

## THE POWER OF ART



If you've been out to the Long Beach (Washington) Peninsula lately, you're probably noticed the new, colorful, eye-catching look of the **Long Beach trolley** (pictured). The drawings on it are by none other than artist **Don Nisbett** (also pictured), doing what he loves — "painting the flavor of this area and romanticizing it."

When city offered him the project, to publicize the many glories of Long Beach and the peninsula, he said the hard part was not the painting, it was formulating in his mind what to draw.

"I thought about everything that's here on the beach," he told the Ear. "Oysters, crabs, clams, kite flyers, Lewis and Clark, pelicans, eagles, salmon, tuna and crab. Treasures you find on the beach. And, since we had the whales come up in the river, I had to put them on there, too, so I made them into giant kites. I did some artistic things in the sky with the kites and long ribbons, too. Just fun stuff. Even a sea serpent. It represents the whole community from Oysterville and Ocean Park to Warrenton — a collage of the whole area."

"The trolley shows businesses the power of art," Don observed. "Art work kind of gets down in your soul, like music and your favorite story or novel ... I did this in an artistic and fun way so people will want to have their picture taken with the trolley — and then people might see the photo and say, 'Where was that?'"

Smart marketing and, the Ear bets, very effective.

## KEEPING UP APPEARANCES

The Astoria Senior Center has become a beehive of activity since the move back into the newly remodeled building at 1111 Exchange St., Larry Allen wrote to the Ear.

"In the process of keeping up appearances the **United Methodist Church**, owner of the grassy hillside behind the building, gave the center permission to plant daffodil bulbs. Thanks to the generous contribution of bulbs from **Fred Meyer** in Warrenton, and the efforts of **Tongue Point Job Corps Center** students **Loni Hewitt** and **Killian Long** (pictured) we completed planting a total of **716 daffodil bulbs** along the 11th Street parkway and the hillside slope. Planted a little late for this season, so it remains to be seen whether we will see bright yellow flowers late this spring or not."

"Good work Tongue Point Job Corps!" Larry added. "We really appreciate you."



## JUST NAME IT



Expatriate Astorian **Chef Daymon Garrett Edwards** has had huge success in Seoul, Korea, with **Tartine Bakery and Café** ([www.oldtownbakery.co.kr](http://www.oldtownbakery.co.kr)), co-owned with **Luke Lee**. One of their newest ventures is the remodel of **Rusty's Smokehouse**, also in Seoul. "This is a big project for us," Daymon said, "rather daunting, but exciting to be going into another aspect of cooking/baking."

The location and unfinished sign for the Smokehouse brand are shown. "The drawing is an artist taking license with my father's image, and he was never a cowboy, but enjoyed wearing a fedora," Daymon explained. Incidentally, he used his mother's image for the Tartine brand.

But the pair ran into a smokehouse snag — there is already a restaurant named Rusty. So here's your shot at getting bragging rights for naming a Korean restaurant. The name must be a "cowboy sounding" name, up to six or seven letters long, go well with the word smokehouse, and complement the sign. You have till next Friday to submit your entry at [zytz@hotmail.com](mailto:zytz@hotmail.com).

The winning entry will receive a gift. Daymon is not sure yet what it will be, "but it will be interesting." If two or more entries come up with the same name, the email date and time stamp will decide the winner. "We may award gifts to runner-ups," he added, "and/or most ridiculous or humorous, even if they are not used."

So put on your thinking caps, and give it a shot.

## 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.

**Sit and Stitch Group** — 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., Custom Threads, 1282 Commercial St. Knitting, crocheting and needle work. For information, call 503-325-7780.

**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](mailto:k7erowood@q.com), or go to [www.nami.org](http://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

**Scandinavian Workshop** — 10 a.m., First Lutheran Church, 725 33rd St. Needlework, hardanger, knitting, crocheting, embroidery and quilting. All are welcome. For

## In One Ear

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## A VALLEY OF DITCHES



Treat for film buffs and aspiring film makers is in store: A Native Astorian **Christopher James Lang** (pictured inset) is holding a **preview screening** of his new independent survival thriller, "A Valley of Ditches," at the Columbian Theater at 3 p.m. Saturday. The doors open at 2:30 p.m., and the admission is \$5 per person.

"The film is not quite finished, as it's still getting more coloring, and sound effects/mixing, but we want to screen it for a couple of audiences and get some feedback," Chris told the Ear. "I'll be holding a Q&A after the screening to address any topic on independent film making. My co-writer/lead actress from the movie, **Amanda Todisco**, will join me on stage as well, all the way from Boston. Specifically, I'll be covering how we went from filming movies on no budget, to getting funding for this project, but we'll answer anything folks are curious about."

For a peek at the trailer, go to <http://tinyurl.com/Valley-Ditches>; get updates at [www.facebook.com/AValleyofDitches](http://www.facebook.com/AValleyofDitches)

"My wife and I both grew up in the area, and graduated from Astoria High School in 2002," Chris explained. "I've held similar screenings for my two other features in 2010, and 2014, and ... I'm really looking forward to bringing a new film back to the area. Since leaving, I've been working in TV and film production, on shows for TLC, Discovery, Travel Network, and many others. I have also worked on a number of Lifetime movies and other independent feature films."

