

NIRVANA FANS STILL COME AS THEY ARE TO ABERDEEN • SEE INSIDE

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Photo by Katie McGregor



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to
Aberdeen
for
Kurt
Cobain
and
Nirvana



ABERDEEN

Nirvana fans visit Kurt Cobain Landing off Young Street in Aberdeen. The lyrics of Cobain's "Something in the Way" refer to this bridge.

**"If only you could
have known all
this, maybe you
would have stayed."**

— message from under the bridge
at Kurt Cobain Landing

STORY BY JEFF BURLINGAME
PHOTOS BY KATIE MCGREGOR

Underneath the North Aberdeen Bridge, where Kurt Cobain's tarp once sprung a leak (assuming you believe "Something in the Way" to be autobiographical), there's a single rose decaying into the muddy banks of the Wishkah River.

Likely dropped by a Cobain fan as tribute to the fallen Nirvana front man, the once-pretty pink flower is surrounded by empty Budweiser cans, plastic 7-Eleven grocery bags, and a pristine copy of Nirvana's Nevermind CD in its case — held upright on the ground by a drying, well-placed dab of the riverbed's malodorous mud. Above, a rusty water pipe guards entrance to the makeshift shrine, adorned with a

scribbled and faded "COME AS YOU ARE" in weathered white chalk.

Hundreds of similar writings live under the bridge, many faded, some fresh. All intended to honor Cobain, whom none of the authors likely knew, though all believed that, because they had listened to his music enough, they sort of did:

"Kurt, I live in NY. I traveled all the way to see this. I want you to know that for years I've listened to you. I believe you are here for all of us."

"No one will ever forget your impact on Aberdeen."

"If only you could have known all this, maybe you would have stayed."

(Continued on page 8)



Kurt Cobain, lead singer of Nirvana, plays guitar on stage during a performance at the Reading Festival (Reading, England). Aug. 30, 1992. Photo by Trinity Mirror/Alamy



Often the first stop for fans, the Come As You Are sign greets travelers at the east entrance to the city of Aberdeen.

Today's date is a special one. It's April 5, 2021, exactly 27 years after the 27-year-old Aberdeen native Cobain killed himself in his Seattle home, marking the end of a short and forever-influential rock 'n' roll era called grunge.

When news of Cobain's death broke, and for a short while thereafter, Aberdeen and many other spots in Grays Harbor County hosted a horde of international media members, each hoping to capture – with facts, photos, and hyperbole – the angst-ridden aura of an economically depressed area that had birthed that musical genius. Most failed in their quest, because Grays Harbor is hard to explain. Sure, there's poverty and mental health problems on the beaten path, a detail seen and socially shared by the millions who drive through to the coast each year and highlighted by much of that media in 1994. But there's also longtime wealth off that path.

The majority of Grays Harborites, including the Cobain family when Kurt was growing up, reside somewhere in between.

Nirvana and its earlier, different-named embodiments — that's Cobain alongside bassist Krist Novoselic

“Kurt, I live in NY. I traveled all the way to see this. I want you to know that for years I've listened to you. I believe you are here for all of us.”

— message from under the bridge at Kurt Cobain Landing

Kurt Cobain's childhood home at 1210 E. First St. in Aberdeen was recently placed on the state's historic register.



A memorial at Kurt Cobain Landing.

and drummers Bob McFadden, Dave Foster, Aaron Burckhard, and even Dale Crover — got its start in Aberdeen in the mid-1980s, and in the late 1980s and early 1990s (using non-Harborites Chad Channing and Dave Grohl as drummers). The music broke mainstream in a field that was alive and kicking on Grays Harbor long before a teenage Cobain took his first formal guitar lessons at Rosevear's now-shuttered corner music shop.

On Grays Harbor, the catharsis of rock 'n' roll had soothed many tired souls for decades before Nirvana came to be. Some Nirvana predecessors, such as the Melvins and Metal Church, remain active and successful worldwide. Others, such as The Bruce Hughes Band (still active locally!) and The Beachcombers, could only capture the Pacific Northwest's heart before time, circumstance, and trend halted



Underneath the North Aberdeen Bridge at Cobain Landing fans pay homage to Kurt through small mementos and graffiti messages.

momentum, shifting them from “up-and-comers” to fading footnotes.

And in today’s post-Nirvana Aberdeen, kids still walk the streets with guitars, creating home-recordings at immeasurable rates. Some kill it locally, or occasionally break out. Check out Ericka Corban, Clint and the Eastwoods, Brian James, Hellbound Glory, Black Top Demon, Humptulips, Alex Mabey, and Black Shepherd. There’s something there for almost every musical taste.

Still, none of them have sold roughly 75 million records worldwide. None of them ever bounced Michael Jackson from atop the Billboard charts with an album that consistently ranks as one of the all-time greatest. And none of them are in the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.

Even today, Nirvana and Cobain are the reason countless people come to visit Aberdeen, and the rest of Grays Harbor. Those visitors see an economy still suffering setbacks; and those with open eyes also see the hope that exists with each bucket of paint tossed on the

“No one will ever forget your impact on Aberdeen.”

— message from under the bridge at Kurt Cobain Landing

outside of a recently filled storefront. In many ways, it’s much the same as it was that one sad week in April 1994. The week when the music died.

Where to go?

Say you’re a music fan planning a trip to Grays Harbor (and Pacific County!) to see the childhood stomping grounds of your idol, Kurt Cobain, and his band, Nirvana. Or say you’re a local wanting to see these same places Cobain frequented. Where do you go? Here are just a few of the places to which Nirvana fans flock, as well as a bit about the significance of the site.

1210 E. First St., Aberdeen. The best-known of Cobain’s childhood homes was purchased a few years

ago by a local family to protect it from vandalization. Earlier this year, the house was placed on the state’s historic register.

Kurt Cobain Landing. Just down the block from Cobain’s house is the North Aberdeen Bridge, underneath which

(Continued on page 11)

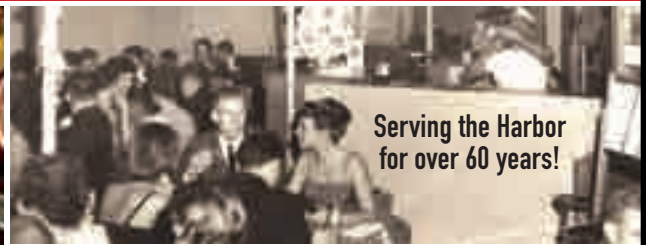
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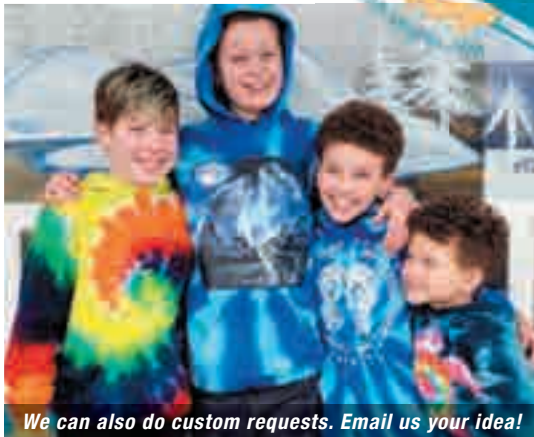
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The Nirvana mural is at the corner of Wishkah and Broadway (above). This guitar sculpture can be found at Kurt Cobain Landing in Aberdeen (right). A bronze star honoring Kurt Cobain is embedded in the sidewalk on Wishkah Street (below).

fans have gathered for years since a song purportedly written by Cobain under there was released in 1991. Today, there's a small park next to the bridge that features a sign with the lyrics to said song, "Something in the Way." There's also a neat guitar sculpture created by local artist Lora Malakoff.

Downtown Aberdeen Walk of Fame.

Cobain's bronze star is placed firmly in the sidewalk on Wishkah Street in front of the former Rosevear's music store where he took lessons.

The Come As You Are sign. Located adjacent to the highway at the east entrance to the city of Aberdeen, lies the Welcome to Aberdeen: Come As You Are sign installed in 2005 by the Kurt Cobain Memorial Foundation.



Cobain fans also gather at the Nirvana Coffee Co., (above and left) 205 S. I St., which features large photos of Cobain and the band.

The Nirvana mural. Atop the Moore's building on the corner of Wishkah and Broadway in Aberdeen is a nearly 70-foot-wide Nirvana mural installed in 2014. It was created by Erik Sandgren with help from other artists, Anthony James Cotham, Dominic Senibaldi, Jason Sobottka and David Wall.

