

CONTACT US
ewilson@dailyastorian.com
(503) 325-3211 ext. 257

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IN ONE EAR • ELLEDA WILSON

GREGORY AND SARA



“Gregory (pictured, right) and Sara (pictured, left) were left behind after their owner passed away a couple of years ago,” Rita Smith of the River Song Foundation wrote. “They have had a caregiver, but Gregory is fairly tame, and should have been put into a home right away. He came in with bad dental issues and had obviously suffered a long time.

“Sara is his semi-tame offspring. Gregory has been neutered, tested, immunized and had dental care. He may need management for mild arthritis. He would like to be adopted into a loving home where he can adjust to pet status again.”

Interested in adopting him, or in donating to help Rita continue the good work she’s doing rescuing cats? Call her at 503-861-2003 or go to riversongfoundation.org

The immediate need is put a happy ending on Gregory’s sad tale, and find him a forever home. “Sara will need a home as well,” Rita added. “Maybe they could stay together?”

GETTING TO KNOW YOU



Mitch Eckhardt moved to Astoria from Livingston, Texas, because he understandably “fell in love with its charming feel and beautiful scenery.” Now he wants to get to know Astoria, and Astorians, with his Tell Me Astoria project (facebook.com/TellMeAstoria or [@tellme.astoria](https://www.instagram.com/tellmeastoria)).

“Most photographers shoot the gorgeous scenery around here, and I will too,” he wrote, “but I also want to photograph the people who were either born here, ended up here or chose to be here, just like me. The goal is to get to know this town from the people who are here year-round, not just visiting in the summertime. Although I’m not averse to including visitors in the project.

“I also hope that by getting to know those around us by reading their stories, we can be a part of sparking real relationships and get away from the cursory shallow conversations that we normally share with one another. The statement for this project is, ‘It’s hard to love people unless you get to know them.’

“So let’s get to know each other, love one another better, and make Astoria as beautiful to live in together, as it is to see from the eyes of those who visit for the first time. I’m looking forward to getting to know you!”

Interested? Email him at mitcheckhardt@gmail.com

HAPPY NEW YEAR?



Ever wonder how Meriwether Lewis and William Clark and their Corps of Discovery spent New Year’s Day 1806 on the North Coast? Their journals tell the tale (tinyurl.com/lcnewyear).

“The year commenced with a wet day; but the weather still continues warm; and the ticks, flies and other insects are in abundance ...” Sgt. Patrick Gass wrote. Of historical note: “We gave our fortification the name of Fort Clatsop.” (Shown, a soil painting of the fort by Jan Lang.)

“This morning I was awake at an early hour by the discharge of a volley of small arms,” Lewis recalled in his journal, “which were fired by our party in front of our quarters to usher in the new year; this was the only mark of respect which we had in our power to pay this salubrious day.

“Our repast of this day, tho’ better than that of Christmas, consisted principally in the anticipation of the 1st day of January 1807, when in the bosom of our friends we hope to participate in the mirth and hilarity of the day ... At present we were content with eating our boiled elk and wappetoe (a tuber), and solacing our thirst with our only beverage, pure water.”

WHERE ARE YOU, OSKER?



An Oregon Coast Aquarium staff member, Jason King, made an unusual find near Boiler Bay State Park, which was jokingly referred to as a UFO, in this case meaning an Unidentified Floating Object (aquarium.org/tag/osker). It is pictured, courtesy of the Oregon Coast Aquarium.

“I was beachcombing along the wrack line when I spotted what looked like a Frisbee under some driftwood and bull kelp,” King recalled. “When I went in for a closer look, it appeared to be a floating portable speaker because of the Bluetooth symbol. After retrieving it and clearing some debris, I realized that it was a scientific instrument of some kind.” But what kind?

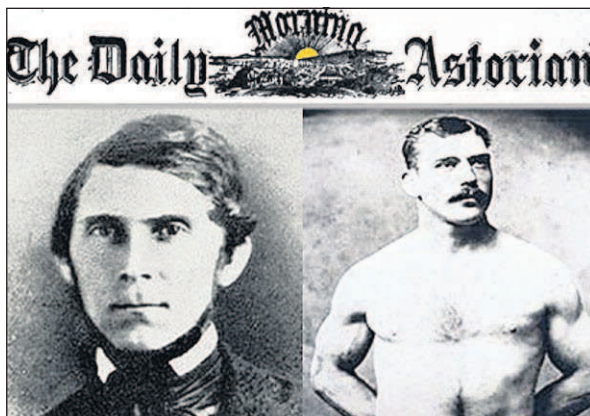
The letters OSKER were visible, and it took some research to find out the object was an Iridium Surface Tracking System. There was also contact information, so King sent off an email. Stephen Page, Oceanographic Monitoring Coordinator for the Institute of Ocean Sciences in Sidney, British Columbia, replied.

“The drifter you found is part of our (ocean) surface circulation studies on the West Coast,” he wrote. It’s used to “calibrate oceanographic circulation models, understand surface drift and to give insights into where spills, debris or any floating item may end up.”

This particular OSKER was deployed Sept. 1 at the mouth of the Juan de Fuca Strait, and transmitted data via satellite until its battery died Sept. 21. King found it 300 miles south of its last transmission. “I immediately felt a sense of joy and accomplishment,” he noted, “as after many years of searching beaches for treasures, I had never found anything like it!”

OSKER is being sent home to be refurbished for, what Page calls, “another adventure at sea.”

LOCAL BREVITIES



From the Tuesday, Dec. 29, 1885 edition of The Daily Morning Astorian:

• The electric lights will not be lit till the arrival of the new lamps, which are expected on Thursday’s steamer.

