection with the Seattle house by sitting at the top of the balcony, where the sound is best.

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Reading *The Wall Street Journal* can be like Kremlinology. It is the clubhouse of what passes for the Republican Party establishment these days. The WSJ's weekly fea-

ture Houses of Worship is especially interesting. Like *The New York Times'* weekly Beliefs column, it is an attempt to link religion with our public life.

Last week's column, "The Religion of Climate Change, was largely prompted by Pope Francis' encyclical on the environment.

Nicholas G. Hahn III tried his best to point out the inconsistencies of the Pope's encyclical and what's being made of it. He concludes: "As for those who seek to politicize the pulpit, Pope Francis is clear in his encyclical: 'the Church does not presume to settle scientific questions or to replace politics.' The planet and her poor would be better off if more religious leaders said Amen to that."

Those who seek to parse the Pope's words miss the most basic point. Francis' bold statement has given climate issues far more visibility than statements by politicians. That is what makes his quibblers nervous.

— S.A.F.



Pro football's bogus settlement

By JOE NOCERA

New York Times News Service

Thanks to the ham-handedness of the National Football League's Hall of Fame, the inane "deflate-gate" scandal, which has been the dominant NFL headline this off-season, was pushed to the sidelines this weekend and replaced by a genuinely important issue facing the country's dominant sports league and its players. That issue is the serious cognitive impairment that appears to affect so many former professional football players.

The embodiment of that impairment was Junior Seau, the perennial All-Pro linebacker who was inducted, posthumously, into the Hall of Fame on Saturday. Three years ago, Seau committed suicide by shooting himself in the chest. He was 43 years old and had been retired from pro football for only three years.

His brain became part of a study conducted by the National Institutes of Health, which concluded that he had a condition called chronic traumatic encephalopathy, or CTE. This neurodegenerative disease, which scientists believe can cause depression, anger, loss of impulse control and poor decision-making, among other things, has been found in the brains of many deceased NFL players. Scientists like those at Boston University's CTE Center, who are studying the condition, believe that repeated hits to the head can cause CTE.

Because the Hall of Fame passed a rule in 2010 that forbids relatives of deceased inductees to speak at the annual induction ceremony — gee, I wonder why? — Seau's daughter Sydney was barred from making an eloquent speech she had prepared about her father. (In a compromise, she was "interviewed" on stage

during the ceremony, where she was ultimately able to give a short version of it.)

Although Sydney Seau didn't mention her father's CTE in her remarks, she didn't have to; reporters covering the controversy did it for her. CTE was also at the heart of a legal battle between the NFL and former players, who claimed in a class-action lawsuit that "the N.F.L. held itself out as the guardian and authority on the issue of player safety," yet failed to properly investigate, warn of and revise league rules to minimize the risk of concussions.

In April, Judge Anita Brody of U.S. District Court approved a settlement of the lawsuit. Although the settlement could put an estimated \$1 billion or so in the hands of former players who are suffering from dementia and other brain diseases — money that many of them desperately need — the deal has been controversial. Some 200 players have opted out, and

hope to bring their own lawsuits against the NFL Lawyers for other former players are appealing the settlement, arguing that it doesn't do nearly enough for players with damaged brains.

And you know what? They're right. The Junior Seau-Hall of Fame imbroglio prompted me to take a closer look at the settlement. One of the things I learned was that if Junior Seau were alive today, he would more than likely not have been eligible for compensation: Although he obviously had CTE, his symptoms of erratic behavior and depression aren't covered by the settlement.

The settlement will help former players who have dementia and Alzheimer's get compensation, though



Joe Nocera

the older they are, and the fewer years they played in the league, the less money they will get. But those with CTE, which seems to be the primary way playing football damages the brain? Not so much. The settlement, to be blunt, is a travesty.

In her lengthy decision approving the settlement, Brody defended this aspect of the deal by saying that retired players "cannot be compensated for C.T.E. in life because no diagnostic or clinical profile of C.T.E. exists, and the symptoms of the disease, if any, are unknown."

But Robert Stern, one of the scientists at the BU center, told me that he expected a test to be developed within a decade that will be able to diagnose CTE in living people. As for symptoms, the real problem is that plenty of people suffer from lost impulse control and depression without having CTE. Even so, the primary symptoms the settlement will reward financially are those that suggest cognitive impairment, rather than the behavioral and mood symptoms of CTE.

"At a minimum," said Stern, "former players whose behavior changes in ways that suggest CTE should have full evaluations paid for by the settlement. And treatment would be nice, too."

It's hard not to view the settlement as the cynical effort by the NFL to contain its potential CTE liability; indeed, once the settlement is final, it will be nearly impossible for players — past, present and future — to be compensated if they are found to have the disease. Even the plaintiffs' expert has said that only 17 percent of the roughly 21,000 former players who have become part of the class will ever see any money.

Oh, and did I mention that the NFL has agreed to pay the plaintiffs' lawyers over \$112 million? It's not the nation's dominant sports league for nothing.

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