

ALL BOTTLED UP



Wenda Vorce (pictured) always wanted to find a message in a bottle. She was searching for beach glass on the Washington side of the river April 14, and was overjoyed when she finally found one. “(It was) nestled on reeds in a tree trunk that always provides me with treasures,” she explained.

The message inside was dated Monday, Oct. 19, 2009, and signed by **Chris Wiley** (pictured inset) of Portland. “I live on my sailboat on an island off the coast of Portland, Oregon, in the USA,” he wrote. “I have lived on my boat for many years. It’s fun living on the water with water toys to play with.

“My friends and I ... philosophize about life, the universe and everything. We’re not sure what the answer is; but it’s sure fun to spend time with good friends in such a beautiful place. Maybe that is the answer.”

He included his address and included some photos, and asked that whoever found the bottle write to him and tell him where and when it was found.

Of course, Wenda contacted him right away. “How cool is that!” he replied “It’s been years since I’ve thrown one of these in the Columbia River. I think I did about half dozen of them. I’ve had one or two found — it’s been years since anybody contacted me about one of these.” Yes, she can keep the bottle, and he hopes they can meet for lunch one day.

“Having just talked about finding a message in a bottle the day before with a friend, it was like we planted the seed for me to find it ...” Wenda noted. “I am still walking on air.”

CAN YOU SEE ME NOW?



You want to see something really scary? No, it’s not the “Twilight Zone” movie, but almost. GCaptain reports that **Rolls-Royce** — who has been on the forefront of making drone ships hauling cargo across the world’s oceans a reality — has unveiled its vision for the **land-based control center** that would be needed to make the concept work (<http://tinyurl.com/dronepanel>).

Seven to 14 people would monitor and control the vessels, using “interactive smart screens, voice recognition systems, holograms and surveillance drones to monitor what is happening both on board and around the ship.” A screen shot from the demonstration video is shown, courtesy of Rolls-Royce.

This isn’t some far off in the future concept, either. Rolls-Royce plans to design and build a remote operations test center before the end of this decade.

HOPES AND DREAMS



Do you remember **The Barefoot Bandit, Colton Harris-Moore** (pictured), who stole a \$450,000 boat in Ilwaco, Washington, and left it in Warrenton during his 2-year crime spree? He’s still in jail, but he’s back in the news.

The Herald of Everett, Washington (<http://tinyurl.com/barecryo>), reports that Moore has started a crowd-funding account to have his mother, **Pamela Kohler** (also pictured), who is terminally ill with lung cancer, **cryonically frozen** by **Alcor** Life Extension Foundation (www.alcor.org) in the hope that after she dies, someday she can be brought back to life. He is desperately trying to raise \$308,000 at www.gofundme.com/SavePamK to pay for Alcor’s services.

“As a son, I regret that her hopes and dreams never came true,” he wrote. “And her goals are easily reached. If we get her to Alcor, someday she will realize her dreams. That’s a fact as sure as you reading these words right now.”

He may be a bandit, but he’s also a devoted son.

In One Ear



by Elleda Wilson

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WHAT A RELIEF



Denny Tibbetts of Berkeley, California, visited the **Astoria Column** recently, and wanted to know the story behind the **bronze relief map** donated by the **Angora Hiking Club** in 1966. A portion of the map is pictured, courtesy of Astoria Daily Photo (<http://tinyurl.com/columnmap>).

Bob Westerberg, chief guide of the hiking club, explained: The club was founded July 4, 1920, “on the summit of Saddle Mountain, long before easy trails and highway access. A logging railroad took them out to the base of the mountain, and hikers pretty much scrambled directly up the south slope.

“In the 1930s the club had built a cabin on the north face of Tillamook Head on a parcel of land acquired and later sold to Oregon State Parks for the coast hiking trail ... Later the cash windfall of that sale provided the money for several generous projects ... (including to) the city of Astoria for the brass relief map at the column.

“The map was the dream of **Ruben Jensen**, an Astoria High School photo and mechanical drawing instructor ... Jensen designed the map with all the inscriptions, including the ‘new’ Astoria Bridge.”

And now you know the story, too.

DOGGONE HERO



Arriving home one Sunday, we found the front door had blown open,” **Kathleen Fitzpatrick** of Warrenton wrote. It was a blustery March afternoon. “We rushed in and searched for our beloved **Jackson**, a black and white Shitzu. We were concerned, as the rain and wind had picked up considerably. He gets scared when it blows hard, and he hates being wet.”

He was nowhere to be found in the house, so her husband, **Gale**, went out with the truck, and Kathleen set out on foot to search for him. As visions of Jackson being soaked, scared and shivering ran through her head, she began to cry.

After searching unsuccessfully for a while, Gale picked Kathleen up. He started heading for home, but Kathleen insisted they stop at the Sunset Beach trailer park first. “My son, **David** often goes to visit with Jackson,” she reasoned. “Maybe he went there.”

