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# COMMUNITY

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IN ONE EAR • ELLEDA WILSON

## INVASION OF THE BEACH



A small herd of **elephant seals** has taken over a popular tourist spot in Northern California, the AP reports. They got away with it because they moved in during the federal government shutdown, and there were no park staff members around to shoo them away, as was the custom. The interlopers are shown, courtesy of **Point Reyes National Seashore**.

And, while the 60 adults were lounging around and enjoying their new residence, 35 pups were born. A bit more room was needed, so the group has spread out into the parking lot, as well.

Now that the uninvited guests have settled in, there are no plans to move them. The park staff is, however, considering making the best of the situation, and offering guided tours of the seal colony.

## TRUE TALES



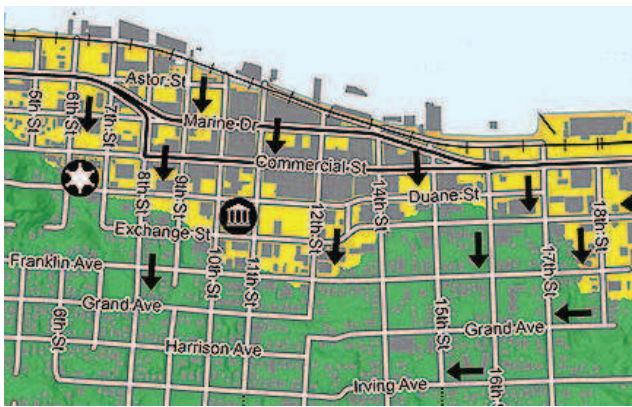
Well, it's true, and **Jean-Baptiste Alphonse Karr** nailed it: The more things change, the more they stay the same. These two snippets from **The Daily Morning Astorian** prove the point.

**Old-timers' lament:** There's a lot of dressed and half-dressed kids running loose around this town every night that ought to be at home. They are not learning any good on the streets after dark.

These youngsters, 15 or 20 years from now, will be doing the kinds of business that the men of today are doing, though for their own good, it is to be hoped some of them will be in better business — and running the streets after dark is a poor preparation for a life career. (Feb. 1, 1888)

**Sound familiar?:** A godly and goodly business firm of Portland have written a horror-stricken letter to The Oregonian, wherein it appears they are deeply grieved to know that Astoria is in the hands of the roughs.

## DISCOMFORT ZONES



On the heels of the 319th anniversary of the Jan. 26, 1700 Cascadia Subduction Zone megaquake and tsunami, the Northwest Association of Networked Ocean Observing Systems (NANOOS) and the Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries (DOGAMI) have released a redesigned free **phone app** with **maps of tsunami evacuation zones**, and it's available for both Androids and iPhones.

The image shown is of downtown Astoria, and the yellow area is the tsunami evacuation zone — a place you really don't want to be when the time comes, and you'll only have 15 to 20 minutes to get outta there after the earthquake before the tidal wave arrives.

Not certain if your home or work is in or near a tsunami inundation zone? Just start zooming in on the big map to your area of interest, and a list of brochures with detailed maps appears on the right. It's not a bad idea to study them, and get familiar with where the high ground areas are on the North Coast — and how to get to them. Just in case.

## 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.

**Detachment 1228 Marine Corps League** — noon, El Compadre, 119 Main Ave., Warrenton. For information, contact Lou Neubecker at 503-717-0153.

**Columbia Northwestern Model Railroading 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](http://astoriafiberarts.org)

**Astoriafiberarts.org Center Neighborhood Meeting** — 4 p.m., First United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall, 1076 Franklin Ave., enter on 11th Street. An opportunity to share ideas, concerns and information on the Good

## OLDEST CAT IN OREGON?



Is **Brujo** the oldest cat in Oregon? Quite possibly. "I've known my husband for 18 years," Astorian **Sue Korpela** said, "I've had Brujo for 25."

She adopted the stray 6-week-old kitten in 1993, when she was living in Kodiak, Alaska. A trip to the veterinarian was in order, so she took him to **Dr. Brad Pope** for shots and neutering. Yes, it's the same Dr. Pope who is now in Warrenton.

Sue named the kitten Brujo because "he used to be kind of mean, and Brujo means warlock in Spanish," she told **Alistair Gardiner** of the Kodiak Daily Mirror, who wrote a story about Brujo last October.

In 2005, Sue moved back to Astoria, where she was brought up. Brujo, unsettled by the move, disappeared after a few weeks. Eleven months later, she spotted him at Landwehr's market at Miles Crossing. It was only 2.2 miles from home, yet it was sheer luck she found him.

Sue and her husband like to travel, so they bought an RV so Brujo can come along. "He loves it," she told Gardiner, "it's like a little home for him." They even took Brujo to the solar eclipse last year, and he had his own set of eclipse glasses.

Nowadays, he stays home and takes it easy, but still does a little hunting. "Brujo's hunting techniques consist of hiding in the grass and waiting for a chipmunk to come his way or finding a vole hole and waiting and listening," Sue said, although one time a chipmunk landed on Brujo's back while he was lurking, and gave him quite a turn.

Happily, Brujo's disposition has mellowed with retirement. "Now he follows me around like a puppy dog," Sue noted, "and will come when I call him."

