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# Currents

MAGAZINE

ART • MUSIC • THEATER • FOOD

Spring 2023

March • April • May

LOTS OF  
EVENTS ON  
THE HARBOR!  
SEE SCHEDULE  
ON PAGE 46



**Beachcombers Expo**  
**Artist Roy Lowry depicts**  
**Harbor's beauty**



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Photo by Katie McGregor

Abe Singer, of Montesano, welds a frog that is part of a large art installation for a park in Seattle. Story on page 34.

# COASTAL *Currents*

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## COASTAL *Currents* MAGAZINE

GRAYS HARBOR • ART • MUSIC • THEATER • FOOD

- 5** Beachcombers Expo at Ocean Shores  
*By Angelo Bruscas*
- 10** Versatile artist Roy Lowry  
*by Katie McGregor*
- 18** Harbor Haylofters Square Dance Club  
*By Christine Vincent*
- 22** Music Spotlight: Angel Damasiewicz  
*By Juliana Wallace*
- 25** Spring beach cleanups  
*By Angelo Bruscas*
- 30** Local high school drama on stage  
*By Juliana Wallace*
- 34** Abe Singer creates sculpture that inspires  
*By Katie McGregor*
- 40** Jamming with the Salmonberry Band  
*By Stephanie Morton*
- 44** Traveling wall honors veterans  
*By Stephanie Morton*
- 46** Schedule of Events
- 50** Index of Advertisers

*This issue's front cover features "Beach Treasure," a watercolor painting created by Roy Lowry in 2015. Although the original painting is in a private collection, "Beach Treasure" prints are available on canvas, aluminum and ceramic tile.*



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# BEACHCOMBERS & GLASS FLOAT COLLECTORS EXPO AT OCEAN SHORES

BY ANGELO BRUSCAS

**B**eachcombing is more than a hobby for Alan Rammer. It's a lifelong passion he loves sharing with others.

In 1983, at the age of 32 while working for the Washington State Department of Fisheries, Rammer began to sow the seeds for a beach-based festival that



Alan Rammer, event organizer.

could gather like-minded beachcombing enthusiasts to share sea-worn artifacts and wonders of the deep brought to our shores by the tides of the Pacific. The result was three decades of Beachcombers Fun Fairs every March at the Ocean Shores Convention Center.

Forty years after that initial effort began, Rammer returns to the helm of the festival, which has a new name and a new sense of purpose for 2023. Now called the **Beachcombers and Glass Float Collectors Expo**, it is scheduled for **March 3-5**. "It will be a big nautical swap meet," he said.

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## Beachcombing Beginnings

Years ago, when Rammer began to lobby for what would become the first Beachcombers gathering, he said he failed miserably.

**"This is the time of year that is peak beachcombing season."**

*--Alan Rammer*

But, with the help of Doc and Erma Bedilion, who ran Tidal Creations, an eclectic gift shop, he spearheaded the first Beachcombers Fair in 1985. That festival was held in the old Ocean Shores Convention Center, now a parking lot to the existing facility, where this year Rammer returns as the lead organizer for the re-imagined event.

Throughout much of the past two decades, the Beachcombers Fun Fair was largely organized by longtime civic volunteer Helen Lord, who died recently after years working for the Convention Center and helping to organize many of Ocean Shores' annual events.

"Helen had it for 22 years, and she was a force to be reckoned with," Rammer said. "She was such a huge part of the Beachcombers Fair and there was nothing that was insurmountable with Helen."

Under her direction, the event grew to a full weekend in March with speakers on marine science, razor clams and shellfish, demonstrations of all sorts of beach treasures, contests on the beach and in the Convention Center, and a variety of exhibits.

*(continued on page 6)*



# BEACHCOMBERS EXPO

(continued)

However, over the past few years, Rammer observed that fewer people were entering the numerous contests for beachcombing items, art and artifacts.

“People are not beachcombing like they used to,” Rammer said. “We had 47 categories in the past to enter the Beachcombers Fair, and many of the categories were empty the last few years. ... People aren’t doing things with the beach as they were doing in the past.”

## Glass Float Revival

This year’s changes are intended to make the event less of a vendor-driven show and more of a participatory beachcombing festival and swap meet.

“The glass float collectors are a big component of the event and they wanted the change for many years. So, we’re using the word ‘expo’ because there is buying and trading going on,” Rammer said.



Beachcombers 2022 collection of floats.

