

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

COMMUNITY

FOLLOW US
facebook.com/
DailyAstorian

IN ONE EAR • ELLEDA WILSON

CAN YOU HEAR ME NOW?



BBC.com recently ran a story about the Finnish **Mieskuoro Huutajat** (Men's Choir Shouters) who, dressed like penguins, have been performing for the crew of an ice-bound ship in the Baltic Sea (bit.ly/shoutfinns). By the way, normally the shouters wear dark suits with black ties made from car tire inner tubes.

Performing, in their case, means screaming in unison. Just what they're screaming on the Baltic wasn't explained, but according to their website (huutajat.org), the "choir" is internationally known for entering in a paramilitary fashion, then yelling, bellowing and shouting snippets from national anthems, children's songs and international treaties. They do not sing. Ever. Pictured, some photos from the choir's website.

The group was formed in the northern Finnish town of **Oulu** in the late 1980s, and consists of 20 to 40 very loud men. Calling the ensemble "ambassadors of Finnish art," the website explains that "it all started with surprise performances for unsuspecting audiences anywhere in the Oulu region." Please don't try this here.

So, what brought the shouting choir to the Baltic Sea? "It is always something the choir has wanted to do," Huutajat member **Mika Ronkainen** attested to the BBC, "because such antics create a form of absurdity which we find works the best."

BREAD BANDITS



Jenny Serwylo of Toronto, Ontario, Canada had an unsettling encounter with three brazen **raccoons**, according to TheStar.com (bit.ly/breadbandit). She woke up to noises coming from her kitchen, and when she went to investigate, she found the masked bandits devouring her bread. They got in by ripping a window screen.

Serwylo grabbed a broom and started making noise, which scared off two of them, but the third ensconced himself behind the toaster oven. He stared at her audaciously, and in between bouts of terrifying her by attacking her broom, he wiped out her entire English muffin stash. Her photo of the miscreant is shown.

When he'd had his fill, he sauntered back out the way he came in. "I'm going to go bleach my apartment now," she told The Star.

HUDDLED HERD



Astoria's resident sea lion population is a drop in the bucket compared to what's happening on the northwest coast of Alaska along the Chukchi Sea.

Around **25,000 walrus**, gathered in a shoulder-to-shoulder huddle, are resting there, an AP story revealed. The enormous gathering is pictured, courtesy of Vickie Beaver/National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration; inset, a closeup from 2013 by Ryan Kingsbery/U.S. Geological Survey.

As it turns out, the critters prefer lolling on sea ice between forays hunting for clams and snails, but when the ice recedes they head for the shore, instead. Around Aug. 22, the residents of the Inupiaq village, which is two to three miles away from the herd, reported they started hearing walrus noises to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. (To get some very small idea what anyone nearby must endure, noise-wise, check out 10 hours of walrus sounds at bit.ly/walrus10.)

Unless something startles them into a stampede to the sea — like a hunter, polar bear or airplane — things should stay fairly peaceful until the animals decide to move on. In the meantime, the herd will be monitored by locals, the USFWS and U.S. Geological Survey — who are all hopefully wearing good noise-canceling headphones.

LOCAL BREVITIES



Tidbits from **The Daily Morning Astorian**, **Sunday, Sept. 21, 1890**:

• A whale was seen spouting or blowing in the channel opposite the West Shore mills yesterday morning. This is, we believe, the first time a whale has been seen so far up the river.

Note: Seeing whales in the Columbia River is clearly *not* a new phenomenon.

• **Captain W.H. Whitcomb** last evening received orders from **Major Handbury** to man the steamer **Cascades** and be ready for service early in the week to tow barges of rock for the jetty. So the noble work goes bravely on.

Note: The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers began construction of the **South Jetty** in April 1885; it was completed in 1895 at 45 percent below budget. (bit.ly/jetty45)

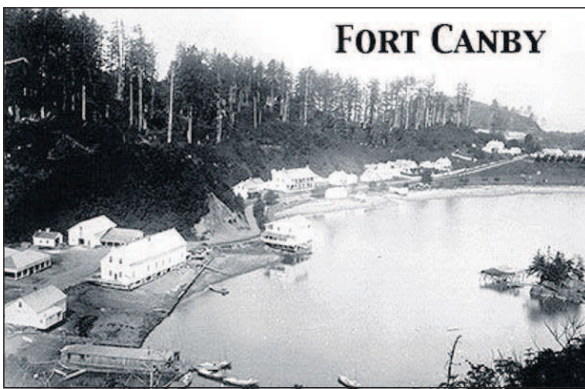
• The pastor of the Congregational church will discourse upon ... "What God Hath Joined Together Let No Man Put Asunder; or, A Recent Case in Court."

• On board of the **Manzanita** is a splendid **model yacht** with full sails, small boats, and everything as complete in detail as on a large yacht ... It is the work of **Capt. Babbidge**, of Newport, and is sent here in care of his son **Gus Babbidge**, who will forward it to the Exposition at Portland ...

Note: The **Portland Great Industrial Exposition** (Sept. 25 to Oct. 25, 1890) ads boasted it featured Signor **Liberati's Military Band** of 50 Selected Musicians, and 6.5 acres of floor space "filled to overflowing with the wonders of this wonderful age."

