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# COMMUNITY

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IN ONE EAR • ELLEDA WILSON

## NO, NO AND NO



Unless you were up pretty early on Saturday, you missed the departure of 131 avid bicyclists from the Columbia River Maritime Museum. They are racing 4,300 miles across the country in the fourth **Trans Am Bike Race**. A group of them are pictured from the group's Facebook page.

This race is like no other, done literally at "break neck speed" with little respite. And, there are a lot of rules. Rule No 1: "No complaining about the rules."

Bikers have to complete the route under their own power, self-supported, with "no outside assistance, no support cars." They are allowed to rent rooms, do laundry, etc. along the way, but "no private resupply, no private lodging." If you were planning to stop off and see a few pals along the way, they can't help you, feed you or let you crash on the couch.

Want to watch their progress? Check out the Trans Am Bike Race 2017 website at <https://transambikerace.com>. Last year's winner made it in 18 days and 10 minutes. And what does the winner receive? The rules say there's "nothing to win or lose but honor."

## EGGSACTLY



Well, Portland doesn't isn't the only city in the Pacific Northwest city that's keeping it weird. According to a story in the Kitsap Sun, restaurant owner and chef **Ross McCurdy** and his daughter, **Mira**, of Silverdale, Washington, will go up against TV chef **Gordon Ramsay** and his daughter, **Tillie**, for a new **Guinness world record** for the most eggs cracked one-handed, in one minute, by a team of two (<http://tinyurl.com/eggscrack>).

The competition takes place live at 6 p.m. Sunday, June 18 (Father's Day), on Ramsay's new show, "The F Word." The McCurdys are pictured in a screen shot from a Kitsap Sun video (<http://tinyurl.com/eggscrack1>).

It would be safe to bet on McCurdy, though, since he has already been declared the fastest one-handed egg-cracker in the world by Guinness in 2009. "My career is cracking eggs one-handed," McCurdy told the Kitsap Sun. "His career is yelling at kids. I think we have the advantage here."

## BIGGER AND BETTER?



Just when you think cruise ships couldn't possibly get bigger: Royal Caribbean International's Harmony of the Seas carries a whopping 6,780 guests, and **MSC Cruises** plans to top it with its new line of four **World Class mega-cruise ships**, which can accommodate 6,850 guests each. Note: The cruise ships that come into Astoria carry only from 500 to 3,000 passengers. An image of a World Class ship is shown, courtesy of MSC Cruises.

According to the MSC Cruises website ([www.msccruisesusa.com](http://www.msccruisesusa.com)), the first World Class ships are expected to roll out in 2022, equipped with LNG-powered engines. At 1,082 feet long, the ships have a "Y" shape structure to create panoramic views and increase the number of balcony cabins. The bow is at a 90-degree vertical position, designed to improve stability and passenger comfort.

The World Class experience also includes family-friendly villages (yes, that's a plural), a panoramic aft, and a glass pool lounge. Better start saving your pennies now.

## KON-TIKI DRIFTER



A few years ago, a Russian immigrant in his 60s with affy sailing/navigation skills, **Rimas Meleshyus** (pictured), stopped in Astoria on his way to complete what appeared to be a suicidal **solo sail around the world** in a small 24-foot San Juan sailboat.

He hasn't made it yet, but he's been back and forth across the Pacific several times now, even if he didn't always wind up where he expected. In the process, he has become a master at Kon-Tiki drifting (named after Thor Heyerdahl's raft and its historic expedition), if not sailing.

On his last around-the-world attempt he drifted past Hawaii, and was towed in to American Samoa. After a pleasant stay, he sold the San Juan there to buy airfare back to the U.S., arriving all but penniless. He stayed with friends in the Astoria area for a while, then headed to California, where, miraculously, someone gave him a 30-foot sailboat. Then one day, Rimas and the boat disappeared from the marina. He had sailed off into the sunset, without warning and unprepared. His many Facebook ([www.facebook.com/rimas.meleshyus](http://www.facebook.com/rimas.meleshyus)) followers worried and scolded him, to no avail.

After 46 days at sea, and no food or water for three days, he was rescued off the coast of Hawaii, and towed to Hilo. He's been in Hawaii ever since, getting ready to sail again — to Alaska, he posted recently on his Facebook page.

But sometime at the end of May, he set off alone from Hilo and disappeared again. He's heading south, not north, toward the remote island of Kiribati. You can track him here: <http://tinyurl.com/findRimas>. Where's he going? Alaska via Samoa? Cape Horn? His Facebook page is unusually silent.

Wherever he's headed, Rimas is unstoppable in the pursuit of his dream to sail (or drift) around the world, and one can't help but admire his determination and fortitude. Fair winds and following seas, Rimas.

## CAPT. CORNO'S LAST CHANCE



From the **Tuesday, June 11, 1889**, edition of **The Daily Morning Astorian**: "Many years ago a British vessel called the (**W.B.**) **Scranton** was wrecked on Sand Island. Her hull has now come to the surface, and some of the men employed there are burning the old timbers."

The "History of the Columbia River Valley From The Dalles to the Sea, Vol. III" (<http://tinyurl.com/wbscranton>), published in 1928, contains a narrative of the wreck of the Scranton by **Clara C. Munson** (pictured), who was elected the first woman mayor of Warrenton in 1913, and was the first female mayor in Oregon.

Her father, **Capt. Joel W. Munson** (also pictured), was appointed the lighthouse keeper at Cape Disappointment (Fort Canby) in 1865. Shortly after he was appointed, the Industry, a ship owned by **Capt. Paul Corno**, wrecked on the Columbia River bar. Seventeen drowned, partly because Munson didn't have a lifeboat to help save them, nor the money to obtain one.

