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# COMMUNITY

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IN ONE EAR • ELLEDA WILSON

## LOOSE CANNON



When it comes to authenticity, some theater directors go all out," former The Daily Astorian editor **Patrick Webb** observed. "When **Rita Smith** was putting together the latest **Peninsula Players** production of the Gilbert and Sullivan operetta 'HMS Pinafore,' she wanted the stage at the River City Playhouse in Ilwaco, Washington, to resemble a sailing ship.

"Stage manager and set designer **Andy Tauber** obliged with a wheel and bowsprit and pretend cannon balls. For an added touch, she turned to history enthusiast **Tucker Wachsmuth** of Oysterville, Washington, who loaned the troupe several items, including this cannon (shown, in a photo by Patrick Webb), which was part of his grandfather Louis' collection, and had been displayed at Dan and Louis' Oyster Bar in Portland."

"The cannon is thought to be from an Italian ship called the 'Cavour' that wrecked Dec. 8, 1903, in the Columbia River two miles south of the Cape Disappointment lighthouse," he said.

"Theater enthusiasts can enjoy the show," Patrick added, "which opens March 29 and runs for three weekends."

## IN GRATITUDE ...



Yet another good Samaritan story has come out of the community effort to help members of the Coast Guard during the federal shutdown.

**Boy Scout Troop 211** was helping," **Mac Burns**, the troop's assistant scoutmaster wrote, "mostly unloading food donations, helping carry out food to people's cars, and moving boxes here and there.

"One man pulled up with a station wagon full of probably 10 boxes of donations. As the scouts were unloading, I got to chatting with the guy. It turned out he drove from Portland because the 'Coast Guard saved my life.'

"He told me the story of being a commercial fisherman in the Gulf of Mexico during a storm. Thirty-foot waves, he was by himself, convinced he was going down. A Coast Guard helicopter flew over, circled a few times, told him they were on a rescue mission elsewhere, but would check in on him. They gave him information on the storm, and directed which way was best for him.

"They came back two more times to check on him, let him know they were there, and kept pointing him in the right direction. He is convinced he would not have made it without their help.

"He asked what else was needed, and was told fresh meat. He asked where our closest supermarket was. He came back an hour later with \$100 to \$200 worth of meat from Safeway.

"I introduced him to one of the Coast Guard helicopter guys," Mac added. "After a short chat, where they both thanked each other, he got in his car and drove back to Portland."

## THE TOWN THAT WASN'T?

The daily morning Astorian., January 18, 1889, Image 3  
About The Daily Morning Astorian, (Astoria, Or.) 1883-1899

Image provided by: University of Oregon Libraries; Eugene, OR

A postoffice has been established at Columbiaville, Columbia county, and John A. Walsh appointed postmaster.

Another update on trying to find the missing town of **Columbiaville**, once in Columbia County: So far, those in the know in Columbia County have never heard of it, so don't know where it was, nor does the Oregon Historical Society. There has been no reply as yet from the Oregon Archives. Onward to the national level. The Smithsonian's National Postal Museum hasn't heard of Columbiaville, either, but recommended contacting the National Archives, who have not yet responded to the inquiry.

It sure seems as though an entire town with an official post office, and a postmaster, has literally vanished.

## 'WE ARE CONTENT'



In 2016, Astorian **Pam Allen** bought an **Oregon Megabucks** ticket at Fred Meyer in Warrenton that turned out to be a \$7.8 million winner. KGW8's Kyle Iboshi decided to follow up on 149 lottery winners, and Pam was one of the "Instant Millionaires" interviewed about the fallout ([bit.ly/Allenswin](http://bit.ly/Allenswin)).

The win certainly couldn't have come at a better time for Pam. She and her husband, **Curt**, had just taken a mortgage out on their house, and she figures they each had about \$5 in their bank accounts. "It happened," she recalled of the surprise bonanza, "right there when we needed it the most." They are pictured in a KGW photo.

One month later, Pam was diagnosed with cancer. "To go from such a high," she told Iboshi, "to then you go to this low, where you're thinking am I going to get to enjoy this money, or what's going to happen."

Before she would agree to treatment, they bought a new house, and a new truck (the old one was 16 years old), went on a cruise, and Pam went hunting with her grandson.

The Allens haven't let the money go to their heads, and even now, still mow their own lawn. "I don't know if you ever really fully understand you're a millionaire," Curt noted. "You still live the way you did before. It's just the way you grew up." "We were content with our life when we didn't have the money," he added. "We are content now."

## PAN'S ELBOW



Walking along the main promenade in **Athens**, I noticed an **unusual piece of stone** at the base of the Hill of Muses," Portland artist **Aaron Voronoff Trotter** posted on his Facebook page. He, and the stone, are shown.

Trotter makes hand-drawn decks of playing cards from all around the world. He even visited Astoria a few years ago, and created a colorful deck that features 52 original drawings of landmarks and spots around town ([bit.ly/AVTastoria](http://bit.ly/AVTastoria)). Interestingly enough, considering his recent find, he's also been an archaeology field technician.

