

# Fundraiser for football fan in intensive care unit



KATHERINE LACAZE/EO MEDIA GROUP

Maggie and the Kats perform at a fundraising benefit for Samuel Whitehorn at Sweet Basil's Cafe in Cannon Beach on Jan. 22. Whitehorn is in a relationship with Bridget Kitson, Maggie Kitson's daughter.

EO Media Group

It was standing room only at Sweet Basil's Cafe in Cannon Beach during a fundraiser to benefit Samuel Wesley Whitehorn on Friday, Jan. 22.

Whitehorn was severely beaten in Portland after an argument over a football game. Whitehorn, 26, is the boyfriend of Bridget Kitson, daughter of Cannon Beach's Maggie Kitson and lead singer of Maggie and the Kats.

The restaurant set up a collection jar to receive cash donations and also raffled off T-shirts and a four-person Cajun/Creole cooking lesson with chef and owner John Sowa. The mood in the cafe varied as Maggie and the Kats performed for several hours. There was dancing and laughter, but also a few tears shed during somber moments when the crowd reflected on the reason for the benefit.

### A savage beating

"Saturday night my boyfriend was assaulted outside of Muu Muu's bar on Northwest 21st Avenue," Bridget Kitson reported last week. "He was wearing a Packers beanie and a few Seahawks fans didn't like that very much. So they got into a little argument and then one knocked him out so hard he hit his head on the curb of the sidewalk. Sam was not violent during this exchange."

According to Whitehorn's mother, Kelly, from her home in Little Rock, Arkansas, Sam suffered a fractured skull, concussion and a brain hemorrhage.

He is in the neurotrauma intensive care unit at a Portland hospital with a long road to recovery ahead of him, she said.

"He had to have emergency brain surgery the night of the incident and is slowly recovering," Bridget Kitson said. "It will be a long and bumpy road and he may never be the same again. The person who did this to my



SUBMITTED PHOTO/EO MEDIA GROUP

Sam Whitehorn remains in intensive care after a beating over a football game.

boyfriend is still out there. The part of his skull on the left is actually still out (in the fridge!) but looks 'normal' because of swelling."

In an update on the "Sam Recovery Fund" gofundme page, Bridget said Sam has been a Packers fan "since he was a little bitty guy. I can't even explain why. I guess he was just born a member of the Packer Nation. He loved Brett Favre and now Aaron Rodgers and Jordy Nelson. I talked to the media in Wisconsin, and expressed to them Sam's love of the Packers."

### Local donations

Sweet Basil's invited donations throughout the

Friday night fundraiser. In addition, the restaurant donated part of the evenings sales to the fund, which will help to pay Whitehorn's hospital expenses.

Kitson said she could not wait to share with her daughter Bridget about the response from the community, which helped provide comfort during a time of tragedy.

Even before the event started, people who were unable to attend in the evening stopped by to make donations.

"Not being from the area, I'm always amazed how the community support comes together for a cause," Sowa said. "There



KATHERINE LACAZE/EO MEDIA GROUP

Sweet Basil's Cafe held a fundraising benefit Jan. 22 for Samuel Wesley Whitehorn, a Green Bay Packers fan who was hospitalized after an allegedly unprovoked assault in Portland. The case is under investigation. Whitehorn faces a long road to recovery.

is always close-knit community support here."

The fundraising plea has well exceeded its original goal of \$15,000. The plea has spread nationwide,

### Violent acts 'just not acceptable to me'

This was just a spur of the moment thought," Sweet Basil's owner and chef John Sowa said last week. "Maggie and the Kats play here every Friday, so it seemed like a natural to put something together for Sam. As a restaurant we have the perfect venue for hosting benefits. Too many people just get used to reading and seeing violent acts and it's become just part of our society. That's just not acceptable to me. I'm a firm believer in passing it on so this is just my way of doing that. We'll raise as much as we can in this little community as support for a family in need."

including to Wisconsin, where Packers fans are rallying to Whitehorn's aid.

Portland police are seeking his assailants. To donate to the Sam

Recovery Fund, visit [www.gofundme.com/samrecoveryfund](http://www.gofundme.com/samrecoveryfund).

— Katherine Lacaze and R.J. Marx contributed to this story.

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## Nicholas "Nick" Conwell Nelson

June 1st, 1921 - January 17th, 2016

Nick Nelson (Left) pictured with Maurie Clark (right)

Nick went home to be with Jesus on Sunday, January 17, 2016. Though friends and family can rejoice in knowing he's in Heaven, the loss of Nick leaves many hearts grieving for the man they called husband, daddy, grandpa, and friend.

Nick was born June 1, 1921, and he grew up in Seattle, Washington. He began working for US Steel at just 18 years old, and he continued working there for 23 years. He met his beloved wife, Helen Cornelius Nelson, in Seattle where they married in 1942. Soon after they were married, Nick served in the Army during WWII for three years in the South Pacific. Nick and Helen were blessed with four children: Larry Nelson, Lynda (Craft), Judy (Sweeney), and John Nelson.

After feeling led by God to make a major life change in 1960, Nick uprooted his family and moved to Cannon Beach, Oregon to begin a Christian life with his childhood friend, Francis Nevan. The two families worked together at the ocean side resort for ten years. In 1970, the property was sold, and is now known as the Tolovana Inn.

Nick then worked for Coaster Properties and his friend, Maurie Clark, until he retired. Upon retirement, Nick and Helen enjoyed being snowbirds in Palm Springs, California and spending quality time with family. Nick and Helen recently celebrated their 74th wedding anniversary. Nick is survived by his wife (Helen), their four children, 12 grandchildren, 21 great grandchildren, and 1 great-great granddaughter.

The memorial service will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, January 30 at St. Helens Community Bible Church, 35031 Millard Rd, Warren, OR. Please join the family in celebrating Nick's life journey and saying good bye to a man we all love and respect. In lieu of flowers, donations are preferred to St. Helens Community Bible Church for their building fund.