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IN ONE EAR • ELLEDA WILSON

HIGHER GROUND



The **Quileute Tribe** in the coastal fishing town of **La Push**, Washington, is taking action to protect themselves from the catastrophic tsunami that will ensue when the Cascadia Subduction Zone finally unlocks, causing a megathrust earthquake, the Northwest News Network reports (<http://tinyurl.com/quilmove>).

If your geography is a little rusty, La Push is on the west coast of the Olympic Peninsula at the mouth of the Quillayute River, a scenario not unlike that of the North Coast residents living at the mouth of the Columbia River.

Logging and road building to move the town to much higher ground in a nearby forest — which literally took an act of Congress to “tweak” the boundaries of Olympic National Park — has already begun. The immediate goal is to move the children, so the K-12 school will be the first thing built at a safe 250-foot elevation. A photo of the current school, by Tom Banse/Northwest News Network, is shown.

Also being moved are the government offices and housing. But some facilities will stay on the coast, such as certain marine-related businesses, a restaurant, the U.S. Coast Guard station and the tribe’s Oceanside Resort. You can track the tribe’s progress at their “Move to Higher Ground” website at <https://mthg.org>

“The heart will stay in the lower village,” **Susan Devine**, project manager noted. “But the day-to-day functions, the safety of where the children are living and going to school, where people’s jobs are, they will move up to higher ground.”

Although the senior center will be the second building to be relocated, in hopes of encouraging the seniors to move, nobody will be forced to relocate. “The majority of people that are down here now are going to stay here because they don’t want to uproot,” village elder **Beverly Loudon** told NW News Network.

“They’ve been here for many, many generations,” she added, “so they probably won’t even care if they get washed away or whatever.” Likewise, she’s putting her faith in God, and staying put.

FOWL PLAY

In a Facebook post, the **Clackamas County Sheriff’s Office** mentioned that one of their “adventures” was featured on NBC’s “Today” show (<http://tinyurl.com/helpstalk>). In early November, UPS driver **Lee Purdy** heard someone yelling “help me” inside a house, so he called the sheriff’s office and asked them to do a welfare check.



Deputy **Hayden Sanders** arrived on the scene, and a short investigation revealed the screamer was a noisy parrot named **Diego**, who was simply exercising his right of free speech. Diego and the deputy are pictured, courtesy of the Clackamas County Sheriff’s Office.

It turns out that Diego gets annoyed when his owner leaves the room, so he yells “help me” to make her come back. Unfortunately, she was on vacation.

ASTORIA FERRY GETS NOTICED



Ferry friend **Joshua Marquis** was in New York City and reading the ‘State by State’ section of the **USA Today** this evening (Nov. 16). The **Astoria Ferry** posted on its Facebook page. “Of course he looked at Oregon first, and this is what he saw! Over 4 million copies!: ‘OREGON Astoria: A nonprofit is restoring the historic Tourist No. 2 ferry in hopes it can be used for river excursions, The Daily Astorian reports.’”

Hopefully the blurb will generate some love for the ferry, and attract new donors (<http://tinyurl.com/helpferry>). As the old saying goes, you can’t even buy that kind of publicity.

EVERYONE LOVES LEONBERGERS



Astorians **Christina** and **Greg Merten** and their two enormous **Leonberger** dogs, **Gully** and **Murphy**, and the boys’ canine sidekick, **Sadie**, caused an international incident at the South Jetty recently. Here’s what happened:

The Mertens were taking the dogs for a walk on the dune trails near the jetty where the dogs can go “full crazy bouncy without causing any trouble,” Christina said. Halfway through the walk, they got soaked in a surprise hail and wind storm, so they slogged back to the jetty parking lot.

Just as they got there, two tour buses and four cars pulled in. Nope, it wasn’t tourists who poured out of the vehicles. It was the **Chinese Army**. At the beach? Greg figured that since once a year China sends military personnel to the U.S. to conduct disaster preparedness drills with the U.S. Army, that’s probably what was going on. He was right. Actually, it was the first time Oregon hosted the exercise, at nearby Camp Rilea.

The Mertens started to walk by the group, when “suddenly there was lots of pointing and ‘ooohs’ and ‘ahhhs,’ and familiar-looking ‘big dog!’ hand gestures,” Christina recalled, “and then the large group of important serious-looking military men all started walking towards us.” A translator came forward, eager with questions about the Leonbergers, and he translated Christina’s answers for the group.

“Thankfully, the Leo boys were absolute rock stars ... and patiently sat as 20 to 30 uniformed Chinese generals carefully pet their soaked heads, and excitedly posed for photos with them. ... I think a few even did bunny ears.” One of the photos is shown. In gratitude, one of the generals gave “the Leos” honorary Chinese warrior names.

“One of the American officers came over to me laughing and shaking his head and said with a Southern accent, ‘Ma’am, I’ve been traveling with this group for a while now, and we’ve shown them all kinds of stuff,’” Christina said, “... but this is seriously the most excited I’ve ever seen them. This is like the highlight of their trip!”

“Just goes to show that you never know who you’ll run into at the beach,” she added, “and that almost everyone loves Leonbergers.”

IT’S JUST A FLUKE



Fun rerun from April 15, 2016: Ever wonder how that **Indian head statue** wound up at the roundabout? The answer came when **Jan Johnson** delivered an envelope full of old photos of its 1987 dedication. Pictured, **Peter “Wolf” Toth**, the artist (www.deschumaker.com), is inset, left, and climbing on the statue; the group gathered for the ceremony are inset, right.

