

## COASTAL NOTES

### VENDORS WANTED FOR HOLIDAY SALE

The Siletz Valley Grange is seeking vendors for a Dec. 2 Holiday Sale/Swap Meet.

An 8-foot table rents for \$10. Organizers are seeking LulaRu, Party Lite, Scentsy, homemade items, re-sale Christmas items and general swap meet items.

Contact Tracy Whitlow at 541-272-9446 to sign up or for more information.

### MOVING TRAIN BOOK CLUB TO MEET

The Moving Train Book Club will meet on Tuesday, Nov. 21, at 6:30 p.m. at the Newport Public Library, in the small conference room.

This month's book is "No Enemies, No Hatred," by Nobel Peace Prize winner Liu Xiaobo, a noted Chinese dissident who died in 2017 while serving an 11-year prison sentence for his activities in pursuit of freedom and democracy in China. This book is a collection of his essays and poetry and covers two decades of Chinese politics, culture and the struggle for human rights, beginning with the Tiananmen Square massacre and ending with the charges brought against him by the government and his own defense.

All are invited to participate in the discussion.

### PHILOSOPHICAL FORUM MEETS IN YACHATS

The Philosophical Forum meets Sunday, Nov. 19, from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m., at 330 King St. in Yachats. For directions or information, call 541-547-3904.

This week, the group will discuss the following questions: What do we each do in our life on behalf of our convictions, feelings, or beliefs, and how do we actually go about doing it? Are our doings motivated by a desire to explore possibilities or new ideas? Is it motivated by fear of what will happen if we do nothing? What are our concerns and projects and why are they of value? Do they always aim toward change?

### BLANKET DRIVE FOR THE HOMELESS

An effort to gather new blankets for the homeless has been launched by the News-Times.

Donations of new blankets are being accepted through Dec. 13. Blankets can be dropped off at the News-Times office at 831 NE Avery St. in Newport.

For more information, call 541-265-8571.

### ANNUAL TURKEY SHOOT IS NOV. 18

Big Timber Rifle and Pistol Club will hold its annual Turkey Shoot on Saturday, Nov. 18, at the gun club north of Siletz.

Shooting practice will start at 9 a.m., and competition shooting begins at 10 a.m.

The cost is \$6 per gun for each round of competition, and there will be three categories: shooting 200 yards with scoped rifles, 100 yards with open sights and 50 yards with handguns. There will be rimfire targets available at the 100-yard and 50-yard distances. Each person hitting a target will win his or her choice of a turkey or ham.

The gun club is located off of Wade Road in Siletz. From Highway 20, travel through Siletz across the bridge, turn left on Wade Road, go 300 yards, and then turn right into the gun club's range.

For more information, contact club president John Way at 541-272-7243.

### PRESS RELEASES AND PHOTO SUBMISSIONS

To submit articles and photos, email community@newportnewstimes.com

## A BICYCLING ADVENTURE



**Daniel Spring**, Marilyne Griffon and their two children, Mika and Marla, are on a bicycling adventure from Alaska to Guatemala. They began their trip in May and will take about a year to reach their destination. They are pictured here during a stopover near Depoe Bay. (Photo by Steve Card)

# From Alaska to Guatemala

BY STEVE CARD  
Of the News-Times

A young family passed through Lincoln County last week. Like most people, Daniel Spring and Marilyne Griffon and their two young children — Mika, who is almost 2, and Marla, who turned 4 earlier this month — were enjoying the scenery as they made their way south down the coast. But unlike most people, they are traveling from Alaska all the way to Guatemala, by bicycle, and it will take them about a year to complete their journey.

The family made a stopover just south of Depoe Bay on Friday, Nov. 10, spending the night at the home of Trichia Chandler and George Weber, who accommodate touring bicyclists through warmshowers.org, an internet site that works much like Airbnb. People passing through can go online to find willing hosts who offer anything from a basic camping spot in the yard outside, to a room, a meal, a hot shower and laundry facilities.



