

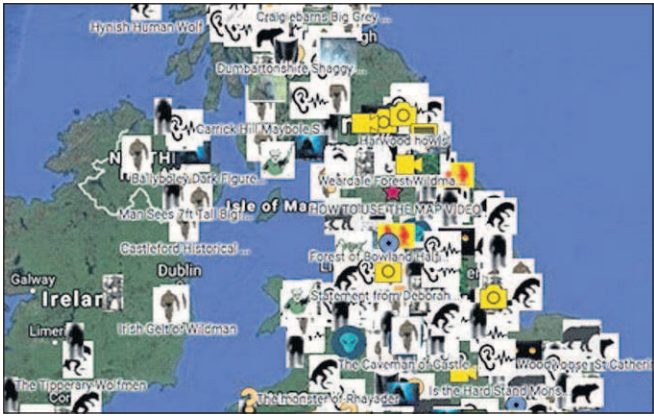
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COMMUNITY

IN ONE EAR • ELLEDA WILSON

BRITISH BIGFOOT

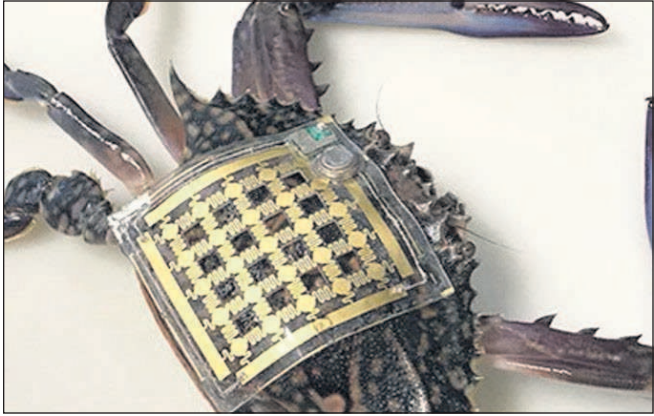


OK, this is a rather fascinating, but baffling, **Bigfoot** sighting: BristolLive (tinyurl.com/UKbigfoot) reports that a train passenger says he saw a Bigfoot walking alongside a hedge 10 miles from **Bristol, England**, last November. Why it’s suddenly news now is a bit of a mystery.

“I’m 100 per cent sure what I saw was the English Bigfoot,” he told BristolLive, “and what makes me so confident is the way it walked, with slightly bent legs, long strides but a graceful fluid walking motion.” It does sound familiar, doesn’t it?

The incident has been dutifully reported to the **British Bigfoot Sightings Reports** group (who knew?), which is worth checking out at britishbigfootsightingreports.com. Pictured, courtesy of the website, a U.K. sitings map of Bigfoot and other fascinating creatures, like the Tipperary Wolfmen and the Haslingdon Hairly Man, and countless others. The Pacific Northwest seems downright tame in comparison.

ALL PATCHED UP



Being able to track marine life is the best way to find out more about them. Unfortunately it requires using rather large and intrusive monitors that are glued to the critter with epoxy. The good news is that Prof. **Muhammad Mustafa Hussain**, and his team at Saudi Arabia’s **King Abdullah University of Science and Technology** (KAUST), may have solved the problem by coming up with **Marine Skin**, according to NewAtlas.com (tinyurl.com/KAUSTtag).

Powered by a coin cell battery, the Marine Skin patch is made of stretchy nontoxic, nonirritating silicone that is embedded with electronic sensors and components that measure the marine environment (like temperature and salinity), and is attached with a biocompatible adhesive. A photo of a patch is shown, courtesy of KAUST.

Future additions to the patch would allow it to monitor the animal’s physical condition and transmit data through water. In its present form, the patch has to be retrieved to upload the data.

Marine Skin has been tested successfully on crabs; dolphins and whale sharks are next.

A HERO OF THE SEA

Lieut. Healy of the revenue marine, and **Major Blakeney** of the life saving service ... have recommended that **John Bergman**, of Astoria, the hero of the surf on the occasion of the wreck (of the **Tacoma**), and his crew, receive some token of merit from the government, and they recommend that they be awarded the gold medal of the service. He certainly deserves some recognition of his gallantry.” — **The Daily Astorian, Friday, May 11, 1883.**



“Capt. John Bergman is one of the heroes of the sea,” the “Centennial History of Oregon 1811-1912” proclaimed. And with good reason. When the Tacoma (the steamship Boston is pictured) foundered off Reedsport in heavy breakers on Jan. 29, 1883, the closest rescuers couldn’t, or wouldn’t, assist.