John Shaw, executive director of the Westport /South Beach Historical Society, the Westport Maritime Museum and the Grays Harbor Lighthouse, has been instrumental in helping revive the event for 2023. Shaw has planned a special release of glass floats around the Ocean Shores peninsula for this year’s beachcombers, similar to the Wild Glass Float release promoted in Westport since 2018, where glass floats – largely found after the 2011 Japanese tsunami -- are “released” back into local waters from January to Memorial Day.

This will be the first glass float release

organized on the Ocean Shores side of the Harbor as part of the Beachcombers and Glass Float Collectors Expo. They will be released at undisclosed locations the week before and the week of the event.

“We try to make it so that finding a wild float is as close as we can get to the old days where you could find them during the king tides or the high tides,” Shaw said. “They don’t come in with the numbers that they used to, but there are real wild finds out there that go on. You have to be pretty lucky these days.”

**“We wanted to keep the show alive. It was kind of starting to lose its identity.”**

*-- John Shaw*

Among the glass float exhibitors inside the Convention Center this year will be two from Japan. In fact, Rammer said that a whole contingent of people from Japan are expected this year.

*The Beachcombers nautical marketplace has always been a highlight of the event.*

Photo by Angelo Bruscas



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### Inevitable evolution

Spearheaded by Shaw, the Beachcombers new organizing group formed a non-profit 501c3, and Rammer was unanimously appointed board president.

This year, there will be the addition of a banquet on Saturday night. But the biggest change to the festival is having only one exhibit contest to enter. It will be called "potpourri" and people are encouraged to create a composition of their favorite beachcombed items. Each entry can use up to six feet of space. Then attendees will vote for their favorite exhibit.

Some things won't change such as plentiful door prizes and the traditional "Dash for Trash," where beachcombers collect all the debris they find on the beach and bring it back to have it analyzed, collected, recycled or deposited back at the Convention Center.

"We wanted to keep the show alive," Shaw said. "It was kind of starting to lose its identity. The core of the

beachcombing community wants it to be a family event celebrating beachcombing, glass floats and education – the connection to cleaning up the beaches has always been there."

### Lifelong beachcomber

Now 72, Rammer has experienced dozens of beachcombing festivals as either a participant, speaker, teacher or organizer.

"A lot of people have said, 'Why don't you do it in the summer in better weather?'" But that's the whole point – to expose the public to what there is to do here in the offseason. That was my biggest reason for having it in March," he said.

"This is the time of year that it is peak beachcombing season," Rammer said. "In the worst of the weather, the beach is being turned over every day, sometimes twice a day, so it's changing all the time. This is the time of the year when the North Pacific current is closer to our shores. When we get those southwesterly/westerly flows, the

current is already close to our shores, and so all the goodies get disrupted and brought onto our beaches. And then the rocks, the agates and the fossils get turned over in this time of year."

Perhaps the most diverse beachcombed discoveries came in the winters following the Japanese tsunami of 2011, when for the next several years the currents brought debris never previously seen to the Pacific coastline.

*(continued on page 9)*

### Beachcombers display of agates, shells and driftwood.



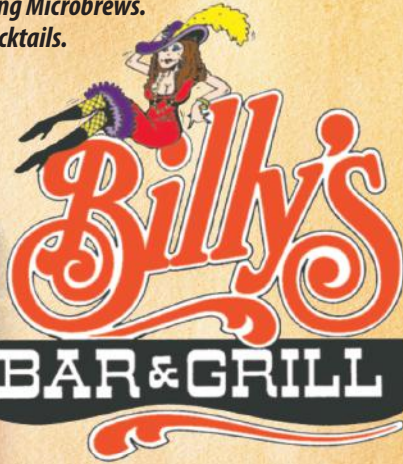
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## BEACHCOMBERS EXPO

(continued)

"We found unbelievable stuff on the beach," Rammer says. "In 2015, I walked between Ocean City and Copalis Beach. There were dish plates, household items, motorcycle helmets. It was amazing. And I found five glass floats that day. This was four years after the tsunami.

"Fewer people seem to be taking their children to the beach to look for beachcombed items," he lamented. "They go clam digging or kite flying, but they don't go and explore for rocks and shells and agates, those kinds of things," he said, adding that technology seems to be drawing children away from outdoor activities.

Rammer, however, remains optimistic that a revised and revived Beachcombers event might help turn the tide once again: "There's nothing like taking children to the beach and getting them all jazzed about the beach."

For more information about the event, got to the Facebook page: Beachcombers and Glass Float Expo.

