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IN ONE EAR • ELLEDA WILSON

## MIND BLOWING



Fall is in the air, and one of the things that comes to mind is pumpkins. Halloween, pumpkin pies, pumpkin bread, you name it. So it's no wonder that a story about Alaska's biggest pumpkin ever in the Anchorage Daily News was eye-catching ([bit.ly/bigsquash](http://bit.ly/bigsquash)).

**Dale Marshall**, of Anchorage, hauled his **2,051 pound pumpkin** to the Alaska State Fair. He is pictured, with his prize-winner and the Pumpkin and Cabbage Fairies, courtesy of the Alaska State Fair Facebook page.

"It was mind blowing," Marshall told the Anchorage Daily News. "... Nobody has grown a pumpkin this size this far north in the world." It took 79 days to grow, and required a minimum of 75 gallons of water a day. (Don't try this in Astoria.)

There is no pie in the sky, as the pumpkin is inedible. But only for humans — it will be donated to the Alaska Wildlife Conservation Center.

Just so you know, the largest pumpkin in U.S. history, at 2,528 pounds, was grown by Steve Geddes, of New Hampshire; and, according to Guinness World Records, the world's biggest, at 2,624 pounds, was grown by Mathias Willemijns, of Belgium. ([bit.ly/bigsquash2](http://bit.ly/bigsquash2)) (*In One Ear*, 9/12/2019)

## RARE SIGHT



Marine biology enthusiasts will be interested to know that a team of Australian researchers has been sending out **drones to study southern right whales** and their calves, NewAtlas reports ([tinyurl.com/whiteright](http://tinyurl.com/whiteright)). Consequently, without disturbing them, the whales can be measured, and the team can learn more about their health and reproduction.

On one such overflight recently, a **white calf** was seen, swimming alongside an adult. The pair are pictured in a screenshot from a Murdoch University Cetacean Research Unit video. Apparently, a very small percentage of right whales are born white, but they usually turn black by the time they're a year old — so this was a very rare sighting, indeed. (*In One Ear*, 9/16/2016)

## BACK IN THE GOONDOCK



To the delight of "The Goonies" fans everywhere, on Sept. 10 **Corey Feldman** posted a selfie of a reunion with Goonies co-stars (**Jonathan**) **Ke Huy Quan** and **Sean Astin** on Facebook, Instagram (@cdogg22) and Twitter (@Corey\_Feldman).

He didn't say about where they were, though: "#GOONIE DINNER! HERE I AM LAST NITE CATCHING UP W FORMER CAST M8S, @seanastin & @JonathanKeQuan. #LOVELY #NEVERSAIDIE #30thanniversary." However, a little sleuthing revealed all three were in Indianapolis Sept. 8 through Sept. 10. They were appearing at HorrorHound Weekend for "celebrity signings" and to take part in panel discussions, so it's not surprising they got together for dinner. (*In One Ear*, 9/15/2017)

## GOING POSTAL



While researching, the Ear came across some **postal oddities** in "Oregon Geographic Names: IV; Additions since 1944" ([bit.ly/weirdpo](http://bit.ly/weirdpo)). Pictured, Astoria's first post office.

Did you know there was an **Albert** post office? It was in a small community of the same name "on the upper reaches of Blind Slough a little to the south of Aldrich Point."

The place was established on Sept. 11, 1901, with **Nels Haglund** settled in as first postmaster, but it was **Albert Berglund**, the second postmaster, that the place is named after.

When the office closed on Sept. 15, 1913, the mail then went to the **Blind Slough** post office, established in 1910, which had four postmasters before it closed in 1924. ([bit.ly/bslough](http://bit.ly/bslough)).

But you didn't know there was a **Chadwell** post office, either. Chadwell is described as a "locality on Lewis and Clark River, about 4 miles south of Miles Crossing and south of Astoria."

Early settlers **William True** and his wife settled there, and named the place after their former hometown Chadwell, England. The post office was established on Feb. 20, 1882, with True as the first postmaster.

The 1884 "Oregon, Washington and Idaho Gazetteer and Business Directory" describes Chadwell as follows: "It contains a steam shingle mill (probably Sackett Bros.), and ships logs and farm produce. Population, 25. Mail, weekly." ([bit.ly/OWIgaz](http://bit.ly/OWIgaz)). The date of the post office's closure is not certain.

And then there was the **Wise** post office, in the Tucker Creek District, south of Miles Crossing, which opened in June 1895, with postmaster **Hugh McCormick** in charge, and closed in May 1903. This post office was very likely named after **Herman Wise**, Astoria's long-time postmaster ([bit.ly/hwise](http://bit.ly/hwise)).

