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# COMMUNITY

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IN ONE EAR • ELLEDA WILSON

## WEIGHTY MATTERS



While many have been mired in the political goings-on of late, the really exciting news slipped right on by: the **fat-test bear contest** in **Katmai National Park & Preserve** in Alaska, as reported by *Vox.com* ([bit.ly/ursafat](http://bit.ly/ursafat)).

The competition is based on how much weight the park's brown bears gain over the summer after gorging on salmon for months. If you go to the *Vox.com* website, there are stunning before and after photos. Some of those bears really took this event seriously.

The contest winds up with **Fat Bear Week**, and the public had a chance to vote for the plumpiest of the plump. The park insists "there's no fat shaming here" — the fatter the bears get before hibernation, the better off they'll be in the spring, since they lose a third of their body weight while sleeping.

It was a tough competition, and some think **Chunk** got robbed, but **409 Beadnose** (pictured, courtesy of Katmai National Park & Preserve) won by a landslide.

## 'AN AMAZING EXPERIENCE'



In a city full of Scandinavians, there must be a passel of Norwegians, and this one's for you: Chicago's O'Connor Casting Company is **casting** for Season 10 of "Alt For Norge," Norway's Emmy award-winning reality TV show.

Twelve Norwegian-American contestants are flown to Norway to "experience culture shock as they chase down their ancestral roots trying to win \$50,000 and the chance to meet their long-lost Norwegian relatives."

No, you do not have to speak Norwegian. Contestants must be Americans with Norwegian ancestry (even a little bit counts) who are age 18-plus, and have not traveled to Norway after the age of 15.

Portlander **Tom Tørresdal** was a contestant in 2011. "I've loved every single second that I've been here," he said at the end of filming. He loved it so much, in fact, that he moved to Norway for a while to work in a brewery. Now he's a brewer himself, at Pyramid Brewing.

You can find out how to apply at [oconnorcasting.tv/norway10](http://oconnorcasting.tv/norway10), and see clips from the show at [bit.ly/nordclips](http://bit.ly/nordclips). The application deadline is Dec. 2. Lykke til!

## CALL 911. OR NOT



After much sobbing and panicked hyperventilating, a woman on a boat out in Puget Sound called the cops to turn in some frisky whales, *The Oregonian* reports ([bit.ly/911whale](http://bit.ly/911whale)).

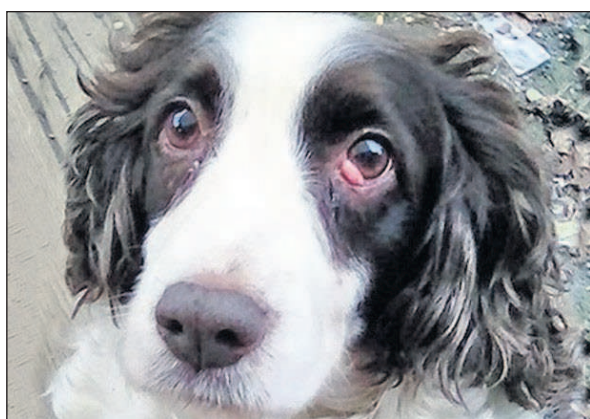
"Yeah, I'm out in Puget Sound," the distraught woman told 911, "and there's three gray whales right underneath our boat. I'm afraid we might get flipped over. I'm really scared." Screenshots from Darren Lucianna's video are shown.

"Stupid whales!" another passenger wailed. "They're going to kill us!"

The one voice of reason in the mayhem — who aptly noted, "Look at this guys, you'll never see this again!" — was completely ignored. Eventually, someone thought to turn on the motor and scoot out of there.

So what were those "stupid whales" doing swimming around in Puget Sound like that, anyway? Just as if they belonged there, or something. What a colossal nerve, right?

## A HAPPY DAY



"Never, ever give up," **Maria Nagy** director of the **Tillamook Animal Shelter** posted Monday on the shelter's Facebook page. "Especially if you are missing your pet."

"Today I got a call from **Nehalem Animal Healing** about a dog, in pretty rough condition," she explained, "... When they described the dog, I thought back to **Bella**, who was reported missing, from Spruce Run Campground in August." Yes, it was, indeed, Bella.

