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Artist Douglas Orr promotes the arts in Grays Harbor. See page 29.

Photo by Katie McGregor

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Cover photo by Amy Ostwald

COASTAL Currents

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Artistic flair blossoms at Harbor Blooms

STORY & PHOTOS BY
GAIL GREENWOOD AYRES

It is not an ordinary flower shop.

An amazing reputation and intriguing window displays draw people into Harbor Blooms in downtown Aberdeen. But once inside the store, the various vignettes, comprised of silk flowers, home decor and a myriad of gifts, keep one moving deeper and deeper into the 3,000-square-foot space in a treasure hunt of beauty and delight.

Frankly, the experience is less like shopping at a store and more like entering an art gallery and an artist's studio combined. It's a place brimming with creativity and possibility.

"You would be surprised how many people come in here and say, 'I just had to come in to get some happy,'" says owner and lead designer Sheril Woodruff.

It's no wonder that the flower arrangements that leave Harbor Blooms are so often pieces of art themselves and that the store at 118 East Heron St., has been voted the Harbor's favorite florist since it began in 2016.

"At Harbor Blooms they are really good about keeping up with the trends in the floral industry," says frequent customer Stacie Barnum of Aberdeen. "They add things to your arrangements that you wouldn't find in, say, a grocery store florist shop. They know how to personalize arrangements to the person and the occasion. They are so good about putting together something unique that represents what you are looking for."

Woodruff has many years of floral arranging experience, having worked

at Flowerland in Hoquiam, Wynan's Florist in Aberdeen, Enchanted Florist in Hoquiam, and Flowers by Pollen in Hoquiam. A few years after Flowers by Pollen moved to Aberdeen, the owner, Janis Pollen, retired. Woodruff decided to stay on and began her own business, Harbor Blooms, in the same location.

Despite all the years of experience, Woodruff, 57, says she has no formal floral training. However, it's clear when it comes to floral design her instincts have served her well.

"You would be surprised how many people come in here and say, 'I just had to come in to get some happy.'"

— Sheril Woodruff

"Here, we don't do things that taught florists do," she explains. "Everything grows in nature and it grows together so it goes together," she says. "The rules aren't to be followed. It is what looks good to the eye, not what the color wheel says, or even what the rules of design dictate."

"We don't have the same cookie-cutter approach," she says. "It's a little about winging it and following how the flowers want to go in their own direction and letting it happen rather than following the rules."

While of course customers' preferences are honored and people can order arrangements such as a traditional vase of a dozen red roses and other more



Sheril Woodruff, owner and lead designer of Harbor Blooms.

customary designs, what sets Harbor Blooms apart is its less static, often asymmetrical designs. "It's just more interesting to look at than very tight and put together," she says.

The shop tends to use unusual greenery in their arrangements, typically forgoing salal and leather fern for eucalyptus, cedar, erioctemon, curly willow and the like.

"If you have a good base with your greenery then that is like the cake and the flowers are like the frosting. If you start with bad greenery, it's a struggle," Woodruff says.

Not only is Woodruff an artist with flowers, she seems to have a keen ability to determine who else will be a quality designer, and has high praise for her staff of six.

"When I've interviewed for new designers, I hand them a vase and have them put together an arrangement. I can tell immediately if they will be good. It's hard to explain, it even has to do with which flowers they choose to work with and how they handle the flowers."


"It's not a craft, it is an art," she says, "It is, I think, an eye, and it is also partly being able to read people, too."

Certainly, something is resonating with her work. The shop stays busy, especially in the summer when the designers provide flowers for three to five weddings each weekend. Well-known for exquisite wedding displays, Harbor Blooms' flowers have been highlighted in several publications including Rock n Roll Bride magazine, Seattle Bride magazine and the Wedding Chicks blog.

While it's always nice to have your work acknowledged, Woodruff says what she especially enjoys about her work is the relationships developed with her customers over the years.

"What brings me the most joy is just having the opportunity to be a part of people's lives," she says. "There are people I've been part of their life story as they've grown. It starts with flowers for dance recitals, then corsages for the prom, then their wedding flowers and later baby bouquets and sometimes, sadly, arrangements for the death of a parent."

There have actually been studies that receiving flowers in difficult times helps with recovery, she says. "There is something about flowers that feeds the soul. It's bringing in nature; I mean, what more beautiful thing is there?"

Periodically Harbor Blooms offers various classes. For more information, visit www.Harborblooms.com or check out their Facebook page. 

Floral designers Sarah German, left, and Josie Weiberg, create unique arrangements alongside Harbor Blooms owner Sheril Woodruff.

Advice for the home arranger

For people wanting to create their own arrangement for the holidays, Sheril Woodruff, owner of Harbor Blooms, offers some helpful tips.

"First find a container that has meaning, it can be an old tin container or Grandma's Depression glass bowl. Just having it in a container that means something adds so much.

"For a novice, you may want to put a piece of chicken wire in the top to give you a grid to work with. Then find various branches from evergreen trees in your yard. We have so many beautiful greens available around here. Include some cedar if you can, for both the smell and interesting texture. Add pinecones with wire on the branches or any sort of berries.

"I kind of like staying with nature and then adding some red or white to the green backdrop. Adding red roses would be pretty or other red or white flowers that you can purchase. Even moss can be pretty, but make sure it's falling out of the container a bit.

"Remember to include different heights, different elements and especially different textures, that is the main thing."



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Mark Fisher is as happy as a clam with his daily dig.

STORY & PHOTOS BY ANGELO BRUSCAS

Mark Fisher emerged from the Roosevelt Beach surf on a golden sunset fall evening with a triumphant smile, clutching a brimming mesh bag glistening with the season's expanded limit of 20 prized Pacific razor clams, which the Hoquiam man proudly shows off for a photo.

A robust clamming season

Thousands of people just like Fisher have descended on the Washington Coast for the return of what has thus

far been the most robust razor clam digging season in many years. In the first 25 days of digging, an estimated 126,300 diggers were able to harvest about 2.34 million of the mouth-watering mollusks.

Last fall's digging opportunities were cut short by high levels of a toxin (domoic acid) found in the clam populations, and the season before was curtailed by Covid-19 concerns for the coastal communities.

The result has been a fall season of abundance for those who love to dig

(continued on page 10)



A chef from the Quinault Beach Resort cooks up a batch of clam chowder during a recent Razor Clam Festival.

RAZOR CLAMS

(continued)

for the culinary delicacy and those who cook up the chowders, fritters and fabled concoctions featuring one of the most unique recreational pursuits worldwide.

“When Covid hit, we had clams for big digs that were expected in April and May 2020, but everything came to a halt. And then we barely got started last fall when domoic acid came roaring back,” says Dan Ayres, WDFW coastal shellfish manager. “When we did our stock assessment this summer, we were so pleased to discover that not only did the unharvested population hold over, but also more young clams were added,” Ayres said.

Deciding how many clams are available for recreational diggers involves many steps. After the razor clam population of each beach is determined, the number of clams on the northern beaches of Copalis and Mocrocks are divided equally between the state and the Quinault Indian Nation, because of state-tribal treaties. The state also manages the Twin Harbors and Long Beach beaches.

