

STEP BACK IN TIME



Known from being highlighted in the TV show 'Route 66,' and used as a set for 'Kindergarten Cop,' the **Astoria Riverview Inn** is presenting a concept that already has received positive reaction, even before it's finished," native Astorian **Jeff Daly** wrote to the Ear.

Jeff — the intrepid soul who brought us the old Astoria Clown Car and the Glam Tram — is designing **four themed rooms** at the inn. Each one has a tie to local history, and is highlighted with original artwork, ranging from photography to custom-made headboards by **Paul Tutor**. **Becky Johnson** of Vintage Hardware is handling color and furniture coordination. Jeff's photos of two rooms are shown.

"**Uniontown's** theme room has a display of original signs collected from the neighborhood since the 1960s," Jeff explained. "**Boat Yard** has a 20-foot photo montage of what I describe as 'the painted ladies of the Pacific.' In the **Waterfront Canning Co.** is an amazing display of a larger-than-life presentation of Astoria labels from the canneries of 1930s through the 1950s, printed on a lush satin paper, floor to ceiling, by **Jeff Miller** of Red Dwarf Graphix." There's also a room dedicated to the **Bridge to Nowhere**.

Want to take a step back in time? There's an open house to preview the theme rooms (with food from the Bridgewater Bistro and beverages from the Fort George Brewery) from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Thursday at the inn. Naturally, the **Glam Tram** will be there, too, looping the property.

DON'T TOUCH!



Harbor seal babies (called pups) are born in spring and summer and can be found resting on the beach while their mothers search for food," **Tiffany Boothe** of the **Seaside Aquarium** wrote. "We got our first two reports of seal pups on the beach last weekend." A photo of a seal pup is shown, courtesy of Tiffany and the aquarium. "Well-meaning people sometimes think that a baby seal alone on the beach has been abandoned, but this is not the case," she explained. "The mother is often nearby, watching, but will not approach with people around. If the baby seal is moved, it has no chance of reuniting with its mother."

"If you see a baby seal alone on the beach, leave it alone, and either call the Seaside Aquarium at 503-738-6211 or the **Oregon Marine Mammal Stranding Network Hotline** at 866-767-6114 so we can post signs around the seal, encouraging everyone to stay away" — including the family dog.

"Do not," she advises, "under *any* circumstances, touch or move the baby seal."

SAILING BY



Did you see the Pentagon's Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) prototype robotic vessel, the 132-foot **Sea Hunter**, sail by Astoria last Friday? Designed to hunt and track enemy submarines, the vessel was built in Portland. A press release said that it would be heading for San Diego to start two years of sea trials soon after its April 7 christening — but didn't say how soon.

By the time the Ear saw the story in *The Daily News* online about a barge containing the drone floating past Longview, Washington (<http://tinyurl.com/tdnsub>), the barge was probably already out at sea. Fortunately, sharp-eyed **Peggy Bezanson-Jolly** saw Sea Hunter on the river Friday evening, and snapped the photo shown.

The vessel cost around \$23 million to build, and operating expenses are expected to be between \$15,000 and \$20,000 a day (<http://tinyurl.com/DARPsea>), which is far less expensive than a manned vessel. It won't carry weapons, can stay at sea for 70 days, and has collision avoidance software and can change its course if another vessel approaches. In case you're wondering — yes, more robotic vessels are planned.

In One Ear



by Elleda Wilson

ewilson@dailyastorian.com (503) 325-3211, ext. 257

SNIPPETS



Write 'em, Danno: OK, aspiring writers, here's a tidbit for you: **Isabella Dog Biscuits** in Yachats is holding its fifth annual **short story contest**, which is open to all ages. Entries must be 1,000 words or less, original, previously unpublished, typed and double spaced in Word, and submitted before May 15.

The contest judge is **Kristin Noreen**, author of "On Silver Wings: A Life Reconstructed." The grand prize is \$50, and the winner's story will be published online at www.isabelladogbiscuits.com, where it will remain up for a year. You can find out more about the contest at the website. Email entries to isabelladogbiscuitscontest@gmail.com

"We don't use the stories for anything," **Roxy Hills**, owner/baker at Isabella Dog Biscuits, said. "We like to encourage short story writing."

Laugh it off: Feeling glum? Head out to Oregon's first annual **World Laughter Day** from 1 to 3 p.m. Sunday in Seaside's Broadway Park, rain or shine, hosted by national humorist and Certified Laughter Leader **Gail Hand** (www.gailhand.com), pictured inset.

"There will be laugh contests featuring the longest laugh, loudest laugh, funniest laugh and best canine smile/laugh with fun prizes for the winners," the press release says. That ought to cheer you up.

Really?: KOIN 6 News reports that **Travel Oregon** is running a \$75,000 advertising campaign on the satirical website, **The Onion** (<http://tinyurl.com/travelonion>).

Aside from banner ads and social media promotion, Travel Oregon is also footing the bill to have the Onion staff write satirical stories about tourism in Oregon. The first article, "Tips For Setting Up A Campsite" (<http://tinyurl.com/onion-camp>) appeared in March. Its final helpful hint? "If you like camping, and the great outdoors, and searching for cell service to find out if that leaf you just wiped with was poisonous, youmightlikeoregon.com"

THREE QUESTIONS



Most remember musician **Krist Novoselic**, who now lives in Wahkiakum County, Washington, as one of the founding members (with **Kurt Cobain**) of the famous Seattle grunge-scene band, **Nirvana**. Now he's turned his attention to political reform, according to a March interview in **Rolling Stone** (<http://tinyurl.com/krist3ask>).