Bella's owner, **Andrea Hulin** of Rainier, posted the original lost dog notice on Facebook. And herein lies the beauty of social media: Her post was shared by concerned dog lovers all over the North Coast, including the Tillamook Animal Shelter's Facebook page, where Maria initially spotted it.

It was **Angela Hanke** who found Bella on a rock in the Nehalem River last weekend, several miles from where she went missing, and took her home. "But we knew at some point, someone loved her, because she was such a well-behaved and trained dog," she noted in a Facebook post. Angela reported finding Bella to Nehalem Animal Healing when they opened on Monday, and Bella's journey home began. "A happy day for everyone," Maria noted.

"It's really amazing to me when dogs that have been lost a long time get found," she observed. "We had another some years back that had been lost six months, and suddenly appeared. ... Dogs are tough survivors."

Bella went home with her grandmom later Monday after a tearful and joyful reunion, but that's not the end of her story. "Bella has two mammary tumors along with the cherry eye," Maria recalled, but the quote the family got from a Portland vet was unaffordable. **Dr. Matt Didlake** offered them a price they could afford, and a day trip back to Nehalem is planned to attend to her medical needs.

"She should recover just fine," Maria added. "So, it's an even happier ending than I already posted."

## HE WAS PUZZLED



News from Astoria of the demise of the 818-ton iron ship **Fernglen** on Clatsop Spit on Oct. 16, 1881, made it all the way to *The Evening Post* in New Zealand — even though it took a month. The ship is shown, courtesy of the State Library of Victoria.

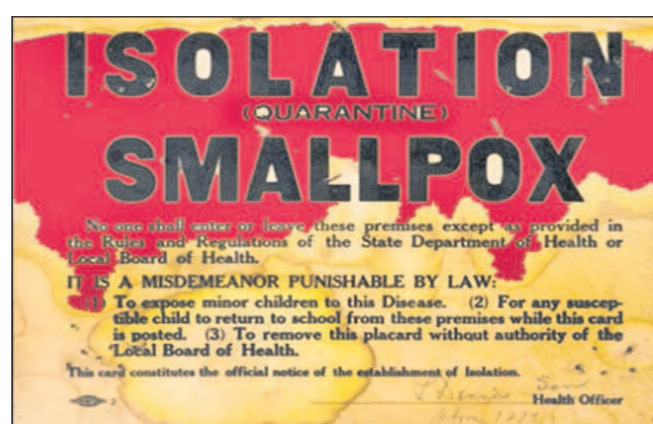
In **Capt. F. Budd's** account of the wreck, he really wasn't up to speed on the area. "I was puzzled with the lights," he wrote. "I knew nothing of a light being on Tillamook rock, or the change of light at Point Adams. I saw a red light where I expected to find a red and white flash." Guessing he was just outside the Columbia River bar (he wasn't), he stayed where he was to wait for a bar pilot.

At 6 a.m., the ship ran aground hard in a strong tide. All of the sails were put up, but it didn't matter; she wouldn't budge. The ship "lay easy," so the captain wasn't too alarmed at first, but when they were still stuck the following morning, he fired up the steam engine and starting tossing ballast overboard. They kept at it for hours, in vain, only to discover the ship was leaking. By 7 p.m., the wind was whipping up, and the **Fernglen** steadily taking on water. Needless to say, they had a very rough night.

The next morning, in heavy seas, Capt. Budd decided to launch the starboard lifeboat and abandon ship. The lifeboat had other ideas, and was smashed when it washed back aboard. By 9 a.m. the **Fernglen** started to heel over, then the remaining ballast shifted, and the masts rolled over into the water. By noon, the ship was in two pieces, and the anticipated bar pilot boat still hadn't arrived.

The captain and crew, desperate to save themselves, with great difficulty managed to board the ship's other lifeboat. "We pulled for the shore with the whole of the ship's crew (of 20) in the boat," Capt. Budd recalled. "We had but two oars, and it kept four men busy bailing the boat sufficiently to keep her afloat." Luckily, they were picked up by the crew of the tug **Columbia**. All hands were saved, but the **Fernglen** was a total loss. Not surprisingly, Budd was blamed for the debacle; his certificate was suspended for four months. (<http://bit.ly/fernglen1>, <http://bit.ly/fernglen2>)

## A CASE OF SMALLPOX



From the **Thursday, Oct. 12, 1899** edition of *The Morning Astorian*:

• There is a case of **smallpox** in Astoria. A man walked into **Dr. Bishop's** office Tuesday night and asked to be examined, saying he was not feeling well. The doctor convinced him that his visitor had a modified form of smallpox, and told him to go home and isolate himself.