17 Nussbaum Road, Raymond.

Though reports of earlier shows played under the names Pen Cap Chew, Bliss, Fecal Matter, and Skid Row have surfaced, this single-family home is most frequently referred to as the place where Nirvana played its first live show in 1987. Highlights included a handful of originals and a couple parts of Led Zeppelin songs. [cl](#)

Aberdeen native Jeff Burlingame is an NAACP Image Award-winning author of several nonfiction books, including the New York Public Library-honored *Kurt Cobain: Oh Well, Whatever, Nevermind*. In 2004, he co-founded the Kurt Cobain Memorial Foundation, installing the Come As You Are sign the following year, and staging several large rock concerts, named Lounge Acts, throughout the 2000s. His recently installed Walk of Fame sidewalk star is located in front of the Aberdeen library, just down the road from Cobain's.



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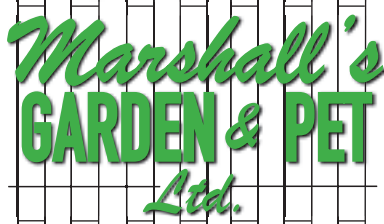
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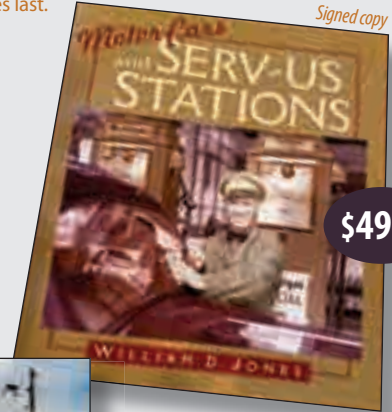
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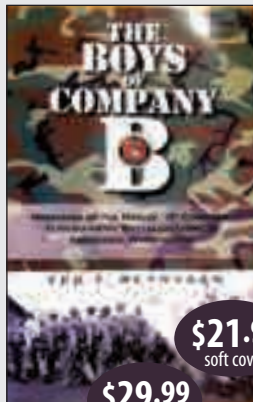


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A photograph of a man with long, light brown hair and a beard, wearing a dark blue t-shirt and light blue jeans, sitting on a red chair and playing a cello. He has his eyes closed and a focused expression. The background is a simple room with a window and a patterned rug.

From classical to jazz,
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ABERDEEN

GORDON SHAW

from classical to jazz



Photos by Juliana Wallace

BY JULIANA WALLACE

Aberdeen's Gordon Shaw carries music in his soul.

Just 22 years old, he has played on stages in Italy and at New York's Carnegie Hall. And last year, in those final blissful weeks before the pandemic, he had the opportunity to debut his own orchestral composition at Washington State University's Festival of Contemporary Art Music.

Shaw's love affair with music began far from the world stage. When he entered fifth grade at McDermoth Elementary, Aberdeen schools benefited from a thriving strings program under the direction of Karen Miekle. When she gave the elementary students their choice of instruments, Shaw chose the cello, a decision based primarily on the fact that the cello fell in a sweet spot between the tiny violin and the huge bass.

"I love the deep, resonant sound," he explains. "People associate the cello as the closest instrument to the human voice."

Throughout middle school and high school, Shaw added to his musical

toolkit. The jazz band needed a bass player, so he stepped up. He played key roles in local musicals, from Captain von Trapp in “The Sound of Music,” to Lord Farquaad in 7th Street Theatre’s “Shrek, the Musical.” He also played in both the Tacoma Junior Youth Symphony and Grays Harbor Symphony. Along the way, he picked up piano and guitar.

In addition to Mickle, who passed away in 2019, Shaw credits several gifted music teachers on the Harbor with building his love of music. He studied voice with Ian Dorsch at Grays Harbor College, participating in the annual opera workshop. And, Merry Jo Zimmer taught him piano. In fact, he wrote his most recent composition, a chamber piece titled “The Raven and the Cardinal,” at her request.

When he entered college at Washington State University, Shaw initially planned to major in political science. But music quickly won out, and he switched to a major in music composition, with a minor in music tech. He also continued to study cello under the direction of Dr. Ruth Boden. Recognizing his talent, Boden encouraged Shaw to attend the InterHarmony Music Festival in Acqui Terme, Italy. Just a few months later, Boden and Shaw performed together at Carnegie Hall in NYC.



Photos courtesy of Gordon Shaw

“I love the deep, resonant sound. People associate the cello as the closest instrument to the human voice.”
– Gordon Shaw



Shaw played Carnegie Hall in 2018, performing with renowned cellist Misha Quint and the InterHarmony Cello Ensemble.

Although he performs beautifully, Shaw’s real love lies in creating and recording music.

“The dream is to walk into some random place and hear a song I wrote playing over the speakers,” he says.

Whether that song will be jazz, classical, mood music or a movie soundtrack is anyone’s guess. Shaw loves it all, particularly the big ensemble pieces.

“I really like the full symphonic music of a movie score,” he explains. “It incorporates a lot of the modern-day techniques and progressiveness, kind of throwing all the rules out the window. It’s one huge ensemble, but still not overcrowded.”

While at WSU, Shaw composed his first symphonic work, titled “Kein Bedauerun” (German for “No Regrets”).

“Kein Bedauerun” became the closing piece for Shaw’s virtual concert this past February through the Bishop Center for Performing Arts. Music fans who missed the concert can still treat themselves to an evening of wonderful music. Simply go to the Bishop Center for Performing Arts Facebook page and search on “Gordon Shaw.” The concert covers an eclectic mix of original Shaw compositions, including baroque, mood music, chamber music and contemporary symphony.

(Continued on page 16)

GORDON SHAW

(Continued)

Professors Scott Blasco and Ryan Hare at WSU helped Shaw hone his composition skills. Dr. Hare introduced him to the free writing technique that Shaw uses for most of his composing. Shaw describes the process as jotting completely random notes on the staff paper, then adding rhythms.

“Eighty percent of (what you write down) is garbage,” he laughs. “But there are bits you can take and expand on. The trick is to find ways to connect all the separate ideas so that they mesh into one.”

The technique allows composers to avoid unconsciously infringing on another composer’s copyright, because, as Dr. Hare points out, at some point, everything has already been written.

Dr. Blasco taught Shaw another key ingredient to good composition: you write better music when you do not want to write.

“The dream is to walk into some random place and hear a song I wrote playing over the speakers.”

– Gordon Shaw

Photo by Rick Moyer



“He would tell me that even if you sit down for two hours and you get four notes down, that’s infinitely better than not sitting down and writing music,” explains Shaw. “Eventually, things start to just line up. You have so many separate ideas. Then you find ways to connect them, and it all blends together. I love that feeling.”

Currently, Shaw is spending a year on the Harbor between WSU and graduate school. Along with reconnecting with his parents, John and Dee Ann Shaw, he recently accepted a position as music teacher at Miller Junior High, a job that will allow him to follow in the footsteps of teachers who have inspired him through the years.


After his gap year, Shaw hopes to pursue audio engineering in graduate school while continuing to compose music. In the meantime, if the stars line up right, perhaps Harborites can catch him on the stage here before he takes the world by musical storm. 

Photo by Juliana Wallace



A multi-instrumentalist, Shaw plays cello, piano, guitar and string bass. He also sings and composes.

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Local author Karen Harris Tully prolifically produces sci-fi for young adults

STORY & PHOTOS BY LISA SHELL

Sunlight fills a quaint little coffee shop, Elixir. Karen Harris Tully sits in a chair by the window sipping her tea; writing. It's here on the docks alongside the Willapa River that the award-winning author opens her journal, jots down a few thoughts and crosses off a couple of tasks on her to-do list.

Karen, 42, who moved to Raymond in 2005, creates intricate stories with strong female protagonists for the young adult science-fiction reader.

She authored the trilogy, "The Faarian Chronicles," which follows protagonist, Sunny Price, 15, as she is forced to move from Earth to her mother's home planet. The first book in the series, "Exile," published in 2015, took Karen more than 10 years to write. Her book's release party happened around the same time as the birth of her second child. But all that time writing paid off. Two years later, that first book earned a finalist spot – one of the top five in the nation – from the 2017 Kindle Book Awards!

"Imagine being based on Jupiter, at the dawn of the next age, when humans are about to venture off to a new galaxy to explore and settle a new planet like Alpha Centaur ..."

– Karen Harris Tully

This summer Karen and her "smart, handsome and supportive husband" Mike stayed busy with their kids' sports, baseball, tumbling and soccer, and still made time for gardening, berry picking and keeping the kids happy with chocolate chip cookies. And Karen has also continued a prolific writing career, including a recent stint as a regular columnist at *The Daily World* in Aberdeen, reflecting on the effects of the coronavirus on day-to-day life.

