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ewilson@dailyastorian.com
(971) 704-1718

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IN ONE EAR • ELLEDA WILSON

SOMEONE'S DREAM BOAT?



Ever wanted a 1938 sternwheeler, minus the stern-wheels? Well, **Chris Jones** is selling the steamboat **Jean** for \$30,000 on Facebook Marketplace, according to Oregon Public Broadcasting. She is shown in a 2009 photo.

He hates to part with her, but the mooring fees are due, state fines are on the verge of being levied and he has health issues. He used the Jean in his vessel salvage business, and he's closing the business, as well.

Although there are several caveats, on the positive side, the Jean is on the **National Register of Historic Places** as SP Idaho Jean, and has a "relatively sound hull."

On the negative side, constant maintenance is needed (and not done in decades); there's old oil and, worse yet, asbestos, aboard; she needs electricity; and the interior is fairly well torn up and rotted out. If you're wondering where the Jean is, so you can take a look-see, she's off Sauvie Island, and only accessible by boat.

She's being used as a warehouse at the moment, but with the right amount of patience (and scads of money for renovation), she could be transformed into whatever the buyer can imagine and afford.

Despite the difficulties, the Jean may just be someone's dream boat. Jones sure hopes so, as he'd hate to have to resort to cutting up and recycling the steel hull. "Oh that'd be a needless waste of an historic piece." Any deep pocket buyers out there?

INTERESTING MEN



OK, guys, this one's for you: "I am a photo producer out of Portland," **Michelle Boucher** of Michelle Boucher Productions wrote.

(In case you're wondering, according to ZipRecruiter, a photo producer "designs and sets up all production phases in a photo shoot." Pictured, a photo from Michelle's portfolio; the client was Duluth, and the photographer was Corey Arnold.)

Back to business: "We are casting **interesting men** for a clothing line, Best Made, part of Duluth Trading Co.," Michelle explained. "I am writing to you hoping that you may know some fun coastal people with a **good story**." And we all know there are too many here on the North Coast to mention.

The client is looking for men in the 35 to 50 age range whose "good story" hopefully has something to do with **fishing or wood working**.

Anyone interested? Email Michelle at michelle@michelleboucher.com, and she will email back the casting sheet, which has instructions on what photos to send.

Did I mention that the pay is \$1,000 for the day of the shoot?

ICY ECOSYSTEM

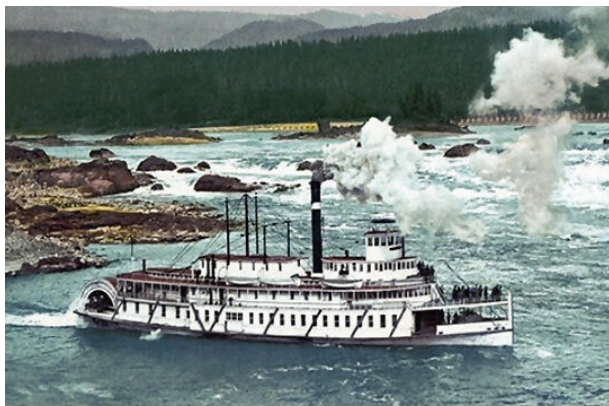


The world's largest fish breeding area, a "globally unique ecosystem" consisting of tens of **millions** of icefish nests, covering 93 square miles, has been found on the Antarctic sea floor, NewAtlas.com reports. Most of the nests, which are guarded by a single fish, contain at least 1,700 eggs.

Actually, the area was first spotted last February by German researchers aboard the icebreaker **RV Polarstern**, which was towing a submersible that took the images they studied to extrapolate these numbers.

One nest is shown, courtesy of the Alfred Wegener Institute's Ocean Floor Observation and Bathymetry System team.

Researchers speculate the colony of nests is caused partly by warmer than normal seabed waters. The local Weddell seals don't care why, they are too busy enjoying some fine dining.



A LACK OF JUDGMENT

On the evening of Feb. 28, 1881, a "disastrous collision" on the **Columbia River** occurred about 10 miles above Rainier, near **Willow Bar**, between the large steamship **Oregon**, heading up river, and the small steamer **Clatsop Chief**, with a large scow in tow, heading down river, that resulted in the deaths of four men.

The account of the tragedy comes from **Capt. William E. Mitchell**, master of the Clatsop Chief, who was interviewed soon afterwards, The Daily Astorian reported on March 2.

He claimed he spotted the Oregon, moving at a good clip, coming at him, and that his signal lights were burning. He had to get out of the way, so he headed for the Oregon's port side. The Oregon gave a one-whistle signal, meaning the Clatsop Chief should be heading for the starboard side, instead.

Capt. Mitchell put his wheel over hard in response, but it was too late; the Clatsop Chief and scow couldn't clear the Oregon's bow in time, and the steamer hit the scow midship, cut it in half "like a knife," and then rammed into the Clatsop Chief, almost cutting her in two, as well.

Both the scow and the little steamer immediately sank. The 13 men aboard both vessels were thrown into the water, and were struggling to survive.

