

Pirate Invitational



Radio Speaking Packet

Finder Of Treasure Chest Hidden In Rocky Mountains Reveals His Identity

December 8, 2020:57 PM ET

Laurel Wamsley at NPR headquarters in Washington, D.C., November 7, 2018. (photo by Allison Shelley)

LAUREL WAMSLEY

The man who found a buried chest that had enraptured scores of treasure hunters for a decade has revealed his identity. His name is Jack Stuef, and in June, he found the treasure famously buried by author and retired art dealer Forrest Fenn somewhere in the Rocky Mountains, with a poem from Fenn's memoir, *The Thrill of the Chase*, offering clues to its location.

Fenn announced in June that the treasure had been found — but he wouldn't say where exactly it was found or who found it. And in July, to provide some "closure" to those who had searched in other states, Fenn revealed that the chest had been hidden in Wyoming. Over the course of the hunt, at least four people died searching throughout the Rockies for the trove, which Fenn said contained about \$2 million worth of gold and precious gems.

Stuef, in a post on Medium, says he had asked for his identity to be kept secret so that he wouldn't invite the same fate that Fenn and his family dealt with amid fervent treasure hunters.

"For the past six months, I have remained anonymous, not because I have anything to hide, but because Forrest and his family endured stalkers, death threats, home invasions, frivolous lawsuits, and a potential kidnapping — all at the hands of people with delusions related to his treasure. I don't want those things to happen to me and my family," Stuef wrote.

Fenn died in September at age 90. His family confirmed on Monday that it was Stuef who found Fenn's treasure. Some treasure-seekers had believed the finding was a hoax.

"We congratulate Jack on finding and retrieving the treasure chest, and we hope that this confirmation will help to dispel the conjecture, conspiratorial nonsense, and refusals to accept the truth," wrote Fenn's grandson, Shiloh Forrest Old.

Stuef, who *Outside* magazine reports is a 32-year-old medical student from Michigan, says a lawsuit forced him to give up his anonymity.

A Chicago attorney named Barbara Anderson filed a lawsuit against Fenn and the then-unnamed finder in U.S. District Court in Santa Fe, N.M., in June after the treasure was reported found. She argues "that after she had spent several years painstakingly deciphering Mr. Fenn's poem and scouting out the general location of the treasure, someone hacked her cellphone and stole proprietary information that led them to the trove," *The New York Times* reports.

Stuef says the case is "meritless."

"The U.S. District Court for New Mexico has ruled that Forrest's estate must provide some of my personal information to a woman I do not know and with whom I have never communicated who has brought a meritless lawsuit against me. This would make my name a matter of public record, so I chose to come forward today," he wrote on Medium.

While Stuef's identity is now known, a few other mysteries remain: where in Wyoming the chest was found and how exactly Stuef solved the riddle. Stuef says he pored over not only Fenn's poem but also interviews with him, teasing out clues from his words to understand what kind of person he was and where he might be inclined to hide his riches.

And the secret hiding spot? Stuef says he wants that to remain secret, lest it become a site of pilgrimage and become overrun — perhaps by people looking to see if maybe an emerald was dropped along the way.

"If I were to reveal where the treasure was, the natural wonder of [the] place that Forrest held so dear will be destroyed by people seeking treasure they hope I dropped on my way out or Forrest on his way in," Stuef wrote. "Getting to the wilderness location where the chest was is not dangerous in the conventional sense of the word, but it very quickly can be when people do not take basic precautions or go out in the wrong conditions. It is not an appropriate place to become a tourist attraction."

The treasure is now in a secure location in New Mexico, but Stuef plans to sell it. He says he has medical school loans to pay off.

The Monolith Mystery Deepens, As A 3rd Oddity Pops Up In California

December 3, 2020:40 PM ET

Colin Dwyer 2018 square

COLIN DWYER

Maybe it was once rare to stumble upon a 10-foot-tall monolith plopped in the middle of nowhere, towering in silent, vaguely alien mystery over a scenic landscape — but the curious find certainly seems to be getting rather common lately.