**Four-year-old Marla** runs across a bridge on the Denali Highway in Alaska while her almost two-year-old sibling, Mika, watches from the background. (Courtesy photo)

Chandler said she has been affiliated with warmshowers.org for about the past two years. She learned about it when she "rescued" a 20-something female bicyclist who was passing through Depoe Bay in a February storm. "It was like when the rain was horizontal and the wind was coming right at her," re-

called Chandler. "She was on her way to a bicycle conference in San Francisco. I offered her a warm shower and a place to sleep. She followed us in, and she's the one who told us about warmshowers.org, so I signed up."

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### HOLIDAY FESTIVITIES

## Tree Lighting Party set for Nov. 24

Put a little homemade, hometown sparkle in your holiday this year at the annual Lincoln City Tree Lighting Party and Christmas Market, Nov. 24, 25 and 26 at the Lincoln City Cultural Center.

With carols, cookies, cocoa and Kris Kringle, this is an event that checks all the holiday boxes, all in one place. It features many free and weatherproof events, as well as fundraisers for local charities and a marketplace for artisans, plus the lighting of the community Christmas tree and three visits from Santa Claus.

The fun will begin on Friday, Nov. 24, the day after Thanksgiving at the Lincoln City Cultural Center, 540 NE Highway 101. Thanks to a hardworking corps of volunteer elves, the center halls will be decked with garlands, ornaments and lights, a tree on stage and another on the west lawn.

Starting at noon, Black Friday shoppers can listen to the Bell Tree carols while they browse the Christmas Market, the Chessman Gallery and the LCCC Members Gift Shop. Krista Eddy's famous make-and-take ornament workshop will be open



**Georgia Roelof plays the bells** during last year's Tree Lighting Party at the Lincoln City Cultural Center. This year's event begins at 5 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 24, with cookies, hot chocolate and coffee. The cultural center is located at 540 NE Highway 101. (Courtesy photo by Dean Ingram)

to kids of all ages from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. This year's project will be yarn-wrapped stars and trees. Donations are happily accepted, but participation is free while supplies last.

At 5 p.m., LCCC volunteers and staff will be-

gin to serve the cookies, hot chocolate and coffee, provided by Kenny's IGA and the Morgan Family. If weather permits, the crowd will gather outside (if not, there will be room inside to enjoy). The Sweet Adelines will perform and lead

a group carol sing, followed by the countdown and the flip of the switch to illuminate the community Christmas tree and the rest of the cultural center's new outdoor light display.

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### COMMUNITY COLLEGE

## 'Future Satellite Catalog' is topic

*Simulcast to be presented at OCCC North County Center on Nov. 17*

Many people do not realize that the U. S. military carries on an extensive, worldwide satellite tracking operation to maintain a complete inventory, or catalog, of all known man-made objects in orbit around the Earth.

Information about this tracking operation is the subject of a presentation called "The Future Satellite Catalog," a simulcast featuring Dr. Paul Schumacher that will be presented at 8:30 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 17, at the Oregon Coast Community College North County Center, located at 3788 SE High School Drive in Lincoln City. Admission is free.

Besides its military applications, the satellite catalog serves a variety of commercial, civil and even diplomatic functions. At present, more than 20,000 objects are being tracked and monitored routinely, and their positions can be calculated for any time of interest, past, present or future.

However, commercial space activity is expected to grow exponentially in the next few decades, and with the advent of several

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### OCEAN ACIDIFICATION

## Nov. 18 talk set at Cape Perpetua

A presentation on ocean acidification and hypoxia research findings will be given at 1 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 18, at the visitor center at Cape Perpetua Scenic Area, located two miles south of Yachats.

The rocky intertidal habitats in the Cape Perpetua Marine Reserve are a hotspot of biodiversity. Scientists have been monitoring the dynamics and intertidal species in that area for decades. In addition, scientists have been conducting oceanography, hypoxia, and ocean acidification studies in this area since the early 2000s.