Back to Greece: "(The piece of stone) probably rolled down the hill after the storm," he explained. "I was on the main pedestrian thoroughfare. Picking it up, I realized it was a fragment of a marble statue. I carried it up to the Acropolis entrance. A lady made a quick phone call, and an archaeologist hurried me through security to an office, where I could explain in detail where I found the artifact."

"Most likely I discovered a piece of (Greek god) Pan's elbow," Trotter concluded, "which waited 25 centuries for me to find. They're going to send me more details in the next few weeks. But I'm proud to say," he added, "I'm still an archaeologist."

## UNCLAIMED PROPERTY

**GovDeals**  
A LIQUIDITY SERVICES MARKETPLACE



On Feb. 7, on the Astoria Police Department Facebook page, there was an interesting tidbit: "I'm often asked what police departments do with unclaimed property that still holds value," **Chief Geoff Spalding** wrote.

"By law we cannot donate or simply give away property from our property/evidence division, but we are authorized to sell items via auction. We use a third party auction site to manage the sales for items that are eligible to be auctioned. You can simply go to: [govdeals.com](http://govdeals.com) and enter 'Astoria' in the search box to see what items are being sold in this area." As of Tuesday, the pickin's were pretty slim for Astoria itself, but keep checking. Or, under "Searches," if you pick "Search Location," enter 97103, and look for auctions within 100 miles, and you'll find fairly interesting things up for bid (some thumbnails of various items are shown). Happy hunting!

## UNSINKABLE. REALLY.



The full-size **Titanic replica** being built in China — known as "the Titanic that will never sink" (only because it will never sail) — is expected to open in 2020, Global Times reports ([bit.ly/titandisea](http://bit.ly/titandisea)). The project started in 2014, and is part of the Romandisea theme park on a river in Sichuan Province. The build in progress is shown in a still shot, courtesy of a Yahoo Finance video at [bit.ly/yahootitan](http://bit.ly/yahootitan)

The "ship" is supposed to be a true replica, and will contain all of the features of the original. The anticipated ticket price (not set in stone yet) would be about \$30; a night's stay could cost as much as \$445.

So far, it has cost \$148 million, and has generated a good deal of doubt that it would ever be finished, partially because of the bad luck problem, i.e. being associated with a ship that sank. Naysayers aside, the project is moving forward. At least this time around, icebergs are not an issue.

## TALES OF THE TOWN



From the **Friday, Feb. 22, 1889** edition of **The Daily Morning Astorian**:

• There are **500 steel rails** on the dock at Kalama for the **Ilwaco rail road extension**. ... The rails when laid will form part of a railroad that will pay \$400 a day carrying passengers to the beach. It is correctly reported that we have a beach over at Clatsop. But we have no railroad, so the people go elsewhere.

**Note:** Snarky remark aside, the rails were for **Lewis Alfred Loomis'** popular **Clamshell Railroad**, which expanded in 1889 from 3.5 miles of track on to 13.5 miles, from Ilwaco to Nahcotta, Washington, creating a tourist mecca of the Long Beach Peninsula. ([clamshellrailroad.org](http://clamshellrailroad.org))

• **Portland** figures now on a population of 48,000.

**Note:** According to Google, as of 2017, the number is 647,805.

• **Mrs. Marian Trenchard** says that when she came here there were but three children in Astoria. That was many and many a year ago.

**Note:** In 1890, the population of Astoria was 6,184, but in 1880, it was 2,803, and in 1870 it was only 639. If she was a very old woman in 1889, she was probably not kidding. ([bit.ly/Astorpop](http://bit.ly/Astorpop))

• A determined effort was put forth to introduce young white fish into Cullaby Lake that involved several people, missed communications, and arranging a railroad "fish car" to ship them from Coeur d'Alene Lake in Idaho to Portland.

"Lovers of the art piscatorial," the newspaper noted, "owe a vote of thanks to the gentlemen who have so successfully interested themselves in this matter."

There was no mention if the fish were still alive on arrival.

• A California paper gives a revolver as a premium to every new subscriber. The revolver is found very handy when the man comes round to ask for a renewal of the subscription.

## COMMUNITY NOTES

**SATURDAY Sit & Stitch** — 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., Homespun Quilts & Yarn, 108 10th St. Bring knitting, crochet or other needlework projects to this community stitching time. All skill levels welcome.

**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 Studio, 1296 Duane St. Bring a spinning wheel. For information, call 503-325-5598 or go to [astoriafiberarts.org](http://astoriafiberarts.org)

**Karaoke** — 7 to 8 p.m., Seaside Lodge and Inter-

national Hostel, 930 N. Hollanday Drive, Seaside. Free session, all ages, for those who love to sing karaoke. Refreshments served. For information, call 503-738-7911.

**SUNDAY Seniors Breakfast** — 9 a.m. to noon, Astoria Moose Lodge, 420 17th St. Cooked to order from

menu, includes coffee. Cost is \$5 for seniors 62 and older, \$7.50 for those younger than 62. Breakfasts are open to the public. Proceeds after expenses help support local and other charities.

**National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Support Group** — 2 to 3:30 p.m., Seaside Pub-

lic 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 [nami.org](http://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.

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