“On the porch of the store there were two men standing in the rain I jumped out and ran towards them,” she wrote. They saw the look on her face and asked her if she was looking for a little black and white dog. Yes, they had found him, and he was safe.

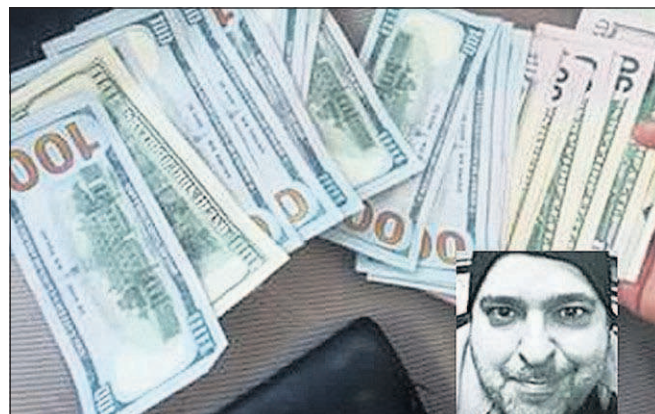
One of the men had taken wet and scared Jackson to his camper and towed him dry and comforted him. When he handed Jackson to Kathleen, the pup “was full of wiggles, and happy to see me,” she said, “I was still crying, so happy to have him safe.” Gale, Kathleen and Jackson are pictured.

She wanted to reward the man, but he said no. Later, she went back to the trailer park store to leave him a reward, and found out his name is **Darryl Hall**. The manager told her that Mr. Hall, who is the maintenance man, would not want a reward, and she wasn’t going to go against his wishes and accept one for him.

“I argued, and told her he was robbing me of blessing him,” Kathleen wrote. “I really wanted him to have it.” The manager stood firm.

But surely he can’t refuse Kathleen’s written thank you, so here it is: “Mr. Darryl Hall, Space No. 46, Sunset Beach Trailer Park, thank you. Bless you and all the other good people there. There are many!”

DOING WHAT’S RIGHT



From the Pay It Forward Department: “There’s no substitute for doing what’s right,” **Thomas Colvin** (pictured inset) posted on his Facebook page. “Found this **wallet** (pictured) and a cell phone in the middle of the street leaving work, right at Wireless Road.

“Was I tempted? Kids need braces, chance to get ahead on bills. Maybe for a second, but I know what it’s like to live paycheck to paycheck. And I also know what it’s like to be the recipient of generosity and goodness. That’s why I’m at where I’m at right now.

“After a couple calls, I got hold of the owner through his girlfriend. The guy’s name was **Brian**, and he was so grateful, yes, he offered me cash, which I politely declined. Instead I made him promise the next time he had the chance to help somebody, remember this moment.

“If you were in doubt, there’s still plenty of good people in the world, and six days out of seven I happen to be one of them.”

“...After 18 years in Phoenix, I’m truly happy to be home, and it’s for reasons like this. As a community we’re not without our shortcomings, but this is the best place in the world to grow up, best place to raise a family, and best place to live.” Especially with people like Thomas Colvin living here.

WHO IS JAMES EGAN?



Dermot Blake, who lives in Dublin, Ireland, wants find out more about his grandfather, **James Egan** (1871 — 1923), pictured, who died in Astoria and is buried at Ocean View Cemetery in Warrenton.

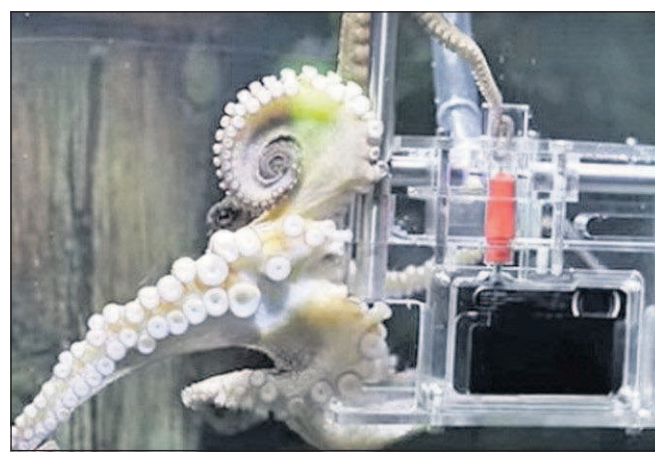
Dermot sent an undated clipping, which reads as follows: “Whitman Leases Rooms At Merwyn, Secures Property Located on Corner of 12th and Duane. The announcement was made yesterday that F. N. Whitman, proprietor of the Weinhard Hotel, had leased a portion of the **Merwyn Hotel** from James Egan, the wood man. Egan recently purchased the property on the corner of 12th and Duane street which included the space in the Merwyn on the south side of the stairway on 12th street.”

The clipping must have been written before the 1922 Astoria fire, when the original Merwyn Hotel (which was destroyed in the fire), was located on 12th Street.

