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# COMMUNITY

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IN ONE EAR • ELLEDA WILSON

## WHO GOES THERE?



I saw these Wednesday, Feb. 21, on the river beach near the South Jetty,” Cheryl Conway of Hammond wrote, describing the photo shown. “They are squid egg sacs. How exciting! I didn’t know what they were at the time, but put them back in the water. Each sac had to have dozens of eggs in it.” Tiffany Boothe at the Seaside Aquarium confirmed the egg sacs are from common market (aka opalescent) squid. According to the Monterey Bay Aquarium (montereybayaquarium.org), Doryteuthis opalescens dines on worms, small crustaceans and fish. Around 11 inches long, enormous schools of these iridescent squid migrate back and forth in coastal waters from Mexico to Southeastern Alaska. A popular commercial fishing catch, you’ve probably encountered them on your plate as calamari.

When it’s spawning time in the spring and fall, thousands of squid head for shallow waters, where, after mating, the females lay about 12 egg sacs that hold 180 to 300 eggs each. The adults die after mating, and their offspring don’t fare much better; they grow fast, and only live for a year.

“Evidently, our area had some serious spawning going on :-),” Cheryl noted.

## BANK ON IT



Commercial fisherman and fisher poet Dave Densmore has written a new poem, but this one has nothing to do with the sea or fishing: He’s telling the story of Wauna Federal Credit Union. While it’s off his usual theme, it’s with good reason (aside from being a member of the credit union since 1997): Because “Wauna Credit Union has a lot of heart.”

You can give a listen here: [tinyurl.com/DaveWFCU](http://tinyurl.com/DaveWFCU)

## UPLIFTING CORRECTION



Laurie Caplan sent an email noting that Astorian Jim Stoffer had a letter published in the Feb. 26 issue of *The New Yorker*, a wowsler of an accomplishment that is up there in the lofty reaches unattainable for most of us.

“I know it is extraordinarily difficult to get any mention in the magazine whatsoever, and getting my letter published was not even a consideration,” he wrote. “But when I opened the magazine to the article on paper jams, I only glanced at the maze of text and one word popped out, ‘Bernoulli.’

“So I read that paragraph, then disbelievably reread the paragraph. Asking myself if *The New Yorker* could ever be wrong. Then asking myself if I could be wrong about Bernoulli, carefully double-checking my understanding.

“Turns out the author had Bernoulli upside down, because if the author was correct, none of us would be flying. So I quickly wrote a letter; it was not anything other than a correction of the fundamental principal of the theory of lift ...”

You can read the letter online at [tinyurl.com/YorkerJS](http://tinyurl.com/YorkerJS)

“Anyway, getting the letter published was fun,” he added, “and maybe a few people will get interested in what makes an airplane fly, or a sailboat able to tack into the wind. Try to get a piece of fiction published in *The New Yorker* and you might spend years, unless your last name is O’Hara, or Urdike, or Lipore.”

Getting a letter published there is probably just as difficult, so bravo to you, Jim Stoffer!

## WITHOUT A TRACE



In August 1911, the steel four-masted schooner *Americana*, loaded with 1 million feet of lumber bound for Australia, was almost destroyed when she nearly drifted ashore near Tillamook Rock during a calm spell. Luckily, an onshore observer witnessed the vessel in distress, and tugs were summoned to tow her out of danger. The *Americana* is pictured, courtesy of the San Diego Historical Society.

When she left Knappton, Washington, on Feb. 28, or March 1 or 3, 1913 (the reports vary), again loaded with lumber bound for Sydney, Australia, this time the story did not have a happy ending. She cleared the Columbia River bar, but never arrived at her destination.

On Aug. 30, 1913, the similarly-named vessel, *Amaranth*, carrying a load of coal from Newcastle, New South Wales to San Francisco, wrecked on Jarvis Island in Micronesia during a hurricane. Now uninhabited, at the time, the crew spotted the ruins of a guano mining site, which consisted of nine buildings and a two-story house. The captain and crew all survived, but the ship was beyond repair, so the crew took two lifeboats and left the island. Both boats wound up in Samoa, and news of their arrival soon spread.

In October 1913, the *San Francisco Call* published a story about the confusion that ensued after the *Amaranth* crew reached Samoa ([tinyurl.com/Amerigone](http://tinyurl.com/Amerigone)). Initial cablegram reports mistakenly noted that the captain and crew of the *Americana* had survived a wreck on Jarvis Island. A few days later, another cablegram said the *Amaranth*’s captain and crew had arrived safely on Samoa after being wrecked near the same island.

It was when the *Ventura* arrived in Honolulu, carrying only the *Amaranth*’s crew, that people realized both cables actually referred solely to the *Amaranth*. “The news came as a shock to Mrs. Johnson, wife of the captain of the *Americana*, who lives here,” the *Call* reported.

Although the *Americana* disappeared without a trace with all 11 hands, it is presumed she went down in the same storm that caused the wreck of the *Amaranth*. Officially, though, it’s still an unsolved mystery.

## LOCAL BREVITIES



Snippets from *The Daily Morning Astorian*, Saturday, March 2, 1889:

• The widow of Ben Holladay has entered suit for \$100,366 (about \$2.5 million now) against Joe Holladay.

