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# COMMUNITY

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IN ONE EAR • ELLEDA WILSON

## JONAH REDUX

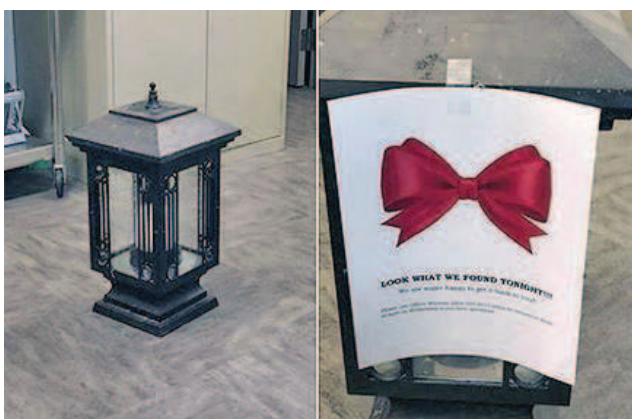


This can't happen here (hopefully): South African Rainer Schimpf had only been snorkeling for a few minutes off South Africa's Port Elizabeth Harbour, filming a sardine run, and was focusing on where the sharks were in relation to him, when suddenly everything went dark, he told SkyNews.com (bit.ly/modjonah).

It only took him a few seconds to grasp that he'd been swallowed headfirst by a 50-foot 22-ton (his estimate) Bryde's whale who was feeding on the sardines. Schimpf was relieved because he knew the whale couldn't swallow him, he's too big, but he worried it might dive. He is pictured, telling the tale, courtesy of SkyNews.com, emphasizing how small he felt while in that predicament.

All's well that ends well. "Obviously he realized I was not what he wanted to eat," the diver recalled, "so he spat me out again."

## SMALL THINGS



A good news story is always a day-brightener, so here goes:

"Way back in November 2018, someone reported this item taken from their front porch," the Astoria Police Department posted on Facebook March 8, referring to the lamp photo shown. "Tonight, with a little luck, we came across it while investigating another crime. The officer who took the original theft case recognized it.

"Since the owner did not want to pursue charges at the time, and only wanted it back, we decided to put a big red bow on it, and it was returned to their porch.

"Sometimes the small things give us the most satisfaction. #smalltownpolicing"

What an unexpected, and happy surprise it must have been for the owners. Well done, APD!

## THE STUFF OF NIGHTMARES



If you want a glimpse at what will happen when the Cascadia Subduction Zone finally lets loose that 9.0 megathrust earthquake and tsunami, read "Off the Richter Scale: Can the Pacific Northwest prepare for the cataclysmic quake that's coming?" by Michael J. Totten for City Journal (bit.ly/cszboom).

Actually, a 9.0 megathrust quake is so intense it literally is "off the Richter scale." Wet soil liquifies, brick and masonry buildings crumble, underground infrastructure is crushed, cities like Portland wind up full of shattered glass and rubble, and aftershocks could go on for decades. As for bridges, most will be destroyed or so damaged they can't be fixed.

The writer speculates that the ideal time (if you could call it that) for this cataclysm would be after Labor Day, at 4 a.m., before schools and businesses are open, and most people are not on the road. That's a pretty narrow window.

The good news? Wood frame houses, like many in Astoria, fare better than brick buildings, and actually do better in a megathrust situation than in regular earthquakes.

The stuff of nightmares, yes. But the article is probably something every North Coaster should read, anyway.

## DIRT FISHIN'



"OK, it must be a lucky month for me detecting," Astorian Don Kelly posted on Facebook of his latest "dirt fishin'" adventure with one of his metal detectors.

"Went to a few of my favorite spots, because they said the rains were coming again soon," he explained. "I was not expecting to find anything at all of value, because I've dug this site many many times before. Well I was wrong, and pulled these keepers (pictured) out of the ground.

"Went down an old trail and found an old sterling silver St. Christopher medallion, and a gold-colored piece of jewelry. Also found what I thought was horse tack but it might be an old collar stud. But in my final hole I found this beautiful amethyst 925 Sterling ring under a big old tree on the path. It's a stunner for sure, and being under that tree, was protected from the elements. I polished her up and she looks like a brand new vintage ring!"

He thinks the ring is from the Edwardian period, 1901-1910, but has no idea what it's worth — which doesn't matter to him, anyway. "To me, it's priceless," he said.

If you would like to see more of his finds, go to the Northwest Artifact Recovery Team Facebook page. Among his finds are old U.S. and Chinese coins, an Edwardian shoe buckle, railroad spikes, lead weights, bullet casings, and even a cannonball. "Fifty-plus years of digging," he quipped. "Never gets old, but I do."

"When you're swinging the detector, you really have no clue what you're about to dig up," he observed. "I listen to the sounds — my detector is telling me constantly if it's ferrous or nonferrous objects — so once you look in the hole it could be a rusty nail, or it could be an old silver coin or jewelry. The fun is the hunt! Digging these items up is thrilling, but researching the item is even more rewarding. Gotta love dirt fishin' in Astoria!"

## AROUND TOWN

### The Morning Astorian.



From the Friday, March 15, 1901 edition of The Morning Astorian:

• Sebastian Glaser and Alexander Normand Jr. have filed (gold) mining claims on locations in the Cruiser's Gulch district.