The culinary clam

Razor clams for centuries have been a significant food and economic resource,

as well as a cultural tradition celebrated and harvested by the Quinault Indian Nation and other coastal tribes. Some of the earliest historical photos of the Copalis area show a razor clam harvest being smoked on drying racks by the Indians. The clams are strung on sticks, each several yards, which are arranged over the coals of a fire against a platform resembling the beams of a small A-frame house.

Just about every clam digger on the beach has his or her favorite way to prepare razor clams, but only a very few actually prepare razor clams for commercial dining.



“As long as I can remember, we have had razor clams on our menu.”

*— Paul Larson,
Duffy’s owner*

Duffy’s Restaurant in Aberdeen undoubtedly has cooked up more razor clams than any other establishment in all of Grays Harbor. Razors have been a menu item since at least the 1970s, says owner Paul Larson of the longtime family business at 1605 Simpson Ave., where his father and grandfather learned to savor and prepare the locally harvested delicacy.

At Duffy’s, you can order razor clams and eggs for breakfast or a razor clam dinner, and you can order one single clam as an appetizer or added to an entrée like the popular Logger’s Breakfast or chicken fried steak and eggs. Duffy’s also cooks up clam fritters.

“We have done razor clams for a long, long time,” Larson says. “As long as I can remember, we have had them on our menu.” While Larson himself digs for razor clams for personal consumption,

Photos in column at right by Rick Moyer



Duffy’s clams, sourced locally, are breaded and frozen.



Chef Joey Hagedorn prepares razor clams for diners at Duffy’s Restaurant.



Razor clams cook on a hot grill at Duffy’s.



Razor clams hot off the grill are ready to be served at Duffy’s Restaurant in Aberdeen.

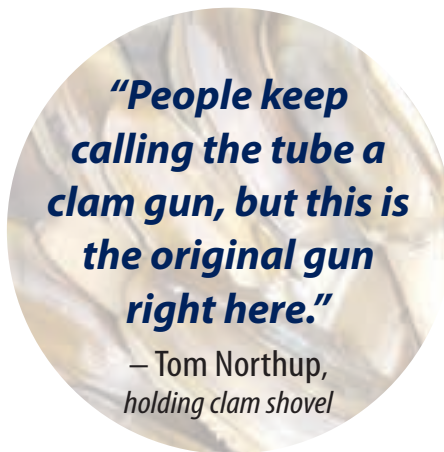
Duffy's purchases its supply from the Quinault Indian Nation's seafood enterprise.

How does he cook his own clams? "They're good, and I cook them the same way we do at Duffy's: I do mine with flour, egg and then Panko. We used cracker meal for years, but when we bought the Bee Hive restaurant, that's what they were doing."

At Ocean Crest Resort's acclaimed ocean view restaurant on Highway 109 in Moclips, both longtime chef Jess Owen (now resort manager) and executive chef Ronald Wisner field requests for razor clams daily, with regular menu items featuring clams or fritters, clams for breakfast, as a full meal, and as a side dish with the Crest's special chili aioli, garnished with pickled onion.

"People ask for them a lot," Wisner says, "especially when there is a dig going on, we may go through about eight pounds per night. They go and dig them and then they come and ask us how to cook them."

Known as "The Culinary Madman," Owen has even used razor clams for a Chocolate on the Beach Festival concoction and has developed a razor



clam chowder that is gluten free. And the razor clam fritters that Wisner prepares at Ocean Crest have brought him top honors at the Ocean Shores Razor Clam Festival.

When it comes to cooking razor clams whole, Wisner notes, the secret is to batter and bread them first, lay them on a flat pan and then freeze them before cooking later. "That's how we do it here, on a 400-degree flat grill with hot oil. By the time the outside is nice and golden brown, the inside is perfectly cooked."

Expert diggers offer tips

Between the two diggers, Tom Northup and Greg Johnston have about a century



Ocean Crest Resort executive chef Ronald Wisner shows clams and clam fritters ready to serve.

of razor clam experience, knowledge, and sea-worthy stories to tell. Tom is a retired shellfish manager for the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, and Greg literally wrote the book on the coast, "Washington's Pacific Coast: A Guide to Hiking, Camping, Fishing."

At the northern end of the Copalis digging area, with the sun just setting into an incoming storm, it took the two veterans about an hour to unearth 40 of the prized clams, known scientifically as *Siliqua patula*.

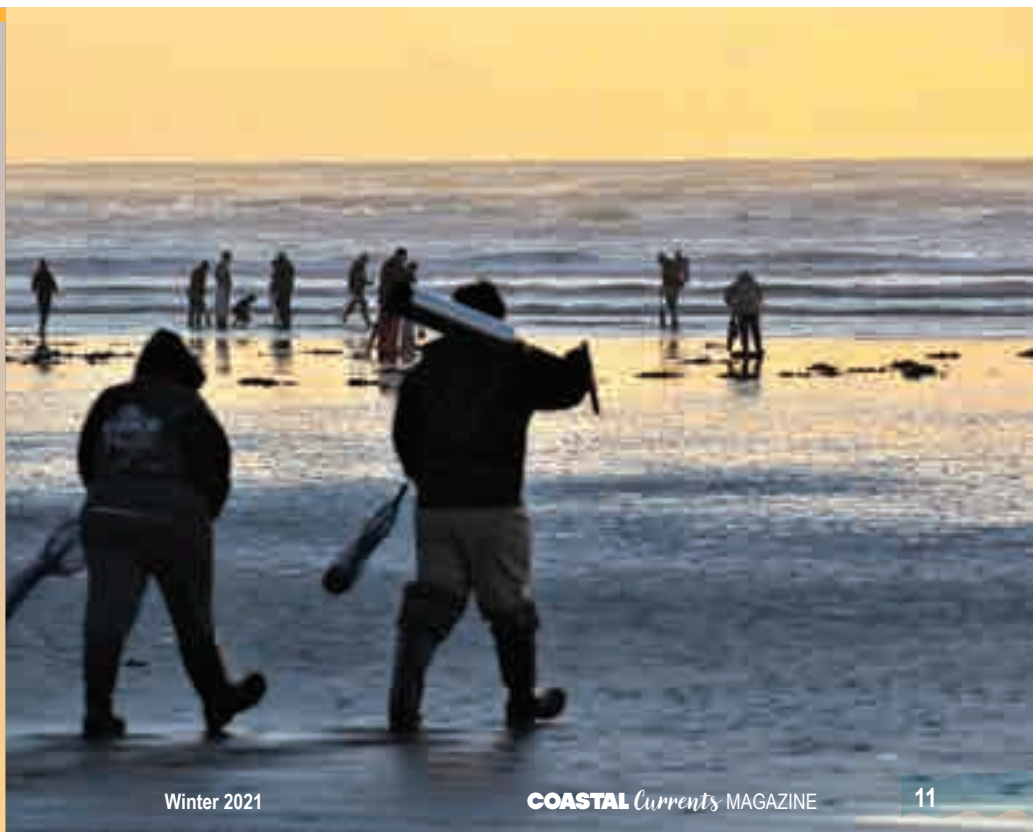
"I always dig the first show I see," Johnston notes as he pulls up a small

(continued on page 13)

Ocean Crest Resort's CLAM FRITTERS

- 1 pound of razor clams,
- 1 roasted red pepper,
- a rib of celery,
- ½ cup grated carrot
- 5 ounces of cream cheese
- ¼ cup Old Bay seasoning
- 2 cups Panko or Japanese bread crumbs
- 2 eggs

Place the first six ingredients into a food processor and chop lightly. Place the mixture into a large bowl, add eggs and bread crumb mix by hand. Heat a lightly oiled pan to 350 degrees. Scoop 4 ounces of the mixture and roll in bread crumbs to coat. Press each patty and cook in pan until golden brown.