The statue, carved from a giant cedar log, was created by Toth as part of the Trail of the Whispering Giants, to honor Native Americans. The Astoria version, **Ikala Nawan**, or Man Who Fishes, honors the tribes of the North Coast, and is No. 57 in the series. As a little side note, Toth himself is not Native American — he was actually born in Hungary.

Jan’s husband, **Ed Johnson**, is the key to how the Man Who Fishes came to Astoria. Sometime back in the 1980s, he taught summer classes in Reno, Nevada, where he and his children would often go to the city park. That’s where he met Toth, who was carving statues there. Toth told Ed he was putting Native American statues in all 50 states, so Ed asked if there were any plans for Oregon. Toth said not yet.

When Ed got back home from Reno, he started a letter writing campaign to invite Toth to Astoria to carve a Whispering Giant here, beginning with then-mayor **Edith Henningsgaard-Miller**. She wrote Toth an invitation letter, and so did the Kiwanis, the Chamber of Commerce and the school district.

Toth accepted, and stayed at **Joe Herman**’s (who did the rock work around the base). The sculptor did not get paid for his work, by the way — he considers the Whispering Giants a gift to his adopted country — so usually local governments and citizens cover his expenses and materials. It took several months to hand-carve the 18-foot statue, which has presided over the roundabout ever since.

“It was just a fluke how it all came about,” Ed noted.

LOCAL BREVITIES



Tidbits from 120 years ago in The Daily Morning Astorian, Wednesday, Nov. 24, 1897:

• **Captain Johnson**, of the schooner **Edward Parke**, last May staked his brother, who went to the Alaska gold fields, and is now owner of a \$1 million claim.

Note: About \$25 million now.

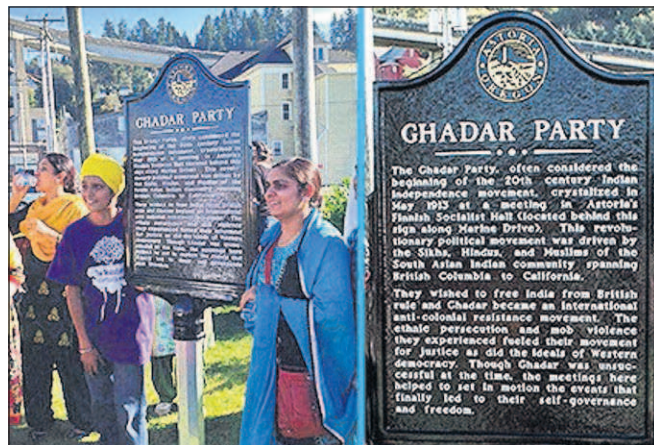
• Artist (**Nels**) **Hagerup**’s latest painting, the **Relief** passing out to sea, is perhaps the best work he has produced. It is almost a perfect production, down to the smallest details.

Note: Hagerup (1864-1922), from Norway, created over 6,000 paintings (shown, “Through the Mist,” courtesy of MutualArt.com), mostly seascapes, and was a founder of the Portland Art Association in 1895 (<http://tinyurl.com/nhagerup>)

• For Rent: One three-room house opposite the court house, \$10 per month; and one two-room house furnished for light housekeeping, 367 Commercial St., \$10 per month. Apply 355 Commercial St.

Note: That’s about \$249 in today’s money. That’s not enough to even rent an outhouse in Astoria, these days.

WHY?



The **Ghadar Movement** plaque, stolen from its spot at Maritime Memorial Park on Oct. 23, is still missing. This is not some tiny little sign, either; it’s of substantial size and weight, made of bronze and attached to a metal pole. The plaque recognizes the formation of the Ghadar Party — a political movement to make India independent from England — which first met in Astoria in 1913 at the old Finnish Socialist Hall.

“It is quite a shock to those in Astoria who participated in the celebration in 2013, and really understand the seriousness of this loss,” former Astoria City Councilwoman **Karen Mellin** said in dismay, as reported in The Tribune of Chandigarh, India (<http://tinyurl.com/chanditrib>).

Meanwhile, take a good look at the photos, taken at the Ghadar centennial. A new sign has been ordered, but what happened to the old one? Do you know? If you have any information, please contact Astoria Police Sgt. Andrew Randall at arandall@astoria.or.us or 503-325-4411.

As for the plaque’s disappearance, “it’s a mystery,” Karen observed. “Why?” Why, indeed.

GIVE IT A SHOT



The **Long Beach Peninsula Visitors Bureau** in Washington is holding a **photo contest**, looking for shots of the peninsula or Pacific County that “would inspire someone to visit.” They will select two winners, whose work will be featured on the 2018 Events Calendar and the 2018 Beach Visitors Guide cover. You can read the rules, enter, and see other contestants’ entries, at <http://tinyurl.com/LBpix>

Want to enter more than one photo? No problem. Send additional photos by email to communications@funbeach.com with the subject line “Photo Contest.” Submit as many as you like, but you’d better hustle, as the entries close at 11:59 p.m. on Saturday.

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.

Columbia Northwestern Model Railroading 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>

Karaoke — 7 to 8 p.m., Seaside Lodge and International Hostel, 930 N. Holladay Drive, Seaside. Free session, all ages, for those who love to sing karaoke. Refreshments served. For information, call 503-738-7911.

SUNDAY

Lower Columbia Diversity Coalition — postponed. The group hopes to reschedule sometime in December.

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 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 re-

ligious 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.

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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