

## CHEERS TO NEW BEGINNINGS



Astorian **Bob Bohnke** came in with a tip about a good deed: **Ronnal Hough** got the word out that she would give **free haircuts to the homeless** from noon to 4 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 29, at **Aura Salon** on 11th Street.

"... I was told these guys were going on an important job interview," Ronnal wrote on the salon's Facebook page. "Everyone needs a fresh haircut for a new job! So I called **Liz Tisdale** for some help and we went to work! These guys are absolutely amazing people, each and every one, with his own unique story. If you see them around town, say hi, shake their hand, give them a hug, whatever you feel compelled to do."

Ronnal figures she gave at least 22 haircuts, and thought there might have been 33 all together. "It was the most fabulous day!" she exclaimed. And it was also one her last days at that location, as she and Aura Salon are moving to 628 Pacific Drive in Hammond.

Ronnal is pictured, with some of her newly groomed visitors. "They are truly nice guys," she added. "I feel blessed to have gotten to spend this day with them, and to be a part of their new journey. Cheers to new beginnings and friendships!"

## THE MEGA-SHIPS ARE COMING



Gargantuan **mega-ships** are normally used for the Asia to Northern Europe trade routes, but gCaptain reports that on Dec. 26, the largest containership ever to visit North America arrived at the **Port of Los Angeles** from China (<http://tinyurl.com/megateau>).

At 18,000 TEU (Twenty-foot Equivalent) containers and just over 1,300 feet long, the **MV Benjamin Franklin** is owned by France's CMA CGM Group. According to CruiseShipPosition.com, it is one of the 10 largest containerships in the world. The vessel, which is pictured courtesy of the Port of Los Angeles, has an optimized hull, and produces 10 percent less carbon dioxide emissions than older cargo ships.

"While some have said the arrival of the Benjamin Franklin marks a "new era of mega-ships calling at U.S. ports," gCaptain speculates, "others view the arrival as mostly symbolic, meant as a trial run to test West Coast port infrastructure before more Ultra Large Container Vessels (ULCVs) can follow suit."

Can you imagine one of these coming up the Columbia River?

## BOWING OUT



While we're on the subject of ships: Also in the news recently is Japan's new 447-foot-long 540 TEU container ship, **Imoto Lines' Natori**, built by **Kyokuyo Shipyard Corp.**, and pictured courtesy of a screen shot from **In the Port** (<http://tinyurl.com/circbow>).

The odd-looking vessel has an innovative design with an integrated bridge (for better visibility and crew comfort) set into a semi-spherical bow. Designed for optimal efficiency both under way and while being loaded, the shipyard says the rounded bow saves "5 percent fuel consumption under average sea conditions by reducing wind pressure by 30 percent, compared with conventional hull shapes."

No, you won't see the Natori around this neck of the woods anytime soon — her service area is in Japan.

## In One Ear



by Elleda Wilson

ewilson@dailyastorian.com (503) 325-3211, ext. 257

## NEWSY NOTES



A few newsy tidbits from **Jim Ray**, board president at the **Astoria Rescue Mission**:

**Impressive:** "Teenager **Emily Saari** produced and performed a fundraiser concert last Sunday in her Rosberg, Washington, home church, resulting in donations of \$2,300 for the Astoria Rescue Mission."

**Honest to goodness:** "A donor deposited a large bag of clothing and personal effects at the Astoria Rescue Women's Mission (House of Hope) last week. A resident of the mission began sorting through the contents and discovered numerous envelopes — some with drawings and some annotated 'sofa' and 'motorcycle,' etc. Each envelope contained cash — totaling hundreds of dollars. She immediately alerted the director, who took possession of it all."

"By searching through everything, it was determined that a man was disposing of his deceased sister's belongings. He was contacted and claimed the money — profusely thanking the mission for having such honest residents living on site."

**Hero in our midst:** "You may have heard of the man who was rescued from a burning car last week (on U.S. Highway 26). The hero was **Chris Linderman**, a resident of the mission who was being driven to a Veterans Administration Hospital appointment by a volunteer from Warrenton Christian Church."

"The man's hair was even on fire! Chris quickly cut the victim's seat belt and pulled him from the burning vehicle."

Jim told the Ear that later a lady, who turned out to be the VA van driver's wife, drove to the mission and wanted to meet Chris. "She grabbed him, and hugged him and thanked him for his bravery," Jim recalled. He probably deserves a medal, as well.

## NEW DISCOVERY IN OLD DETROIT



Oregon history buffs should take note that last summer's drought had an interesting side effect on **Detroit Lake**, about 50 miles southeast of Salem, **KARE11** reports (<http://tinyurl.com/olddetroit>). At its lowest levels since 1946 (143 feet below capacity), remnants of the city of **Old Detroit** — a 200-person town that was abandoned and flooded to make a lake when the Detroit Dam was finished in 1953 — were discovered in the lake bed.

