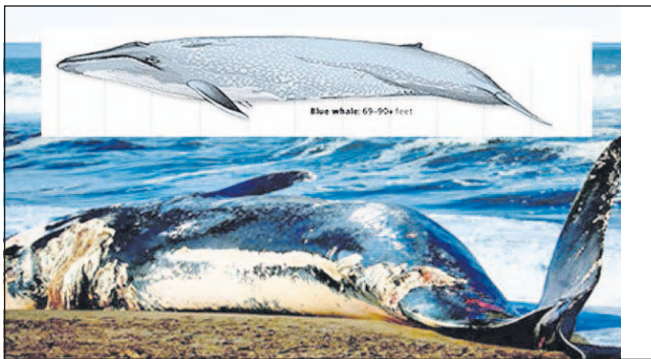


## SAD AND BLUE



Last week a rare occurrence happened down the coast north of Gold Beach — a **78-foot blue whale** washed up, KATU reports (<http://tinyurl.com/whaleblu>). The unfortunate critter is pictured, courtesy of Oregon State Parks, which led the effort to get the carcass off the beach.

The skeleton will be preserved and put on display in Newport, but first Oregon State University Hatfield Marine Science Center students and volunteers had to strip off the blubber, which is 4 inches thick. Not to mention decomposing.

Just to give you an idea of the size of a blue whale, National Geographic says (<http://tinyurl.com/whaleblu2>): “Blue whales are the largest animals ever known to have lived on Earth. These magnificent marine mammals rule the oceans at up to 100 feet (30 meters) long and upwards of 200 tons (181 metric tons). Their tongues alone can weigh as much as an elephant. Their hearts, as much as an automobile.”

Why the whale died is a bit of a mystery, but **Calum Stevenson** of Oregon Parks and Recreation mentioned that the whale had what appeared to be bite marks on it, and speculated it might have either been killed by an orca, or perhaps hit by a large boat.

He also noted that normally they would bury the carcass, but this one’s a keeper because it is so rare for a blue whale to come so close to the Oregon Coast.

## WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN?



While we’re on the subject of whales, the first moving images of a mysterious species, **Omura’s whales**, has been released, BBC reports (<http://tinyurl.com/omurapix>). A population of the critters was discovered in the Indian Ocean near Madagascar. A still shot is pictured, courtesy of Cerchio et al, 2015, Royal Society Open Science.

Omura’s whales are a small cousin (32-39 feet) of the blue whale. The images came about because of a study done by a team of international scientists, led by Salvatore Cerchio from the New England Aquarium and Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, to see, among other things, how Omura’s whales find food and what sounds they make. These mammals are so little known, scientists don’t even know how many of them exist.

Of special note is that not only is this the first time these mammals have been filmed or caught on video, it’s the first live population of Omura’s whales that’s ever been found.

## NOTHING BEATS RUNNING A MARATHON



**Carla Oja** called to tell the Ear that Astorian **Chris Luhrs** (pictured) competed in the **New York City Marathon** on Sunday, Nov. 1. Intrigued, the Ear contacted Chris to find out more.

“I am a fifth grade teacher at Lewis and Clark Elementary in Astoria,” he replied. “It is my second year teaching there, and my 10th year overall. I spent eight years before that teaching in New York state.”

“The NYC Marathon was my fourth marathon. I have been doing marathon running the last three years, but have been running competitively since high school and college. I run because it is my way of relaxing from my day and enjoying the outdoors. It also allows me to travel to different places that I want to visit.”

Chris’ unofficial results from the marathon: He finished 3,656 (out of over 50,000 runners) in 3 hours, 27 minutes and 58 seconds, averaging 7:56 minutes per mile. The Ear is exhausted just thinking about it.

“The experience of the marathon was fantastic,” he declared. “Nothing beats having over a million people cheer you on over 26 miles. Everyone congratulates you after the race, and treats you like a rock star. Running the first two miles over Verrazano Bridge with over 50,000 people was an amazing moment, as well.”

“Nothing beats being able to run through all five boroughs,” Chris added, “and seeing New York City in a way no other person can see it!”

