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IN ONE EAR • ELLEDA WILSON

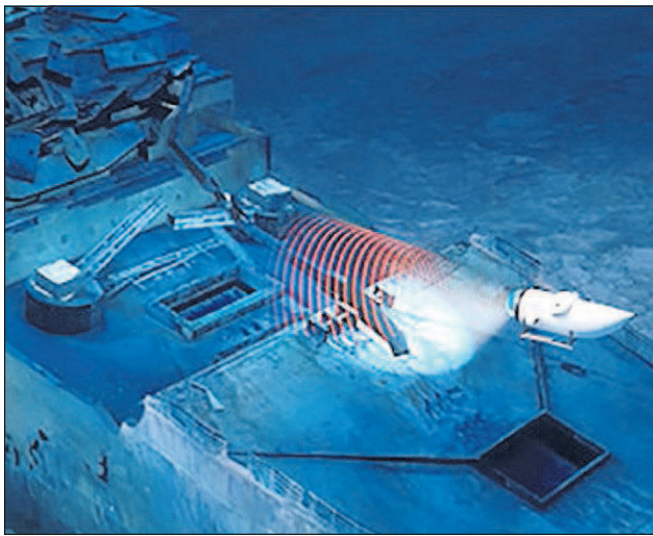
SO THERE



If you're feeling a little put out by the groundhog's prediction of six more weeks of winter on **Groundhog Day** last Friday, never fear, you can go with Oregon Zoo resident **FuFu the hedgehog's** prognostication, instead: She sees an early spring in our future, KPTV reports (tinyurl.com/FuFuPhil). The little hedgehog is pictured, courtesy of KPTV.

"Groundhogs like **Punxsutawney Phil** are relative newcomers to the game," animal curator Tanya Paul noted. "According to folklore, the Europeans who originated the tradition originally used hedgehogs. When they immigrated to the U.S., they realized their new home didn't have hedgehogs, so they turned to the groundhog out of necessity. But FuFu is bringing the holiday back to its origins." Take that, Punxsutawney Phil.

ALL ABOARD



A gentle reminder if you want to get in on the **OceanGate Inc.** expedition to survey and document the condition of the wreck of the **RMS Titanic**: There are still a limited number of slots left for "mission specialists," who get one dive in the state-of-the-art Cyclops 2 submersible to the wreck site. The image of the Cyclops 2 and the Titanic is courtesy of OceanGate Inc.

Just think, the experience will only cost you a paltry \$105,129 per person (in 2018) or \$108,218 per person (in 2019), the equivalent of a first class ticket (\$4,350) on Titanic's maiden, and only, voyage. You can find the qualifications (aside from a hefty bank account) here: tinyurl.com/TitanDive

If you will recall, more than 1,500 died in the sinking, including the great-grandson of Astoria's namesake, **John Jacob Astor IV**. The wreck was found, at a depth of about 12,800 feet, by **Robert Ballard** in 1985.

SHE'S BAAACK



The Tillamook County Pioneer reports that the wreck of the 215-foot windjammer **Emily G. Reed**, which ran aground in Rockaway Beach on Feb. 14, 1908, is visible again, just in time for the 110th anniversary of her demise (tinyurl.com/TCPemily). A photo of her re-emerging from the sand by Don Best is shown.

Malfunctioning chronometers and heavy weather caused the grounding. Four crew members set off in a lifeboat, and were presumed dead. The captain, his wife, and the remaining survivors waited until dawn, when it was low tide and they could wade ashore (tinyurl.com/reed-wales).

The initial count of 12 casualties turned out to be inaccurate; three of the men in the lifeboat survived, and were found starved and thirsty, drifting 200 miles north of the Emily G. Reed, which was a total loss.

SEARCHING FOR THE MAUNA ALA



On Dec. 3, 1941 the steamer **Mauna Ala**, belonging to Matson Navigation Company, sailed from Seattle under the command of Capt. C. W. Saunders bound for Hawaii," bar pilot **Capt. Robert Johnson** wrote. "She was carrying general cargo that included Christmas trees and food for the troop buildup in Hawaii."

After the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, the "Christmas ship" received a cable saying to head to the Columbia River, instead. "On the evening of Dec. 10, a misty evening, their position showed them approaching the Columbia River lightship, where she would take a bar pilot," Capt Johnson explained.

"They continued expecting to pick up the navigation aids of the lightship Cape Disappointment and North Head at any time. Instead, at 7:03 p.m., the lookout called 'breakers ahead.' The engine was put full astern but she ran aground south of the river entrance. Unbeknownst to the ship, all aids to navigation ... had all been turned off, fearing a Japanese attack."

The crew was safe, and taken to Astoria. Not so the ship, which broke apart and was a total loss.

Soldiers rushing to the coast, fearing a Japanese invasion when the ship grounded, instead found the ship's cargo — of "60,000 Christmas trees, 10,000 turkeys, 3,000 chickens," as well as a case each of steaks and Almond Roca — washing ashore, according to the Cannon Beach History Center and Museum (tinyurl.com/SSMauna). Word spread fast, and beachcombers weren't far behind to collect the unexpected Christmas bounty.

"The exact location of her grounding is unclear," noted Capt. Johnson, who is researching the ship for the **Maritime Archaeology Society** (maritimearchaeological.org). "One record has her 3 miles south of the jetty, and another 1 mile south of the Peter Iredale. Can anyone who remembers this incident give us a better description of the location of the beaching? Are there any pictures or stories from local family lore about the incident or taking care of the crew?"

If you have any information, please email him at info@maritimearchaeological.org or call 503-325-3211, ext. 257.