Marion County Sheriff's Deputy **Dave Zahn** took the photo shown of an old wagon, believed to be about 130 years old. "I went on a treasure hunt down along the river, figuring I'd find foundations or something like that," he said. "Then I saw a piece of old history right there." He also discovered a cement-lined octagonal pit, but so far, no one's been able to identify what it was used for.

Old Detroit started as a logging/railroad construction camp in 1880, with hopes the railway going through the town would one day join the transcontinental railroad. But it was not to be, and the town wound up being the end of the line.

Before the city was flooded, lumber magnate **Andrew B. Hammond** (yes, the town of Hammond is named after him) developed one of his old logging camps into a new town, and sold lots. Several Old Detroit residents moved their homes there, and the rest moved elsewhere, "hoping to cash in on the expected tourism boom" the new lake would bring, local historian **Bob Reinhardt** wrote.

Zahn took the photos of the exposed lake bed in October, but kept them secret until rain raised the water level and the wagon was re-submerged. "I was worried about vandalism or people coming out to try and take a part of it," Zahn said. After the late fall rains, now the lake is 80 feet deep, and its history is once again hidden.

## WAYWARD SQUID



Marine biology buffs might be interested to note that a **giant squid** was spotted in **Toyama Bay** in Central Japan, where it hung around for several hours on Christmas Eve, CNN reports (<http://tinyurl.com/toyasquid>).

Caught on video by a submersible camera, the squid appears to be having a fine old time. A still shot is shown, courtesy of **Diving Shop Kaiyu** and CNN. Intrigued, the shop owner, **Akinobu Kimura**, swam along with the critter. "My curiosity was way bigger than fear," he told CNN, "so I jumped into the water and got close to it."

The wayward squid might be a juvenile, since it's only about 12 feet long. Adults are thought to grow to lengths of more than 40 feet. Why this one left its usual habitat in the briny deep to go schmoozing in the bay is anyone's guess.

"This squid was not damaged and looked lively, spurring ink and trying to entangle his tentacles around me," Kimura recalled. "I guided the squid toward to the ocean, several hundred meters from the area it was found in, and it disappeared into the deep sea."

## ALL BOTTLED UP



A group of friends who have known each other for 40 years got an **early Christmas present** recently, according to a story on **King 5** (<http://tinyurl.com/notewport>).

In 1999, when the friends were on their annual trip to the beach at **Westport**, Washington, **JoJo Lynch** found a **bottle**. Just for the fun of it, they decided to write **messages** on post-it notes, along with their names and addresses). Even some of their children, who now have children of their own, wrote notes. All of the pieces of paper were stuffed into the bottle, which was sent back out to sea.

Just before Christmas, group member **Bob Huffman** found a surprise in his mailbox — the notes were returned, postmarked **Manila, Philippines**, which is more than 6,500 miles away. Naturally, the friends gathered to enjoy the remarkable arrival, and some are pictured, courtesy of **King 5**, with the returned notes. Inset, an old photo of the group.

"I can't believe it actually made it there," Lynch said. "I figured it ended up in that big garbage patch in the Pacific."

"I thought it would've ended up back on a beach in Oregon or something," added Huffman.

The group has not been back to that beach in Westport for years, but now they're thinking about reconvening there next summer. And maybe launching another bottle.

## A CELEBRATED DAY



Last week, excerpts from journals depicted how **Meriwether Lewis**, **William Clark** and the **Corps of Discovery** spent Christmas Day 1805 at **Fort Clatsop** (pictured). So how did they spend **New Year's Day 1806**?

From Clark's journal (<http://tinyurl.com/1cnewyear>): "This morning I was awake at an early hour by the discharge of a volley of small arms, which were fired by our party in front of our quarters to usher in the new year; this was the only mark of respect which we had in our power to pay this celebrated day."

"Our repast of this day, tho' better than that of Christmass (spoiled elk and spoiled fish), consisted principally in the anticipation of the first day of January 1807, when in the bosom of our friends we hope to participate in the mirth and hilarity of the day, and when the zest given by the recollection of the present, we shall completely, both mentally and corporally, enjoy the repast which the hand of civilization has prepared for us."

"At present we were content with eating our boiled elk and wapetoe (arrowhead root), and solacing our thirst with our only beverage, pure water."

Happy New Year!



When it comes to calories, cholesterol and loan rates, lower is better.

www.tlfcu.org  
503.325.2538



Visa Platinum Credit Card:  
Good for Your Financial Health

**1.9%** APR\* on purchases & balance transfers for the first 6 months  
**8.9%** non-variable APR\*\* after 6 months

No annual fees, no balance transfer fees, no cash advance fees, and local servicing.



\*Annual Percentage Rate, subject to credit approval. The 1.9% Introductory APR on purchases and balance transfers applies for the first six billing cycles and does not apply to future purchases or cash advances. At the end of six billing cycles the APR will be 8.9%. Introductory rate may not be used to pay existing TLC or Fibre Federal loans or credit card debt. All 1.9% balance transfers will be classified as "purchases" under our Visa Card Agreement.  
\*\*Annual Percentage Rate effective 1/1/16 and subject to change without notice.