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IN ONE EAR • ELLEDA WILSON

FAREWELL, CLEOPATRA



The Oregon Coast Aquarium in Newport posted on Facebook that they recently released their celebrity giant Pacific octopus, Cleopatra, who wound up at the aquarium after being found in a crab pot (bit.ly/OrCoAqua).

She was quite a hit, and not only at the aquarium. Cleopatra also garnered some media love, including from KGW-TV, Octonation (an octopus fan club) and the “Wild Charles Show.”

The timing of her release coincided with Cleopatra “reaching senescence,” i.e. ready to spawn. “This way, we can ensure that the octopuses can still reproduce in the wild.” A screen shot of her release is shown, courtesy of the Oregon Coast Aquarium.

“She was an incredible ambassador for her species,” the aquarium noted, “and she will be missed!”

AND THE WINNER IS ...



The Oregonian tackled the task of picking “the 20 best state parks in Oregon” (bit.ly/20bstpks). It started with a readers poll, then visits to the poll’s top 15 parks.

Coming in at No. 8, Ecola State Park for its views and proximity to Terrible Tilly, the Tillamook Rock Lighthouse. No. 5 is Cape Lookout, lauded for its day-use area, campground, beach and location. At No. 4 is Oswald West, noted for its beauty.

Ah, but No. 1 is reserved for none other than Fort Stevens State Park. Why? “(It) is a rare park that has something for just about everyone.”

ON THE ROCKS



“I found a used copy and am re-reading the out-of-print book, ‘The Astorian’ by Roger T. Tetlow,” Roger Rocka wrote. “The 1975 book tells the story of DeWitt Clinton Ireland, the founder of the Tri-Weekly (and later Daily) Astorian, but it’s filled with interesting historical tidbits about our town.”

One specific tidbit is about ships’ ballast, which kept an empty ship stable at sea. Back in the 1800s, the ballast often consisted of rocks. Once a ship reached a port to take on cargo — in Astoria’s case, usually they were picking up salmon and lumber — ballast rocks were tossed overboard to make room for the incoming load. (A ballast dock in Seattle is pictured.)

“The local people welcomed this, and vied with each other to get this ballast,” Tetlow wrote, “and it was a common sight to see a long line of sailors and laborers pushing carloads of the stuff along the docks and dumping it into the water under someone’s building or house.

“Gradually, through the years, Astoria citizens built up the ground under the docks and buildings, and today a good part of the town rests on rocks from Shanghai, yellow sand from Burma, volcanic ash from Alaska and round river stones from England. I suppose Astoria has a part of every country in the world under its streets today.” Which is something intriguing to think about when you’re strolling along the Riverwalk.

“You can still see a pile of those ballast rocks,” Roger said, as part of a designated local historic landmark, “in the river off of Second Street near the old (White Star Cannery) boiler.”

‘A NICKLE’S WORTH’



A few weeks ago, a story ran in this column about Andrew Cier’s photograph being the basis for U.S. Mint artist Joe Fitzgerald’s image on the back side of the 2005 Lewis & Clark Bicentennial series “Ocean in View” nickel. How the photo wound up on the coin is the rest of the story. As Andy’s wife, LaRee Johnson, says, it’s “a nickel’s worth.” The couple is pictured; inset, the back of the coin in question.

“When they did the roll-out of the fourth nickel in the series, I was working the Bicentennial booth with our notecards, etc. and had not seen the nickel,” LaRee wrote. “It was not shown to anyone, even those of us on the Bicentennial Board of Directors, so I was not aware until that day, as Joe Fitzgerald was signing nickel rolls as the artist. When I finally saw it, I was shocked.

“That evening as Andy and I were sitting in T. Paul’s eating dinner, a friend came in. He was the first to see the newly released nickel, and Andy’s photo, and proceeded to tell us he had heard the interview on KMUN with Joe F., who said he had not been out this way — he was here for the first time for the roll-out ceremony. He admitted to Googling images, and said he ‘made a composite of several images’ ... The submissions to the U.S. Mint are supposed to be your original work, of course.” And there’s the rub. Fitzgerald used Andy’s image without giving any attribution or asking permission.

“Ironic that Andy lives 5 miles from Fort Clatsop, and in view of the Columbia River that Lewis and Clark Expedition traveled down, but the guy submitting the image lives in Maryland and ... just found an image on the internet to use.”

“At the time, Andy was fit to be tied that his image was on a national coin, with no knowledge until it came out ... You just have to shake your head!” You can read how the story unfolded at the time in The Daily Astorian at bit.ly/CierCoin.

The couple hired Lenard Duboff, a copyright attorney in Portland, and the U.S. Mint soon gave Andy proper image credit for his contribution to the coin (bit.ly/ciernickel).

“We are still very proud of Andy’s photograph being on this nickel,” LaRee added. “... But this should be fair warning to other artists to watermark their images.”

LOCAL BREVITIES



From the Friday, Nov. 9, 1888 edition of The Daily Morning Astorian:

• The (lightship tender) **Manzanita** came in yesterday. The men at Tillamook rock reported seeing butter kegs afloat yesterday and the day before. This, coupled with the piece of wreck on the weather beach leads to much painful surmise. The **A. B. Field** is believed to have left Tillamook the 5th of this month, and if so, was due here the following day. **Hon. C. Leinenweber** and **JJ Stokes** were among the passengers, and her arrival is awaited with anxiety.

