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# COMMUNITY

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IN ONE EAR • ELLEDA WILSON

## GO FLY A KITE



Forty-two year old “snowkite pioneer” **Aaron Sales** of Hood River, pictured inset, used a kiteboard and a 6-square-meter inflatable kite to **ascend Mount St. Helens** recently, according to a story on ThatOregonLife.com (<http://tinyurl.com/kitemount>).

He made it 3,150 feet from the base to the crater rim in an unofficial record-breaking 35 minutes. He is pictured, at the top, in a screen shot from the event, courtesy of Richard Hallman/Aaron Sales — Global Sessions ([www.globalsessions.org](http://www.globalsessions.org)).

“This turned into a lifetime goal for me,” Sales said in a Global Sessions press release. “I thrive on a good challenge, and after getting denied by the conditions for more than a decade, I decided I wasn’t going to give up until I made it.”

This time, serendipity was on his side, and the wind and visibility were perfect. “The planets aligned,” he said.

## FIDO’S HEROES



Dog lovers, if you don’t know about **Fences for Fido** ([www.fencesforfido.org](http://www.fencesforfido.org)), you should. It’s a Pacific Northwest nonprofit that fences in yards (free of charge) for families who keep their dogs on chains or in small enclosures.

Astoria’s **Tongue Point Job Corps Center** students and staff have been helping the nonprofit, and recently received the **Chopper’s Hero of the Year Award** at the Fences For Fido Backyard Heroes Gala event for volunteering more than 500 hours to build fences. You can see a video of them at work, produced by Brian Grubb, at <http://tinyurl.com/FidoHero>; a screen shot is shown.

Some of the students involved, **James Johnson, Jared Norvell, Nathan Peacock** and **Christina Rowell**, and staff members **Robbi Richeson** and **David Ramsey**, stood on stage to receive the award, and were met with a standing ovation.

“I’m very passionate about animals, and I’m very passionate about unchaining animals, and I think my students definitely feel the same way,” Richeson observed. “... My students are very engaged with their love for animals, and I think they feel really good about what they’re doing. And we’re going to continue doing this.”

“She gives us the chance to kind of give back,” one student said. “Since she helps us so much, she gives us the chance to help others, return the favor, and we’re grateful for it.”

Richeson was over the moon about the award. “I’m very moved,” she confessed, “by the fact that my students are being recognized.”

## WHAT’S NEW UNDER THE SUN

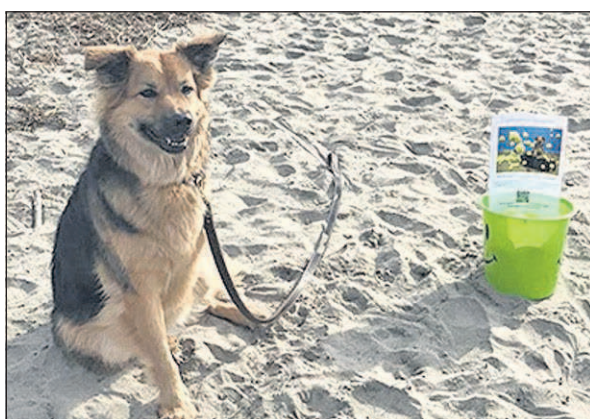


The U.S. Postal Service has announced that the new **Total Eclipse of the Sun** Forever 49 cent postage stamp, commemorating this summer’s Aug. 21 eclipse, goes on sale June 20 (<http://tinyurl.com/sunstamp>).

What you see initially on the stamp is a photo of a total solar eclipse. But because it’s made using thermochromic ink, when you rub the stamp, the heat from your fingers reveals the underlying image of the moon. And, on the back of the stamp sheet there’s a diagram showing the eclipse’s path across the U.S.

Worried the post office might run out before you can get one? Never fear, you can pre-order at [www.usps.com/shop](http://www.usps.com/shop). This is so nifty, it’s almost enough to make the Ear take up stamp collecting.