"It's about transparency," Novoselic told Rolling Stone about the **3 American Questions** campaign (www.3american-questions.org) he's involved in. "It will provide information. Where do candidates stand on climate change? Where do they stand on the debt? Where do they stand on political reform? Hopefully, they'll reply, and we can put together an objective analysis of where they stand and leave it up to voters. If they don't really answer the question, don't vote for them."

The bassist is also the chairman of **FairVote** (www.fair-vote.org), a nonpartisan electoral reform group, and was interviewed about the organization on **C-SPAN's Washington Journal** on April 22. You can watch the segment at <http://tinyurl.com/kristfv>, and a screen shot from it is shown.

That's a lot of politicking. Rolling Stone asked him if he finds "any of this demoralizing."

"If politics ever gets dehumanizing for me, I'll just get out," Novoselic replied. "I don't really need that, you know? There's a lot of Nirvana fans. They're liberal or conservative or ... they don't care about politics. So if it gets dehumanizing ... I get wonky (laughs). But I step back."

HIDE AND SEEK WITH BIGFOOT



Recently someone asked the Ear about the **sasquatch** lurking somewhere on **Bradley Hill** off U.S. Highway 30. Huh?

Turns out it's not a real, live, bigfoot at all, of course. It's a statue, and it's peeking out from behind some trees. He's actually been there for some time, so they say, but became hidden over the years, covered by trees and brush. The recent trimming and cutting along the highway has revealed him again, and he's likely scaring the sweatpants off unsuspecting drivers.

The Ear contacted **Scott Ames**, who drives by that area almost daily, to see if he knew anything about the bigfoot. No, he didn't. However, he contacted **Nick Bryan**, who drives a log truck, and Nick took the critter's photo, which is shown.

So does anyone out there know about this mysterious bigfoot? If you have the answer, please contact the Ear at 503-325-3211, ext. 257, or ewilson@dailyastorian.com. Who carved it, who put it there, and when? And, the all-important question: Why?

GOING FOR THE GOLD



Remember that scary piece in *The New Yorker*, "**The Really Big One**," by **Kathryn Schulz**, that went viral last summer (<http://tinyurl.com/schulzbig>)? It was about how the **Cascadia Subduction Zone** is imminently going to demolish the Pacific Northwest, and focused on the damages and havoc that would ensue.

The story made a splash nationwide, and instilled terror in her readers' hearts. It also made Schulz a 2016 Pulitzer Prize Winner "for an elegant scientific narrative of the rupturing of the Cascadia fault line, a masterwork of environmental reporting and writing" (www.pulitzer.org/winners/kathryn-schulz). The writer and the Pulitzer Prize are shown, courtesy of Pulitzer.org

She followed up the original piece with the very low key "How to Stay Safe When the Big One Comes" (<http://tinyurl.com/schulzbig2>), which notes that while the Cascadia could rupture at any time, the actual odds are that "there is a 30 percent chance of the M8.0-8.6 Cascadia earthquake and a 10 percent chance of the M8.7-9.2 earthquake in the next 50 years."

The second story did not cause wide-spread panic. It didn't win a Pulitzer, either.

IT'S STILL OUT THERE



If you think the arrival of **debris** from the **2011 Japanese tsunami** might be over, think again. The NW News Network ran story recently about officials visiting **Long Beach, Washington**, recently to check on the ongoing cleanup efforts (<http://tinyurl.com/stilltsu>).

Russ Lewis, a volunteer with the **Grass Roots Garbage Gang** on the Long Beach Peninsula, showed them some of the debris he's collected over the last five years. "You can go out there one morning after a storm and start going down the beach," he explained. "Here's a tote, here. Here's a broken basket ... You just don't know what you're going to find out there."

Shelley Pollock, leader of the Garbage Gang, showed the officials a chart demonstrating how volunteers picked up 15 tons of trash on the peninsula in 2004, and more than 32 tons of beach trash in 2015.

Just a few weeks ago, yet another 20-foot long **fiberglass boat**, covered in seaweed and barnacles, washed up on Washington's Olympic Peninsula. The boat is pictured, courtesy of Jesse Schultz/WDFW. The boat's ID number has been sent to the Japanese Consulate.

No one knows how much more debris is still floating around out there, or where it will land. This much we do know: It ain't over till it's over.

COMMUNITY NOTES

SATURDAY

Fundraiser for Don Nisbett's Medical Expenses — 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., 167 Howerton Way S.E., Port of Ilwaco, Washington. Features specially baked goods by SimpiEdibles. One hundred percent of the proceeds go to the Don Nisbett Medical Fund. Donate online at www.gofundme.com/ArtistDonNisbett

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 Railroading 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

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, handranger, 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., 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

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.

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.

Astoria Toastmasters — 6:30 p.m., Hotel Elliot conference room, 357 12th St. Visitors welcome. For information, go to www.toastmasters.org or call 503-894-0187.

Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance — 7 to 9 p.m.,

Room A, Columbia Memorial Hospital, 2111 Exchange St. Open to all those diagnosed with a mood disorder, or have a family member or friend diagnosed, or who think they might have depression or bipolar disorder. For information, contact Patricia Fessler at 503-325-8930.

TUESDAY

World War II Warbirds — 8 a.m., Labor Temple Diner, 934 Duane St.

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.

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