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# COMMUNITY

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IN ONE EAR • ELLEDA WILSON

## 'BACK INTO OBLIVION'



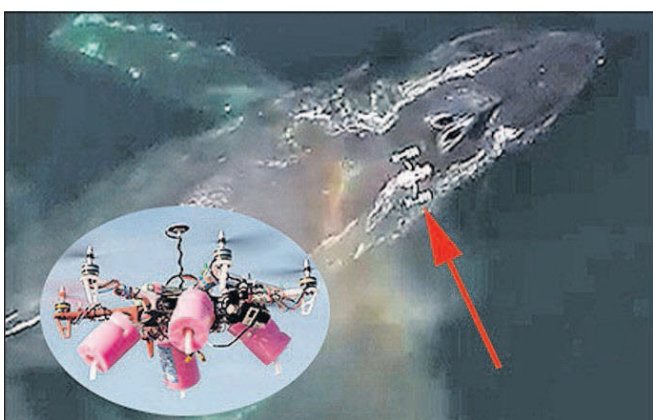
Marine biology buffs take note: A Washington Post story reports that an extremely rare **harbor porpoise**, born with **two heads**, turned up as bycatch in some Dutch fishermen's net in the North Sea on May 30 (<http://tinyurl.com/two-porp1>).

Unfortunately, the 2-foot long cojoined baby was already dead. Even more unfortunately, the fishermen tossed it back overboard, fearing it was illegal to keep. One of them did, however, document the find with four photos. One of his images is shown, courtesy of **Erwin Kompanje**, curator of mammals at the Natural History Museum in Rotterdam.

After studying the photos, Kompanje thinks the porpoise was a male who was born alive, but died shortly thereafter. It's speculated that having two brains made the newborn's life complicated, with each brain giving the body different directions, and the porpoise probably drowned. Or, perhaps one heart wasn't strong enough to pump enough blood for two heads. You can read the whole report at <http://tinyurl.com/two-porp2>.

The find is so rare, Kompanje told the Washington Post it was a once-in-a-lifetime find, and the disappointment of having the actual specimen being tossed "back into oblivion" is overwhelming. "For a cetologist," he said, "this a real horror."

## EWWW



It's all in a good cause: Ocean Alliance's Parley for the Oceans and Intel have partnered to use drones, aka SnotBots, to study whale mucus expelled from their blow holes, according to a DigitalTrends report (<http://tinyurl.com/sneezebot>). As bilious as it sounds, the specimens gathered by these custom-built remote-controlled drones provides important biological data about the whales, such as DNA and pregnancy hormones, without tagging them or taking blood samples. The drone is pictured, courtesy of Parley.

While the **SnotBots** are busy, a second group of drones takes photos of the whales, and the data is streamed back to a ship, where Intel-backed software analyzes it in real time. Scientists are then able to match the whales with their SnotBot data. "For lack of a better term, I'll call it 'facial recognition,'" Alyson Griffin, vice president in Intel's global marketing and communications group, told Digital Trends.

"Algorithms on the ship analyze the health of the water and whales," Griffin added, "including who's related, whether there are viruses, and what the acidity of the water is ... (and scientists) can be a safe distance away, where there's no harm to the whales."

## SCOTCH BROOM REBELLION

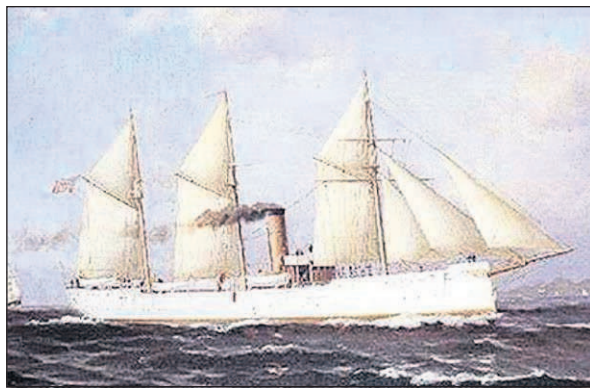


This is one of the more interesting petitions to come along, boosting the oft-maligned and "it's everywhere" plant, **Scotch broom**. One Million Friends of Gearhart is petitioning to make the plant the **official flower of the city of Gearhart**, "in recognition of its years of serving as a robust sand stabilizer, as well as providing for generations of our people a seasonal beautiful flaming yellow and forest green presence to our beach front areas."

"Our goal is to protect and preserve a fragile tiny corner of the Oregon Coast in its most pristine state possible, in keeping with over 100 years of Gearhart tradition," an anonymous insider told the Ear.