Wise, whose house still stands at 1064 Harrison Ave., was an Oregon pioneer businessman who also served as mayor of Astoria from 1906 to 1910, as well as owning a thriving clothing business: "You can't look foolish when you wear a Wise suit" ([bit.ly/hwise01](http://bit.ly/hwise01)). (*In One Ear*, 9/12/2019)

## LOCAL BREVITIES



From the **Friday, Sept. 12, 1884**, edition of **The Daily Morning Astorian**:

• **J. O. Spencer** is in the city from Clifton and was busy shaking hands with his numerous friends last evening.

**Note:** Mr. Spencer wrote to the newspaper about goings on in Clifton. Here's his response to the news that **Capt. John B. Morrison** was looking for his son, believed drowned in a horrific storm in May 1880, during which several fishermen were lost:

"**Donald Morrison** was here from the 17th to the 20th of May and said he was pulling a boat in Astoria at the time of the storm. His partner was drowned, and he was saved by the (steamer) **Rip Van Winkle**.

"He left here on the 20th for Knappa, Oregon, expecting to find work in a logging camp. He was satisfied with his fishing experience and didn't wish to continue. Have not heard of him since. He may be the one Capt. Morrison ... is inquiring about; if so, he is alive and apparently in good health." ("River's End," **Liisa Penner**)

• **Cyrus W. Field** (pictured), the man who crossed the Atlantic 187 times and finally succeeded in making the Atlantic (telegraph) cable a success, is visiting the North Pacific coast.

**Note:** Mr. Field (1819-1892), a financier and one of the founders of the American Telegraph Co., first considered a transatlantic cable in 1854. The initial attempt failed. An 1857 try went south when the cable split after 335 miles had been laid.

A cable laid in 1858 parted, but was spliced, and they called it good. Which it was — long enough for Queen Victoria to telegraph congratulations to President James Buchanan, anyway. But it stopped working shortly thereafter.

The Civil War interrupted the project, but Field was back at it in 1865, laying a bigger cable this time. Six hundred miles off Newfoundland, it split, and couldn't be saved. However, in 1866, he pulled it off; a cable finally connected the two continents, and better yet, it worked. ([bit.ly/CyField](http://bit.ly/CyField)) (*In One Ear*, 9/12/2019)

## TURKEY TOWN



The Oregon town of **Pilot Rock** has a problem: It's being **overrun by wild turkeys**, the East Oregonian reports ([tinyurl.com/turkeyville](http://tinyurl.com/turkeyville)). The birds stroll into town in a flock of about 50 to 70, then split up to divide and conquer with turkey poop, snacking their way through local gardens. Some of the fowl trespassers are pictured, in a photo by E.J. Harris.

"Nothing is left," resident **Mary Ann Low** complained. "They dust bathe in the soil. They eat whatever is there."

The Pilot Rock City Council — after discussing and discarding starting a spay and neuter program or just plain grabbing shotguns — has called in the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife to tackle the turkey issue.

"No matter what we do, we're never going to get rid of all of them," state fish and wildlife biologist **Greg Rimbach** observed. "We'll always have a few turkeys." (*In One Ear*, 9/15/2017)

## BEER GLUE



File this one under "Why Didn't Someone Think of This Sooner": Danish beer maker **Carlsberg** has come up with an idea that will make both beer drinkers and environmentalists happy: The **Snap Pack**, pictured courtesy of Carlsberg ([bit.ly/ecocar1](http://bit.ly/ecocar1)).

Instead of those plastic ring holders that keep a six-pack together, Snap Pack cans of beer are held together with a dab of glue that is strong enough to do the job, yet it's still easy to pull the cans apart.

Carlsberg figures this new packaging method will reduce the amount of plastic used in traditional multipacks by up to 76%. And, between the Snap Pack and other recent eco-friendly innovations they've come up with, Carlsberg estimates they'll reduce global plastic waste by the equivalent of about 60 million plastic bags a year. No small feat, indeed. (*In One Ear*, 9/14/2018)

## SHUTTERBUG BLISS



**Seaside Aquarium's Tiffany Boothe** has accomplished quite a coup, and the dream of many a photographer: She's had one of her photos published in **National Geographic** — both online at [tinyurl.com/tiff-NatGeo](http://tinyurl.com/tiff-NatGeo) and in the September 2016 issue of the magazine. Her image is one of the illustrations for the article, "The Blob That Cooked the Pacific," by **Craig Welch**, about the effects of warm ocean water on the West Coast.

A section of her photo is shown. The caption is: "Jellyfish-like animals known as 'by-the-wind sailors' blanket an Oregon beach near an old shipwreck. Some of the same unusual wind patterns and currents that recently warmed the Pacific pushed these floating creatures by the millions onto beaches from Southern California to British Columbia." (*In One Ear*, 9/16/2016)