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Money raised from fundraising efforts and registration fees support Summit Pacific Medical Foundation, a 501(c)3 non-profit.

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- 1. McCleary to Elma (7.5 miles)
- 2. McCleary to Elma and Back (15 miles)
- 3. McCleary to Westport (52 miles)
- Commemorative T-shirt and Finisher's medal provided for all participants.
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Jennifer Kuhns of Porter creates spectacular art one piece at a time. (See story on page 16.)

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Cover: Cotton Candy and Birthday Cake ice cream in a handmade chocolate and sprinkle dipped waffle cone from Whale of a Cone, Westport. Photo by Katie McGregor.

Summer 2023

#### **COASTAL** Currents

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This issue of Coastal Currents is mailed free of charge to over 36,867 Grays Harbor homes and has a total distribution of 38,000 copies.

**Grays Harbor Coastal Currents is a** quarterly publication featuring original stories from Grays Harbor County and a resource guide of local art, music, theater, food and festivals.

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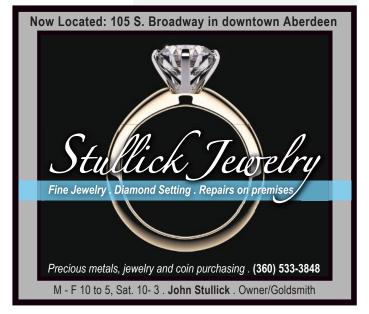
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# HARBOR I CE CREAM SHOPS

THE INSIDE SCOOP ON SUMMER'S SWEETEST TREAT

#### STORY & PHOTOS BY KATIE MCGREGOR

ew things say summer like eating ice cream on a warm, sunny day. Luckily, Grays Harbor boasts a variety of venues to find frozen treats when you need to cool down during the summer season.

Whether you have kids or are a kid-atheart, here are a few places guaranteed to satisfy your ice cream cravings.

#### **Hoquiam**

**Buddy Moo's**, at 501 Simpson Ave., has only been around since 2021, but it's already established itself as a community-oriented business, focused on innovation and fun. Owned by two brothers and their wives, Shawn and Crystal Larsen and Greg and Tina Larsen, the shop is open from noon to 9 p.m. seven days a week. Buddy Moo's offers 36 flavors of hard ice cream, milkshakes and sundaes.

To add a twist to your order, consider trying the snow cones and dole whips or peruse the selection of freeze-dried candy they make in-house. You can

(continued on page 6)



even commemorate your Buddy Moo's experience by purchasing a t-shirt, tote bag, stickers and more.

For special events in need of catering, you can call Buddy Moo's at (360) 660-7442 to get a quote for its portable ice cream cart services.

Owned by Stacey and Brad Bonell, **The Grizzly Den** is a classic place to get burgers in Hoquiam, but it also offers frozen treats to complete your dining experience. Located at 300 W. Emerson Ave., The Grizzly Den offers 24 ice cream flavors to choose from, as well as three classic soft serve options: chocolate, vanilla and twist.

The ice cream menu includes oldfashioned shakes, floats, sundaes and fresh fruit shakes. Consider trying the

Homemade chocolate mint ice cream is just one of 35 flavors at Murphy's, Ocean Shores.



waffle cones at Peppermint Parlor, Ocean Shores.

popular creamsicle, banana split or fresh

raspberry flavors next time you stop by.

#### **Ocean Shores**

Employees bake fresh

When you drive into Ocean Shores, you'll find **Peppermint Parlor** right along the main route at 748 Point Brown Ave. N.E. The bright pink-and-green shop is open until 10 on weeknights and 11 on weekends, making it a great place to end your day at the beach.

Owner Mike Doolittle has curated a space for the whole family to get ice cream and have a good time at Playtime Family Fun next door. With 43 flavors of hard ice cream, eight flavors of soft serve, as well as shakes, sundaes, and a variety of other snacks, there's something for everyone.

**Murphy's Candy & Ice Cream** has been on the Harbor since 1992 when



Whale of a Cone outdoor seating.

it opened as a taffy shop. At 172 W. Chance a la Mer N.W., you can still get your Wicky Wacky Taffy fix in addition to the fresh ice cream made in-house.

Owners Robert and Jane Harnagy have run the shop since 2006 and make more than 35 flavors of fresh ice cream and 16 flavors of fudge for their customers to choose from. The Unicorn Poop flavor, a combination of three ice cream flavors – birthday cake, cotton candy and bubblegum – is a favorite among kids,



Interior of Sweet Life, Seabrook.

but Murphy's also offers classic flavors for the less adventurous and has a nosugar-added vanilla option as well.

#### Westport

Rodney Olasz, Joshua Riggs, and Jah Griffin purchased **Whale of a Cone** in 2022. The shop at 2647 Westhaven Dr. has been a part of the Westport experience for more than 30 years and is now getting a facelift.

Whale of a Cone has more than 30 flavors of ice cream to choose from, six beers and a variety of snacks. They've added beer floats to the menu and are enthusiastic to accommodate customers who come in with custom milkshake requests.

As you eat your treats, you can sit in the shop and play one of the 91,000 video and board games available for customers to enjoy.

Just down the boardwalk at 2435 Westhaven Dr., the smell of fresh waffle cones wafts from **Silver Surfer Girl Waffle Cones, Gifts, and Toys**. Owned by Jacquelyn Hatch and managed by Jennifer Church, this shop has 25 flavors to choose from and a huge collection of vintage and modern toys. It's more than likely that you'll find something special from your childhood no matter your age.

For customers with various dietary concerns, the ice cream menu also includes gluten-free, dairy-free, and no-sugar-added options.



www.Coastal-Currents.com



Elma Farm Stand Ice Cream & Juice Bar.

#### Seabrook

New owners Sue Kareken and John Carrier have been running **Sweet Life**, along with longtime manager Jen Darras, for almost two years. The shop on 215 S. Meriweather St. is open from noon to 9 p.m. and has creative flavors of Olympic Peninsula-sourced, Olympic Mountain Ice Cream in its cases. Fluffernutter, a peanut buttermarshmallow cake combination, is a recent customer favorite.

Sweet Life also has a variety of delicious ice cream sandwiches to choose from, all made with fresh cookies from Vista Bakeshop across the street.

Tubs of Umpqua ice cream - Silver Surfer Girl Waffle Cones, Gifts & Toys, Westport.



This summer, look for Sweet Life offering up treats at the Seabrook Saturday Market, Friday movie nights and outdoor concerts.

#### Cosmopolis

An iconic Harbor diner, **Clarks** is famous for its ice cream and milkshakes, along with its hearty fare and old-time atmosphere, featuring historic logging equipment.

Located at 731 U.S. 101, six miles south of Aberdeen, this longtime Harbor favorite is worth a stop to try an award-winning burger and top it off with their bestselling blackberry milkshake. You can enjoy your meal in their indoor or outdoor seating areas or just come by the drive-up window for a quick stop.

