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IN ONE EAR • ELLEDA WILSON

IF YOU BUILD IT, THEY WILL COME



Jesse “Chuck” Day is preparing for his favorite summer “migrant workers” to arrive. “They travel from southern Mexico and Central America here every year, and have been doing it for forever,” he wrote. “... They work for free, and only need houses to stay in and raise their little ones. Oh yeah, and they have feathers.”

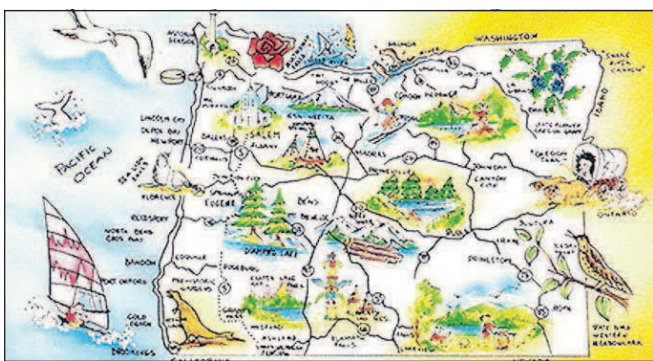
“They are my **tree swallows**,” he explained, “that I put up bird boxes for, and maintain, to keep attracting them back to my property every year. I get a nearly bugless summer. Each bird can eat catch up to seven times their weight in bugs each day as they feed their brood of babies. ... I’m also given shows of amazing aerial acrobatics almost everyday.”

As an aside, he’s curious to know if the boxes put up in other people’s yards were ever occupied, and if they have been cleaned every year. “The old nest can harbor mites and diseases,” he warned, “that can kill the baby birds before they can leave the nest.”

Chuck wishes more people would put up birdhouses for tree swallows. “The little guys need all the help they can get,” he noted. He has an excellent good birdhouse plan to share with anyone who wants a copy. You can find it here: tinyurl.com/swallowbox.

“My birdhouses have been tried and tested for over 20 years,” Chuck added, “hundreds, if not thousands, of baby birds have been raised in my birdhouses.”

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, OREGON



In celebration of **Oregon’s 159th birthday** as a state on Valentine’s Day, a few weird Oregon facts are in order, courtesy of ThatOregonLife.com (tinyurl.com/weirdOR). (The Oregon Tourist Map shown is courtesy of JournalMaker.com)

Oregon residents own a quarter of the U.S. total llama population. The name Oregon is thought to be derived from the French word “**ouragan**,” which means “hurricane” (think 2007’s Great Coastal Gale).

Oregon is the only state with an official state nut; although one could argue there are plenty of unofficial ones. Oregon has more ghost towns than any other state. One was **Idiotville**, in the Tillamook Forest, so remote, it was thought you’d have to be an idiot to live there.

Oregon is sixth in the nation for **Bigfoot** sightings (Washington is No. 1), but first for the tallest barber shop pole in the world, at 72 feet, in Forest Grove. And finally, our state is also home to the largest single organism on earth, the **Oregon Humongous Fungus**, a honey mushroom that covers 2,200 acres, and is estimated to be 2,400-plus years old. Too bad it’s not a truffle.

SATELLITES SAVE LIVES



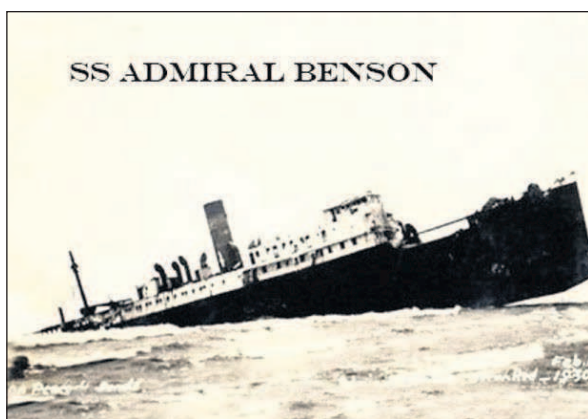
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration satellites perform another lesser known, but vital tasks in addition to keeping an eye on the weather: The satellites helped rescue 275 people in 2017, 186 of them at sea, gCaptain.com reports (tinyurl.com/noasaves). The image of satellites shown is courtesy of NOAA.

