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IN ONE EAR • ELLEDA WILSON

## GOOD NEWS, BAD NEWS



In good news from the Japan Times, once popular **Iwasawa beach** in Naraha, in **Fukushima Prefecture**, is finally open. This is after 11 years of closure after damage from the **triple meltdown** at the Tokyo Electric Power Company Holdings Inc. **nuclear power plant** during the 2011 earthquake and tsunami caused radiation leaks.

The entire area around the plant was abandoned at the time in fear of radiation exposure. Even now, few have come back, even though the area has been declared safe. In fact, the beach in question, which once attracted around 30,000 visitors a year, is in a former evacuation zone and about 15.5 miles from the power plant.

"We want the beach to once again become a popular tourist spot," the mayor of Naraha said.

In the not-so-good news, Japan Times reported that Japan's nuclear regulator approved a plan to **dump** the nuclear power plant's once contaminated, but now **treated water** into the ocean, starting next spring. The dumping is expected to take several decades. Needless to say, many Japanese citizens, not to mention the South Koreans and Chinese, have filed complaints.

If Japan "insists on taking a dangerous step," China's Foreign Ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin warned, "it will definitely pay the price for its irresponsible behavior, and leave a historical stain." (Photo: Kyodo)

## MADE TO HAPPEN



North Carolinian **Brian Herbst**, while taking an Alaskan vacation that covered fishing, seeing wildlife and camping, added snapping a once-in-a-lifetime photo to his itinerary, the Anchorage Daily News reports.

While on a ferry ride July 12 in **Kachemak Bay**, the captain alerted everyone to a whale in the distance, which began swimming toward them. Holding his camera, "I was like front row on this, and I was like, 'I'm gonna get this thing, chah chah chah chah,'" Herbst recalled, as the **minke whale** leapt out of the water, and he got the stunning shot shown.

**Marc Webber**, a marine mammal research scientist, noted that it's rare to catch a minke whale breaching, and called the shot a "remarkable photograph." He also explained that people don't see minke whales very often, as they are shy, and avoid boats. They are only 25 to 30 feet long, swim very fast and weigh up to 20,000 pounds.

Meanwhile, Herbst's shot went viral. "We just hit it so perfect," he said. "It was just made to happen."

## LICENSE TO WED



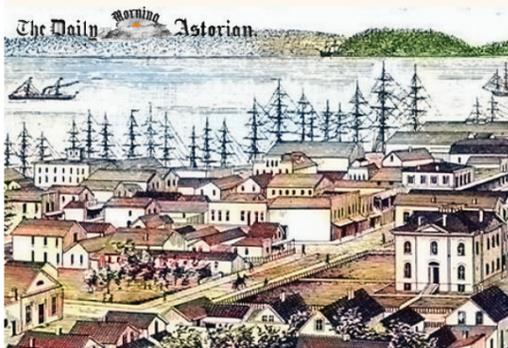
The **Clatsop County Clerk's Office** released a press release about one of her many duties, issuing marriage licenses.

County Clerk **Tracie Krevanko** said her office processes about two dozen marriage licenses each week, which is roughly triple the usual number. Couples from all over the U.S. are drawn here to exchange their vows because of the large number of dramatic scenic backdrops available to choose from.

Just so you know, weddings aren't being performed at the clerk's office anymore. Before getting the certificate, you need to be aware of the rules (one of which is a three-day wait) which are here: [bit.ly/ClatsopWed](http://bit.ly/ClatsopWed)

"When you add up the local people wanting to get married with out-of-state couples," Krevanko said, "we are having a lot of people wanting to get a license."

## LOCAL BREVITIES



Tidbits from **The Daily Morning Astorian**, July 29, 1884:

- The New Northwest publishes a list of banner precincts on the **women's suffrage** vote. **Clifton**, in this county, leads the list, where 98% of the votes cast were recorded in favor of the amendment. Eight Clatsop County precincts gave the amendment a majority.

**Note:** Oregon put women's suffrage on the ballot six times, more often than any other state, in 1884, 1900, 1906, 1908, 1910 and 1912, when it finally passed at the state level. Women finally got the right to vote nationwide with the ratification of the 19th Amendment in 1920.

- A bizarre note in the territorial news: **Thomas Haskell**, aged 18, of Goldendale, Washington Territory, killed himself last Saturday because he couldn't go to the circus.

- Glue** is now used in the manufacture of cheap grades of ice cream. That is ice cream "with a stick in it," as it were.

**Note:** Unfortunately, ice cream manufacturers were substituting glue for gelatin, because it was cheaper. Even in 1920, the Buffalo Labor Journal claimed ice cream at the time was made of "condensed milk, glue, preserved with formaldehyde and colored with aniline dye."

- A town in **Connecticut** had a marriage, an elopement, a fire, a funeral, a circus, a murder and a thunderstorm on the same day, and **Deadwood** is asked to take a back seat.

**Note:** Legendary **Deadwood**, North Dakota, was a wild and woolly town, originally a gold miners' camp. The town's website says it "attracted outlaws, gamblers and gunslingers." Both **Wild Bill Hickok** and **Calamity Jane** are buried there.