Steven Rumrill, shellfish program leader, and Daniel Sund, ocean acidification and hypoxia researcher with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife Marine Reserves Program, will present research related to ocean acidification along the Pacific Coast and its potential impact on coastal ecosystems.

This event is free, but a Northwest Forest Pass, Oregon Coast passport, federal recreation pass, or \$5 day-use fee is required within the Cape Perpetua Scenic Area. For more information, contact the Cape Perpetua Visitor Center at 541-547-3289.



**BOBBIE'S BEAT**

**With an attitude of gratitude**

*"Often when we lose hope and think this is the end, God smiles from above and says, 'Relax sweetheart, it's just a bend in the road, not the end!'"* — Author unknown

Well, this is a first. All writers have specific ways and routines of getting the job done. For me, in the many years of writing this column, I have never switched gears at the last moment. My routine is to write on Monday morning when my brain is fresh, and then let the column gestate over night. Tuesday morning I polish it up and zap it off to my editor at the News-Times for the Friday edition.

I did all that this week, and just as I was about to hit "send" on the computer, an email popped up from a reader in another state who receives this column from someone in Newport. This reader, like so many others both local and far away, has been following my healing process and sending

words of encouragement. Some simply write, "I'm praying for you." Some, like the person whose email literally stopped me from hitting the "send" button, included the above quote, and it was a clear message that today's column had to be about gratitude. With Thanksgiving around the corner, how inappropriate to have sent the sappy subject I had already written. You will get it eventually, but not today.

That quote is one of many from readers. I save these quotes in a special file on my iPad, and during those long nights in rehab, I needed to read and re-read these words because they kept me from getting depressed and discouraged.

Here's one: "Do you know why a car's windshield is so large and the rearview mirror is so small? Because our past is not as important as our future. So, look ahead and move on." (Unknown).

Another reader sent this one:



**Bobbie Lippman**

"Prayer is not a spare wheel that you pull out when in trouble. It is a steering wheel that directs us in the right path throughout life." (Unknown).

Today is my chance to thank all of you, friends, family and readers, who have let me know in so many different ways that you care about me. You have sent cards, flowers and tons of emails. My "village people" have driven me (back and forth) to doctor and lab appointments, hospital for surgery, visited me during the weeks in rehab, and now that I'm home, there are those bringing meals on wheels. (Since I hate to cook, I plan to play pathetic with hope the friends who enjoy cooking will keep it up).

The list of names is way long, but you know who you are. I'm thrilled to tell you I have graduated from wheelchair to walker, and, as of yesterday, am now using a cane. My physical therapist, Karen Smith, reluctantly allowed me to conquer the steps upstairs in my home, but only if my driver friend, Lin, would act as a "spotter" on my maiden trip up and down. Last week I told you I haven't been upstairs in two months. Karen insisted an extra walker be parked there in case I needed it. I didn't. After Lin left, I went back upstairs on my own and just stood and looked around, feeling very liberated. Isn't it strange how we don't miss something until we no longer have it?

I hope this gets to my editor in time for Friday's paper, and I hope you understand my reasons for turning serious and needing to write with a huge attitude of gratitude.

As for Thanksgiving, I will be with my friend, Louise, and her family. She invited me weeks ago when I was dependent on a wheelchair. Knowing there are many steps to her home, I tried to beg off rather than be a problem, but she wouldn't let me off the hook. Perhaps she knew the wheelchair would be history by turkey time.

I'm about to hit the "send" button, but I have to leave you with one final quote from my school chum, Teresa, who contributes so many funny day brighteners to this column. I have known this friend of faith since we were teenagers, and her strong spiritual side has kept her in closer touch with me during this long healing journey. Teresa let me know she was praying for me, and I will leave you with this quote she sent during rehab. I was having a tough time, and it really touched me:

"When you pray for others, God listens to you and blesses them; and sometimes, when you feel safe and happy, remember that someone has prayed for you."