• **Notice:** Neither the captain nor consignees of the British bark **Noddleburn** will be responsible for any debts contracted by the officers or crew while lying in this port. **A. Hall**, Master.

A DISAGREEABLE FACT



Some newspapers, such as the Daily Alta California, lauded the miraculous rescue of the captain and crew of the pilot schooner **Gov. Moody**, which wrecked — in the early morning dark, in a dense fog, fighting a strong current — on North Head cliff on Sept. 20, 1890.

Three of the four aboard, including **Capt. Peter Cordiner**, climbed the mainmast, which broke, dropping them to the deck, so they scrambled up the foregigging and escaped onto a rock with only minor injuries. Especially lucky was the cook, **George Salvely**, who landed on a lower ledge and was initially presumed drowned. Hunkered down, he was sprayed by breakers for six hours until he was finally found.

Even **Capt. George Flavel** marveled "it is a wonder that all hands were not lost." It was the lifesaving crew at **Fort Canby** station who not only rescued the **Moody's** crew, they secured the schooner to a rock, and were able to salvage most of the property on the vessel.

The Daily Morning Astorian of Sept. 21 took a far more pragmatic approach to what happened: "The loss of a pilot schooner in its own immediate locality, where it is supposed that the officers on board know every foot of the coast, is a singular thing to chronicle in a home paper, but nevertheless it is a disagreeable fact." Especially since the vessel had just been overhauled, refitted and relaunched the day before.

The **Gov. Moody** was owned by the state of Oregon, but operated by the **Union Pacific**, which caused the Astorian to huff, "The action of the Union Pacific in placing in command of a pilot schooner a man who is a stranger to these waters is very reprehensible, for however good a navigator he may be he certainly was not familiar with this locality and the course of the currents."

The editor also noted that "... there are scores of men here well qualified for the position, who know every foot of the coast and are possessed of every possible knowledge required ..."

Good point — and an expensive lesson for the **Union Pacific**: The vessel, a total loss, cost \$15,000 (around \$415,600 now) to build, but was only insured for \$11,000 (\$305,000).

EARLY ARRIVAL



Kaylie and **Ryan Hochhalter's** baby girl was supposed to arrive in October, but she had other plans, and was born quite unexpectedly in early September (after a life flight for Kaylie to Oregon Health and Science University Hospital), several weeks premature.

If her parents, pictured, look familiar, it's because they are both employed in the service industry. Kaylie was working as a bartender at the Merry Time Bar and Grill, and Ryan works at the Wet Dog Cafe, now known as the Astoria Brewing Company.

Although **Miss Melanie Rae** weighed in at only 4 pounds 4 ounces, it's a healthy 4 pounds and 4 ounces. Even so, she needs to stay in the hospital in Portland for a while to get stronger and put on some weight.

The young couple are going to have a tough time ahead financially, so their friend, **Fester Rosenberg**, started a GoFundMe page to help them out at gofundme.com/melanierae

"Please help us raise the money they will need for hospital expenses and the time off work, hotel rooms and other expenses in the big city," Fester wrote. "We all know and love Ryan and Kaylie, and I know we will all love little Melanie Rae."

CASTING CALL



Simon Max Hill Casting in Portland (smhcasting.com) is looking for "rough-looking men" in Oregon and Washington, ages 20-50, for two movies. "We need men of all ethnicities to play bikers, trappers, Chinook traders and other roles," the casting call says. "Weathered faces with a lot of character are very welcome." So are beards.

No, you do not have to be in a union or have an agent to submit an application, which can be found at bit.ly/SMHrough. You'll need to attach two photos (three if you have a motorcycle), and be sure to list any special skills or abilities. (By the way: "Dogs, bicycles, sports and mustaches are special!")

LIFEBOAT IN A BOX



The U.K. nonprofit **Atlantic Pacific International Rescue Boat Project** (atlanticpacific.org.uk) turns shipping containers into a **Lifeboat in a Box** that can be transported to coastal communities which would otherwise have no way to rescue people in trouble at sea.

The container becomes a lifeboat station, replete with lifeboat, a workshop and a crew room. An intensive training program on how to operate the boat and the station is also offered. The top and side-view images shown of a rescue boat "box" are from the project's website.

The "lifeboats where there are none" idea came about after the company's founder, **Robin Jenkins**, visited Japan after the 2011 earthquake and tsunami. He heard a chilling story about how survivors on the beach could hear people who had been washed out to sea screaming and crying, yet there was no way to help them. "This story unsettled me so much," he said, "that I began to wonder how to stop it from ever happening again."

The resulting **Lifeboat in a Box** "is a project that we hope to grow around the world," he added, "... so that when the unbearable strikes, there is something to help."

COMMUNITY NOTES

SATURDAY

Angora Hiking Club — 9 a.m., Sixth Street parking lot. Radar Ridge hike. Membership is not required to participate. For information, call Linda Dugan at 503-440-3909 or go to angorahikingclub.org

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.

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 a friend or loved one suffering from a serious brain (mental) illness. For information, contact Myra Kero at 503-738-6165, or kerowood@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.

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 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.

See NOTES, Page 2B