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RAZOR CLAMS

(continued)

one and bags it. You have to keep all the clams you dig, no matter the size, but this season the limit has been increased from 15 to 20 clams per day.

In a matter of minutes, Johnston digs another hole with multiple shows and emerges with three clams. Johnston and Northup know exactly what to look for in a clam show – the rounded donut hole where a clam has just pulled in its siphon. Both wield shovels; it is sacrilege for either to use a clam tube.

“People keep calling the tube a clam gun, but this is the original gun right here,” Northup says, holding up his slim-bladed clam shovel.

The men prowl the receding surf and then dig methodically as the next waves roll in. “A good show will be like a nickel or a quarter,” Johnston advises. “If it’s dime-sized, those are the one you pass on.”

Ayres hopes to continue to offer digging opportunities into the spring. And, he’s excited that there are plans for digs right around New Year’s, which is a special tradition that only occurs on years with the right conditions and low tides.

“The most important thing is for us to continue to be vigilant. The Department of Health requires us to sample razor clam meat prior to every opener just to make sure it’s safe,” Ayres says. “My crew is always out there.”

Even veterans like Ayres – with more than 40 years at WDFW and a lifelong razor clam digger – still get knocked over by a wave now and then, so dig carefully, he advises. Also, a fishing or shellfish license is required. The information on when digging is allowed on various beaches is at the WDFW website at wdfw.wa.gov. In addition, the website hosts videos showing how to dig razor clams as well as how to clean and cook them.

(continued on page 45)

Image provided courtesy of Barbara Bennett Parsons



Many of Elton Bennett’s most treasured pieces include scenes of razor clam digging. This one is called ‘The Sea Birds’ Cry.’

THE RAZOR CLAM AS ARTISTIC MUSE

BY ANGELO BRUSCAS

For anyone who grew up on the Washington Coast, razor clams are much more than a recreational enterprise – they are part of the soul, the artwork, the lore, the generations.

Barbara Bennett Parsons recalls many childhood digs with her father, the world-renowned Grays Harbor artist Elton Bennett. Her father would take the whole family to go clam digging “on every tide” in the Iron Springs area.

Many of Elton Bennett’s most treasured and prized pieces capture scenes of clam digging, and Barbara noted that her father even worked in a commercial clam operation in the 1930s during the Depression era. He is likely the most well-known of any artist who captured the essence of the razor clam experience.

“It wasn’t until after WWII that he was able to attend art school. And what, you may ask, was his first success as an artist? Yes, it was a silkscreen print that portrayed razor clam digging,” she says. Elton Bennett original silkscreen artwork now is known and

treasured around the world.

“Even those who have never seen a razor clam in their lives appreciate scenes of people on the beach, cherishing their oneness with the sea in all of its glory,” she observes.

Elton Bennett’s work can now be seen in several Grays Harbor locations and museums, as well as in the Ocean Crest Resort restaurant, dining room and lounge, and at a showroom in Hoquiam. For information about Elton Bennett, visit www.eltonbennett.com, or contact Barbara Bennett Parsons at (360) 532-3235 to arrange for a visit to the Elton Bennett showroom.

Viewing razor clam art

Razor clams have indeed inspired some of the most famous artists from the Washington Coast. One of the best locations to view and experience the art of razor clam digging is at the Museum of the North Beach in Moclips.

“We do have some razor clam art dating back to the 1950s,” says Kelly

(continued on page 15)

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ARTISTIC MUSE

(continued)



Pen and ink drawing by Uldine Burgon.

Image courtesy of Museum of the North Beach

Calhoun, museum curator. “And we have Elton Bennett’s serigraphs of clam diggers as well as Moclips artist Uldine Burgon.”

Burgon’s pen-and-ink drawings capture life along the North Beach, and her sketches have been donated to the museum, which has several pieces and

Orr and designed by Ocean Shores artist Judy Horn. Completed this past summer, the mural shows a wide beach landscape that includes several different clam-digging scenes. (Orr is featured on page 29 in this issue of *Coastal Currents*.)

“It really depicts what you might see out on our beach,” says Horn. “We have clam diggers, we have kite fliers, we have horseback riders and we have kids playing in the sand.”

Orr, who owns Alder Grove Gallery in Aberdeen, can recall at least a couple of razor clam-related pieces he has painted over the years, including one of clam diggers on the beach for a piece he sold locally. However, the clam diggers actually were an afterthought when it came to the new mural.

The design originally didn’t have clam diggers in the scene, but Orr says, “I wanted the mural to take up the whole space. So, I had stretched the design



Photo courtesy of Museum of the North Beach

Anthony Robinson stands by his 7-foot tall cedar razor clam sculpture created for the City of Ocean Shores.

out, and then Judy saw it and we added the clams afterward.”

Locally, the most famous – or infamous – razor clam artwork, the iconic carved cedar clam that once graced the front of Executive Villa offices in Ocean Shores, now is one of the oldest mysteries in town.

Radio station KOSW last year even went on an unsuccessful search for what happened to the 8-foot-high razor clam that for years towered over the intersection of Ocean Shores Avenue and Chance a la Mer Boulevard.

A 7-foot-tall replacement clam has been carved from an old-growth cedar log by North Beach chainsaw artist Anthony Robinson. (Robinson was featured in the Summer 2021 issue of *Coastal Currents*.)

In 2020, Robinson was commissioned by the Ocean Shores beautification committee to carve a

(continued on page 45)



Above: Large mural designed by Ocean Shores artist Judy Horn and painted by Aberdeen resident Douglas Orr.

Below: Humorous clam-inspired art by Elton Bennett.

greeting cards on display. Before she died in 2017 at the age of 101, Uldine’s Bluff House Studio was located one block from the museum on Highway 109.

Razor clam art recently made a bigger-than-life splash in Ocean Shores with the colorful mural painted on the side of the Ocean Shores Convention Center by Aberdeen artist Douglas

Image courtesy of Museum of the North Beach



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Grays Harbor sings praises of choir director Kari Hasbrouck

BY GREGORY ZSCHOMLER

If you consider the humanities (especially the musical arts) essential to the human experience, you'll certainly appreciate the contributions that Kari Hasbrouck has made to the quality of that experience in Grays Harbor County.

Recognized widely for her inspiration, enthusiasm and many talents, the Hoquiam musician teaches voice and piano, serves as an adjunct professor at Grays Harbor College (GHC), and directs both the GHC Jazz Choir and the Grays Harbor Civic Choir.

Kari, 56, also serves as the music director at Saron Lutheran/First Presbyterian Church in Hoquiam.

"Kari has so much experience," says Bill Dyer, GHC's band and orchestra director, who has worked with her for 11 of the 30 years he has known her. "She's a perfect fit for everything, and she does everything. She is very easy to work with, and students feel comfortable around her."