In her young adult fiction, Karen creates fantastical foreign worlds with humans and aliens, and brings it all together in coming-of-age adventures. She says she uses her bachelor's degree in political

science and economics from Western Washington University daily "to inform my world-building."

Karen's fire to write for the young adult sci-fi reader was ignited after having some strange fantastical dreams, which she began crafting into adventure tales. She says her influences include "Harry Potter," "Pride and Prejudice," "Trixie Belden" and "The Hunger Games," as well as her love for science-fiction cinema and television sci-fi series.

"I remember watching 'ET' in the theater. My mom and I watched 'Star Trek' when I was little, and I watched 'Star Trek: The Next Generation,'" she says, "I loved it; I watched every one of them."

When they read her books, her readers travel faster than light speed to distant stars.

"Imagine being based on Jupiter, at the dawn of the next age," Karen says, "when humans are about to venture off to a new galaxy to explore and settle a new

(continued on page 22)

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Karen Harris Tully produces sci-fi

(continued from page 19)

planet like Alpha Centaur, which is a real star system made up of three stars, Proxima Centauri, Beta Centauri, and Alpha Centauri AB."

Writing Partners

Along the way, Karen was introduced by a mutual friend, to fellow authors J.M. Phillippe, and Bethany Maines. They all went to the same college, but Karen didn't meet them until after college. They collaborate, share writing, and critique each other's work.



The trio communicates a lot by text and email. But once Covid-19 hit, they began to meet every two weeks via Zoom. They came up with a goal, to write three books that fit into a trilogy. "Soldier, Princess, Rebel, Spy" is Karen's contribution to "Galactic Dreams Volume 1: A Sci-Fairy Tale Anthology" published by Blue Zephyr Press.

The three writers continued meeting together to produce "Galactic Dreams Volume 2." Karen authored "Little Nebula" for that anthology. Currently, they are working on the next series of Galactic Dreams.

"I enjoyed it, she says, "We all wanted to write different fairy tales with the timeline working together. The universe is the same. Each book has different characters and different stories, but they link up."

And as a group, they went through all of the stories from "Hans Christian Anderson Tales" and "The Grimm Brothers" for the Volume 2 books. Each author chose a fairy tale to base their book from in the series. Karen picked "The Little Mermaid."

"I enjoyed writing about the ocean, but the ocean in space. The main character in my book is a nebula. I've enjoyed using my imagination and figuring out how to make my story work in space."

Hidden Dragons

In addition to good news for her current readers that "Galactic Dreams Volume 3" is due out before the end of the year, Karen shares good news for dragon fans. She's currently creating tales with all types of dragons.

"There are dragon myths in nearly every culture," she says, "flying feathered

dragons, lake dragons, with healing powers, two-legged dragons from all over the world. Humans tell dragon myths all over the world," she says, "but what do the dragons think of that?"

She hopes to explore that question as she continues her writing career, which keeps her busy full time as she creates, edits and markets her stories.

Karen's books can be purchased from Amazon,

as well as at Grays

Harbor Farmers Market in Hoquiam, Alder & Co. in Raymond, Pacific County Museum in South Bend, and North Cove Treasures, Treats & Trinkets. To follow her journey as a writer, check out her website at karenharristully.com; follow her on Facebook as Karen Harris Tully, or @KHarrisTully on Twitter and [khtully](https://www.instagram.com/khtully) on Instagram. 






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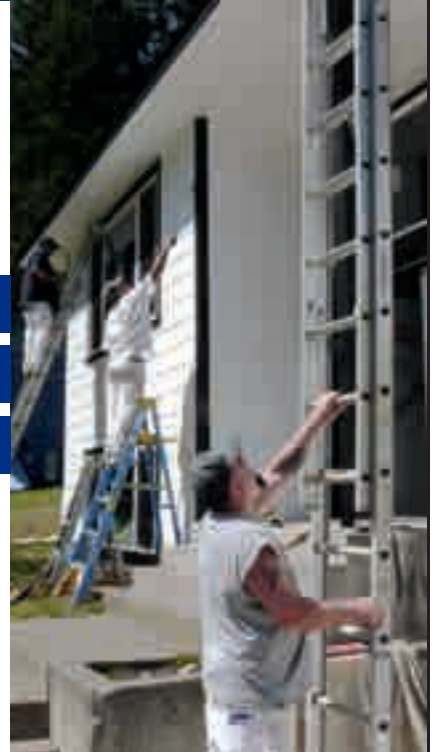
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MONTESANO

PUBLIC ART AT ITS FINEST IN THE GRAYS HARBOR COUNTY COURTHOUSE

STORY & PHOTOS BY JULIANA WALLACE

On July 2, 1999, a Friday evening, a 5.9 magnitude earthquake shook Western Washington. Just 10 miles west of its epicenter, the Grays Harbor County Courthouse sustained significant damage, necessitating months of repair. In addition to reconstructing the dome and fixing broken stonework and windows, county officials took the opportunity to restore the majestic artwork throughout the courthouse.

For the first time since 1910, artisans took down the magnificent murals that grace the domed ceiling and the walls of the courtrooms. As the murals traveled to Seattle for restoration, the county took stock of the remaining artwork. Damage also marred the lovely stained glass at the top of the dome, as well as decorative panels throughout the building.

Left: Looking up into the dome of the Grays Harbor County Courthouse at the stained glass and Franz Rohrbeck murals.

“It’s interesting to me that you have these major things that need to be done and that we have the artists here in the county and are able to use them.”

– Katie Svoboda
Superior Court Judge

Fortunately, local artists brought the necessary talent. Skip Unterseher, of Aberdeen, worked on the panels and paintings, while Hoquiam artist Cathy Rusley Smith repaired the stained glass.

“I couldn’t believe how good the repairs were,” remembers Superior Court Judge Katie Svoboda. “It’s interesting to me

that you have these major things that need to be done and that we have the artists here in the county and are able to use them.”

In fact, the artists did such exceptional work that when a water leak caused more damage in 2020, Director of Facilities Mark Cox immediately suggested that the county hire Unterseher. Once again, Unterseher restored the murals and other artwork. He meticulously matched 100-year-old paint colors and re-created decorative panels on muslin to allow for easier repair in the future.

Much of Unterseher’s artwork flies under the radar. For instance, some of the “marble” in the courthouse is actually wood painted to look like marble. On the other hand, the original doors, though they look like wood, are

(continued on page 30)

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COURTHOUSE

(continued)

“I’ve made my living doing this for almost 50 years, and to think that at my age you get to do this, not once, but twice. It’s so cool.”

– Skip Unterseher
artist



in fact made of metal. Unterseher has mastered the art of creating faux marble and wood, allowing the county to maintain the original appearance even through repairs.

Unterseher, 72, loves his work. “I’ve made my living doing this for almost 50 years,” he says. “And to think that at my age you get to do this, not once, but twice. It’s so cool.”

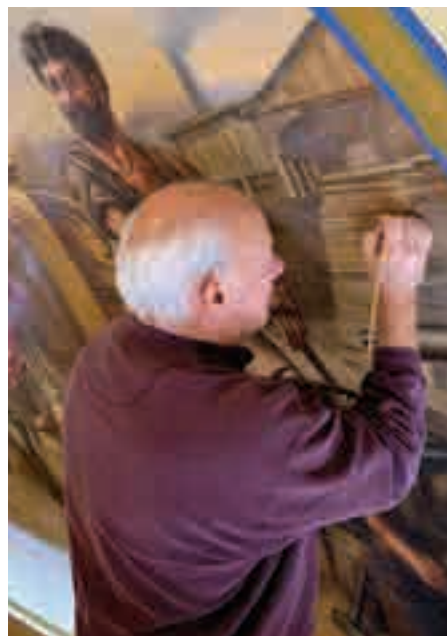
The results are stunning. And with the restoration and the addition of new, carefully placed LED lighting, visitors can now see the courthouse art in all its original majesty.

“It’s hard not to be taken aback when you look up and see that beautiful artwork jump off the canvas,” states Cox.

The artwork begins on the grand stairway leading up to the second floor. Six murals grace the walls, depicting local history and scenery. German American artist Franz Rohrbeck and his crew painted the centerpiece murals, as well as murals in Superior Courtrooms 1 and 2 and the murals in the dome.

While exceptional pieces of art, the downstairs murals misrepresent the Native Americans.

