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IN ONE EAR • ELLEDA WILSON

HAVE YOU SEEN BIGFOOT?



An interesting tidbit appeared in the Ear’s email from SatelliteInternet.com with the captivating title of “States with the Most Bigfoot Sightings in 2020” (bit.ly/mostbigfoot).

The “states with the most Bigfoot sightings overall” are **Washington** (676), California (445) and Florida (328). On this list, **Oregon** comes in sixth.

However, on the “states with the most Bigfoot sightings by population” list, Washington is still first, but Oregon is second, with 254 sightings.

In case you’re wondering, the figures come from the **Bigfoot Field Researchers Organization** (bfro.net). **Clatsop County** has had only eight reported sightings, the last in 2010. However, there was a dandy Class A sighting in Vernonia in 2018 (bit.ly/VernBig):

“I let my dog out at about 6 a.m. this morning,” the woman reporting the incident wrote. “He usually stays out one to two hours, but demanded back in immediately.

“About 7:30 a.m., and there was the strong smell of sewage, and I could hear branches breaking along the side of my home; nothing new, as deer go by often. I didn’t think too much of it.

“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.”

If you really don’t want to see Bigfoot, though, you might want to go to Rhode Island, Delaware or North Dakota. Sightings in those spots are in the single digits.

UP FROM THE DEEP

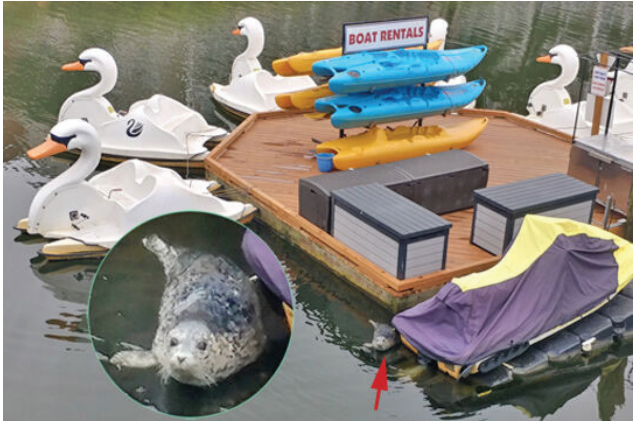


Fun rerun: For marine biology fans ... **Jutai Korgak** took the photo shown of the bizarre-looking sea creature, that was caught by a Nunavut fishing boat somewhere in Davis Strait, in the North Atlantic near Greenland.

According to the Huffington Post (tinyurl.com/arcticfishie), at first the mystery critter was thought to be a goblin shark. But **Nigel Hussey** at the University of Windsor says nope, it’s a **knifefish chimaera**, which lives at depths of up to 6,600 feet.

Its large nose is loaded with sensory nerve endings to find food, such as small fish, and it has a poisonous spine on its front dorsal fin. One word: Yikes. (*In One Ear*, 11/29/13)

POP-IN PUP



“We had a special little visitor this morning down at Quatat Park,” **Tiffany Boothe** of the **Seaside Aquarium** wrote. Her photos of the **harbor seal pup** are shown. “Worried that the little guy needed some help, people watching him swim around alerted the aquarium. We responded to the call and luckily the little guy is doing just fine.

“This is the time of year when little pups begin their journeys on their own,” she added. “The estuary is a great place for them to learn to hunt fish and crab, and apparently catch a ride on a jet ski or a swan.”

CAPE CONFUSION



From The Daily Morning Astorian, July 23, 1887:

- A party of government surveyors is surveying Tillamook Bay and **Cape Meares**, where a \$60,000 light is to be erected.

Note: Rumors persisted for years that the lighthouse was supposed to have been built on Cape Lookout, but that was only because there was confusion over where the cape actually was.

Capt. John Meares, after naming the mouth of the Columbia River **Deception Bay** (he couldn’t tell if it was a river or bay), and **Cape Disappointment** (he was ... disappointed), and Tillamook Bay as **Quicksand Bay**, on his way out of said bay he named the point of land that jutted out to the south **Cape Lookout**. Which stayed Cape Lookout until the early 1850s when the nautical charts were published, and Cape Lookout was wrongly placed on a larger point 10 miles south.

Mariners soon got accustomed to calling the wrong place Cape Lookout, so the error wasn’t fixed, and the name stuck. In 1857, the original Cape Lookout was named Cape Meares, in honor of the good captain who was so fond of naming things.

The 38-foot lighthouse (the shortest in Oregon), dwellings and outbuildings were finished in 1889. The Fresnel lens was shipped around Cape Horn, and a crane made of local spruce trees was built to lift the one-ton lens up the 200-foot cliff to the lighthouse tower. The light could be seen for 21 miles.

The keeper had to trudge 1,000 feet up a steep hill to get to his residence. He also had to wind up a 200-pound weight about every two hours to power a mechanism that turned the lens. To get supplies, a monthly 6-mile row across Tillamook Bay to Tillamook was required, which could only be done at high tide. A wagon road was finally completed until 1896.