LOCAL BREVITIES



A few tidbits from **The Daily Morning Astorian** 134 years ago on **Sunday, Feb. 9, 1884**:

• **Capt. West** has sold his cannery at Hungry Harbor (near Megler, Washington) to the North Shore Packing Company.

Note: "Captain" John West (pictured) was a Scottish businessman/exporter and inventor who settled near Westport. He founded the first cannery on the Oregon side of the Columbia River, one of many he eventually owned, and invented an automatic can-filling machine. His brand label for canned foods still exists as John West Foods Ltd. of Liverpool, England. He died in 1888, and is buried in Westport. (tinyurl.com/CaptWest)

• **Wood vs. Ulloch:** In the U.S. District Court in Portland, Columbia River bar pilot **George W. Wood** sued the British ship Ulloch for not hiring him to pilot her. Wood had signaled her to board, but before he could get there, the Ulloch took on a Washington Territory pilot, instead.

Infuriated, Wood wanted to recoup the wages he would have received. As a result, **Judge Deady** made some critical decisions about the bar pilot business: A pilot must be within half a mile of the vessel when signaling (Wood wasn't); and a vessel can take on a pilot from either Oregon or Washington, whoever gets there first. Case dismissed.

• **Miss Kate Ward**, of Tumwater, is said to have the honor of being the first woman to vote in Washington Territory under the new law.

Note: Washington Territory was unsure about women's suffrage, which was first passed in 1883, reaffirmed in 1884, revoked in 1887, partially reinstated in 1888 then later invalidated ... you get the picture. In 1889, Washington became a state, but the dithering continued for years until a constitutional amendment enacting women's suffrage was finally passed in 1910. (tinyurl.com/WTsuffrage)

• Everyone has a sore shoulder this morning from snowballing yesterday. ... The average girl may be too good for this world, but she cannot help envying her young brother when he has got the seat of his pants plated with sheet tin, and is told that he may go and slide down Benton street hill all he wants to.

RESCUING RIMAS



Astoria's ever more wayward sailor, 67-year-old Russian immigrant **Rimas Meleshyus**, has turned up yet again, after sailing off without notice from Saipan for Guam around Dec. 10 during his latest attempt at a solo sail/drift around the world. After a long silence, on Feb. 4 he posted on his Facebook that he is safe, and at a hotel in Vietnam.

The Dantri International News reports that on Jan. 17, off the Paracel Islands in the South China Sea, some Vietnamese fishermen spotted Rimas on his boat, waving his shirt (tinyurl.com/DTRimas). They'd only been out for three days, and couldn't turn back yet, so they picked him up and brought him along.

By then, Rimas had already run out of water, and was almost out of food; he thinks he would have died in a few more days if they hadn't saved him. Rimas was "exhausted and could not move much" after his rescue, but the fishermen took turns nursing him back to health. He is pictured, center, posing happily with his saviors.

The DTI article concludes saying, "Meleshyus will be well cared for before being received by the External Relations Office for further procedure." Hopefully, that's not as ominous as it sounds.

Rimas' boat, the Mimsy, was abandoned when the fishermen took him aboard, as it was leaking, and the rudder failed. Among the things he salvaged were the newspaper stories he'd collected about himself and his ocean travels over the years, his camera, and his navigational equipment. Rimas arrived at the local guard post in Da Nang with his new friends to the "roaring applause of locals," Tuoi Tre News reports (tinyurl.com/TTRimas).

Despite the probable loss of the Mimsy (his third boat), which is believed to have sunk from the leak, and almost dying, Rimas remains determined to finish his mission, even though his primary sponsor has mentioned that perhaps it's time to retire on land.

But Rimas is not one to give up. "Sailing around the world will be continued when I am back to America," he confidently wrote. How he'll pull it off remains to be seen.

HELP FOR BLAKE MALO



Former Seaside resident **Blake Malo** needs your help. He is a pilot, and his helicopter went down on Jan. 27 in a remote area near Pomeroy, Washington, while working on a mule deer survey. One man was killed, and both Blake and the remaining crew member were taken to St. Joseph's Hospital in Lewiston, Idaho.

The injuries Blake sustained are life-threatening, and his wife, **Samantha**, is at his side. He has a severe head injury, multiple broken bones, serious injuries to his right hand, and he has been in a coma. His medical bills and care could exceed \$1 million. If you would like to help, a fundraiser has been set up at tinyurl.com/Help4Blake

'RUSTIC AND HIP'

An email from **A Trip Advisor** arrived, touting a new list they've compiled, "**23 Great American Small Cities to Visit in 2018**," noting that **Astoria** is No. 12 (tinyurl.com/12Astoria).



The photo shown is courtesy of TripAdvisor.

"We've picked some of the following small cities for their upcoming events, their character-packed neighborhoods, and their developing culinary scenes," the press release says. "Others are featured simply because they offer all the vibrancy you'd expect of a city, but with that mellowed edge. ... Some of these cities are in the swing of regeneration — others don't need to change a thing."

Take your choice which group Astoria falls into, but it's featured primarily for managing "a balance of rustic and hip."

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 aircraft club meets for breakfast and business. All model aircraft enthusiasts are welcome. For information, call 503-458-5196 or 503-325-0608.

Bay Center, Washington. Open to all tribal members; attendees are reminded to bring a potluck item. For questions, call the Tribal Office at 360-875-6670.

Sit & Stitch — 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., Hometown 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., 3 Park St.,

Columbia Northwestern Mod-

el 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 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 ringinganvildesign@gmail.com

— 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 k7erewood@q.com, or go to 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

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