#### Elma

The **Elma Farm Stand** is someplace you can shop local and reward yourself with some delicious Olympic Mountain Ice Cream while you're at it. The Farm Stand has been operating under Maddy Wilson and Renee Bush since 2015 and is open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily.

Here at 617 E. Young St., you can choose from eight flavors of ice cream or opt for something off of their juice bar menu.

Wherever you are and whatever you choose, Grays Harbor can satisfy the sweet tooth of the pickiest ice cream lover. •











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#### STORY & PHOTOS BY KATIE MCGREGOR

igh school students from Aberdeen, Hoquiam, Montesano and Ocosta participated this spring in the Juried High School Art Show presented by the Grays Harbor College Art Gallery.

"The high school teachers are instrumental in putting this together," explained Haley Adair, a Grays Harbor College library professional who spent hours hanging and arranging the submitted pieces. Adair, along with Susan Schreiner, an associate dean at Grays Harbor College, managed the April 27 show and reception.

"I'm really impressed with the quality of what the high school students have created," Schreiner said. "They're all really excited about being involved."

Local artists Ken Mitchell and Doug Orr judged more than 190 pieces of art submitted into five different categories.

Hoquiam High School's visual art teacher, Richelle Barger, and her students were awarded a trophy for being the teacher with the highest number of awarded pieces in the show.

The art show has been an annual tradition of the Grays Harbor College library for roughly 20 years, with Covid-19 putting the show on hold since 2020. Judging from the excitement in the room, the return event was welcomed by artists and community members alike.

In previous years more schools have participated, and the GHC library staff hopes that future years bring in even more young artists. In fact, future art



The Juried High School Art Show returned this year to the Grays Harbor College Art Gallery.

#### I'm really impressed with the quality of what the high school students have created.

- Susan Schreiner

show participants may have a chance to receive a scholarship organized by Grays Harbor College's art instructor Nathan Barnes.

2023 High School Student Art

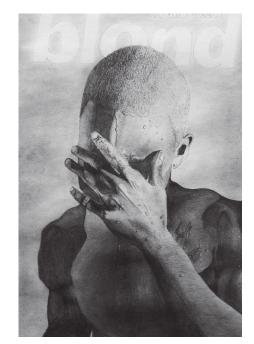
2D Color - First: Dani Fleury, Aberdeen; Second: Adrian Lorton-Diaz, Montesano; **Third:** Hal Adams, Hoquiam; Honorable Mentions: Eder Lopez Magana, Emma Zalewski, Isaac Garcia, Mia Gonzalez and Wendy Rojas Contreras, all of Aberdeen;

> Chelsea Bryan, Drew Koehler, Izabella Skans, Keira Gregson and Maya Sudderth, all of Hoquiam; and Sophie Olive, Ocosta.

2D Monochromatic - First: Katelynn Pacheco; Second: Dre Brown, Aberdeen; **Third:** Saylor Heikkila, Aberdeen; **Honorable Mentions:** Gilbert Rodriguez Madrigal and Kelly Dougherty, both of Aberdeen; Ellie Graham, Hoquiam; Kayden Nissell, Ocosta.

3D Art - First: Maria Servellon-Maril, Aberdeen; **Second:** Zayra Mesa-Perez, Aberdeen; Third: Sandra Sabalsa-Valdovinos, Ocosta; Honorable Mentions:

(continued on page 10)



"Frank Ocean" - Katelynn Pacheco - Best in Show.

Show Award Winners: Best in Show -Katelynn Pacheco, Aberdeen.

Hoquiam High School's visual art teacher, Richelle Barger, with her students and the trophy.

#### **High School Art Show** (continued)



"Meidas Touch of Love" Maria Servellon-Maril 1st Place 3D Art.

Augustine Gonzalez, Evelynn Reed, Jaylynn Phimmasone, Katelynn Pacheco and Saylor Heikkila, all of Aberdeen.

Photography - First: Ozrick Obi. Aberdeen: Second: Trae Bui, Aberdeen; Third: Sandra Sabalsa-Valdovinos, Hoquiam; **Honorable Mentions:** 

Emily Brockavich, Emily Mefford, and Misumi Tsuruda, all

of Aberdeen; Meagain Hicks and Sophia Potvin-Metcalf, both of Hoquiam.

Mixed Media – First: Brisa Guzman Silva, Aberdeen; **Second:** Ellie Long, Aberdeen, 🥩

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360 532 4220 www.ghpud.org Without proper care and awareness the tools of outdoor work can also be a direct line to overhead power lines. Contact with electrical lines can cause serious injury and in some cases can be fatal, so as you begin these projects, make sure to note the location of the overhead power line around your home or business. **Contact the Grays Harbor PUD Safety** Department at 360-538-6248 for information on how you can be safe around power lines. Underground utilities can also pose a threat so be sure to Call Before You Dig at 8-1-1 for underground locates. Helping to keep you safe around electrical utilities... It's just another way that your Grays Harbor PUD works for you.



#### June 4 • Grays Harbor Symphony Sunday 7:00pm. \$15, 12 & under free. From the Earth to the Moon, and Beyond! Favorites from Close **Encounters of the Third Kind, E.T., Star** Wars & more.

#### June 7 • GHC Honors Recital

Wednesday 7:00pm. Free. Featuring the best and most talented of the College's music students.

#### **June 11 • Grays Harbor Civic Choir & Concert Band Sunday** 2:00pm. \$12, 12 & under free. Choir is directed by Kari Hasbrouck and the Band is directed by Tiffany Maki.

#### June 15 • GHC Jazz Concert

Thursday 7:00pm. \$5, 12 & under free. Directed by Dr. William Dyer and Kari Hasbrouck.



#### **JUNE 24, 25**

#### **Grays Harbor Opera Workshop**

Saturday 7:30pm, Sunday 2pm. \$12, 12 & under free. The king of Barataria is dead, and the crown prince happens to be a poor Venetian gondolier. A fully staged production of Gilbert and Sullivan's joyfully topsy-turvy comic opera. Ian & Joy Dorsch directing.

#### Visit www.ghc.edu/bishop for tickets 1620 Edward P. Smith Drive, Aberdeen, WA 98520

Grays Harbor College is an equal opportunity institution. For more info, see ghc.edu/non-discrimination



#### JULY 20, 21, 22, 23

Thursday - Saturday 7:30pm, Sunday 2pm. Tickets adults \$25, students \$15, children 12 & under \$10. This show follows four Broadway actors lamenting their days of fame. When they hear of trouble brewing in a small-town, they travel to help one student who is sidelined from the prom because she wants to bring her girlfriend to the dance. The show captures the humor and heart of a classic musical comedy with a message that resonates with audiences now more than ever. Directed by Paige Mellon-Jackson.