On Wednesday, dozens of hikers flocked to a new monolith found atop Pine Mountain in Central California. Apparently crafted from metal, the new oddity strongly recalls two other structures that suddenly appeared — and disappeared, nearly as quickly — in the Utah desert and on a Romanian plateau in the past three weeks.

There's at least one major difference about this new one, which now stands in thus far impenetrable mystery on one of the highest points in Atascadero, Calif.

"Unlike its Utah sibling, the Atascadero obelisk was not attached to the ground, and could be knocked over with a firm push," the local Atascadero News reports, estimating that, all told, the object must weigh around 200 pounds.

So that's perhaps one clue to its origins.

But for now, a solution to the broader mystery of the monoliths remains elusive. Since Utah state officials found the first structure in the state's remote Red Rock Country last month, authorities in the U.S. and Romania — where the second monolith briefly appeared — have professed amused puzzlement at their origins and whether any link exists between them.

The monoliths have each stood around 10 to 12 feet tall, with three sides and metal polished enough to reflect the sun's glare, though minor differences appear to distinguish each one from the others.

All three bear an unmistakable resemblance to the monolith famously featured in the film 2001: A Space Odyssey -- one reason, perhaps, why authorities have been so quick to blame aliens in their tongue-in-cheek responses. (The monolith in Stanley Kubrick's film had four sides.)

Andy Lewis, an adventure sportsman who lives near the site of the first monolith in Moab, Utah, says that he and a team dismantled and removed the object after dark on Nov. 27. He posted a series of images on social media earlier this week purporting to show their work in progress. A person claiming to be a witness said the monolith was removed to prevent environmental damage to the remote site from crowds of spectators.

The claim may complicate the efforts of Ripley's Believe It or Not! — which offered a \$10,000 reward earlier this week for exclusive tips on tracking down the Utah monolith — and it doesn't get to the bottom of who put it there in the first place.

Nor have answers been forthcoming yet in Romania, where a reportedly shoddily crafted monolith stood for about four days outside the city of Piatra Neamt. The local police told Reuters that officers are investigating the provenance of the structure, which had been illegally placed in a protected archaeological area before its unexplained removal.

In California, meanwhile, the puzzlement has spread. In an email to the San Luis Obispo Tribune, Atascadero Land Preservation Society President Mike Orvis said he has no information to offer about the object.

"2020 continues to be an interesting year," he deadpanned.

Kentucky man goes viral for clearing snowy driveway with flamethrower

Timothy Browning hilariously dressed as Cousin Eddie from 'National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation' while performing the stunt

By Melissa Roberto | Fox News

A Kentucky man is going viral for his unconventional idea of clearing the snow in his driveway with a flamethrower.

Timothy Browning stunned fans after a relative filmed him standing in his driveway wearing nothing but a white bathrobe, socks, slippers and a hat, recreating Cousin Eddie from the iconic holiday movie "National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation."

While his attire alone would turn heads, it was Browning's unique method of removing snow from his driveway with a flamethrower that won the Internet.

"Browning snow services removal now available!" a woman filming Browning, of Ashland, Ky., says at the start of the video.

In the nearly 30-second clip, Browning chugs a beer and throws it on the ground as he casually watches the giant flames in front of him melt away the flakes.

"God bless American rednecks!" Browning wrote on Facebook, where he posted the footage.

Browning's alternative to shoveling was also caught on camera by an onlooker named Jordan Podunavac. His video was posted to Twitter by a user named Chad who wrote, "Here's one way to do some quick snow removal, by flamethrower."

The tweet was viewed over 120,000 times after it was posted on Christmas. Viewers were quick to react on social media, referring to Browning as a "genius" and asking how to get their hands on a flamethrower.

"Now that's what you call " a sure FIRE way to get things done! "" one Twitter user reacted.

"What possibly could go wrong," another joked.

"Needed that about 8 am today!!!" another said.

On Facebook, one person told Browning her driveway "is waiting [sic] your services!"

