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IN ONE EAR • ELLEDA WILSON

BLOOD MOON RISING



Are you ready for a **Super Blood Moon total lunar eclipse** to start at 7:33 p.m. Sunday night? (A montage of a total lunar eclipse is shown courtesy of Keith Burns/NASA/JPL). Just in case, you might want to brush up on a few lunar superstitions for the occasion, thanks to Farmer's Almanac. Here are a few highlights:

Tibetan Buddhists believe that both good and bad acts are multiplied tenfold during the eclipse, so you might want to behave nicely. They might be right.

In India, avoiding cooking, eating and drinking is high on the agenda during eclipses, as you might get indigestion. Maybe you should stash that seafood platter till it's over.

Incan civilizations believed that a Blood Moon was caused by a mythological jaguar trying to devour it, so they made lots of noise, even getting their dogs in on the racket, to scare off the jaguar. Some people make lots of noise during an eclipse to this day, probably just because they can.

If you get the chance, and if the sky will let you, try to see this celestial event. After all, the next total lunar eclipse isn't until May 26, 2021. (bit.ly/20moon, bit.ly/FA lunar)

A BETTER LIFE



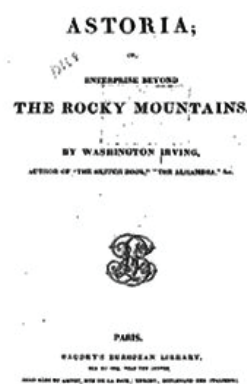
Aron Moxley (left) lives in Portland now, but many years ago he was a Vietnamese child refugee who was brought to this country, and wound up being raised in Astoria.

"I graduated from Astoria High in 1992," Aron recalled. "I was freshman class president, student body vice president and class clown." He even wrote a song about his home town, "Astoria," when he was lead singer of **The Slants** (bit.ly/aronastoria).

Recently he had an encounter with someone who reminded him of his beginnings in Vietnam. "This regular named **John Barnes** (right) has been coming into my work for years," Aron posted on his Facebook page. "I told him I was going to Vietnam next week with my girlfriend, **Ali Marie**. He told me he was over there during the fall of **Saigon** (in 1975) and helped orphan babies get on evacuation planes and helicopters as a Marine.

"I told him I was one of those babies. He looked at me, his eyes started to well up, and said he might have held me in his arms during the rescue mission (**Operation Baby-lift**). We talked for a while, and I thanked him dearly for his service and kindness. At the end he told me he'll sleep better tonight, now that he's seen that what was a small innocent baby is now all grown up, with a better life in America. What an amazing man you are, John. And thank you again for your service! No longer an orphan, Aron #thankyouservicemenandwomen"

GIVING AN ACCOUNT



In the winter doldrums, reading is a good pastime, so why not get a history fix and read **Washington Irving's** "Astoria, Or Anecdotes of an Enterprise Beyond the Rocky Mountains," originally published in 1836 (tinyurl.com/IrvingAstor)?

Astoria's founder, **John Jacob Astor**, regaled his writer friend with tales of expanding his fur trading business to the West Coast. "(Astor) expressed a regret that the true nature and extent of his enterprise and its national character and importance had never been understood," Irving wrote in the introduction, "and a wish that I would undertake to give an account of it." And so he did.

LET THERE BE LIGHT



Monday marks the **138th anniversary** of the official completion — at a cost of \$123,493 (more than \$3 million now) — of the **Tillamook Rock Lighthouse**, aka Terrible Tilly.

Getting to that point was no easy feat. The basalt rock, about 100 feet high, and 1.2 miles out at sea, wasn't exactly welcoming to visitors. With no way to land except to jump from a small boat to the rock, lighthouse builder **John R. Trewavas**, who was tasked with surveying the rock, slipped and was washed out to sea before he could even get started.

In June 1879, after several previous attempts failed, construction superintendent **John R. Wheeler** managed to get onto the rock to do the survey. Because of the difficulty landing, all he could bring was his measuring tape.

After Trewavas' death, locals weren't clamoring to work on Tillamook Rock, so the construction supervisor, **Charles A. Ballantyne**, had to hire an out-of-town crew. He sequestered them in Washington before the work started so they wouldn't hear local gossip.

Finally, construction began in October 1879. Ballantyne landed men and gear by using a rope pulley between the top of the rock and a ship's mast. The crew lived in wooden shacks on the slopes of the rock, enduring bitter winter weather, even being stranded once.

It took until May 1880 to blast off the top 30 feet of the rock to form a level surface. In June, massive derricks were built to bring up the basalt blocks from a Portland quarry (for the walls of the lighthouse), along with equipment and supplies, and even the Fresnel lens.

On Jan. 3, 1881, while the lighthouse was still under construction, the **Lupatia** ran aground on Tillamook Head, killing everyone aboard except the crew's dog. The disaster reinforced the need for a lighthouse, and the crew hastened complete the construction in three weeks to prevent a repeat of Lupatia's tragic fate.

On Jan. 21, 1881, Tillamook Lighthouse's beacon shined for the first time. Seventy-seven years later Tilly's job was done, and on Sept. 1, 1957, the light went out. (bit.ly/nrhptilly, bit.ly/oetilly)

LOCAL BREVITIES



From the **Friday, Jan. 18, 1889**, edition of **The Daily Morning Astorian**:

• A post office has been established at **Columbiaville**, Columbia County, and **John A. Walsh** appointed post master. **Note:** Inquiries have been sent out about the mysterious Columbiaville.

