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# COMMUNITY

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IN ONE EAR • ELLEDA WILSON

## FROM BUMPER TO DINNER PLATE



An unexpected upside from the 2011 Japanese earthquake and tsunami: According to The Asahi Shimbun, the tons of **tsunami debris** that sank into the valley-shaped sea floor off one of the hardest hit areas during the disaster has turned into a **breeding reef** for sea creatures (<http://tinyurl.com/tsureef>).

In February, the Japan Agency for Marine-Earth Science and Technology sent an unmanned vehicle to survey the reef, and it took images (one of which is shown) of brittle and feather stars and other organisms thriving on a tangled mess of car parts and fishing nets that wound up almost 1,800 feet below the surface.

The growth occurring on this artificial reef was first noticed in 2012, and it has continued to expand every year since. And, better yet, the reef critters are dinner for other sea life, including the broadfin thornyhead (a tasty rockfish, pictured inset), which is a popular dish in Japan.

## GOONIE LIAISON

**Fred China**, aka the **French Goonie**, has just released a 2015 interview he filmed with Astorian **Paul Gillum** — who was the liaison for the city of Astoria during the filming of “**The Goonies**” — on his Facebook page, “The Goonies Website.”

You can also see the video at <http://tinyurl.com/FredPaul>. Paul, left, and Fred, are pictured in a screenshot from the video.

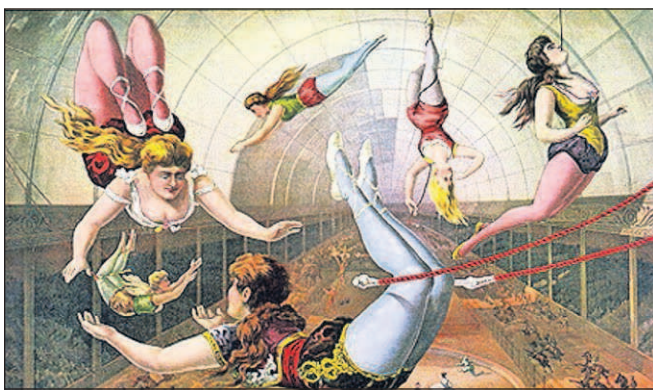


Paul's job on the movie, as he described it, was to “help with locations, and security of personnel and just helping in general,” which covers a lot of territory. It also involved working directly with both **Steven Spielberg** and director **Richard Donner**.

“They were absolutely wonderful,” Paul recalled. “They were probably the friendliest people I have ever worked with. I was in absolute awe of both of them together when I first met them, just knowing who they were. ... It was just such a wonderful experience ... it was like a family.” He had high praise for the young actors, too. “The kids were wonderful to work with, he said. “They were funny. They were always active, they were always doing something off the wall when they weren't being filmed. They were fun.”

Overall, he noted, “It was so professional. I just so thoroughly enjoyed it. I can't think of any bad experiences I had.” Watch the full video to hear the rest.

## THE CIRCUS IS COMING



A notice in the Easter Sunday, **April 21, 1889**, edition of **The Daily Morning Astorian** piqued the Ear's interest: “Tomorrow afternoon and evening **Farini & McMahon's Circus** will be here.” No, it's not the Ringling Brothers, or Barnum & Bailey, but Farini & McMahon's was also quite famous at the time.

According to CircusHistory.org (<http://tinyurl.com/FarMcM>) the show was actually the merger of two traveling companies, Farini's Grand Australian Circus and McMahon's Great World Circus, Wild West Congress and Indian Racing Tournament, which took place earlier that year. The troupe traveled up and down the West Coast, and it would have been a very big deal for a show this size to come to Astoria.

The performers included an equestrian act with trick riding and hurdle jumping (circus owner John S. McMahon) a somersault act, William Melville as a Comanche chief, aerialists, acrobats, high wire artists, lots of general performers and three clowns — not to mention two trick donkeys, an “imitation elephant” (the mind boggles) and a uniformed band. And, of course, a sideshow.

By 1891, the show had become McMahon's International Hippodrome, Circus and Menagerie, and included real elephants and world-famous Russian sideshow performer, **JoJo the Dog-face Boy** (Fedor Jefitchev).

At three hours long, the event must have been quite a spectacular outing for Astorians in 1889. There was no review in the local paper, but the Denver News proclaimed, “This ideal equestriolympian is among the few legitimate sawdust entertainments, and is well worthy of patronage.”

## ‘A VERY SWEET HISTORY’



OK, Astoria nautical history lovers, heads up: Another piece of Astoria shipbuilding history is up for sale, the 78-foot wooden **Elmore Tug** (pictured). Current owners **Dee and Sara Meek** have pampered and loved the tug since they bought her, in around 1990.

Built in 1890 in Astoria as a cannery tender for the **Elmore Fish Canning Company**, the steamer tug was originally 68 feet long. It took passengers and freight between Astoria and Tillamook, repeatedly crossing two of the worst bars on the West Coast (Columbia and Tillamook), according to Seattle.Boatshed.com (<http://tinyurl.com/Elmore1890>). The tug also ferried people up to the Yukon Gold Rush in 1898.

