

IN BRIEF

Buoy 10 fishery set to open Aug. 1

Buoy 10 will open for fishing on Aug. 1. When fishing for salmon where the Columbia River meets the ocean, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife recommends targeting Chinook early in the season and fishing for coho later.

For safety reasons, the department recommends staying above the Astoria Bridge during the slack and ebbing tides. In the lower river, stay closer to take-outs such as Hammond. Avoid the Clatsop Spit and the Astoria shipping channel, which are unsafe during the tide runoff.

Halibut fishing days added

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife has added six more days of all-depth Pacific halibut angling in the Columbia River subarea.

The additional days are Aug. 19, Aug. 25 and Aug. 28 and Sept. 3, Sept. 4 and Sept. 23. The subarea is from Leadbetter Point, Washington, to Cape Falcon.

Fichot performance at Liberty Theatre postponed

A performance by singer-songwriter Jessica Fichot, which was scheduled for 7 p.m. on Saturday, has been indefinitely postponed by the Liberty Theatre.

The concert was planned as the opening event of the venue's season. The Liberty Theatre is currently experiencing a staffing shortage due to an uptick in COVID-19 cases. However, other upcoming events remain as scheduled at this time.

Ticket-holders for the Fichot concert will be contacted by the Liberty Theatre box office. For more information, visit www.libertyastoria.org

— *The Astorian*

Conservation group adds monarch butterflies to its 'red list'

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The monarch butterfly fluttered a step closer to extinction Thursday, as scientists put the iconic orange-and-black insect on the endangered list because of its fast dwindling numbers.

"It's just a devastating decline," said Stuart Pimm, an ecologist at Duke University who was not involved in the new listing. "This is one of the most recognizable butterflies in the world."

The International Union for the Conservation of Nature added the migrating monarch butterfly for the first time to its "red list" of threatened species and categorized it as "endangered" — two steps from extinct.

The group estimates that the population of monarch butterflies in North America has declined between 22% and 72% over 10 years, depending on the measurement method.

"What we're worried about is the rate of decline," said Nick Haddad, a conservation biologist at Michigan State University. "It's very easy to imagine how very quickly this butterfly could become even more imperiled."

Haddad, who was not directly involved in the listing, estimates that the population of monarch butterflies he studies in the eastern United States has declined between 85% and 95% since the 1990s.

In North America, millions of monarch butterflies undertake the longest migration of any insect species known to science.

— *Associated Press*

DEATH

July 19, 2022

SALIKIE, Gracie Darling, 87, of Astoria, died in Astoria. Caldwell's Luce-Layton Mortuary of Astoria is in charge of the arrangements.

ON THE RECORD

DUI

Omar Antonio Rivera Acevedo, 21, of Mount Pleasant, South Carolina, was arrested on Sunday on W. Marine Drive in Astoria for driving under the influence of intoxicants.

Oscar H. Fabian Rodriguez, 23, of Seaside, was arrested on July 14 on Ridge Road near the Warrenton Soccer Complex for DUI, reckless driving and failure to carry or present a license.

PUBLIC MEETINGS

MONDAY

Seaside City Council, 7 p.m., City Hall, 989 Broadway.

TUESDAY

Astoria Planning Commission, 5:30 p.m., City Hall, 1095 Duane St.

Seaside Airport Advisory Committee, 6 p.m., City Hall, 989 Broadway.

Warrenton City Commission, 6 p.m., City Hall, 225 S. Main Ave.

Clatsop Community College Board, 6:30 p.m., special session, Columbia 219, 1651 Lexington Ave., Astoria.

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A BIG ASSIST



Lydia Ely/The Astorian

Interim City Manager Paul Benoit, Blaze the Trail Cat and Mayor Bruce Jones cut a ribbon to officially reopen the playground at Violet LaPlante Park in Alderbrook on Thursday. Moda Health and the Portland Trail Blazers generated funds for the improvements.

Stories of lost gold and hidden treasures dot the Oregon Coast

Tales as tall as the trees

By KRISTIAN FODEN-VENCIL
Oregon Public Broadcasting

The Oregon Coast was buzzing recently with news of the possible discovery of the Spanish galleon that inspired the plot of "The Goonies."