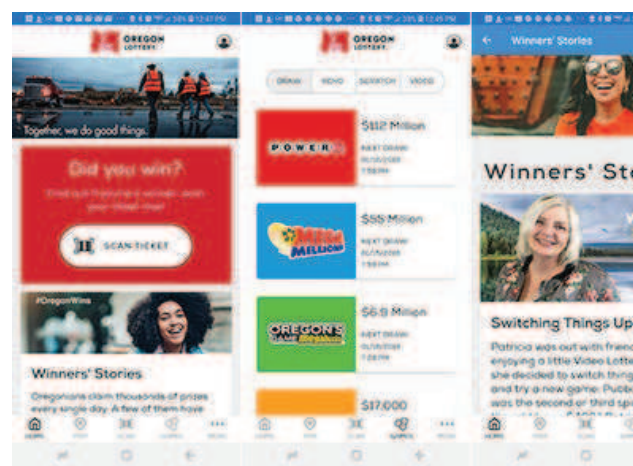
• A great **raft of logs**, about 8 million (feet) is to be built somewhere on the coast of Washington territory, to be towed to Valparaiso (Chile) to be sawed. This experiment will be watched with interest. **Note:** Probably not. It appears that 5-million-foot log rafts didn't exist until the late 1890s in Washington state. In Oregon, it wasn't until 1906 that Portland timber magnate **Simon Benson** designed and developed an ocean-worthy raft that could transport 4 to 6 million logs at a time. By the way, his rafts were assembled in Wallace Slough, near Clatskanie. (bit.ly/stellalogs, bit.ly/8mlogs)

• The **rainfall** in Astoria by months for **1888** was as follows; Jan. 13.84 inches, Feb. 4.12, March 6.64, April 4.04, May .79, June 7.23, July 1.25. Aug. .74, Sept. 2.32, Oct. 7.45, Nov. 10.45, Dec. 9.86. Total for the year, 68.73 inches. **Note:** Current average annual rainfall: 67.2 inches, 1.53 inches less. (bit.ly/astorain)

• **J. C. Ward** has returned from Juneau, Alaska, for two months' sojourn before going back. He has some excellent mining claims, and reports considerable of a boom in mining matters in that part of the territory. **Note:** He was way ahead of the game; the Yukon Gold Rushes were from 1897 to 1904. (bit.ly/auhills)

• **Katie Putnam**: Next Monday and Tuesday at Ross' opera house, this charming little actress will present her highly successful sensational drama "**Erma the Elf**." **Note:** At the time, Putnam (pictured inset) was a very popular and well-known stage actress and comedienne.

THERE'S AN APP FOR THAT



The **Oregon Lottery** has succumbed to the "there's an app for that" fever, and has launched a **mobile app** called, of course, "Oregon Lottery" that is available to download for both Apple and android devices. Three screen shots are shown.

No, you can't gamble using the app, but it does have a scanner, so you can see if you're holding a winning ticket, and there's also a helpful FAQ section that covers taxes on lottery winners, plus information on annuity payments and much more.

A fun addition is the **Winners' Stories** section, and the Games section lists all of the different types of games available to flex your wallet on. Don't worry, if you find yourself getting carried away, there are also links to the Oregon Problem Gambling Resource and GamTalk.

TRAPPING BIGFOOT



Did you know there is a **Bigfoot trap** in Oregon? Seriously, there is. It's near Jacksonville, which is about 5 miles west of Medford. Specifically, it's in the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest, on the Collings Mountain Trail No. 943 near the Hart-Tish Park entrance, about 3/4 of a mile in.

The 10-by-10-foot square, made of wood with metal bands, was originally built in 1974 by the **North American Wildlife Research Team** (now disbanded) after a local miner saw 18-inch footprints in the area. The team diligently baited the trap with animal carcasses for six years, but all they ever caught was a befuddled hunter — which is probably why the trap was locked open in 1980 as a safety measure.

In 2006, the U.S. Forest Service repaired the bedraggled wooden contrivance, and it still stands. As far as anyone knows, it's the only Bigfoot trap in the U.S. (bit.ly/quatchtrap).

A HANDSOME FELLOW



Speaking of **Bigfoot** ... North Carolina drivers have been reporting a rash of Bigfoot sightings to animal control, according to an AP story, and for a while, everyone was wondering what was going on.

It turned out that what the motorists were actually seeing was an 8-foot carved wooden statue of a Sasquatch that stands on private property, but is visible from the roadside.

In response to the influx of calls, the Davie County Animal Shelter in Mocksville felt compelled to post the photo shown, and the following caveat, on its Facebook page (bit.ly/mockquatch):

"This handsome fellow stands on Pine Ridge Road in Mocksville. If you are traveling this road at night, please be advised that the eyes appear to glow. If you see this phenomenon, you do not need to call animal control to report seeing Bigfoot, Sasquatch or any other large creature. Thank you."

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.

Spinning Circle — 1 to 3 p.m., Astoria Fiber Arts Studio, 1296 Duane St. Bring a spinning wheel. For information, call 503-325-5598 or go to astoriafiberarts.org

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.

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.

MONDAY

Chair Exercises for

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

Grace and Encouragement for Moms — 10 to 11:30 a.m., Crossroads Community Church, 40618 Old Highway 30, Svensen. GEMS group is a time for moms to relax and enjoy each other's

company. Free child-care is provided. For information, call Christina Leonard at 503-298-3936.

SeniorLunch — 11:30 a.m., Bob Chisholm Senior Center, 1225 Avenue A, Seaside. Suggested donation \$3 for those older than 60; \$6.75 for those

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