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IN ONE EAR • ELLEDA WILSON

NO PLACE HE'D RATHER BE



Nick Bjork (@NickBjork), 32, a Warrenton High School graduate, is making waves in the newspaper publishing world. Editor & Publisher magazine included him in an article in their April issue, “E&P’s 25 Under 35 2019: The Next Generation of Newspaper Leaders Wants to Keep the Industry Moving” (bit.ly/EPBjork). He is pictured, with his wife, **Karina**, and daughter, **Vivian**. It’s no wonder E & P took notice of him, he’s got a lot on his plate. Nick is the group publisher at BridgeTower Media in Minneapolis, and oversees two of the company’s construction trade publications, the Daily Journal of Commerce in Portland and The Daily Reporter in Milwaukee. He began his career as a reporter, and his essentials for a “journalism toolbox” include “... a good sense of humor and an unhealthy sense of idealism.” “... There’s just no place I’d rather be around to crack jokes with people,” he added, “than in a newsroom.”

EXPECT THE UNEXPECTED



Filed under “Be Careful What You Wish For”: A while ago this column requested that readers send in their **unexpected, interesting beach finds**. The first submission (shown) is a lulu. “We have been picking up trash on the north end of Cannon Beach for many years, but this is our most unusual find,” **Cannon Beach** residents **Rex and Diane Amos** wrote. “On Feb. 22, Diane spotted a heap of pink plastic near the mouth of **Ecola Creek**. When she propped it up to see what it was, Rex took this photo.” “We took her home and tried to blow her up,” the couple added, “but she had sprung a leak.” So what have *you* found? Send your beach finds to ewilson@dailyastorian.com

‘DRESSED IN COLOR’



I have one of my pieces of art, ‘**Dressed in Color**,’ displayed on an **electronic billboard** in **Fort Myers, Florida**,” local artist **Vicki Baker** wrote, “as part of a campaign, ‘**Art Lives Here**,’ to increase the awareness of art in the community.” She also exhibits at Astoria’s **Tempo Gallery** on Commercial Street (bit.ly/VickiBaker). “Last winter, I was reading an article in a magazine about women in Kenya,” she wrote, describing the original acrylic painting represented on the billboard. “There was a photograph of two women dressed in colorful clothing and cloth headaddresses. Both of them were wearing many layered beaded necklaces. That image sparked my imagination for a series of six paintings of women wearing multilayered beaded necklaces and dressed in colorful garments.” By now, you’re probably wondering about the Florida connection. “My husband, **Jan Faber**, and I have wintered in the city of Fort Myers for the past 20 years,” she explained. “I am a member of the nonprofit **Alliance for the Arts** (bit.ly/ArtLivesHere), which sponsored this campaign along with Carter-Pritchett advertising company, which owns these billboards. Eight other member artists were also chosen to have their art shown on eight other billboards throughout Lee County.” “It has been an exciting project,” she added, “and nothing I ever expected when I took up painting after retiring as an elementary school teacher at Olney in 1999!”

AROUND TOWN



Tidbits from the **Friday, May 16, 1884** edition of **The Daily Morning Astorian**:

- Pure ice from Lake Cocolalla can be had in quantities to suit from Wm. McCormick.
- Note:** **Lake Cocolalla**, in Idaho, was an **ice farm**, famous for its blue-colored product. In the late 1800s and early 1900s, before electrical refrigeration, teams of horses hauled blocks of lake ice to the nearby ice factory, where they were shipped nationwide by rail. (bit.ly/Lallalce)
- There are more men making unsuccessful application for employment here this season than at any other time in the city’s history.
- Note:** This economic lull was caused by trickle down from the Panic of 1884, which occurred during the 1882 to 1885 Depression, when two major Wall Street firms failed, causing a credit shortage. (bit.ly/panic1884)
- ... The matter of a **bridge across the Walluski** near **F. Bartholdes’** place was finally decided. It was concluded to build a bridge from each side of the Walluski about 200 feet out in the stream, leaving a gap of about 150 feet, to be crossed by means of a ferry ...
- Note:** A precursor, perhaps, to the 485-foot 1980 Wal-luski (aka Wallooskee) Bridge on Oregon Highway 202 near the Clatsop County Fairgrounds. The Walluski River got its name from **Wallooska**, the sole survivor of the small band of Chinook tribal members who settled there. In 1851, he sold the land to the U.S. government, but still lived on it. And, one more tidbit: Walluski has its very own government-recognized soil series. (bit.ly/wallubridge, bit.ly/wallooskee)
- ... On Saturday last, a judge in Philadelphia admitted at the end of a long battle a woman to practice at its bar. We are glad of this, because every step in the advancement of a woman is a step in the advancement of man.
- Note:** Women couldn’t vote yet, but in 1885, the Oregon Senate passed a similar law. In 1886, **Mary Gysin Leonard** (inset) became the first woman admitted to the Oregon Bar. Her interest in legal matters likely stemmed from being accused of murdering her husband, then spending 11 months in jail before being acquitted. (bit.ly/mgleonard)