## In One Ear



by Elleda Wilson

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## ON THE COVER



With the popularity of Steven Spielberg’s recent movie ‘Bridges of Spies,’ and its focus on the **Cold War** in Berlin, I thought it would be interesting for you to know that a former Astorian was featured on the cover of ‘Life’ magazine” during that period, **Jerry Olson** wrote to the Ear. “His name is **Don Cheney**, who was a tank commander stationed at ‘Checkpoint Charlie’ in September 1961.” A photo of the cover is shown.

If your history is a little rusty, according to Mr. Wikipedia, shortly before the magazine cover photo was taken, a barbed-wire barrier was erected to divide East Berlin and the Eastern Bloc (the Soviet Union and its allies) and West Berlin and the Western Bloc (the U.S. and its allies). The barbed wire soon became the concrete 12-foot high Berlin Wall, and Checkpoint Charlie was one of, and the most famous of, the wall’s restricted border crossings (<http://tinyurl.com/CPCharlie>).

“Sgt. Cheney is a former member of the Astoria High School class of 1959, and now lives in Spanaway, Washington,” Jerry added. “To my knowledge, he is the only Astorian ever to appear on the cover of ‘Life’ magazine.”

## TWO COASTS, NO COASTING



**Michael “Sasha” Miller** spotted an unusual sight in the pouring rain on Oregon Highway 202 recently — **unicyclist Anthony A. Jones**, who was wearing rain gear and a backpack. He is pictured in photos from his Facebook page.

“Essentially the story goes that I am a 20-year-old from New Orleans,” he told the Ear, “and I decided to catch the Greyhound Bus to the Pacific Northwest to do the TransAmerica Trail on my bicycle. Greyhound lost my unicycle, and I ended up stranded in Portland for 25 days until some local unicyclists took pity on me and donated a unicycle to me ...

“I actually caught the transit to Hillsboro and rode from there to Astoria with my entire home on my back. I made my way through Highway 47 and 202 ... It took me two and a half days, during which I got completely soaked, and discovered my hate for hills.”

Anthony arrived in Astoria on Halloween night. His hate for hills notwithstanding, he unicycled up to the Astoria Column while he was here. “There were a surprising amount of wonderful things to be found in such a small town,” he told the Ear.

Only expecting to stay for a day, he actually left Nov. 2. “It was harder to leave Astoria than I had expected,” he wrote in his blog [www.2coastsnocoasting.com](http://www.2coastsnocoasting.com). “Everyone has been very friendly and welcoming, and history lessons are scattered around the town. I met a few well-traveled people in Astoria. One gentleman even tuned up his guitar and played me a zydeco song about red beans and rice, after he learned I was from New Orleans!

“... But before making it out of town I got interrupted again, this time by seals! They seemed to be having a party, but I told them I couldn’t hang out because I had to go ... then finally I was off, and out of town along the 101, a shortcut from the scenic route, but I couldn’t afford to make any more stops for history.”

## PARASKEVIDEKATRIAPHOBIA



Do you suffer from **paraskevidekatriaphobia** — a morbid and irrational fear of **Friday the 13th**, when superstitions abound? Hopefully, not.

Those of a superstitious nature might be interested to note that The Thirteen Club was formed in 1881 with the lofty goal of improving the number 13’s reputation (<http://tinyurl.com/the13club>): “They met on the 13th of the month, sat 13 to a table, broke mirrors and spilled salt with exuberance and walked in to dinner under crossed ladders.”

The club’s annual reports noted member deaths each year. The Ear can just envision an entry now: Cause of death — crushed by ladder.

## SHIPNOTES



Remember **Destiny**, the completely restored 81-year-old, 85-foot hermaphrodite brigantine staysail schooner that was moored off Astoria for a while (<http://tinyurl.com/svdestiny>)? Commissioned by American playwright, screenwriter, and film director Preston Sturges in 1934, and once owned by Howard Hughes, the **Destiny** also served in the Hooligan Navy during World War II.

Current owners **Mike and Dawn Hilliard** decided to have **Destiny** spend the winter here in Astoria, and went looking for a slip where she could be safe and cozy. In the process, they had an interesting encounter.

“Think you might be interested to know,” the couple told the Ear, “that the local Port Operations Manager, **Matt McGrath**, just told us that his grandfather used to own **Destiny**. And, that he and his dad used to sail on her when she was in Hawaii.”

