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COMMUNITY

IN ONE EAR • ELLEDA WILSON

SHOO!



Astoria’s **sea lions** were not deterred in the least by the orca escapade, and were only temporarily dissuaded from lounging all over the East Mooring Basin docks by the arm-waving tube men. Our city’s attempts to shoo away the pinnipeds made the national news, and were noted by other coastal towns with the same problem. At least now everyone knows what won’t work.

However, the **Newport Harbor Yacht Club** in California has come up with an imaginative trick to scare off the sea lions, according to Mother Nature Network: **Plastic coyotes** (<http://tinyurl.com/scarelion>). Seriously. With yellow eyes, fanged snarling grins, and furry tails wafting in the breeze. A screen shot of the coyotes at work is shown, courtesy of CBSLA.com

Even though sea lions and real coyotes would probably never encounter each other in the wild, the sea lions are still avoiding the plastic predators lurking on Newport’s docks and piers. And, this is not a very expensive tactic, either, as the faux coyotes are available at Walmart for \$38.19 each.

The Newport Beach harbor master is so impressed with the initial results at the yacht club, the city is buying eight of the decoys to place around the harbor, where sea lions are acting like drunken frat boys, sinking boats with their weight, chasing people and getting into all sorts of mischief.

The only catch is that sea lions are devilishly smart, and sooner or later they’ll probably catch on that the coyotes aren’t real, and ignore them. Then what?

TIME LAPSE



People attending the recent Clatsop Community College’s dedication of **Patriot Hall** were excited to see the **first official lap** around the indoor track in the new building run by **Bob Swenson** and his grandchildren,” Bob’s wife, **Gerry** wrote. Pictured, from left, **Audrey May Swenson**, **Ben Swenson**, Bob Swenson and **Aaron Kennedy**. Other family members were also there to cheer them along.

“I purchased this wonderful opportunity for him at the Clatsop Community College Foundation’s auction this past May,” Gerry explained. “The funds raised at the auction are designated for scholarships for CCC students.”

“Bob has a history with Patriot Hall. As a student at Astoria High School from 1944 to 1946, he ran the track in the ‘old’ Patriot Hall, and now here he is running it again, over 70 years later, in the ‘new’ Patriot Hall!”

Naturally,” she added, “Grandpa was the first to cross the finish line. What a thrill!”

SAVE ME, ASTORIA



Back in 2015, a Vancouver, British Columbia, band named **Marianas Trench** (pictured) released an album, “Astoria,” that included a song, “**Astoria**” (not recommended for those with tender sensibilities). The Ear never did figure out what the song actually has to do with Astoria, other than this explanation from the band:

“When Marianas Trench’s lead singer **Josh Ramsay** came up with the title ‘Astoria,’ he saw the album as a concept record based on 1980s’ fantasy adventure films; specifically ‘The Goonies,’ which is set in the seemingly doomed town of Astoria, Oregon. The idea was to let a classic coming-of-age movie inspire the music and overall feel of the record.”

Well, now the video is out (www.marianastrench.net), and it’s an homage to glorious Astoria, visually, with a dash of Cannon Beach and Olney, and a lot of other places, too. You’ll even spot some familiar local faces. So check it out, and enjoy! “Let the melody save me, Astoria.”

A RANDOM ACT OF KINDNESS



Emily Knutson posted a heart-felt thank you “**To the Kind Man in the Large Black Truck**” on Facebook last Friday. It’s one of those smile-inducing feel-good stories. Here’s hoping “the kind man” is reading this, so he will know how much his generosity of spirit impacted a little girl in Seaside.

“A man I have never seen before approached me earlier this afternoon when I was outside in my yard playing with my daughter,” Emily wrote. “He said he had found pink children’s toys, and had no use for them. He asked if she would like them, and if it was OK that he bring them back by later today. I thanked him and watched him walk away, not thinking a lot about it.

“Just a little while ago the man came back in a very nice lifted black truck with a **kitchen set** in the back. My daughter has been wanting a kitchen set for so long, and this man unknowingly has made her wish come true. I didn’t get his name, and I know nothing about him. He remains a stranger to us, but a stranger I can’t thank enough.

“To the man who has made my little girl so happy this afternoon: Thank you. Thank you for the gift, your kindness, your time, the gesture that reminded me that not everything and everyone in this world is bad. Thank you from the Knutson family in Seaside, **Roy**, Emily and **Mai’la** (the receiver of your pink kitchen) Knutson! Happy Holidays and God Bless!”

A SIGHT TO SEE



Shame on the Ear for letting a local landmark date slip by without some fanfare and recognition — namely, the 111th anniversary of the **wreck of the Peter Iredale** on Clatsop Spit at 7:45 a.m. Thursday, Oct. 25, 1906.

Capt. H. Lawrence, his crew and two stowaways escaped unharmed, rescued almost immediately by the hearty souls at the Point Adams Life Saving Station. Several of the stranded mariners were taken to Fort Stevens, and all of them eventually made their way to Astoria.

