

## HE'S FULL OF ZIP



**E**rhard Ulrich, celebrated his 99th birthday Sept. 20, and showed up at **High Life Adventures** ([www.highlife-adventures.com](http://www.highlife-adventures.com)) for a zip-line tour the next day, **Mandy Flaitz** told the Ear. She is the office manager at the facility, which is owned by **David and Lance Larson**.

It was a privilege to host him, Mandy observed. "He is a World War II veteran, and was honored in Washington, D.C., in 2014. He was the oldest of the 26 Oregon vets, and the only one not in a wheelchair." Courtesy of High Life Tours, the almost-centenarian is pictured with tour guides **Logan Patterson** (left) and **John Knutsen** (right), looking no worse for the wear after his zip trip.

So what does a zip-line consist of? "We offer an eight line zip-line here in Warrenton," Mandy explained. "It is a guided tour on a series of eight zip lines around and over a 7-acre lake. We provide all of the gear required, and each group is accompanied by two tour guides who will take care of all of the clipping, unclipping, and braking. No experience required. The lines range from 400 to 1,200 feet long and add up to about a mile of zipping, total." You can get an idea of the experience here: <http://preview.tinyurl.com/highzip>.

So, what did the veteran think of his adventure? "It was a great experience, and I would do it again," he declared.

Mandy echoed his sentiment. "We hope to see him again for his 100th birthday!"

## HERE WE GO AGAIN

**O**K, yet another tidbit on the fate of a **Goonies 2** — a comment that **Sean Astin** (pictured) made in a Sept. 22 interview with **Tulsa World**, calling the sequel a "100 percent mortal lock," caused quite a stir (<http://tinyurl.com/mortallock>).

The actor is pictured in a photo from his Facebook page, where he posted the following on Sept. 28: "I have always believed that there will be a **Goonies Sequel**, because **Steven Spielberg** told me in 1988 that he wanted to make one. **Richard Donner** has said that it is in the works. **Warner Brothers** is enjoying a very successful merchandising experience with the 'title.'

"If it gets made in my lifetime, I will root for it, whether I'm in it or not. If it gets made after I'm no longer here to be in it or to watch it, I still know in my heart, guts, wherever, (that it) will get made. "The fact that I'm asked about it everywhere I go is amusing. The fact that people just make stuff up about it, also hilarious. Now, I have said all I am going to say on the subject until 5 minutes from now when another **Goonies-loving** neighbor wants me to give them the inside scoop. Spoiler, no scoop."



## LET'S PLAY TAG



**F**ile this under "now I've heard everything": Tagging jellyfish. Well, the scientists at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution have figured out how to do it, if you can imagine such a thing, **Gizmag.com** reports (<http://tinyurl.com/tagjelly>).

The data-logging device they'll use, the ITAG, designed for "small and delicate invertebrates" is pictured courtesy of Aran Mooney of WHOI, and measures 4.25 by 2.5 by 1 inches.

Attached to the jellyfish bell using suction cups and veterinary-grade adhesive, the tag "records an animal's movement, orientation, dive profiles, and environmental data, such as light and temperature," the article says. "When it completes its job, it detaches from the base, floats to the surface, and the beacon activates for recovery and transmits the information it had recorded via VHF radio."

By the way, the ITAG works on squid, too, but they have to use biodegradable sutures to attach it.

Suturing a squid? Yikes.

## In One Ear



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## IT'S HISTORY



**S**ince the **Tourist II** ferry is in the news again this week, the Ear wonders if you know that in 1997 it was recorded in the **National Register of Historic Places**? Yup, it was added to the list when it was known as the **MV Kirkland** (<http://tinyurl.com/T2NRHP>). A photo of the vessel is shown, courtesy of the Clatsop County Historical Society.

Here are some tidbits from the NRHP application: **Fritz Elfving**, a Swede, arrived in Astoria in 1907 and worked as a carpenter and ship builder. He began operating boats on the Columbia River, hauling road building supplies, in 1910. In 1921, he petitioned the city of Astoria to build a ferry landing at the foot of 14th Street. His first Astoria auto ferry, **Tourist I**, started in service the same year.

In 1924, Elfving commissioned **Tourist II**, which was constructed by the Wilson Shipbuilding Co. in Astoria, under the general supervision of **Alfred Niemi**, master carpenter. **Joseph M. Dyer**, who designed **Tourist III** (1931), may also have designed **Tourist II**. All three vessels had wood hulls.

Elfving's success inspired rivals. "In a notorious example of competition, the North Beach Transportation Company in 1931 erected pilings in the water in front of Elfving's 14th Street dock," the application says. "Elfving responded with a legendary action that is celebrated in Astoria history and which is now known as the defining moment in the 'Astoria ferry wars.'

