

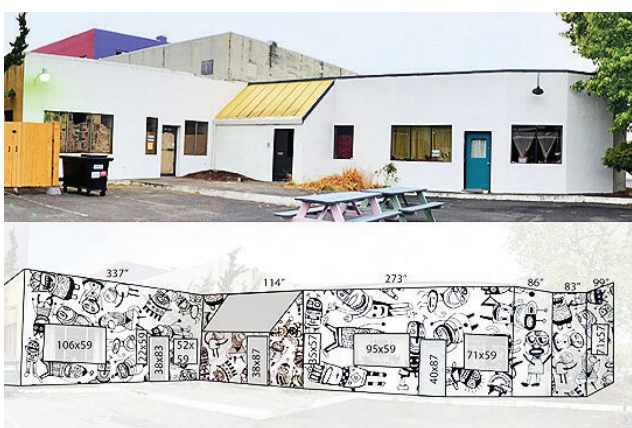
CONTACT US  
ewilson@dailyastorian.com  
(971) 704-1718

# COMMUNITY

FOLLOW US  
facebook.com/  
DailyAstorian

IN ONE EAR • ELLEDA WILSON

## BOTJOY BONANZA



A whimsical art project will get underway on Sunday, Aug. 15, and continue through Aug. 20: The painting of a **Botjoy mural** on a building at the corner of 11th and Duane streets.

Portland artist **Gary Hirsch** created Botjoy when he painted his first Bot on a domino back in 2010. Now he's done more than 57,000 domino Bots, and several murals. He'll be in Astoria to paint this mural, too, assisted by more than 10 local volunteers.

"Botjoy is a global art movement designed to spread joy, courage, love and gratitude throughout the world, one Bot at a time," botjoy.com, says. "Make a robot. Feel more human. The Bots are ... art objects programmed to support, recognize and celebrate humans."

Sponsoring the mural are **Candy Yiu** and her husband, **Akshay Dua**, who own the building to be painted — as well as the Near the Pier guest house, where Hirsch will stay while here — and **Weird Sisters Monthly Artist Micro-Grants**. More volunteers are needed for Aug. 20 to coat the anti-graffiti paint. Interested? Email [candy.yiu@gmail.com](mailto:candy.yiu@gmail.com)

"The idea is to use happy robots and splash of color to spread joy and love in Astoria, as well as bring inspiration through art," Candy explained.

"During this pandemic, many of us went through many different challenges, and some may still be facing them. Something colorful, and something inspiring, may help us all to rethink, and help all of us think what brings joy, love and inspiration to all of us."

## BONES RETELL THE TALE



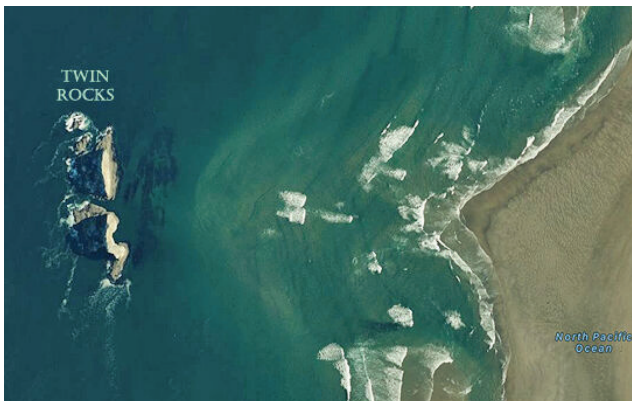
Last week, this column mentioned that ScienceNews.com reported that the partial skeleton of a man from the Jōmon culture was revealed to be the **oldest known victim of a shark attack**, killed off the coast of Japan some 3,000 years ago.

Two other researchers immediately took exception to the claim, ScienceNews.com notes, saying that their find, the partial remains of a **Peruvian teenager**, whose skeleton was excavated in 1976, is actually the oldest known shark attack victim at 6,000 years old, according to radiocarbon dating.

The young man's left leg was missing, and his right hip and arm bones were covered with deep bite marks. Also in the grave were "a seashell, a large, flat rock and several ropes, one with elaborate knots and a tassel at one end."

