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Kitsap Sun

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‘Prints of Wales’



Puget Sound Navy Museum curator Megan Churchwell talks about the photographs by Herbert Wale on display in the Prints of Wales exhibit at the museum, 251 First St. in Bremerton, on Monday.
PHOTOS BY MEEGAN M. REID/KITSAP SUN

Early Bremerton photographer shown in gallery

Josh Farley Kitsap Sun
USA TODAY NETWORK

BREMERTON — If you’ve seen any photograph capturing the earliest days of this city and its shipyard, chances are good Herbert Ernest Wale took it.

The “Prints of Wales,” his cleverly named studio on Pacific Avenue that opened 114 years ago, was the place the Spanish-American War veteran set up shop to document the quaint town and its bustling Navy yard up until World War II.

Aerials from flyovers. Football teams’ picture days. Ceremonies

marking shipyard dry dock openings and vessel launchings. Scenes on the street. Wale shot it all.

“Everyone seems to have one of his photos squirreled away,” said Megan Churchwell, who just curated a showcase of his work in the Puget Sound Naval Museum’s Reverman Classroom. “It seems like he must’ve been everywhere during this period of local history.”

He was, as Churchwell admits, something of a character who kept the lens focused away from himself most of the time.

He endured a “mostly stormy” childhood in Rock Springs, Wyo-

ming, a coal-mining town along the Union Pacific Railroad, he told a reporter for a Wyoming newspaper in 1954. It was there in September 1885 that white miners massacred at least 28 Chinese immigrants, chasing others from the city and burning their homes to the ground in racial violence that shocked the nation. Wale told the reporter that, as an 8-year-old, he threw rocks at the victims and searched their homes for valuables during the riots.

In 1895, he captured a

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Photographs are on display in the Prints of Wales exhibit at the Puget Sound Navy Museum in Bremerton on Monday.

3 convicted of ‘skimming’ scam from 2018 get 21 months in jail, not prison

Andrew Binion Kitsap Sun
USA TODAY NETWORK

Three men arrested in 2018 and pleaded guilty this month to “skimming” credit cards were sentenced to a total of 21 months in the Kitsap County Jail — unusual for a facility meant for sentences under a year but meaningful for those who could face deportation if they are sent to state prison.

A fourth member of the group was a no-show in court and is wanted by law enforcement. The

men, who are listed in court records as residents of California, were provided an Armenian translator when appearing in Kitsap County Superior Court.

As part of the deal with prosecutors, the three paid back credit unions \$90,000, Prosecutor Chad Enright said.

The men were arrested in March 2018 after a “skimming” device was discovered attached to pumps at a 76 gas station near Port Orchard, leading investigators to the four who were driving a rental

car.

The three men are Edgar Grigoryan, 27; Ashot Hovhannisyanyan, 28; and Arsen Tovmasyan, 28.

The fourth member of the group, who has not pleaded guilty to any counts — Harutyun Muradyan, 28 — had an arrest warrant issued in May.

“Skimming” refers to a high-tech theft scheme where thieves plant devices on ATMs or other places people use credit or debit

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Nonprofit leader returns to Kitsap

O’Grady to take helm of rescue mission

Peiyu Lin Kitsap Sun
USA TODAY NETWORK

Robin O’Grady, long part of the social service community in Kitsap before leaving for two years, has returned to once again assist the homeless as the new executive director of the Kitsap Rescue Mission.

After undertaking a national search for an executive director to fill the shoes of Nancy Olsten, who retired this month, the board of KRM announced the appointment of O’Grady, who came on board on Oct. 18.

“I’ve been a huge fan (of the rescue mission) for a long time,” O’Grady said when sharing why she wants to lead the nonprofit. “They are an organization that’s truly helping those that are considered the hardest to serve.”

For the past two years, O’Grady was the executive director of FUSION, a nonprofit in Federal Way that provides housing and support services to homeless families. While she enjoyed her time at FUSION, O’Grady said she missed the Kitsap community and believes “it is God’s will for me to return to Kitsap and contribute to the community I love so much.”

In Kitsap County, O’Grady once worked as the executive director of West Sound Treatment Center, a nonprofit agency that provides treatment for adults with substance abuse disorders in Kitsap Peninsula. She also served as the coordinator of Kitsap Connect, a program providing wrap-around services to those who were homeless and high users of emergency response services.