**Beachcombers and Glass Float Collectors Expo • March 3-5**  
Ocean Shores Convention Center



## Beachcombing treasures can be global

**As a lifelong beachcomber of many different beaches, Alan Rammer's haul is impressive!**


However, he considers his most prized beachcombed items to be the 13 messages in bottles he has found. And, he's even answered some. One was from a couple on a cruise ship from England, "and we have been communicating for 48 years."

Another was from a merchant marine from Taiwan who put a message in a bottle that was written in Chinese, which Rammer found off Damon Point near the shipwrecked SS Catala before the ship was removed.

"I had it translated and I wrote to him. He was sailing from San Francisco and going back to Taiwan to earn money to go to medical school." Later, Rammer learned the man had graduated from the University of Tennessee.

On the beach in Hawaii, he once found a grandmother's heirloom necklace with beautiful precious stones in it, all engraved in German. He has been trying for years to solve the mystery of who it belonged to. "I still have it in a jewelry box, and I have had it for 52 years."

One of his key tips for beachcombing: Don't be discouraged. "Just because you go to a beach one day and find nothing doesn't mean the next day you're not going to score."

You never know what you might find: "On my Sunday beach walk in 2006, I was talking about the harm each piece of garbage can have, and one lady went to pick up a white plastic bag that was lying there. Underneath that piece of garbage, she found a diamond ring. She took it to a jeweler and it turned out to be rose gold from 1890." 



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# Versatile artist Roy Lowry encourages others to develop their unique style

STORY & PHOTOS  
BY KATIE MCGREGOR

It's difficult to concisely convey the talents of an artist as versatile as Roy Lowry. Be it watercolor, pastel, alcohol ink, fused glass, clay, or something else, diversity defines this 71-year-old artist.

"I paint what I know. The first painting I did (on the Harbor) was of a clammer in Grayland. It's kind of the first one that brought notoriety to me. That began the journey," Lowry said.

That first Harbor painting wasn't just something from Lowry's imagination. He creates most of his pieces by using a combination of photos he takes and real-life scenes that he engrains into his memory.

"I've been trying to take mental notes to integrate into pieces," Lowry explained. "The feeling of a moment, it's like a test. It's seeing something that creates a moment or a feeling and drawing upon the tools you've learned to put it down on paper."

While best known for his depictions of birds, salmon, and other coastal scenes, Lowry doesn't limit himself to just one subject or medium. He creates everything from wildlife to landscapes to florals, in his colorful body of work.

Lowry received his diploma in commercial art from Spokane Falls Community College. He has continued expanding upon his craft through his many creative jobs over the years and by teaching himself using resources such as YouTube.

He credits much of his versatility to the 15 years he spent in Hawaii working in textiles. This period gave Lowry the freedom to work in different mediums, observe the processes of others, and conceptualize his own talent.

Only a few years after moving back to the mainland in 2006, Lowry fell in love with Ocean Shores and moved there in 2009. He had his first local show at Clyde & Sylvia's in 2010 and soon started receiving requests to teach classes.

Around 2012, Lowry began sharing his knowledge with others and went

on to teach weekly watercolor classes at the North Beach Artists Guild and at Grays Harbor College. Over the years he's taught classes for wet-on-wet watercolor, pastel, indie ink, and alcohol ink.

"Every artist might be a little different. I try to keep it

simple," Lowry said.

He teaches watercolors with only five colors and shows his students how to get the broadest range of color hues and values out of them. The goal is to achieve a masterful look with the easiest application.

"I'm more of a creative director. I want to help my students develop their own hand. I don't want them to look like me, I want them to look like who they are."

Over the past 14 years on the Harbor, Lowry has made his own mark on the community. He's the longest remaining member and original co-founder of the North Beach Artist Guild and Gallery of

**"I'm more of a creative director. I want to help my students develop their own hand."**

(continued on page 13)





*Artist Roy Lowry loves creating various subjects in a variety of media. Many of his works are displayed at the Gallery of Ocean Shores, as shown here.*

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## Roy Lowry *(continued)*

Ocean Shores. The gallery was initially founded by a group of determined local artists who wanted to bring a new creative space to the Harbor.

"It's a unique gallery because it allows artists to hone their talent and learn how to be in a gallery. A lot of artists have really grown into their own artistic professionalism here," Lowry said.

The gallery serves as a space for artists to display their work, teach classes, or take classes. Some of the artists currently displaying in the gallery originally took one of the classes and loved it so much that they stayed involved.


Lowry believes that art is in everyone, they just have to find the right teacher or space to help foster it.

"Sharing your voice in the world today can be scary. But it's not only the most challenging experience, it's probably the most validating and rewarding experience any individual can have."

