

TAKING 'THE HIGH ROAD'



Former Naselle, Washington, resident **Serena (Johnson) Travis** emailed the Ear to say that she and her husband, **Drake**, a minister and author, are hosting a show on national TV, "The High Road" (<http://thehighroadshow.com>). She's actually wearing two hats, as she is also the executive producer.

Billed as a "Cure for Cultural Chaos," the show explores issues facing our culture, and features guest interviews and conservative commentary. The hosts tackle multiple topics over different segments, including Serena sharing about her Scandinavian roots; **Melissa Nunnally** (moderator) and **Maxwell Adams** (global consultant) are also on board as regulars.

"The High Road" just finished filming its first season in Los Angeles, and premieres at 8 p.m. Sunday on Uplift TV (DirecTV 379). Goonie fans should take note that there's a little something for them in the show: Each episode opens with a guest interview, and one of the guest stars is **Robert Davi** (opera singing **Jake Fratelli**). He is pictured, top right, with Serena and Drake.

Other guests include **Erika Eleniak** ("Baywatch"), champion Mixed Martial Arts (MMA) fighter **Chad Robichaux**, **Brad Dacus** (president of the Pacific Justice institute), and **Brenda Epperson** ("The Young and the Restless," and co-founder of Ascend Women's Confidence).

Serena is a 1990 graduate (and valedictorian) of Naselle High School. She also graduated from Clatsop Community College in 1992. "Journalism was more of a hobby for me," Serena noted. "I started a newsletter in junior high and for Phi Theta Kappa at Clatsop. It's surprising when your hobby grows to something much bigger, like a TV talk show."

SMALL WORLD



It was at a fundraiser for U.S. Sen. **Jeff Merkley** on behalf of **Lektro**, and he explained he was excited to see an Oregon-built electric vehicle on a trip he took to Israel recently," **Henry A. Balensifer III**, communications and government relations manager of Lektro, wrote.

"This photo (shown) was snapped in Tel Aviv, Israel. (The senator is) pointing to the sticker we put on all our vehicles being shipped around the world (over 94 countries and counting) that says 'LEKTRO — Warrenton, OR.'"

Yes, the world really is getting smaller.

GOODBYE GRANNY PATTI, HELLO TWO OLD GOATS

We were so sorry to learn that **Granny Patti** was retiring, after almost 25 years, from her farm and feed store in Knappa," Knappa residents **Myrna and Pat Patrick** wrote. "She is a great lady, with a great sense of humor and a lot of love for her business and the community. She is very knowledgeable about the items in her store, and about what goes on in the local area."



"She started a library in her store that has grown over the years. Many of us in the area were concerned about what would happen, not only to the feed store, but to the library when she retired. Well, now we know. Two other local people have taken over the store, and it appears that everything will remain the same or even better." The place has new owners **Patrick Mc Kerren** and **Mike Sapp**, and a new name: **Two Old Goats Farm and Feed**. "Both of us have been patrons of Granny Patti's for years," the pair told the Ear. "When we heard she was leaving, we wanted to maintain the community feed store and library."

Located at 42232 Kylester Road, and on Facebook at <http://tinyurl.com/2OldGoats>, the store is open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday. Starting in July, the hours will increase.

"Patti, you will be missed," the Myrna and Pat added, "but we are so glad that your store will remain open."

In One Ear



by Elleda Wilson

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THE MIDSUMMER POLE



Take a good look at the image shown. "Recognize anyone?" **Janet Bowler**, Astoria Midsummer Scandinavian Festival entertainment director asks.

"Local fabric artist **Ronni Harris** created a special work of art for the ScanFest based on actual characters she observed at last year's festival," she explained. Ronni is pictured, right, in a photo by Thom Dickerson.

"The graphic image will be used in publicity for the 2016 festival, and the original art work will be raffled off in June," Janet added. "Stop by FinnWare in downtown Astoria to see Ronni's creation, titled 'The Midsummer Pole,' and buy a raffle ticket to support activities at the festival."

The Ear expects the artwork would sure look pretty dandy on someone's wall — could it be you? Buy a ticket and find out.

FLY, FLY AWAY



Here's a happy ending in the making," **Lynette Scribner** noted on the **Wildlife Center of the North Coast's** Facebook page. "You saw this beautiful eagle (pictured) come in to WCNC March 3 with fractures of his left radius and ulna." Judging from the X-rays posted, the bird's wing was in bad shape, and Lynette speculated that it's likely the injuries were caused in a territorial battle with another eagle.

"A successful surgery corrected the fractures and he is healing well. We are hopeful the pins will be removed shortly and then he'll be fast tracked for release. Estimated cost of the X-rays and surgery is about \$1,200. Rehabilitation of these magnificent creatures isn't cheap."

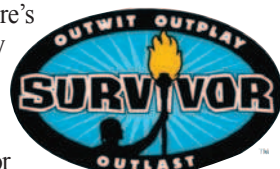
"We are, as always, grateful for any support you can provide," Lynette added. "PayPal donations are super easy via our website, www.coastwildlife.org." By donating, you can help this eagle have his happy ending.

ARE YOU A SURVIVOR?

OK, you survivor types, here's your chance (and don't say the Ear didn't give you enough time to prepare): **KOIN.com** reports that it will be holding a "Survivor" Casting Call for the CBS reality TV series from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, May 7, at the Chinook Winds Casino/Resort, 1777 N.W. 44th St. in Lincoln City (<http://koin.com/survivor>). The auditions take place in the showroom.

Open calls such as this one are held by local CBS affiliates, like KOIN. You will be taped at the audition, so you don't need to bring anything but your ID. The requirements say the contestants must be 18 or older and be "strong-willed; outgoing; adventurous; physically and mentally adept; adaptable to new environments" and have "interesting lifestyles, backgrounds and personalities."

