

## A LITTLE CHRISTMAS JOY



The Ear just happened on the photo shown of a seal pup lounging at the Seaside Cove taken by Kimberley McCaw on Dec. 23. There was a big storm that day, she told the Ear, so she was really startled to see the pup just hanging out at the Cove like that. She called the Seaside Aquarium, and someone came out and took a look at him (he was just fine) and put up signs to leave him alone. Kimberley was told the pup was probably about 5 weeks old, and just about the right age when their mothers send them out on their own.

A few hours later he was gone. "My idea was he was just getting shook around in the cove," she speculated, "and wanted a break."

She posted the pup's photo on her own, and on the Daily Astorian's Facebook pages, hoping someone would see it. "I was so excited to share him with someone," she recalled, "but it was so near the holidays, and everyone was doing their own thing."

So here he is, better late than never. "He was a little Christmas joy," Kimberley said.

## HERE'S THE SCOOP



Frite & Scoop, the ice cream store with house-made French custard style ice cream and Belgian style fries, celebrated their one year anniversary and found the most popular ice cream had a very simple name, Bobby," Jeff Daly reports.

"Owners Kevin and Lisa Malcolm worked with one of their best customers to come up with an ice cream to satisfy his taste buds, and he wanted it to be named Bobby — not the usual name we know this character by in the 66 years he lived in Astoria and gained a reputation as a designer and architect."

The sign describing the ice cream, pictured in Jeff's photo, says: "Vanilla ice cream with housemade nougat throughout. Inspired by (and named after) one of Astoria's most lovable citizens!"

"If this flavor doesn't grab you," Jeff noted, "there are a dozen others available, some with real fancy names."

## DARING DO



Once again the intrepid Brownsmead Boys (pictured) assailed the frigid, windswept waters of Greater Blind Slough to perform an annual feat known as the New Year's Day Water Ski in and Bottle Cap Flip," David Graves wrote. "This is a tradition that began over 50 years ago and continues to live in the hearts of Brownsmead Boys everywhere to this day.

"This year the organization was represented by only one first generation member, a rarity to be sure. The second generation was, however, well represented by Matti Raihala, Quinten Graves and Ed Jones. There were even a couple of up-and-coming third generation 'Boys' in attendance in the persons of Cooper and Ben Jones.

"Though the wind was howling out of the east and there were white caps on the slough, the committed few braved the elements and successfully managed to appease the spirits of the slough, as well as the alligator who lives there, with their feats of daring do. Another year of tranquility is thus guaranteed for the greater Brownsmead populace by the defenders of Blind Slough."

We'll all sleep better, to be sure.

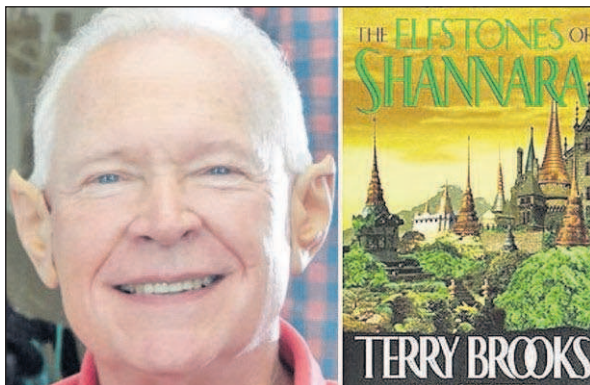
## In One Ear



by Elleda Wilson

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## HE DID IT RIGHT



Did you know that author Terry Brooks (<http://terrybrooks.net>) has had one of his novels turned into a miniseries that's premiering on MTV? Pam Chater asked the Ear. No, for shame, the Ear didn't know. He and his wife, Judine, and their cat, Roxy, are Cannon Beach residents.

A prolific writer, Terry has dozens of books to his credit, and is well known for his fantasy series, "The Shannara Chronicles," which was adapted for TV, and premiered Jan. 5. It's been a long journey — the first of the Shannara books was written in the 1970s; the latest in 2015.

By the way, Pam submitted the photo of the author (shown) with pointed ears because "his writing is pure fantasy and beautifully done." On a local note, Terry and his wife started the "Get Lit at the Beach" conference in Cannon Beach to promote authors and reading.