A CALIFORNIA SIDETRACK



Another update on trying to find the missing town and post office of **Columbiaville**, once in Columbia County, mentioned in an 1889 snippet in The Daily Astorian and Morning Oregonian: Those in the know in Columbia County have never heard of it, nor has the Oregon Historical Society or the Smithsonian’s National Postal Museum in Washington, D.C. The National Archives never responded to an inquiry. Just by accident the Ear came across mention of a **Columbiaville, California**, in an obscure online publication; the town was located near the curiously named **Oregon Gulch**. “Columbiaville was an early name (1856) for an area in Oregon Gulch, Butte County, California,” **Larry Mauch**, historian at the **Yankee Hill Historical Society** (yankeehillhistory.com), wrote. “**Peter Burnett**’s wagon train came to California from Oregon City, Oregon in 1848. “It appears Burnett never was actually in the immediate area because he was in San Jose, California. Burnett was the first governor of California for a short time until he resigned because his views on nonwhite immigration to the state were not widely supported. “But a member of the wagon train must have stopped in Butte County and named the area Oregon Gulch around 1850. About 1852, the town at the northern end of the gulch was named Oregon City after Oregon City, Oregon. Who actually named the area Oregon Gulch is a mystery. “I have been looking for a manifest of the participants on Burnett’s wagon train to cross check with the Butte county census. The story of **Smith and Sparks Banner Mine** in Columbiaville (Oregon Gulch) is the subject of a video you can watch ... at bit.ly/BannerMine.” The photo shown is from the video. “I suspect the name Columbiaville,” he added, “is from Oregon’s history.” The Ear suspects he’s right. And the mystery of Columbiaville, with a California side-track, continues.

FRIENDLY FLOWERS



‘**Friendly Flowers** developed several years ago, modeled after The Bloom Project (thebloomproject.org), a national program serving hospice patients,” **Nancy Magathan** wrote. “As an example of the Planetree philosophy of person-centered care,” she noted, “**Lower Columbia Hospice**, an affiliate of **Columbia Memorial Hospital**, and several passionate volunteers formed Friendly Flowers to serve our patients in Clatsop County.” Some Friendly Flower volunteers serve in other ways in the hospital, as well. There are nine arrangers, and the project takes about two hours each month. Pictured, from left, group members **Laura Kautz, Christy Matlock, Debbie Steier, Lorna Zametkin, Berit Madsen** and **Susan Darms**. Not pictured, **Barb Crass** and Nancy (who took the photo), coordinators of the group. “What a fun project, and lifting spirits at the same time is an attitude in the arranging room monthly, usually on the third Wednesday,” she wrote. “Flowers are donated by **Fred Meyer**, and volunteers create an arrangement of flowers for every hospice patient, usually 23-30 patients. The arrangements are delivered by hospice staff. “Nurses receive many comments by families who love the fresh bright bouquets. ‘The flowers are beautiful,’ ‘although sleeping much of the time, he awoke, noticed and commented on the pretty flowers.’” A good deed, indeed.

GO FETCH



Remember that formerly **harnesss-wearing Beluga** **Rwhale** discovered by fishermen in **northern Norway** that was thought to have escaped from the **Russian Navy**? He’s baaaack. Or maybe he never left. Recently, **Ina Mansika** and some pals headed for the waterfront in Hammerfest, Norway, to see if they could spot the alleged cetacean spy. When they laid down on the dock hoping to see the very friendly Beluga up close, Ina’s phone fell out of her pocket and plopped into the water. Figuring it was a goner, she was completely taken aback when when the whale suddenly dove down and retrieved it for her in his mouth, The Dodo reported (bit.ly/whale-fetch). A screenshot from her video is shown. “We almost didn’t believe what we saw,” she said. Even though the phone didn’t survive the ordeal, she was “super happy and thankful” to get it back. “The whale is so kind,” she noted.

WANT TO MEET BIGFOOT?



The **Travel Channel** revealed the “**8 Best Places to See Bigfoot Right Now**” (bit.ly/quatchnews) back in March, but it’s only been lately that several news outlets from the states mentioned have picked up the story. The list is said to be created by Travel Channel using “never-before-released data from the Bigfoot Field Researchers Organization (BFRO)” and analyzing 23,000 sightings around the U.S. No. 1 on the list is Washington state, with 2,032 sightings. Check out Ape Canyon, near Mount St. Helens, where the legendary ape-men attacked interlopers in 1924 (bit.ly/satchwash). Next in line are California (1,697), Pennsylvania (1,340), Michigan (1,131), New York, (1,068) and Ohio (1,042). Texas came in last, with 806 sightings. Oregon comes in at a disappointing seventh (1,009), the most famous encounter being in 2000 at Oregon Caves National Monument (bit.ly/johnsoncave). Perhaps a BFRO Class A (clear sighting) in 2018 in Vernonia should have been mentioned, as well (bit.ly/bigvern). The upshot: If you really want a shot at an awesome Sasquatch encounter, just head across the river, or east to Vernonia. Or both.