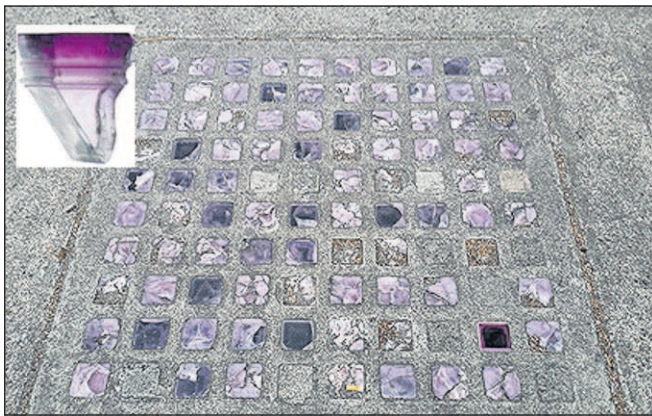


## PRISMS LIGHT THE WAY



Have you ever wondered about the grids with the little colored squares of glass embedded in downtown Astoria sidewalks? **Jeff Daly** must be psychic, because just as the Ear was pondering the question, an email popped up from him that provided a few answers from <http://glassian.org>

For one thing, historically, the pieces of glass were shaped like conical lenses (pictured inset) to disperse the light more evenly. They were embedded in a 4-foot by 4-foot grid of 100 (10 on each side). Originally made of clear glass, years of exposure to the sun changed the color to purple.

The idea actually originated as an adaptation of glass deck lights, used on ships to illuminate the cargo hold. In the 1800s, these sidewalk **prism lights** (also called **vault lights**) were a handy and safe way to get natural light into basements below the sidewalk. When electricity became popular, vault lights weren't needed, and the practice of installing them died off.

It's estimated that Astoria has around 40 of these grids in the downtown core — from Fifth to 17th streets, and from the Columbia River to Exchange Street — many in sad shape. You can see a map at [www.sidewalkglass.com](http://www.sidewalkglass.com)

**Studio 11**, in conjunction with the Astoria Downtown Historic District Association's (ADHDA) **Sidewalk Tile Replacement Program** ([www.astoriadowntown.com](http://www.astoriadowntown.com)), is making glass replicas to replace the damaged squares. The replacements are not true prisms, but are made to look as close as possible to the original in shape and color. And, as an incentive to businesses and property owners, the ADHDA is offering to reimburse 50 percent of the cost of replacing tiles that present a tripping hazard or pedestrian safety issue.

Wouldn't it be grand if all of the broken or missing tiles downtown were restored?

## RARE SIGHT



Marine biology enthusiasts will be interested to know that a team of Australian researchers has been sending out **drones to study southern right whales** and their calves, *NewAtlas* reports (<http://tinyurl.com/whiteright>). Consequently, without disturbing them, the whales can be measured, and the team can learn more about their health and reproduction.

On one such overflight recently, a **white calf** was seen, swimming alongside an adult. The pair are pictured in a still shot from a Murdoch University Cetacean Research Unit video. Apparently, a very small percentage of right whales are born white, but they usually turn black by the time they're a year old — so this was a very rare sighting, indeed.

## SHUTTERBUG BLISS



**Seaside Aquarium's Tiffany Boothe** has accomplished quite a coup, and the dream of many a photographer: She's had one of her **photos** published in **National Geographic** — both online at <http://tinyurl.com/tiff-NatGeo> and in the September 2016 issue of the magazine. Her image is one of the illustrations for the article, "The Blob That Cooked the Pacific," by Craig Welch, about the effects of warm ocean water on the West Coast.

A section of her photo is shown. The caption is: "Jellyfish-like animals known as 'by-the-wind sailors' blanket an Oregon beach near an old shipwreck. Some of the same unusual wind patterns and currents that recently warmed the Pacific pushed these floating creatures by the millions onto beaches from Southern California to British Columbia."

## In One Ear



by Elleda Wilson

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## ALL RAMPED UP



**'My name is Emma Edwards, and I am one lucky lady!'** Emma wrote to the Ear. The once-active 83-year-old, who used to walk three miles a day, wasn't so lucky in April, though, when she had a nasty fall. After being life-flighted to a Portland hospital, she was told she had broken her sacrum, a bone in her back.

"I didn't even know I had a sacrum. I mean, really!" she quipped on a video made by the **Tongue Point Job Corps Center** (<http://tinyurl.com/emmas-ramp>).

Once she finally returned home to Warrenton, she could only get around with a four-wheeled walker. But she was suddenly stuck at home — she couldn't get out of the house unassisted, as the first step down was very steep. What she needed was a ramp.

Her physical therapist recommended asking **Tom Gill**, then-president of the **Astoria Lions Club**, for help. Soon Emma received a call from Tom saying the Tongue Point Job Corps Center carpentry class would take on the project, with the Lions Club's assistance. **Garrett Reeves**, construction trade supervisor, and carpentry instructor **Teresa Downey** then visited Emma to take measurements for the free-standing ramp.

