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IN ONE EAR • ELLEDA WILSON

AN MU69 BY ANY OTHER NAME ...



Want a shot at a little immortality? Here's a chance to propose a nickname for KBO MU69, an object in the Kuiper Belt, of significance because it's the target for a NASA New Horizons deep space exploratory probe flyby on Jan. 1, 2019 (www.frontierworlds.org/nominations). The illustration shown is courtesy of NASA New Horizons.

Actually, since MU69 may be binary, it's probably best to come up with two names that go together. "We are particularly interested in nicknames that are appropriate for the first exploration of a cold, distant, ancient world at the outer frontier of the solar system," the website says.

Nicknames that are chosen by New Horizons will go on a ballot where everyone can vote (www.frontierworlds.org/vote), and the winning nickname(s) will be proposed to the International Astronomical Union (IAU), who will make the final decision. So far, the Ear's favorite names on the ballot are Peanut, Almond, and Cashew. Submit your suggestion and, as the saying goes: "Vote early and vote often."

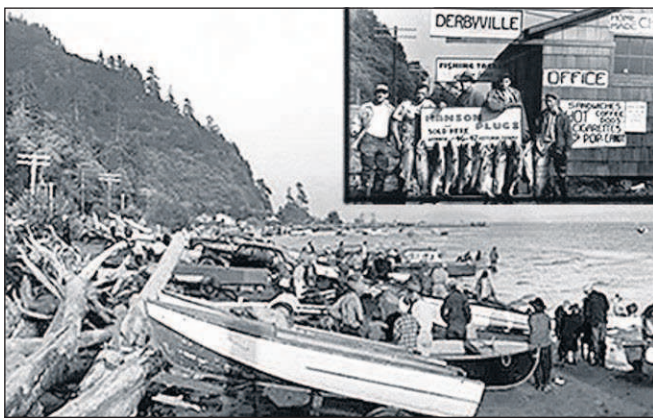
SAIL ON



On Sunday, with the help of the Columbia River Bar Pilots, Columbia River Maritime Museum's Mini-boat Program launched its latest vessel, the R/V Concomly, half a mile west of the Astoria Bridge. Like the other mini-boats in the program, it's a 6.5-foot-long, self-righting sailboat made of fiberglass, equipped with a GPS transmitter. The Concomly is pictured courtesy of the Columbia River Maritime Museum.

While the other mini-boats in the program are embarking on ocean voyages that students (or anyone) can track (http://tinyurl.com/findminiboat), the Concomly is staying on the Columbia River. When its tracker is turned on, it will report its location every 15 minutes, which you can follow on the museum's website, www.crrmm.org — a grand opportunity to learn about the Columbia's tides and currents for armchair sailors everywhere.

WHERE IS DERBYVILLE?



Ever heard of Derbyville? Well, the Ear hadn't, either, until just the other day. Turns out it was along that stretch of land on the Washington side of the river between where the Astoria Bridge lands and the Chinook tunnel. The area is pictured, courtesy of the Columbia Pacific Heritage Museum.

Derbyville was actually a camping area created to house the overflow of anglers who flocked to participate in the Astoria Regatta Derby Days salmon fishing competition. From The Daily Astorian Regatta insert, 1947: "Thousands thronged into the war-swollen, crowded city each fall, taxing housing capacity beyond its ability to handle them. Auto camps as far away as Seaside and Clatskanie were filled. Resorts were overrun. To many a family without means to rent a boat or pay for a hotel or auto camp, that chance to bring the family skiff and pitch a tent seemed like heaven. And along the north shore there was room for all."

Sadly, the derby was curtailed by Oregon Fish & Wildlife regulations in the late 1960s (http://tinyurl.com/regderby), and Derbyville faded away. So now you know.

DOE IN DISTRESS



I want to give a shout out to the Astoria Police Department," Diane Finucane wrote, "particularly Deputy Chief Eric Halverson and Patrol Officer Kenny Hansen. They came to the rescue of a doe who was hung upside down on a very high retaining wall.

"Her right hind leg hoof was stuck in a fence," she explained. "She was struggling with all her might to free herself. I have no idea how long she was hanging there. I saw her and called the police department." Soon thereafter, help arrived.

"When Eric saw the situation, he climbed over my fence and asked for a hammer to try and free her hoof. He got her free! The deer went to the ground, and a few minutes later moved to a nearby location. Her right leg may give her a problem, but we will wait and see at this time. Some time after that, I saw her move, and then she stood a while and rested. So hope for the best.

"After Eric and Kenny left, an Oregon State trooper came and took a look, and he also said to just let her be, and see what happens." The last time Diane saw the doe, she was with her fawn, resting under a tree in a neighbor's yard. The next time she looked, the two were gone.

"Thank God for these men," Diane declared. "I am thankful the officers respond to these incidents."

TALES OF THE TOWN



Tidbits from the Saturday, Nov. 10, 1888 edition of The Daily Morning Astorian:

- There is going to be lots of fun today on the streets of Astoria, as a result of election bets ... Ike Bergman will wheel R.L. Jeffrey around the block ... Hugh McCormick will carry John Enberg around the block; J.F. Newline will wheel Tom Linville. The entertainment commences this afternoon at 2 o'clock. Dr. A. J. Fulton has been selected as attendant surgeon in case of accident which requires professional aid.

Note: The celebration commemorates a win for Republicans and President Benjamin Harrison (pictured, left). Oregon was, at the time, a Republican state.

- Be careful with your illuminations and fireworks this evening. Let no accident happen.

Note: Yet an ad two spaces down reads "Griffin & Reed have a full line of fireworks, lanterns, flags, festooning, etc., for tonight's celebration."

- Chief of police Barry wishes delinquent city tax payers to distinctly understand that it will be better for them to pay their taxes to-day without delay.