The Ear digresses. Back to the Shannara series on MTV. In an interview with PasteMagazine.com (<http://tinyurl.com/tbrcomcon>) when he appeared at Comic-Con in San Diego to promote the TV series, Terry noted that he is not the screenwriter. His job was to vet the scripts and make sure they stayed true to the fans' perceptions. "I don't think that there were any missteps in the way that it was put together," he declared.

"The fans have always had tremendous expectations," he recalled, "and they have said to me, 'Do not screw this up. If you're going to do it, do it right.'" And he did.

## SNIPPETS



The Ear wondered what the world is thinking about the North Coast. Here are some current offerings:

**Dubious honors:** Astorian Dan Sealy submitted that Roadsnaaks.net has declared Astoria is No. 5 on the "Most Ghetto Places to Live in Oregon," based on per capita household income, high school graduation rates, number of convenience stores, drug stores and discount stores, and crime (<http://tinyurl.com/astghetto>). Seaside: You came in at No. 8.

Roadsnaaks also rates Astoria as No. 2 in the "10 Drunk Cities in Oregon," based on the per capita number of bars, pubs, wineries and liquor stores, drunk-related tweets and divorce rate (<http://tinyurl.com/astdrunk>). Seaside comes in at No. 5.

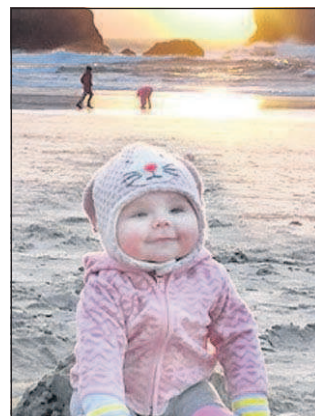
**Kudos:** In happier news, OnlyInYourState.com has declared Astoria to be No. 1 of the nine "Best Cities in Oregon To Retire In" (<http://tinyurl.com/astret>): "Astoria is a gorgeous 10,000 resident coastal town ... With a growing art scene, historic buildings, astounding views, and great restaurants, this charming beach town is a great place to spend your golden years." The Ear really would like to know where that beach is.

ConsumerAffairs.com reports that it analyzed FBI and Census Bureau data, and Cannon Beach is the third safest city in Oregon for police officers per capita, and is also considered "one of the safest cities in the U.S." (<http://tinyurl.com/canbsafe>). Manzanita is No. 1 in Oregon, by the way.

**Just for chuckles:** Yahoo Travel urges travelers to take the "Best Vacation Ever! A Pot Tour of Washington and Oregon" (<http://tinyurl.com/pot-tours>). To top it off, they thoughtfully offer a link to WeedMaps.com, so you won't get lost between tokes.

## BABY, IT'S COLD OUTSIDE

My family and I live in Washington, mainly in the Everett area," Laura Gomez wrote. "Myself, my two sisters and my parents have been coming to Cannon Beach every year at Christmas-time for more than 25 years. It is our home away from home. Over the years our family has grown with little ones running on the beach and playing in the cold sand without a care.



"This year in June my husband and I welcomed a little girl named Nina. We were very excited for her first trip to Cannon Beach and to bundle up and brave the winter beach. We wanted to share with you our little chunky monkey (pictured) bundled up and out on the beach enjoying the amazing sunset and view of Haystack. Her cheeks were cold braving the wind, but she didn't take that smile off her face. Even though she is a wee one, we like to think she enjoyed Cannon Beach just as much as we do every year."

"Thank you for welcoming us into your community and letting us visit every year," Laura added. "The people who live in the area are always welcoming, and offer a friendly smile."

## A FATEFUL ANNIVERSARY



Tuesday was the 80th anniversary of the wreck of the steel-hulled cargo ship SS Iowa on Peacock Spit at Cape Disappointment on Jan. 12, 1936. The Ear wouldn't have known, if not for Stig Johannessen and the Astoria Oregon: Culture, Tales and History Facebook page, and his link to the account of what happened (<http://tinyurl.com/ssiowa34>).