“Rohrbeck didn’t realize that the Northwest Coast Indians were different



Working on scaffolding several stories high, local artist Skip Unterseher restored murals in the courthouse dome after a recent water leak. This is the second time Unterseher has stepped in to save the artwork, first working on the courthouse murals after the 1999 earthquake.



Murals in Superior Courtroom No. 1, where Judge Katie Svoboda presides, portray the role of justice. Right: The “Transgression” mural is one of two murals in Superior Courtroom No. 2.

than the Plains Indians, so the Native Americans that he portrayed are wearing big, long headdresses. We know that’s not the way our Coast Indians lived and dressed,” explains Cox.

Once upstairs, courthouse visitors should take the time to stop and gaze up at the four dome murals and the stained glass, as well as the stenciling and wall art on all sides. Judge Svoboda recognizes that the artwork plays a

significant role in how visitors approach the work that goes on in the courthouse.

“When people come in, they respond to the solemnness, and for the most part they act appropriately,” she explains. “You never get desensitized to it.”

As a prosecutor, Svoboda found an extra benefit to the beautiful art in helping to put child victims at ease in a painfully difficult situation. With so much to look at, the children gain some welcome



A Franz Rohrbeck mural depicting the discovery of Grays Harbor lines the grand staircase, with local scenes on either side.



distance from the tension of the court proceedings.

In addition to the paintings, decorative touches throughout add to the beauty and maintain the historical feeling of the building. Most of the furniture is original. Likewise, the original gas light fixtures have been retrofitted for electricity. And the county took special pains to restore details like the egg-and-dart molding with help from Unterseher, as well as Miller & Sons plasterers from Olympia.

That same attention to detail drove the remodel of the second-floor law

(continued on page 32)

COURTHOUSE

(continued)

library, which has now become a third courtroom.

“The way we designed that, you wouldn’t realize it wasn’t historical,” says Cox. “Even the egg-and-dart moldings and the pilasters on the railings mimic what’s on the third floor.”

And while the new courtroom currently has no paintings, Svoboda suggests it might prove the perfect place to bring some authentic Native American art to the courthouse.

The iconic clock tower adds a crowning touch to the courthouse art. When the clock recently stopped working, county officials made the decision to repair the original clock instead of replacing it with a digital version. Even though most

“The people of Grays Harbor own this building... and I think they want it nice.”

– Mark Cox
Director of Facilities,
Grays Harbor County



The “Instruction” mural in Superior Courtroom No. 2.


Below left: Mark Cox, Director of Facilities, is passionate about preserving the art in the courthouse, including the original courthouse clock.



people never see the clockworks, the painting and gilding make it a piece of art in and of itself.

Looking forward, Cox feels a significant responsibility to maintain the building and its exceptional artwork.

“The people of Grays Harbor own this building. I’m always aware of that,” he says. “I have to keep it up, because my bosses drive by here every day. Every person in a car is part owner of this building. And I think they want it nice.”

The Grays Harbor County Courthouse is located at 102 West Broadway Avenue in Montesano and open to the public between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. on weekdays. 





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The luck of the Irish extends restaurant empire

BY GAIL GREENWOOD AYRES
PHOTOS BY KATIE MCGREGOR

Homey hospitality, hearty food, lively Irish music, and an Irish beer, whiskey, glass of wine – or spot of tea – all help create a sense of community at Galway Bay Irish Pub in Ocean Shores.

Whether it be their sought-after Irish soda bread muffins, a corned beef sandwich, fish ‘n chips, bangers and mash, pasties, rack of lamb or shepherd’s pie, the authentic Irish food is both tasty and satisfying.

Below: Christopher Doyle and Liam Gibbons at a previous years’ Celtic Feis.



Photo courtesy of Galway Bay

“You know there’s an old Irish saying, ‘One more for dinner? Just put another potato in the pot!’ and that’s kind of how we operate our business.”

– Christopher Doyle

The homemade bread pudding and custard are dreamt of delicacies and the traditional Irish breakfast, “the trad,” is both a delicious hearty breakfast for locals as well as a comforting taste of home for Irish tourists.

Just as famous as Ireland’s food, drink, wool sweaters and tenors, is that country’s hospitality. And Galway Bay Irish Pub founder Liam Gibbons, 67, and

co-owner Christopher Doyle, 56, both Irish Catholics, have that welcoming spirit in spades.

“You know there’s an old Irish saying, ‘One more for dinner? Just put another potato in the pot!’ and that’s kind of how we operate our business,” said Doyle, who joined Gibbons in 2012 as a partner.

In 1993 Gibbons, who had come to Grays Harbor from the Midwest in



Photo courtesy of Galway Bay

1980 to work in the forestry industry, began Galway Bay as a small gift shop at a different location. Now 28 years later, it is a 10,000-foot complex at 880 Point Brown Ave. N.E., which includes the restaurant, tasting room, bar, game room, banquet room, two patios and an extensive Celtic food and gift shop. Add comfy club chairs, dark wood paneling, a cozy fireplace and a friendly staff to complete the experience.

The relaxed atmosphere of the entire establishment offers a feast for the eyes and the brain. Intriguing artifacts of every kind from Irish sports memorabilia, an Irish harp, photos of popes and even a signed picture



“In Ireland, pub is short for public house and that means it is place for the community to gather.”
 – Liam Gibbons



of Mother Teresa, somehow all come together in a cohesive, festive way.

“This is a testament to what Liam has built,” said Doyle gesturing to the bustling restaurant. “He has great vision when it comes to things like this. He has always had a love for his Irish heritage and he taught me to have a love for my Irish heritage. I really wasn’t that Irish until I met him and then I got involved looking into my own genealogy and whatnot and just what the Irish stand for,” Doyle said.

(continued on page 36)



Photo courtesy of Galway Bay

The luck of the Irish

(continued)

Gibbons also credits his wife Linda whose faith in him and steady teaching job allowed him to pursue his Irish dream. Now retired, she still can be found working in the gift shop on Saturdays.

Some people don't realize that a pub doesn't have a tavern kind of feel, Gibbons said. "In Ireland, pub is short for public house and that means it is place for the community to gather."

"If you're looking at taking shots and getting drunk, we're not the place,"



agreed Doyle. "We want people to have a great time responsibly. We want them as customers for a long time."

The Celtic Music Feis

As if building a large Irish restaurant complex in an area without a large Irish-heritage community wasn't adventurous enough, in 2004 Gibbons created the Celtic Music Feis, a celebration of Irish music and culture

"He (Liam) has great vision when it comes to things like this. He has always had a love for his Irish heritage."

– Christopher Doyle

that the restaurant hosts each October, which had been a historically slow time in the tourist city of Ocean Shores.

Over the years, truly world-class talent has been featured including Doolin', Sean Keane, Derek Warfield and the Young Wolfe Tones, and even the Irish tenors.

Below: Wool hats from the British Isles are a popular item in the gift shop.



The outdoor patio at Galway Bay is covered and so is useful in many seasons.

The restaurant complex includes three smaller stages and one mainstage. In addition, entertainment is scheduled at the Ocean Shores Convention Hall, and the 8th Street Ale House in Hoquiam.

This year's festival – the 18th annual – is slated for Oct. 18-24 and will feature an eclectic mix of Irish bands, choirs and dancers from the U.S., Canada, Austria and, of course, Ireland. For more information or to purchase event tickets, go to www.celticmusicfeis.com.

With some 25 different individuals and groups performing over a week, the festival has grown to be one of the top Irish music festivals in the nation. It's routinely sold out. Covid-19 threw a wrench in 2020's celebration – the 17th annual. But Gibbons and Doyle managed to pull together an on-line festival experience.

It's not just during the annual feis that Celtic music is celebrated at Galway Bay

Irish Pub. Every Friday and Saturday live Irish music is performed at the pub. And when there's not live music playing, the background music in the family-friendly restaurant and throughout the building is Irish as well. The gift shop also features a vast variety of Irish music CDs for sale, along with various Irish musical instruments, sheet music, woolen sweaters, Irish caps, art, food, jewelry, home décor crafted by Gibbons, and much more.

Grays Harbor Gastro Galaxy

If running a large gift shop, pub and restaurant establishment as well as managing a huge week-long festival doesn't keep Gibbons and Doyle busy enough, the two restauranteurs not only own Galway Bay together, they also own the North Cove Bar and Grill in Tokeland. Gibbons also owns the 8th Street Ale House, a popular gastro pub at 207 8th St. in Hoquiam, but Doyle runs it. In addition, in 2017 Doyle purchased the Lighthouse Drive-in Restaurant at 2121 Simpson Ave. in Aberdeen, as well as the yellow lighthouse-shaped Lighthouse Restaurant at 850 Point Brown Ave. N.E. in Ocean Shores.