After graduating from Hoquiam High School in 1983, Kari attended Pacific Lutheran University in Tacoma, then transferred to Cornish College of the Arts in Seattle, where she earned a bachelor's degree of fine arts in music performance (vocal jazz). Then, in her mid-thirties, she earned her

"Kari has so much experience. She's a perfect fit for everything, and she does everything. She is very easy to work with, and students feel comfortable around her."

— Bill Dyer, GHC band and orchestra director

master's degree in secondary education from Grand Canyon University.

Now and Then

Kari's students love her.

Amber Mullins, 21, a third-year music major, says Kari "is a super positive person and one of the most encouraging and understanding instructors I've ever had."

"Kari is a very patient and understanding teacher," says former student Rae Snow, 20. "She helped me to grow into my voice, teaching mental techniques and selecting songs that challenged me.

"I always knew she was very skilled as she accompanied me for every lesson, but it wasn't until I saw her perform on one rare occasion that I realized how incredibly talented she was. She gives so much to her students," Rae says.

It's debated whether virtuosity comes from a natural born talent or hard work and experience. Arguably, artistic skill comes from both, if you mix in opportunity and passion. Kari has all that.

She began piano lessons in fourth grade, playing piano in the high school jazz band and violin in the orchestra. At Hoquiam High School the orchestra teacher, Chuck Elwell, helped the students put together a blue grass group, The Fiddling Grizzlies.



Photo by Katie McGregor



Kari Hasbrouck directs the Grays Harbor Civic Choir in March 2019 at Grays Harbor College's Bishop Center for Performing Arts.

Photo by Keith Krueger

"We were the first high school group to ever perform at the Seattle Folk Life Festival," Kari recalls.

She began accompanying the choir at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church (now Amazing Grace Lutheran Church) in Aberdeen, when she was in high school, as well as the Hoquiam High School Concert Choir for a couple of years, singing with both choirs whenever she got the chance.

Her first experience directing a choir was in an emergency substitute situation.

She was working as a paraeducator in the Hoquiam School District and had been accompanying the choirs at the high school and middle school for a couple of years when in the middle of the year, the district unexpectedly needed someone to step in and teach the choir classes.

"There was no one on the substitute teacher list who had any music

"I always knew she was very skilled as she accompanied me for every lesson, but it wasn't until I saw her perform ... that I realized how incredibly talented she was. She gives so much to her students."

*– Rae Snow,
former student*

experience. The principal asked if I would be willing to step in. I was finishing up my final course of my master's program and was getting ready to do my student teaching. So, I said 'yes.' In the back of my mind, I was thinking, 'What did I just get myself into?'

"I basically had a trial-by-fire experience being the teacher for two high school choirs, two middle school choirs and a beginning music class. I taught for the district for two and a half years. It was the toughest job I ever had, but I have a lot of good memories from that period in my life."

Heart and Soul

Kari says that she invites choir members to express their opinions about the music.

"I really enjoy the collaboration and the team atmosphere of the choirs I have directed. I think it's important that singers have the freedom to talk with me and make suggestions about

(continued on page 20)



Photo by Katie McGregor

Kari directs from the piano during a Civic Choir rehearsal.

repertoire or challenges in the music.

“Choir, for as long as I have been involved, has been like a second family and a place where people are comfortable expressing themselves through music,” she says. “Singing can feel very vulnerable because you are your instrument. Creating an environment where singers feel safe to express themselves and grow as musicians, whatever that looks like for them, is very important to me.”

And yet, she says, “I think the most challenging thing for me is that I am a total introvert. I’m not big on chit chat, but I’ll talk to you about music because that’s what I am passionate about. People sometimes underestimate me because I am a quiet person.”

But introverts often have a way of both finding and expressing themselves creatively. For Kari that includes writing and arranging music.

“I started writing simple piano music at about age 10 and vocal music soon

after. I attended a young songwriters workshop at Fort Worden State Park the summer I turned 12 and remember sleeping in rooms in the old Army barracks and making friends with other nerdy young kids who were there learning about songwriting.

“I wrote mostly vocal music with piano accompaniment all through high school and college. When Bill Dyer was directing the jazz choir, I arranged one of my solo pieces, ‘Dream,’ for the jazz choir. It has been performed several times in the past. In a nutshell, the song is about a world existing without war, without hunger and without hate.”

In fact, her two most recent solo pieces, both originals, were featured in the GHC Community Ensemble Directors Concert on Nov. 13, 2020.

“One is a humorous blues piece about getting older. The other is a song I wrote for a special guy in my life,” she says, adding that the program is still on the Bishop Center for Performing Arts Facebook page.

One of Kari’s most recent and rewarding projects was working with the 7th Street Kids production of “Frozen JR.”

“I was hired to be the music director—

Creating an environment where singers feel safe to express themselves and grow as musicians, whatever that looks like for them, is very important to me.”

– Kari Hasbrouck,
choir director

something I had always wanted to try, but never thought Alex Eddy would give up the gig. But he and Julayne Fleury were busy with the opening of their own theater project, Plank Island Theatre Company. (Eddy was featured in the Fall 2021 issue of Coastal Currents and Fleury in the Spring 2021 issue.)

“I was able to work with some wonderful young singers and be part of a new directing team. It was a great

Teaching vocal music during a pandemic isn’t easy, but Kari Hasbrouck makes it work.



Photo by Gregory Zschmiller


experience and I would definitely do it again if given the opportunity," she says.

Fun and Future

Kari enjoys spending time with her family—especially her granddaughter Dakota, 6, who loves music as much as she did at that age. During the summer she likes to take road trips with her dog to visit family. Creating mosaics and playing pinochle are other ways she enjoys downtime.

She plans to continue teaching and directing, saying she hopes to explore more musical theater opportunities. "And someday I want to actually go to New York and see a Broadway show."

"I would really like to do more singing, put together a jazz combo, do some arranging of jazz standards and originals and get out there and do some playing."

Though her GHC teaching schedule keeps her pretty busy, Kari does offer private lessons. She can be reached at momsong40@comcast.net 

Concerts

Upcoming

The **GHC Music Department's Jazz Concert** will be streamed from the Bishop Center website and Facebook page at 7 p.m., **Friday, Dec. 3**. The concert also features the GHC Jazz Band, directed by Bill Dyer.

The **Grays Harbor Civic Choir Concert's** holiday concert will be recorded from the Bishop Center stage and streamed as part of the Free Fall Fridays Concerts at 7 p.m., **Friday, Dec. 10**. Featuring holiday and winter-themed music, the concert is shared with the Grays Harbor Community Concert Band, directed by Tiffany Maki. (See story featuring Maki on page 22.)

The Choirs

The Grays Harbor Civic Choir was founded in 1953 by Eugene Stensager. After serving as accompanist for the choir for about five years, Kari became its director in the fall quarter of 2015.

Civic Choir is open to anyone who likes to sing, no audition required. Being able to read music is helpful, but not required. Members have ranged in age from 16 to 80. The choir performs two concerts each year, with rehearsals for the spring concert beginning in mid-February. GHC students can participate for ensemble credit in the associate's degree music program.

Participation in the **GHC Jazz Choir** is by audition only. Participation can also count for college credit.

For more information about either of the choirs, contact Kari at kari.hasbrouck@ghc.edu. In addition, check out Civic Choir's Facebook page for information about rehearsal and concert dates.