According a newspaper account, the captain and six men went ashore to get help (tinyurl.com/tacomadown), and tugs set out to save those left behind on the Tacoma. Unfortunately, due to heavy surf, they couldn’t even get close. Ironically, the lifesaving station at Coos Bay was well equipped and manned, but the cowardly keeper, **James Desmond**, wouldn’t let his men take the boat and go help. Fortunately, some enterprising souls on board the sinking ship started making rafts out of doors and anything else they could find, and made it to shore.

When Capt. Bertram heard of the Tacoma’s distress, he and his crew — without a thought to their own safety — raced to the scene and risked their lives to save 18 souls that were left behind on the ship. Which is why the captain, and the crew did, indeed, receive gold medals from the U.S. government for their heroic service.

As a footnote, according to U.S. Coast Guard history, the cowardly keeper was “discharged due to unfitness” shortly after the incident (tinyurl.com/byedesmond).

CAN YOU FIND ‘THE MYSTERY



It’s going to take using your analytical mind to solve the mystery of my new art piece, “**The Mystery within**,” local artist **Bill W. Dodge** told the Ear. “It’s being introduced by the **Columbia River Maritime Museum** this Sunday at the opening of the **Astoria Sunday Market**.” The mysterious work of art is shown.

“Those readers who have followed my almost three decades recording my folk art perspective of life in our area would never imagine my colorful, happy reproductions of our lives here would contain a mystery,” he noted. “But with my newest work, created for my association with the Maritime Museum, the museum and I invite you to see if you can discover what the mystery is in this new work.”

“Don’t worry, the answer isn’t ‘Always Drink Your Ovaltine,’” he joked, “the programmed answer for those of us who faithfully sent away for our Little Orphan Annie decoder ring way back when.”

The person who first discovers the mystery in the painting will be awarded a prize worth \$295. Just come by the Museum and Dodge’s Sunday Market booth, study the new work, and fill out the entry blank with what you think answers the mystery question.

“At market’s close, 3 p.m., if there is some Sherlock Holmes who does have the right answer,” the artist explained, “they will be awarded a 22-inch by 28-inch hand signed and numbered, personalized giclée very **limited edition print** of ‘The Mystery within.’”

And you can forget about that Little Orphan Annie decoder ring. “No amount of Wheaties box tops will influence the prize-winning judgment,” Dodge laughingly assured the Ear.

A MIRACLE CUP



Connie Rinell’s husband, **Kim**, and her son, **Brian**, were crab fishing about 1/4 mile south of the end of the South Jetty around the middle of last month, when Brian spotted a beautifully intact oversized tea cup in a crab pot. “This is a miracle cup!” she declared.

Certainly it’s a classic piece, made by **Spode**, a well-known English pottery company founded in 1776. Connie contacted **Janis L. Rodwell** of the **Spode Museum Trust** to see if she could put a date on the mystery cup, which is pictured, and at tinyurl.com/EARspode

“You have a Breakfast Cup made of earthenware during the **Copeland and Garrett** period, circa 1833 to 1847,” Janis replied, “which would have partnered a saucer of corresponding proportions.” The pattern, known as British Flowers, was introduced about 1828. She dated this specific cup as from around 1847, because of the Alba stamp on the cup’s bottom.

The Spode expert also noted that “shards of Copeland and Garrett’s wares with the Alba backstamp have been found during excavation work on the **Hudson’s Bay Co.** site in Canada” (tinyurl.com/CASpode).

Since Copeland and Garrett contracted to supply Hudson’s Bay with porcelain, and Hudson’s Bay had an outpost here (Fort Astoria, when it was a British territory), Connie wondered if the cup could possibly be from Fort Astoria. “Too much of a coincidence,” Janice replied. “I am sure there is a connection.” On the other hand, the cup also could have come from any number of shipwrecks in the Graveyard of the Pacific.

“I think your husband must go crabbing again in the Columbia River in search of the matching saucer!” Janis wrote.

“I think if the saucer ever came up in a crab pot,” Connie replied, “I would have to start playing the lottery!”

GOLFING WITH GOATS



Oregon was the first state to bring you goat yoga, and is now the first to introduce the **goat caddies**, who are at **The Retreat & Links at Silvies Valley Ranch** in Seneca (silvies.us), and in the national news.

According to the website, goat caddies are 2 to 8 years old, and full-time caddies usually work about six hours a day, three to four days a week. They weigh 150 to 210 pounds, and can carry about 20 percent of their weight, which usually includes up to six clubs, a dozen golf balls, golf tees and six cans of refreshment.