**Note:** Ben Holladay was a transportation magnate who built the Seaside House Hotel in 1871 (<https://tinyurl.com/bholla>). When he died in 1887, he was deep in debt, and was being sued by his brother, Joseph, for \$315,000 (<https://tinyurl.com/bholla1>). The convoluted family lawsuits went on for years.

• ... The tobacco bill passed at the recent session of the legislature ... (is) an act to prohibit the sale of tobacco, cigars or cigarettes to minors under the age of 18 years.

**Note:** On Aug. 9, 2017, Gov. Kate Brown signed a bill raising the age from 18 to 21, effective Jan. 1 this year (<https://tinyurl.com/nopuff21>).

And, on Sunday, March 2, 1890:

• The time when Astoria will have incandescent electric lights must soon come. They are as necessary as the large arc lights, and are better suited to offices than those now in use.

**Note:** Once Thomas Edison and his team discovered that a carbonized bamboo filament in an incandescent bulb could last over 1,200 hours, the Edison Electric Light Company began marketing them in 1880 (<https://tinyurl.com/bulb1880>).

• Swan Island bar is the present bugbear to captains of craft drawing more than 15 feet that essay to go very far in the interior.

**Note:** Even though dredging around Swan Island was done annually in the late 1800s, it wasn’t enough. It wasn’t until 1927 that a 35 by 1,155-foot channel was dredged on the south side of the island, which became an airport. That same year Charles Lindbergh landed there. (<https://tinyurl.com/SwanIs>)

• At low tide says the Journal, the clam diggers are busy on the flats in front of Ilwaco, where the clams are numerous and fat. A few years ago no such thing as a clam was to be found in Bakers Bay, while now the supply seems to be inexhaustible.

## VOTE FOR REACH BREAK BREWERY



Astoria’s Reach Break Brewery has been chosen by USA Today as one of 20 top new breweries nationally (from the last two years) to be included in their current 10Best voting contest for Best New Brewery,” Bev Allison wrote. “The contest is now in progress, you can vote daily until the end of the contest.” Some of their wares are pictured, courtesy of Reach Break Brewery.

You can cast your ballot at [tinyurl.com/votebreak](http://tinyurl.com/votebreak), but you’d better get on it, and share the link, because earlier this week Reach Break was only at No. 18. But there’s still time for improvement, as voting doesn’t end until 9 a.m. Monday, March 19. The winners will be announced Friday, March 23.

“This is a huge honor for a small brewery from a small town!” Bev added. “They need help with votes to compete with larger areas.” So go vote, already.

## AMERICAN PIE



Astoria’s favorite expatriate, Chef Daymon Garrett Edwards, who now lives in South Korea, was written up in *The Korea Times*, the oldest of three English-language daily newspapers. “A pie odyssey of a retired American” details Garrett’s life in America, as well as his business ventures, including his flagship Seoul pie shop, Ruby Edwards Tartine Bakery & Café ([tinyurl.com/ChefDGE](http://tinyurl.com/ChefDGE)). The shop is named after Garrett’s mother, who gave him his first cookbook when he was 10. He is pictured in a *Korea Times* photo by Yun Suh-young.

“When I first came to Korea, everyone said Koreans don’t like sweets,” he said. “But when I observed Korean customers in Dongbuichon-dong (Seoul’s ‘Little Tokyo’), they would say it’s too sweet, but they would buy all of them.” So, why not pies?

He set up shop in Dongbuichon-dong, and got to work making and baking American-style pies. In 2008, the shop moved to the Itaewon district, and now, 10 years later, he’s made pie history — as of Jan. 26 this year, he has sold 3 million pies. For a country that supposedly doesn’t like sweets, that’s a whole lotta pies.

## SLIPPERY SLOPE



Just about everyone knows earthquakes cause tsunamis; that’s not news. What is news is that scientists have recently released a study that reveals why oceanic landslides can also generate 65-foot high tsunamis: Slime. More precisely, slime on the sea floor created by accumulations of decomposing microscopic organisms, International Business Times reports ([tinyurl.com/slimywave](http://tinyurl.com/slimywave)).

When an undersea landslide happens, the clay layers resting on top of the ooze start sliding. “When the seabed loses its stability and starts to move, it often happens in much larger dimensions than landslides ashore — and at slopes with very low gradients,” the report from Helmholtz Center for Ocean Research Kiel says. The resulting displacement of large amounts of sediment slipping on the slime can cause “devastating” tsunamis.

Now that they know these landslides are causing tidal waves, a mystery remains, according to the report: “Why and when submarine landslides develop is hardly understood.” Back to the drawing board.

## 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.

**Detachment 1228 Marine Corps League** — noon, El Compadre, 119 Main Ave., Warrenton. For information, contact Lou Neubecker at 503-717-0153.

**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](http://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

**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.

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

**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.

**Columbia Senior Diners** — 11:30 a.m., 1111 Exchange St. Cost is \$6. For information, or to have a meal delivered, call 503-325-9693.

**Warrenton Senior Lunch Program** — noon, Warrenton Community Center, 170 S.W. Third St. Suggested donation of \$5 for seniors and \$7 for those younger than 60. For information, or to volunteer, call 503-861-3502 Monday or Thursday.

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