As usual, the competition prize is \$1 million. "Our competitors must be willing to commit to traveling and living in a remote location for approximately seven weeks," the rules say. "Contestants will be filmed up to 24 hours a day by television camera crews to be broadcast on national television ... They will actually be living in a remote location, and they will actually be responsible for building their own shelter and finding their own food." A walk in the park, it ain't.



THE RIGHT FISHING STUFF

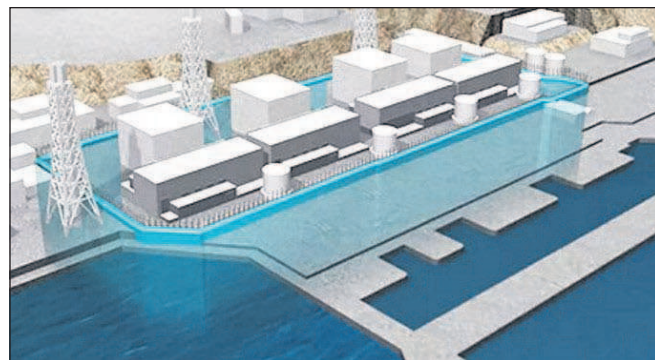


Tillamook natives and avid fishermen **Brady Rhodes** (pictured, right) and **Nick Petersen** (pictured, left) have come up with a novel subscription idea. "We know how important it is to have the right fishing stuff, so we created **TraskBox**," the website (www.traskbox.com) proclaims, "the best fishing goods, delivered to your door every month ... Tell us what kind of fish you're chasing. We'll put together a box chocked-full of stuff to hook them. The landing part is up to you."

"Our goal is to help take the guesswork out of finding quality fishing products and give both rookie and experienced anglers the confidence to go out there and start catching more fish," Rhodes said. "We're not putting anything in these boxes that we haven't tested ourselves."

Maybe now there will be fewer "the one that got away" fish stories?

WALLED UP



Things have been relatively quiet on the **Fukushima** nuclear power plant front of late. The plant was seriously damaged in the 2011 Japanese earthquake and tsunami, causing **radioactive water** to seep out into the sea and travel, even as far as the West Coast. However, the contamination is considered to be minimal.

Inside the plant, it's a whole different story, **Gizmag.com** reports (<http://tinyurl.com/fukuwall>), and "there are some areas that they simply can't access as radiation levels remain dangerously high, so high in fact that even robots sent in to investigate are having their wiring fried."

Even though the cleanup is ongoing, so is the 400 tons of groundwater that flows daily downhill into the reactor basements — some of which becomes contaminated, and still leaks out into the sea. Is there a solution, at last? Yes. The plan is to seal off the plant entirely with an **underground frozen soil wall**.

Construction began in 2014, and the wall is now ready to be deployed. "Refrigerated brine cooled to -22 F will be pumped through pipes plunging 98.5 feet into the ground, freezing the soil and eventually sealing the four reactors damaged in the 2011 earthquake and tsunami inside a 5,000 foot barrier," the article says. An illustration of the plan is shown, courtesy of the utility company, **Tepco**.

The wall is being turned on in stages, over a period of months, hopefully sealing off Fukushima for good.

THE BLUE LINE



The city of **Coos Bay** recently installed its first **tsunami Blue Line**, The World Newspaper of Coos Bay reports (<http://tinyurl.com/CBayBlue>). The line is the high water mark in a worst case scenario — the level the water could reach after a 9.0 (or worse) earthquake sets off a tsunami at high tide.

So how do they know where to put the lines? The high water locations were identified by the Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries (DOGAMI), and five of the warning strips — which are spread across, then super-heated onto the pavement — are planned. The strips also point to the way to the nearest evacuation or safety zone. The photo shown of a Blue Line being installed is courtesy of The World's Instagram page.

Just so you know: The program originated in Wellington, New Zealand, in 2010 (<http://tinyurl.com/WNZblue>), and won the Global and Oceania awards for Public Awareness in 2012.

Other Oregon cities participating in the Tsunami Blue Line pilot program are **Bandon**, **Reedsport**, **Gold Beach** and **Florence**, all on the Southern Oregon Coast.

Perhaps Northern Oregon Coast cities should take a lesson.

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.

Spinning Circle — 1 to 3 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>

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

Authentic Spiritual Conversations — 3 to 4:15 p.m., Seaside Public Library conference room, 1131 Broadway. Exploring spiritual questions, doubts, practices and

longings in a space where everyone's needs are respectfully held. All faiths, including "spiritual but not religious," agnostic and atheist are welcome. For information, email info@cgifellowship.org or call 916-307-9790.

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

Chair Exercises for Seniors — 9 to 9:45 a.m., Astoria Senior Center, 1111 Exchange St. For information, call 503-325-3231.

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.

Mothers of Preschoolers — 10 to 11:30 a.m., Crossroads Community Church, 40618 Old Highway 30, Svensen. MOPS group is a time for moms to relax and enjoy each others' company. For information, call 503-502-3118.

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., 1111 Exchange 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

Parkinson's Support Group — 1 p.m., Peace Lutheran Church library, 565 12th St. For information, call 503-338-8469 or 503-440-1970.

Peninsula Quilt Guild — 1 p.m., Peninsula Church Center, 5000 N Place, Seaview, Wash. Newcomers welcome. Bring non-perishable food donation. For infor-

mation, call Janet King at 360-665-3005.

Knockers 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.

Mahjong for Experienced Players — 1 p.m., Astoria Senior Center, 1111 Exchange St. For information, call 503-325-3231.

Line Dancing for Seniors — 3 to 4:30 p.m., Astoria Senior Center, 1111 Exchange St. Not for beginners. For information, call 503-325-3231.

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