

CLEAR SAILING?



Astorians can't help but be ship conscious, with all the maritime traffic gliding by every day. Ever wonder what the next innovation in container ships might be? China Shipping Container Lines has already done the "bigger is better" concept with the MV CSCL Globe, which won't even fit through the newly widened Panama Canal.

CNN reports that the next big thing in the shipping industry just might be VindSkip (<http://tinyurl.com/norsevind>). The Norwegian-designed cargo ship would use its hull's high sides as sails, and is expected to save 60 percent on fuel costs, 80 percent of carbon dioxide emissions, and can run on liquefied natural gas, avoiding sulphur emissions, a growing problem in the industry.

A model of the ship is shown, courtesy of the designer, Lade AS in Oslo. A video of how it works at sea is on their website, www.ladeas.no

"VindSkip can almost sail into the wind; in this way it's more like an airplane," said speed sailor Terje Lade, who developed the aerodynamic design. "It uses apparent wind, or the sail wind, to generate pull in much the same way that an airplane will take off when it reaches a certain speed."

Computer software is being developed in Germany to calculate the best sailing route, based on wind and weather, which would be updated daily. "At each waypoint it would check with the time arrival and tell the crew whether to speed up using the engines or slow down," Lade said. "It makes it very easy for the crew."

Norway shipowners Wilhelmsen are already on board "on a technical basis" CNN says, and Lade expects the world's first VindSkip will be launched by 2019. Stay tuned.

STOP 'N SNACK



Thanks to designer, photographer and Goonie fan extraordinaire Fred China, aka the French Goonie, you can watch an uncut scene, "Stop 'n Snack" that was deleted from the movie "The Goonies" at <http://tinyurl.com/gooncut>. A screen shot is shown.

The five-minute scene takes place mainly at the store on the corner of 37th Street in Astoria. It's essentially about how Mikey compares the treasure map to a map of Cannon Beach he finds on a rack in the store — and realizes he knows where the treasure is. All of the Goonie kids are in the scene; of particular note is Chunk, with his head in a freezer, slurping out of ice cream containers.

Fred posted the link on his Facebook page, <http://tinyurl.com/goon1632>, which is a must for Goonie fans, as he is always posting Goonie-related treats.

A FUN AND LIVELY GROUP



"The Tiger Cub Scouts Pack 211 recently visited Coast Community Radio's 'Skinnamarink' Program," wrote Debbie Twombly, host of the children's program, which is at 11 a.m. Saturday mornings on KMUN and KTCB. She is pictured with the group.

"The six Scouts are all first-graders at Astor Elementary School, and are earning beads as they complete different activities in the community," she explained. "They joined me and shared with the radio audience information about what scouting is to them in this, their first year in the organization. Two of the scouts joined me in reading an African-American folktale."

"They were a fun and lively group," she added, "and left me energized and smiling for the rest of the day!"

In One Ear



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CHANGE OF HARVEST

So, what do you do with an old fishing trawler once its outlived its original use? Well, a Norwegian project has come up with a dandy use: harvesting wave power. To accomplish this, an old fishing vessel has been placed offshore in the Stadthavet area, anchored so it's always facing incoming waves.

The boat is equipped with four chambers in the bow, each topped by a turbine on the deck, a recent Gizmag.com article explains (<http://tinyurl.com/fishwatts>). Water flows into the chambers, and as the level rises, the air pressure in the top of the chamber increases, driving the turbine and generating electricity. When water flows back out, the lowered air pressure sucks air in through the turbine and also makes it spin.

The boat, pictured courtesy of Gizmag, is expected to produce an estimated 320,000 kilowatt-hours per year, but the project partners want to build a bigger plant with a larger boat — and down the line, a semi-submersible vessel with a 4-megawatt wave power plant. However, the reinvigorated trawler seems a good place to start.



BOTTOMS UP



Beer drinking fans might want one of these: North Drinkware's first product, The Oregon Pint glass (pictured). The brainchild of Nic Ramirez, Matt and Leigh Capozzi, it's a custom blown, American made, 16-ounce glass that has Mount Hood molded into the base.

The notes on their Kickstarter website (<http://tinyurl.com/orepint>) are enough to both impress and make sudsophiles thirsty. "Using U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) data (depicting ridges, canyons, and peak) a 3-D model of Mount Hood is integrated into the mold so your beer cascades around the mountain when you pour it into the glass."