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Tiffany Maki is proud to continue Grays Harbor's Concert Band Tradition

STORY CHRISTINE VINCENT
PHOTOS BY KATIE MCGREGOR

Four years ago, popular Harbor jazz singer, pianist and band director Tiffany Maki was hired by her former band director Bill Dyer, music instructor at Grays Harbor College, to launch and direct the Grays Harbor Community Concert Band. The band offers performance opportunities to players of brass, woodwinds and percussion.

"Music circles in Grays Harbor are tight, and I had admired Tiffany's musicianship and generosity of spirit," Dyer says. "She was a clear choice to be

the director of the concert band, and has done a fantastic job in developing an inspired band of area musicians. We couldn't be happier with their growth!"

Grays Harbor boasts an impressive tradition of concert band music, but after the Aberdeen Elks Band disbanded in 2006, there had been a hole to be filled. Since 2017, Maki has been happy to fill it by directing the Harbor's new concert band.

"Continuing the legacy of great concert bands and big bands in Grays Harbor was my passion and ambition," says Maki, 41. And, as the director of the popular Dukes of Swing band, in addition to the Grays Harbor

Community Concert Band, it's clear she's achieved her goal.

Tiffany Maki spent much of her childhood in the world of concert bands: "My dad played tuba in the celebrated Aberdeen Elks Band, which began in 1912. I had a great time traveling on the bus to national Elks conventions in Chicago and other big cities," she says.

As the years went by, Maki performed in many concert bands herself under the direction of prominent local directors, including Bill Dyer, Scott

"I had admired Tiffany's musicianship and generosity of spirit. She was a clear choice to be the director of the concert band ..."

— Bill Dyer, GHC

Pierson, Robert Richardson, and the legendary Craig Wellington, who directed the Aberdeen Elks Band for 25 years.

In 1980, the Dukes of Swing split off from the Elks Band to perform 1940s jazz. Wellington directed this new band, too. When he died in 2006, the Elks Band dissolved, but the Dukes of Swing survived. After performing with The Dukes of Swing for eight years as pianist and vocalist, Maki was named the new director of that band in May 2019.

"It was the fulfillment of a life-long dream of not only performing in, but also leading, a big band," she marvels.

With her personal history, it's especially fitting that Tiffany Maki is now directing the newly formed Grays Harbor Community Concert Band in the Wellington Rehearsal Hall at Grays Harbor College, a building named in honor of Craig Wellington, a man she greatly reveres, and in whose footsteps she is now walking – and directing.

Maki grew up in a musical family. She began studying piano at age six, clarinet at age nine and voice at age 17.





“Continuing the legacy of great concert bands and big bands in Grays Harbor was my passion and ambition.”

– Tiffany Maki

In high school, she had the privilege of studying with Patricia Wilhelms, the longtime Aberdeen High School choir director, as well as conducting and/or playing in the pit orchestra for more than 15 of Wilhelms’ musical productions. Tiffany was also a voice student of Christine Hill and Brenda Richardson at Grays Harbor College. She graduated with an associate’s degree in 2001.

For the last 13 years, Maki has been a senior secretary with the Department of Children, Youth & Families in Aberdeen. It’s in her spare time, that in addition to directing the Grays Harbor Community Concert Band and The Dukes of Swing, she performs solo and with several of her own groups, including The Maki-Mehlhoff Duo, The 593 Singers, Electric Park Jazz Band, The Tiffany Maki Band, and Tiffany Maki & The Mellow Tones. She particularly loves singing jazz in local venues.

Her vocal style is influenced by jazz legends Ella Fitzgerald and Billie Holiday, as well as modern jazz singer Diana Krall and by 60s rock/blues singers Janis Joplin and Mama Cass.

In addition to jazz, concert bands also hold a special place in her heart. “A concert band is basically a symphony orchestra without the strings,” Maki explains. “We play American marches by John Philip Sousa and Karl King, but also classical and popular music, anything really.”

The Grays Harbor Community Concert Band welcomes musicians from all walks of life. No auditions are required and members range widely in age and experience. Maki’s firm-but-friendly

leadership brings them all together, and she clearly makes time to work individually with those who need help.

Halvar Olson, 72, who plays the snare drum, announces proudly that the percussion section is 148 years old, between him and bass drummer Steve Rodgers, who is celebrating his 76th birthday.

Cindy Jamroz draws attention with her collection of large woodwinds, including a bassoon and an even larger instrument. “This is a contrabass clarinet,” she explains. “It is four times the size of a regular clarinet and it takes a lot of wind to play.”

Flutist Joellen Beatty is a semi-professional musician, a certified music teacher, who drives to rehearsals all the way from Raymond. “I love the sense of community here,” she says. “I’m happy to be able to give back.”

Trumpet player Simon Rogers comes in from Ocean Shores. He was playing in the Grays Harbor College Jazz Band when his work schedule at the Quinault Beach Resort and Casino made it impossible to attend. He is happy to have found an alternative in the Grays Harbor Community Concert Band.

(continued on page 26)

The Grays Harbor Concert Band, directed by Tiffany Maki, plays a holiday concert in the Bishop Center in December 2018.

Photo by Keith Krueger



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Tiffany Maki

(continued from 23)

Families playing together is a wonderful feature of the Community Concert Band. Jessica Jurasin, who plays the oboe, and her husband, Tyler, on clarinet, attended high school with Maki. They were happy when she started the band, where they can perform along with their 17-year-old son, Nolan, on trumpet.

"Tiffany makes this such a relaxed and welcoming place," Jessica says.

Maki's own family is also represented,



with her father, John, on tuba and her sister, Heather, on trombone.

What does it feel like to direct a big band? "The adrenaline rush is crazy," she answers. "With every rehearsal, I get so emotional, I can't sleep."


With her talent and experience, one might wonder if she has ever considered leaving the Harbor for greater opportunities. "Oh, no," says Maki. "I commuted to Olympia for four years and that was enough. I love the Harbor. I just bought my first home in Cosmopolis. This is where I will stay." 

Photo by Christine Vincent



Photo by Christine Vincent

Members of the Grays Harbor Concert Band rehearse under Tiffany Maki's direction. John Maki, Tiffany's Dad, (left) on the sousaphone. Far left: percussionists, Halvar Olson on the snare drum, Steve Rogers on the bass drum. And above Cindy Jamroz on the bassoon. Top, Simon Rogers and Nolan Jurasin on trumpet.



Concert

On Dec. 10, the Grays Harbor Civic Choir & Community Concert Band will perform together for this year's holiday concert. Civic Choir director Kari Hasbrouck will join the Community Concert Band for a performance on the celeste, a keyboard percussion instrument with a bell-like sound. The concert will be recorded and aired via Zoom, due to Covid-19 restrictions. To watch the concert via Zoom, go to the Bishop Center's webpage and look under the calendar for the link.

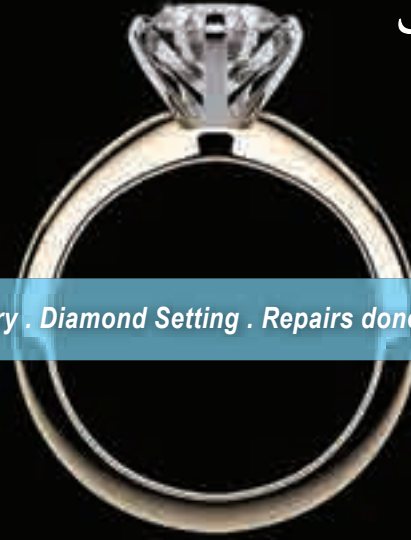
Join!