“We are excited for our future with Robin at the


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O’Grady

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Convicted

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cards that record the data. Thieves then transfer that data on blank cards, called “clones,” to withdraw cash or make fraudulent purchases.

At the outset of the investigation, detectives wrote in court documents that the four were suspected of running the scams around the Puget Sound region, not just Kitsap County.

Kitsap Credit Union reported multiple instances of fraudulent ATM activity during the period before the four were arrested, with the 76 station, 4800 Jackson Ave. SE, being a common “point of purchase” for all of the accounts.

For just Kitsap Credit Union, not others listed as victims in court records, about \$17,000 was stolen from members, according to court documents.

In August, the three pleaded guilty to three counts of second-degree identity theft — for which they were sentenced to nine months in jail. In October they pleaded to accomplice to second-degree identity theft, for which they were sentenced to 364 days in jail.

The sentences, which commenced upon the second round of sentencing, will run consecutively.

In Washington state, prisons hold inmates serving sentences of more than a year and county jails hold inmates for sentences less than a year.

Though the sum of the two sentences is more than a year, the inmates were not transferred to state custody, which could possibly trigger greater consequences, such as deportation.

However, Enright said that though the deal would not lead to mandatory deportation, the defendants could still face penalties up to deportation.

“It meets our goal of getting restitution, having an appropriate sentence and giving these guys an opportunity to present their case to an immigration court,” Enright said.

He noted that the case had been headed for trial but was disrupted by repeated suspensions of jury trials because of rising cases of COVID-19 in Kitsap County. Superior Court is expected to resume jury trials on Dec. 6.



H.E. Wales became a sharpshooter in later life, winning many competitions around the country.

KITSAP HISTORICAL SOCIETY & MUSEUM

Wales

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stereograph of a band parading through his hometown, the earliest beginnings of his photography in a town whose mines were also volatile and at times caught fire.

Wale volunteered in the Army in 1898, the year the United States went to war with Spain. He served in The Philippines throughout the subsequent Philippine-American war until 1902, when the United States annexed the country.

He worked in construction before setting up his photography studio on Pacific Avenue in Bremerton in 1907. For decades, he captured life in the city, including its growth in wartime, watching the Navy invest in new dry docks that brought ever-bigger battleships into Sinclair Inlet.

In 1936, he transitioned to a new kind of shooting hobby. Retiring from

his photography, he took up marksmanship. The “pistol packin’ papa,” as an article in the Bremerton Sun dubbed him, traveled the country as the oldest competitive pistol shooter.

“He ran into one serious problem,” the Sun wrote when he was 75. “The sunshine at Tampa burned his face so badly he couldn’t open his eyes in the morning. For that reason he now wears a fine-looking white beard.”

Wale, who lost his wife, Maud, in 1939, was remarried at 74 while living in the Washington Veteran’s Home at Retsil, a place he loved. He died in 1962 at 86.

The exhibit at the Puget Sound Naval Museum is free and open to the public.

Josh Farley is a reporter covering the military and Bremerton for the Kitsap Sun. He can be reached at 360-792-9227, josh.farley@kitsapsun.com or on Twitter at @joshfarley.

O’Grady

Continued from Page 1A

helm,” KRM Board Chair Deb Schmitt said in a statement. “Robin has the right combination of leadership expertise and character traits that we sought for our next Executive Director,” Schmitt

“We are excited for our future with Robin at the helm. Robin has the right combination of leadership expertise and character traits that we sought for our next Executive Director.”

Deb Schmitt
Kitsap Rescue Mission Board Chair

said.

‘Very vigilant’

The Kitsap Rescue Mission last summer faced allegations of racial bias after a manager, who later resigned, created a “swear cup” with the n-word written on it to respond to complaints that a Black man staying at its shelter would not stop saying a racial slur. KRM and officials with Kitsap County, which was partnering with the nonprofit to host a shelter for the homeless at the Kitsap County Fairgrounds, investigated the incident.

O’Grady said that in the wake of that incident, the organization has “done a good job acknowledging that they don’t know what they don’t know” and has taken steps to create an inclusive organization.

KRM hired a diversity, equity and inclusion consultant in August. The consultant provides education and training to the organization the first week of every month, according to O’Grady. The nonprofit has also restructured its operations administrative and employee manuals, she said.

In addition, KRM provides cultural temperature surveys intermittently to keep evaluating its progress. The surveys give its staff members and guests the opportunity to share their thoughts on how KRM is doing, O’Grady said.

Kitsap Sun

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