Rebuilt after the 1922 Astoria fire, literally from the waterline up, the Elmore was extended to 78 feet, and a three-cylinder engine was installed. There were many more changes and conversions over the vessel's years of service as a commercial tug. You can read her history at <http://tinyurl.com/Elmore1890a>

In 1982, the engine had been removed, and the Elmore was about to be scrapped, when Floyd Waite, a shipwright in Everett, Washington, came to the rescue and “adopted” her. He rebuilt the engine with second-hand parts, and made the tug a live-aboard, before selling it to the Meeks.

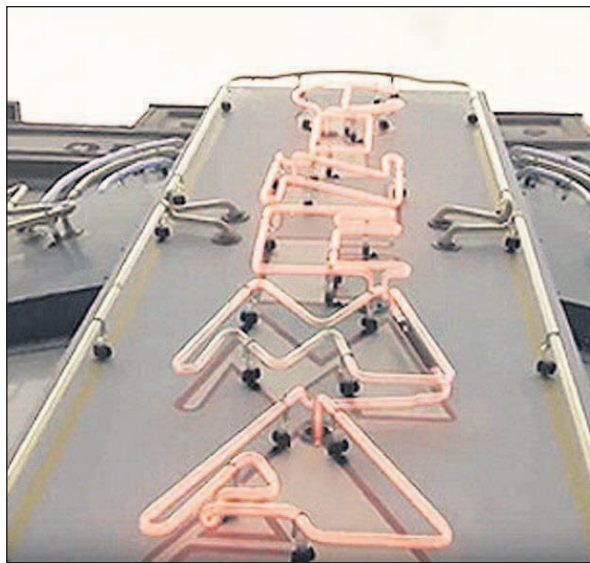
The Meeks have spent years caring for, restoring, upgrading equipment and enjoying the Elmore. Aside from all the nautical improvements and being fully furnished, the tug has a custom galley with a diesel stove and built-in fridge, three staterooms that sleep eight, a full shower and a new aft deck. “It's someplace to throw our money,” Sara said, laughing.

“It's been great. We use it to cruise, and always have friends on board. We just toiled around, and went to non-tourist places. It's just been fun. It's really been fun.”

So why are they selling it? “I can't jump on and off like I could,” she explained. “We're ready to let it go to someone who will appreciate its history.” If you're interested, give the Meeks a call at 360-437-5121.

“She really does have a very sweet history,” Sara added. “She's a very stable boat.”

## TILLAMOOK HITS THE BACKLOT



Astoria, is well-known for its Hollywood connection — and movies like “The Goonies” and “Kindergarten Cop” — and now Tillamook is trying to get noticed, too. While watching an old movie, the Ear learned that the **Tillamook Coliseum Theater** is one of four national finalists for a **movie event** to be hosted by cable channel **Turner Classic Movies** (TCM).

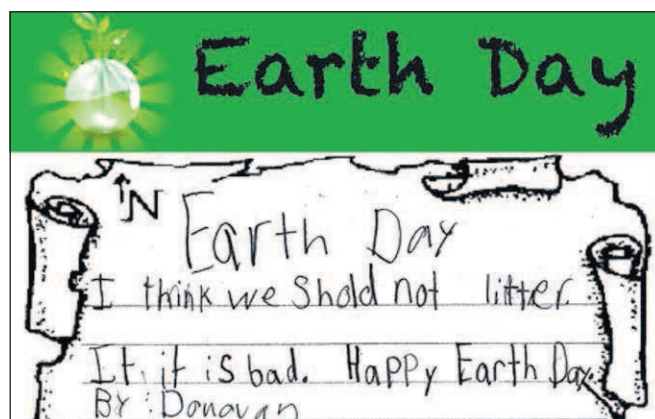
“How did that happen?” the Ear wondered. Because of **Sydney Elliott's** appealing entry in a TCM essay contest about why your home town would be the perfect venue for a TCM event, according to a story in the Tillamook County Pioneer (<http://tinyurl.com/TCMilly>).

She was then invited to write a shorter pitch, and submit a video, too, which can be seen at <http://tinyurl.com/TCM-tillyvid>. A screen shot from the video is shown. Unfortunately, only TCM Backlot members (the channel's fan club) can vote and choose the winner.

The Coliseum Theater's history almost coincides with Astoria's Liberty (and why didn't some Astoria film-fan enter it into the contest?), and they were both built in the 1920s. The Coliseum closed a few years ago, but then in 2014 it was bought by **Matt and Sheila Zerngast**, who have been busy renovating.

If Tillamook wins, Elliott told the Pioneer, “I am hoping the event will bring people into our downtown area and highlight our generous, hardworking community.” A little star power showing up wouldn't hurt anything, either.

## EARTHY THOUGHTS



**Earth Day** is Saturday, and in honor of the occasion, **Chuck Albright's third-grade class** at **Gearhart Elementary School** submitted their thoughts on the subject.