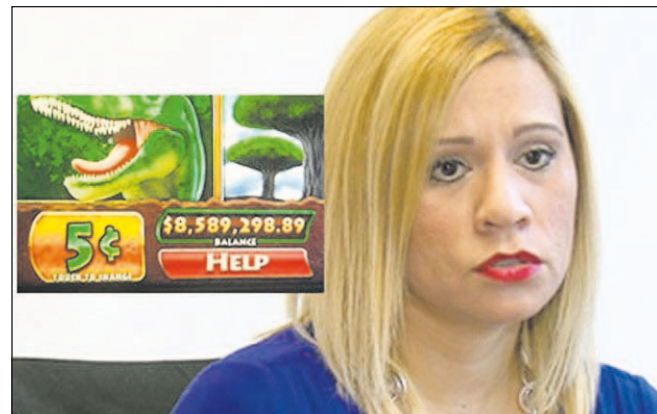
How’s that for a “small world” moment?

• The Ear has been taken to task for last week’s story about mega-yacht **Sailing Yacht A** by **Alex Andreev** of Eurasia Advisory, a “strategic communications and public affairs firm.” He represents the billionaire owner of the \$400 million vessel, **Andrey Melnichenko**.

Was Mr. Andreev distressed because the boat was mentioned as being possibly one of the ugliest yachts ever built? No. He objected to the use of the name **White Pearl**, which has been bandied about in several publications as being the vessel’s actual moniker. But it ain’t so. Not at all.

“Sailing Yacht A is the only existing name of the vessel,” Mr. Andreev wrote. “There is no yacht or project called **White Pearl**, which is incorrect.” The Ear stands, and sits, corrected. **Sailing Yacht A** it is.

## EMPTY-HANDED



For **Veronica Castillo** of Beaverton, Friday the 13th came early, and with a wallup. According to KOIN.com, she was playing on a slot machine at the **Lucky Eagle Casino** in Rochester, Washington, and the machine said she hit the jackpot for **\$8.5 million** (<http://tinyurl.com/nope8mil>). She is pictured, courtesy of KOIN.com.

She was over the moon, of course — but not for long. Casino staff came over, told her the machine malfunctioned, and printed up a ticket for \$80 instead. Their reasoning? There’s a sticker on the machine that says a machine malfunction voids all pays and plays.

The casino has sent out a lengthy press release defending themselves, declaring the \$8.5 million was a “display malfunction,” and not only claiming that the most she could have won was \$6,000, but that “the win claimed by Ms. Castillo is not legally or practically possible on the machine.” ([www.luckyeagle.com/press-releases](http://www.luckyeagle.com/press-releases))

Oh yeah? Ms. Castillo ain’t buying it. “To me, it’s cheating, may even be fraudulent,” Castillo told KOIN 6 News. Guess who’s looking for a lawyer?

## COMMUNITY NOTES

## SATURDAY

**Lower Columbia R/C Society** — 8:30 a.m., back room at Uptown Cafe, 1639 S.E. Ensign Lane, Warrenton. Local Academy of Model Aeronautics (AMA) chartered radio control model aircraft club meets for breakfast and business. All model aircraft enthusiasts are welcome. For information, call 503-458-5196 or 503-325-0608.

**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

**Scandinavian Workshop** — 10 a.m., First Lutheran Church, 725 33rd St. Needlework, hardanger, knitting, crocheting, embroidery and quilting. All are welcome. For information, call 503-325-1364 or 503-325-7960.

**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](http://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 play-

ers 55 and older, but all ages are welcome.

**Astoria Alzheimer’s & Other Dementia Family Support Group** — 2 to 3:30 p.m., first-floor conference room, Clatsop Care Center, 646 16th St. Open to all family members of people with dementias. For information, call Rosetta Hurley at 503-325-0313, ext. 222, or email [support@clatsopcare.org](mailto:support@clatsopcare.org)

**Astoria Toastmasters** — 6:30 p.m., Hotel Elliot conference room, 357 12th St. Visitors welcome. For information, go to [\[www.toastmasters.org\]\(http://www.toastmasters.org\) or call 503-894-0187.](http://www.toastmas-</a></p>
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**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.

## 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.

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