The partners also own North Cove Bar and Grill in Tokeland.



But their influence on Grays Harbor eateries goes even beyond the restaurants they own!


Turns out the two not only know how to create delicious food and successful restaurants, but also how to encourage others to do the same. Several former employees now own their own notable restaurants on the Harbor. They include Brodey Jones who owns Ocean Beach Roasters, 841 Point Brown Ave. N.W., as well as Rob Paylor and Patrick Durney, who first owned Mill 109 at Seabrook and now own Hoquiam Brewing Co., Inc., 526 8th St. in Hoquiam.

"I learned a lot working for them, for sure," Paylor said. "Gibbons gave me one of my first management jobs at Galway and then later was so encouraging to Patrick and me as we started our own restaurant. He told us, 'Hey if this is a better opportunity for you, do it!' He even looked over our initial lease

Doyle owns two Lighthouse Drive-ins including this one in Ocean Shores.



for the restaurant and has helped me with employee issues. I consider him a mentor. He's been super great, both he and Doyle."

For up-to-date hours and information on Galway Bay Irish Pub, visit galwaybay@coastaccess.com, or call (360) 289-2300. 

8th Street Ale House in Hoquiam is a popular gastro pub.



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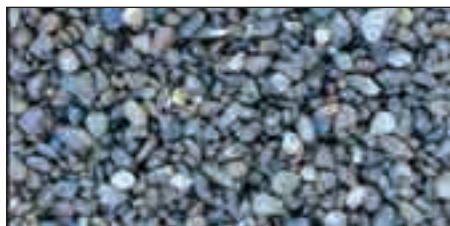


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ALEX EDDY'S got a good thing going

HOQUIAM

BY GREGORY E. ZSCHOMLER
PHOTOS BY RICK MOYER

Alex Eddy discovered his passions in music and theater as a child. And now, after participating in nearly a hundred shows, he continues to use his multiple talents to add to the cultural life of his fellow Grays Harborites. The 35-year-old Hoquiam resident says his life's quest is, "eventual worldwide influence over the culture and entertainment industry."

"I have always had this idea that Grays Harbor can and will be something amazing. I think the arts are an industry that is just waiting to be tapped into. People cross the country to see plays in Ashland, Oregon. Why not Aberdeen?"

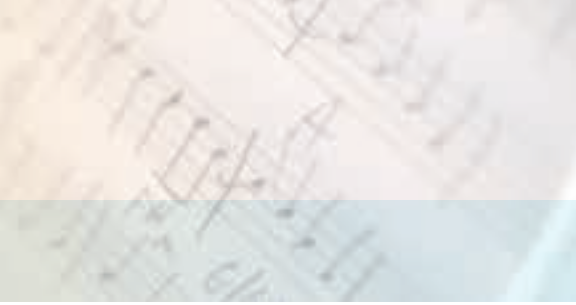
Musical Beginnings, 'Growing Up' and 'Good Thing Going'

"I have been interested in music for as long as I can remember," says Eddy. "Some of my earliest memories are of my dad playing the piano and me holding an acoustic guitar like an upright bass, just strumming along, while we both would sing 'La Bamba.'"

In 2nd grade Eddy began studying with local piano teacher Judy Reynvaan. "She opened the whole world to me. She didn't only teach me the piano, she taught me about music itself."

In 5th grade, he started playing trombone in the school band. Then he picked up bass guitar in 8th grade, playing in the Hoquiam High School jazz band his freshman year. He began teaching himself guitar around the same time, and as a sophomore, he and some friends created a punk band called Smilin' Jon.

Photo courtesy of Keith Krueger



Eddy says that's when he started writing songs. "I didn't really know how, but I knew we didn't want to just play covers anymore. I don't want to brag, but if you ask me, we were a really good band. We were all best friends, so band practice was just hanging out for us. We could lock in on a groove and switch tempos almost without thinking about it. Musically, it's the most fun I've ever had."

After attending Grays Harbor College, where he studied music theory with Bob Richardson, as well as ear training and piano with Phyllis Pieffer, he attended Western Washington University to study composition. After a term, he transferred to The Evergreen State College in Olympia, where he earned a bachelor's degree in musical composition.

"Some of my favorite memories are of Smilin' Jon playing shows at Alfie's (Restaurant). We had a community of our own and could try new things for

Alex Eddy directing the pit for "Back in the World."



Alex Eddy

each other freely. Other than that, most of my music career has been spent playing in pits for musicals. At this point, I'm not even really sure how many I've played in. Probably close to a hundred."

"I can't imagine doing a musical without Alex. Such a talented man. His ability to adjust to the singer is remarkable."

— Brad Duffy

He lists his biggest musical influences as The Beatles (particularly John Lennon), and the Beach Boys' Brian Wilson. When it comes to musical theater, writers Stephen Sondheim creator of "Into the Woods," is number one followed by Randy Newman of "Toy Story."

Theatrical Beginnings, 'The Best Thing That Ever Has Happened'

He first entered the magical realm of musical theater at Washington Elementary School, and can still recall some of the songs from that first show—a little musical version of "Robin Hood."

"Once I'd caught that bug, I tried out for the 7th Street Kids and was in the cast of four productions."

After taking a break from the theater to pursue other interests, he returned to pursue other interests, he returned to his freshman year, playing in his first pit for HHS's "Cinderella." As a senior, and having taken some acting classes from Patty Sundstrom, he moved from the pit back once again to the stage. After high school, he performed in GHC musicals. There he met professor Brad Duffy who found Eddy indispensable.

"I can't imagine doing a musical without Alex," says Duffy who's worked with Eddy over the years. "Such a talented man. His ability to adjust to the singer is remarkable."

In 2006, he became the rehearsal pianist and conductor for the 7th Street Kids' "Anne of Green Gables." The next year he was hired as music director, which he continued to do up until 2020. Around 2009, he also became the rehearsal pianist at the Bishop Center. He also spent a few years as the rehearsal pianist and occasional pit conductor for Capital High School in Olympia. However, it was during the 2010s that things began to shift and gel for Eddy.

He says it was around that time that Sundstrom, his former high school drama teacher, asked him to become the assistant director, conductor and lighting designer for HHS. He accepted.

"I had never done lighting before, but I wanted to learn. I was able to get it

(continued on page 42)



put together, but it was very much an experience in learning what not to do.”

Then Aberdeen High School’s drama director Tamara Helland asked him to do the lights for that school’s production of “Aida.” It was an “everything-that-can-go-wrong-will-go-wrong sort of thing” with the lighting figured out just in time for the final dress rehearsal!

It was then one of the most electrifying things in his life happened! The show got nominated for a 5th Avenue Award (basically the high school version of the Tony’s) for best lighting!

“We thought that was awesome and went to the ceremony with no

Eddy and his niece, Avah Morris, in the pit before a performance of “The Little Mermaid” for 7th Street Kids.



expectations. Then we actually won the award!” Eddy recalls. “I just remember being absolutely in shock. Just a couple weeks earlier, I’d been staying up all night stressing over whether or not the lights would even get done.” Now he was on a stage holding an award for his work.

“I love all types of theater, but ... there’s something very special about music and lyrics combined that makes it an incredibly efficient way to tell our stories. It’s truly thrilling.”

– Alex Eddy

Shortly after, he was mentored at Driftwood Playhouse by Brad Duffy to become a director. Since then, Eddy has directed several plays and musicals including “Five Women Wearing the Same Dress,” “Tick, Tick Boom” and “Cabaret.” Eddy was now fully infected by the theater bug.

“I love all types of theater,” says Eddy, “but I think music, particularly songs, do something that nothing else can. We are storytelling creatures and

there’s something very special about music and lyrics combined that makes it an incredibly efficient way to tell our stories. It’s truly thrilling.”

New Beginnings, “Ever After” and “Gotta Keep ‘Em Humming”

This past year he and local actress Julayne Fleury began their own Plank Island Theater. *(A story about Julayne Fleury and Plank Island was featured in the Spring 2021 issue of Coastal Currents.)*

“Julayne and I want to pass on what we’ve learned over the years and help cultivate a new generation of theater kids.”

The company’s first offering was this February: “Writing Wrongs,” a free monologue writing workshop. The whole project was dedicated to Lynne Lerych, a GHC teacher, mentor, friend, and collaborator who recently died.

They met with writers via Zoom once a week and helped them craft monologues. As it looked more and more like Covid restrictions would be easing up, Julayne brought up the idea of finding a venue and presenting the monologues as a live show. They secured the D & R Theatre in Aberdeen.

