

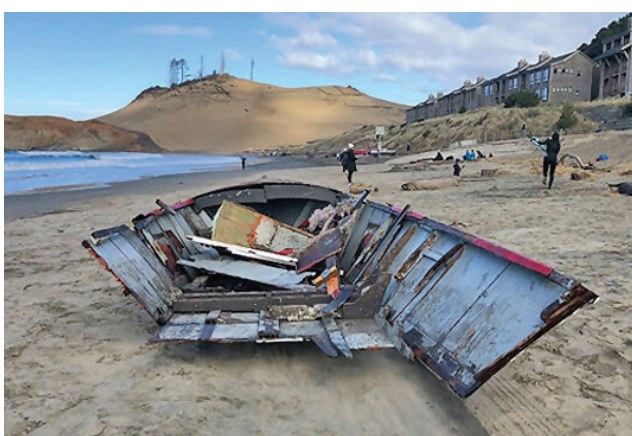
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IN ONE EAR • ELLEDA WILSON

## WRONG CALL



**Two men in dory** had a very close call on March 9. A report came in at 10:18 a.m. that a boat had capsized in the ocean near Cape Kiwanda in Pacific City, the Tillamook County Sheriff's Office posted on Facebook. Deputies **Dennis Greiner** and **Ben Berger** responded. Here's what happened:

That morning, a fisherman was determined to retrieve his crab gear and launched his 21-foot dory **Jomar** into the surf, despite being warned by fellow dorymen that it wasn't safe. Although he took an observer along with him, neither one of them was wearing a life jacket. Luckily, they were wearing wetsuits.

On their third attempt to get out through the surf, water came in over the bow. Deciding maybe the sea really was too rough after all, the fisherman turned around to head for shore. In the process, so much water poured in over the transom that bailing became useless.

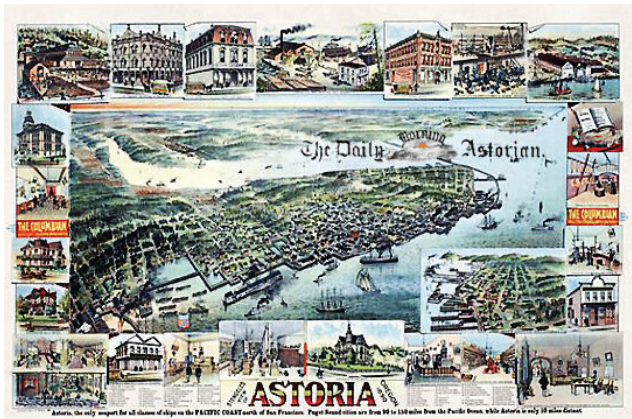
At that point, the fisherman tried using the motor, but it was too late. The boat was sinking. There was only one recourse: They jumped overboard and swam for it. As he explained to Greiner, he "ghost-ridged the whip to the beach, man, jumped out and that was it."

Fortunately, both men were experienced surfers and swam to the beach unhurt. The Jomar did not fare nearly as well, and broke apart. A photo is shown, courtesy of the sheriff's office.

"We make tough decisions every day," noted an experienced dory fisherman, who witnessed the drama unfolding. "Sometimes we make the wrong call."

Greiner's response to the morning's narrow escape was far pithier: "Your livelihood is not worth your life."

## GLIMPSES



**Glimpses of life from The Daily Morning Astorian, March 19, 1889:**

- "I've got 'em again," said a man yesterday as, rubbing his eye, he saw what seemed to be a sea serpent wriggling along Third Street. It proved to be a string of net floats on the end of a line that was tied to a moving truck three blocks ahead.

- When the Columbia arrived at San Francisco last Saturday she was flying the yellow flag, having a case of smallpox among the cabin passengers. It had developed since leaving last Thursday.

- Chas. Johnson and Ella Brown were married, and a party went to give them a "shivaree" (noisy celebration). One, named Seacrust, heightened the general joy of the occasion by blazing away with a revolver to help the thing along. He shot the bridegroom, who died last Tuesday. Seacrust feels real bad about it.

## EYESORE



One of the most controversial aftereffects of the **2011 Japanese tsunami**, which had its 10th anniversary last week, is the government's response: building enormous, view-blocking **seawalls** to replace the old ones, which proved ineffective.

According to a story on ABC.net.au, a wall is being built 46 feet high and will cover 248.5 miles of threatened coastline. It's costing \$17 billion, and not all are happy with its looming presence. Photos of the wall are at bit.ly/coastwall; one, by Oscar Boyd, is shown.

"We're all very sad that our former lifestyle has gone," oyster farmer Atsushi Fujita observed, "and we can no longer see the ocean from our windows. It's really affecting us a lot."

Love the wall or hate it, there's not much argument on one thing: It's an eyesore.

## A BEAUTIFUL CREATURE



Last week there was news of a **gray whale** lway up the Columbia River near Ridgefield, Washington.

**Scott Kaul** and his son, **JT Kaul**, and his son's friends, **Corky Reed** and **Carson Grant**, were testing some new gear for Scott's company, Brad's Killer Fishing Gear, in Longview, Washington, when they spotted the meandering mammal, and posted a video on **Facebook** (fb.me/BradsKillerFishingGear). A screenshot is shown.

"They were trolling with some new flashers, and possibly the constant flash led the whale to believe it was a school of salmon," Scott speculated. "Not sure. But it followed the boat, just behind it, for about 4 miles.

"Each time it surfaced, everyone assumed it was a sea lion breathing through its air hole ... (but) the sound got progressively louder, making everyone wonder if it was ... possibly a whale. But no one really thought a whale would be up that far.