Saved from the garbage, Russian cat lands on its feet in minister's chair **By Reuters Staff**

MOSCOW (Reuters) - When a worker at a Russian waste-sorting plant rescued a cat from imminent death, he had no idea it would end up with an honorary title and napping in a government official's chair.

Surveillance footage at the plant in Ulyanovsk, a city located around 700 km (435 miles) southeast of Moscow, on Monday showed worker Mikhail Tukash scooping up a white plastic bag from a conveyor belt and slashing it open to discover a black and white male cat inside.

"I felt something soft inside the bag," Tukash, who was honoured by local authorities for the rescue, told the tabloid Moskovsky Komsomolets. "I cut the bag open slightly and I saw eyes looking back at me."

The cat's rescue, broadcast on television and on social media, has made him a local celebrity. He has been adopted by the Ulyanovsk region's environment ministry and unofficially given the position of deputy environment minister.

"The cat was on the brink of death," the ministry said on Wednesday. "A little longer and it would have ended up in the trash separator."

Pictures from the ministry showed the cat napping in a swivel chair in the office of environment minister Gulnara Rakhmatulina and exploring its new home.

The ministry has announced a nationwide contest to choose a name for the cat, which it said was found to be in good health after a vet examined him.

"I want to appeal to pet owners: remember that you are responsible for those you have tamed," Rakhmatulina said. "If you can't keep your pet at home, you can always leave it in good hands or at a shelter."

Reporting by Dmitry Turlyun; Writing by Gabrielle Tétrault-Farber; Editing by Barbara Lewis

Colombian taxi driver and canine co-pilot spread Christmas cheer

By Herbert Villarraga

BOGOTA (Reuters) - People looking for a bit of Christmas merriment in the Colombian capital might find it in an unexpected place: the front seat of a taxi, in the form of a costumed canine co-pilot.

Taxi driver Nicolas Walteros and his beloved dog Colonel take passengers around the city together, dressed in matching green Santa tops and hats, aviator sunglasses and a fluffy fake beard resting on the pup's blonde snout.

"We're showing people a Christmas of hope where there's not just material things but what's in people's hearts," said Walteros, 52, as he and the pooch cruised around crowded, high-altitude Bogota two days before Christmas, their vehicle decked out in fake pine boughs. "That's Christmas!"

Walteros found Colonel, a mutt with shaggy fur and floppy ears, on the street six years ago and the dog has been riding shotgun daily for three, usually dressed in a police costume. The pair start work at 4 a.m., attracting smiles and attention throughout their shift.

"It's unusual, but this year has been unusual and getting into a cab with a dog dressed as Santa Claus is fun!," said passenger Cesar Reina.

Walteros said there is no end to his love for the hound.

"Colonel is a friend, a buddy. I can't explain what I have in my heart for him," Walteros said, his voice cracking.

Reporting by Herbert Villarraga; Writing by Julia Symmes Cobb; Editing by Cynthia Osterman

Saved By The Whale: Dutch Train Runs Off Elevated Tracks, Is Caught By Statue's Tail

November 2, 2020 3:31 PM ET

REESE OXNER

A Dutch train burst past the end of its elevated tracks Monday in the Netherlands.

But instead of crashing to the ground 30 feet below, the metro train was caught — held aloft by an artist's massive sculpture of a whale's tail. Despite some damage, no injuries or deaths were reported.

The sculpture at the end of the tracks was given a prescient name: "Saved by the Whale's Tail," according to France 24. It was built in 2002, installed at the De Akkers station in Spijkenisse, a city just outside Rotterdam.

It's unclear why the train didn't stop. The partial derailment is under investigation, and the train driver was the only person on board, according to The Associated Press.

The driver was questioned by police and sent home, the local emergency service said Monday afternoon.

The train will spend the night on the whale's tail. On Tuesday morning, workers will attempt to lift the train to safety by using slings, local authorities said.

"It's like the scene of a Hollywood movie," said Ruud Natrop, a spokesman for safety in the Rotterdam-Rijnmond area, according to The New York Times. "Thank God the tail was there."

