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ewilson@dailyastorian.com
(971) 704-1718

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IN ONE EAR • ELLEDA WILSON

PIZZA PROJECT



I am currently co-chair for Seaside Food4Kids, and we are continuing to pack and distribute bags of food every Friday to the students in the program during the school closure,” Sally Lacoste wrote, “thanks to our dedicated volunteers and the Seaside School District bus drivers.”

“We received a call from the new owners of the Seaside Papa Murphy’s, Andy and Ashlee Klumper, asking if they could donate individual pizzas to be distributed with the food bags to the students.”

Of course, the answer was yes, so the morning of May 2, members of the Klumper family showed up with pizzas for the 125 students. Enclosed in each box was an encouraging note from Kennadee Klumper, a fourth-grader at Gearhart Elementary School.

Donations can be sent to Seaside Food4kids at P.O. Box 2611, Gearhart, OR., 97138, if you’re interested in helping, too.

Pictured from left, the Klumper family, Andy, Rikelle, Lydia, Kennadee and Ashlee, with Riff inside the pizza slice costume.

But Seaside Food4Kids weren’t the only ones to experience the Klumper family’s generosity. The Warrenton Grade School Backpack Program, sponsored by Warrenton-Hammond Healthy Kids, has a similar purpose, and provides enough food for each child in the house for the weekend.

In late April, Debbie Morrow reported that the program received 150 pizzas for the kids from the Seaside Papa Murphy’s, and each one of these also had one of Kennadee’s little notes tucked inside.

“Seaside Food4kids wants to thank Seaside Papa Murphy’s and the Klumper family for the generous donation,” Sally added, “and the generosity of the tireless volunteers for Food4Kids.”

POP UP: DRIVE IN



Were you among the lucky on April 30 who saw the film premiere of the documentary “Helmet John: Astoria is Home” at the Pop Up: Drive In: Stay Safe event in Heritage Square? If not, you really missed out. (See what you missed; go to bit.ly/PopUpPix)

“Due to current social and physical distancing mandates, movie theaters across the country are shuttered,” Jeff Daly noted about what inspired his ingenious idea, “but the American Legion/Old Safeway Parking Lot has been spruced up and the city has also generously allowed electric hookup for us to create a drive-in experience!”

Old Astoria/Jeff Daly Productions created the film, which is about the life and thoughts of Astoria’s beloved street-dwelling icon, John Wedell (pictured), which was projected against the east wall of the American Legion. Jeff, who directed and narrates the 30-minute film, is an Emmy award-winning cameraman (and it shows), and Linh DePledge wrote a heart-tugging script.

More than 20 cars showed up for the premiere, and the Joy Train was there, as well, occasionally belching smoke that cheerfully blew across the “screen.” But the highlight of the evening was the appearance of the star, John Wedell, who smiled and waved in response to the round of cheers and volley of honking horns at the end of the show.

The good news is that the Pop Up: Drive In isn’t a one-time deal. Weather permitting, there are showings at 8:40 p.m. Thursday, Friday and Saturday. The event is free (but you can donate to the United Way, if you like). You can bring your own snacks and beverages, or buy them from some local venues nearby. Tickets for the show are available at bit.ly/PopUpAstoria

Get out of the house, wave to your neighbors and pop in for a social-distancing treat. Don’t miss it!

ANNIVERSARY ACE



Some happy news to report in the midst of a pandemic,” Pat Regan of Surf Pines in Warrenton wrote. “My wife, Noreen, and I were celebrating our 33rd wedding anniversary on Sunday, May 3, at the Astoria Golf and Country Club, when Noreen made her first hole-in-one at the 10th hole.”

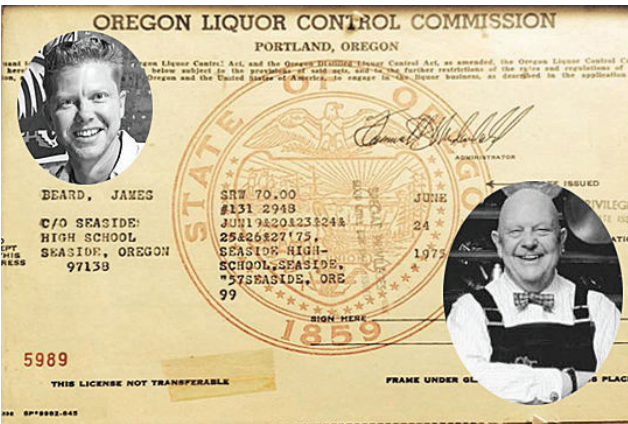
“I took this picture just after it happened,” he recalled, “with the ball still sitting in the hole of the cup, which is employing the safe ‘social distancing’ guidelines.”

The couple have been members of Astoria’s country club for 30-plus years. “Both of us have now had a hole-in-one at the club,” he noted. “I got mine on No. 17 a few years ago.”

To give you a little perspective, the PGA quotes the National Hole-in-One Registry as saying the odds of the average golfer making a hole-in-one, or ace, are 12,000 to 1; only 1% to 2% of golfers score an ace in a year. And, a golfer usually needs to put in an average of 24 years of playing before making a hole-in-one. (bit.ly/reganace)

“Talk about a perfect way to commemorate and celebrate our marriage!” Pat added. “We had two members of the local Coast Guard in our group who also witnessed it, and neither of them had ever seen one before.”