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**Every corner of the county hosts** fun festivals this summer

BY GAIL GREENWOOD AYRES

**G**rays Harbor summers come with abundant opportunities for festivalgoers to flock to unique community celebrations. Here are a few you may want to explore.

#### **Five Star Dealerships Sand & Sawdust** Festival, Ocean Shores, June 23-25 -

The largest chainsaw carving show in the state, the Five Star Dealerships Sand & Sawdust Festival also features sand sculptors and a chance to hone your own sandcastle building skills.

This festival offers plenty of opportunities to watch chainsaw carvers from around the world create stunning works of art from raw wood, including during "Quick Carve" competitions. A chainsaw art auction is featured each day. Musical entertainment, including Johnny and the Bad Boys, Washington Old Time Fiddlers and Deer Swerver, are also slated for both Friday and Saturday at the Ocean Shores Convention Center.

Nearby, at the Chance a la Mer NW beach access, is where the sand part of the festival comes into play. Literally. That's where artists create amazing life-size sand sculptures and where sandcastle building workshops are offered. There's a sand drawing workshop at 11 a.m. Friday and sandcastle building competitions slated from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday. For a detailed schedule, go to www. tourismoceanshores.com/sand-andsawdust-2023.

Rusty Scuppers Pirate Daze, Westport, June 23-25 – Organizers describe this festival as the yearly invasion of Westport by rival pirates, including Rusty Scupper and his bawdy band of buccaneers. You can join in

the fun by attending in your pirate attire, but if that's in the wash don't worry, plenty of

folks will be dressed as landlubbers.

Friday's festivities go from noon to 6 p.m., with the action beginning again at 10 a.m. on Saturday and Sunday. Food, fun and frivolity are promised, including a magician, bands, aerialists, fire dancers and cannons! There's even "Scallywag Alley" especially designed for the kids. As the pirates get closer to coming ashore, more information and schedules will become available at www.rustyscupperspiratedaze.net

#### McCleary Bear Festival July 7-9 -

Small-town America at its best, the McCleary Bear Festival includes a car show, softball tournament, soapbox derby and first a kiddie parade followed by a grand parade through the middle of town at noon Saturday. But it's the bear stew served in the city park right after the grand parade that especially helps draw visitors from far and wide to participate in a bit of old-fashioned Americana.

Community volunteers start early Friday morning to cut hundreds of pounds of carrots, potatoes and onions that go into the famous stew. And McCleary's volunteer firefighters take turns cooking the stew in huge iron kettles in the park

kitchens. (Nowadays, the bear meat is obtained through the Washington State Fish and Wildlife Department from hunters who receive permits via the nuisance wildlife program.) The flavorful stew is served with delicious sides.

For more information and a schedule of events, go to www.mcclearybearfestival.org.

#### The Grays Harbor County Fair, Elma

- Aug. 2-5. The theme for the fourday event at the Grays Harbor County Fairgrounds this year is "Red, White, and Moo."

It's not just the dizzying array of fair food, carnival games and rides that draw crowds to this annual event. There truly is something for everyone, including a variety of vendors, contests of all kinds, 4-H and grange displays, quilt and art shows. In addition to the typical fair animals carefully raised and groomed to be shown to judges and viewed by young and old, this year the Reptile Lady will also show off her exotic friends.

For the evening entertainment on the main stage, festivalgoers can look forward to country singer Warren Zeiders on Wednesday; Alexander





Ludwig on Thursday; local singers Ericka Corban and Alex Mabey on Friday, and Creedence Revelation, a top-rated Creedence Clearwater Revival tribute act, on Saturday.

Other entertainment includes daily performances of the Irish Band, Lions of the North, as well as Juggle Mania, performing on the Jodesha Stage. The car races, which are also free with fair admission, are Saturday night.

Fair admission is \$11 for adults (16-61 years old), \$8 for youth (6-15) and senior citizens (62+); children 5 years and younger attend for free. In addition, tickets are discounted by \$2 for kids on Thursday, and a \$2 military discount is given each day. (There is also a \$5 charge for parking.) The gates open at 10 a.m. daily. For more information,

including an up-to-date schedule, visit www.ghcfairgrounds.com. •

Find more festivals and activities this summer on the Grays Harbor Schedule of Events, page 37.



www.Coastal-Currents.com Summer 2023 COASTAL Currents MAGAZINE 13



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Mosaic artist Jennifer Kuhns at her Porter home.

Photo by Katie McGregor

#### BY KATIE MCGREGOR

ennifer Kuhns lives in the house of an artist. It's colorful, cheerful, and adorned with her own mosaic designs as well as art she's acquired from various travels around the world. She lives in Porter with her husband, daughter, and a small menagerie of happy dogs, cats and peacocks.

Her home is a reflection of what she enjoys. "I like to make pieces that are joyful, celebratory, and unexpected. To me, every bare concrete wall is not finished yet. It's like a blank canvas."

Kuhns is a full-time mosaic artist who primarily works with stained glass. She alternates between creating very bright stylized pieces inspired by folk art and photo realism.

In 2000, Kuhns was making recycled art.

"It was a way to make art out of whatever I could find," she explained.

The recycled art was a way to save money on supplies and it aligned with Kuhns' love of the environment. She went by Cosmic Blue Monkey Designs in the beginning and created pieces with many different media but eventually decided to focus on mosaic in 2010, rebranding her art business as JK Mosaic.

Many of Kuhns' pieces feature themes of environmental sustainability and social justice.

"When I was in college, I was interested in anthropology and religion and how all those things intertwine... especially the roles of women in mythology and society. So, I did a lot of work focusing on the female figure and relationships.



Kuhns carefully adds pieces to her creation, "Fertility." At right, children eagerly work alongside Kuhns during a community mosaic project at the Olympia Arts Walk in April.

## I like to make pieces that are joyful, celebratory, and unexpected.

– Jennifer Kuhns

Kuhns also finds inspiration on the international trips she goes on with her husband, Mike. They've especially spent a lot of time in Mexico and love to visit the studios of local folk artists.

Kuhns credits Mike as being the reason she can be a full-time artist.

"There's no way I could be doing this now if I hadn't had his support. ... He's the first partner I'd ever had that really had faith in me and believed that I could do it."

For the most part, Kuhns is self-taught.

Kuhns created many large mosaics such as this one for L'Occitane in the Dallas, Texas airport. Right, Kuhns carefully installs her piece, "7th Haven" on Bainbridge Island.



But she says her time working as an assistant to tile setter Frank Lynam taught her many of the correct practices that apply to her mosaic work.

Kuhns has participated in a few workshops on her own time too, and has worked with Enterprise of Equity, a Thurston county-based small business support organization, to learn more about the business side of being a full-time artist.

When L'occitane, a French luxury beauty retailer, hired Kuhns to put stone mosaic pieces in their stores in 2014, it served as another learning experience.

"The job with L'Occitane was really hard, but it was like a crash course in doing large-scale mosaic."