The patient was **Mr. Sloop**. ... After a careful examination, **Dr. Hastings** concurred in **Dr. Bishop's** opinion, and pronounced the disease to be **varioid**. **Dr. Bishop** immediately noticed the police department, and ... strict quarantine is maintained, and no fears of further cases are entertained.

**Note:** **Mr. Sloop** was lucky. *Merriam-Webster.com* says the varioid version is "a modified mild form of smallpox occurring in persons who have been vaccinated or who have had smallpox."

*OregonEncyclopedia.org* ([bit.ly/LCpox](http://bit.ly/LCpox)) notes that **Lewis** and **Clark's** journals mention pockmarked Native Americans along the Lower Columbia River in the early 1800s.

The earliest Oregon smallpox epidemic was around 1781, 10 years before **Robert Gray** visited the Lower Columbia, as evidenced from the Clatsop tribe's oral tradition. Several smallpox epidemics followed, but the outbreak in 1853, in particular, targeted the Lower Columbia area, and is believed to have killed one-half of the Chinook community. Sadly, smallpox vaccine was available in Oregon by 1853, but did not reach Native Americans.

## CLEAN 'EM UP



This column first mentioned Dutch entrepreneur **Boyan Slat** (pictured, inset) in 2013, when he was an aerospace engineering student with an ambitious idea and design to clean up the **Pacific Ocean Garbage Patch**: the Ocean Cleanup Array.

After several concept trials, the final design, System 001, consists of a 6.5-foot skirt hanging from a 1,900-foot long boom to capture garbage for future pickup and recycling. A screen shot is shown courtesy of **The Ocean Cleanup** ([theoceancleanup.com](http://theoceancleanup.com)).

A two-week trial in the open ocean off San Francisco was deemed a success, with only minor problems, so the array is being towed 800 nautical miles to the Garbage Patch to begin the actual cleanup process. Stay tuned.

## NOT A BAD GIG



2005 Ocean in View Nickel

Since Astoria has so many fine artists, **Scott McClaine** came in to mention an artistic opportunity he'd found: The **U.S. Mint** has issued a **call for artists** to create U.S. coin and medal designs for the Mint Artistic Infusion Program.

And, it's not a bad gig. Artists are paid a set fee per assignment and earn a bonus fee of \$5,000 per design selected for minting, lots of recognition, and best yet, you can work from your own studio. The full details are at <http://bit.ly/artmint>, and the deadline to apply is Oct. 29.

Astoria has already been represented once, if you will recall. Photographer **Andrew E. Cier's** photograph was the basis for artist **Joe Fitzgerald's** image on the reverse of the 2005 Ocean in View nickel, which is pictured ([bit.ly/ciernickel](http://bit.ly/ciernickel)). That nickel is worth a buck now, by the way.

## COMMUNITY NOTES

### SATURDAY

**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.

**Chinook Indian Nation Council Meeting** — 11 a.m., Netul Room, Fort Clatsop, 92345 Fort Clatsop

Road. Meeting is open to all tribal members; attendees are reminded to arrive on time and bring a potluck item. For question, call 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.

**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 [astoriafiberarts.com](http://astoriafiberarts.com)

### SUNDAY

**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 younger than 62. Breakfasts are open to the public. Proceeds after expenses help support local and other charities.

**Blacksmith Enthusiasts Meet** — 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Camp 18 Blacksmith Shop, 42362 U.S. Highway 26, Seaside. Participants can bring own forge and anvil setup. Metal available to experiment with; coal provided. No charge; donations to

Camp 18 Loggers Memorial Museum welcome. For information, contact Mark Standley at 503-434-0148 or Herman Doty at 971-306-1043 or [ringingarwildesign@gmail.com](mailto:ringingarwildesign@gmail.com)

**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](mailto:k7erowood@q.com), or go to [nami.org](http://nami.org)

**Military Officers Association of America, Lower Columbia River Chapter** — 5 p.m., Doogers Seafood & Grill, 103 U.S. Highway 101, Warrenton. Quarterly meeting and dinner. Bruce Jones, Astoria City Councilman, discusses local elections. All U.S. military officers and former officers; active duty,

See **NOTES**, Page 4B