The lighthouse was decommissioned in 1963, and the beacon disconnected in 2014. As to the location confusion, “contrary to the legends that the lighthouse was misplaced,” Cleveland Rockwell, of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, stated, “it is obvious that they knew exactly where and why the lighthouse was going to be built. Cape Meares was the practical choice.” So there. (bit.ly/Meares3, bit.ly/Meares2, bit.ly/Meares1)

PELICAN WHISPERER



Linda Zech Jones and her husband, Astoria Mayor **Bruce Jones**, had an Alderbrook adventure recently.

“We had an amazing experience tonight during our evening paddle on **Alderbrook slough**,” Linda posted on Facebook recently. “We found a very young **American white pelican** hiding in brambles on the rocks. We called the **Wildlife Center of the North Coast** before we got near him. He still had downy and lots of pin feathers, no flight feathers.

“**Josh Saranpaa** (the wildlife center’s executive director) said he was too young to survive on his own ... abandoned from his nest ... and could we catch him. So, we did!

“He was weak and let me pick him up without too much grumbling, a few snaps, and rested on my lap for the trip back. Bruce towed me so I wouldn’t disturb him by paddling. Once he settled in the boat and had my fleece over him, he warmed up and seemed to enjoy the ride! He’s resting safely now.”

“The ‘First Lady/First Man/First Spouse’ honorific is not used in Astoria,” Bruce wrote, “so I am designating Linda as ‘**First Pelican Whisperer**.’ Every town needs one. She is pretty good at it.

“First rule of pelican whispering,” he added, “is call the Wildlife Center of the North Coast first before handling. Second rule is that pelicans are covered with what Josh calls ‘heavy ectoparasite loads,’ a fancy way of saying that when you carry a pelican in your lap for a while, you’ll have pouch and feather lice crawling all over you, so enjoy the creepy-crawlies! Well done Mrs. Linda Zech Jones!”

“Thanks to Josh Saranpaa at Wildlife Center of the North Coast for coming to get him. ... We’re so fortunate to have you nearby!” Linda added. “They’ll care for him till he’s old enough to be released.

“Being on the water, and so close to this magnificent bird, was an incredible experience I will never forget. Send good thoughts for a full recovery and a celebratory release for this beautiful bird.”

ANYTHING HELPS



“My dad came off of truck driving after 30-plus years,” **Daniel Baker, pastor of Lighthouse Christian Church** in Warrenton (pictured inset), wrote about his father, **Jim Baker**, who lives in Oklahoma, and has had quite a string of bad luck.

“He finally retired. The day he got home he wasn’t feeling well. He found out he had **COVID-19**. One week later he was rushed to the hospital with double pneumonia. On the way to the hospital, he had a massive heart attack.”

Jim was put in an induced coma for a while, but is now alert and eating. He’s in quarantine, and has a long way to go before he is strong enough to have the double bypass heart surgery he needs.

It’s been frustrating for the family, as they can’t visit Jim, and can only speak to him during hospital rounds, when a nurse can hold a phone to his ear. In the meantime, Jim’s wife, **Connie**, also caught the coronavirus, and is in quarantine, too, at home.

Because Jim got sick before he could sign up for his Social Security retirement benefits, income is an issue during these difficult times. So Daniel set up a fundraiser at GoFundMe (bit.ly/JimBaker).

“Anything helps,” Daniel explained. “If you cannot give financially that is OK, I understand. If you could at least be in prayer, his health is what we are hopeful for, more than the bills piling up.”

DO NOT PASS GO ...



ToyNews (bit.ly/GoonMonop) reports that **Hasbro** has released a new board game, **Monopoly: The Goonies**. Here’s the ToyNews description of the game:

“Goonies never say die, but they can go straight to jail, or pass GO and collect \$200, and continue their quest for **One-Eyed Willy’s hidden treasure**, while buying and selling locations around **Astoria, Oregon**, the setting of their filmic adventure in this nostalgia trip in a box.

“Players can choose from a selection of collectable tokens such as Chester Copperpot’s key, the Gold Doubloon and other memorable items from the film, all while trying to be last player with the loot.”

To see the game in action, go to bit.ly/Monopvid. A screenshot of the video is shown, courtesy of TheOp. games For those who must have it, the game is available online.

LOCAL BREVITIES



Morsels from The Daily Astorian, July 23, 1882:

- **Hens’ eggs** 1,200 years old have been found in St Elmo, France. We’ve always maintained that something more ancient than Portland eggs would someday be reported, and, behold! Here we have it.
- **Mr. H. N. Keen** ... is having a little time of his own in **Portland**. He was robbed the first night ... was sent to jail drunk the next, the night after he had the snakes in his boot ... and the next day he received word that his wife had lit out for Salt Lake.
- Long biographies of Astor (pictured) are published in Eastern papers. Boiled down, they condense thusly: **John Jacob Astor** came from Germany to New York with six flutes; sold them; invested in the furs; kept on. ... Sent some men to Oregon, invented Astoria, grew rich, died; exit Astor.