

LOOK WHAT THE STORM BLEW IN



On Thursday, Dec. 10, an endangered 48-pound **Olive Ridley sea turtle** (an endangered species) was found washed up on a beach in Pacific City, according to a press release by the **Oregon Coast Aquarium** (<http://tinyurl.com/seaturt1>).

Fortunately, **Shawn Stephensen**, a wildlife biologist, was in the area and was able to get the turtle before the rising tide and flooding made access to it impossible. The critter, which was dehydrated and hypothermic, is now being rehabbed at the aquarium. If it survives, it will be transferred south and released in warmer waters.

Then, at 8 a.m. Monday, another Olive Ridley sea turtle was found by **Karen Hoyt** and **Pam Chater** — this one was stranded on the south end of Cannon Beach, and the **Seaside Aquarium** was called to rescue it. Pam’s photo of the turtle is shown.

“The turtle was hypothermic but still alive,” **Tiffany Boothe** of the aquarium told the Ear. This one was sent to the Seattle Aquarium for rehab and hopefully, release.

“Essentially, sea turtles forage for food in an offshore, warm water current,” Tiffany explained. “Weather conditions can drive the warm water current further north and closer to shore than normal.”

When the weather changes, turtles find themselves trapped in the colder waters. Some make it to shore, but winter conditions on land aren’t much better for them, and hypothermia can set in fairly fast.

If you find a turtle on the beach, stay with it if you can (but give it space) and call the Oregon State Police Wildlife Hotline at 800-452-7888 as soon as possible.

BUBBLE BATH



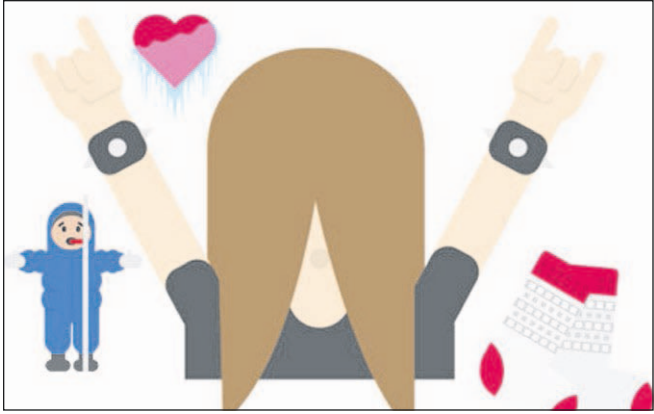
The little Oregon coastal town of **Yachats** (population about 700) made the international news recently because of (drumroll, please): **Sea foam**.

The U.K.’s Daily Mail reports that on Sunday, Yachats was inundated with sea foam that covered houses and roads, making the town appear to have been swallowed by a bubble bath gone mad (<http://tinyurl.com/foampile>). Pictured, a still shot from a video by resident **Wendy Ann Snidow**.

The good news is that according the Daily Mail, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration said “most sea foam is not harmful to humans and is usually the sign of a productive ocean ecosystem.”

KATU’s meteorologist **Mary Loos** explained that the foam is caused by a die-off of phytoplankton. “They change the surface tension of the water, and that helps to create the sea foam,” she said. “The more phytoplankton you have, the more the surface tension

FINNISH WITH FLAIR



Astorian **Robert Clark** let the Ear know that National Public Radio recently broke the news that just in time for the holiday season, the **Finnish** government has come up with its very own set of **emoji** to reflect Finnish culture (<http://tinyurl.com/finnemoji>), and a few are pictured. In case you don’t know, emoji are those little smiley faces and ideograms people add to emails and texts.

“We do kind of a Christmas calendar every year, and we were thinking we want to do something this year that works better on mobile, and maybe talks to a little bit of a younger audience,” **Petra Theman**, director for public diplomacy of Finland’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs, told NPR.