LICENSE TO SERVE



Fun rerun in honor of James Beard’s birthday, which was Tuesday: “As a few of you may know, I just took a part-time position as the culinary instructor at Seaside High School, not that I don’t have enough to do,” Chef Chris Holen (pictured, left) of the Baked Alaska restaurant in Astoria posted on his Facebook page. “Anyway, while checking out my classroom today, I discovered a bit of culinary history in my desk drawer.”

It’s a liquor license (tinyurl.com/beardliq), issued June 24, 1975, to the legendary chef, James Beard (pictured, right), who had a cooking school in Seaside, as well as the more famous one in New York.

“No one seemed to know that it was there,” Chris told the Ear. What a find! (In One Ear: 9/12/14)

Note: Beard (1903-1985) was born in Portland. As a child, he spent his summers in Gearhart, and his ashes were spread on the beach there.

IT’S CONTAGIOUS



My daughter, Zia (pictured), and I were at her mom’s house in Eugene,” Joshua Fisher wrote, “and they had been wanting to paint some rocks for a few days.

“It was very relaxing to sit and do, and more rewarding to watch people notice and smile as they spotted the rocks. When we first placed them, we were nine for nine with people noticing and smiling.” Eventually the rocks were picked up and disappeared, but the fun and good feeling stayed with Joshua and Zia.

“It inspired me to paint rocks for the seniors in my advisory class at Astoria High School,” he recalled. “Since the end of the year has been different, I wanted to be different in how I informed and congratulated the four for completing their high school requirements.

“Zia and I drove around, even to Jewell, to deliver the rocks. One young lady was not home but lived close enough to walk, so Zia and I loaded all our rocks into a backpack and walked to deliver and hide rocks. A few people saw us hiding the rocks, and it was so nice bringing a smile to their faces.”

“Hey Astoria friends,” he posted later on Facebook. “Zia and I have placed inspirational rocks around town.” Please note, that if you find the rocks and/or place your own, tag a Facebook post with #AstoriaRocks. Joshua hopes this will “multiply exponentially!”

The painted rock hiding/finding is “designed to leave a little cheer,” he added. “If you find one, take it, but place another one in a spot that will bring joy to folks passing by. It’s contagious, I promise!”

OPERATION SMILE



This May 2 Facebook post by Astorian Terri Chisum Opsahl gave pause for thought: “Help us give back to our seniors with ‘Operation Smile’! Why not share a note, poem, story or picture with the residents who are quarantined at Clatsop Retirement Village.

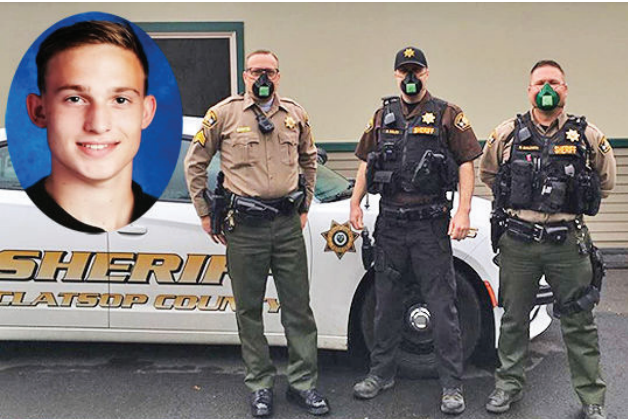
“Your correspondence will bring a smile and brighten their day! Please send submissions to: Clatsop Retirement Village, Attn: Lauren Beard, 947 Olney Ave., Astoria, OR., 97103.”

So who thought up this heart-warming plan, the Ear inquired. “I did,” Terri revealed. “I’ve been trying to come up with some ideas to help out the staff at Clatsop Retirement Village to keep the residents engaged and part of the community outside!

“I do some volunteering at the facility, but obviously I can’t currently. My mom is a resident there, and I know how bored and isolated she feels. So I thought this would be something easily accomplished, and all of the residents could enjoy.”

Sending smiles is something both adults and kids can do, so why not give it a try?

AN INNOVATIVE STUDENT



Clatsop County Sheriff’s Office would like to recognize Luke Verley for the quality masks he made to help first responders like us as part of his Pacifica Project,” the sheriff’s office posted on their Facebook page, along with the photo shown. “Luke used 3D printers from his dad’s company, TimberDrone (timberdrone.com), to build the thermoplastic masks.”

Luke’s dad is Matt Verley, who is also the chief of the Hamlet Rural Fire Protection District. For those of you with a 3D printer, the TimberDrone Facebook page provides a link to a 3D mask pattern at makethemasks.com/3d-printing

Just so you know, as a prerequisite for graduation, Seaside High School students have to complete a Pacifica Project, using their skills and interests to serve their community — and making masks during a pandemic certainly fits the bill.

“It is innovative students like Luke who help strengthen our community during these difficult times,” the sheriff’s office post added. “Thank you, Luke!”

LOCAL BREVITIES

From The Daily Morning Astorian, May 7, 1885:

Some curious addresses are to be found on letters occasionally received in this burg from “furrin parts.” The following are taken at random from a few received by Capt. A. W. Berry in the last two weeks:

“Astoria, near Portland, North America”; “Astoria, Oregon, British America”; “Astoria, Columbia River, Oregon, Central America”; “Astoria, North America.” The writers are evidently certain that Astoria is in “America.”

A large whale came in from the sea yesterday, and after cruising around awhile brought up near the spit below Sand Island, where his antics attracted universal attention. After having an hour’s circus all to himself, the great ocean mammal shot out toward the west, and with a sort of “farewell Father Watkins” wave of his tail, swung out to the shoreless depths of the heaving Pacific.