## THE AMAZING MAPLE



In early April, “I was headed down to the beach with my dogs at the Brailer Street beach entrance in Cannon Beach, when I found a lime green bucket with a big smile on it,” **Pam Chater** wrote. “The bucket was filled to the top with various sized tennis balls.

“Taped inside the bucket was a laminated paper with a picture of a pretty dog named Maple. It said ‘Come play with the **Amazing Maple**. Take a ball and have fun with your four-legged friend.’ My golden retriever trotted right over and picked out her ball of choice.”

So who is the Amazing Maple, and why the “buckets of happiness,” as Pam called them? Maple, who is owned by **Kim and Steve LaPointe** of Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, has terminal bone cancer. She recently enjoyed her last holiday with her family and doggie pal, London — an extended trip to fun places on Maple’s “doggy bucket list.”

They traveled over 5,000 miles, and saw two provinces and seven states, including Oregon’s coast, where Maple left the tennis balls at several beach locations for her furry pals to play with. “We just wanted to enjoy all the time we have left with her,” Kim said, “and make it the best time possible for her.” Maple is shown, at Rockaway Beach, in a photo from her Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/amazingmaple](http://www.facebook.com/amazingmaple)).

“The bucket remained at the beach access for about a week,” Pam added, “until all the balls were gone. Sweet Maple got her wish.”

“We are beyond pleased to hear that so many people enjoyed the tennis balls that we left on the beaches,” Kim wrote. “Maple is our sweetheart, and knowing that she has touched so many people warms our hearts.”

## WORLD WAR II COMES TO OREGON



Today is the 72nd anniversary of the only time Americans were killed in an enemy action on continental U.S. soil. And, believe it or not, it happened right here in Oregon.

According to the Oregon Encyclopedia (<http://tinyurl.com/blybomb>), in late 1944 and early 1945, Japan launched about 9,000 70-foot tall **balloon bombs** into the jet stream in the hopes they would reach U.S. mainland and wreak havoc and cause forest fires. One is pictured, courtesy of the U.S. Air Force. Most of the balloons are presumed to have been lost over the Pacific, but 361 have been found that made it to the U.S., Canada and Mexico. Who knows how many more there are still lying around.

On **May 5, 1945**, **Archie Mitchell**, a minister from Bly, and his pregnant wife **Elsie** (the couple are pictured), and five children from his Sunday school class, went on a picnic about 13 miles northeast of Bly in what is now known as the Mitchell Recreation Area. He parked the car, and his wife and the kids headed to the nearby creek.

“As I got out of the car to bring the lunch, the others were not far away and called to me they had found something that looked like a balloon,” the minister recalled. “I heard of Japanese balloons, so I shouted a warning not to touch it. But just then there was a big explosion. I ran up there — and they were all dead.” The blast made a foot deep, 3-foot-wide hole, and bomb fragments were found as far as 400 feet away from where it exploded.

A memorial at the site, the **Mitchell Monument** — which has been recognized by the National Register of Historic Places (<http://tinyurl.com/blymem>) — honors the six unwitting casualties of war, ensuring they will not be forgotten.

## BLOWIN’ IN THE WIND



There hasn’t been much news about wind power happening here in the U.S., which is why a story in Longview, Washington’s The Daily News about the **Port of Longview** unloading the “**longest wind blades to date**” in mid-April caught the Ear’s attention (<http://tinyurl.com/bigblade>).

Each blade was 177 feet long, and they are pictured, courtesy of the Port of Longview. It took 25 longshoremen three and a half days to unload 60 of them for rail transport to Illinois. Thirty are still at the port, because there’s no room for them yet at the wind farm.

The blades came from **Vestas Wind Systems**, a Danish company with 59,000 turbines installed in “more than 70 countries across six continents” ([www.vestas.com](http://www.vestas.com)), many offshore. They chose Longview because it’s one of the few (if not the only) direct-to-rail shipping system on the West Coast, capable of unloading directly from the ship to a rail car.