The next week the show was performed at the Broadway Olympia Productions black box space in the Capital Mall, the first-ever show to be presented in that space.

"Both [runs] were incredibly rewarding in their own rights," Eddy says. "And it was really amazing to be experiencing live theater again after all that time."

Within his variety of talents, Eddy's primary passion is writing music.

"Julayne and I want to pass on what we've learned over the years and help cultivate a new generation of theater kids."

— Alex Eddy

"I love the surprise of it; not knowing exactly where an idea is going to lead. ... Sometimes a melody will come along that's fairly fully formed, but I think more often I let the lyrics guide the tune. For me, chords and melodies tend to show up together."

Two past projects stick out to him. The first was a ballet he wrote based on the board game "Candy Land." The other

Eddy pencils a musical composition at his piano.



Photo courtesy of Keith Krueger

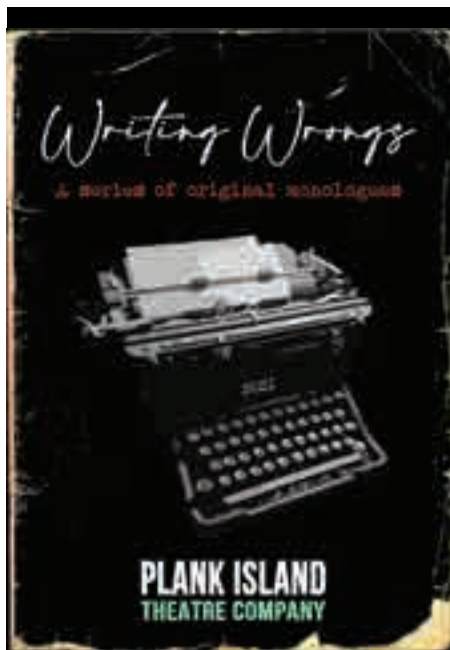
Bob Richardson, Grays Harbor College music instructor, with Alex Eddy following opening night for "Back in the World."

was the musical he wrote with Lerych called "Back in the World."

"I'm extremely proud of the musical I wrote with Lynne. I still remember when she asked me to write the music, and all these years later, I feel just as lucky."

Eddy is working on a musical about Billy Gohl, an alleged serial killer from Aberdeen's history. Something that he says he's wanted to do since high school, he estimates it will be ready for production in 2023.


In the meantime, Eddy's next project is directing "The Wedding Singer," which opens in November at the Driftwood Theatre in Aberdeen.



Poster for the first production of Plank Island Theater Company, Fall 2021, Eddy's new venture along with co-founder Julayne Fleury.

"The truth is that there isn't much I do that isn't at least peripherally involved with music or theater. Those things are in my blood. There's also this tune in my head that no one has heard yet. But you will," says Eddy. "I want people to smile. If no one is laughing at my funeral, they've missed the point."



"The Wedding Singer" at Driftwood Theatre, is a musical based on the Adam Sandler movie. It's the story of Robbie Hart, a wedding singer who is stood up at the altar at his own wedding. His friend, Julia, helps him get through his depression, and before too long they both start wondering if maybe there's a little more going on between them. The show is suggested for patrons 12 years and older. It is slated to run Fridays and Saturdays, Nov. 26 and 27 and Dec. 3, 4, 10 and 11; and Sundays, Dec. 5 and 12. Tickets are \$18. For more information, go to www.aberdeendrftwood.com. 



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Well-known potter John Benn fired up to teach at Grays Harbor Potters Guild

STORY & PHOTOS BY CHRISTINE VINCENT

When experienced potter and artist Sandy Early of Hoquiam decided to take a break from teaching pottery, she was thrilled when award-winning potter John Benn answered the call.

“I was very happy when John Benn responded and agreed to teach at the guild ...”

– Sandy Early

“I have been teaching for 30 years,” Early says. “I wanted to take the summer off to work in my studio and so I placed an ad. ... I was very happy when John Benn responded and agreed to teach at the guild during the summer. We are now also talking about fall.”



John Benn demonstrating a technique to students in a class at the Grays Harbor Potters Guild in Hoquiam.

The Grays Harbor Potters Guild, which opened its doors in November 2020 at 2222 Simpson Ave. in Hoquiam, began with a group of potters from Studio 6 of the North Beach Artists Guild in Ocean Shores. These artists formed their new non-profit in the more central Hoquiam location to open a gallery and to focus on teaching. Early taught the first set of “Pottery 4 All” classes.

She is excited that Harborites have had the opportunity to take the newly named “Clay 4 All” class from Benn, a ceramic artist and potter whose remarkable work has been featured in national and international exhibitions and books. An adjunct professor of ceramics, drawing, painting and design

at Olympic College in Bremerton, Benn’s pots are highly sought after by collectors.

Teaching pottery online because of Covid-19 hasn’t been easy, Benn says, noting how much he misses the personal contact with his students. That’s why the opportunity to teach face-to-face in the guild studio has been especially rewarding.

Benn is known for his wood-fired pottery which receives its complex beauty from the firing process. In the studio of the Grays Harbor Potters Guild, he teaches the basics of shaping clay and glazing, which precede any

(continued on page 46)





Benn with a student in the class in Hoquiam.

kind of firing technique. While learning to wheel-throw or hand-build their pieces, students are exposed to their teacher's vast knowledge and love of pottery history and philosophy. In the guild studio, the students work is fired in a brand-new electric kiln purchased with a grant from the Grays Harbor Community Foundation.

“Here, it is all about the students. They can do whatever they like starting with very simple shapes fired in the electric kiln.”

– John Benn

While his specialty of wood-fired pottery is mind-blowingly complex, Benn waves his arm around the guild studio: “(Creating pottery) can be very simple. Here, it is all about the students. They can do whatever they like starting with very simple shapes fired in the electric kiln.”

Benn is married to Colleen Gallagher,

an award-winning ceramic artist, who is a professor of art at South Sound Community College in Olympia. Together, they have built their lives around the two great wood-fire kilns that Benn has constructed in a former boat shed on their Harstine Island property.

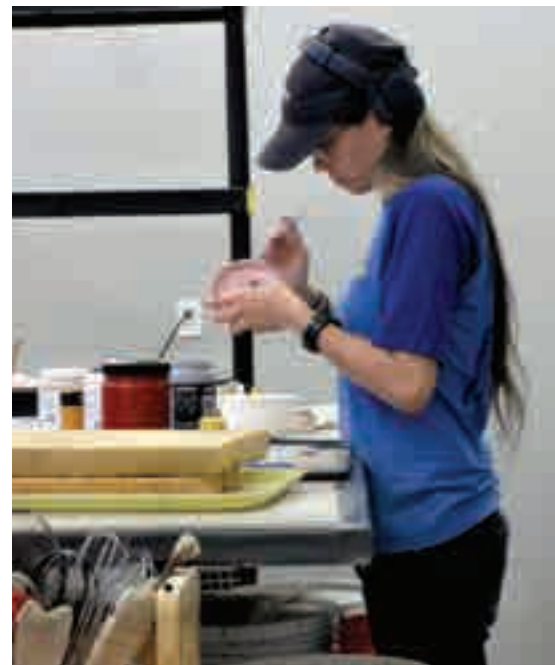
“Here, in the guild’s studio, we place the pot in the electric kiln and the work is done,” he says. “With wood-fired pottery, the hard work begins with placing the pots in the kiln.” Benn uses a beautiful figure of speech: “I paint with fire.”

An electric kiln is used at the Grays Harbor Potters Guild.



In imitation of the ancients, Benn creates large round-bellied vases, a foot or more in diameter, with stunningly complex surfaces. Gazing at them, one discovers entire universes of colors, textures and shapes, often mirroring the seashore from which they received much of their beauty. Amazingly, these pots have never been touched by the artist’s brush. They have been truly painted with fire!

Then comes the wood – a lot of wood! Benn and Gallagher own a wood splitter, which is very much needed,



Merrick Williams works on her pottery.

considering that it takes eight cords to stoke their 25-foot, two-chambered kiln. The couple has named the enormous wood stack, which occupies a large area of their workshop and their lives, the Wood Palace.

It takes a week to get the large kiln up to firing temperature of 2300 F. Then, to maintain this heat level, a bundle of wood needs to be added to the fire every three to five minutes! The kiln requires constant attention. Benn and Gallagher have assembled a reliable firing crew for this task. Not surprisingly, the kilns are only fired three to four times each year and always in the winter because of the fire danger.