"Eventually everyone in the boat began believing this could have, indeed, been a whale. It was just under the surface, and you could see the wake. As soon as the camera came out it raised out of the water, so it was just one of those right place/right time things.

"We're not sure why the whale followed the boat for so long, but it kept at the same speed (1.7 to 1.8 mph) for several miles until it finally passed the boat and headed down river toward the coast."

"We received a report of another live whale within the past couple of years in the Portland airport area," **Dalin D'Alessandro**, of the **Northern Oregon/Southern Washington Marine Mammal Stranding Network**, recalled. "However, this sighting could not be confirmed, and there were no further sightings reported.

"That being said it is rare, but not unheard of, for whales to head up river systems," she noted. "... The hope would be that (this whale) continues its outbound travel and returns to the ocean."

If you see it, notify the Seaside Aquarium at seasideaquarium@gmail.com

"Hopefully it made it all the way," Scott added. "It's a beautiful creature, and one we'd all like to see survive."

## STEEPED IN HISTORY



An interesting tidbit from a **March 1887** edition of **The Daily Astorian**:

- ... A heavy landslide occurred one mile below **Pillar Rock**, Washington Territory ... a mass of earth sliding from the bluff into the water, carrying trees, soil, rocks, etc., and completely demolishing two houses owned and occupied by (two families who made) their escape in their night clothing. Both families are reported to be in a destitute condition.

**Note:** Taking a look at a geological map reveals that yes, indeed, the area is a landslide zone (bit.ly/Pillar-map). The town of Pillar Rock took its name from a monolith that sits about 900 feet offshore in the Columbia River, a few miles east of **Altoona**. Both the area and the rock are steeped in history.

The rock's original name was **Taluaptea**, after a **Wahkiakum** chief. He angered the gods, who turned him to stone. Originally 75 to 100 feet high, Pillar Rock was eventually flattened to 25 feet to install a navigation marker and light.

The **Lewis and Clark Expedition** stopped at Pillar Rock twice, first on Nov. 7, 1805, when William Clark's famous quote "Great joy in camp we are in View of the Ocean ..." was written. They stopped again on Nov. 25 that year, while backtracking to find a narrower spot to cross the Columbia.

In the 1830s, a **Hudson's Bay Co.** fish receiving station and saltery was operational at Pillar Rock during salmon season. From 1877 to 1947, the Pillar Rock Cannery packed salmon. In 1947, the decline in both the salmon and Chinook runs caused both the Altoona and Pillar Rock canneries to close.

**The Pillar Rock Cannery** still stands, but is now privately owned, and isn't accessible except by invitation or (history buffs, take note) during a stay at the Pillar Rock Cannery Escape Airbnb. (bit.ly/PillarRock, bit.ly/PillarRock1)

## UNDER A CLOUD



During **Astoria's winters**, some whining can be heard about the number of gray and cloudy days. Those looking at the glass as half empty may now be able to view it as half full, thanks to nautical writer Astorian **Peter Marsh** (sea-to-summit.net).

"You think its cloudy here? Try the **Faroe Islands**," he observed, referring to the online article "**Top 10 Cities that Receive the Least Sunshine**" (bit.ly/graydayz).

The world's No. 1 darkest city is **Tórshavn** (pictured) — the biggest town on the largest island, **Streymoy** — the capitol of the Faroe Islands. The islands are self-governing but under the sovereignty of **Denmark**.

On the bright side, the climate is fairly mild, with a summer high of about 54 degrees Fahrenheit; in winter, the high is around 43 degrees Fahrenheit, but the temperature rarely dips below freezing. Like our fair city, it rains most often in fall and winter.

But ... Tórshavn records an average of only 2.4 hours of sunshine per day and a dismal **840** hours per year. Feeling better now?

## WHAT IS IT?



**Fun rerun:** "We just found one of our crab pots!" **Kari Petersen** posted on Facebook. "It is like finding a needle in a haystack. Big ocean." The **crab pot** is pictured.

"What in the world is on this crab pot?" she asked. "That crab pot has been in the ocean for years ... It is all over the rope and pot."

"The consensus of the researchers here at **Point Adams** is that this anemone is of the genus **Metridium** farcimen, otherwise known as the **Gigantic Anemone**," **Michelle Rub**, a fisheries biologist at National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration in Hammond, wrote. "But it's hard to say definitively without seeing the plumes."

**Kelsey Adkisson**, of the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife's Marine Resources Program, wrote that "our biologists said they are a type of anemone called pile or plumose anemones" and agree about the genus.

So, there you have it: Anemone, genus **Metridium**; exact species — hard to say, under the circumstances. (In One Ear, 5/19/17)

## ROCKY ROOOOAAAD



**Serendipity Brands** owns the iconic Serendipity 3 restaurant in New York City, open since 1954, which is particularly known for its desserts and specialty ice cream pints.

"It has been said that our sundaes make you feel like a child again," the website says. "That's been our aim since the beginning ..."

So it's no surprise that Serendipity has teamed up with Warner Bros. to produce a new ice cream flavor, based on another childhood favorite: **The Goonies Sloth & Chunk Rocky Rooooaad**, made of "chocolate marshmallow swirl ice cream with fudge-covered almonds." A pint is pictured, courtesy of Serendipity.

And yes, you can order it online at bit.ly/goonpint for \$7.99 a pint. Getting it here is another matter: \$29 for standard shipping; \$85.76 for two-day air; or \$88.77 for overnight. So, you might want to rethink that idea.