When the ramp was delivered, Instructor Downey and three students, **Charles McDaniel**, **Kendra Ferra** and **Georgia Vanallen** installed it. "These three, they help each other," Emma observed. "One is holding this, one is pounding the nail in, one is putting the screw in — I am so impressed." Emma and the students are pictured in still shots from the TPJCC video.

"I have learned quite a few new things today," Kendra said. "I hope Emma enjoys her new ramp. Just seeing her face light up — it makes my day go 'round."

"It was fun," Georgia said. "It was exciting to see her face bright up. It is so cute."

Emma is loving that new ramp, and is grateful to everyone who helped make it possible. "Oh my goodness, I'm just used to going down, down, down, and I don't have to any more," she said, laughing. "... (Now) I just go VROOM out there, you know? And so, I'm just eternally thankful. That's all there is to it."

## AROUND TOWN

In anticipation of fall, two blustery little gems from **The Daily Morning Astorian**, Wednesday, Sept. 16, 1885:

- This little strip known as the "Pacific coast," has never had a cyclone nor a tornado, and never wants one, but what looked like a starter made things lively south of Genevieve Street at four o'clock yesterday afternoon, just when the rain was falling several hundred feet a minute.

It seemed to come out of the brush, looked like a wreath of black vapor ... and when it struck some old stumps back of **Carl Hanson's**, it sent them whirling, and the bark flying 368 feet in the air and water. Then it swung down, and made another scoop at the hillside back of **Capt. Gray's**, and whirled northward toward Wahkiakum County.

If any children are missing, a note of inquiry to the postmaster at Cathlamet might bring glad tidings of the lost little ones.

- At **Alderbrook**, **August Norburg** has been putting up a two-story dwelling 36 by 54 feet which was almost finished, the floors and windows remaining to be put in. Yesterday he and a carpenter named **Jno. Holmgren** were at work in the building when as quick as a lightning flash a gust of wind from the south struck the building, which collapsed and fell in a shapeless mass.

Men who heard the crash ran to the spot and succeeded in getting Norburg out unhurt. Holmgren was struck and held down by some of the heavy timbers, and when found was in a sitting posture wedged tightly between some beams. He was got out as soon as possible and carried to St. Mary's Hospital ... It is the opinion of the physician that he cannot recover.

Such furious blows of wind are fortunately infrequent. The air was still immediately before and after the miniature cyclone, and nothing else in the vicinity was disturbed except some trees growing near the house, which were torn up by the roots in the rush of the whirlwind, where there spent its force.



## UP IN LIGHTS



The Ear bets not too many of you can say this has happened to you: The Daily Astorian's managing editor **Laura Sellers-Earl**, and her husband, **Carl Earl**, systems manager for the EO Media Group, got Jumbotron-ed at the Phillies game Tuesday at Citizens Bank Park in Philadelphia. And, it just so happened it was Carl's birthday. What a present!

"It was a most memorable moment," Laura noted. You betcha.

## JUNK IS WORTH SAVING



A little nostalgia, from Dec. 9, 2011: The **Flying Dragon** (pictured), a **Chinese junk** built in Hong Kong in 1925, was taking on water near Clatsop Spit on Monday, and the Coast Guard showed up to help.

Have a little money stashed away? The boat's for sale for \$148,500, and it's a beauty. You can see more photos, and get the details at <http://tinyurl.com/astjunk>

The 50-foot vessel has more than 1,000 square feet of canvas. Here's a bit of the sales pitch: "... She spent the majority of her life as a fishing boat ... She was bought by an airline pilot and converted into a cruiser in the 1960s. Bought by Northwest Orient Airlines, the Flying Dragon was brought overseas to Spokane, Wash., in 1974, to be the airline's floating pavilion in the World Fair. After the fair, she saw many owners, and eventually ended up in **Astoria**, being used as a brothel." Honest, that's what it claims. After finding the junk in Kalama, Wash., in 2000, the Flying Dragon was restored in 2001 by sculptor **Jerry Joslin**, who designed and hand-crafted the interior. Joslin, originally from Portland, died in 2005 (<http://joslinstudios.com>).

After being rescued by the Coast Guard, the Flying Dragon was towed to the Port of Ilwaco to await further adventures.

**Update:** The Flying Dragon was sold a week after the story was published. The most recent report found was of the boat grounding in 2013 off Nuevo Vallarta, Mexico (<http://tinyurl.com/groundjunk>).

## SEA SHEPHERD, IN ASTORIA?



**'Did you see the Sea Shepherd** (Conservation Society) was in Astoria Monday?' Astorian **Amy Stocky** asked. She took the photo shown, of their vehicles parked in Uniontown. In case you don't know, Sea Shepherd ([www.seashepherd.org](http://www.seashepherd.org)) is an international nonprofit, marine wildlife conservation organization, probably best known for aggressively hindering Japanese whaling boats.

Amy wanted to know why they were here. "I tweeted them but heard nothing back," she wrote, "and have seen nothing on their Twitter feed."

The Ear checked the Sea Shepherd Facebook page, and there was nothing about Astoria there, either. So, a call to the New York headquarters was in order to see what's going on. As it turns out: Nothing. The vehicles that were parked here were purchased at a Sea Shepherd auction by a "regular person," and have nothing to do with Sea Shepherd activities. Mystery solved.



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