Wood-fired pottery is a community effort by people who are willing to dedicate a lot of time to serving the fire. Wood-fired pots cannot be made in isolation, nor can the process be controlled. Unlike factory-made pottery, the finished pieces are alive with the labor of the potters and their crew in their interaction with the forces of nature.


Different trees draw different kinds of minerals from the soil which are vaporized in the extreme heat of the kiln creating patina on the clay surfaces. The wood ash settles on the pots creating colored glazes. Benn and Gallagher use only dead wood from their land. Occasionally, neighbors donate different types of wood for the potters to play with.

Japanese tradition is particularly focused on the appreciation of wood-fired pottery. It became popular in the United States when American soldiers saw and loved Japanese pots in World War II and brought the techniques home with them. In Japan, pottery pieces are valued for the way in which they engage the senses and induce mindfulness.

Benn explains the irregular shape and texture of a "chawan," a tea bowl, used in the ritual tea ceremony.

"Not only the look is important; the feel of the uneven lip, which I allow to form naturally, draws attention. Even the sound created by the shape of the bowl is important."

The Grays Harbor Potters Guild is currently offering the opportunity to study ceramic arts with John Benn at the beginner and intermediate levels. Register at GraysHarborPottersGuild.com.

Pottery by John Benn and Colleen Gallagher is currently on exhibit at Childhood's End Gallery in Olympia. Visit their website to see photos of their pottery and of the kilns: John Benn and Colleen Gallagher: Woodfired Pottery. <http://benngallagher.com> 

Right: Examples of John Benn's wood-fired pottery. Photos courtesy of Colleen Gallagher.





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Art classes available on the Harbor this fall

Whether dabblers or pros, Grays Harbor County offers a variety of opportunities for those interested in creating art to learn more!

In addition to the Grays Harbor Potters Guild in Hoquiam, other Grays Harbor organizations offer various types of art classes. Another option would be to explore art classes available through Grays Harbor College in Aberdeen.

Cosi Art Center

The Cosi Art Center, 1136 First Street in Cosmopolis, features art instruction for children. Founded and directed by Judi Lohr, the children's art school is a non-profit entity that teaches classic art techniques.

The after-school program will resume Sept. 27. It offers art instruction and a chance for kids to socialize in small groups once their homework is done, according to Lohr.

In addition, art programs on Saturday will restart this fall beginning Oct. 2. The programs include digital media, pastels, water colors, acrylics and crafts. Most of the classes are designed for students 6 years and older, however, the digital art class is for students 8 years and older.

For more information, go to the website at cosiartcenter.com or check out the Facebook page. Registration is via cosiartcenter@gmail.com.

Gallery of Ocean Shores

The North Beach Artists Guild's Gallery of Ocean Shores is full of opportunities to enjoy art and learn how to create it. Located at 849 Point Brown Ave. in Ocean Shores, it is open each day from

10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Artists create right there in the gallery for the instruction and enjoyment of visitors and to share their process of creating the artwork that's on display there.

Classes in many different mediums are available. Check out the website at galleryofoceanshores.com or call the gallery at (360) 289-0734 for more information. The interactive website includes a way to register and pay for art classes. Each class has a fee, but scholarships are available for both art classes and workshops.

Currently the classes include:

- **Figurative sculpture in clay** with Scott Hawn from 10 a.m. to noon for four Monday sessions. For additional information, contact Hawn directly at scotgallery@gmail.com.
- An online **Wet on Wet Watercolor** class taught via Zoom with Roy Lowry each Tuesday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. In-person classes are scheduled upon request.
- **Colored pencil and pastel** weekly online art class with Penny Dalton is from 1 to 4 p.m. each Thursday. In this class Dalton will teach how to create translucent flowers using layers of colored pencil.
- **Fused Glass Workshop** with Cammie Zielinski is offered for four sessions from 1 to 4 p.m. Thursdays. The class will teach the basics of fused glass with new projects each week.
- On Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 6 to 8:30 Zielinski offers a drop-in class on fused glass. (Cost is \$50.) Projects vary each time so contact her directly for more information at cammiez@comcast.net.

• Many Saturdays Scott Hawn teaches how to create **FOBOTS**, that is **robot sculptures with found objects**. This takes place at the studio. Call or check online for details.

• An **introduction to oil painting** is taught from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Fridays by Margaret Ooyen Lemke. The class is both in person or online via Zoom. For more information, contact the instructor at margaretooyenlemke@gmail.com.


South Beach Arts Association

Located at 800 N. Montesano St., in Westport, the South Beach Arts Association offers classes to learn and experience a variety of different art media from **ceramics to basic weaving, mosaics to painting**.

For up-to-date information on classes, check out their website at southbeacharts.org. Classes listed include pottery classes by Cindy Reed. However the fall sessions are all full.

Aberdeen Art Center

The large Aberdeen Art Center, 200 W. Market St., offers a variety of classes in addition to the gallery of art to enjoy.

Currently the only scheduled class is a **watercolor class** taught from 3 to 6 p.m. each Thursday by Tammy Barns. The \$25 fee includes all materials. For more information about this class or others, contact the gallery at (562) 208-4226 or check out the website at aberdeenartcenter.com. 

Schedules are subject to change - check ahead!

SEPTEMBER

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

SEPTEMBER 3 . Seabrook Summer Concert Series . 6pm . Live music. Sunset Amphitheater Park . Free

SEPTEMBER 3, 4, 5 . Associated Arts of Ocean Shores Arts & Crafts Festival . Ocean Shores Convention Center . www.associatedarts.org

SEPTEMBER 3, 4, 10, 11, 17, 18, 24, 25 .

Galway Bay Irish Pub . Every Friday and Saturday, live music is performed at the pub.

SEPTEMBER 4 . Seafood Festival & Craft Show . Westport . Feast on fresh fish, oysters and more. Live music & local crafts

SEPTEMBER 4 . Corvettes at the Marina . Westport docks . Bring yours!

SEPTEMBER 4 . Seabrook Saturday Markets . Last market day of the season . Vendors

SEPTEMBER 4 . The Stowaway Wine Walk . Seabrook . 1pm start . Sip wine, savor delicious bites, 10 wineries, food trucks, live music

SEPTEMBER 5 . Music in the Park Grayland . 11am -3pm . Dance music by Black Shepherd. Beer Garden, concessions. Park location 2071 Cranberry Rd.

SEPTEMBER 6 . Old Fashioned Labor Day Picnic & Paddle-a-Thon Ocean Shores
 9am-3:30pm . Human-Powered Boat Races, Poker Paddle & more at North Bay Park . oceanshoresact.com

SEPTEMBER 6 . World of Outlaws . Elma . 6pm - 10pm . Grays Harbor Raceway, National car racing tour

SEPTEMBER 10, 11, 12 . Furvana . Ocean Shores . Ocean Shores Convention Center . Furvana is a furry fandom and anthropomorphic arts convention.

SEPTEMBER 17 - 19 . 30 Miles of Junque . South Beach . Tokeland to Westport and Ocosta

SEPTEMBER 18 . Operation Shore Patrol . South Beach . Beach clean-up

SEPTEMBER 24 . Bailadores de Bronce . Bishop Center, GHC . 7pm . FREE Fall Fridays, Virtual performance . Mexican dancers. Show links at www.ghc.edu/bishop

SEPTEMBER 24, 25 (OCT. 1, 2, 8, 9, 10) . "See How They" . Driftwood Players . Aberdeen . Directed by Kathe Rowe . Comedy

SEPTEMBER 24 - 25 . Junk Queens Vintage Flea Market . Elma . 10am - 4pm . County fairgrounds . Fall Show featuring vendors, pumpkins, primitives, antiques & more

SEPTEMBER 24 - 26 . City-wide Garage Sale . Elma

SEPTEMBER 25 . Reach the Beach . Westport . Fundraising cycling event. Registration 7am, start 10 am. Organized courses begin in Lacey, Olympia, Elma and Cosmopolis and end in Westport

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OCTOBER

OCTOBER 1 . First Friday Art Walk . Aberdeen Art Center . 5pm and 8pm . Live music, artist demonstrations, free arts and craft class, snacks

OCTOBER 1, 2, 8, 9, 10 . "See How They Run" . Driftwood Players . Aberdeen . Directed by Kathie Rowe . Comedy

OCTOBER 1, 2, 8, 9, 15, 16, 29, 30 . Galway Bay Irish Pub . Every Friday and Saturday, live music is performed at the pub.