"As he motored toward the dock, Elfving spotted the pilings from afar. He responded by backing up the fully loaded ferry and then powering forward to splinter the barrier with the bow of the boat. It was reported that the shattered pilings floated towards the competitor's ferry landing and temporarily disabled a vessel." Sadly, there was no mention of which **Tourist** ferry did the honors that day.

## CASTING CALL



**D**o you really, really want to be on TV? This may be your chance. Check out the text of a recently received casting call:

"Do you make your living in real estate? Do you consider yourself the next 'Property Brothers' or your town's version of Chip and Joanna of 'Fixer Upper'? If so, you could star in your own show!

"A major U.S. cable network and New York-based production company are **developing new real estate and design shows** — and we want fresh faces! We're particularly interested in hearing from siblings, husband and wife teams, and individuals who are experts in their field, with personalities that audiences will love.

"Apply at: [homehomecasting@gmail.com](mailto:homehomecasting@gmail.com)  
"Tell us a bit about yourselves and why you'd make for good TV. Include photos and any relevant links, as well as a good time and number to reach you. A casting producer will be in touch!"

The cable network mentioned is **Magilla Entertainment** (<http://magilla.tv>), whose shows include "Long Island Medium" and "Beachfront Bargain Hunt." They're casting a pretty wide net, and the North Coast is, without a doubt, chock full of "personalities that audiences will love." Why not give it a shot?

## HELP FOR THE LONG HAUL



**O**n Tuesday evening, Sept. 22, I hosted an hour-long dance fitness class at the park in Cannon Beach," **Yasemin Archer** wrote. A photo of the class is shown. "The event was a fundraiser to raise money for two local boys, **Isair Mejia-Leon** (6) and **Taylen Burden** (2) who have recently been diagnosed with cancer."

Isair, pictured inset, bottom, lives with his family in Seaside. A trip to the local hospital for a stomach bug turned into an ambulance ride to Doernbecher Children's Hospital in Portland and a diagnosis of leukemia. He will probably need chemotherapy in Portland for three years, and there will be a lot of commuting.

Taylen, pictured inset, top, who lives in Wheeler, passed out at home in August. He was rushed to a nearby Urgent Care, then to Providence Seaside Hospital, which rushed him to Doernbecher's. After receiving several transfusions, the diagnosis was given: leukemia. Like Isair, he needs three years of chemotherapy in Portland, and his family will need some extra help financially, as well, during this difficult time.

Want to help Isair? Donate online at [www.gofundme.com/loveforisair](http://www.gofundme.com/loveforisair) or to an account set up in his name at Wells Fargo. Donations for "Tough Taylen" may be made online at [www.gofundme.com/toughtaylen](http://www.gofundme.com/toughtaylen) or to an account in his name at U.S. Bank.

"Tuesday night was quite a success," Yasemin wrote. A whopping \$1,500 was raised, but more is needed for the long haul both families are facing. Can you help?

## MOVING MOUNTAINS



**C**Bs News reports that the city of **Rikuzentakata, Japan**, is literally moving mountains. One of the hardest hit during the 2011 Japanese tsunami, the city was essentially wiped out, and a tenth of its population was lost, more than 1,700 people (<http://tinyurl.com/mtnmove>).

Refusing to be defeated by the tsunami after living there for several generations, rebuilding was never in doubt for the survivors — but how it could be done, was. Finally it was decided to raise the city 30 feet, and that's where the mountain comes in.

"Ten hours a day, six days a week, rock is funneled through nearly two miles of giant conveyor belts," which are providing the new foundation for the town, the story says of the \$1.5 billion project. And, 4,000 dump-truck loads of soil from the mountain are being brought in and dumped daily, as well. A photo of the progress, shown, is courtesy of CBS News.

"Usable land is extremely scarce through the disaster zone but especially here," pub owner **Eiki Kumagai** told CBS.

## POLE TO ATOLL



**T**he megayacht **Triton**, which visited Astoria recently is lovely, but there's a new kid in yacht-town with a unique twist: It's also an ice-breaker. The new line of Polar-capable expedition yachts, called **SeaXplorer**, was recently unveiled at the Monaco Yacht Show, **gCaptain.com** reports (<http://tinyurl.com/yacht-ice>), and one is pictured in an illustration courtesy of the **DAMEN Group**, the Dutch shipbuilders.

There are three models, 65, 90 and 100 meters (213, 295 and 328 feet) in length, and each comes with a dive center (decompression chamber optional) a rescue boat and a helicopter. The yachts stay at sea for up to 40 days without stopping, and travel at speeds up to 16 knots, so they can also travel to far flung places other yachts can't even get near — from extreme Polar to remote tropical.

As the **SeaXplorer** website says, (<http://seaxplorer.nl>), the line goes way "beyond the superyacht circuit." There was no mention of price, so you'd better start saving your pennies.



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