Photos courtesy of Jennifer Kuhns

Summer 2023



She ended up creating about 14 floor pieces and several 16-foot murals for the company and they're displayed everywhere from Georgia to Texas to California.

In 2017 Kuhns started working on more public art closer to home. Just last year she collaborated with local iron artist, Abe Singer, on "Fleuressence," a public art piece in Edmonds for the Floretum Garden Club's 100-year celebration. (Singer, of Montesano, was featured in the *Coastal Currents* Spring 2023 issue.)

Kuhns originally pitched the idea for the piece and brought Singer onto the project to design and create the metal structures, which she adorned with nine colorful mosaic vignettes that portray different types of gardens.

(continued on page 18)

#### Mosaic (continued)

"Neither of us could have made it what it is separately," Kuhns said. "I really enjoy working with other people. I'm introverted, but I like collaborations. I think they spark more ideas than anything I could come up with on my own."

Throughout the years, Kuhns has created many more public mosaic pieces. On the southeast side of the Windermere building in Westport there's a quilt-inspired piece that she put together with contributions from community members and local business owners.

Kuhns is now shifting more of her focus toward the community and teaching. She has pre-recorded lessons available on her website and also makes informational and behind-the-scenes videos for her YouTube channel @ JenniferKuhns.

Along with that, she travels to teach workshops in other states. She recently taught a workshop in Las Vegas and

18

plans to offer a few more out-of-state classes in the fall.

Her goal is to expand her classes, especially locally, and organize some more community projects as well.

As for the near future, Kuhns has been selected as the featured artist of the

Fall Olympia Arts Walk. She's the only artist that has been selected to do cover art for the event twice.

Kuhns plans to use the Spring and Fall Arts Walks to create a new mosaic with community contributions. She's already collecting materials and pieces and hopes to get some kids involved too.

Although Kuhns is focusing on teaching and commissions for businesses now, she does have a few pieces available



Jennifer Kuhns' mosaic of a quilt on the Windermere Westport building, 2601 Westhaven Dr.

for purchase in an online shop on her website jkmosaic.com.

In addition to the piece in Westport, Kuhns has public art that can be viewed around the state including in Edmonds, Port Townsend, Olympia, Bellingham and Port Orchard.

Jennifer Kuhns is active on Facebook as JK Mosaic, Instagram @jenn.kuhns, YouTube @JenniferKuhns, and TikTok @jkmosaic. She can also be reached over email jennifer@jkmosaic.com.





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## THEATER SPOTLIGHT Summer performances on the Harbor

with two performances each, creativity will fill both the 7th Street Theatre in Hoquiam and the Bishop Center for the Performing Arts in Aberdeen this summer.

#### 7th Street Theatre

The 7th Street Kids program will present two different plays this summer by separate groups of kids ranging in age from 7 to 16.



The three-week workshop will present "Annie KIDS," a shortened version of the classic play. Performances are Friday-Sunday, July 14-16, at the 7th St. Theatre in Hoquiam.

In this beloved story, Annie is determined to find the parents who abandoned her at the doorstep of an orphanage run by the cruel Miss Hannigan. Annie eventually foils her nemesis and finds a new home and family in billionaire, Oliver Warbucks.



The six-week workshop will present "Elf The Musical Jr." Performances are set for August 3-6, at the 7th St. Theatre in Hoquiam.

In this Christmas-themed story, Buddy is raised as an elf at the North Pole, unaware that he is actually a human. He struggles to fit in with the other elves because of his size and poor toy-making abilities. So, Buddy journeys to New York City to look for his birth father and ends up bringing real Christmas spirit to the city.

For more information about either play or about the 7th Street Kids program, visit its website at www.7thstreetkids.org.

#### **Bishop Center for the Performing Arts**

Two big shows are planned this summer for Grays Harbor College's Bishop Center for the Performing Arts, an opera in June and a musical play in July.

**The Grays Harbor Opera Workshop** will present a fully staged production

of Gilbert & Sullivan's comic opera "The Gondoliers" at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, June 24, and 2 p.m. Sunday, June 25.



Directed by Ian and Joy Dorsch, "The Gondoliers" is Gilbert & Sullivan's last great success. It is considered to include some of Sullivan's most beautiful music and some of Gilbert's most hilarious satire.

The story begins when the King of Barataria has died and the crown prince is a poor Venetian gondolier who happens to hate the monarchy!

Tickets, which can be purchased at www.ghc.edu/bishop, are \$12 for adults, with children 12 and under free.

Grays Harbor College's drama department will present "The Prom," as its summer musical at the Bishop Center in July.



The story is about four Broadway actors who find an opportunity to put themselves in the spotlight when they learn about an issue brewing at a smalltown prom. They travel to Edgewater, Indiana, to help a lesbian student banned from bringing her girlfriend to the high school dance.

The play is based on a book by Bob Martin and Chad Beguelin.

Performances are 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Friday and Saturday July 20-22, and 2 p.m. Sunday, July 23.

Tickets are \$25 for adults; \$15 for students and \$10 for children 12 and under. They can be purchased at www.ghc.edu/bishop. •

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## Delivering musical synergy, a toe-tapping good time

#### STORY BY JULIANA WALLACE PHOTOS BY RICK MOYER

o one can resist the unmistakable opening chords of AC/DC's "Back in Black." Toes start tapping and eyes turn to the stage as Grays Harbor's very own Humptulips band brings the room alive.

"Back in Black" gives way to country hits from the likes of Jason Aldean and Kenny Chesney. Somehow, snatches of Ozzy Osbourne's "Crazy Train" make it into the middle of a Dierks Bentley song. And oddly enough, it all works. In fact, it more than works. The band takes familiar songs and makes them uniquely its own in a way that pulls audience members away from their troubles and into the music.

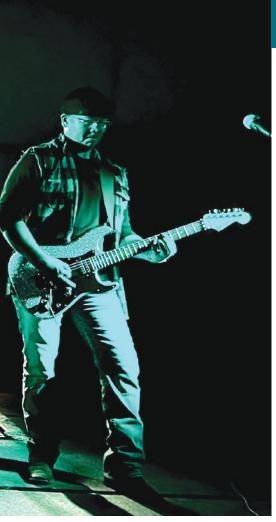
"There's those moments when you kind of forget about everything else, and you're just right there and the music's happening," explained lead guitarist Don Stone. "You're giving something and getting something back at the same time. That's what keeps you coming back for more."

Drummer Mat Smaciarz formed the band as a rock 'n' roll band in 1998 with two other musicians. But the group truly began to come into its own in 2005 when singer Corey Daniels needed a band to help him open for country singer Keith Anderson. Along the way, two of the original founding members left the band, replaced by keyboardist Jim McDowell, guitarist Don Stone, bass player Chloe Pinckney and guitarist Garett Folkers. Most of the band has played together for 10 to 15 years.