The alarm went off on the Oregon just before the collision, and the captain reversed the propeller quickly, but it took some time and distance before she could come to a full stop and lower the lifeboats.

The crew of the Oregon rushed to rescue the survivors, but were only able to save nine of them. Despite his explanations, Capt. Mitchell's lack of judgment was blamed for causing the collision and deaths.

In mid-March, the Clatsop Chief was raised. Her bow was missing, and a boiler, but her engines survived the collision. With significant repairs, the newspaper predicted, "she will be in splendid condition to return to her labors."

PENGUIN PROJECT



Six-year-old **Ada** came home one day in January to inform her family of her latest assignment in **Crystal Salmi's** first grade class at Warrenton Grade School," her mother, **Faith Forster**, wrote (at the urging of Ada's grandmother, **Hope Harris**). Ada's dad is **Zach Forster**.

"Each child was tasked with choosing one penguin species from the 17 the class had been studying," Faith continued, "to complete a report and a family art project. Ada didn't hesitate when she told us she'd chosen the **emperor penguin**, because it was her size.

"Based on that fact alone, the family agreed we must make a life-size version. With some ingenuity and lots of team work, we were successful, although Ada was quick to point out several scientifically inaccurate design flaws present in the final product.

"One of the most interesting facts Ada and our family learned through this project is that we share the same last name as the man for whom the emperor penguin was named.

"The emperor penguin's scientific name is *Aptenodytes forsteri*, after the German naturalist **Johann Forster**, who was thought to have first discovered the birds while sailing with **Captain Cook** in the 1700s.

"Isn't that a fun coincidence, and a story to evoke the imaginations of Forsters for generations to come?"

"Thank you to Mrs. Salmi, and all the teachers (professional and otherwise)," Faith added, "for sparking the curiosity that leads to a lifetime of learning and daring to dream ..."

TREKKING TO ASTORIA



"I'm a longtime 'Star Trek' fan," **Josh Marquis** wrote. "I even watch the 21st century version, an atrocity called 'Star Trek: Discovery,' in which only the most painfully woke characters exist. They are now in Season 4, Episode 10.

"The scene setup is that the spaceship is about to go into great danger, crossing a ridiculous sci fi invention called the 'Galactic Barrier,' which is sort of like the Columbia River Bar (times 1,000).

"At this point many of the crew think they may die, so they start reassuring each other of what they will do when they get back to earth:

'**Paul Stamets**: We might be able to buy another 30 seconds, but that's it.

'**Christopher Pike**: It's not enough. Hey. We've got this. A month from now, you'll be back skiing in Zermatt. And where you gonna go?

'**Stamets**: Astoria. On Earth's Oregon Coast. It's heaven.

'**Christopher**: Hawaii, for me. The beach. A mai tai. Maybe I'll take up snorkeling.

'**Stamets**: Great, I'm coming with you. I'm gonna hike the Pacific Crest Trail.

'**Christopher**: I've locked onto the target cell, captain! Stamets, we'll need those 30 seconds on shields right now!' (transcript at bit.ly/TrekAstoria)

"By the way, this is supposed to be about 1,200 years in the future," Josh added, "so apparently Astoria survived the next two major earthquakes that are supposed to happen." A comforting thought to ponder ...

SEA LION SUNBATH



"Well, we don't get this kind of call every day," the **Oregon State Police** posted on their Facebook page. "On Feb. 24, OSP received an animal complaint of a **sea lion** sunbathing themselves on their trailer. OSP Fish and Wildlife troopers out of our St. Helens office responded to the home, on **Slavens Road in Warren**."

Slavens Road is not exactly a hop-skip-and-jump from the river. The sea lion would have had to cross a field and U.S. Highway 30 to get to his or her special sunning spot. As one poster noted, "Sea lion on Slavens? That's a hike."

"Upon arrival, with the assistance of the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and another trooper, **recruit trooper Davey** attempted to get the sea lion to go peacefully into a cage for transport," the state police explained.

"The sea lion, not seeing the love in recruit Davey's eyes, might have tackled her to the ground before entering the cage.

"Don't worry, recruit Davey bounced right back up with no hard feelings to complete the mission of getting the sea lion successfully released back into the Columbia River unharmed." And a good time was had by all. Well, almost all. (Photos courtesy of Oregon State Police)

TAKE THAT, MR. WILLY



Fun rerun: "After a recent humorous attempt by a **fake Free Willy** (orca) to frighten the noisy and destructive **sea lions** off the **East Mooring Basin** docks, **Subman** decided it was time for a more local approach to the ongoing pesky pinniped issue," a little bird said. In case you didn't know, Subman's lair is the Astoria Subway, owned by **Mike and Mary Davies**.

"Enlisting the aid of a classic 1964 Evinrude speedboat, Subman took to the mooring basin waters last Saturday morning ... Wearing only his signature fresh vegetables and a cardboard shark fin, he slowly cruised through the mooring basin, quickly and easily clearing the docks of the troublesome mammals!

"After several dock-clearing passes, Subman slowly sailed up the river, declaring, 'That, Mr. Willy, is how we get it done!'" (In One Ear, 6/19/2015)