The current team members are **Mike LeChevon**, **Peanut LeGoat**, **Roundabout LaDoe** and Caddie Master **Bruce LeGoat**, who is pictured, courtesy of the “Silvies Goat Caddies” Facebook page.

Naturally, they will work for peanuts.

ALMOST SHANGHAIED IN ASTORIA



Court note from **The Daily Astorian, May 11, 1883:**

- A petition is being circulated asking the governor to pardon **William DeLashmutt** who was sent to the penitentiary from this county last January for an alleged attempt to shanghai a gentleman of leisure named **James Cannon**.

Note: Earlier in 1883, DeLashmutt, owner of the **Ford Saloon** on Ninth and Bond streets, “... feloniously, and without lawful authority, forcibly seized and confined, and kidnapped James Cannon with the intent to cause James Cannon to be sent out of the state of Oregon against his will ...” A “spirited defense” didn’t save DeLashmutt from the shanghai charge, nor did the petition. He wound up serving three years in the state penitentiary. (tinyurl.com/shanghaigone)

OFF TO A FLYING START



Heads up, history and aviation buffs: On May 15, 1918, **President Woodrow Wilson** and members of Congress watched a wood and fabric biplane take off from Potomac Park in the nation’s capitol, heading for New York on the **first air mail flight**.

To celebrate the **100th anniversary** of that historic moment in aviation, a reenactment of the **Contract Air Mail Route 8 (CAM 8)** — San Diego to Seattle — is taking place Monday through Friday. Three 1931 Stearman Speedmail open cockpit biplanes, actually used to deliver air mail in the 1930s, will fly the route.

All three of the aircraft became crop dusters after their air-mail service, before being lovingly restored by their present owners. One of the three, which was also one of the original 12 mail planes, even went Hollywood for a bit with a small stint in the 1934 **Shirley Temple** movie “Bright Eyes.”

The anniversary flight will take about 12 flying hours all together. A segment of the route is shown, courtesy of its website, cam8in2018.com, where you can follow them, and read their history. Or, you can just head out to **Vancouver, Washington**, which is one of the stops. The planes will arrive at Pearson Field on Thursday, taxi over to the **Pearson Air Museum** (360-816-6232), and leave Friday. This is a rare treat to see these aircraft, since fewer than a dozen of them are still flying of the 41 originally built.

Can’t make it to Vancouver? Celebrate the centennial by buying a commemorative stamp (pictured, inset) at the post office, instead.

COMMUNITY NOTES

SATURDAY

Sea Scout Ship 635 Yard Sale — 8 a.m. to mid-afternoon, 40 S.W. Alder Ave., Warrenton. Mostly boat gear and fittings, including bronze fittings, sails, trailer parts and a 21-foot sailboat.

Lower Columbia R/C Society — 8:30 a.m., Jim’s Roadhouse Grill, 1605 E. Harbor St., Warrenton. Local Academy of Model Aeronautics (AMA) chartered radio control model aircraft club meets for breakfast

and business. All model aircraft enthusiasts are welcome. For information, call 503-458-5196 or 503-325-0608.

Seniors Breakfast — 9 a.m. to noon, Astoria Moose Lodge, 420 17th St. Cooked to order from menu, includes coffee. Cost is \$5 for seniors 62 and older, \$7.50 for those under 62. Breakfasts are open to the public. Proceeds after expenses help support local and other charities.

Clatsop County Genealogical Society — 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 350 Niagara Ave. Parking available Fourth Street. Speaker is Lisa McCullough, Genealogical Forum of Oregon; subject is “How to Get the Most Benefit from Your DNA Test Results from Popular Testing Companies.”

Chinook Indian Nation Council — 11 a.m., Rosburg Hall, 28 Rosburg Hall Road, Rosburg,

Washington. Monthly meeting, open to all tribal members, who are requested to be prompt. Attendees are reminded to bring a potluck item. For questions, contact the Tribal Office at 360-875-6670.

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.

SUNDAY

Sea Scout Ship 635 Yard Sale — 8 a.m. to mid-afternoon, 40 S.W. Alder Ave., Warrenton. Mostly boat gear and fittings, including bronze fittings, sails, trailer parts and a 21-foot sailboat.

Blacksmith Enthusiasts Meet — 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Camp 18 Blacksmith Shop, 42362 U.S. Highway 26, Seaside. Participants welcome to bring their own forge and anvil setup. Metal available to experiment with; coal is provided. No charge, but donations to the Camp 18 Loggers Memorial Museum welcome. For information, contact Mark Standley at 503-434-0148 or Herman Doty at 971-306-1043 or ringinganvildesign@gmail.com