If you know anything about James Egan, please email Dermot at dbaf@eircom.net. Dermot’s aunt, **Angela Egan**, and his late mother, **Kathleen (Egan) Blake**, both attended Star of the Sea School as children, if that jogs anyone’s memory.

“I know nothing much of my grandfather’s activities other than he had a lumber yard,” Dermot noted, “and so I would be delighted to find anything at all!”

SAY ‘CHEESE!’



DIY Photography reports that an octopus at an aquarium in New Zealand named **Rambo** is the world’s first **octographer** (<http://tinyurl.com/octoshot>), and it only took her (yes, Rambo is a female) three tries to learn how to use the camera. She is pictured in a screen shot courtesy of Sony New Zealand, who designed the camera.

Rambo charges \$2 a pop for a visitor to her tank to have their portrait taken, and the fees are used to offset aquarium expenses. Hopefully they at least toss her a fat, tasty crab or two now and then for her efforts.

COMMUNITY NOTES

SATURDAY

Angora Hiking Club — 9 a.m., Sixth Street parking lot. South Slough (Fort Clatsop) hike. For information, call Jan Coughlin at 503-791-3521.

Community Beach Cleanup — 9:30 a.m., report to volunteer any one of the seven major beach approaches on the Long Beach Peninsula in Washington to pick up supplies. Soup feed after cleanup at the Moose Lodge, 25915 U St. in Ocean Park from about noon until the pots run dry. For information, to gather a group and adopt a section of beach to clean up, or to donate, email Shelly@OurBeach.org. For information, go to <http://ourbeach.org>

Sit and Stitch Group — 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., Custom Threads, 1282 Commercial St. Knitting, crocheting and needle work. For information, call 503-325-7780.

Columbia Northwestern Model Rail-

roading Club — 1 p.m., in Hammond. Group runs trains on HO-scale layout. For information, call Don Carter at 503-325-0757.

Spinning Circle — 1 to 3 p.m., Astoria Fiber Arts Academy, 1296 Duane St. Bring a spinning wheel. For information, call 503-325-5598 or go to <http://astoriafiberarts.com>

Dinner and Silent Auction — South Pacific County Humane Society fundraiser, “It’s Raining Cats & Dogs,” 4 to 7 p.m., Chinook School, 810 U.S. Highway 101, Chinook, Washington.

SUNDAY

National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Support Group — 2 to 3:30 p.m., Seaside Public Library, 1131 Broadway. Family to Family Support Group, for anyone with friend or loved one suffering from a serious brain (mental) illness. For information, contact Myra Kero at 503-

738-6165, or k7erowood@q.com, or go to www.nami.org

Authentic Spiritual Conversations — 3 to 4:15 p.m., Seaside Public Library conference room, 1131 Broadway. Exploring spiritual questions, doubts, practices and longings in a space where everyone’s needs are respectfully held. All faiths, including “spiritual but not religious,” agnostic and atheist are welcome. For information, email info@cgifellowship.org or call 916-307-9790.

Line Dancing — 5:30 to 8 p.m., Seaside American Legion, 1315 Broadway. For information, call 503-738-5111. No cost; suggested \$5 tip to the instructor.

MONDAY

Chair Exercises for Seniors — 9 to 9:45 a.m., Astoria Senior Center, 1111 Exchange St. For information, call 503-325-3231.

Scandinavian Workshop — 10 a.m., First Lutheran Church, 725 33rd St. Needlework, handargend, knitting, crocheting, embroidery and quilting. All are welcome. For information, call 503-325-1364 or 503-325-7960.

Mothers of Preschoolers — 10 to 11:30 a.m., Crossroads Community Church, 40618 Old Highway 30, Svensen. MOPS group is a time for moms to relax and enjoy each others’ company. For information, call 503-502-3118.

Senior Lunch — 11:30 a.m., Bob Chisholm Senior Center, 1225 Avenue A, Seaside. Suggested donation \$3 for those older than 60; \$6.75 for those younger than 60. For information, call Michelle Lewis at 503-861-4200.

Columbia Senior Diners — 11:30 a.m., 1111 Exchange St. Cost is \$5. For information, or to have a meal delivered,

call 503-325-9693.

Warrenton Senior Lunch Program — noon, Warrenton Community Center, 170 S.W. Third St. Suggested donation of \$5 for seniors and \$7 for those younger than 60. For information, or to volunteer, call 503-861-3502 Monday or Thursday.

Astoria Rotary Club — noon, second floor of the Astoria Elks Lodge, 453 11th St. Guests always welcome. For information, go to www.AstoriaRotary.org

Knockers Pinochle Group — 1 p.m., Bob Chisholm Community Center, 1225 Avenue A, Seaside. Cost is \$1 per regular session per person. Players with highest and second highest scores split the prize. Game is designed for players 55 and older, but all ages are welcome.

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