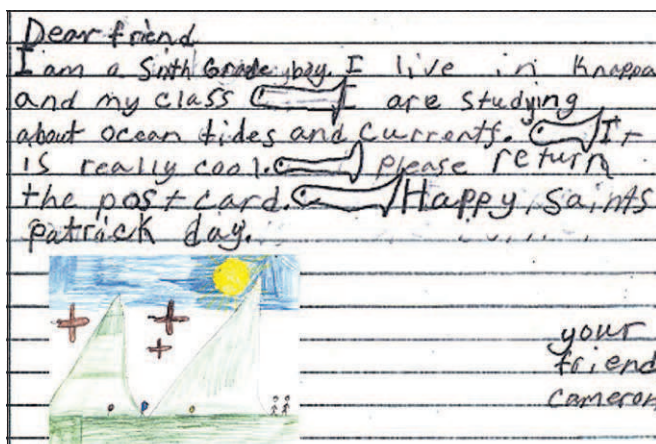


## MESSAGE DELIVERED



Last Friday there was a story about a **message in a bottle**, found in Ocean Shores, Washington, in 2010. It remained sealed until 2015, when it was given to **Alan Rammer**, who opened it.

The message and drawing inside were from a Hilda Lahti Elementary School sixth grade student named **Cameron**, who requested to be notified when the bottle was found. But Alan couldn't find Cameron to tell him.

**Debbie Twombly** to the rescue. "That bottle came from a class project that I did the year after I retired!" she wrote after reading the story. "The class was fabulous — fairly small and really nice kids. I loved my teaching partner and we had a great year."

"As part of our science class, we studied the Columbia River and what happens as it empties into the Pacific Ocean with the Davis and California Currents. I had done this project with third graders for many years at Astor School. We ended the study by writing messages, sealing them up in wine bottles (what a job, getting all those empties!), and sending them off to the mouth of the Columbia with my fisherfriend, **Blair Miner**."

"It's always fun to get letters back and map where and when they find land ... I've contacted Cameron Westley, who ... just graduated from Knappa High School, and says he remembers the fun project."

Mystery solved. Cameron does not want the bottle back, and it will remain on display at the old Coast Guard station in Westport, Washington.

## SPECIAL PEOPLE NEEDED



"Attention all you special peeps out there!" animal advocate **Rita Smith** of the **River Song Foundation** wrote. "We took **Momma Porcupine** in to be spayed in May, and to everyone's surprise, she had babies in the kennel before they could get her on the table!" Mom and kittens are pictured.

"Now the kittens are 9 weeks old," she added, "and this family would like to get out of a crate and on to living the full life. So, we are hoping to bring about a small miracle, and that is to get these two precious kittens, **Stella** and **Dallas**, adopted together and have their feral-ish mom Porcupine go along, as well. We can't release her, she needs a more controlled environment, and we would love for her to be able to stay with her kids, whom she adores."

Another kitty badly needing adoption is **KiKi**, a "beautiful 8-year-old Turkish Angora (pictured inset) that desperately needs a home. She is getting really depressed." If you can't give a home to the little family, surely someone must have a place in their home and heart for KiKi.

You can make a miracle happen by offering to adopt one (or more) of Rita's fabulous feline rescues by calling her at 503-861-2003. You can also lend a hand by donating at <http://riversongfoundation.org>

## BRIDGING THE GAP



**DaNita Maunu** and her husband, **Aaron**, of the Vancouver, Washington, area, came to the beach for a visit on Sunday. As they were coming off the New Youngs Bay Bridge and heading into Astoria to get lunch, Aaron noticed the **optical illusion** (pictured) of the Astoria Bridge and the Northwest POINT bus design.

"Quick, snap photos!" he said, and she did.

"Kind of cool, don't you think?" DaNita asked. Definitely.

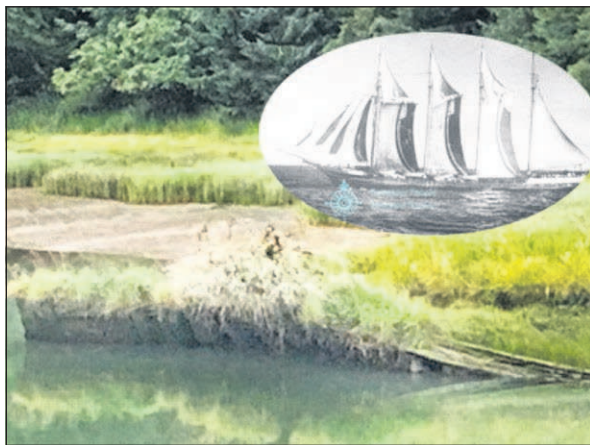
## In One Ear



by Elleda Wilson

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

## IS THAT YOU, SOPHIE?



**David Davall** wrote in asking for information about a **shipwreck** across the river, on the Washington side, near the Quarantine Station, aka the **Knappton Cove Heritage Center**. His photo of it is shown.

