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WEEKEND BREAK

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Artist Aaron Trotter has illustrated decks of playing cards with scenes featuring Astoria, Seaside and the Long Beach Peninsula.

Nikki Davidson/The Astorian

ACE UP HIS SLEEVE



Nikki Davidson/The Astorian

ABOVE: Trotter's newest set of playing cards feature scenes from the Long Beach Peninsula.

RIGHT: Trotter sells his illustrated playing cards at the Astoria Sunday Market.



Illustrator finds artistic niche on the North Coast

By M.J. CODY
For The Astorian

New York, Tokyo, Ilwaco and Astoria all have something in common, and no, it's not just their ports.

The cities are featured on illustrated playing cards.

Portland artist Aaron Trotter has spent the last 11 years traveling the world with his pens and notebooks depicting iconic landmarks within famous and not-so-famous places, all compiled in neat little collections of 52 cards.

His newest assortment features renderings of landmarks, beaches and street scenes on the Long Beach Peninsula from Ilwaco to Oysterville. He also has created Astoria and Seaside decks.

"I started out doing postcards, note cards and calendars," said Trotter of his first attempts at trying to make a living as an artist. "I had over 100 drawings of Portland and I thought maybe I could assemble them into a book. Or maybe something smaller that could be a gift or a souvenir. Then it came to me: 'why not create a deck of playing cards?'"

The idea intrigued Trotter because a deck easily showcases 54 images, including two jokers, and becomes tangible, affordable and accessible art.

After a successful Kickstarter campaign to launch his idea, Trotter's first

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