OCTOBER 2 . Bigfoot Brewfest . Seabrook . 12pm and 6pm . One of WA Coast's biggest beer festivals, Growler's Alley in the heart of Seabrook will be full of great drinks, food, and live music

OCTOBER 9 - 10 . Cranberry Harvest Festival . Grayland . Bog tours, Cranberry cook off, and firelight parade, 10L, 5K run, 3K walk

OCTOBER 15 . Magician Nate Jester . Bishop Center, GHC . 7pm . FREE Fall Fridays, Virtual performance . Show links at www.ghc.edu/bishop

OCTOBER 16 . The Seabrook Relay . 5:30am start . 75 mile run, 53 mile walk . Six person run teams . 4 - 6 person walk teams . hoodtocoast.com

OCTOBER 16, 17 . "More" Urban Unglued . Ocean Shores Convention Center . Exotic Gear Show

OCTOBER 18 - 24 . Galway Bay's Celtic Music Feis . Ocean Shores . An eclectic mix of Irish bands, choirs and dancers. Three venues: 8th Street Ale House (Hoquiam), Galway Bay Irish Pub & Ocean Shores Convention Center. Tickets at www.celticmusicfeis.com

OCTOBER 28 - 31 . Seabrook Halloween Weekend . Hay maze, pumpkin patch, pumpkin promenade

NOVEMBER

NOVEMBER 5 . First Friday Art Walk . Aberdeen Art Center . 5pm and 8pm . Live music, artist demonstrations, free arts and craft class, snacks

NOVEMBER 5, 6, 12, 13, 19, 20, 26, 27 . Galway Bay Irish Pub . Every Friday and Saturday, live music is performed at the pub.

NOVEMBER 12 . GHC Fall Drama . Bishop Center, GHC . 7pm . FREE Fall Fridays, Virtual performance . Show links at www.ghc.edu/bishop

NOVEMBER 19 . Grays Harbor Symphony . Bishop Center, GHC . 7pm . FREE Fall Fridays, Virtual performance . Show links at www.ghc.edu/bishop

NOVEMBER 26, 27 (DECEMBER 3, 4, 5, 10, 11, 12) . "The Wedding Singer" . Driftwood Players . Aberdeen . Directed by Alex Eddy

NOVEMBER 26 - 28 . Winter Fanta-Sea . Ocean Shores Convention Center . Handmade crafts and gifts


DECEMBER 3 . GHC Music Dept. Jazz Concert . Bishop Center, GHC . 7pm . FREE Fall Fridays, Virtual performance . Show links at www.ghc.edu/bishop

Get the latest schedule info at our website www.coastal-currents.com

Do you have a story idea for Coastal Currents?

Do you know of a Grays Harbor author, artists or musician who would make an interesting story for *Coastal Currents* readers? What about someone who is involved in the theater or in the restaurant industry?

Perhaps you know about upcoming art, music or theater classes, festivals or events scheduled for this winter. The winter issue of *Coastal Currents*, which covers December, January and February events, will be available to readers Dec. 1. The deadline for schedule of events items is Nov. 10.

Please send your ideas and information about Grays Harbor area arts and culture to info@coastal-currents.com, or mail to P.O. Box 261, Grayland, WA 98547. 



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One way for readers to support this free quarterly publication, and thus the arts, is to patronize *Coastal Currents* advertisers. And, let them know we sent you!

A flourishing business community helps the economy and culture of a whole county. Let the small businesses of Grays Harbor and Pacific County that advertise in *Coastal Currents*, know that you saw their ad here!

As you read the stories, take a careful look through each page to discover the especially good coupons and deals within the advertisements in this issue. Create community by exploring a new restaurant or business!



Taqueria San Jose has new restaurant

Taqueria San Jose, featured in the Spring 2021 issue of *Coastal Currents*, is now at a new location, 307 South Park St.

Formerly within the Shoppes at Riverside Mall in South Aberdeen, this popular restaurant located in the mall's food court, was forced to leave as were most of the businesses when the majority of the mall was declared unsafe last spring.

In mid June, Taqueria San Jose's owner, Alberto Fonseca, opened up a newly refurbished restaurant. The new, tangerine-colored restaurant is much larger, offering seating inside as well as its signature fast, fresh, authentic Mexican food. Check Taqueria San Jose's Facebook page for updates on hours. 

Promote your business here

Each household in Grays Harbor receives a free copy of *Coastal Currents* in the mail. That's 36,596 households plus 50 additional locations! That kind of market penetration is what our advertisers count on to let local people know about their goods and services.

For rates and more information on how you can purchase advertising in the next issue, contact Publisher Stan Woody (830) 265-0190, or stan@coastal-currents.com.

Do you have information about an upcoming festival, play, concert, art show, or food-related event?

Please submit it to *Coastal Currents* for consideration to be included in our online calendar and/or winter issue. Just e-mail all the particulars to eventmanager@coastal-currents.com

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Have you been to our website recently?
www.coastal-currents.com

Find a digital version of our latest issue, up-to-date schedule of events & more!

Creativity around the county • Aberdeen

The Rain Glow Festival on July 24, 2021, in downtown Aberdeen was, well, a glowing success. If you missed the event, mark your calendar for July 2022!
 Photos courtesy of Downtown Aberdeen Association 98520.



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Meet the *Coastal Currents Magazine* fall 2021 contributors



Gail Greenwood Ayres received her journalism degree from Pacific Lutheran University. She worked for nearly 10 years as a daily newspaper journalist, then worked as a communications specialist for the City of Tacoma. In the 1990s she created a Russian/American newspaper, "New Life." Now she enjoys freelance writing, editing and marketing on a wide variety of projects from her home in Brady, which she shares with her husband Dan and two college-age daughters.



Jeff Burlingame an Aberdeen native, is an award-winning author of nearly 40 nonfiction books, selling nearly a million copies along the way. He is the winner of an NAACP Image Award for Best Literary Work. He has appeared on MTV, and been a featured author on A&E's popular Biography TV series. Jeff is also the editor of two regional monthly business magazines. He enjoys outdoor activities, music and travel. His recently installed Walk of Fame star is located in front of the Aberdeen library.



Katie McGregor is a photographer and writer living in Aberdeen. She graduated from Pacific Lutheran University where she studied media communication and studio art. Now she runs a freelance photography business and takes photos for businesses, publications, and individuals around Western Washington. The rest of her time is spent outdoors, hiking and taking photos throughout the Pacific Northwest.



Rick Moyer is a local radio personality with Alpha Media Grays Harbor on KIX 95.3 and 104.7 KDUX. He and his wife Amy started Moyer Multi Media in 2009. Rick has been capturing images since he was a teenager and is currently setting up an indoor studio in the Becker building in downtown Aberdeen. Rick is frequently seen at community events shooting video, running a photo booth or just enjoying his community. He loves the Pacific Northwest where he was born and raised.



Lisa Shell has a bachelor's degree in mass communication and media from Arizona State University. She and her husband and son live in Central Park. Currently she works as a paraeducator for the Montesano School District while also enrolled as a graduate student at Western Governors University pursuing a master's degree in elementary education. In her spare time, Lisa enjoys writing about Grays Harbor. "I treasure meeting people, learning about what they create, who they care about, how they follow their dreams and why."



Christine Vincent was born and raised in Germany. She received her master's degree in English language and literature from the University of Utrecht in the Netherlands. She has worked as a freelance writer and translator for more than 30 years. In 1993, she came to the Harbor with her husband Mark and their first two children, six more were born in Hoquiam. Christine has been writing about the Harbor and its people online at "Grays Harbor Talk" since 2015, specializing in the arts and local history.



Juliana Wallace brings an eclectic history of professional writing to her work. A former technical writer, blogger and biographer, she currently divides her time between marketing writing and local journalism. Having traveled and lived throughout the United States, Juliana has fallen in love with the Pacific Northwest. Whether running along rainforest trails, hiking in the backcountry or discovering art in unexpected places, she loves to experience and share the "aha" moments that feed the soul.



Gregory E. Zschomler hails from Southwest Washington and studied music, theater, and media at Clark College and Washington State University-Vancouver. Greg holds bachelor's degrees in humanities and digital technology and culture. He is a writer, author, editor and publisher at work on his 14th book. He and his wife were founders of Harbor Books, now under new ownership in Hoquiam. They're also the owner-operators of Harbor House Writers LLC and eyrie press.

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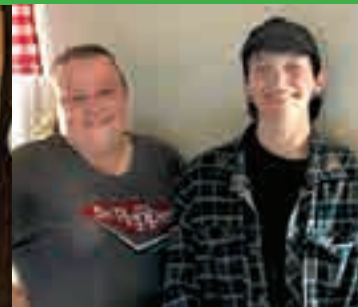


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