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IN ONE EAR • ELLEDA WILSON

COUGAR DRUM SONG



An Ashland woman's Facebook post about her encounter with a cougar in her living room (bit.ly/couchcat) has been picked up by the news media — not just because it's unusual enough to have a large wild animal decide to take a snooze behind your couch, but because of how **Lauren Taylor** decided to handle the situation.

The cat, who wandered in through an open door, wound up behind the couch after being startled by Lauren's housemate. Once there, she settled in for a nice, cozy nap — for six hours. Lauren went outside and took the photos shown (and several others) through the window behind the couch, and when the cat woke up for a minute, Lauren "communicated using feline-speak eye blinking to calm her," which she said was reciprocated. Which is all very nice, but the cat seriously needed to leave.

"I sent telepathic pictures of the routes out of the house via open doors and the route out the backyard, across the creek, through an open field, and back up into the hills," Lauren wrote. "We got guidance that the way to rouse her and get her to leave ... was through drumming."

The cat apparently agreed, as she strolled out and headed for the hills. Where she will hopefully stay.

PEOPLE'S CHOICE



Maritime writer **Peter Marsh** found an interesting tidbit: One of the **Astoria Marine Construction Company's** earliest motor yachts, **Phantom** (pictured), was featured as a "SoCal Classic" on TheLog.com recently.

"This lovely motor yacht was a familiar sight at Portland wooden and classic boat events," Peter explained. Built in 1936, the 50-foot luxury yacht — with a double-planked cedar exterior and a mahogany paneled interior — was designed by **Joseph Dyer** (owner of AMCCO) for **Dr. Wallace Haworth**.

Requisitioned by the Navy in 1941 to patrol the Columbia River, Phantom was painted gray and fitted with a machine gun.

In the 1980s, she was stolen and abandoned on the Columbia River bar. It took three years for wooden boat enthusiast **Chuck Kellogg** to restore her. "He was the leading organizer of various boat preservation groups, especially the PT boat," Peter noted. Kellogg, 80, died in 2014 when he was accidentally killed by a train.

Phantom was bought in 2017 by **Rick Ingold** and **Dean Kiser** of Newport Beach, California, where, in the same year, she won "People's Choice Over 40 Feet" and the "Harbor Masters Award" at the Newport Beach Wooden Boat Festival. (bit.ly/phant1, bit.ly/amcco, bit.ly/ckellogg)

KINNEY'S BEAR



From the **Friday, July 27, 1883** edition of **The Daily Astorian**:
• **M. J. Kinney**, of the **Astoria Packing Company**, has a young bear, which was sent him from Chilcat, Alaska, and arrived in good trim on the Idaho. It will probably furnish us with another and longer item, as soon as it gets big enough to chew up a small boy.

Note: Marshall J. Kinney, who was from an Oregon pioneer family, was the president of the Astoria Packing Company, which ran the **Kinney Cannery**, built in 1879 in Uniontown, between Fifth and Seventh streets. By 1881, the cannery was often thought to be the largest cannery in the world. His wife, **Narcissa**, a dedicated member of the Temperance movement, was fond of "Christianizing" members of her husband's large corps of fishermen. (bit.ly/kinneys)

WHAT ABOUT JAKOB?



On Tuesday, **Ken Smith** of Michigan dunked his rear bike tire in the Pacific Ocean at Seaside's Turn-around, and headed off on his 4,000-mile **Ride for Jakob** across America to Bar Harbor, Maine. No small feat for a 70-year-old, even one in great shape, but he's motivated by his love for his grandson, Jakob, who just turned 16.

When Jakob was born, "he was perfect," Ken said. "No problems whatsoever. When he was 2 months old, for whatever reason, he developed six to eight seizures a day." Despite a neurologist's dire predictions, Jakob has never needed a wheelchair, but he does not speak, and needs constant supervision and assistance. Even so, Jakob goes to public school, and is developing social skills.

Jakob's father, **Jason Smith**, is a firefighter, and it's a high-risk profession. Worried about who will take care of Jakob when they are gone, or can no longer take care of him, Jakob's parents set up a trust provide for his future care.

That's when Ken realized "I had to do something to help," and decided to do the bike ride — which he estimates will take 60 to 75 days — to raise money for Jakob's trust fund. "I've been blessed with excellent health," he said in a Mannatech Inc. press release, "and I decided to use my heart, lungs and legs to help provide for Jakob's future care."

"I'm really pumped about it," Ken admitted. To donate, there's a GoFundMe page set up at bit.ly/Ride-4Jakob. Ken has already raised what he needs for the ride, so all donations collected at GoFundMe will be sent directly to Jakob's trust fund. You can follow Ken's journey at fb.me/rideforjake

"All I can do is put it in the Lord's hands," Ken added. "It's a faith walk. A lot of people are praying for me, and will help me, and it will happen."

