

SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL FILMMAKER



Our feature film, 'Haunted Shore' (aka 'Crimps') is finally available for online download via Amazon," writer/director and native Astorian **Mick Alderman** posted on Facebook. "It's been a long, rocky road of distributors' false promises, contract issues, technical glitches, etc. It was only recently that Amazon made HD quality available for self-distributed titles, and it's free to watch for Amazon Prime members."

Set in Astoria, the film features an old curse, ghosties, witchcraft, and of course, lots of local landmarks, not to mention local citizens as "extras." When it premiered at the Liberty Theater in 2011, the audience had a grand time, clapping and cheering as familiar faces and places appeared on the screen.

Walt Plummer, who plays the lead role of Eddie Hooper, began learning to act in the mid-1980s with the Astor Street Opry Company. Detective Webber is played by **Bill Honl**, another Astor Street veteran, as is **Lori Wilson-Hohl**, who plays the museum tour guide. **Tom Berdine** was a hoot as the bum, Malcolm. And, there's a cameo by retired Astoria Police Chief **Rob DeuPree**. Behind the scenes, the costume designer is Astorian **Susi Brown**, and **Karen Bain** provided some special effects makeup artistry.

Want to check it out? Go ahead and support your local filmmaker — you can find "Haunted Shore" at <http://tinyurl.com/hauntedshore>

WHO IS THAT?



There's a new kid in town, **Column Man**. He has been spotted sporting and posing with tourists at the Astoria Column on their 90th birthday, pacing impatiently on the riverfront, waiting for his "cousin" the **Tourist 2** ferry to arrive home, and gadding about town socializing — seemingly always in the company of **Jeff Daly** and the **Glam Tram**. Where will he turn up next?

HOLD THE BUTTER



Larry the Lobster had a very close call, according to a story on Local10.com of Pembroke Park, Florida reports (<http://tinyurl.com/larrylob>). He is pictured, courtesy of Local10.com. The 110-year-old, 15-pound crustacean was brought to the owner of the Tin Fish restaurant in Sunrise, Florida, **Joe Melluso**, and he was ready to make poor Larry someone's dinner if no one bought him by last Thursday.

But that's when iRescue's **John Merritt** swooped in, and several South Florida businesses and a woman from Maryland bought Larry (for \$300) and are shipping him to safety at the Maine State Aquarium.

"When there was a group that wanted to save him, I was disappointed in myself, for not having that feeling myself," Melluso noted, probably dreaming of drawn butter.

"I ran down to the beach, soaked a beach towel in salt water, had to package it, put it in my freezer for the night — all things that I never knew when you are trying to transport a live lobster," **Brooke Estren** told Local10. Once he was laid out on a bed of ice and wrapped in the towel, he was ready to go. The aquarium will decide if Larry is going to be released, or become part of their exhibit.

"It's something different that I'm proud of that we did," rescue contributor **Amir Rossi** said. "How many people can actually say that they saved a lobster?"

In One Ear



by Elleda Wilson

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

NEIGHBORS, COAST TO COAST



In 2014 **Gail Hand** came up with the idea of "Seaside Helping Seaside" after Seaside Heights, New Jersey, was devastated by **Hurricane Sandy**. She felt "compelled to do something to help," she said, as she grew up going to the Jersey shore with her family, and felt a "strong connection."

With the encouragement and support of Mayor Don Larson, and help from the Seaside Rotary, she put together three fundraisers and collected just over \$6,000. Gail flew to New Jersey to present the check, which was used to install a giant carousel horse and new entrance to the town (pictured left).

Recently, the city of Seaside received a call that a woman named **Maryann Meneghin** from Seaside Park, New Jersey, representing **Mayor Tony Vaz**, and her sister-in-law **Judy Meneghin** of Hillsboro, wanted to meet someone from the city and present some gifts. City Counselor **Jay Barber** and Gail met the ladies at City Hall, and the two Seaside women exchanged T-shirts and taffy. The group is pictured.

"As we listened to Maryann tell her story of Hurricane Sandy, and how grateful she was that their sister city cared about her town," Gail recalled, "I teared up and felt pride for where I live, and thankful that my brainchild and our city's gesture lives on."

"She said you never know when we will need their help. We agreed that neighbors can extend coast to coast in times of peril. Then I took the ladies to lunch at The Stand, and sent them off to be tourists!"

SOLE SURVIVOR



On Aug. 1, 1943, during World War II, a B-17 Flying Fortress crashed into **Cape Lookout**, killing nine of the 10 crewman aboard, leaving as sole survivor the bombardier, **Wilbur Perez**, pictured inset.

According to a story by **Tim King** in a Salem-News article (<http://tinyurl.com/wperez1>), the pilot of the plane was late to the briefing of the training flight, which was to leave from Pendleton Field with several other B-17s and head to Cape Disappointment at 20,000 feet.