But in truth, the coast is home to many legends of lost treasure. Talk to the right people in just about any community along the Pacific Ocean, and you'll eventually find a tale of fortunes won, lost ... or buried for some lucky soul to stumble across.

"I've been kind of on a roll of buried treasure, lost gold mine stories and stuff like that," said pop historian Finn J.D. John, an instructor at Oregon State University's School of Communication.

Gold cache

Recently, John has been researching the Randolph Trail gold cache, which was supposedly hidden 170 years ago by the Grouleaux brothers or maybe the Groslious brothers; different sources have different spellings.

Whatever their name, they lived in the Willamette Valley, and back in 1849, they headed south for California.

"People in Oregon got a real head start on the gold rush when it broke out," John said. "They got there long before everyone else got around the horn to show up and start digging. So they got a big jump."

But instead of leaving the state by way of the Willamette Valley to make their fortune, like other Oregonians with dreams of gold on their way to California, the brothers made their way along the coast.

"This was a terrible idea of course, for geological reasons, if nothing else because of all the rivers they'd have to figure out how to get across," John said.

But their choice proved fortuitous, because when the brothers reached the beaches south of Coos Bay, they saw a glistening sheen of gold in the sand — at least, that's what the stories tell us.



Katie Frankowicz/KMUN

Marine archaeologist James Delgado, left, and beachcomber Craig Andes, right, examine a shipwreck timber removed from the sea caves north of Manzanita that may be from the famous wreck of a Spanish galleon.

"It was black, and it had sparkles in it," John said. "And on a lark, they dipped some out with a gold pan and sluiced it around and discovered that there was indeed gold on the beach."

The brothers probably would have tested what they found, to make sure it wasn't fools gold, also known as iron pyrite. It turned out, they'd found the real thing.

"There's nobody around. Everybody in the area has gone inland to go south for the gold fields," John said. "And there they are with this massive bonanza just crunching under their feet. So of course, they got busy."

The brothers had brought plenty of provisions, and the hunting was good, so they prospected all summer. As their flour sacks emptied, they refilled the bags with gold. For three years they returned, unbeknownst to anyone.

"You would think that people would think: 'Oh, these guys are onto something.' But of course, a lot of people who were going south were hitting pay dirt, so it was easier to fly under the radar," John said.

Miners were a secretive bunch by nature. Claim jumping was a real threat back then, as were bandits. But by their fourth year, the brothers' secret was out and miners flocked to southern Oregon.

Boom towns like Randolph sprouted almost overnight.

coast. "That's a new one," said Meryl Boice, the former president of the Curry County Historical Society in Gold Beach, "I never heard of it."

Similar tales

For years, Boice collected similar tales and published them in the society's newsletter.

Like the one from old miner Tommy East. He told of a Native American man, dying of pneumonia, being nursed by a kindly couple.

"He had some gold, and he put in his pants and tied the legs and stuck it in a hollow tree and put leaves on it. And told this couple where it was, when he knew he was not going to make it," Boice said. "They went out, after he passed away, and looked and nobody ever found it."

So somewhere on the coast, there's \$35,000 worth of 1850s gold stashed in a pair of buckskin breeches. Maybe ...

The thing is, there's little if any original documentation for such stories, so it's hard to know what's true and what's been fabricated or embellished. Still, John is relatively confident about the Randolph Trail cache legend.

"I think there's a zero percent chance that every single particular is true," he said. "And I think that there's a 100% chance that most of it is true."

Also in the 1930s, there was a rumor that the cans had been found by an unidentified couple. Apparently, they'd seen a rusty gun barrel sticking out from under an old tree stump. So they dug around and found two old gunpowder cans containing 150 pounds of gold.

But John thinks that stash is probably attributable to an old miser, known for burying his money in the area. John points out the amount of gold doesn't match the Randolph Trail cache and the cans would have rusted away after 80 years in the coastal climate.

"There would have been nothing left," he said. "There wouldn't have been cans, there would have just been a bunch of gold in the ground."

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