The satellites are part of the international Search and Rescue Satellite Aided Tracking System (COSPAS-SARSAT), which uses a network of spacecraft to detect and pinpoint distress signals from emergency beacons anywhere on earth.

The signal’s location is sent to the NOAA SARSAT Mission Control Center in Maryland, which immediately informs Rescue Coordination Centers operated by the U.S. Air Force (land rescues), or the U.S. Coast Guard (water rescues).

“NOAA satellites aren’t just for accurate weather forecasts,” Tim Gallaudet of Oceans and Atmosphere said. “They play a direct role in saving lives.”

PEACOCK SPIT CLAIMS STEAMSHIP



Thursday was the 88th anniversary of the intercoastal steamship **SS Admiral Benson** running aground on Peacock Spit near Cape Disappointment in dense fog on Feb. 15, 1930, carrying 39 passengers and 65 crew (tinyurl.com/AdmBenson). **Capt. Charles C. Graham** wasn’t particularly worried at the time, since the sea and wind were calm, so he only sent a call for assistance, not a distress signal.

Consequently, no one rushed to get there, and surfboats from the local lifesaving stations didn’t turn up till the next day to take 34 passengers and some crew members off the ship. The captain tried to get the ship floating again at high tide, but it wouldn’t budge. Meanwhile, that nice weather was turning nasty by Feb. 17, so the Coast Guard removed the rest of the passengers and most of the crew. On the 18th, the weather got even worse, so everyone but the captain was removed by breeches buoy. On Feb. 23, the captain gave up and had his date with the breeches buoy during a lull in the storm.

At a hearing in Portland Feb. 25, the captain pleaded guilty to a charge of negligence for grounding the ship, and his mariner’s license was suspended for six months. A salvage crew took two weeks to remove as much of value as possible from the ship, using highline-rigged gondolas, after which the ship’s owners decided to abandon her on Peacock Spit. Salvagers got whatever was left inside, and over the years the SS Admiral Benson slowly broke up where she lay.

LOCAL BREVITIES



From **The Daily Morning Astorian, Tuesday, Feb. 16, 1886:**

• **Prof. N. S. Keith**, the inventor of the electric system that bears his name, and **Col. S. C. Blasdell** go to Portland on this morning’s boat.

Note: Mr. Wikipedia says Prof. Nathaniel Keith built the first electric plant for San Francisco in 1884 and, among other accomplishments, was an adviser to **Thomas Edison**. (tinyurl.com/ProfNSK)

• Among the county court proceedings: Ordered that **Geo. Flavel**, **W. E. Dement** and **John Hobson** be appointed to a committee to take into consideration the providing the county with a **poor farm** ...

Note: This was apparently a no-go, as there doesn’t appear to be a record of Clatsop County having a poor farm to employ people who were destitute. (tinyurl.com/PoorFrm)

• On the first ... there came ashore three bodies, fleshless and limbless. It is thought they are the bodies of **Capt. Exon**, mate **Jamison** and a crew member that were drowned at the wreck of the **Carrie B. Lake** at Shoalwater Bay Jan. 3.

Note: The fishing schooner got caught in a stiff gale and slammed into a shoal. All five hands hustled into the lifeboat, which capsized; only two survived. The U.S. Life-saving Service conclusion was terse: “Had the people remained by their vessel, they would all have been saved.” (tinyurl.com/CaBLake)

From the **Wednesday, Feb. 16, 1887** edition:

• A responsible party who wishes to legally adopt a little girl of 4 years of age can find an opportunity by applying to **M. D. Corno**.

• In what is referred to as “A Case of General Interest,” **U. V. Hansen** of the Globe saloon sued **M. Yocum**, a fireman on the tug **Columbia**, for \$67.20 (about \$1,675 now) for “goods, wares and merchandise.” Yocum’s pay was garnished, but on appeal **Judge Deady** cited a law decreeing a mariner’s wages could not be attached by creditors. Presumably, saloon owners took note.