North Drinkware went in asking for \$15,000 for the project, but has pledges totaling around \$450,000.

"After The Oregon Pint we plan to roll out glasses to other regions with a strong craft beer scene," the website says. One suggestion: Think Astoria.

ANGRY OWL



The ex-governor's not the only one in Salem who's receiving national press attention. MSNBC's Rachel Maddow, pictured in a screen shot from her Feb. 5 show, mentioned the angry attack owl who's been swooping down to snatch hats, claw heads and generally scare the stuffing out of unsuspecting runners in Bush's Pasture Park (www.msnbc.com/rachel-maddow-show). Nesting season, which runs through March, seems to bring out the dive-bombing worst in the avian.

Maddow was so amused by the irritable barred owl, that as a gag, she created a "Beware of Angry Owl" sign (pictured inset) to warn parkgoers, and offered to let Salem use the design, free of charge. To her delight, the city went for it, and the owl warning signs went up in the park last week. "You know what?" she chuckled in a Feb. 12 segment. "Write my obituary right now. If we have accomplished nothing else on television, let this be the legacy of the Rachel Maddow Show."

By the way, the Statesman Journal in Salem had a "Name the Owl" contest. Are you ready for the winner? It's Owlcapone.

IT'S ELEMENTARY, REDUX

For the last two weeks, there have been items in this column about NBC's Saturday Night Live using a shot of the John Jacob Astor Elementary School in one of the Jan. 31 skits — but the name of the school was changed to Astoria Elementary School. A screen shot from the movie is shown.



Some sharp-eyed Astorians solved the mystery of the name change by recognizing that was what the school was called during the filming of "Kindergarten Cop." But there's more.

"Just a little more about the transformation of Astor School into Astoria Elementary School during the filming of 'Kindergarten Cop' in 1990," Judy Atkinson wrote. "Teams of students interviewed almost all of the Hollywood folks who came up to film during the last few days of that school year."

"The bushes that show on either side of the door were branches stuck into chicken wire frames," she recalled, "and the doors were made for the movie and were given to the school. The groundsman who did the outside work, makeup artists, film crew, wardrobe mistress, even Ivan Reitman and Arnold Schwarzenegger, were interviewed by many different Astor students."

"These interviews were recorded, and CD copies were recently made (thanks to Sam Rascoe) and are down at the Oregon Film Museum. Probably about eight hours in 'Getting Ready,' 'Behind the Scenes,' 'Behind the Camera,' and 'Action,' and I think the museum often loops some of them."

"Karen Kenyon was then the librarian/media specialist and I was the reading teacher, and it was a fun experience," Judy added. "We learned that working with Hollywood was just about as different from teaching as anything could be."

HURRY UP AND WAIT



The Ear has been remiss in keeping Goonie and Lego fans updated on the progress of "The Goonies 30th Anniversary — The Inferno" project by Lyonsblood, pictured, consisting of a Lego pirate ship and several Goonie minifigures.

The good news is the project got 10,000 votes on the Lego Ideas website, making it eligible for an official review by Lego to see if it's something they want to produce. The bad news is that it's a long haul from there to being a finished product to sell. The review process can take several months. If approved, the project goes into the development phase, which takes several more months.

The Ear suspects that at this rate, if approved, the project might make it to store shelves for the 35th Goonie anniversary.

GRAND PLANS



Thanks to a Facebook posting by former Astorian Stig Johannesen, the Ear was directed to a lovely bit of local history available on Google Books. It's a detailed report, prepared to attract business to the Port of Astoria at the 1920 National Foreign Trade Convention in San Francisco. Pictured, one of the many photos included.

The Port was bustling with commerce then. The waterfront had two railroad terminals (20th and 14th streets), and three privately owned wharves: the Ninth Street Dock (Geo. Sanborn & Sons, Eighth through 11th streets), the Elmore Dock (Third and Fourth streets), and the Callender Dock (14th Street).

Meanwhile, the Port had Piers 1, 2 and 3, and commercial wharves abounded, consisting of fish canning and cold storage, oil companies, grain and flour mills, coal bunkers, warehouses, marine repair plants, lumber mills and more.

The Port's final selling point was a grand plan for a Belt Line Railway to "touch every industrial site" for 20 miles of water frontage south and west — but only three miles of it were completed in 1920.

Want to read or download the report? It's a beaut, and can be found at <http://tinyurl.com/port1920>



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