

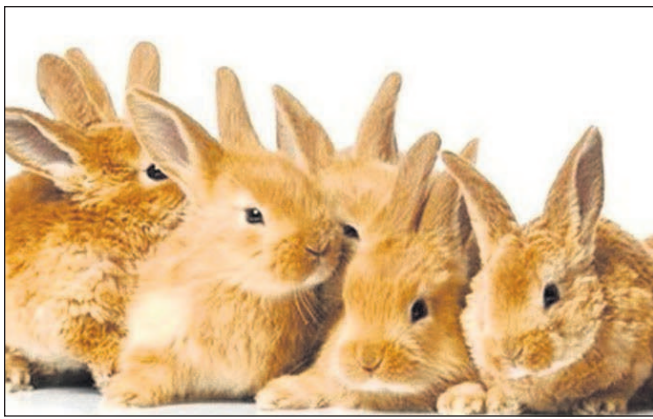
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IN ONE EAR • ELLEDA WILSON

BUNNY BRIGADE



Once again, Portland has been out-weirded. Valdez, Alaska, is in the news for an unusual problem: It's been overrun by rabbits, the Alaska News Dispatch reports, although no one seems to know how or why it happened — it's not exactly a rabbit-friendly environment, after all (<http://tinyurl.com/AKbunnies>).

One of the stranger rumors of how the rabbit bloom came about is that groups of rabbits were set free in the 1980s to entertain tourists. Maybe even several times. That one kind of takes the cake as far as theories go.

No matter how they arrived, the rabbits are there to stay. Some residents hate them, their poop, and their veggie garden raids, and some love them, cuddle them and feed them all winter. Since the city code doesn't yet address feral domesticated rabbits as "deleterious exotic wildlife," it's a full on bunny bonanza in Valdez. For now.

BEACH BLANKET BLACKMAIL



From the Tuesday, Aug. 25, 1885 issue of *The Daily Morning Astorian*: "A few days since, while the Astoria camp people were bathing in the surf, an amateur photographer went down to the beach and proceeded to make an instantaneous view of the bathers. Just at the critical moment an Astoria belle stooped to arrange her stocking, and as the 'apparatus won't lie,' even for beauty, the young lady looms up in the photograph like Tillamook rock in a storm.

"At last accounts the stooping belle was trying to raise enough coin to purchase the negative. She has offered \$13 (\$318 now) for it, but the photographer stubbornly demands more, and declares that he will print an unlimited number of photographs if the central figure doesn't come to time inside of two days."

The young "belle" was in quite a pickle, as the rules of etiquette and "conduct for a female" were very complicated and strict during the Victorian era. For her to be caught possibly showing her bare ankle in public — much less arranging her clothing — was quite vulgar (<http://tinyurl.com/victrules>).

If the photo became public, her family would be disgraced. Worse yet, the young lady's reputation would be in tatters, and her chances of landing a "proper" husband — a must — would be ruined. Scandalous!

THE HEART OF THE MATTER



When a female blue whale washed up in western Newfoundland in 2014, scientists took the opportunity to preserve her heart (<http://tinyurl.com/heartwhale>).

Jacqueline Miller of the Royal Ontario Museum led the charge to remove the 400-pound organ. "It took four staff onsite plus myself to push the heart out of the thoracic cavity ... and into a dumpster bag," she told *Smithsonian Magazine*.

A Research Casting International team helped, then froze the heart for transport, defrosted it, sealed the cavities and pumped it full of formaldehyde. Then the heart was shipped to Germany to be plastinated (water and fat are replaced by plastics).

This May, almost three years later, the 6.5-foot tall heart arrived at the Royal Ontario Museum, and is now on display. It is pictured, courtesy of the museum. If you happen to be in that neck of the woods, the exhibit is there until Sept. 4.

Be prepared to be impressed. "It's large enough to squeeze into a Smart car," Miller noted.

ON THE ROAD TO FAME



Cheyenne Stapleton, a teenager who lives in Jewell, recently tried out for *American Idol* in Portland. "It went great," she said. "I had a fast pass, so I didn't have to wait for hours. They auditioned people fast and it wasn't like I expected it to be."

"You had four judges," Cheyenne explained, "two judges on each side." No, they are not the judges you see on TV, but they are people who work in the music industry. "You had six lines of four, and they pulled you all up, asked for paperwork, and told you to go back to where you were standing. Then they would start with the person on the right side of the line and would go down the line until every person sang. After, they would call you up and let you know if anyone got it or not.

"You had 90 seconds to sing a song, and I sang 'Girl Crush' by Little Big Town. When I was singing in front of the judges, I was so happy. I never get nervous, and I just felt at peace. Singing is something I love." Sadly, the audition in Portland didn't work out for her, but she isn't the least bit discouraged. "It is sad that I didn't make it through," she admitted, "but I know there are many more chances!"

You can follow Cheyenne's career, cheer her on and hear her sing on her Facebook page, "Country Singer, Cheyenne Stapleton."

"I started singing when I was just a little kid, about 4, but then when I was 10 to 11 I realized that I could actually sing, and I just never stopped," she said. Not surprisingly, her idol is Carrie Underwood, who became an *American Idol* at the end of the show's fourth season in 2005.