The architect who created the sculpture, Maarten Struijs, was shocked it held up.

"I am amazed that it is so strong," Struijs said, according to The Guardian. "When plastic has stood for 20 years, you don't expect it to hold up a metro train."

Reese Oxner is an intern on NPR's News Desk.

Countdown to 2021 with Light the Hoan

BY GRIFFIN BRADLEY DEC. 31, 2020 11:12 A.M.

Light the Hoan will provide a live 10-second countdown to 2021 tonight, New Year's Eve. At midnight, the Hoan will ring in the new year with a confetti themed light show. The theme will be repeated on New Year's Day as well, so if you can't catch the countdown, you'll still be able to see the show at dusk on Friday.

The crowd sourcing for the project started in May of 2018 and Light the Hoan made its debut in October of 2020. It's been a popular attraction to view from miles around ever since. With themes for different events and holidays, the project has bright (sorry for the pun) future. The schedule of upcoming events can be viewed [here](#).

F Street Hospitality Names Camp Hometown Heroes First Recipient of 'In Dough We Grow' Campaign

BY TYLER NELSON DEC. 31, 2020 10:14 A.M.

F Street Hospitality presents the first recipient of their new Good Neighbors Program, In Dough We Grow, to Camp Hometown Heroes. A special pizza called the Squeaky Camper will be sold at Pizza Man and Pizza Man Pronto restaurants from January 1 to March 31, 2021, with all proceeds going to Camp Hometown Heroes. The pizza's ingredients were hand-chosen by a member of the camp's staff, along with a camper named Brayden and his mother. The idea was turned into a delicious pizza by F Street Hospitality Corporate Chef Tom McGinty.

"It's fun to get the kids in the kitchen to create a pizza that they love and that Pizza Man customers will also enjoy," says McGinty. "We hope that the Squeaky Camper pizza will raise a lot of money for campers."

Camp Hometown Heroes is a nonprofit organization that provides a free, one-week overnight camp for children and siblings of fallen U.S. service members. During the camp, attendees are provided an outlet for support and the ability to share emotions they wouldn't normally be able to in their regular day-to-day lives. Through leadership development and the creation of service opportunities, the camp trains and inspires the next generation of leaders.

The camp is funded solely by the generosity of donors. While the camp calls Wisconsin home, they accept kids from all over the country, most of whom are flown into General Mitchell International Airport as part of the package. Campers from 7-17 are welcome and can work their way up to leadership roles and eventually be mentors to younger campers. To check availability of a child in need, visit the camp's [FAQ](#) page.

Join in the giving spirit and support a local business and Wisconsin organization along the way! Try a Squeaky Camper pizza for yourself from any of the Pizza Man and Pizza Man Pronto locations today.

Playing the Field: Margaret Domka

How a Union Grove Spanish teacher became the only American referee at this year's Women's World Cup

BY NICOLE HAASE JUN. 01, 2015 2:05 P.M.

In *Playing the Field*, we profile women who are making an impact in the world of sports, either in competition or behind the scenes. For this installment, we spoke with Margaret Domka, a soccer referee about to make her debut at the Women's World Cup.

Being an official at any major sporting event is a daunting task. In an ideal situation, the viewer would never even take note of the referee. There would be no questionable calls, no complaining athletes and the whole match would proceed smoothly. The officials have to be solid, confident, unyielding and correct. They are in charge, in control and not intimidated. It takes a certain type of person to be able to handle the stress and the pressure; to know the rules and their intricacies; to be firm and fair; to maintain the athleticism and knowledge.

Margaret Domka, a Spanish teacher at Union Grove High School, never thought she'd be that person. A shy, people-pleasing teenager who got into soccer refereeing for the good pay and flexible hours, will be the only U.S. representative in the referee pool for the Women's World Cup that starts in Canada in less than two weeks.