Note: As Chief Barry was rumored to be a shady character involved in shanghaiing sailors (http://tinyurl.com/NorrisLtr), the Ear suspects the citizens took this announcement very seriously.

- There is an outbreak of smallpox in Portland There are seven cases now in the pest house, and three deaths have resulted. In view of the great travel between Astoria and Portland ... vaccination should be promptly attended to, and every means taken to avoid infection.

Note: A smallpox vaccine wasn't discovered until 1796 by an English doctor, Edward Jenner (http://tinyurl.com/poxvac). The vaccine was available in the U.S. as early as the 1800s.

- Gov. (Sylvester) Pennoyer has issued a Thanksgiving proclamation, designating Thursday, the 29th, as a day of thanksgiving and prayer ...

Note: Pennoyer (pictured, right), a Democrat, served two terms as the eighth governor of Oregon. He was a cantankerous character, who was famous for sending President Grover Cleveland a prickly telegram in 1893 (http://tinyurl.com/pricklegram) stating, "You mind your business and I'll mind mine."

AIM FOR THE STARS



Maritime history fans take note: An astrolabe — a celestial navigation tool that predates the sextant — was plucked from the wreckage of one of the ships in Portuguese explorer Vasco da Gama's armada, the Esmeralda, NPR reports (http://tinyurl.com/vascoastro). The vessel went down in a storm in 1503 off the coast of Oman near the mouth of the Persian Gulf, and was first discovered in 1998.

When the 7-inch bronze disk was first salvaged from the wreck in 2014, the Blue Water Recoveries team leader, David Mearns, wasn't completely sure what it was, as aside from some recognizable emblems, the surface was obscured. Recently, however, 3-D imaging was used on the disc, revealing the navigational markings that prove the artifact is, indeed, an astrolabe. Images of the scans are shown, courtesy of the University of Warwick.

The icing on the cake: Dating from sometime between 1495 and 1500, this find is the "earliest known" astrolabe by several decades.

WAYWARD HELMET



Fun rerun from May 6, 2011: The Triangle Tavern got a nostalgic surprise on Sunday, May 1. Nancy Little, of Ocean Shores, Washington, popped in with an inflated acrylic racing helmet she found while beachcombing with Kim Lewis — nine years ago.

Sharon Rose, owner of the Triangle Tavern building, and former owner of the tavern, told the Ear that the helmet was from opening day, when she and her husband, the late Danny Butler, opened the tavern in May 2002.

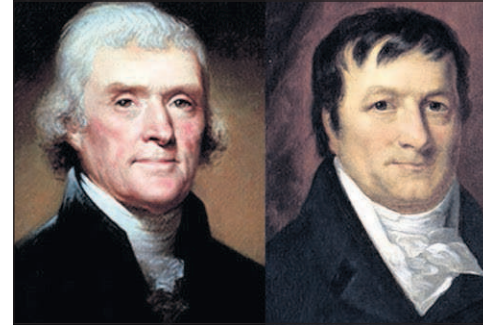
They had a big whiz-bang celebration, and part of the festivities was the time-capsule helmet, which several customers signed with Magic Markers — including well-known local characters Fairly Honest Roy and the late Rick The Roofer.

Across the bottom of the helmet, Sharon Rose wrote a note saying whoever found it could bring it back to the Triangle for a free beer. Then she gave it to a fisherman, who was directed to drop the helmet off into the ocean once he got past the Columbia River Bar while he was on his way north to go fishing.

When Nancy found it on Copalis Beach about a year later, in spring 2003, the helmet was still fully inflated. She kept it, and even moved with it a few times. On Sunday, she finally decided to call the tavern and find out if the offer was still good. Of course, it was, so she turned it in (much to Sharon Rose's delight), and got her free beer.

DEAR JOHN

Did you know that Thomas Jefferson (pictured, left) and Astoria's founder, John Jacob Astor (pictured, right), were writing lengthy letters to each other between 1808 and 1813? (http://tinyurl.com/JeffLetters).



The correspondence was mainly about the trade business and ousting those pesky British from the Pacific Northwest. The last missive was from Jefferson to Astor, dated Nov. 9, 1813. Here are a few excerpts, courtesy of Founders Online:

"... I learn with great pleasure the progress you have made towards an establishment on Columbia river. I view it as the germ of a great, free & independant empire on that side of our continent, and that liberty & self government spreading from that, as well as this side, will ensure their compleat establishment over the whole.

"It must be still more gratifying to yourself to foresee that your name will be handed down with that of Columbus & Raleigh, as the father of the establishment and founder of such an empire ... while you are doing so much for future generations of men, I sincerely wish you may find a present account in the just profits you are entitled to expect from the enterprize."

Astor certainly did benefit from his "enterprize," as between his fur trading ventures and real estate investments, he was worth at least \$20 million (\$6 billion today) at his death in 1848, and was considered one of the richest men in the world at the time.

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.

available for purchase from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Bazaar includes homemade baked goods, soup mixes, jam, gourmet and kitchen items, home decor for holiday entertaining and gift giving, gift bags, stained glass pieces, vintage linens, and a "gently used" table. Raffle tickets are \$1 each or six for \$5 for a Christmas wall hanging. For information, call 503-738-5773.

St., Ilwaco Washington. Open to all tribal members. Light lunch provided following the meeting for volunteers helping set up the annual Oyster Fry Dinner and Silent Auction tonight at the museum. For information, call the tribal office at 360-875-6670.

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.

Columbia Northwestern Model Railroad Group — 1 p.m., in Hammond. Club 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 ringinganwildesign@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, or go to www.nami.org

Line Dancing — 5:30 to 8 p.m., Seaside American Legion, 1315 Broadway. For information, call

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