Here's wishing all of you a blessed Thanksgiving from my grateful heart to yours.

*Bobbie Lippman is a professional writer who lives in Seal Rock. She can be contacted at bobbisbeat@aol.com.*

**ANNUAL EVENT**

**Lighted Boat Parade Party set**

The Friends of Yaquina Lighthouses (FOYL) will be holding its annual FOYL Lighted Boat Parade Party on Saturday, Dec. 2.

Held every year on Yaquina Bay, Newport's Lighted Boat Parade is a treasured holiday event. People are invited to join FOYL in a gathering of friends and family to view this year's boats from the comfort of Mo's Annex on the Newport Bayfront.

Tickets to the event are \$22 each and are good for one meal and one non-alcoholic drink. There will be great food, friendly conversation, raffles, and a special holiday visitor for the young and old alike. Space is limited, and membership in Friends of Yaquina Lighthouses earns you first choice, so reserve your seats now.

For more information, visit yaqualights.org, email Amy

at [foyl@yaqualights.org](mailto:foyl@yaqualights.org), call 541-574-3129, or stop by the Interpretive Store at the Yaquina Head Outstanding Natural Area.

Friends of Yaquina Lighthouses is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that is proud to support the restoration of Newport's lighthouses, the preservation of cultural history, and the interpretive programs that showcase public lands.

**SIMULCAST**

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very sensitive, high-capacity tracking systems coming online in the next few years, the job of updating and main-

taining a future satellite catalog becomes extremely complex. In this talk, Schumacher will describe for the general public the fundamentals of the satellite catalog: who, what, where, when, how and

why. He will also describe the difficulties of building the future space catalog and why this problem is occupying a number of researchers in government laboratories around the country.

**UnMasque the Night**

An Evening of Illumination, Entertainment and Intrigue Awaits!

12/08/2017  
Newport Elks  
7pm

Unlock the Secrets beneath a virtual "who's who" of brilliantly costumed guests.

**COCKTAIL PARTY** - An abundance of libations, nibbles and noshes to pleasure party goers.

**ENTERTAINMENT** - Masterful musings of the BRINGETTO JAZZ QUARTET tempt dancers to a spin on the dance floor until the delightfully delicate demons of the PACIFIC DANCE ENSEMBLE dazzle the audience with a riveting performance.

**LIVE AUCTION** - UnMasque desirable trips and treasures

**BENEFIT FOR** - Olalla Center for Children and Families "Bringing Mental Wellness to Light"

**DECEMBER 8TH, 7PM**  
At Newport Elks

Tickets available at [olallacenter.org](http://olallacenter.org)



The Alaskan wilderness provides a scenic backdrop as Daniel Spring and Marilyne Griffon, with their two children in tow, begin a bicycle trip from Alaska to Guatemala. (Courtesy photo)

**BICYCLING**

Continued from page 4

Since then, they have hosted people from places like China, Belgium the U.K., Brazil, New Zealand and Chile. "It's like traveling all over the world without leaving our house," said Chandler. "We talk to them about their culture, like the Chinese, I'd never sat down and talked with people from China before."

**FROM GERMANY AND FRANCE**

Like the others they have hosted, the young family who stayed with them last weekend had many stories to share. Daniel is from Germany, and Marilyne is from France. Their children are fluent in both languages. "I just speak French with them, he speaks German with them," said Marilyne, "and we speak Spanish together."

The family was most recently living in a flat in Berlin, Germany. They began planning this trip last January and flew to Fairbanks, Alaska in May.

**A LONG-TIME DREAM**

"It was a dream for a long time," said Marilyne, who first met Daniel in 2010 in Guatemala. They were both there for an organized walking event, and when that was over, "we made a bike trip," she said. "It was the first time for me. I just followed him. I thought it was crazy, but as he's German and really serious, I just trusted him." She added, "We did a crazy thing. We were biking in the north of Guatemala, close to the Mexican border, so it was the jungle, it was the migrants and a drug area, as well. But it was beautiful. It was amazing."