Of 22 referees, seven support referees and 44 assistant referees selected from 49 countries, Domka is the only American. It will be her first World Cup, though she has officiated at the past two U-20 Women's World Cups in addition to being the center referee for the 2014 NWSL Championship game. In 2009, Domka became the 10th woman certified as a FIFA referee, and was only the third American woman to achieve the status.

In order to be eligible to referee international matches, a referee must be nominated and accepted by a panel. Domka said she would never have considered not taking this next step in her career—as the promotion is based entirely on nomination and review, it's both an honor and entirely out of her control. While she aspired to get the opportunity to officiate a World Cup, it was very much a secret desire she felt she couldn't dare voice aloud. The honor of being placed among the world's elite is something Domka cherishes, but she's always tempered her expectations.

"I never would have imagined that it could lead to this and even as I was coming up the ranks and getting closer to this, I still couldn't have pictured reaching the pinnacle," she said. "The World Cup is the biggest stage for soccer, there's no bigger tournament. It's amazing to go from where I was as a high school teenager with a summer job to now reaching this and the journey it's been along the way.

"I certainly thought about it, it was just something that I wouldn't admit out loud because it seemed too lofty to imagine," she continued. "Every event I went to, every day during training, it was something that I thought about, but I also thought 'no matter how far I get, I'm proud of the accomplishments I've done.' I worked very hard to try to have a balance in my life so I could be very proud of wherever I was at in my career and be prepared for what the next day might bring."

To hear Domka describe her younger self is to wonder how that teenager was able to hold herself on a field in charge of 8-year-olds in a recreational league, much less how she'd continue on to become the ref she is today.

"Developing, there were times when it was challenging for me to be one of the few females in the (referee) tent. I tended to be a very shy, timid person, particularly as a teenager, so (it) could be intimidating," said Domka.

Most teenagers in that position would not have continued with this particular career path, but Domka said she was simply too polite and too scared to say "no" when organizers continued to ask her to participate. Though she was often not the most self-assured person on the field, Domka kept it internalized and called on the innate athletic competitiveness she possessed. Having tried both gymnastics and dance as a child, she also had experience performing. She called on both those aspects of her personality when she was at the center circle for kickoff and refused to back down or back off.

Some might say she was just too stubborn to quit when she was told she couldn't or shouldn't do something, but Domka prefers to say it's a competitive spirit. She wanted to prove people wrong. That small kernel of obstinacy fueled her tenaciousness and Domka says sometime in college, she changed from feeling like she had to ref to wanting to do it.

"Every tournament I went to and every game I went to I kept thinking 'one of these days I have to tell them that I don't want to do this forever.' I just kept being polite and saying 'yes, I'll go' and they kept saying 'You have potential, you can do really well, you have everything that it takes.' One day after many, many tournaments, I just finally—all of the sudden, something changed and I really had a passion for it and I realized that what they were telling me was right and I did have a lot of potential and if I was willing to work for it. I didn't know how far I could go, but I had opportunities," she said.

"This whole experience has had me grow as a person. Even in college, and shortly after college, I was very much the person who wanted to hide in social situations and I really felt like I didn't have any value to provide to people when talking to them. I was just forced, because of soccer, again and again and again to be in these situations of not knowing people. I travel all over the country and I have to work with people that I don't know and I have to travel all over the world and work with people I don't know. I have to work with people who speak different languages. It has made me realize so much about presence and about people believing in you because you believe in yourself. So it's really been a journey. I'm a totally different person today than I would be without having continually been forced."

The confidence and leadership skills she's learned on the field obviously translate directly into Domka's career as a high school Spanish teacher. Knowing the fear and intimidation she felt at their age, Domka is especially keen on making sure her students know that there are a vast amount of opportunities for them outside of high school. The passion for helping future generations achieve greatness translates onto the pitch, as well, as Domka works to create an environment where future female refs can achieve even more.

