



"Foreign Correspondent"  
Michael Ludwig reports on interesting news from the natural world.

## Town leads the way

Are you tired of being sent to school with an apple? Parents and students in Killorglin, Co. Kerry, are being given a unique opportunity to work with STOP Food Waste and the EPA to reduce family food costs by reducing waste. Because we throw away almost one-third of the food we purchase, over the next few months the townspeople will look at ways of shopping, eating smarter, helping educate future generations, and saving money.



## Overfilling Kettles Wastes Lots of Money!

A study in the UK found that three-quarters of households overfill their kettles, wasting £68m each year. Boiling a full kettle of water, which may have a six-cup capacity, for just one cup of tea means you heat five cups of water unnecessarily. Keeping this in mind when making the tea will help save on the energy bills!



## Big, Beautiful and Smelly!

This summer the National Botanic Garden in Belgium had visitors queuing up to see the world's largest and smelliest flower, the Titan Arum. You would think that the size of this magnificent flower, rising to 2.44 m (8ft), would be its main attraction but its strong stench of rotting meat is equally as fascinating. Also known as the "corpse flower", this name should give you some idea of just how badly it smells! Visitors had to be quick to get a glimpse, and smell, of the flower. It blooms very rarely and only for about three days. The Titan Arum in the Belgian Gardens is an exception in that it has flowered three times since 2008.

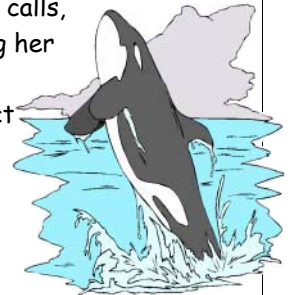


Courtesy of US Botanic Garden

Titan Arum, the world's tallest and smelliest flower.

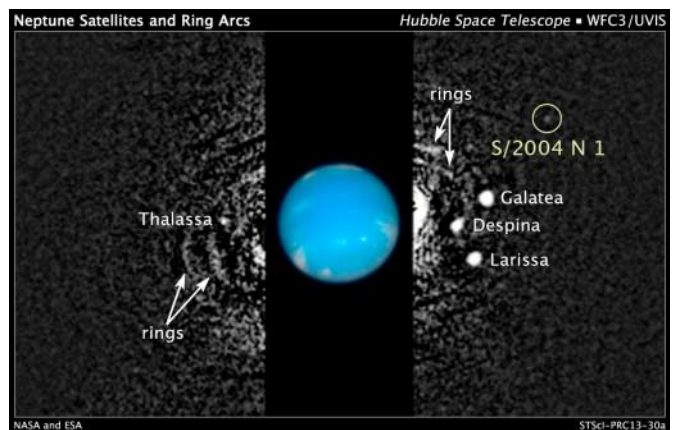
## A New Addition

Eleven years ago an orphaned killer whale (Orca) calf, named 'Springer' was rescued from Puget Sound in Washington State, USA, nursed to health and returned to her family in Canada. The local community, NOAA and Canadian Fisheries officials were rewarded last week when Springer was sighted with her own new calf. In 2002, Springer was found sick and alone. Everyone was concerned. Researchers used photos of her colouring and dorsal fin, as well as recordings of her calls, to find her pod (family). Keeping her alive and returning her to the pod was a feat in itself. The fact that she was accepted back into the pod and has now produced young, is making everyone smile.



## "New" Moon for Neptune

NASA's Hubble Space Telescope has discovered a new moon orbiting the distant blue-green planet Neptune, the 14th known moon to be circling the giant planet. The moon, currently known as S/2004 N 1, is estimated to be no more than 12 miles across, making it the smallest known moon in the Neptunian system. It is so small and dim it escaped detection by NASA's Voyager 2 spacecraft, which flew past Neptune in 1989. Mark Showalter of the SETI Institute in Mountain View, California, USA, found the moon on 1st July 2013, while studying the faint arcs, or segments of rings, around Neptune. Looking far beyond the ring segments, he noticed the white dot about 65,400 miles from Neptune. Having plotted a circular orbit for the moon, he noticed it completes one revolution around Neptune every 23 hours.



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