Agree? Go to <http://tinyurl.com/dunebroom> and show Gearhart's Scotch broom some love.

## LUCKY FIND



U.S. Coast Guard history fans must have been rejoicing recently when the wreck of the San Francisco-based **Cutter McCulloch** was finally discovered (<http://tinyurl.com/uscgcMc>). Launched in 1896, she sank June 13, 1917.

According to the U.S. Coast Guard History Program (<http://tinyurl.com/uscgcMc1>), at 219 feet long, with a wood-sheathed steel hull, McCulloch was the largest cutter built to date at a cost of \$196,500 (about \$5.4 million now). She is pictured, courtesy of the Coast Guard Academy Museum Art Collection.

Built in Philadelphia, and originally cruising for the Revenue Cutter Service, the McCulloch was also the first cutter to sail through the Suez Canal while on her way to her first station in San Francisco. Then when the Spanish-American War was about to begin, she was off to Singapore to protect U.S. interests in the Far East, and distinguished herself in the Battle of Manila Bay.

The McCulloch was back in San Francisco in 1899, patrolling the West Coast again, then in 1906 she was off to Alaska's remote Pribilof Islands, in the Bering Sea Patrol, to enforce seal regulations and act as a floating court room for the local villages.

With the outbreak of World War I in 1917, the cutter was transferred to the Navy, again patrolling the West Coast, and it was during this posting that she collided with the Pacific Steamship Company's steamer Governor in a heavy fog (it was the steamer's fault), and sank in 35 minutes off the coast of Southern California. You can see what remains at <http://tinyurl.com/uscgcMc2>.

The historic wreck was a lucky find. ABC reports that the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the Coast Guard discovered it by accident last fall, during a remotely operated vehicle (ROV) training mission.

## GHOST TOWN



From the **Monday, June 23, 1890** edition of **The Daily Morning Astorian**: "The new store now being erected at **Frankfort** (Washington) was used last Saturday evening for a dance, visitors being present from this city, from Knappa and the surrounding country. At four o'clock yesterday morning, the steamer Eclipse came over here, bringing home those who had come from Astoria."

The town of Frankfort, accessible only by boat at the time, was homesteaded in 1876 near Portuguese Point (Knappa area) by promoters **Frank Bourne** and **Frank Scott**, who platted it in 1890, according to Wikipedia, hoping to create a resort town. A notation on GhostTowns.com says the plat actually had 1,226 lots, along with streets and alleys.

The main selling point — that the railroad was expected to build a line that would pass right through the town — was actually a rumor. Even so, with the money they made selling lots, the entrepreneurs were able to build a hotel, the general store mentioned in the newspaper snippet, and a sawmill, which in turn, brought in more lot sales. They even started a weekly newspaper, the Frankfort Chronicle, in 1892. Believe it or not, microfiche copies of it are available at the University of Washington Library in Seattle.

Then a national financial meltdown occurred when the Reading Railroad went into receivership, and caused the **Panic of 1893**. Thousands of businesses were ruined, and 4 million were left unemployed (<http://tinyurl.com/1893panic>). The effects were felt for years, and investors were scared — including those who might have invested in Frankfort. The town started heading downhill, and it didn't help that the promised railroad never arrived.

The post office closed in 1918, and Frankfort struggled along as a small logging town for some time. By 1960, the town only had two residents. Now there are none, aside from the occasional squatter. The Ear has heard, from a few intrepid souls who have actually found the place (no easy feat), that little remains of the houses that were once there. Still very difficult to access, and not even remembered by most, Frankfort has truly become a ghost town.

## PUT A SOCK ON IT. PLEASE.



Here we go with the bizarre headline of the week, courtesy of the Alaska Dispatch News (<http://tinyurl.com/toetail>): "**Human toe served in Dawson City's famous Sourtoe cocktail is stolen**" — proving once again that Portland ain't the only Pacific Northwest city that's "keeping it weird."

Yes, this is a real story. Someone actually did swipe the Downtown Hotel Sourdough Saloon's favorite cocktail toe, and no, that is not a misprint. Terry Lee, the bar's "toe master," pampers the bar's donated mummified human toes (as in more than one). He soaks them in rock salt all day, then when someone orders the bar's signature Sourtoe Cocktail, he plops one in for flavor. Or as a garnish. Or whatever.

Last weekend a man ordered one of the toetally gruesome concoctions, and when the bartender turned her back, the customer took off with the treasured appendage. The Royal Canadian Mounted Police were summoned (Dawson City is near the border) to bring the toe-napper to justice, but have so far been unsuccessful. They had no comment on the "ongoing investigation."