That longevity pays off with a powerful synergy. Each of the musicians brings a stunning amount of talent and experience, but the combined effect delivers much more than the sum of its six parts. As Smaciarz explained, the musicians "serve the song."

"Operating as a well-functioning machine is a very pleasant experience," agreed Pinckney. "That six people can get along so well and work toward the same common goal is quite a feat." All Grays Harbor residents, each band member adds an essential element to the group.

Smaciarz got his first drum set when he was young, which he quickly broke. His mother helped him create a makeshift replacement drum and introduced him to Led Zeppelin. Although he considered himself more of an athlete than a musician, his soccer career ended after a few years.



Humptulips plays for the Grays Harbor Indoor Pro Rodeo in March at the Grays Harbor County Fairgrounds in Elma. From left: Don Stone, Chloe Pinckney, Corey Daniels, Mat Smaciarz and Garett Folkers.

"I wanted to do something athletic, so I took up the drums," he explained. "It wasn't about the music. It was about the physicality." While he still approaches the drums with athletic zeal, Smaciarz has definitely found the music.

Daniels combines award-winning lead vocals with an incredible stage

about everything else, and you're just right there and the music's happening.

-Don Stone

presence. "He's a great front man," said Folkers. "A good front man needs to be a ringmaster, and he excels at making sure everyone's having fun."

A keyboardist and guitar player, McDowell started playing music seriously in his early twenties, and he never stopped. In addition to keyboard, he runs the sound for the band. As Smaciarz explained, "He takes care of all of us, always tuned into what everybody else is doing."

Stone picked up the guitar as a teenager, and the bug bit hard. He teaches applied guitar at Grays Harbor College and has played all kinds of music with all kinds of musicians. "A good song is a good song," he maintained. "You can find a thread through every kind of music that connects it all together."

In 2012, the band found what Smaciarz called its "secret ingredient" in Chloe Pinckney. As Stone explained, "Her coming into the band really put the rhythm section in the right place, and we've been rock solid ever since." Pinckney switched from guitar to bass in high school and never looked back.

Folkers got his first guitar at age eight and was crushed when he realized at about age twelve that he was not, in fact, Elvis. Elvis or not, he continued to play with several bands through the years. He attended Aberdeen High School with Stone. And when Daniels asked Folkers to join the band, he jumped at the chance. "I would play guitar with Don Stone every day of the week and twice on Sundays," Folkers emphasized.

(continued on page 26)



Top: Mat Smaciarz Below: Garett Folkers





Jim McDowell plays keyboard and runs the sound.



The band finds its chemistry primarily in performing, rather than recording, although a search on ReverbNation.com brings up a few favorite songs. Through the years, the band has played at various venues, from private parties to county fairs, local casinos and the Grays Harbor Rodeo. They have opened for the likes of Montgomery Gentry and Dwight Yoakam, and they won the Oregon Jamboree Country Challenge in 2015.

For several years, the band organized fundraising events like the Shamrock Shaker to benefit homeless teens in the Harbor. For Daniels, events like these bring it home. "My heart is in raising significant amounts of money for those in need," he reflected. "Those are the gigs that mean the most to me."

To contact the band or find news of upcoming gigs, follow Humptulips on Facebook. In the meantime, if you



Don Stone



Chloe Pinckney

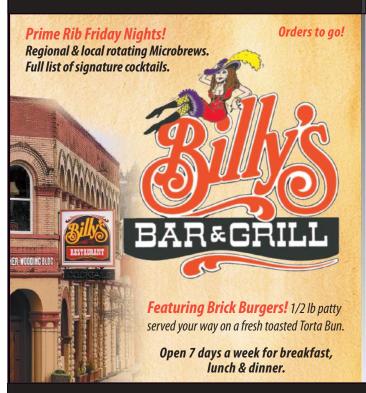
happen to walk past their rehearsal space in downtown Aberdeen, you might just hear a little Jason Aldean tune with a chaser of VanHalen. And you will come back for more.

For the past two years, five of the Humptulips band members have also been playing with lead singer Julie Blaser-Calkins, of Chehalis, in a band called The Six. Summer gigs for The Six include:

June 23 & 24 • Jeremy's (Chehalis)
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August 19 • Mt Olympus in Aberdeen
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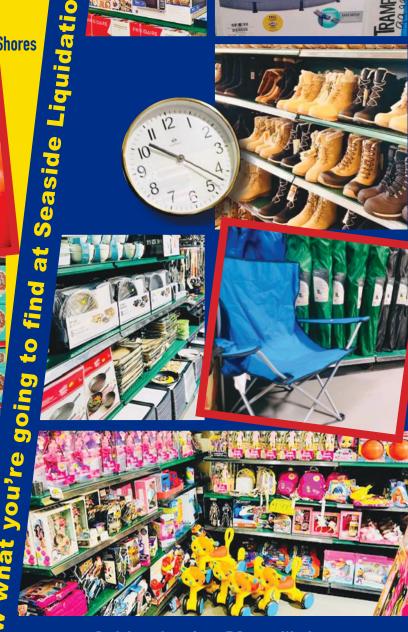










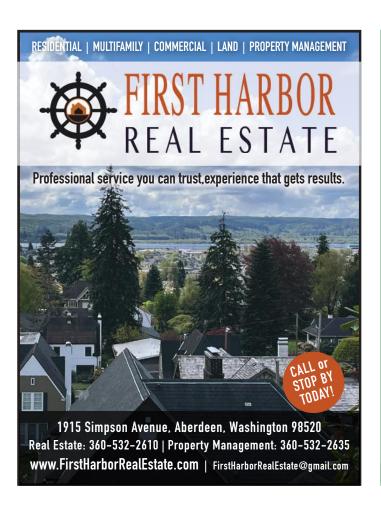


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MASTER GARDENERS

## 'Town and Country' gardens featured on tour July 22

#### BY GAIL GREENWOOD AYRES

s the Grays Harbor and Pacific County Master Gardeners celebrate their 25th annual garden tour this year, interest in gardening on the Twin Harbors continues to grow.

"It's becoming increasingly more important," said Terri Small, the director of public events for the group. "It helps the climate; and plants help us breath better. There is also a greater interest in growing fresh food. Gardening is great exercise, a good mental break and a very enjoyable activity," she said.

"Gardening is great exercise, a good mental break and a very enjoyable activity."

- Terri Small

The WSU Master Gardeners program is also celebrating an anniversary this year, having begun in Pierce and King counties 50 years ago as a way to meet a high demand for horticulture and gardening advice. The nonprofit organization offers extensive training to individuals who then become volunteers to answer gardening questions. The program now has been adopted by every state, in Canada and South Korea!

Today, Washington State has more than 4,000 trained Master Gardener volunteers, with about 100 of them members of the Grays Harbor and Pacific County chapter. These volunteers host plant clinics, plant sales, workshops, garden tours and the annual Home & Garden Show each spring, as well as answer gardening

questions online at pnwmg@yahoo.com.

