

THE MORE THE MURRIER



All of the juvenile murrelets we have will be held all winter long, and released first thing when spring comes around,” a post on the **Wildlife Center of the North Coast’s** Facebook page reads. Just a few of the birds are pictured. “You can help us keep these little birds — with large appetites — happy and healthy through the cold months by ‘sponsoring’ one. Make a contribution today via PayPal or mailed-in check to help support these adorable seabirds.”

Want to donate to the Wildlife Center, which has saved thousands of wild birds, so they can continue to do their good work? The PayPal link is at the bottom of the center’s website at www.coastwildlife.org. Checks can be mailed to P.O. Box 1232 Astoria, OR 97103.

So how much does it cost? “Any donation is helpful,” the post says, “but a \$50 donation would cover food, water (for swimming pools), medication, electricity (heat lamps), etc., per murre through the winter. We currently have over 100 murrelets at our facility.” So please help.

ROCKIN’ MEMORABILIA



ZZ Top fans rejoice: “OK everybody — this just in!” musician **Bruce Smith** wrote in. “**ZZ Top** memorabilia has been donated for a **silent auction** during the **Texas Tribute Concert** at the Astoria Event Center.” The concert is Saturday at 8 p.m., and the doors open at 7. Tickets are \$15 at the door.

Some of the items up for auction include some pretty heavy rock memorabilia: a limited-edition **ZZ Top poster** (pictured), signed by each member of the band (“This is pretty bad ass!” Bruce declared); a signed **Mick Fleetwood drum head** (pictured inset), used in a Fleetwood Mac show, along with Mick Fleetwood signature drum sticks; and two tickets for a **Meet and Greet** with ZZ Top guitarist/vocalist **Billy Gibbons** at a show Dec. 11 in Portland.

And hey, it’s all for a good cause. All of the auction proceeds go to the Clatsop County Lunch Buddy Mentoring Program.

Bruce summed it up perfectly: “Wow!”

SIGN OF THE TIMES



Here is the sign from our newest store (**Astoria Home Store**) that opened last month,” former Astoria resident **Filis Rose** wrote to **Carol Newman**, explaining the photo she sent, which is shown. By the way, in case you can’t read the chalkboard, it says “Be Silly. Be Honest. Be Kind.” — a Ralph Waldo Emerson quote.

Filis now lives in the town of Fort Bragg, Calif. “The store represents the energy of that city in Oregon,” she wrote. “It’s reminiscent of other famous cities — you know, like Paris and New York.” Pretty heady company for Astoria, n’est-ce pas?

You can check out the shop for yourself on its website, www.astoriahomestore.com. Out of curiosity, the Ear called Fort Bragg and asked **Annie Ritchey**, who co-owns the business with her husband, **Derek Lockyer**, how she came up the shop’s name.

“I spent several years living in Oregon and loved visiting Astoria,” she told the Ear. “As someone in my twenties, Astoria signified coastal whimsical beauty and interesting history. I’ve always been a big Lewis and Clark geek, so that was also significant. In addition, although I’ve never been to New York, I liked the urban association (of Astoria, New York), too.” So there you have it.

In One Ear



by Elleda Wilson
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PRICELESS



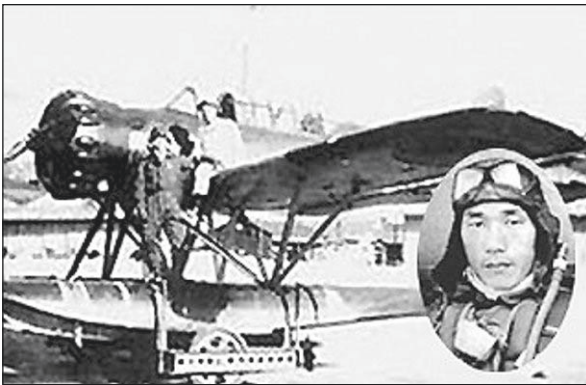
This is a photo of **Robert and Audrey Bedell** from Clatskanie,” **Joy Sigler** wrote, describing the photo shown. “Robert Bedell has been reunited with his **family Bible**, printed in 1845. The last entry of Bedell ownership was 1952. The first Bedell listed in the Bible was born in 1819.” Joy, who owns Pacific Crest Cottage in Gearhart, purchased the Bible (pictured, inset) for \$1 at a recent estate sale in Cannon Beach.