• “We need to stop littering and if we do, and the cops see, you will get a fine. We also need to stop killing animals.” **Landon**

• “I want to have a machine that picks up all the trash around the states in one day. I want one in every state.” **Brenden**

There are many more gems from these kids, but there was not enough room for them here. However, if you want to read all of them, they can be found at <http://tinyurl.com/EARearth>. In conclusion, some sage advice:

• “I'm going to tell you some stuff to keep the Earth safe. 1. Do not litter. 2. Do not throw any litter in the sea. Well, that's all.” **Chloe BB**

## REAL PEOPLE WANTED



Got the acting bug? Thanks to **Pete Birdeno** for this tip: **Marinella Hume Casting** in Portland is looking for people to be background actors (extras) in the TV show “**The Librarians**,” which films in Portland.

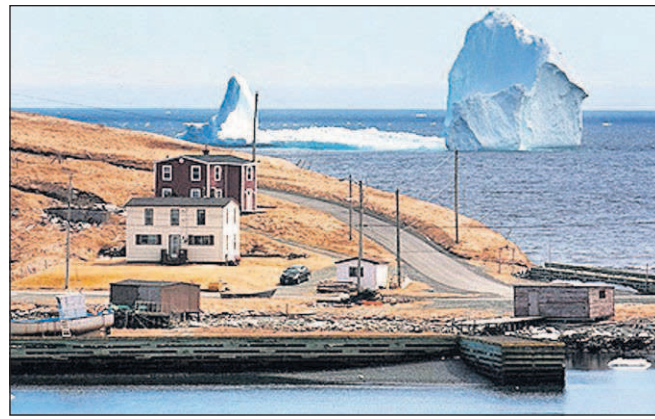
**Bill Marinella** (pictured) said they are looking for all ethnicities and ages, but especially for Asian men and women 18 and older, to be a “featured tourist” on Monday. Want to try out? First, this weekend, send an email with photos of yourself (full length and head and shoulders), cell phone number, and your name and sizes to [mhc.librarians@gmail.com](mailto:mhc.librarians@gmail.com). Put “**TOURISTS**” in the subject line.

Then, so you'll be in their database, create a free profile at [www.MarinellaHumeCasting.com](http://www.MarinellaHumeCasting.com) (click on “Join Us”). You'll also need to submit at least three photos of yourself for the profile, and there are instructions about how to do this at <http://tinyurl.com/MHCastvid>. Kids younger than 18 can have a parent or guardian sign them up. You can even add vehicles to the database.

While you're at it, don't forget to join the mailing list on their Facebook page to get casting notices at <http://tinyurl.com/MHCastlist>

“We need real people, all types,” Bill noted. We have no shortage of those around here, so go for it.

## NEED ICE?



Fans of maritime oddities should enjoy this: An **enormous iceberg** has parked itself in the North Atlantic off the tiny town of **Ferryland, Newfoundland** (population 465, as of 2011), according to a story in **The Star** (<http://tinyurl.com/bigberg>). It is shown in a photo courtesy of Paul Daly/The Canadian Press.

It's normal for icebergs to pass through, as that neck of the woods is called “Iceberg Alley.” But it's totally unexpected to see one this large stop in its tracks, dwarf the town and become a tourist attraction. Hundreds of people are flocking to Ferryland to gawk at and photograph the icy marvel.

“It's the biggest one I ever seen around here,” the town mayor, **Adrian Kavanagh**, said. While the monster berg is terrific for tourism, Kavanagh added, fishermen aren't so “particular about ice and the icebergs.”

## COMMUNITY NOTES

### SATURDAY

**Earth Day Astoria Riverwalk Cleanup** — 9 a.m. to noon, meet and check-in at 9 a.m. at Buoy Beer, No. 1 Eighth St. Cleanup supplies provided. Dress in layers for the weather. Sign up online or day of the event: <http://bit.ly/2oo4WzH>. Event sponsored by Wauna Credit Union, Buoy Beer and SOLVE. All participants receive a free beer or nonalcoholic beverage of their choice from Buoy Beer.

**Earth Day Celebration of Science Rally** — 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., outside the Astoria Post Office. Hosted by Indivisible Astoria, part of Indivisible North Coast Oregon. Celebrate Earth Day and stand in solidarity with marchers in the March for Science, occurring simultaneously worldwide. Bring individually created signs supporting the environment and science. Families are welcome.

**Astoria Yacht Club Open House**

— 12 to 5 p.m., Astoria Yacht Club, 300 Industry St., West Mooring Basin. Open house has information about: sailing lessons (1 p.m.), local boating conditions (1:30 p.m.), paddle group (2 p.m.), crew opportunities at Downtown Rallies (3:30 p.m.) and races (4 p.m.). Members are on hand all afternoon to answer questions about the Astoria Yacht Club and its activities.

**Columbia Northwestern Model Railroad Club** — 1 p.m., in Ham-

mond. 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>

**Hawaiian Dinner Fundraiser** — 4 to 7 p.m. for Seaside Boy Scout Troop 642, Cannon Beach American

Legion, 1216 S. Hemlock St. Tickets are \$12 for one person or two for \$20. Menu is teriyaki chicken or pulled pork (or both), rice, macaroni salad, tropical fruit salad. To go orders available. Proceeds help send scouts to camp.

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.

**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

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