In addition, every two years – the next time is 2024 – new classes are offered to become Master Gardeners.

"Our main mission as Master Gardeners is to help the public enjoy gardening. So, much of what we do is about education," explained Small.

A primary fundraiser for the nonprofit organization, and likely the biggest source of inspiration for both experienced and emerging gardeners, is its annual garden tour.

This year's garden tour, "Town and Country Gardens," features both smaller in-city gardens and larger country gardens in East County, four in Elma and one in McCleary. In addition to the five home gardens, Master Gardeners will act as docents at the demonstration garden inside the Grays Harbor County Fairgrounds that day. Also, one of the home sites will host a plant sale.

The tour is from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, July 22. Tickets are \$15 each and can be purchased beginning in mid-June. The tickets display the addresses and a map of the gardens.

Here is a sneak peak of the home sites on the tour.

#### **An Inspired Mature Garden**

This one-acre garden has everything—a striking appearance from the road, an island of flowering perennials and roses for summer color, curved paths of mixed shrubs that draw you from one beautiful surprise to another, whimsical garden art, a spectacular glass greenhouse, compost bins, attractive berry and fruit trees cages, all bounded at the back property line by a serpentine creek.

(continued on page 31)











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From left, Garnet Kuronen, Master Gardener member, talks with Mary Stalcup, owner of The Mature Garden on this summer's tour.



#### **Family First**

This busy, two-career couple has turned their large country property into a labor of love and family compound for their two children and their families. The wife loves to cook and preserve food so the first foray into gardening was a large fenced vegetable garden with waisthigh concrete raised beds, greenhouse and a small flock of chickens. New features include a recirculating stream with small ponds connecting the large upper area to the lower vegetable garden, rock borders with flowering plants and a natural woodland island with native plants.

#### **Making A Grand Entrance**

An active Master Gardener since 2014, this gardener is the fourth generation of her family to own her Elma home. This garden is the site of the Master Gardener plant sale. Her garden is an inspiration for how to make a beautiful first impression with well-designed sidewalk plantings. Inside the white fence is a large back yard with mixed shrub borders, privacy for a hot tub, hammock and outdoor dining, herb and perennial beds and colorful hanging baskets on the porch.

#### A Raingarden Reigns

Another active Master Gardener member demonstrates how to start

(continued on page 32)



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Water features bring interest to the Family First garden on the tour. Master Gardeners answer questions at a workshop.





a garden from scratch. She's only six months into the design, which features a large raingarden. The first step was a fence for privacy and to define three garden areas, which she plans to tackle in stages. More than 300 native plants were purchased along with other choice specimens. If you are curious about raingardens, this is an opportunity to learn about their utility, beauty and the process of creating one.

#### A Private Park

This couple has a love of trees and has incorporated many specimens into this garden which was a blank slate 35 years ago. He has brought a lifelong career of creating gardens for other people to their own garden. To deal with clay soil, berms shape two sides of the garden around the house creating privacy, better drainage and soil conditions. A small pond is enjoyed from a patio behind the house. A lush lawn invites you to stroll, enjoying the beautifully designed garden beds in the privacy provided by the surrounding forest.

For more information about any of the Master Gardener programs, including ticket outlets for the tour, visit www. pnwmg.org. **C**(







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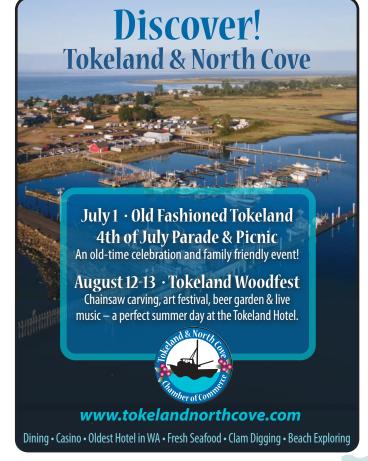


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## Local family embraces the ancient liturgical music of Ukraine

#### BY CHRISTINE VINCENT

An ancient form of worship music can now be heard some Saturday mornings from the heart of Aberdeen, thanks to the doctors who, along with their talented children, have helped establish an Eastern Orthodox mission church.

The entire service of St. Sophia Orthodox Mission, which meets in the basement of First Presbyterian Church of Aberdeen, is celebrated in a mystically beautiful ancient form of Slavonic liturgical music that Drs. Nicolas and Laura Hallak, along with their musically gifted children, Jacob, 16, and Mia, 14, participate in. Nicolas, a gynecologist/obstetrician, and Laura, a family physician, both practice medicine in Hoquiam. Nicholas is originally from Lebanon, while Laura is from Mexico.

On March 18, the small but growing community of about 20 worshipers gathered to celebrate its first Divine Liturgy, as the Orthodox Eucharistic service is called. The Presbyterian congregation has graciously provided a space for the brand-new mission church, which operates under the administration of the Orthodox Church of America. (OCA).

You may wonder how a Lebanese/ Mexican family came to found a mission of a Slavic Orthodox Church in Aberdeen.

"It is a long story," said Nicholas. "I came to the United States at age eight. My family was fleeing the civil war in Beirut. I grew up in the Antiochian Orthodox Church of Lebanon. When I married Laura, she was a Roman Catholic, but she converted to Orthodoxy soon after our wedding. We lived in east Ohio where we



Jacob Hallak sings with his sister Mia.

attended an Antiochian Orthodox parish. It was hard for Laura because the liturgy was celebrated in Arabic."

Laura remembered: "I felt very attracted to Orthodoxy from the start. Then we visited a large OCA church where I first experienced a Slavonic liturgy celebrated in English by a great choir. We were both blown away."

In 2008, the Hallaks moved to Grays Harbor to practice medicine in an underserved area. After much time looking for a church to attend, they finally settled at Holy Resurrection Orthodox Church in Tacoma, an OCA parish. That's where Mia joined the choir at age 12 and Jacob became an altar server. However, it soon became necessary for Jacob to

leave his beloved altar duties and help with the choir. He has perfect pitch!

During the Covid-19 church closures, Nicholas started a successful online prayer group. "We had people joining us from Alaska, Oregon and Wyoming," Laura remembered. More importantly, they were joined by people from Grays Harbor who are now members of the new mission.

In April 2022, the Hallaks opened their home to their new friends to celebrate a monthly Orthodox vespers service.

"We hunted down Bishop Benjamin of the Western diocese of the OCA," Nicholas smiled. "He was impressed by our persistence and granted us mission status and a priest, Father Irenaeus Williams."

The task ahead of the new St. Sophia mission was to learn the liturgical music of the Orthodox Church of America, which is rooted in the Russian Orthodox liturgical chant tradition, which in turn originated in what is today known as Ukraine.