"My grandpa, who passed away almost three years ago, really helped me through everything," Cheyenne recalled. "He was always by my side, kept telling me to never give up, and so to this day I never give up, because I know he would never want me to. Now my family and I are just on the road to fame!"

HAPPY CAMPERS



First there was Goat Yoga going viral and putting Oregon in the spotlight a few months ago, and now there's the Doggie School Bus video making the rounds, and even being picked up by the U.K. Daily Mail. The photo shown is from the Doggie School Bus Facebook page.

Doggies, and their people, are delighted with babysitter/dog trainer Arat Montoya's services in West Linn, which include pickup, drop off, overnight stays and socialization. When the pups literally leap off the Doggie School Bus with joy, they are cut loose in "fenced in pastures" to run freely for two-hour intervals, with rest hours at Montoya's house, his website, <http://aratmontoyapetcare.com>, says. "They learn how to play and rest as a group, and end each day as a happy camper."

Ah, if only humans could learn to get along together as well.

RIMAS: PHONE HOME



No word yet from Astoria's wayward sailor, 60-something Russian immigrant Rimas Meleshyus. In late May he set off from Hilo, Hawaii, on his life's mission, a sail (drift, actually) around the world, but as he neared Fiji, his satellite feed went dead.

His last Facebook post, dated Aug. 3 but actually sent July 30, mentioned that he had been through a strong gale, his tiller was broken and he had no control of the boat in a dangerous current. Worse yet, he hadn't been able to contact the Fiji Coast Guard.

Now he's been out of contact for more than three weeks. A recent post on his Facebook page says the New Zealand and Fijian Coastguard and Navy have launched an official search, and Rimas has been declared missing at sea.

One can only hope Rimas landed safely on one of the small islands around Fiji. It's easy to picture him happily ensconced and enjoying the sun and soft breezes, resting up for his next adventure until he surfaces to tell us what happened on this one.

SOLVED: A 72-YEAR MYSTERY



A maritime history mystery has been solved by none other than Microsoft co-founder and billionaire Paul Allen: He led a search team that found the USS Indianapolis, which was lost 72 years ago in the Philippine Sea during World War II, the U.S. Naval Institute News reports (<http://tinyurl.com/ussind>). The ship is pictured in its heyday, courtesy of the U.S. Navy.

As an aside: Local yachting fans might remember that Allen moored his lovely toy, the 176-foot Meduse, off Mill Pond in 2012 for a bit, causing quite a stir.

Back to the Indianapolis: Near the end of World War II, the ship had just delivered parts of the "Little Boy" atomic bomb (the one dropped on Hiroshima) when it was torpedoed on July 30, 1945, sinking in 12 minutes.

She sank so fast, in fact, no distress signal was sent, and because the mission was secret, no one initially realized the ship was missing. Of the 1,196 aboard, 800 survived the sinking, but several days of being in the water and attacked by sharks winnowed the final number of survivors down to 316. Nineteen are still alive today.

People have been looking for the wreck for years, but it took a Navy historian finding records of the last sighting of the ship to narrow the probable search area down to 600 square miles — which is when Paul Allen, his team of 13 and his research vessel the R/V Petrel entered the picture. Collaborating with the U.S. Navy, they found the Indianapolis in 18,000 feet of water. Now considered a war grave, the location is still a secret.

"I'm very happy that they found it. It's been a long 72 years coming," 93-year-old Indianapolis survivor Arthur Leenerman commented. "I have wished for years that they would find it."

NOTES FROM ILWACO



Ilwaco-Oysterville Stagecoach around 1885

From the Sunday, Aug. 26, 1888 issue of *The Daily Morning Astorian*, some news from Ilwaco, Washington:

- Public school starts Sept. 3 for 108 children.
- Business was good at two popular hotels, Sea View and Tinker's, and "a large amount of building lots and whole blocks have been sold."
- The reporter found that men liked coming to Ilwaco by train, but the ladies "much preferred the old way of coming through the woods and along the beach in a big wagon."
- "The gentleman in charge of the signal service building is reported to be yearning for a mother-in-law."
- A body washed ashore, dressed as a fisherman, but with no identification, and "nothing in pants pockets but two small, cheap wooden-handled knives. ... He was buried near where found." The reporter speculated it was a man seen the week before who was intoxicated when he set sail for Shoalwater Bay.
- "We learn there are five divorce suits ready for the next term of court at Oysterville."
- "Water melons and cholera morbus (old term for acute severe gastroenteritis) are in town."

COMMUNITY NOTES

SATURDAY

Angora Hiking Club — 9 a.m., Sixth Street parking lot. Black Lake hike. For information, call Roger Westerman at 213-448-9441.

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.

el 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

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.

Seekers Group — 6 to 7:30 p.m., Pioneer Presbyterian Church, 33324 Patriot Way, Warrenton. Group discusses issues facing religious faith in the modern secular world. All are welcome. For information, call 503-861-2421.

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., Bob Chisholm Senior Center, 1225 Avenue A, Seaside. Suggested donation \$3 for those older than 60; \$6.75 for those younger than 60. For information, call Michelle Lewis at 503-861-4200.

Columbia Senior Diners — 11:30 a.m., 1111 Exchange St. Cost

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