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# COMMUNITY

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IN ONE EAR • ELLEDA WILSON

## 'KIND OF BAD, BUT PRETTY NEAT'



**A** lobster was caught off New Brunswick, Canada, in late November, with a **Pepsi logo** "tattoo" on one of his claws. The Guardian reports (<https://tinyurl.com/lobstertat>). It is pictured in a photo by Karissa Lindstrand, who discovered the critter in a crate, waiting to have its claws banded. She recognized the logo immediately.

But how did it get there? One theory is the lobster grew up around a can on the ocean floor. Another is that part of a Pepsi box somehow stuck to the critter. Lindstrand doesn't buy either idea, and thinks it's from a printed picture. "I'm still trying to wrap my brain around what exactly it was," she said.

The crustacean is a sad reminder of how pervasive ocean debris is. The Center for Biological Diversity says there are an estimated 15 trillion to 51 trillion pieces of plastic in the world's oceans, with particles being ingested regularly by fish, birds and marine mammals, often with deadly results (<https://tinyurl.com/CBDiverse>). The lobster was lucky to get away with just a tattoo.

Unfortunately, Pepsi Claw wound up being sold. The captain of the fishing boat contacted the buyer to try to get it back, to put on display in a local restaurant, but he was unsuccessful.

"I'm really wishing I would have kept it now," said Lindstrand. "It's the first time I've seen something like that, and it was pretty neat. Kind of bad, but pretty neat."

## 'SIDELIGHTS AND INCIDENTS'



The Dec. 10, 1922 Sunday Oregonian also featured "Sidelights and Incidents" of the fire. Here are a few samples:

- **Chris Jaeger**, proprietor of the Jaeger confectionery, appeared on the streets this afternoon in a borrowed automobile, laden with a large cash register and a small basket of "sweets."
- Several hundred safes, large and small, will not be opened for at least five days. Should the strong boxes be opened now, there is danger that the papers inside will burn.
- Smoke was still pouring from the giant chimney of the Astoria National bank (pictured, right) tonight. The walls were badly crumbled during the fire, but the huge stack remained intact.
- **Mayor Bremner** attempted to enter his office at the city hall Saturday night, reports have it, but was denied the privilege when confronted by a muzzle of a gun in the hands of a Navy guard.

**Note:** The city was kept under guard after the fire.

- Standing alone, like Noah's ark on Mount Sinai, is the vault of the Bank of Commerce.
- Astoria is fighting for its existence as it did almost 100 years ago, and has discarded personalities, creed and class.

## LIGHT 'EM UP



**U**p for a Christmas light show with music? Head on over to the **Daniel Knight Warren House**, 107 N.E. Skipanon Drive in Warrenton. **Mike and Teale Adelmann** have put on quite the display — there are six songs synchronized to approximately 15,000 lights. To hear the music, tune your car radio to 95.7 FM. The show runs from dusk to 10 p.m. nightly until Jan. 1, so hustle on over and get a healthy dose of some Christmas spirit.

## MAPPING ASTORIA



**Ken Mittelbuscher**, aka Clatsop Ken, owner of the Crosby House Bed and Breakfast on Bond Street, has a new all-consuming project: Painting a painstakingly detailed 4-foot by 4-foot **map** (pictured) of what **Astoria's waterfront** looked like in 1900. "I forgot how to shoot pool, it sat on my pool table for so long," he noted.

"What really did it for me was realizing there are only two ways to build in Astoria: cutting into the hillside or over the tidelands." In 1900, a good portion of the business district was built on pilings over the river; several areas that are filled in now were once small bays. You can see the painting in more detail at <https://tinyurl.com/Ast1900>

Not only does the map show the old street names in red next to the new street names in white, various sections of the town are different colors. The painting even shows the paths of both the 1883 and 1922 fires. As detailed as it is, the project is incomplete — he has yet to put in the trolley lines, and there are 2-foot panels that will be added on each side.

To make the street numbers as accurate as possible, and on the right side of the street, he said the book "Astoria: An Oregon History" by **Karen L. Leedom** was "very instrumental." **Liisa Penner** at the Clatsop County Historical Society also lent a hand. If you have any information to volunteer, or spot something wrong, you can contact Ken at [mittelbuscher@yahoo.com](mailto:mittelbuscher@yahoo.com). "Anyone who knows anything to contribute," he said, "I'm definitely interested."

Ken is a volunteer Astoria Riverfront Trolley driver, and he plans to put the painting up in the office at the Trolley Barn. However, he'd be happy to loan it out if any local business or nonprofit would like to display it. He's also available as a speaker about Astoria's history.

"I love to demonstrate what Astoria was at one time," he said. "It's better to share it than lose it."