The Ukrainian capital of Kiev began as a medieval trading post established by the Rurik Viking dynasty. The Vikings trading along the great river systems of central Europe, were called Rus. The area they established on the banks of the Dnieper came to be known as Kievan Rus. In 988, Kievan Grand Prince Vladimir the Great converted to Christianity and with him all his realm.

The conversion came after Vladimir had sent out emissaries to the major monotheistic religious centers. He

converted from paganism after receiving the report about the Byzantine Divine Liturgy in the great church of Hagia Sophia in Constantinople: "We knew not whether we were in Heaven or on Earth... We only know that God dwells there among the people."

The Hallaks spend much time and energy on their musical skills to approach in a small way the glory of the liturgy of Hagia Sophia. They train with parish cantors. Mia and Jacob practice together. Mia and her mother take online voice lessons.

The sacred music traditions of Kievan Rus received their Slavic identity primarily in the Kiev Pechersky Monastery of the Caves established in 1050, when the realm of Kievan Rus had extended to include another Rus Viking foundation, Moscow.

The singing style developed in the monastery was called Znamenny. At the time it was monophonic and was only sung by men. It is known for its magnificent bass parts and ison droning. In the 16th Century, polyphony was adopted from Western Europe. Soprano is a recent addition, including women in the chanting. Kievan chant is a simplified subdivision of Znamenny.

Jacob and Mia Hallak grew up in this rich OCA tradition that so attracted their parents. Occasionally, a beautiful Antiochian hymn also finds its way into the OCA liturgy. "It has a lot of extra sharps and flats," Jacob remarked. It's harder to sing, the siblings agree. But they also agree it is very beautiful and it affords them a glimpse into their father's tradition.

The Divine Liturgy is celebrated at St. Sophia Orthodox Mission once or twice a month at 10 a.m. Saturday in the basement of First Presbyterian Church, 420 N. Broadway St. in Aberdeen. (To attend, enter from 4th Street.)

The other Saturdays of the month, there are zoom meetings. For the schedule and zoom link, go to www.orthodoxgraysharbor.org/schedule. For more information: call (360) 580-5013, or contact via www.orthodoxgraysharbor.org/contact.











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#### JUNE

JUNE 2. First Friday Art Walk. Aberdeen Art Center. 5 - 8pm. Enjoy live music & food, while viewing art.

JUNE 2 & 15. The Loading Dock, Live Music. Aberdeen. 6 - 9pm. 202 E. Wishkah. Local rock bands on 1st Friday & 3rd Thursday.

JUNE 2-4 . Festival of Colors . Ocean Shores beach . Lighted kite fly on Friday at dusk just north of the Lighthouse Suites. For all skill levels.

JUNE 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 . Friday Market Elma 12-6pm . Farm market, crafts & food. JUNE 4, 11, 18, 25 . Aberdeen Sunday Market . Farm market, arts & crafts, live music, food and fun for the whole family. Downtown.

**JUNE 3 . Seabrook Relay** . Seabrook . Teams can run the 74-mile route or walk the 46-mile route. Visit the Hood to Coast website for info & sign up.

JUNE 3 . North Beach Singers 'Celebrate the **70s'** . Moclips . 7pm . Chapel by the Sea.

JUNE 3. Ocean Shores Wearable Art Show 'Transitions'. 7:30pm. Convention Center

**JUNE 4 • Grays Harbor Symphony . Bishop Center . Aberdeen** . *Grays Harbor College . 7pm*. *From the Earth to the Moon, and Beyond! Space-themed music from your favorite movies & more.* 

**JUNE 7 • GHC Honors Recital . Bishop Center . Aberdeen** . *Grays Harbor College . 7pm . The best and most talented of the college's music students.* 

JUNE 10 • Urban Unglued Freaks and Fae Markets . Ocean Shores Convention Center.

JUNE 11 • Grays Harbor Civic Choir & Concert Band . Bishop Center . Aberdeen . Grays Harbor College . 2pm .

(continued on page 38)





JUNE 14 - 18. The American Veterans Traveling Tribute. Ocean Shores. Quinault Beach Resort and Casino. Open 24 hours a day. Includes a replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial wall.

JUNE 15 • GHC Jazz Concert . Bishop Center . Aberdeen . Grays Harbor College . 7pm .

JUNE 17 . Flag Day Parade . Ocean Shores . Downtown 11am.

**JUNE 17 • Ride the Harbor 'Tour de Wellness' Bike Ride .** Three distances (7.5, 15 & 52 miles), starting in McCleary. This is not a timed event.

**JUNE 23-25 . Sand & Sawdust Festival** . Watch sand sculpting & chainsaw carving, plus an auction, arts, crafts, music & food. (See story on page 12.)

JUNE 23-25 . Rusty Scuppers Pirate Daze . Westport . Fun, food, music & frivolity. Dress up in your pirate finery. Shop, dance & enjoy. (See story on page 12.)

**JUNE 24 . Seabrook Saturday Market** . 11am to 4pm. Fresh produce, food, art, handcrafted items.

JUNE 24, 25. 'The Gondoliers'. Grays Harbor Opera Workshop. Bishop Center. Aberdeen Grays Harbor College. Saturday 7:30pm, Sunday 2pm A fully staged production of Gilbert and Sullivan's topsy-turvy comic opera. Ian & Joy Dorsch directing.

**JUNE 24-25 . Pre-Fair Horse Show . Elma** . *Grays Harbor County Fairgrounds & Event Center.* 

**JUNE 30 . Seabrook Sunset Concert** . *5:30pm* . *Live music in Sunset Amphitheater Park*.

#### **JULY**

JULY 1 . Tokeland 4th of July Parade & Picnic . Tokeland . Parade at 11am.

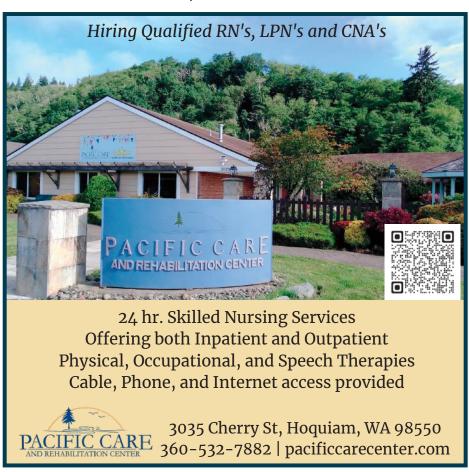
JULY 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 . Seabrook Saturday Market . 11am to 4pm. Fresh produce, food, art.

JULY 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 . Aberdeen Sunday

**Market** . Farm market, arts & crafts, live music, food and fun for the whole family. Downtown.

JULY 4 . Booming Bay Fireworks Display . Westport . Starts at dusk at the Westport Marina.

**JULY 4 . Fireworks show . Ocean Shores** . *Quinault Beach Resort*.





**JULY 5 . Coast Clean Up . Beaches** . Join Washington CoastSavers, partners and volunteers to remove 4th of July firework debris.

