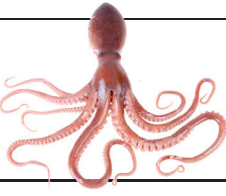


Washington girl encounters rare lancetfish

While walking along the beach, Ava Miler, visiting from Spokane, Washington, came across a unique sea creature

SEASIDE AQUARIUM
TIFFANY BOOTHE



struggling in the wet sand, a longnosed lancetfish.

This 5-foot long fish resembles a barracuda, with its long body and sharp fang-like teeth, but this did not deter Ava from trying to save it.

Ava bravely walked up to the fierce looking fish and without hesitation picked it up and returned it to the sea.

Unfortunately, the fish came back to shore. It had suffered an injury, most likely from another

lancetfish while engaged in a feeding frenzy. The large gash near the fish's gills was life threatening and the fish eventually died.

Excited about the unique find, Ava and her family came to the aquarium with photos of their adventure and shared their experience with staff at the Aquarium. Staff members were quite interested in their story.

"I was excited about her find and while it was unfortunate that the fish could not be saved, I was hopeful that we may be able to collect it for a dissection. Longnosed lancetfish tend to feed in deeper waters and have a very slow digestive system. This means that you will often find whole fish in their digestive track or stomach. I asked Ava if she would show us where she found the fish because I was interested in its stomach contents."

Ava readily showed aquarium staff members where the fish was and once she heard the word dissection, she only had one question: "Can I watch?"

"I was so impressed with Ava. Not only did this budding biologist try to save a fish that even I would be hesitant to pick up while still alive, she was more excited about the opportunity to learn about it and the chance to get her hands dirty."

"While the dissection did not yield much, we did discover a squid tentacle and a whole stickleback (a small fish found in both estuarian and ocean environments). It was also an experience that Ava will not soon forget."

For more information on these strange fish, visit www.fisheries.noaa.gov/feature-story/11-strange-true-facts-about-lancetfish.



Erik Miler
Ava Miler, visiting from Spokane, Washington, came across a unique sea creature struggling in the wet sand, a longnosed lancetfish.

BRIEFS



The Lion (Sophia Reynolds) tries to scare Dorothy (Ella Jesberger), the Scarecrow (Liv Mayhugh) and the Tin Man (Maggie Neuwirth).

Seaside High School prepares for spring musical

The Seaside High School Drama Department presents the spring musical, "The Wizard of Oz" (MUNY version), which will be performed April 20-23 at the Coaster Theatre in Cannon Beach.

Directed by Ann Susee, with musical direction by Kimber Parker, the production will run four consecutive days rather than the usual two weekends.

Leading the cast are 11 seniors. The rest of the cast includes other high school students, three middle school students and three grade school students.

Susee said that the MUNY version of The Wizard of Oz is based more on the books than on the familiar movie. While the main characters are the same, there are no flying monkeys and no Toto.

Cast for this year's musical includes the following: senior Ella Jesberger, Dorothy; senior Liv Mayhugh, Scarecrow; senior Maggie Neuwirth, Tin Woodsman; senior Sophia Reynolds, Lion; junior Eva Bailey, Wizard; senior Kaiya Taylor, Sorceress of the North; and freshman Ayaunna Bolin, Witch of the West.

Other cast members include: senior Abi Sills; senior Liam Mattock; freshman Kyle Jackson; senior Elliot Ousley; senior Adrian Dzul-Fisher; senior Lilli Taylor; junior Aby Brien; freshman Alona Wisenhunt; senior Gracie Klemp; junior Sam Taylor; third grader Mikayla Parker; third grader Lilee Manss; fifth grader Rayna Bailey; sixth grader Karli Jackson; sixth grader Vee Miller; and seventh grader Aria Taylor.

Behind the scenes, senior Mary Barnes is stage manager and junior Connor Jackson handles lights and sound. Other techies include freshman Diego Munoz, freshman Emily; sophomore Chance McKeown; and senior Al Anderson.

Performances will be Wednesday, April 20 to Sat-

urday, April 23 at 7 p.m. Tickets will be sold at the door only. Adults tickets are \$10 each and seniors/students are \$6.

All performances will be at the Coaster Theatre in Cannon Beach, and per its policy, all audience members must wear a mask during the show and must show proof of vaccination.

For more information, contact Ann Susee at asusee@seaside12.org.

Author shares new novel 'What Strange Paradise'

Oregon author Omar El Akkad will talk about his award-winning novels, "American War," and "What Strange Paradise" at 2 p.m. Saturday, April 16, during a Cannon Beach Library Facebook Live presentation.

In El Akkad's novels, the fictional characters grapple with events and issues in today's news. His latest novel, "What Strange Paradise," was a New York Times Notable Book of the Year in 2021. It is told from the viewpoint of two children caught up in the real-life Middle East wars and the migrant crisis that followed.

His debut novel, "American War," was translated into 13 languages. It won the Pacific Northwest Booksellers' Award, the Oregon Book Award for fiction and the Kobo Emerging Writer Prize.

El Akkad was born in Egypt, grew up in Qatar, moved to Canada as a teenager and now lives in Portland. The start of his journalism career coincided with the start of the war on terror, and over the following decade he reported from Afghanistan, Guantanamo Bay and other locations around the world.

The site can be reached through the library's website, www.cannonbeachlibrary.org, or through the library's Facebook page www.facebook.com/cannonbeachlibrary/.

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