In case you’re wondering why Oregon doesn’t have any offshore wind farms (there’s no lack of wind, certainly), the **Wind-Float Pacific** project (<http://windfloatpacific.com>), which was to be built 15 to 18 miles off Coos Bay, officially went belly up last fall. It turned out the power it could generate would be too expensive (<http://tinyurl.com/byebwind>). Heavy sigh.

## LOCAL BREVITIES



Snippets from **The Daily Morning Astorian**, Wednesday, **May 8, 1889**:

- There are seven newspapers and nine churches in Astoria.
- A very large panther was killed at Gray’s River yesterday morning.
- On the ceiling of **Robb & Parker’s** office, gold and pearls are strewn in careless profusion.

• The **Clara Parker** started up yesterday afternoon to bring down the first lot of railroad iron for the **Astoria and South Coast Railway Co.** (In 1888, the railway company was incorporated to build a railroad south to Tillamook County; by 1891, the railway was operating the 15 miles between Skipanon and Seaside. (<http://tinyurl.com/ASCoRail>)).

• There are seven canneries at **Karluk, Alaska** (on Kodiak Island). Two years ago there were two there. Work like that will soon leave famous Alaska waters fished out. (Over-fishing of the area forced the canneries to close in the late 1930s; after a 1978 storm, the village was relocated. (<http://tinyurl.com/Karlukfish>))

• Before **Judge Jewett** yesterday appeared **Chas. Sandwark** and **A. W. Anderson**, charged with fighting. They presented rather a battered appearance but averred that they had only been playing. The judge humored the joke and assessed each one \$10 (about \$250 today), just for fun.

## AL JAZEERA CALLING

A news update from Astoria’s favorite ex-patriate, **Chef Daymon Garrett Edwards** in South Korea: “As many of you know, I am going through a marathon of remodeling my pie cafés and barbecue restaurants ... So (the other day), while I was staining the table for our alfresco seating at Rusty’s Smokehouse in Itaewon (in Seoul), a camera crew from **Al Jazeera TV** showed up to ask me about Trump and North Korea, good gads!”

Interviewer **Divya Gopalan** was roaming around Seoul asking Americans who live in South Korea specifically how they felt about living with the danger of nuclear attack coming from the north. Most felt the threats were old hat, and had been going on for years. “It just doesn’t affect me,” the chef concurred. “I mean, until they drop a bomb on Seoul. But for 21 years that I’ve been here, they’ve been saying that.” He is pictured in a screen shot from the interview, which you can see here: <http://tinyurl.com/cheftalk>

“As you will see, I didn’t slow down for the interview,” he noted, “I got that staining finished, and customers are being served today.”

“I am half way around the world, and think I am removed from USA politics,” he mused, “but no such luck ... international TV wants to know!”



## COMMUNITY NOTES

### SATURDAY

**Angora Hiking Club** — 9 a.m., Sixth Street parking lot. Neahkahnie Mountain hike. For information, call Kathleen Adams at 541-261-3458.

**Sit & Stitch** — 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., Home-spun Quilts & Yarn, 108 10th St. Bring knitting, crochet or other needlework projects to this community stitching time. All skill levels welcome.

**Detachment 1228 Marine Corps League** — noon, El Compadre, 119 Main

Ave., Warrenton. For information, contact Lou Neubecker at 503-717-0153.

**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>

**Sweet Songs of Spring Concert** — 2

p.m., Ocean Park Lutheran Church, 24002 U St., Ocean Park, Washington. Performance by the Bayside Singers, directed by Barbara Poulshock, accompanied by Barbara Pate. Free event, donations accepted.

### 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.

**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 Tracy Wilson at

727-514-1611.

**Astoria High School Class of 1970** — 11 a.m., Koffee Klatch at Rod’s Bar and Grill, 45 N.E. Skipanon Drive, Warrenton. For information, call ShawnAnn Hope at 503-791-1231.

**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.

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