So, is Brujo the oldest cat in Oregon? The last Guinness World Records holder, **Courderoy**, 27, of Eugene, disappeared in 2016 ([bit.ly/courderoy](http://bit.ly/courderoy)). Sue wrote to Guinness about Brujo, and they replied with a link to an application with an \$800 fee. Consequently, the oldest cat question remains unanswered, but there's no question about this: Brujo rules.

## WHERE IS COLUMBIAVILLE?



A postoffice has been established at Columbiaville, Columbia county, and John A. Walsh appointed postmaster.

Recently, this column ran the following squib from the **Jan. 18, 1889** edition of **The Daily Morning Astorian**: "A post office has been established at Columbiaville, Columbia County, and **John A. Walsh** appointed postmaster."

But where is Columbiaville? An internet search revealed zip. Nada. Just to give you some idea of what is involved to research such a nugget:

**Betty Huber**, the Columbia County clerk and recorder, had never heard of Columbiaville, either, and recommended asking the local historical society. **Erin McCown** of the Columbia County Museum Association was equally stumped, and asked the museum board. The president, **Joanne Pellham**, is going to look into it further. One director thought Columbiaville might have been Columbia City's original name.

The museum association curator, **Les Watters**, referred the Ear to **Ray Palmer**, who has an interest in the history of the postal service. He's away, but will look into it when he gets home, and in the meantime, alerted **Ted Shepard**, another member of the Pacific Northwest Postal History Society, who offered to help.

Mr. Shepard was not able to come up with anything about Columbiaville or Postmaster Walsh, and suspects the post office order was rescinded — but there's no record of that, either. Once again, Columbia City came up, having been re-established on Dec. 10, 1889, but the postmaster didn't match.

Finally, the Ear contacted **Shawna Gandy** at the Oregon Historical Society. Columbiaville does not appear in "Oregon Geographic Names," which means it's very obscure, but the reference desk is going to do some research.

With all these fine researchers on Columbiaville's trail, hopefully someone will find it. Stay tuned.

## BLESSED AND THANKFUL



Many local businesses stepped up to the plate, offering credit at no interest to **Coast Guard families** during the **federal government shutdown**, when they weren't getting paid, as a gesture of gratitude for all the Coast Guard does.

**Main St. Market** in Warrenton was one of them. On Jan. 16, on their Facebook page, they extended credit, and also offered to take 5 percent off the total bill. "All we ask is that when government reopens," the post added, "you come in and pay off the balance on the account. Thank you for all you do to keep us safe."

Well, they sure didn't have to wait long, thanks to a **good Samaritan**. "A huge thank you to the anonymous customer who came in and paid off all of the current Coast Guard charge accounts!" the market posted on Jan. 25. "We are so blessed and thankful to live in this amazing community!" Indeed.

## IS THAT YOU, BIGFOOT?



On Jan. 2, **Austin M. Craig** posted a video of a friend's **Bigfoot sighting** in Provo, Utah, on Reddit ([bit.ly/provoquatch](http://bit.ly/provoquatch)). A screenshot is shown.

"We'll see if we can find footprints and definitely will take video and pictures," Austin wrote, "and at the very least get some kind of scale for comparison."

Well, the friends made the arduous climb to where the Bigfoot stood, but they only found human footprints. However, the spotter below said the men were half the size of the critter in the video.

**Kelly Shaw** of the **Rocky Mountain Sasquatch Organization** saw the video on Reddit, and his interest was piqued. Shaw went to Provo to investigate. He found and filmed both human and Sasquatch tracks in the vicinity of the sighting, so he's convinced Bigfoot was there ([bit.ly/ksprovo](http://bit.ly/ksprovo)). Are you?

## 'A LARGE ANIMAL'



Ever wonder how Oregon is doing in the Bigfoot sightings department?

Well, a **Sasquatch** was spotted by a woman in **Vernonia** at 7:30 a.m. on June 24, 2018. The Bigfoot Field Researchers Organization ruled it a Class A sighting which is as good as it gets ([bit.ly/bigvern](http://bit.ly/bigvern)).

Here's what she reported: "I let my dog out at about 6 a.m. this morning, he usually stays out 1-2 hours but demanded back in immediately. About 7:30, and there was the strong smell of sewage and I could hear branches breaking along the side of my home ...

"I got up and went to the bathroom, as I was walking in I could see something and took a closer look. A large animal, blackish, walking upright going up the hill into the cemetery behind my home."

BFRO investigator **Scott Taylor** spoke to her at length the same day, and documented her account in detail "There is no doubt," he concluded, "that this witness was fortunate enough to view a Sasquatch walking by."

Just so you know, the last BFRO report for a Class A Bigfoot sighting in Clatsop County was in September 1993 near Fort Stevens. Is Sasquatch avoiding us?

Neighbor Commitment and the current season.

### 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.

**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 others' company. Free childcare is provided. For informa-

tion, 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 younger than 60. For information, call Suzanne Bjaranson at 503-861-4202.

**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, Warren-

ton Community Center, 170 S.W. Third St. Suggested donation of \$6 for seniors and \$7 for those younger than 60. For information, or to volunteer, call 503-861-3502 Monday or Thursday.

**Astoria Rotary Club** — noon, second floor of the Astoria Elks Lodge, 453 11th St. Guests always welcome. For information, go to [AstoriaRotary.org](http://AstoriaRotary.org)

**Knockers Pinochle Group** — 1 p.m., Bob Chisholm

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