**Note:** Cruiser's Gulch is along the Nehalem River in Clatsop County's Gold Creek Mining District. Glaser's claims were about 2 miles from Elsie. There are no records for any other mining claims in that district, and it is unknown if they actually found any gold there. Perhaps not, as coincidentally, Gold Creek is now called George Creek.

The Rock Creek Mining District, located mainly in what is now the Tillamook Forest, had several active claims when some gold was discovered there in the 1880s. Not much, apparently, since the district suddenly "petered out" in 1894. (bit.ly/clatgold)

• The English flag over the office of the British vice-consul was at half mast yesterday out of respect to the late President (Benjamin) Harrison.

**Note:** Harrison (pictured, inset), the 23rd president (1889-1893), died March 13, 1901. The British vice-consul was an important figure in town in the early 1900s; the many British ships and seamen that passed through the thriving port answered to him, and were under his dominion while in the North Coast area. (bit.ly/benharri, bit.ly/britconsul)

• Measles, said to be of the German variety and rather severe in form, is quite prevalent in the city ... the disease has attacked many older people, with considerable violence in some cases.

**Note:** The first rubella vaccine wasn't licensed until 1969. (bit.ly/astmeas)

• The Grays Bay Logging Company, owned by Brix Brothers, has a force of 40 men at work constructing a logging road back from the river between Frankfort and the mouth of Deep River (Washington).

**Note:** The Brix Brothers, German immigrants, were well known in the logging industry and owned a sawmill in Knappton, Washington, as well as a Columbia River towboat and barging business, providing a much-needed connection to isolated towns. (bit.ly/brixbros)

## BANDIT RETIRES



The Discovery Channel TV series "The Deadliest Catch" has had quite a following on the North Coast over the years, and a locally-owned vessel, the F/V Maverick, was on the show for a few seasons.

Now, one of the longtime vessels featured on the show, Time Bandit, is retiring and being sold. She's being offered by Dock Street Brokers in Seattle (bit.ly/docktime). The photo shown is courtesy of Dock Street Brokers.

Built in 1991 by the same company that built the Maverick, Giddings Boatworks in Oregon, the 113-foot steel-hulled crabber/tender holds 175,000 pounds of crab and 365,000 pounds of salmon. It also features an updated galley, 10 berths and four staterooms.

Before you check the penny jar, you should know the sale price is \$2,888,888.

## HONORED GUEST



As you may have heard, we have the distinct honor of trying to help this beautiful beaver who was found near the mouth of the Necanicum River in Seaside, downriver from where you'd expect to see one of these amazing builders," the Wildlife Center of the North Coast (WCNC) posted on Facebook. "Our wonderful friends over at Seaside Aquarium rounded her up and got her safely into our hands." The critter is pictured, courtesy of the WCNC.

Well, isn't it rather odd to have a beaver roaming around on the beach? "We see beavers end up on the beach annually," Josh Saranpaa, executive director of the wildlife center explained. "While this isn't a good place for them to be, it is common. Sometimes heavy storms will wash them out of the rivers and onto the beach. Other times, which seems to be the case here, a predator or rival will chase them onto the beach."

A visit to the vet on Wednesday revealed she has some pretty bad abscesses and deep punctures that probably resulted from a territorial dispute with another beaver, and she's been put on antibiotics. What she needs now is TLC and time to recover. "Our rehab staff are going to be working hard to get her healthy," Josh said.

If you'd like to help the wildlife center take care of patients like this beaver, you can donate at coastwildlife.org or on the WCNC Facebook page. Every contribution, no matter how small, is greatly appreciated.

## JEANS SAVE THE DAY



German tourist Arne Murke and his brother set sail from Auckland, New Zealand, to deliver the yacht Wahoo to Brazil, when the boom got loose in rough weather and knocked him into the ocean, according to the New Zealand Herald (bit.ly/nzharne).

His brother was not able to get to him, and he was not able to reach the life preserver thrown to him. So there he was, adrift and alone, with no life jacket, in 10-foot swells.

Luckily, he kept his wits, and remembered a Navy Seal trick. He took off his jeans, made knots at the end of the legs, then inflated them by pulling them over the water, creating an improvised life vest. A handy thing to know for anyone who goes out on the water. Here's how to do it: bit.ly/pantvest

Fortunately, his brother was able to call for help, and Murke was rescued three and a half hours later. "Without the jeans I wouldn't be here today," he said.

## 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 Studio, 1296 Duane St. Bring a spinning wheel. For information, call 503-325-5598 or go to astoriafiberarts.org

### 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.

**Cannon Beach American Legion Women's Auxiliary Breakfast** — 9 to 11:30 a.m., American Legion, 1216 S. Hemlock St., Cannon Beach.

**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.

**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 other's company. Free child-

care is provided. For information, call Christina Leonard at 503-298-3936.

**SeniorLunch** — 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 Bjaranson 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.

**Warrenton Senior Lunch Program** — noon, Warrenton Community Center, 170 S.W. Third St. Suggested donation of \$6 for seniors and \$7 for those younger than 60. For information, or to volunteer, call 503-861-3502 Monday or Thursday.

**Astoria Rotary Club** —

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