The **Grays Harbor Community Concert Band** performs three times a year in the Bishop Center for the Performing Arts. New members are always welcome. Rehearsals are from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Thursdays at the Grays Harbor Wellington Rehearsal Hall on the college campus. Contact Director Tiffany Maki at tiffany.maki@ghc.edu, or visit the Grays Harbor Community Concert Band's Facebook page.

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Nurturing community pride through ART

STORY JULIANA WALLACE
PHOTOS BY KATIE MCGREGOR

A stunning flutter of butterflies has taken up residence in downtown Aberdeen. The creation of artist Douglas Orr, the mosaic butterflies live outside the Alder Grove Gallery on West Market Street, part of Orr's ongoing passion for lifting communities through art.

"When you drive down during the darkest days of winter, these butterflies will be a bright, pretty thing that might cause somebody to smile and know that spring will get here eventually," he explains.

In time, the three columns on the block that Orr has named Pollinators' Park will also feature hummingbirds and bees, along with mosaics from other local artists. Community-oriented projects like this have motivated Orr throughout much of his adult life.

"... these butterflies will be a bright, pretty thing that might cause somebody to smile and know that spring will get here eventually."
- Douglas Orr

"Doug Orr is an absolute asset to our community, I don't know what it would be like if he weren't here!" says Michael Dickerson, vice president of Our Aberdeen, a nonprofit organization that support projects that enhance the community.

Dickerson and his wife, Sylvia note that Our Aberdeen has commissioned Orr for

(continued on page 30)

Below: Douglas Orr works on a painting in his studio. Right: Douglas stands by the butterfly mosaic he created on Market Street in Aberdeen.



Douglas Orr

(continued)

14 community projects, ranging from painting murals to restoring the public art installment, "Critters," in downtown Aberdeen. In addition to being a very good artist, "Doug Orr's talent is making things happen," Dickerson says.

A Harbor native, Orr graduated from Grays Harbor College in 1986 before moving to Southern California to study art at California State University at Long Beach. During his sojourn in California, he and his partner, David Rodriguez, owned and managed a huge art center, always focused on launching young artists into successful careers. "Other than my niece and nephew, the thing that gives me the greatest joy is to see that we started somebody out, and now they are active and thriving," says Orr, 62.



Currently Orr is painting a mural on the side of Montesano Farm and Home.

That dual purpose of community building and empowering artists brought Orr back to Aberdeen in 2014. The former Eagles building on the corner of Market and K streets sat vacant for a decade before Orr and Rodriguez purchased it. More than 100 years old, the building offered a wealth of history along with a leaking roof and falling plaster. Drawing on his talents in both construction and art, Orr began a transformation project.

Two years later, the Aberdeen Art Center began to emerge from the rubble with the opening of Orr and Rodriguez's Alder Grove Gallery. Beautifully curated, the gallery features works from artists throughout the Harbor, making world-class art available locally.

"We have a huge variety of art," explains Orr. "We get tourists here who come back for us and tell their friends who buy homes out at the beach and want artwork. It's a lot easier than driving all the way to Seattle."

Over the years, the Art Center has added Mother Crow's Studio and Gallery, Friends of the Aberdeen Art

Museum, Leigh's Custom Framing, classroom space and a conference room. In addition, the Center sponsors First Friday Art Walks each month, featuring live music and snacks in the gallery, artist demos and a free art class.

"Doug Orr's talent is making things happen"

*— Michael Dickerson,
vice president of Our Aberdeen*

Below: Rain Glow Festival, July 2021.



Photos courtesy of Downtown Aberdeen Association 98520





“Just one person can make a huge difference, they don’t think they can, but somebody plugging along makes a huge amount of difference.”
 – Douglas Orr



Photo courtesy of Douglas Orr

Various art-in-the-community projects include phantom galleries in abandoned storefronts and the annual Rain Glow Festival. Now in its third year, the festival attracts thousands to downtown to soak up the sights and sounds of art and light. (Pro Tip: Mark your calendar for next year’s Rain Glow on July 23!)

Meanwhile, Orr continues creating, both in public spaces and in his private studio. Many know him as a muralist, painting murals such as the Bubbles mural and the Hands and History mural in downtown Aberdeen. (They are located on the side of the D&R Theatre and at 120 W. Heron Street, respectively.) But his art spans a broad spectrum from painting to sculpture, mosaic, wood carving, assemblage art and more. As Orr says, “I’m not really afraid to try anything. When it comes to

art, my brain will take whatever medium and figure out a way to make it work.”

And he has, from religious art to sand sculptures, landscapes to unicorns. Spanish surrealist Salvador Dali inspired him. Art school helped him build discipline. But for the most part, he has developed his craft through consistent practice and finding art in everything he sees. “My whole thing is to find something that challenges me and fuss with it until I get a grip of it,” he explains.

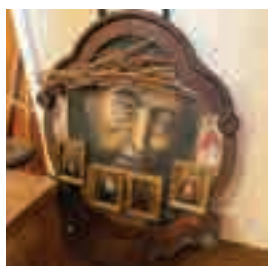
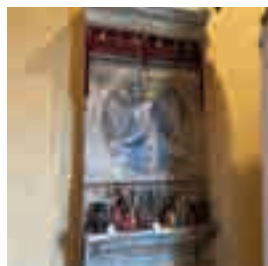
The massive art studio and Orr’s apartment above the Alder Grove Gallery display a treasure trove of the results of his artistic process. A large



acrylic landscape rests on an easel next to his paints. Paintings of eyes line a nearby wall, gazing intently on Orr as he works. And a collection of altars created with salvaged materials adds an old-world feel.

(continued on page 32)

Below: Several altars Douglas created.



Altar photos by Juliana Wallace



Photo above by Juliana Wallace

Douglas Orr


(continued)

In fact, walking through Orr's apartment feels like an extension of the gallery itself. Using mostly recycled materials, he fabricated a stunning living space in Spanish style, filled with art he has both created and collected. For instance, wood rescued from the big hall downstairs forms a magnificent archway leading to the dining room.

Orr says that he hopes his legacy will be to leave the world better than he found it. "Just one person can make a huge difference," he muses. "They don't think

they can, but somebody plugging along makes a huge amount of difference."

Through turning an abandoned building into a work of art, establishing a thriving art center and creating beautiful butterflies one small piece of glass at a time, Douglas Orr is indeed building an enduring legacy for the Harbor.

For more information on the community art scene, visit www.aberdeenartcenter.com or stop by the gallery at 200 West Market St. in Aberdeen from noon to 6 p.m. Thursday through Monday. 

Left: Wood rescued from the big hall downstairs forms this archway in Orr's apartment.

Below: Douglas Orr surrounded by some of his paintings.



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Even after retirement, the show must go on for Brad Duffy

STORY GAIL GREENWOOD AYRES
PHOTOS BY KATIE MCGREGOR

Brad Duffy loves a good story. He loves to watch a good story and he loves to create a good story for others to watch.

After 26 years teaching classes and directing plays as the communications and theater arts instructor for Grays Harbor College, Duffy retired in 2018. He was now free to enjoy a life of leisure, spend more time with his two daughters and granddaughter, and play more racquetball, bridge and pinochle.