The shipwreck caused quite a stir, The Daily Morning Astorian reported Oct. 26: “Everybody in the coast country ... literally swarmed out to render what assistance they might to the imperiled crew, and, as is usually the case in such matters, nearly all were equipped with big, or little, bottles of liquor, which ... was altogether too generously applied, and to the ultimate discomfort of several of the Iredale’s crew, who were too drunk to make good with the rest of their fellows in reaching this city.”

According to the Oregon History Project, a few weeks later, the captain and his officers were cleared by the Naval Court at the British Vice-Consulate in Astoria of any possible wrongdoing in causing the wreck (<http://tinyurl.com/IreOHP>).

Note: Also in the Oct. 26 edition, the Astorian prophetically declared “the wreck of the Iredale will be one of the sights for some time to come ... and thousands will avail themselves of the opportunity to see her, riven, dismantled, inert and abandoned, high on the raw coast.”

RARE IMAGE



Went to the Portland Antique Expo for the first time Saturday, found some cool stuff, but this is the one I got the biggest thrill out of ...” **Aaron Buda** posted on Facebook, referring to the photo shown. “(It) was in one of the many postcard boxes at the show, no markings on it. But I knew right away what ship these soldiers are standing in front of — soldiers from Fort Stevens posing by the **Peter Iredale**, mid-1910s.”

Aaron is both a historian and collector of items related to the Harbor Defenses of the Columbia River (Washington and Oregon), consisting of Forts Stevens, Canby and Columbia. You can see several more of his historical photos on his Facebook page, <http://tinyurl.com/Coast249th>.

“My main goal is to preserve, share and honor the history of the U.S. Army Coast Artillery, who served at the mouth of the Columbia for nearly 80 years,” he explained, “from the 1860s to the end of World War II.”

This newly discovered Iredale photo is a welcome addition to the extensive Aaron Buda Collection. “I love finding these rare images!”

TALES OF THE TOWN



Tidbits from 128 years ago in **The Daily Morning Astorian**, **Sunday, Nov. 3, 1889**:

- There being no visitors yesterday from Washington, D.C., the sun shone out bright and warm.
- The poles for the **telegraph line** from here to **Tillamook Rock** are up all the way from Fort Stevens to a point opposite the rock, and the wire is being strung. If the cable reaches here before Christmas, it will be laid by the (Lighthouse Tender) Manzanita.

Note: Tillamook Rock Lighthouse was lit for the first time Jan. 21, 1881. It took 575 days to build, often in horrific weather conditions, with only one casualty, the drowning of the master mason, **John R. Trewavas** (<http://tinyurl.com/tillylit>).

- The **tallest and finest flag pole** in Western Oregon was yesterday hoisted and put in place at the office of the Main Street dock, and the flag with 42 stars on it run up amid the boom of brass cannon. The pole is 8 inches through at the butt and 104 feet high, and is a monument to **Capt. J. G. (Jackson Gregory) Hustler**’s patriotism.

Note: According to the Oregon Encyclopedia, he was one of the earliest licensed Columbia River Bar pilots. **S.C. Reeves** was the first, and J.G. Hustler, **C. White**, and **George Flavel** followed shortly thereafter (<http://tinyurl.com/barcaptain>).

- A private letter from Seattle says that by actual count there are now 3,111 brick buildings being erected in Seattle. That is 3,110 more than are now being erected in Astoria.

‘A GOOD, CLEAN PASTIME’

Well, here’s a new hobby for you: **Magnet fishing**. But hopefully you won’t catch anything as scary as Longview, Washington, resident **Jeremy Girard** (pictured), did, in Lake Sacagawea on Oct. 28 — a **hand grenade**. As reported in The Daily News (TDN) of Longview, once he gingerly landed his catch, Jeremy called the police, who in turn called in the Portland Bomb Squad, who whisked grenade away (<http://tinyurl.com/magfish>).



“I have (magnet) fished from Cathlamet all the way to Silver Lake, and am still expanding,” he told the Ear. “I’ll say it’s a good, clean pastime for people of all ages. And it’s a crazy bit here, but I’ve always been prone to finding crazy things. When I was 12, I found the human remains of a missing person up in the woods in Rose Valley, Washington. Guess you could say I’m a bit of an explorer.”

Thankfully, magnet fishing is, for the most part — hand grenade aside — safe. “It never gets old,” he told TDN. “You never know what you’re going to pull out of there.”

COMMUNITY NOTES

SATURDAY
Sit & Stitch — 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., Homespun 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>

SUNDAY
Angora Hiking Club — 2 p.m.,

Seaside Hostel, 930 N. Holladay Drive. Annual fall potluck and election of officers. For information, call Bob Westerberg at 503-325-4315.

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.

Seekers Group — 6 to 7:30 p.m., Pioneer Presbyterian Church, 33324 Patriot Way, Warrenton.

Group discusses issues facing religious faith in the modern secular world. All are welcome. For information, call 503-861-2421.

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.

Grace and Encouragement for Moms — 10 to 11:30 a.m., Crossroads Community Church, 40618 Old Highway 30, Svensen. GEMS group is a time for moms to relax and enjoy each others’ company. Free childcare is provided. For information, call Rachael Bidlecome at 503-458-6103.

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.

Columbia Senior Diners — 11:30 a.m., 1111 Exchange St. Cost is \$6. For information, or to have a meal delivered, call 503-325-9693.

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