As to which claim will be accepted by the scientific world as the oldest, the scholarly battle lines have been drawn. "We were unaware of their claim until now," the leader of the Jōmon excavation team said, "but are keen to speak to them about it in more detail."

## A BUMP IN THE TIDE



**Fun rerun:** **Andre Hagestedt**, of Oregon Coast Beach Connection, noticed that the beach sand bends farther out from the shore in front of **Twin Rocks in Rockaway Beach**, and that there seems to be a "bump" in the water between the rocks and the tide line.

"When the waves hit a rock or sea stack like that, they warp around it and they lose energy," **Tom Horning**, of Horning Geosciences, explained. "So it dumps sand directly behind the sea stack," creating the bump.

The result is a tombolo, "a sand or gravel bar that connects an island to the mainland or to another island," according to Dictionary.com.

"It's pretty far out and pretty deep," Horning said. "Since the bar is high, at low tide it makes the shoreline appear to stick farther out into the ocean."

The homeowners with those extended property lines are probably crossing their fingers the tax man doesn't notice. (*In One Ear*, 2/26/2016)

## TILLY'S DREAM



A stunning video, "The Surf of Tillamook Rock Lighthouse," drone footage by Geist View on YouTube, pops up every now and then on Facebook; this time it was posted by Terrible Tilly's owner, **Mimi Morissette**. Screenshots are shown.

She was asked about lighthouse's columbarium, which hasn't been licensed by the state since 1998. Several urns of ashes are still there, including those of Morissette's parents.

"The only thing they took away was a sales license," she posted, "which a new company, in the future, will be able to apply for and obtain. It will take about \$1.5 million to restore the building back to the state the building was in ..."

"Tilly is currently a dedicated cemetery. We have to replace the corroding metal in the building with titanium, and all the urns or celebration of life vessels will be made of titanium, aka the 1,000-year material."

To see the lighthouse restored to its former glory would make many hearts glad. Advice from Ms. Morissette: "Don't give up on that dream!"

## LET THERE BE LIGHT



A little lighthouse history: During the month of January, in 1881, the **Tillamook Rock Lighthouse**, aka **Terrible Tilly**, was officially completed at a cost of \$123,493 (almost \$3.3 million now).

Getting to that point was no easy feat. The basalt rock, about 100 feet high, and 1.2 miles out at sea, wasn't exactly welcoming to visitors. In June 1879, after several previous attempts failed, construction superintendent **H. S. Wheeler** managed to get onto the rock to take a survey, but because of the difficulty landing, all he could bring was his measuring tape.

In September 1879, lighthouse builder **John R. Trewavas**, who was there to attempt another survey of the rock, jumped from a small boat, but when he landed on the rock, he slipped, fell, got hit by a wave and was washed out to sea. He was never seen again.

After Trewavas' death, locals weren't clamoring to work on Tillamook Rock, so the construction supervisor, **Charles A. Ballantyne**, had to hire an out-of-town crew. He sequestered them in Washington before the work started, so they wouldn't hear local gossip.

Finally, construction began in October 1879. Ballantyne landed men and gear by using a rope pulley between the top of the rock and a ship's mast. The crew lived in wooden shacks on the slopes of the rock, enduring bitter winter weather, even being stranded once.

It took until May 1880 to blast off the top 30 feet of the rock to form a level surface. In June, massive derricks were built to bring up the basalt blocks from a Portland quarry (for the walls of the lighthouse), along with equipment and supplies, and even the Fresnel lens.

On Jan. 3, 1881, while the lighthouse was still under construction, the **Lupatia** ran aground on Tillamook Head, killing everyone aboard except the crew's dog. The disaster reinforced the need for a lighthouse, and the crew hastened to complete the construction in three weeks to prevent a repeat of Lupatia's tragic fate.

On Jan. 21, 1881, the lighthouse's beacon shined for the first time. Seventy-seven years later Tilly's job was done, and on Sept. 1, 1957, the light went out. ([bit.ly/nrhptilly](http://bit.ly/nrhptilly), [bit.ly/oetilly](http://bit.ly/oetilly))

## GETTING THE BOOT



The **Daily Astorian Aug. 12, 1887**, edition offered a sarcastic but grim glimpse of crime and punishment, Astoria-style:

"There are now six prisoners in the county jail, four awaiting the action of the grand jury, and two doing time.