So what emojis are included? A few are: Headbanger (one study says there are more heavy metal bands in Finland per capita than anywhere else), knitted socks, a sauna and a kid getting his tongue stuck to a frozen pole (no, the Ear is not kidding). Hyvää Joulua!

In One Ear



by **Elleda Wilson**
ewilson@dailyastorian.com (503) 325-3211, ext. 257

TILLY MAKES A SPLASH



Tillamook Rock Light, aka **Terrible Tilly**, the abandoned lighthouse that sits atop a rock off Cannon Beach, made the news this week with **Jim Thode**’s amazing photo (pictured).

The road to Indian Beach, which is normally the best viewing angle to see Tilly, is closed, so the photo was taken Thursday, Dec. 10, from Ecola Point. Even at a distance of 2.4 miles away from the rock, he captured an iconic shot.

“... The top of the light is about 140 feet above sea level and that puts the top of the wave about 200 feet high,” Jim wrote. “We dealt with closed roads due to slides and flooding, torrential rain, 1/2-inch hail and gale force winds to get this pic.”

Ever wonder what it was like inside the lighthouse during a ferocious winter storm? **Lon Haynes**, who did a tour of duty there when it was manned by the Coast Guard, described the experience when he wrote “Life on the Rock” (<http://tinyurl.com/tillynlon>):

“... There was no space between the (rain) drops. It was a solid wall of water pushed by a gentle breeze blowing from the north at 1,000 miles an hour. You could hear the huge waves hit the base of the Rock, and then on a count of two, green water came completely over the 133-foot lighthouse. I know it was not moving the Rock, but at the time we all could feel it ‘shudder.’ Definitely not our imaginations.”

Not surprisingly, Jim’s photo is a huge hit. It went viral, and he has had requests to use the photo on both ABC News and Good Morning America. If you would like to see the photo up close, and the other photos in the series, or buy prints, go to www.jimthode.net

“This has to be my most popular photo ever,” Jim declared. It would be hard to top.

A PRODIGY IN THE MAKING



Twelve-year-old Sage Park (pictured) started **playing the flute** just 15 months ago at her Seaside middle school, and has advanced at a prodigiously rapid rate. In April, she received the highest score possible in a solo performance at a regional competition in Forest Grove, even though she’d only been playing the flute for eight months at the time. A video of her performing a piece by Georges Brun is at <http://tinyurl.com/sageplays>

“She is motivated and ambitious, and passionately loves playing the flute,” her grandfather, **Eddie Park**, explained. He and his wife, Susan, are raising Sage. As the next step in her training, the young musician wants to attend the elite **Interlochen Art Camp** summer program in northern Michigan. But it is expensive, and so is the transportation back and forth.

“Every member of her immediate and extended family will be contributing to her dream,” her grandfather wrote, “and Sage is doing her part by practicing for two hours a day in preparation for her admittance audition.”

“We want to provide every opportunity possible for Sage,” he emphasized, so he has set up a GoFundMe page to help with the tuition at <http://tinyurl.com/camp4sage>. “She wants to go to Interlochen more than anything.”

“We, and she, hope that she will someday be able to share her beautiful flute melodies as a professional performer ... and so far, her only limitations are financial,” Eddie added. “Please help us to help her find a way to leap that hurdle.”