THE COLLECTION



Back in June, The New York Times ran a story about Uniontown artist (and owner of the old Snug Harbor bar), **Arvi Ostrom**, and his 1995 "deathbed plea" to his grandson, **Ken Carlson**: "Can you take care of the collection?" (bit.ly/ArviO). His grandson agreed, having no idea what a herculean labor of love he'd taken on. The article covers Ostrom's life and work, and Carlson's struggles over the years to keep his promise.

Another close-up study of Ostrom is a richly illustrated video, "Portrait of an Unknown Artist," created by Ken Carlson and **Ben Saboonchian** (bit.ly/ArviOvid). The artist is pictured in a screen shot.

From the video: "Arvi drew because he loved to draw. And that's basically the gist of the whole thing — he just had this passion for art," Carlson said. "... He owned a tavern, and he wasn't just satisfied with just owning a tavern. He really wanted to do art."

"What he left was a huge body of work that no one realized he had left," he continued. "I mean, we all just thought it was going to be like a hundred or 200 pictures ... (but) there's paintings, drawings, sketches, carvings, and there's about 10,000 of those. This does not happen. This is like a once in a lifetime happening, to find this big of an unknown artist's collection that's intact." All of the work has stayed together, and remained in the family. None have been sold.

"He's been gone for many years now, and he seems to have left a mark in Astoria," said Ostrom's daughter, **Jean Montgomery**, "and one of the things he left all of us to appreciate was the fact that his art has lived on longer than he has. And I think that's very nice."

WALL TO WALL HISTORY



Last week, when **Darwin Meiners** was pulling old linoleum up in a 12 by 12 foot upstairs room in his house, he discovered newspapers from 1941 covering the flooring below. Most were issues of The Oregonian, but the rest were the **Astorian Budget**.

He's fairly certain the newspapers were laid there by his grandfather, who owned the house from 1940 to 1942, when they moved into Astoria to be closer to medical care for their sick child.

Rumor has it that the four-bedroom house — which is on the Lewis and Clark River — was built in 1915 using the wood from an old cheese factory that originally sat on the same foundation. And the rumor might just be true, as the full daylight cement basement has a trough down the middle, probably used to wash waste into the river.

After his grandparents left, the house was out of the family for decades. Then one day in 1975, Darwin was driving by, and saw the house, which is on three acres, was for sale. He couldn't resist, and bought it for \$19,000. Needless to say, you couldn't buy an outhouse for that in Astoria these days.

"Not sure what I'm going to do with all of them after I finish going through them," Darwin said of the newspapers he found. "I really enjoy looking at the sale ads and classifieds."

BYE BYE BEACHES



The aftereffects of the devastating **2011 Japanese earthquake and tsunami** can still be felt on Japan's coastline, and it's something to think about in relation to Oregon's coast when the Cascadia Subduction Zone finally lets "The Big One" loose.

Even now, eight years later, only **24 of 70 beaches** in three prefectures in the tsunami zone are open to the public, The Asahi Shimbun reports (bit.ly/24beaches). Some beaches had their sand stripped away, and/or just disappeared; others are too badly damaged, became seawall construction zones, have water quality issues, or have no escape routes, and are considered too risky to open. Photos of the city of Rikuzentakata, one of the hardest hit in 2011, are shown before and after the tsunami, courtesy of GeoEye.

Miho Mitsui, who lives in Rikuzentakata, took her two daughters to Hirota beach when it finally opened July 20. "Until this year, we were disappointed at being unable to go into the sea, especially with the water so clear," she said. "I want to come here every day."

JUST A START



The Washington coast will soon have its second tsunami refuge — the first being the Ocosta Elementary School near Westport — now that federal funding of \$2.2 million has been approved to help build a **vertical evacuation tower** for the **Shoalwater Bay Indian Tribe** in Tokeland (bit.ly/shoaltower).

The steel structure, designed by **Degenkolb Engineers** to accommodate almost 400 people, will have two platforms that are 40 and 50 feet above grade, higher than the anticipated wave height of 32 feet, and its pilings will go down 45 to 50 feet.

"This is exciting not just for the Shoalwater Bay Indian Tribe, but for the entire state," said Maximilian Dixon of the Washington Emergency Management Division. "... This is just a start, though, and we need many more of these structures up and down the coast." So does Oregon.

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.

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

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

Seniors Breakfast — 9 a.m. to noon, Astoria Moose Lodge, 420 17th St. Cooked to order from menu, includes coffee. Cost is \$5 for seniors 62 and older, \$7.50 for those younger than 62. Breakfasts are open to the public. Proceeds after expenses help support local and other charities.

Angora Hiking Club — 2 p.m. summer potluck and meet-

ing, 563 Niagara Ave. Bring a dish, with serving spoon, to serve 6 to 8 people and a beverage. Board members should arrive 30 minutes early to help set up. For information, call Doug and Celia Balcomb at 503-325-7043 or go to angorahikingclub.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.

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 Suzanne Bjarranson at 503-861-4202.

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.

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