The Iowa left the Weyerhaeuser pier at Longview, Washington, Jan. 11 with a full load, including two million board feet of lumber on her main deck, and stopped in Astoria to drop off the river pilot. The captain, Edgar L. Yates, an experienced bar pilot, took over the ship. Gale warning pennants were already flying, but ship traffic was running smoothly, so Capt. Yates put out to sea.

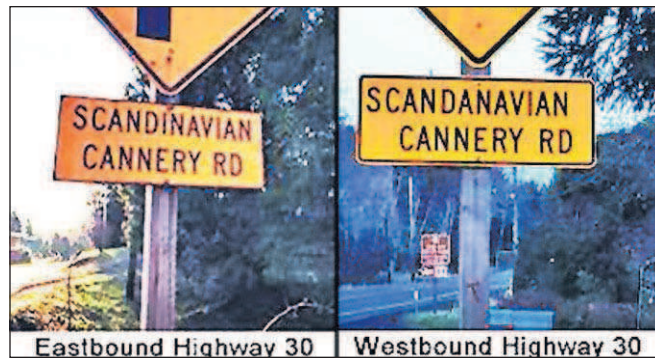
At almost 2 a.m. Jan. 12, the vessel entered the ocean. The storm suddenly intensified, battering the Iowa with rain squalls, treacherous waves and high winds (73 mph and above). Yates attempted to sail on.

The Iowa's distress call came in at 3:45 a.m. The ship was adrift near Peacock Spit, having been swept more than two miles off course. The U.S. Coast Guard Cutter Onondaga left Astoria to assist the stranded vessel, but could not approach due to the storm.

Those watching through telescopes from the North Head Light Station spotted the ship about three miles from shore, as breakers drove her hard onto the sand. At daybreak, the Iowa was still being hit by giant waves and wind, and was breaking up. A sailor emerged from the pilothouse, and was swept away. No signs of life were visible after that. The destroyed ship is pictured in a photo by S. J. Ellis, and earlier, inset.

In the aftermath, only 10 bodies were recovered of the 34 souls aboard the Iowa. One of the sailors, who was unidentified, was buried at Astoria's Greenwood Cemetery. Hundreds of beachcombers collected the bonanza of building supplies, canned salmon, bags of flour and matches from the ship's cargo, which littered beaches up to 100 miles away from the final resting place of the SS Iowa — reportedly the greatest maritime disaster recorded on the Columbia River Bar in the 20th century.

## SPELL CHECK?



Dan Sealy posted photos on Facebook recently of the signs for Scandinavian Cannery Road, and one can't help but wonder if the thought of heading west impeded someone's ability to spell the word Scandinavian. The sign heading east is just fine. His photos are pictured.

The Ear's reaction to the photos was the same as those who posted in response: Surprise at never having noticed the spelling error, even after driving by both signs repeatedly for 10 years. One smarty-pants aptly noted: "I doubt it was Scandinavians that made the sign."



When it comes to calories, cholesterol and loan rates, lower is better.

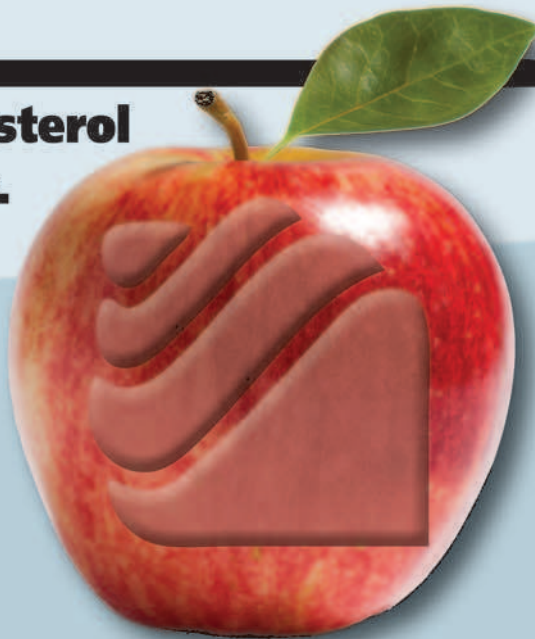
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