- Finally, a "fresh fashion note": White stockings are coming in again. Doctors are beginning to discover that the sole of the foot absorbs dyes, whether black or colored, and that a continuous process of slow blood poisoning is now going on among those who wear colored stockings. They (the doctors, not the stockings) attribute to this several new diseases that have lately been added to the heritage of our human flesh.

**Note:** Victorians' colorful clothing could accurately have been described as "to die for," since many fabric dyes contained arsenic and other poisonous ingredients that leached into the skin.

## NO DRAMA LLAMA



A tempest in a teapot was whipped up on Facebook last week when it was thought that a live **llama** was being used to advertise a hot dog stand in Seaside.

Yes, indeed, there was a live llama in Seaside, but he is not just any old llama, and his appearance had nothing to do with hot dogs. He is "**Caesar, the No Drama Llama**," llamactivist, therapy llama, World's Most Huggable Llama, and a celebrity in his own right (with his own Facebook page) who lives on the Mystic Llama Farm in Jefferson.

Actually, Caesar was in Seaside and Cannon Beach on business, to promote and autograph his children's book, "**Caesar the No Drama Llama**," written and illustrated by **Bee Dugan**. Sadly, it was not explained how a llama autographs books.

Generous with his time, the llamactivist is available for free farm visits for small groups, virtual classroom visits, virtual nonprofit meetings and care home walkabouts. He travels with his companion, Larry McCool, with a mission of spreading good vibes and giving "amazing hugs." He has been featured in People magazine and in the Washington Post, and has even received international recognition.

"He's a magical creature," McCool told People, and said Caesar's disposition is similar to a dog's: "I wish I could take some credit for him, but he's developed all on his own. I've been his tutor and his guide, but sometimes I'm the one following him."

## 'THE EMOTIONAL ACTRESS'



According to **The Daily Morning Astorian**, on **July 29, 1884**, famed actress, the "great" **Charlotte Thompson**, was soon to appear at the **New York Novelty Store**, and eagerly awaited.

In anticipation, several Astoria notables posted "a card" to the actress, pleading with her that "in addition to the great enjoyment anticipated in witnessing your personation of **Jane Eyre** (pictured), you will, on the second evening, render your famous impersonation of **Nell Gwyn**." Gwyn (1650-1687), was a witty British actress who was also the mistress of Charles II.

Thompson, "the emotional actress," who was born in London and came to the U.S. with her father in the 1850s, was well known for her performances while touring the Old West. She was best remembered for portraying **Jane Eyre**, and played the part in 1874, 1883 to 1885, and in the Eastern U.S. in 1875, 1877, 1885 and 1887.

Consistently receiving rave reviews, this one is from the San Jose Mercury News in September 1884: "The years that have passed since she first appeared in this city have fallen lightly upon her. The same fire, the same genius that won for her so many warm admirers, remains to her in undiminished force ... In her line, we think she stands foremost upon the American stage; certainly she has no superior."

## 'YOU CAN'T BE SHY'



OK, aspiring writers, this one's for you: There's a new reality TV show in the works, "**America's Next Great Author**," hosted by bestselling (and prolific) author, Kwame Alexander, who has had 36 books published.

The show "is the groundbreaking reality television series geared toward anyone who loves drama on or off the page," the press release says. "First, nationwide tryouts in iconic American cities show off amateur writers as they get one minute to pitch their book ideas to a panel of publishing experts."

"Six charismatic finalists ... enter the Writer's Retreat together for a month of live-wire challenges and spectacular storytelling. These talented amateurs have to start their books from scratch on day one of the retreat, and finish the novel by the end of the 30 days." The winner gets a \$2,500 cash prize for the best pitch and "a prominent role" in the pilot episode.

Interested? Check out [americasnextgreaauthor.com](http://americasnextgreaauthor.com). Need a little encouragement to enter? Watch Kwame's video on Twitter at @ANGAtvshow. "You can't be scared, y'all," he urges. "You can't be shy." (Photo: Twitter screenshot)

## UP A TREE



**Treetop rerun:** Animal Planet's TV show "**Treehouse Masters**," with builder **Pete Nelson**, is featuring a hexagonal treehouse (pictured inset) being built in the **Neskowin** area, replete with some furniture from locally owned **Roby's Furniture and Appliance**.

**Andrea Langeliere**, Roby's co-owner, said the program contacted the store's marketing manager, and asked if Roby's was interested in helping furnish the treehouse. The deal was made, so the show's interior designer arrived, picked out the furniture, and set the delivery date.

It turned out to be a very windy, blustery day on the coast, not exactly treehouse weather, but the show must go on. Even when the show is up a tree. That is moving. Nevertheless, all went well. The Roby's crew is pictured with Pete Nelson, who is wearing the white hat.

"The guys (from the show) were so much fun, and they were making jokes and helping out," Andrea recalled. "Our delivery team had a really good time with it." (In One Ear, 9/18/2015)