• Pilot Gunderson reports that while on the Glengaber on Christmas Eve, about 50 miles west of Cape Hancock they passed the wreck of a schooner, bottom upward. She was about 50 feet in length; the rudder was gone ...

Note: Lt. William P. McArthur (pictured, left), surveyed the West Coast in 1849 for the U.S. Coast Survey. In June 1850, he dubbed the Cape Disappointment headland as Cape Hancock, according to us-lighthouses.com, who thought the name was only used until 1870. Apparently not.

• Clarence Whistler (pictured, right), the renowned wrestler, died today from the effects of a big spree.

Note: He actually died Nov. 6, 1885, but the news of his demise was likely delayed because he was in Australia at the time, according to the Pro Wrestling Historical Society. After a championship bout Down Under, Whistler, 29, went on a three-week binge. It’s widely speculated he died either of alcohol poisoning or an infected cut in his mouth caused by “chewing champagne bottles and/or glasses.” The official cause of death was pneumonia.

• It begins to look as though Dawne would make a good starter for the proposed penal colony in Alaska.

Note: Sitka Judge E. J. Dawne fled Alaska to evade arrest for forgery and embezzlement (tinyurl.com/badDawne). Apparently the penal colony was never built, even though it was championed by several newspapers around the nation as an ideal location since the 1870s.

• Upon the arrival of the Idaho at Port Townsend, from Alaska on the 26th, the vessel was searched by custom house officers and \$5,250 worth of opium was found aboard.

Note: About \$128,000 now. “The more things change, the more they stay the same.” — Alphonse Karr

THE REAL DEAL



Ever wonder what happened to the two women, Tasha Fuiava (pictured, left) and Jennifer Appel (pictured, right), and their two dogs, who were “lost at sea”? They were rescued in October around the same time as Astoria’s drifting sailor, Rimas Meleshyus.

A few days later, their story was questioned by almost every media outlet on the planet, and few believed their tale. Well, the ladies have been busy since coming home. And are very angry about how their story was handled. They started a GoFundMe campaign, “Truth in Media,” “to pursue the media who omitted and obfuscated the facts surrounding our excursion in the Pacific Ocean.”

Unfortunately, nobody seems to be jumping on their bandwagon, as in a month they have only received \$15 of their \$50,000 goal. They may be short on donations, but Appel says the hate emails have been pouring over the transom at a steady rate.

To be fair, if you want to hear what the ladies consider to be an accurate account of their travails, check out their podcast interview with “Mr. Clean” on the Sailing Anarchy forum, “Two Girls, One Mess” (tinyurl.com/2girls1mess). As Appel insists, “you can only get the real deal from them.”

BLOWIN’ IN THE WIND



Long Beach Peninsula photographer Nellie Hux caught this intriguing shot from Ledbetter Farms in Ocean Park, Washington, one recent (and rare) clear day. At first, the Ear was perplexed by the sight of four windmills off the Washington coast, and wondered how they could have suddenly popped up, seemingly out of nowhere.

Well, the answer is, of course, they didn’t; it’s an optical illusion. The windmills are actually across Willapa Bay, up on a hill in Grayland, Washington. She took the photo on the ocean side of the peninsula, from the beach. An enlarged version of the photo can be found at tinyurl.com/NellieHux

In fact, the 6 megawatt wind farm, a Coastal Energy Project of the Coastal Community Action Program (CCAP), is not new to the area at all. It was, in fact, installed in June 2010, and produces around 13.5 million kilowatt hours of clean energy annually (tinyurl.com/CCAPwind). Better yet, the energy is then sold to the local public utility district, and the revenue is used to fund CCAP programs that help Grays Harbor and Pacific county low-income families.

“This project isn’t there to put money in stockholders’ pockets,” Craig Dublanko, CEO of CCAP explained. “This project is here to help the community succeed.”

NO MITTENS REQUIRED



Want to go whale watching while gray whales are traveling south to the Baja peninsula — but don’t want to stand out in the wet and cold for hours just to hopefully catch a glorious glimpse of a whale breaching?

Problem solved. Oregon State Parks has set up a live-stream video camera at the Depoe Bay Whale Center for Winter Whale Watch Week. You can get cozy and watch those whales in the warmth of your own home at tinyurl.com/DepoeLive from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. through Sunday. You won’t even need mittens.

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 Railroad Club — 1 p.m., in Hammond. Group runs trains on HO-scale layout. For information, call Don Carter at 503-325-0757.

Spinners 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 astoriafiberarts.com

SUNDAY

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 — NEW YEAR'S DAY

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' com-

pany. Free childcare is provided. For information, call Rachael Bidlecome at 503-458-6103.

Senior Lunch — No lunch is served today.

Columbia Senior Diners — No lunch is served today.

Warrenton Senior Lunch Program — No lunch is served today.

Astoria Toastmasters — 6:30

p.m., Hotel Elliot conference room, 357 12th St. Visitors welcome. For information, go to toastmasters.org or call Christa Svensson at 206-790-2869.

TUESDAY

Warbirds — 8 a.m., Labor Temple Diner, 934 Duane St. All air crew members and maintainers welcome.

Stewardship Quilting Group — 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., First Lu-

theran Church, 725 33rd St. All are welcome. Donations of material always appreciated. For information, call Janet Kemp at 503-325-4268.

Do Nothing Club — 10 a.m. to noon, 24002 U St., Ocean Park, Wash. Men’s group. For information, call Jack McBride at 360-665-2721.

Senior Lunch — 11:30 a.m.,

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