The problem was solved when he fortuitously found a "stove in" longboat on the beach. A well-known and accomplished fiddler, he had the boat completely restored and refitted as a lifeboat — and even built a boathouse for it — with money he raised playing the violin at two dances he organized in Astoria.

So, when the Scranton ran aground on Sand Island in 1866, he was ready. He and his crew took out the rebuilt lifeboat and were able to rescue Capt. Corno's wife and Miss **Mary Ann Brown** of Astoria. (She later married **W. H. Twilight**, who became sheriff of Clatsop County.)

At first, the crew stayed aboard the Scranton to watch over the freight, worth \$200,000 (about \$5 million now). But a few hours later it became apparent the ship could not be saved, so Capt. Munson and crew returned a few hours later and retrieved everyone aboard.

There were no human casualties, but the destruction of the Scranton was a financial disaster. "Capt. Corno had spent \$6,000 (about \$149,000 now) in fixing up the vessel just before leaving San Francisco," Clara Munson recalled. "He had become well-to-do from the brig Susan Abigail during the 50s, but the loss of the Industry and the Scranton broke him up, and he was never able to get back on his feet."

## RFK VISITS ASTORIA



Forty-nine years ago, on June 5, 1968, **Sen. Robert F. Kennedy Jr.** was assassinated in Los Angeles. But less than two weeks before, on May 24, he landed at the **Astoria Airport** — a stump stop on his Democratic presidential primary bid — and took a walk on the beach near the Iredale shipwreck at Fort Stevens State Park with his wife, **Ethel**, dog **Freckles**, and Oregon State Treasurer **Bob Straub**.

Sure, there are a lot of still shots from his visit, but thankfully, there is also a video, which is available to watch online at <http://tinyurl.com/rfk-beach>. There is no sound, and the video is only 2 minutes long, but it's a unique and poignant bit of local history.

## NO HARM, NO FOWL



The bizarre headline of the week, "**Do not snuggle your backyard chickens**," comes courtesy of the Alaska News Dispatch, which actually took the story from the Washington Post (<http://tinyurl.com/hugachicken>). And yes, they're serious.

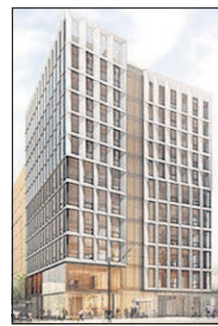
The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said there were eight salmonella outbreaks linked contact with pet chickens. More than 370 people in 47 states got sick, and 71 were hospitalized. In the grand scheme of things, the Ear suspects that these figures do not an epidemic make.

So, it is not poultry panic time. On the other hand, maybe you might want to think twice before chicken cuddling.

## BACK TO BASICS

The city of **Portland** has approved the construction of the first **12-story wood high-rise** in the U.S., which will be built in the Pearl District, starting this fall, GeekWire reports (<http://tinyurl.com/woodframe12>). An artist's rendering of the building is shown, courtesy of LEVER Architecture.

The wood-core project, called Framework, will use cross-laminated timber, and The Architects Newspaper reports that the design has passed "rigorous fire, seismic, and other safety tests to prove its durability compared to typical steel and concrete construction." Time will tell if they are right.



## LAND OF THE FLOATING SUN



The world's largest **floating solar power plant** went online in China in May, according to DigitalTrends.com (<http://tinyurl.com/float-solar>). As an extra bonus, aside from saving money, the floating devices free up land and reduce water evaporation. Some are pictured, courtesy of Digital Trends.

Despite China's nasty reputation for pollution, the country's current agenda is to take the lead in the renewal energy game — especially now that the cost of solar power is falling. Indeed, China already has several solar installations, including a 20 megawatt solar floating facility, and a 10-square-mile land-based solar park, proclaimed to be the world's largest solar power plant. And, several more non-fissile fuel sources are in the works.

## COMMUNITY NOTES

### SATURDAY

**Lower Columbia R/C Society** — 8:30 a.m., back room at Uptown Cafe, 1639 S.E. Ensign Lane, Warrenton. Local Academy of Model Aeronautics (AMA) chartered radio control model aircraft club meets for breakfast and business. All model aircraft enthusiasts are welcome. For information, call 503-458-5196 or 503-325-0608.

**Angora Hiking Club** — 9 a.m., Sixth Street parking lot. Elk Flat/Devil's Cauldron to Short Sands hike. For information, call June Baumler at 503-368-4323 or Tami

Christner at 503-805-8458.

**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.

**Clatsop County Genealogical Society** — noon, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 350 Niagara Ave. Park in rear of church. Group has joined forces with the LDS Family History Center. All are welcome. For questions, call Carol Wam-

sher at 503-298-8917 or Sali Diamond at 503-325-1963.

**Pug Socializing Club** — 1 p.m., Car-ruthers Park, Warrenton. For pugs and their owners. For information, call Dave Kinney at 415-827-5190. Join online at <http://tinyurl.com/socialpugs>

**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

**Blacksmith Enthusiasts Meet** — 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Camp 18 Blacksmith Shop, 42362 U.S. Highway 26, Seaside. Participants welcome to bring their own forge and anvil setup. Metal available to experiment with; coal is provided. No charge, but donations to the Camp 18 Loggers Memorial Museum welcome. For information, contact

Mark Standley at 503-434-0148 or Herman Doty at 971-306-1043 or [ringinganvilde-sign@gmail.com](mailto:ringinganvilde-sign@gmail.com)

**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 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)

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