"Every attention is paid these guests, fresh flowers are daily brought to adorn their cells, food is specially cooked for them and carried to their room, they are supplied with newspapers and the most menial offices are performed for them.

"Sheriff Ross has just bought two pairs of boots for them of a peculiar and satisfactory pattern and extraordinary solidity of construction."

The story refers to the **Oregon Boot**, aka the **Gardner Shackle**, patented in 1866 by Oregon State Penitentiary Warden **J.C. Gardner** to deal with the (at the time) substantial problem of prisoner escapes.

The shackles, meant to be worn attached to the boot on one leg, were manufactured by prisoners at the penitentiary, and weighed between 5 and 28 pounds each.

"The (shackles) are ornamental as well as useful, being nickle-plated and polished like a mirror," the article says ... "It is certainly more economical to buy them than to repair the jail to an extent sufficient to prevent inmates from breaking out, something these shackles will surely do."

True enough. But longtime wear caused relentless pain and physical disabilities, often causing inmates to become bedridden. ([bit.ly/ORshackle](http://bit.ly/ORshackle))

## A DIFFICULTY



An un-neighborly snippet from **The Daily Astorian**, **Aug. 12, 1883**:

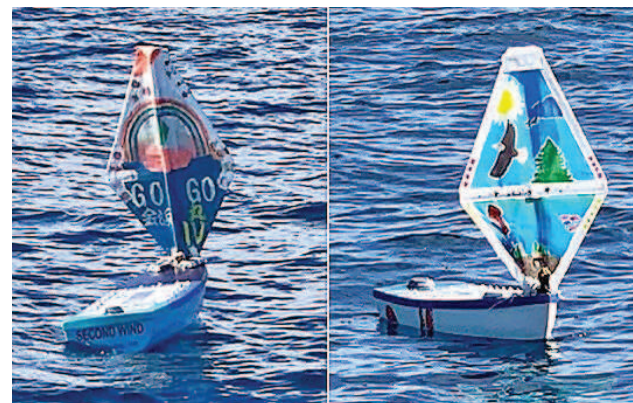
"Word came yesterday afternoon that a man named Smith had been shot at **Brookfield, Washington Territory**, and was in a dying condition. Two physicians who had been sent for went on a special boat and yesterday evening returned with the wounded man ..."

Brookfield (1873-1957) was a cannery town in Wahkiakum County, roughly between Pillar Rock and Skamokawa, accessible only by boat. Most of its residents were cannery workers or fishermen, among them **Ashley and Smith**, who "had some difficulty for some time."

The resolution to this "difficulty" was at "about seven o'clock yesterday morning, with Ashley meeting Smith on the road, and shooting him, the load of buckshot striking him in the right hip, inflicting a terrible wound.

"Smith was brought to the hospital immediately upon his arrival here, and some 15 buckshot were picked out of his flesh. The chances are that he will get over it." (Brookfield image courtesy of Chinook Observer/Irene Martin Collection)

## GONE ASTRAY



Two of the **Columbia River Maritime Museum Mini-boat Program's** little sailing vessels, launched in July, have gone astray, according to the program's Facebook page.

Built by students as part of an exchange program with students in Japan, the **S/V Second Wind** and the **S/V Destiny** (pictured) were destined for the Land of the Rising Sun, and sailed over 400 nautical miles down the West Coast. It was hoped they would catch the trade winds that would take them out across the Pacific Ocean.

Instead, the second wind wound up in Half Moon Bay, California, and has been picked up by the Harbor Patrol. The Destiny came ashore at Sonoma Coast State Park in California, where she was rescued from the beach by U.S. Coast Guard Station Bodega Bay. She will be relaunched from the cutter Aspen out of San Francisco Bay later this month. Their travels can be tracked at [bit.ly/CrmmMini](http://bit.ly/CrmmMini)

Fair winds and following seas to you, little boats.