"To me, it's a very exciting role in that I do have the opportunity to continue to help push the door open for more women to follow me," she said. "Moving forward, I think it's easy, when you get done with something, to look back and see people coming behind you who can go above and beyond what you've done and maybe feel a little bit of jealousy. But I always hope that's not the way I feel and that I'm really supporting the next people to come through and knowing that there weren't as many women when I did it. Some of the challenges that I faced are different than their challenges, but that's the whole goal is to get them to go ever further than I did and then they can do the same for the next generation.

"My hope is that I'm setting an example for (my students) and they can watch and see that I work hard," she said. They're curious about what I do and I just hope that when they leave my classroom they have a better understanding—they have all these opportunities and I just want them to follow their dream. I don't think you always reach the destination that you plan, but it's quite a journey along the way. If you don't go out and try, you could miss out on all these opportunities and experiences that you could have."

Heisman Trophy winner DeVonta Smith gets to keep his. But what happens to those extra trophies?

Paul Myerberg

USA TODAY

When the Heisman Trophy was handed out Tuesday evening, it was easily apparent to viewers that the coronavirus had forced changes to the traditional gathering in New York City to celebrate college football's highest individual honor.

For the first time, the award was given virtually, with the four finalists in three venues. Eventual winner DeVonta Smith and his Alabama teammate Mac Jones were together, Trevor Lawrence was at Clemson and Kyle Trask was at Florida — with family members, friends, coaches and former winners chiming in from around the country via video.

Each of the venues featured a Heisman Trophy in the background. The trophies were not replicas but a real Heisman designed to be taken away by the winner, said Tim Henning, the associate director of the Heisman Trophy Trust.

"The trophy that DeVonta held up during the Heisman Trophy ceremony, that will be his Heisman to keep," Henning told USA TODAY Sports.

To prepare for the virtual ceremony, the Heisman Trophy Trust tasked the trophy's manufacturer, Jostens, with making four trophies, thinking that total would be enough to cover the then-unknown number of finalists. With two Alabama players earning finalist nods, only three trophies were needed.

"We knew right away regardless of where the finalists were, that we needed to have a trophy there for every finalist so that once the winner was named he would have a trophy," said Henning. "That was never even up for debate."

With assistance from ESPN, which helped arrange the shooting locations for the virtual event, the trust then shipped the trophies to three venues. Each trophy came in a shipping case that included a plate bearing the name of the finalist in question — the case sent to Alabama included plates for Smith and Jones — and a small hardware kit containing a Phillips head screwdriver.

After the winner was announced, an Alabama staff member needed to unscrew the generic plate, lay on Smith's name, line up the screws and lock in the plate.

Each shipping case also included a self-addressed envelope to send the trophy back to New York City.

The trust did not consider sending replica trophies to the four finalists and then shipping an actual Heisman to the winner, Henning said. In fact, the trust does not authorize replica Heisman trophies.

"We don't have nor have we ever produced a replica Heisman Trophy," Henning said. "All the trophies are authentic."

Port Washington, WI 53074

Wednesday 2:00 PM

Fog



33 °F | °C

Precipitation: 2%

Humidity: 83%

Wind: 1 mph

Temperature

Precipitation

Wind

33 32 32 31 31 30 31 34 34

3 PM 6 PM 9 PM 12 AM 3 AM 6 AM 9 AM 12 PM

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed



34° 29°

35° 28°

32° 28°

34° 24°

31° 21°

29° 20°

31° 23°

35° 27°



Poo~Pourri @PooPourri

9m

The perfect gift for every stinkin' person on your list.

POOPOURRI.com 20% off w/ code TWITTER20 (rtl only)

pic.twitter.com/HoHGULWfbu

Promoted by Poo~Pourri

Expand

Reply Delete Favorite More

The image shows two bottles of Poo~Pourri, one labeled 'P' and the other 'Poo~Pourri', next to lemons. To the right is a diagram illustrating the two-step process: #1 Spritz (spraying the product into the toilet bowl) and #2 Poo (the product creating a film on the water surface to trap odors).

#1 Spritz

#2 Poo

Spritz 4-6 sprays of Poo~Pourri into the toilet bowl. The secret blend of essential oils create a film that traps odors under the water's surface!