Unfortunately, the plane got lost in the fog and was only flying 50 to 100 feet off the water. Once the pilot realized Cape Lookout (900 feet high) was dead ahead, he tried to climb. The B-17 was still climbing when it slammed into the top of the cape at 200 mph. Perez speculated they only needed 50 more feet to clear it.

Two-thirds of the plane sheared off and fell off the cape with a man inside. Perez, who was up front in the bombardier bubble, flew through the trees and wound up severely injured and hanging upside down from a branch by a shoelace. Covered in condensation aviation fuel, he managed to free himself, roll toward the sound of the surf — and off the edge of the cliff.

Remarkably, he landed on a propeller from the plane that was stuck in the muddy side of the cape a few feet down, and strapped himself to it. Hanging there, he could still hear his few remaining fellow crew members calling out as they gradually died from their injuries.

It took 36 hours to find and rescue Perez, despite the fact that the crash was instantly reported by an air warning tower guard. But the guard wasn't believed by his superiors, and no one went up to investigate until flames were spotted on the cape.

A 1993 documentary about the crash can be seen at <http://tinyurl.com/wperezdoc>. A screen shot from the video is also shown.

Happily, Wilbur Perez went on to live a long and productive life and died in 2009, just short of his 91st birthday.

YES, YOU CAN GO HOME AGAIN



The Ear has heard the whispers that veteran Astoria artist **Bill W. Dodge** (pictured) is returning home after a three-year retirement hiatus in Portland. But now it can be confirmed he is back permanently, and plans to remain here "forever."

"I've really missed all my friends in the area and realized they are my family," Bill said. "At almost 83, I don't have many blood line relatives left. I had to come home."

After all, he claims Astoria as his adopted home, even though he was actually born in the Charlie Chaplin Motion Pictures Studios in Hollywood, where his father was on the noted actor's lighting crew, and he was raised in Hollywood. "But that's another story, though," he says, about how he almost came this close to being teen film star **Troy Donahue**.

Since arriving locally in 1990, his well-known artwork has depicted life here in Astoria, and has gained a wide following. The **Columbia River Maritime Museum** store has represented the bulk of his efforts.

His arrival is, yes, "another story." He discovered Astoria after a romantic break up with **Joan Fontaine** — yes, that Academy Award-winning Joan Fontaine, he told the Ear, calling the interval "just another chapter of my fascinating life" — which he may write a book about, one day. Just don't ask him to tell you the one about being the "boy toy" to a Pulitzer Prize-winning authoress.

In case you've missed him, he appears at the Sunday Market the first Sunday of the month, and will do so for the rest of the market season at the CRMM's Dodge-sponsored booth. He says he's looking forward to more Sunday Market appearances next year, and also doing the Cruise Ship markets.

In the meantime, he is painting full time (it was a very short-lived retirement, thankfully). Do you have any special local scenes you'd like to see him paint? The next time you see him wandering around downtown, just stop him and let him know.

HYPNOTIZED



Anyone who's ever stared at fish swimming around in an aquarium knows how relaxing it can be. Don't have an aquarium? Problem solved: The **Monterey Bay Aquarium** live web cams (<http://tinyurl.com/aquaricams>), most of which run from around 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., and include feeding times. There's one to watch sharks, the open sea (creepy), a kelp forest and sea otters. The most mesmerizing one of all, though, is the **Jelly Cam**. A screen shot is shown. You're getting sleepy, very sleepy ...

AROUND TOWN

1890S ASTORIA



From **The Daily Morning Astorian**, July 29, 1894:

• **Amy Stukle**, of Klamath Falls, who so narrowly escaped being devoured by a mountain lion last fall, was badly bitten by a rattlesnake last week and her life saved by a liberal dose of "snake bite."

• A 30-foot log, covered with bright-coated sea clams, floated ashore yesterday, and for a while had the whole of Seaside ready to take to the woods. The sun shining on the peculiar shell fish made the curious visitor look like a huge sea serpent. When its true nature was discovered, it attracted many visitors during the day.

• The sight of a live tarantula on a bunch of bananas at Silverton is what increased the total annual consumption of "red horse" several gallons one day last week.

• It is claimed that sharks infest the channel just inside the bar at the mouth of the river. Some of Portland's money loaning gentry must have fallen into the sewer during the recent flood.

COMMUNITY NOTES

SATURDAY

Angora Hiking Club — 9 a.m., Sixth Street parking lot. Kwis Kwis Trail hike. For information, call Marlene Colendich at 503-791-4123.

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

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.

Senior Lunch — 11:30 a.m., Bob Chisholm Senior Center, 1225 Avenue A, Seaside. Suggested do-

nation \$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 \$6. 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

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.

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 al-

ways 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 information, 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.

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