They also did a bike tour in Cuba, and after that, Daniel began contemplating an even longer trip. "He wanted to go out from Berlin, take his bike from his house and go to the east, go to Russia, through the Himalayas, the Middle East and all that," said Marilyne. But then an unplanned event occurred. "That was the dream, but Marla came," she said, and then they had a second child. "So then we bought the trailer and decided with children, maybe we can make it

from Alaska to Guatemala because we speak English, we speak Spanish, we know how to communicate with the people." That communication is important, she said, especially when traveling with the children. In the event of something like a health emergency occurring, "I don't speak any languages of the east," she said. "If something happened, I want to understand what's going on."

**DEPARTING FROM ALASKA**

"We had about four months of planning between January and May," said Daniel. "In May, we left and flew into Fairbanks and then we started cycling. We brought all our gear — it was easier because we didn't have to buy it all here. We only had to buy stuff like food containers and bear spray, because that you don't find that in Germany."

While they were in Alaska, they came across a weigh station and decided to see exactly how much Daniel, the two children, the trailer and all the gear loaded in it weigh. "It was 430 pounds," he said, which has made for some slow uphill rides. Marilyne, along with her bicycle and gear, weighed in at 230 pounds.

They were among the first of the bicyclists to begin the trek south from Alaska, but they didn't have a set schedule. "Normally we average between 20 to 30 miles per day," Daniel said. "That's a good day. We had some days of 40-50 miles — 50 is like the maximum with the children. They want to go out of the trailer, they want to play."

**NOT TRAVELING A DIRECT ROUTE**

And they don't always take the shortest course. "We spent so much time up in Alaska, zigzagging around," said Daniel. "We didn't take the direct route. We went to Denali and up to Dawson City." Marilyne added that the goal is not simply about reaching the final destination. "It's to be on the way, a way of life. It's also the idea to be together, to have time with the little children before they grow up and have to make their own life. And it's to reconnect with nature."

**FOLLOWING THE WHALES**

The family is also migrating south with the gray whales. "We want to follow the coast because we wanted to see the whales," Marilyne said. "We are following them from Alaska into Mexico, and we are right on time. We saw them in Alaska, we saw them in the Inside Passage. In Washington they were there. In Cape Kiwanda we saw them again, and in Depoe Bay we saw them." They hope to arrive in Mexico in March to see them at their breeding grounds in Baja California.

Most of the people who bicycle down the West Coast have long since passed through Lincoln County by this time of the year, but because they are on a slower pace, the family is experiencing some weather that can bring some stiff winds out of the southwest. They didn't know that would happen when they were planning the trip. They also weren't expecting to encounter as much traffic as they have along the coast route, which can be challenging at times when pulling the wide trailer, Daniel said.

**WHAT'S AFTER GUATEMALA?**

They plan to hook up with family in San Francisco for Christmas, and then they will continue south. Once the family arrives in Guatemala, there are no definite plans. "Within three years, Marla has to go to school," said Daniel. "Then we have to make a decision. We'll have to stay in a place where she can attend school. It will take us a bit more than a year to get to Guatemala, and then we will see what happens — if the children are still happy to bike or if they are getting bored in the trailer and don't want to bike anymore. We still haven't decided yet."

When asked about the decision to take all this time to make the trip, Daniel said, "We decided to take our retirement right now because in 30 years, who knows?" Daniel and Marilyne have a blog chronicling their journey. It can be found online at [velomerica.org](http://velomerica.org) (vélo means bike in French). All of the information on the website is written in either French or German, but tech savvy people can easily translate it using an app like Google translate.

**ANNOUNCING OUR ANNUAL HALLOWEEN COLORING CONTEST WINNERS!**

Lillion Bruce Age 8 Shelby Sue Parr Age 11

**THANK YOU TO ALL WHO PARTICIPATED!**