Note: Well, it probably wasn’t the wreckage of the A. B. Field, a 92.5-foot steamer, built in 1883 in Astoria, since Christian Leinenweber didn’t die until March 1889. A successful businessman who founded the Astoria Hemlock Tannery, and eventually the Astoria Boot and Shoe Co., he was also the first postmaster of Upper Astoria, while it was still a separate entity. Sadly, he died in debt, without a will, and his property was divided and sold. His house still stands on Franklin Avenue. (bit.ly/ABField, bit.ly/ChLien)

• **For rent:** A neat cottage in Upper Astoria. Rent \$10 per month. Apply to **W. B. Adair**.

Note: That’s about \$266 a month now, which wouldn’t be enough to rent an outhouse. William B. Adair was in the salmon cannery business when he retired in 1884. (bit.ly/WBAdair)

• **John Cyr**, who has been making a holy show of himself for the past week, got too obstreperous yesterday, and was jugged (tossed in jail), greatly to the relief of ladies and children on the streets.

PLASTIC PARK



Dutch entrepreneur **Boyan Slat**’s “System 1” is already at work cleaning the Great Pacific Garbage Patch with his **Ocean Cleanup** project, and some wonder what will be done with the tons of plastic that will be snared and collected for recycling.

A Dutch organization has already come up with one use: A 1,500 square foot floating park in Rotterdam Harbor, made of recycled plastic. The park is shown, courtesy of the **Recycled Island Foundation**.

The plastic was collected from nearby waters over the course of a year using litter traps, then recycled and formed into anchored hexagonal blocks. In addition to repurposing plastic debris, the park is also designed to boost the local ecology. Different types of plants grow on top of the blocks to attract birds and insects, and underneath, as well, to provide a place where fish can lay their eggs. A win-win all they way around.

(theoceancleanup.com) (recycledisland.com)

MAKING A CHANGE



Time Magazine collaborated with French artist and photographer **JR** to create one of his complex murals for the cover of a special report, “Guns in America.” The resulting interactive shot includes a sound bite for each person, is searchable, and features hundreds of Americans. You can see it at time.com/guns-in-america.

Featured in this opus are **Mike Simonsen**, his wife, **Kelly**, and daughters **Paige** and **Brooke**, of Easton, Maryland. They are circled in section shot, courtesy of Time Magazine. The girls are cousins of **Terry Enke Arnall**, of Warrenton; their great-grandparents are **Chris and Olga Simonsen**, of Hammond.

Paige and Brooke were included in the mural because they made the national news when they got a law passed in Maryland that added fluorescent pink as an additional safety color for outerwear during hunting season. Their parents support their efforts, and encourage them to go out and “make a change” when they feel strongly about something.

“(In autumn) the orange and the red and the yellow all mix in together,” Brooke said, in a snippet from her sound bite, “and blaze pink, or fluorescent pink, isn’t a natural color at all. And we think that this might just be a safer color for hunters, and it just gives them a second choice.”

FISHY FIND



“While perusing the beach for newly washed up kelp to feed to our sea urchins, we came across an interesting find, a juvenile **mola mola**,” the **Seaside Aquarium** posted on their Facebook page (bit.ly/SsAqua). “... More commonly referred to as ocean sunfish, (they) are more prevalent in tropical waters, but when winds and ocean currents bring warmer water toward the Oregon Coast, they venture further north, and can be seen feeding off of Neahkahnie Mountain.” The critter is pictured, courtesy of Seaside Aquarium.

“Fully grown, this fish can weigh over 2,200 pounds, making it the heaviest bony fish in the ocean. Another interesting fact about this strange-looking fish is that females are able to produce 300 million eggs, more than any other known vertebrate.”

Cold-stunned sea turtles can also turn up on the beaches this time of year. If you see one, call the aquarium ASAP at 503-738-6211. The faster a turtle can be retrieved, the better chance it has to survive.

COMMUNITY NOTES

SATURDAY

Lower Columbia R/C Society — 8:30 a.m., Buoy 9 Restaurant & Lounge, 996 Pacific Drive, Hammond. Local Academy of Model Aeronautics (AMA) chartered radio control model aircraft club meets for breakfast and business. All model aircraft enthusiasts are welcome. For information, call 503-458-5196 or 503-325-0608.

Clatsop Visitor Center, 92345 Fort Clatsop Road. Topic is “Genealogy Research Strategies,” including organizing research, using online search features, searching online newspapers and dealing with “brick walls.” Speakers are family history consultants Janice Hatfield and Laurene Church.

Chinook Indian Nation Council — 11 a.m., Columbia Pacific Heritage Museum, 115 S.E. Lake St., Ilwaco, Washington. Monthly

Clatsop County Genealogical Society — 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., Fort

meeting, open to all tribal members. There is no potluck at this meeting. Volunteers needed after the meeting to set up for the annual Oyster Fry and Silent Auction. For questions, call the Tribal Office at 360-875-6670.

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

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.

Blacksmith Enthusiasts Meet — 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Camp 18 Blacksmith Shop, 42362 U.S. Highway 26, Seaside. Participants can bring own forge and anvil setup.

Metal available to experiment with; coal provided. No charge; donations to Camp 18 Loggers Memorial Museum welcome. For information, contact Mark Standley at 503-434-0148 or heringanvildesign@gmail.com

National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Support Group — 2 to 3:30 p.m., Seaside Public

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