"It's worked out well. I get to do all the things I want to do and none of the things I don't want to do," says Duffy, 71.

Turns out – no surprise – what he likes to do is theater, to tell a good story.

"It's worked out well. I get to do all the things I want to do and none of the things I don't want to do."

– Brad Duffy

Not only is Duffy still the executive producer of the 7th Street Kids Theatre, a role he's had since 2000, but he's also the new president of Driftwood Players, Aberdeen's all-volunteer community theater. He's recently done some acting himself and he's currently preparing to direct two more plays this 2021-2022 season for Driftwood!

"Brad's love for theater is immense," says Debbie Scoones, who has acted in 20 productions directed by Duffy, as well as served in other roles, including musical



Brad Duffy, president of Driftwood Players, is preparing to direct a play at the grand theater in February.

“I have acted for many directors, but no one can hold a candle to Brad.”

– Debbie Scoones

director for 17 of his productions. “Brad has broadened my love for theater and I will always be grateful for that. I have acted for many directors, but no one can hold a candle to Brad,” she says.

Professional, prepared, kind and talented are the words often used by those who have worked with Duffy as he transforms words from a paper script to a live performance where actors embody their characters and audiences are drawn into the story.

Surprisingly, Duffy says, about half of his preparation time to stage a play occurs before the auditions to cast the production. During this time, he divides the play into what are termed “French scenes,” which are created every time an actor enters or exits the stage. For instance, in the play, “The Humans,” which will run in February at Driftwood, there are 83 French scenes.

“My job is to determine why the playwright included each one,” he explains. “So, for instance, it’s clear, that this one is all about introducing this character and his personality, and this one is about revealing the drama or problem, and maybe this one is about unveiling that there is a lie going on among some of the characters. I want to make sure that what the playwright wanted gets translated onto the stage.”

After the cast is selected, he encourages them to interpret what they think is going on in the scene, and makes a point to encourage his actors not to just parrot the words from the script but to listen each time to the other characters and react as their character would from what is actually said.



Photo courtesy of Driftwood Players

Brad Duffy and Pat Sibley perform “The Gin Game” in the fall of 2020.

This mindset is crucial when something doesn’t go as expected, such as someone forgetting a line, accidentally saying a line too soon or even if a key prop is not where it should be. It’s in those situations where it’s especially important that the actors stay in character and move the story forward.

All that preparation pays off, says Scoones. “What makes Brad a good director is he knows the show forwards and backwards. He gets a tremendous response from his actors,” she says. “He asks actors what is going on in the scene, what are they feeling or experiencing.”

He also requires his actors to have the lines memorized early on. “It’s only after they have their lines down that they can begin to act,” he says.

As a director, Duffy says that he likes to work with actors who aren’t afraid to be

wrong. “I like it when they try something in rehearsal. If it doesn’t work, I will tell them, but having the courage to try something is important.”

With all the different genres of theater, Duffy says he especially loves to tackle a musical. “I love the idea that the songs help tell the story and help develop the characters,” he says. “And, I love the collaborative effort of a working

(continued on page 37)



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Brad Duffy *(continued)*

“... having the courage to try something is important.”

— Brad Duffy

as a team with the musical director, choreographer and others.”

The last two years has been especially hard on live theater due to the coronavirus. But Driftwood was able to meet the challenge by offering three shows virtually. By choosing plays with small casts and streaming them, audience members could enjoy watching a live performance from the comfort of their own homes. In fact, Driftwood was one of very few theaters in the Pacific Northwest that took on that challenge, producing “Constellations,” “Daddy Long Legs,” and “Gin Game” that way.

Duffy experienced “that side of the stage again” by starring in “The Gin Game,” directed by Stacey Hopkins.

“When everything was shut down during the pandemic, I was talking to

a very good friend of mine, Pat Sibley, who is a professional actress in Seattle,” he recalls. “She normally goes all over the country doing stuff, but everything was shut down. I invited her to come live with me for six weeks and do ‘The Gin Game’ with me. So, she did. When we weren’t rehearsing at the theater, we were rehearsing at my house, and we had a such a great time doing that.”

As fun as the show was, it did feel weird to act without audience reaction, he says.

“A big piece of theater is the relationship between the audience and the actors; that is what makes each performance unique within itself,” Duffy says. “Not having that audience reaction was odd, but I’m so glad we still were able to provide a performance experience.”

Producing live theater during a pandemic wasn’t the only challenge Driftwood faced this past year. An arson fire damaged the building in May. Thankfully, Duffy and the cast and crew of “Daddy Long Legs” were there for a tech rehearsal and able to alert the police and fire department. However, the fire was able to get into the walls and ended up doing a bit of damage to the back of the building. Even the stage curtains were so smoke damaged they needed to be replaced.

(continued on page 38)



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Driftwood Theatre Upcoming Shows

"The Wedding Singer"

November 26, 27

December 3, 4, 10, 11

7:30 p.m. Friday, Saturday

December 5, 12 1:30 p.m. Sunday

Directed by Alex Eddy

"The Humans"

Feb. 11, 12, 18, 19, 25, 26

7:30 p.m. Friday, Saturday

February 20, 27 1:30 p.m. Sunday

Directed by Brad Duffy

"The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time"

April 30, May 6, 7, 13, 14, 20, 21

7:30 p.m. Friday, Saturday

May 22 1:30 p.m. Sunday

Directed by Brad Duffy

Brad Duffy *(continued)*


"The good news is that the Aberdeen Fire Department saved the theater. I'm so grateful we were there. If we hadn't had tech rehearsal that day, we would have lost the theater," he says.

For someone who has acted in, directed and attended hundreds of plays in various cities over the years, the obvious question arises: Which one is his favorite?

"It is always the one I'm working on," he quickly answers.

Right now, that is "The Humans," which will play at Driftwood Theatre in February. He is also slated to direct the next production at Driftwood, "The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time" in the spring.

Driftwood Theatre's website, www.aberdeendrftwood.com includes the latest information about the theater,

year's schedule, current show and upcoming auditions. It also has a catalog with pictures of every past show that Driftwood Players has performed in the last 60 years. 



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DECEMBER 3 . First Friday Art Walk . Aberdeen Art Center . 5pm to 8pm . Live music, artist demonstrations, free arts and crafts class, snacks.

DECEMBER 3 . GHC Music Dept. Jazz Concert 7pm . GHC students under the direction of Dr. William Dyer & Kari Hasbrouck . GHC Bishop Center free virtual performance. www.ghc.edu/bishop

DECEMBER 3, 4, 5, 10, 11 . The Wedding Singer . Driftwood Players . Aberdeen . Fri., Sat. 7:30pm, Sun. 1:30pm . Musical . It's 1985 and rock star wannabe, Robbie Hart, is New Jersey's favorite wedding singer. Directed by Alex Eddy.