CREATURE CRAFT

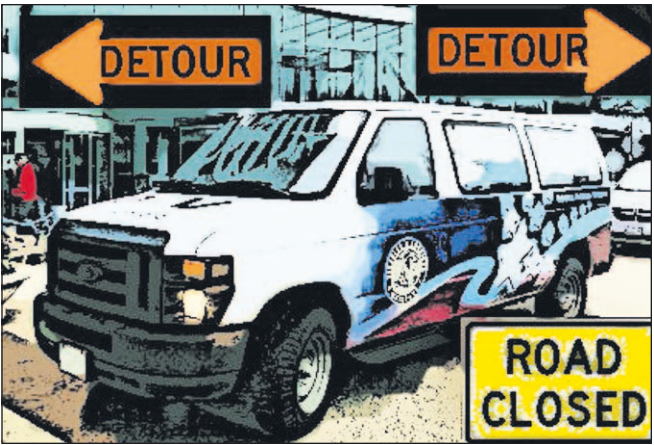


Last week, **Gale Galen** puzzled over the **mystery vessel**, which appeared to be a rigid inflatable boat, cruising along on Cullaby Lake during a recent winter storm. **Lucy McKey** saw the photo that ran with the story, and said her son, who works in Seaside, had seen two of the little boats parked, and he, too, was mystified. Her photo of the boats is shown.

Puzzle no more, boating fans, **Tessa VanDyke** has the answer. They are whitewater boats called **Creature Crafts**. From the website (<http://creaturecraft.com>): “The key trait of all Creature Crafts is that, with proper technique, they can be rolled back to an upright position. This is achieved with the aid of Creature Craft’s trademark roll-cage design which prevents the boat from ever settling into an upside-down (position). The roll cage also protects the crew from rocks and other objects when the boat is on its side.”

In case you’re wondering, these boats can be either paddle or motor driven, and also come with seat straps and quick-release systems. Mystery solved.

ABOVE AND BEYOND



Ed Bohart is a **volunteer driver** of the **Disabled American Veterans van** that transports local veterans to Portland each weekday for their medical appointments,” **Jerry Alderman** wrote. “On Thursday, Dec. 10, during the storm that raged, he delivered his passengers safely to Portland and back.”

But what a trip it was. “I set a record I hope no other driver ever has to break,” Ed wrote to his fellow drivers. Getting to the Veterans Administration Hospital was fine. Coming home was another matter, because a landslide closed Interstate 5 northbound, and they had to detour. Soon “the highway became a parking lot.”

At Scappoose, Ed considered his options. The roads to Vernonia were closed and Cornelius Pass had areas of one-lane traffic. He could go back to Portland and hit U.S. Highway 26, but he worried it was probably flooded south of Seaside (it was). So onward they went.

“We never got above 10 mph,” he recalled. “Most of the time we were stopped. At one point we counted 40 18-wheelers behind and in front of us. It was solid vehicles front and back. No spaces ... We got to the edge of Astoria at 11:05 p.m., nine hours after our departure. Home by midnight.”

However, it wasn’t all bad. “My passengers were fantastic,” Ed noted. “We were a real team facing the mess.” “In the future,” he added, “may drivers who have had a long trip be able to say, ‘Well, it was a long day, but at least it wasn’t the Great I-5 Detour trip.’”

‘TO BOLDLY GO WHERE NO MAN HAS GONE BEFORE ...’



Even though it’s the butt of more than a few jokes because of its staggering \$4.3 billion cost, not to mention having a commander named **Capt. James Kirk** (think Star Trek), maritime history buffs might want to note that the 610-foot guided missile destroyer **USS Zumwalt** (DDG-1000) has begun its sea trials (<http://tinyurl.com/zumboat>). The vessel is pictured, courtesy of the U.S. Navy.

While out and about, in a small touch of irony, the Zumwalt, whose stealth capabilities make it appear to be a fishing boat on radar screens, proved essential in helping the Coast Guard rescue a stricken fisherman. It’s off to a good start.



A low cost holiday loan brings out your inner Santa.

Controlling and consolidating holiday debt with a rate that’s better than your credit card will have you feeling as jolly as the Big Man himself!



www.tlcfcu.org
503.325.2538



Ho Ho Holiday Loans

4.99 %* APR 12 months
5.99 %* APR 24 months
6.99 %* APR 48 months
7.99 %* APR 60 months

*Annual Percentage Rate available through 12/31/15. Subject to credit approval. Existing TLC loans are not eligible for refinancing with this special offer. White beard and rosy cheeks not required.