“In addition to the family names beautifully written on a separate piece of paper sewn onto a page of the Bible, there were numerous newspaper clippings from Washougal, Washington, a packet of seeds from New York and a marriage certificate issued in Iowa in 1842,” she explained.

“As I leafed through the Bible, I instantly recognized the Bedell name, since **Julie Bedell** had been a bridesmaid in my wedding in 1982. I knew her father had grown up in Washougal, so I phoned him, and confirmed the names listed in the bible from 1845 to 1952 were his relatives.”

“Moments like this make me love what I do!” she declared. “Antique dealers love to fantasize about finding gold coins tucked behind a picture frame, but a find like this, and reuniting a treasure with the proper owner, is priceless!”

BOMBS AWAY



Most North Coasters are aware of the shelling of Fort Stevens on June 21, 1942, but how many know about the ill-fated **bombing of Brookings** on Sept. 9, 1942? It was the first time an enemy aircraft bombed the American mainland.

A Japanese I-25 submarine, skulking off the Oregon Coast, catapult launched a single engine plane, piloted by **Nobuo Fujita**, who is pictured. According to Mr. Wikipedia, he was carrying 340 pounds worth of incendiary bombs to drop deep in the forest near Brookings, hoping to start a huge fire and distract the U.S. military away from the war in the Pacific Theater. (<http://tinyurl.com/nofujita>). He had just enough fuel to get to the target, release the bombs, circle once, then get back to the submarine.

Forestry student **Keith V. Johnson**, who was working at a forest fire lookout tower, spotted the plane and called Forest Fire Headquarters. Forest service lookout **Howard Gardner** heard the bomb hit, saw the plane, then saw smoke in the forest when the fog lifted. Luckily, he and his men quickly got the small fire under control. All that remains is a 3-foot crater, which is accessible via the Mount Emily Bombsite Trail (<http://tinyurl.com/emilybomb>). Three weeks later, Fujita launched a similar mission, but this one didn’t cause much of a fire or fuss, either.

A New York Times story written at the time of his death in 1997, said Fujita was “deeply ashamed” of his air raid on Oregon (<http://tinyurl.com/nytfujita>). In 1962 he visited Brookings for the first time, and brought a 400-year-old family samurai sword (which he carried throughout World War II) to present to the town. He was prepared to commit ritual suicide upon arrival, and disembowel himself if the people of Brookings were still angry with him.

Fortunately, they weren’t. He visited the town several more times, becoming an “honorary citizen,” and his sword wound up hanging in the Brookings library.

SITTING PRETTY



It would have been pretty hard not to notice the **motor yacht Triton** (pictured) sitting pretty off Astoria. The vessel arrived last Friday morning, and left Tuesday morning, on its way upriver.

The 163-foot yacht was built in 2004 by Delta Marine in Seattle, is registered in the Marshall Islands. According to SuperYachts.com, it can accommodate 12 guests and 10 crew. Just some of the amenities include “four decks of living and entertaining area,” a helicopter-landing pad, a dive platform, a hot tub on the flybridge, a video editing station, two 24-foot tenders, a walk-in refrigerator and freezer, a gym, and TVs that flip down from the ceiling. It has a 6,000 nautical mile range at 13 knots, and “has all the features necessary for worldwide cruising, deep-sea fishing and exotic reef diving” (<http://tinyurl.com/163triton>).

SuperyachtNews.com reported that the Triton was seized in 2010 for nonpayment of installments for her build. “Case reports show the first of two payments, a \$15.5 million disbursement, was made by Triton’s associated parties into an escrow account, but the second \$5.5 million was not,” the story says (<http://tinyurl.com/163triton2>).

After being up for sale for \$25.9 million in 2012 (<http://tinyurl.com/163triton1>), the yacht was forced into a foreclosure auction in 2013 in San Diego, and sold for a paltry \$11 million. Who owns Triton now? It’s a mystery.