The photo shown is from the flyer the hotel has plastered all over town, which even offers a reward. "We have a name. We have two witnesses," Lee told ADN. "This guy is in deep trouble." And the search goes on.

## STILL RUNNING



... Just finishing running my first state, Washington, as I run across the 50 states in memory of my mom and those locally in need in each of the 50," personal trainer and mother of two girls, **Susane M. Johnson Gillum**, wrote.

She was in Astoria on Monday. This is a woman who seriously loves to run — she ran across her native Canada in 2012. You can follow her travels on the "**A Journey Across Canada & the 50 US States**" Facebook page.

"(This week) I began running Oregon, (and) I'm running down Highway 101 south to the California border, and then on to Idaho," Susane explained. "I have been running for local charities such as community food banks, and shelters for women, children and families.... While in Oregon I will be running for **Astoria Rescue Mission of Hope**, and as I proceed down the coast I will be adding more charities."

## BON VOYAGE!



Earlier this month, the **Wildlife Center of the North Coast** began getting calls about **Brown Pelicans** turning up in odd places — wandering around downtown Seaside, hanging out at the Pelican Pub in Pacific City, and even following tourists around on the beach and trying to eat their beach toys. One of the pelicans is pictured, courtesy of the WCNC.

WCNC went out and rescued the birds, nursed them back to health, and now they are ready to go back into the wild. You can celebrate with them, and attend their release party Saturday in Parking Lot D in Fort Stevens State Park.

There's no need to RSVP, just be there. "Kennel doors will open at 1:30 p.m.," **Josh Saranpaa**, executive director of the WCNC told the Ear, "so showing up a little bit early would ensure people don't miss it."

If you have any questions, you can call Josh at 503-338-0331. Better yet, if you'd like to support the center in its ongoing efforts to help local wildlife, you can donate at [www.coastwildlife.org](http://www.coastwildlife.org).

## COMMUNITY NOTES

### SATURDAY

**Angora Hiking Club** — 9 a.m., Sixth Street parking lot, or 10 a.m. at trailhead. Phyllis Dubb Memorial Saddle Mountain Flower Climb. For information, call Michael Dubb at 503-791-5325 or Kathleen Adams at 541-261-3458.

**Sit & Stitch** — 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., Homespun Quilts & Yarn, 108 10th St. Bring knitting, crochet or other needlework projects to this community stitching time. All skill levels welcome.

**Columbia Northwestern Model Railroad Club** — 1 p.m., in Hammond. Group runs trains on HO-scale layout. For information, call Don Carter at 503-325-0757.

**Spinning Circle** — 1 to 3 p.m., Astoria Fiber Arts Academy, 1296 Duane St. Bring a spinning wheel. For information, call 503-325-5598 or go to <http://astoriafiberarts.com>

### SUNDAY

**National Alliance on Mental**

**Illness (NAMI) Support Group** — 2 to 3:30 p.m., Seaside Public Library, 1131 Broadway. Family to Family Support Group, for anyone with friend or loved one suffering from a serious brain (mental) illness. For information, contact Myra Kero at 503-738-6165, or k7erowood@q.com, or go to [www.nami.org](http://www.nami.org)

**Military Officers Association of America, Lower Columbia River Chapter** — 5 p.m., meeting and dinner, Doogers Seafood & Grill,

103 U.S. Highway 101, Warrenton. Guest speaker Mayor Henry Balensifer of Warrenton, presentation on managing change in Warrenton. All U.S. Armed Forces officers, former, retired, reserve, warrant officers or U.S. Public Health Service and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration welcome. Call retired U.S. Coast Guard Capt. R. Stevens for information at 503-861-9832.

**Line Dancing** — 5:30 to 8 p.m., Seaside American Legion, 1315

Broadway. For information, call 503-738-5111. No cost; suggested \$5 tip to the instructor.

### MONDAY

**Chair Exercises for Seniors** — 9 to 9:45 a.m., Astoria Senior Center, 1111 Exchange St. For information, call 503-325-3231.

**Scandinavian Workshop** — 10 a.m., First Lutheran Church, 725 33rd St. Needlework, hardanger, knitting, crocheting, embroidery and quilting.

All are welcome. For information, call 503-325-1364 or 503-325-7960.

**Mothers of Preschoolers** — 10 to 11:30 a.m., Crossroads Community Church, 40618 Old Highway 30, Svensen. MOPS group is a time for moms to relax and enjoy each others' company. For information, call Tracy Wilson at 727-514-1611.

**Senior Lunch** — 11:30 a.m.,

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