## 'TOO TERRIBLE TO DESCRIBE'



**T**here's nothing like an eye-witness description of the 1922 Astoria fire, and **Mrs. C. A. Lundberg**, provided one to The Sunday Oregonian on Dec. 10, 1922:

"I saw that red blaze when it started and it frightened me. ... And then I saw it spring up in several places. They tell me that the honeycomb foundations of the streets were the cause of that.

"Alone in the house, I sat there with my eyes glued to the window. I saw the fire run in four directions — blazes here, a great blackness there, and then a blaze in another place. It was not long until I knew that it was out of control. I could see crowds of men running about in the streets, and when I opened the window once, I had to close it right away because of the rain. I could hear shoutings about the roar of the fire.

"If you have read Dante's 'Inferno' you will have some conception of what that awful red thing seemed to me. It was too terrible to describe. At times I think the flames went 200 feet in the air. The Columbia almost to the other shore shone red. Why, I could even see the waves, it was so light. But oh, it was weird! I never want to see anything like it again.

"... Suddenly I knew it was day, and was glad. But it was a dirty gray, that dawn, a dirty gray all shot with crimson. ... Those next hours were dreadful, dreadful, I tell you, and then somehow it got around that it was all under control. It made me sick to walk down and see all that ruin as I did yesterday afternoon." A section of a Frank Woodfield photo of the fire wreckage is shown.

"Just think, all those fine things all gone in smoke," she concluded. "And Astoria, do you think it will ever be a town again? ... It will be a terrible task. One would almost pray at a time like this."

## IN RUINS



**T**oday is the 95th anniversary of the 1922 Astoria fire. As reported in the Dec. 9 edition of the Nebraska State Journal, 30 blocks of the city were "in ruins," with a property loss of \$15 million (about \$218 million now). In collateral damage, hundreds of citizens were made homeless (<https://tinyurl.com/AstFire1922>).

**Fire Chief E. B. Foster** said the blaze got out of control because it was burning in the pilings under the buildings in the business district — the same thing that happened when the city burned in 1883. Pictured, Astoria as it was in 1905, 14th and Commercial streets, courtesy of Richard Thompson.

The Morning Astorian and Evening Budget's new building was destroyed, but publisher **J.S. Dellinger** still managed to put out a mimeographed edition of the paper before moving to the presses of the Finnish daily, Loveri.

Luckily, there were only two local casualties: Businessman **Notores Staples** had a heart attack at the height of the fire; and **C. J. Smith**, a transient, was found hanging under the sidewalk, a suicide.

"We've got no town left, but we've still got the best harbor on the Pacific coast," **Mayor James Bremner** stated. "We will start rebuilding at once on the old site. These things have happened before, to us once ... and (to) many other cities. Yet folks have gone ahead and built bigger and better cities on the ruins. We hope to do just that."

## PARTY WITH PIERCE



**Pierce Christie** is throwing a complimentary "Thank You Astoria!" holiday party to give back to his community, which has so graciously provided him support during his stroke and recovery this past year," Pierce's daughter, Heather Christie, wrote. "All are welcome to celebrate the season together." The party is from 8 to 11 p.m. tonight at the **Merry Time Bar & Grill**, 995 Marine Drive.

Pierce, who is pictured, front and center, suffered a severe stroke in September 2016. Initially, he was 90 percent paralyzed, but he has worked hard to bounce back. A party is definitely in order, and live music will be performed by the **Jesse Lee Falls Band**, featuring **Calen Uhlig** on bass and **Jeff Carden** on drums, plus surprise special guests. And, there will be complimentary beverages and snacks.

"A life-long musician and pillar of the Astoria community, many know Pierce as the founder of **The Malternative**, his eclectic music shop in Astoria," Heather added. "He has mentored countless aspiring musicians over his many years running the shop. Come on down, and help Pierce celebrate his first holiday back home!"

## IN PERFECT HARMONY



**T**is the season: Britain's **University of Sheffield** has invented **treegonometry**, the mathematics of creating a harmonious Christmas tree, a perfect balance of green and glitz. There is a mathematical formula involving square roots, pi and tinsel, but never mind, the university's website offers a calculator (in centimeters) at <http://tinyurl.com/xtreeformula>. However, the formula only tells you how much to add, not where to harmoniously place things. For that, you and the tinsel are on your own.

## COMMUNITY NOTES

### SATURDAY

**Lower Columbia R/C Society** — 8:30 a.m., back room at Upton 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.

Washington. Meeting open to all tribal members; attendees are reminded to bring a potluck item. For question, 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.

**Chinook Indian Nation Council Meeting** — 11 a.m., Chinook Tribal Office, 3 E. Park St., Bay Center,

**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 stand welcome. For information, contact Mark Standley at 503-434-0148 or Herman Doty at 971-306-1043 or [ringinganvildesign@gmail.com](mailto:ringinganvildesign@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)

**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.

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