"It's great to host these events, because I can share with my home town all the knowledge I've gained in production. I know there is a lot of interest in the area on this topic, because growing up I was always encouraged by Astoria's film history to make movies, and filmed a lot of no-budget amateur projects in Astoria and Portland."

And there's more good news for film fans: "I am also hoping to bring my next film production back to the area," Chris added, "a screenplay I'm working on called 'Coffeebury Lake.'"

## VANILLA RULES



**Amy Bugbee** (pictured), local entrepreneur, Astoria Sunday Marketeer and creator of Triple XXX Vanilla, is demonstrating how to make vanilla extract from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday at 3 Cups Coffee House, 279 W. Marine Drive. The free event is also the launch party for her latest invention, **Smoked Vanilla Beans**, and its Kickstarter fund (<http://tinyurl.com/smokevanil>). Yes, samples will be available.

"Sure forests have burned and beans have been smoked," Amy explained, "and some chefs and home smokers have surely toyed with the concept, but my smoked vanilla beans are the first ever available for sale on the open market to anyone who wants to try them."

"And, they are smoked especially for bakers and cooks. I have perfected a cold-smoking process with several specific woods that add a great smokiness to the vanilla without overpowering the vanilla bean."

"Forget salted caramel, forget chocolate dipped bacon," she declared, "smoked vanilla will take over the world!"

## TAKE YOUR PICK



Last week, a story ran about **Bob Bohnke's mystery flotsam** (pictured), found on a beach by the Columbia River bar. Mr. Google had no idea what it is, but the Ear received three phone calls with possible explanations.

**Anonymous No. 1** speculated it is a "concrete float for a dock where people come in and put their boats," and that the pipes sticking out are for electricity and power. That would explain the frayed rope tied to it, anyway.

**Anonymous No. 2** had three guesses. "First guess would be the world's first and last ferrocement lifeboat," he snarked. "My second guess would be a septic tank from Davy Jones' locker."

No. 2's final shot was that it's a brine tank for freezing fish on the back deck of a boat. "That's a legitimate guess, but who knows," he added.

**Rick Brown** was more prosaic: "I think it is a septic tank."

Which explanation fits the block best? Take your pick.

## SURF'S UP



Local surfing fans take note: **Scott and Sandy Blackman** (pictured inset), who have lived on the Oregon Coast all of their lives, have written a history of North Coast surfing, "Oregon Surfing North Coast," which you can pre-order at <http://tinyurl.com/surfhist>

The book concentrates on vintage photos and a myriad of quotes from surfing pioneers to explain how the sport blossomed, then flourished on the North Coast, even after a rocky start — did you know both Cannon Beach and Seaside originally had laws prohibiting the use of "floatable devices"?

But change was in the wind. "Around 1962, I was arrested and fined \$26 for standing on my board while lifeguarding (in Seaside)," surfer **Dana Williams** is quoted as saying. "I requested Seaside's city council to allow surfing from Avenue U to the headlands of Tillamook Head. It was approved, and surfing became legal within the city limits."

And of course, that was just the beginning. Read the book to get the rest of the story.

## GHOST PASSENGERS



A very peculiar phenomenon occurred in the aftermath of the 2011 Japanese earthquake and tsunami: The Asahi Shimbun reports that as part of her thesis, **Yuka Kudo**, 22, a college senior majoring in sociology, went to hard-hit Miyagi Prefecture to ask taxi drivers if they had any unusual experiences after the 2011 disaster. Out of the more than 100 drivers she approached — some got angry, some ignored her — seven declared they had picked up "ghost passengers" in areas that were destroyed by the tsunami (<http://tinyurl.com/taxighost>).

Here's an example: "A woman who was wearing a coat climbed (into a) cab near Ishinomaki Station. The woman directed him, 'Please go to the Minamihama (district).' The driver, in his 50s, asked her, 'The area is almost empty. Is it OK?' Then, the woman said in a shivering voice, 'Have I died?' Surprised at the question, the driver looked back at the rear seat. No one was there."

Of note: When the ghostly passengers climbed into the cab, the drivers started the meter, which is recorded. Which means the drivers had to pay their fares when they disappeared.

Kudo said the cabbies weren't afraid of their ghostly riders, they "held them in reverence."

"It is not strange to see a ghost (here)," one told her. "If I encounter a ghost again, I will accept it as my passenger."

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 Diners** — 11:30 a.m., Peace Lutheran Church (lower level), 565 12th St. Cost is \$7. 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 players 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)

**Line Dancing for Seniors** — 6 to 7:30 p.m., Astoria Senior Center, 1111 Exchange St. For information, call 503-325-3231.

**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.

## TUESDAY

**Stewardship Quilting Group** — 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., First Lutheran Church, 725 33rd St. All are welcome. Donations of material always appreciated. For information, call Janet Kemp at 503-325-4268.

**Do Nothing Club** — 10 a.m. to noon, 24002 U St., Ocean Park, Wash. Men's group. For informa-

tion, 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 Diners** — 11:30 a.m., Peace Lutheran Church (lower level), 565 12th St. The cost is \$7. For information, or to have a meal delivered, call 503-325-9693.

**Astoria Kiwanis Club** — noon, El Tapatio, 229 W. Marine Drive. For information, call Robert McClelland at 503-894-0187 or Susan Brooks at 503-741-0186 or 503-338-4994.

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