DECEMBER 3, 4, 10, 11, 17, 18, 31 . Galway

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DECEMBER 4 . Winterfest 2021 . Aberdeen . 10am - 4pm . Breakfast with Santa at Game Day Sports by the fireplace. Free Pictures posted on Facebook for you. Gingerbread House Competition - display 12/3 - 12/18 at the former Wiitamaki's, 201 East Wishkah. Holiday Market 10am - 3pm in the D & R Event Center, corner of Heron and I St. www.winterfestaberdeen2021.com

DECEMBER 4 . Christmas in McCleary 8am - 11am: Santa breakfast & tree auction, VFW. 12pm - 4pm: McCleary Museum & Cultural Center holiday activities. 5pm: Jingle Bell Trot, start VFW. 6pm: Christmas Train lighting, Beerbower Park. 6:30pm Movie Night at McCleary Museum & Cultural Center. More info on Facebook.

DECEMBER 5, 12, 19 . Claymates . Hoquiam . 1pm - 3pm . Grays Harbor Potters Guild . Get your hands into clay, projects to try each week. It's fun, it's FREE. Each session limited to 8 so register at www.graysharborpottersguild.com

DECEMBER 4 . A Christmas Story . Hoquiam . 7th Street Theatre . 7:30pm . Enjoy this 1983 movie. www.7thstreettheatre.com

DECEMBER 4, 11, 18 . Jolly Days . Seabrook . Shopping, professional Santa photos 11am - 3pm, 5pm snow machines in the town center.

DECEMBER 10 . GH Civic Choir & GH Concert Band . 7pm . Civic Choir directed by Kari Hasbrouck . Concert Band directed by Tiffany Maki . Enjoy an evening of holiday music! GHC Bishop Center free virtual performance. www.ghc.edu/bishop

DECEMBER 12 . Christmas Sip & Paint . 2pm Painting fun, includes pizza at Cascade Pizza in Elma. Reserve at 360-616-6909

DECEMBER 17 . GH Opera Workshop presents Cendrillon (Cinderella) . 7pm . A witty and lighthearted take on the traditional Cinderella story. GHC Bishop Center free virtual performance. www.ghc.edu/bishop

DECEMBER 18 . Christmas in Connecticut . Hoquiam . 7th Street Theatre . 7:30pm . Enjoy this vintage movie. www.7thstreettheatre.com

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GH SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

DECEMBER 18 . Holiday Parade . Seabrook
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JANUARY

JANUARY 1, 7, 8, 14, 15, 21, 22, 28, 29 .
Galway Bay Irish Pub • Ocean Shores . Every Friday and Saturday live music is performed.

January . Clay 4 All Class . Hoquiam . Michael Beck will teach beginner and intermediate classes. Gary Ganz will teach a class using the potters wheel. Check www.graysharborpottersguild.com

JANUARY 7 . First Friday Art Walk . Aberdeen Art Center . 5pm to 8pm . Live music, artist demonstrations, free arts and crafts class, snacks.

JANUARY 14 . "The River" documentary film . GHC Bishop Center . 7pm . Award-winning documentary about the success and failure of managing the homeless encampment in Aberdeen, Washington. Won Best Documentary in the Columbus Film and Animation Festival, 2021



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- December 10 **GH Civic Choir & Concert Band** 7PM
- December 17 **GH Opera Workshop Cendrillon** .. 7PM
- January 14 **"The River"** Award Winning Documentary 7PM
- January 28 **Dmitri Matheny** Jazz on the flugelhorn 7PM
- February 4 **Doktor Kaboom** & the Wheel of Science 7PM
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JANUARY 28 . Dmitri Matheny . 7pm . Jazz flugelhorn musician . GHC Bishop Center virtual performance. www.ghc.edu/bishop for tickets

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FEBRUARY

FEBRUARY 4 . First Friday Art Walk . Aberdeen Art Center . 5pm to 8pm . Live music, artist demonstrations, free arts and crafts class, snacks.

FEBRUARY 4, 5, 11, 12, 18, 19, 25, 26 . Galway Bay Irish Pub • Ocean Shores . Every Friday and Saturday live music is performed.

FEBRUARY 4 . Doktor Kaboom and The Wheel of Science . 7pm . Science comedy to empower, excite, educate, and entertain the people of Earth . GHC Bishop Center virtual performance. www.ghc.edu/bishop

FEBRUARY 11, 12, 18, 19, 20, 25, 26, 27 . The Humans . Driftwood Players . Aberdeen . Fri., Sat. 7:30pm, Sun. 1:30pm . Comedy . The quintessential family reunion: a group of people who love each other but still wrestle with basic human fears: old age, abandonment, poverty, and death. Directed by Brad Duffy.

FEBRUARY 13 . Ocean Shores Renewed Antiques . Ocean Shores Convention Center .

Schedules are subject to change - check ahead!

MARCH

MARCH 4 . Beachcombers Fun Fair . Ocean Shores Convention Center .

MARCH 4, 5, 6, 11, 12, 13 . "Something Rotten" Spring Musical . GHC Bishop Center Friday, Saturday 7:30pm & Sunday 2pm . Two brothers set out to write the world's first musical in this hilarious mash-up of sixteenth-century Shakespeare and twenty-first-Broadway. www.ghc.edu/bishop for tickets

MARCH 4, 5, 11, 12, 18, 19, 25, 26 . Galway Bay Irish Pub • Ocean Shores . Every Friday and Saturday live music is performed.

MARCH 17 . GHC Music Dept. Jazz Concert . **GHC Bishop Center . 7pm .** GHC students under the direction of Dr. William Dyer & Kari Hasbrouck. www.ghc.edu/bishop

More events to come ... Spring issue will be in your mailbox on March 1.

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RAZOR CLAMS

(continued from page 13)

Most of all, have fun frolicking in the surf with memories that can't be made anywhere else and flavors that stand the test of time.

Ayres recalls getting "booted out of bed at four or five in the morning" when he

was a kid to go clam digging with his parents and grandparents. "When we were done digging, we would sit on the hood of Dad's '57 Chevy, still wet – even though Dad probably did most of the digging – and eat tuna sandwiches, drink the hot chocolate and go home to have a clam feed. Those are sweet, wonderful memories that I still cherish to this day." 



Dan Ayres

How does the state's razor clam expert cook his clams?

WDFW Coastal Shellfish Manager Dan Ayres advises to keep it simple. "I don't go to a lot of trouble to put them in a batter and all of that. All I do is lightly dust them in flour, and put them in a hot frying pan. But don't let them stay there very long, just get them out and eat them."

Ayres fires up the barbecue grill, then puts a big pan over the coals, pouring oil into the pan. He says to get it "sizzling hot" and then get the coals to smoke by adding some woodchips.


Put the clams in the pan, cover it with a lid for a few minutes

and then flip the clams over for another two minutes or so. Doing it on the barbecue can save your house from smelling like clams for days afterward, Ayres notes. Also, he says the two mistakes most people make is not cleaning the clams right after the dig, and then cooking them too long in the pan.

ARTISTIC MUSE

(continued from page 15)

replacement for the original. However, with Covid-19 precautions slowing city projects down and other more pressing city business, the new clam has yet to see a home.

Once the Ocean Shores Razor Clam Festival returns in March, razor clam artistic flair will be highlighted during the annual decorated razor clam shovel contest, which gives artists of every ability a chance to create, producing an array of artifacts more suitable for mounting on a wall than plunging into the surf. 

Angelo Bruscas is a 25-year veteran editor/reporter for the former Seattle Post-Intelligencer newspaper, as well as the retired editor of the North Coast News. A 12-year resident of Ocean Shores, Angelo now serves as the board president of North Beach Community Television and Northbeachnow.com



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