THINK PINK



Terry Enke Arnall wrote in, proud of her young cousins, **Brooke (9)** and **Paige (12) Simonsen**, who made the national news when they testified in front of the Maryland State House of Representatives. (The girls’ great-grandparents are **Chris and Olga Simonsen** of Hammond.)

According to a story in the Washington Post, the girls’ goal is to get a bill passed that allows hunters to wear fluorescent pink as well as the usual fluorescent orange (tinyurl.com/huntpink). The girls took up the cause when their father, **Mike Simonsen**, urged them to take a hunting safety course, and they found out all the pink gear they bought isn’t legal in Maryland, which only allows hunters to wear orange.

To get the law changed, the girls began lobbying **Sen. Adelaide C. Eckardt** to add pink to hunters’ wardrobe color choices. **Sen. Eckardt** and **Brooke** and **Paige** are pictured in a **Rachel Siegel/The Washington Post** photo.

The girls backed up their request with research, citing studies about pink’s visibility. Plus, the color is already legal for hunters in several states.

Convinced, the senator sponsored the bill to make pink legal for Maryland hunters, and **Brooke** and **Paige** were on hand — wearing hot pink, of course — to speak about the bill’s merits in front of the House.

Their bill passed, and now it moves forward to the Maryland Senate.

JUST DON'T



Astoria Library Director Jimmy Pierce gave **Mayor Arline LaMear** a newspaper clipping about 1876 Astoria ordinances. Here are a few:

Wagon speed was topped at six miles an hour, or four over “piled or bent work roadway.” There were curfews (minors, 8 p.m.; adults, midnight), and begging on the streets was not permitted at any time.

You couldn’t split wood on the sidewalk, or cut wood on Sunday, or smoke opium, or swim in the river between 6 a.m. and 6 p.m. without a bathing suit. It was also illegal *not* to destroy caterpillars or thistles on private land.

Boats could not be tied to roadways (which were built over the river and consisted of planks on piers), and you had to have a permit to put a privy under a sidewalk (also built over the river). It was probably best to just stay home and count caterpillars.

GOING HOME



A few weeks ago there was a story in this column about the **Afinley family**, **Angel** and **Evan**, and their daughter, **Svea-Jade**, who was scheduled for open-heart surgery for a large heart murmur. There was a raffle and fundraiser to help the parents be able to stay at a hotel near Doernbecher Children’s Hospital because the **Ronald McDonald House** was full.

The happy news is that **Svea-Jade** came through the surgery very well, and is going home. “She is doing absolutely amazing,” **Angel** wrote. “We are so beyond proud of our daughter and all of her strength. We can’t express enough how grateful we are to have our princess on the path to a better quality of life she deserves. We can’t wait to have her at 100 percent.”

“Evan, **Svea-Jade** and I would like to thank everyone who came together and donated for the raffle,” she added. “We are breathless and stunned our community is so giving loving and caring! Thank you all so much for your love, support, concern, sharing, caring and donations.”

COMMUNITY NOTES

SATURDAY

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.

Astoria Fiber Arts Academy, 1296 Duane St. Bring a spinning wheel. For information, call 503-325-5598 or go to astoriafiberarts.com

SUNDAY

Cannon Beach American Legion Women’s Auxiliary Breakfast — 9 to 11:30 a.m., American Legion, 1216 S. Hemlock St., Cannon Beach.

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.

Grace and Encouragement for Moms — 10 to 11:30 a.m.,

Crossroads Community Church, 40618 Old Highway 30, Svendsen. GEMS group is a time for moms to relax and enjoy each others’ company. Free childcare is provided. For information, call **Rachael Bidlecome** at 503-458-6103.

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 Lew-**

is at 503-861-4200.

Columbia Senior Diners — 11:30 a.m., 1111 Exchange St. Cost is \$6. For information, or to have a meal delivered, call 503-325-9693.

Warrenton Senior Lunch Program — noon, Warrenton Community Center, 170 S.W. Third St. Suggested donation of \$5 for seniors and \$7 for those younger than 60.

See **NOTES, Page 3B**