ON THE RIGHT TRACK



Our family travels all around the world,” **Diana Kirk** wrote. “We lived and built a house in Nicaragua last winter. We’re here in Astoria rehabbing some houses for business.” The family consists of Diana, her husband, **Steve Dopp**, and their three sons, **Ryder** (14), **Phelan** (11) and **Casey Dopp** (8), who are home-schooled.

“We have been loving this summer in Astoria photographing, and watching the salmon catches each day. One of the buildings we’re rehabbing is across the street from the **Astoria Railroad Preservation Association** so (Ryder) wandered over there recently and asked if he could help,” she explained. “They agreed, and have put him to work every Saturday now for a month.” He is pictured, engrossed in his volunteer chores.

“He loves it,” Diana said, learning about old trains. “He wants to study mechatronics in college, so it’s right up his alley. I appreciate their lessons. They really let Ryder try new things. Give him a lot of leeway.”

“The train preservation guys are so cool to let Ryder work there,” she noted, “I just wanted to give them a shout-out somehow.”

SNIPPETS

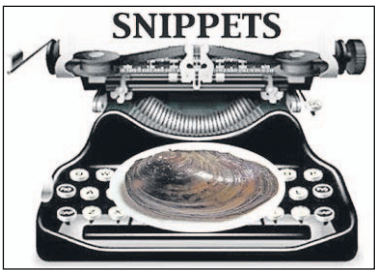
● **No clam, m’am:** Three calls came in about **Holly Summers’ mystery bivalve**, found at Sunset Lake, and the conclusion was unanimous: It’s a **duck mussel** (pictured) — except for one smarty pants, who identified the clothespin in the photo, instead. So unless anyone violently disagrees, duck mussel it is.

● **Cashing in:** Did you know that pretty soon you won’t have to schlep all the way to Salem to cash in your lottery ticket if it’s less than \$50,000? The Wilsonville Payment Center, 9760 S.W. Wilsonville Road, opens Thursday. Ca-ching!

● **Keep looking:** Migrating **humpback whales** are spouting off Haystack Rock at Cannon Beach, and have been cavorting and scaring the scuppers off a few fishermen around Hammond for some time now. But the whales are now being spotted much farther upriver, not far from the Astoria Bridge, closer to the Washington side (<http://tinyurl.com/opbwhale>). So go whale watching, already. You don’t even need a boat.

● **It’s not you, blue:** A photo has been circulating on Facebook of a dead **blue shark**, found recently near Ocean Park, Washington. Nope, it’s not the culprit who’s been attacking seals around the North Coast.

“Blue sharks may scavenge on the carcasses of dead marine mammals, but they do not actively attack and kill them,” **Tiffany Boothe** of the **Seaside Aquarium** told the Ear ... “The shark responsible for the attacks most likely exceeds 12 feet.” So still keep those toes out of the water.



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.

SUNDAY
National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Support Group — 2 to 3:30 p.m., Seaside Public Library, 1131 Broadway. Family to Family Support Group, for anyone with friend or loved one suffering from a serious brain (mental) illness. For information, contact Myra Kero at 503-738-6165, or k7erowood@q.com, or go to www.nami.org

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.

Diabetes Class — 1:30 to 2:30 p.m., Providence Seaside Hospital, 725 S. Wahanna Road, Seaside. Free help managing diabetes. All are welcome. For information, go to www.providence.org/diabetes or call 503-717-7301.

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.

Clatsop County Democrats — 6:30 to 9 p.m., Astoria Yacht Club, 300 Industry St., Suite 201 (at the West End Mooring Basin, above

Tiki Charters). For information, call 503-717-1614 or go to <http://clatsopdemocrats.org>

TUESDAY
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. Cost is \$5. For information, or to have a meal delivered, call 503-325-9693.

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.

A Course in Miracles — The Astoria ACIM study group meets weekly from 3 to 4 p.m. For information and location, call Nelle Moffett at 916-307-9790 or email moffett@cglfellowship.org

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>

WEDNESDAY
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., Home-spun Quilts, 108 10th St. For information, call 503-325-3300 or 800-298-3177 or go to <http://home-spunquilt.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.