The Ear asked **Nancy Bell Anderson**, director of the Heritage Center, who has a long history with the area, about the mystery wreck. "We played 'pirates' on it when I was a kid, using the catails that were growing in it for 'swords.'" She referred me to her brother, **Tom Bell**.

Tom said some time ago a local businessman approached him about the wreck, saying he believed it was the **Sophie Christenson** (pictured inset), a sailing ship that had once belonged to his uncle, **Capt. J. E. Shields**. He wanted to retrieve some of the ship as a yard ornament for a wealthy client in Santa Barbara, California, but nothing ever came of it.

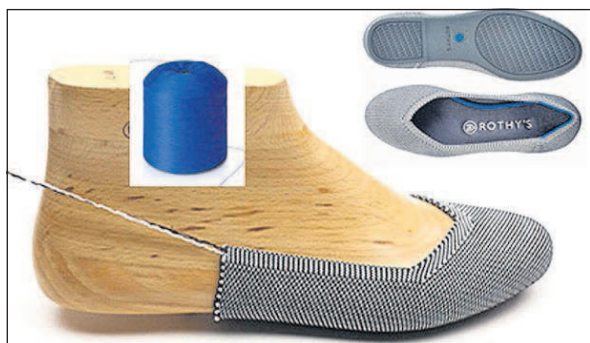
Is it the Sophie Christenson? A little research revealed the four-masted schooner, built in 1901, was initially used to haul lumber, then converted to catch cod in Puget Sound. She was 180.6 feet long, had a 38.9-foot beam and a 13.4-foot deep hold, and carried a crew of 44 (<http://tinyurl.com/sophiec1>).

According to HistoryLink.org, after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941, the schooner was commandeered by the U.S. government for barge and transport duty in the North Pacific (<http://tinyurl.com/sophiec2>). Sophie eventually wound up as scrap or a dismantled barge.

Local lore says the wreck in Knappton was a barge being towed downriver as salvage after the war when the towing cable broke loose and it drifted ashore. It was just left there, not considered valuable enough to bother with. So yes, it could well be the Sophie Christenson.

In the late 1980s, the trees growing in the wreck were only 8 feet tall, Tom noted; now they're more like 80. Also years ago, the ribs of the ship stood 18 feet high. If you're wondering why so little is showing now, he said a local fisherman was salvaging it over the years. He would take metal pins from the wreck, collect them in a big pile, and sell the pile once a year for liquor money. Which only proves that old adage: One man's trash truly is another man's treasure.

## IF THE SHOE FITS



A short time ago, this column mentioned Adidas x Parley, special shoes made out of plastic ocean debris — but only 50 pairs were being made. Just as admirable — and a whole lot more obtainable for those environmentally conscious folks who want to make a statement — is **Rothy's footwear** of San Francisco, according to Gizmag.com (<http://tinyurl.com/plasticfoot>).

Rothy's, whose motto is "wear your trash on your feet" makes shoes with yarn created from **recycled plastic bottles**. Using a seamless 3D knitting process for the uppers (which only takes 6 minutes), the shoes also have carbon-free outsoles, and recycled insoles and packaging. It takes about three plastic bottles to make one pair of shoes, which can be recycled again when you're done with them. A pair is pictured, courtesy of <https://rothys.com>

Considering Rothys maintains that the U.S. consumes 1,500 water bottles a second, and over 40 billion end up in landfills every year, they'll never run out of raw material.

## IT'S PICKING TIME



**Frank Fritz** (left) and **Mike Wolfe** (right), aka the **American Pickers** from the **History Channel** show of the same name, are coming to Oregon and Washington in August/September to film episodes of the series. The pair are pictured in a photo by Zachary Maxwell Stertz. According to a press release from casting associate Tamar Herman, "We're looking for leads throughout the region, specifically interesting characters with interesting items, and lots of them!"