JULY 6 . Amazing Magic Show . Montesano Library . 10:30-11:30am . Hoquiam Library 2-3pm . Jeff Evans, "Seattle's Funniest Magician."

**JULY 7 . First Friday Art Walk . Aberdeen Art Center** . 5 - 8pm . Enjoy live music & food, while viewing art in the galleries.

**JULY 7-8 . Evergreen Mini Horse Show** . **Elma** . *Grays Harbor County Fairgrounds & Event Center.* 

**JULY 7-9 . Windriders Kite Festival . Grayland Beach** . *Kite flying, demonstrations, games, fun for the kids, banquet and auction.* 

JULY 7, 8, 9 . McCleary Bear Festival .

**McCleary** . Old-fashioned, small town festival. Enjoy the famous Bear Festival stew. (Story page 12.)

JULY 7, 14, 21, 28 . Friday Market . Elma 12-6pm . Farm market, crafts, food and more!

JULY 7, 14, 21, 28 . Seabrook Sunset Concert . 5:30pm . Live music in Sunset Amphitheater Park.

(continued on page 40)





www.Coastal-Currents.com Summer 2023 COASTAL Currents, MAGAZINE 39

JULY 7 & 21. The Loading Dock, Live Music. Aberdeen. 6 - 9pm. 202 E. Wishkah St. Local rock bands on 1st Friday & 3rd Thursday of the month.

JULY 8, 15, 22, 29 . Saturday Morning Market . Montesano . 9am - 1pm . Enjoy local artists, farmers, vendors and live music!

**JULY 9 . Run Like the Wind half-marathon, 10K, 5K . Westport** . A day of running at the edge of the sea and surf.

JULY 14, 15, 16.7th Street Kids presents the musical 'Annie'. Hoquiam. 7th Street Theatre. Performed by kids, ages 7-16.

**JULY 15 . Westport Wine Festival .** Noon - 8pm Sample regional wines. Live music, food and vendors.

**JULY 15 . Historic Montesano Car Show .** *More than 200 street rods, antiques & muscle cars.* 

JULY 20, 21, 22, 23. 'The Prom' Summer Musical . Bishop Center . Aberdeen . Grays Harbor College . Thurs. - Sat.7:30pm, Sunday 2pm . Directed by Paige Mellon-Jackson. (Story page 21.)

JULY 22 . Founders Day Celebration .
Seabrook . 3 to 6pm. Celebrate Seabrook's founding 18 years ago. Lawn games, face painting,



bouncy houses, food and music! Admission.

food. Located in downtown alleys.

JULY 22 . Rain Glow Festival . Aberdeen 9:30pm-12:30am. Nine Glow worlds, best illuminated costume contest, music, art, vendors,

JULY 22 . Cranberry Coast Faire . Grayland . Cranberry Museum.

JULY 27 . Charlie Williams, Noise Guy . Montesano Library . 10:30-11:30am . Hoquiam Library 2-3pm . Good clean, family friendly, comedy for all ages.

JULY 28-30. Go Hog Wild in Ocean Shores – Bikers at the Beach. 1 Wheel Revolution and the Cossacks performing. Live music, vendors and more.

JULY 29 . Water Bash . Grayland . Grayland Community Hall . Food, music, fun & water play time!

**JULY 29 . Elk River Challenge . Westport** . 11am Human-powered boat races on the Elk River estuary. Choose a 3-or 7-mile course. Starts at Brady's Oyster.

#### **AUGUST**

**AUGUST 1. National Night Out**. Check for an event in your neighborhood or organize one.

**AUGUST 2 - 5 . Grays Harbor County Fair . Elma** . Famous fair food, carnival rides, vendors, animals and live entertainment. (Story page 12.)

AUGUST 3, 4, 5, 6.7th Street Kids presents the musical 'Elf Jr.'. Hoquiam . 7th Street Theatre . Performed by kids, ages 7-16.

**AUGUST 4 . First Friday Art Walk . Aberdeen Art Center** . 5 - 8pm . Enjoy live music & food,
while viewing art in the galleries.

AUGUST 4, 11 . Movies in the Park .

Montesano . Fleet Park at dusk (about 9pm). Bring your own blanket, lawn chair and snacks!

AUGUST 4, 11, 18, 25 . Friday Market . Elma 12-6pm . Farm market, crafts, food and more!

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#### AUGUST 4. Heat on the Street Car Show.

**Elma** . Downtown — motorcycles too! Street dance with the band Joker's Wild.

AUGUST 4, 11, 18, 25 . Seabrook Sunset Concert . 5:30pm . Live music in Sunset Park. Free.

**AUGUST 4 & 18 . The Loading Dock, Live Music . Aberdeen** . 6 - 9pm . 202 E. Wishkah St.
Local rock bands perform on 1st Friday & 3rd Thurs.

AUGUST 5-6. Washington Tuna Classic.
Westport. Competitive Albacore Tuna Tournament.

AUGUST 5, 12, 19, 26 . Saturday Morning Market . Montesano . 9am - 1pm . Enjoy local artists, farmers, vendors and live music!



AUGUST 5, 12, 19, 26 . Seabrook Saturday Market . 11am to 4pm . Fresh produce, food, art.

**AUGUST 6, 13, 20, 27 . Aberdeen Sunday Market .** Farm market, arts & crafts, live music, food and fun for the whole family. Downtown.



AUGUST 12-13. Tokeland Woodfest.

**Tokeland Hotel** . Chainsaw carving, wood artists, food vendors, live music & beer garden.

**AUGUST 19. Summerfest . Aberdeen** . *BBQ Cook-off, live music, games & family fun downtown.* 

AUGUST 19. Intro to Mushroom Hunting in the PNW. Montesano Library. 11am-1pm. Hoquiam Library. 3pm-5pm. Marian Maxwell **AUGUST 19-20 . Body & Soul Festival & Gem Show** . *Ocean Shores Convention Center.* 

**AUGUST 19-20. Westport Arts Festival.** 

**Westport** . 10am - 5pm . Downtown, docks area, enjoy art, live music and food, activities for children.

**AUGUST 26-27 . Driftwood Show & Glass Float Hunt . Grayland** . *Grayland Community Hall . Music, food, driftwood exhibits, vendors.* 

#### **SEPTEMBER**

SEPTEMBER 1 . First Friday Art Walk . Aberdeen Art Center . 5 - 8pm.

**SEPTEMBER 1-3. Arts & Crafts Festival. Ocean Shores**. Convention Center. Unique items.

**SEPTEMBER 2. Seafood Festival & Craft Show . Westport**. Fresh seafood, live music & local crafts.

SEPTEMBER 9 . Loggers Playday . Hoguiam

. Olympic Stadium . Parade, salmon bake, food vendors. Evening logging show & competition.

More events to come! Fall issue will be in your mailbox on September 1st.  $\mathbf{C}\ell$ 



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