In case you're not familiar with the show, Frank and Mike are "pickers" who scour the country looking for valuable antiques, and especially enjoy finding "sizeable, unique collections and learn the interesting stories behind them," the press release says. They are looking for things like wind-up or cast iron toys, pinball machines, taxidermy animals, pottery, doorstops, decoys, old signs and dolls, juke boxes, wagon wheels, license plates and military items, just to name a few.

We already know there are lots of "interesting characters" in this neck of the woods, so what's tucked away in that old barn, attic or basement? Do you, or someone you know, have a large, private stash of antiques (no retail shops or flea markets) that Frank and Mike can spend most of a day poking through? If so, send your phone number, location and description of the collection (with photos) to [americanpickers@cinetix.com](mailto:americanpickers@cinetix.com) or call 855-OLD-RUST (653-7878).

## BETTER LATE THAN NEVER



Today is the 90th birthday of the dedication of the **Astoria Column**, July 22, 1926. In case you didn't know it, the **artist** who designed the mural artwork on column was Italian immigrant **Attilio Pusterla** (1862-1941) of New York, who is pictured.

Time was tight to complete such a large artwork when the artist and his assistants finally began working on the column July 1, according to <http://astoriacolumn.org> (which provided the photos). A wooden structure circled the column and dangled from a 110-foot high platform at the top. Pusterla would haul his drawings up onto the scaffold, then start creating a section of the sgraffito mural, a long process involving many steps. If he wasn't happy with the outcome from ground level, he had no qualms about trashing a day's work and starting over.

Needless to say, with such a painstaking approach, and so much surface to cover, only three bands of the artwork were completed by the time the column was dedicated. But apparently nobody cared, as 8,000 showed up for the event, and three days of festivities commenced with great fanfare.

Pusterla finally finished his work on Oct. 29. With a big sigh of relief, no doubt.

## SHEEP VIEW 360

**Durita Dahl Andreassen** of the **Faroe Islands** (a self-governing island territory of Denmark) loves her country, and wants everyone to know how beautiful it is. But since the islands are in a remote part of the North Atlantic, and none of the streets are on the map, there's no Google Street View. So, to let the world see how glorious her home is, and show Google what they're missing, she came up with **Sheep View 360**.

Since she says her home has 70,000 sheep who roam freely — twice as many sheep as people, actually — and many places are inaccessible by car, it's a pretty clever idea to strap a 360-degree camera to a sheep's back and let the sheep wander off. Powered by a solar panel, the camera takes a photo every minute, which can then be manually downloaded or livestreamed. Check it out at <http://visitfaroeislands.com/sheepview360>

"The Faroe Islands are one of the most beautiful places on earth," Durita said, "and I really want to share that with my friends around the world." Perhaps this should be filed under "Be Careful What You Wish For."



## COMMUNITY NOTES

## SATURDAY

**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 Railroad 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>

## 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](mailto:k7erowood@q.com), or go to [www.nami.org](http://www.nami.org)

**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, hardanger, 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 Dinners** — 11:30 a.m., 1111 Exchange St. Cost is \$6. 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](http://www.AstoriaRotary.org)

**Knochlers 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.

**Mahjong for Experienced Players** — 1 p.m., Astoria Senior Center, 1111 Exchange St. For information, call 503-325-3231.

**Diabetes Class** — 1:30 to 2:30 p.m., Providence Seaside Hospital, Education Room A, 725 S. Wahanana Road, Seaside. Free help managing diabetes from certified diabetes educators. Topic is: "How Can I Manage My blood Sugar When I Eat Out?" All are welcome. For information, go to [www.providence.org/diabetes](http://www.providence.org/diabetes) or call 503-215-6628.

**Line Dancing for Seniors** — 3 to 4:30 p.m., Astoria Senior Center, 1111 Exchange St. Not for beginners. For information, call 503-325-3231.

**TUESDAY**  
**Stewardship Quilting Group** — 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., First Lu-

theran Church, 725 33rd St. All are welcome. Donations of material always appreciated. For information, call Janet Kemp at 503-325-4268.

**Do Nothing Club** — 10 a.m. to noon, 24002 U St., Ocean Park, Wash. Men's group. For information, call Jack McBride at 360-665-2721.

**Senior Lunch** — 11:30 a.m., Bob Chisholm Senior Center, 1225 Avenue A, Seaside. Suggested donation of \$3 for those older than 60; \$6.75 for those younger than 60. For information, call Michelle Lewis at 503-861-4200. Columbia Senior Dinners — 11:30 a.m., 1111 Exchange St. The cost is \$6. For information, or to have a meal delivered, call 503-325-9693.

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