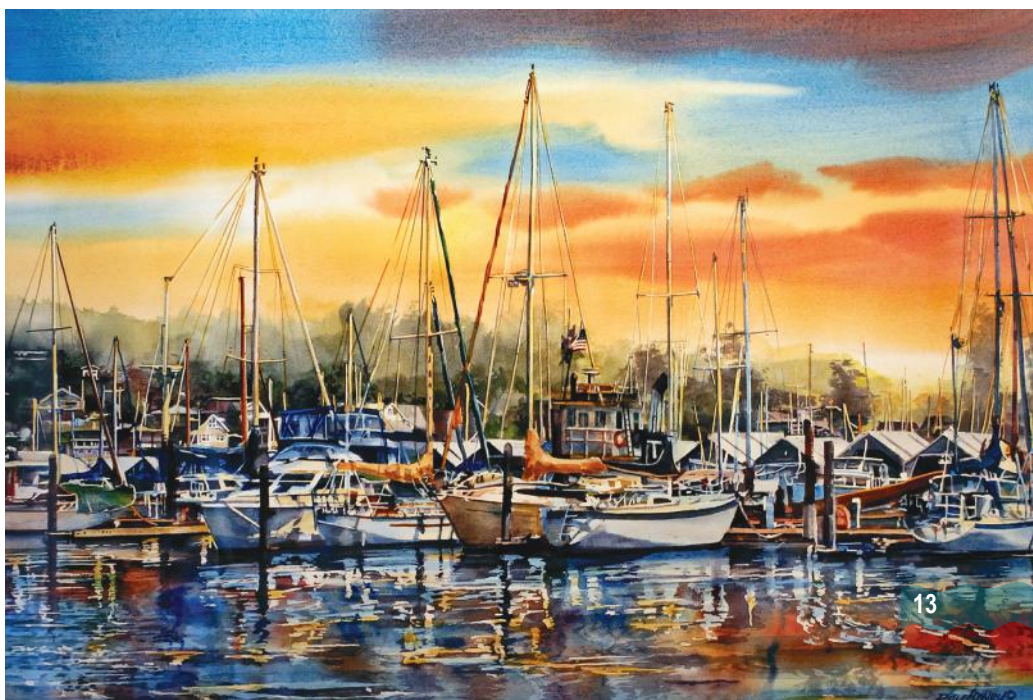
Budding or veteran artists of all ages can sign up for Lowry's classes in watercolor and alcohol ink or they can learn from one of the many other talented artists offering classes in fused glass, clay, oil painting, and more. Class calendars and further information can be found on the Gallery of Ocean Shores website.

In addition to the Gallery of Ocean Shores, Lowry's work can be seen in person at the Sidney Museum and Arts Association Gallery in Port Orchard, where he also occasionally teaches classes, and at the Freed Gallery in Lincoln City, Oregon.

Lowry's work can be viewed online at [thegalleryofoceanshores.com](http://thegalleryofoceanshores.com) and [freedgallery.com](http://freedgallery.com). He also can be found at the annual Winter Fanta-Sea Crafts Festival at the Ocean Shores Convention Center.

Lowry's pieces can be purchased by contacting the Gallery of Ocean Shores at (360) 289-0734 or [galleriesofoceanshores@gmail.com](mailto:galleriesofoceanshores@gmail.com). 

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# Heed the Sirens call to the Mermaid Festival

Everything mermaid will be celebrated April 1-9 at the **2023 Mermaid Festival** at the International Mermaid Museum located at the Westport Winery, just off of Highway 105, halfway between Aberdeen and Westport.

Entrance to the museum is free during the nine-day event. The museum is open from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. In addition to the museum's educational exhibits, special attractions will be featured.

Mermaid Una will perform underwater from noon to 2 p.m. and from 3 to 5

p.m. on weekends. On weekdays she will perform from 2 to 4 p.m., but will be available for photos from noon to 2 p.m.

Other attractions include Olive the Alchemist, founder of the Seattle Mermaid School. She will preside on the mermaid throne inside the museum from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., and 3 to 6 p.m. during most of the festival days.

On Saturday, April 8, the mermaids will host an open swim and obstacle course at the Grays Harbor YMCA pool in Hoquiam, with bookable underwater photography sessions available.

Vertical Axis performers Nick Perry and Amanda Thornton will perform on their high wire three times each afternoon, except on April 8. The Pacific Northwest Unicorns will also be available for greeting and photos from 1 to 3 p.m. each day.



Photo courtesy of the International Mermaid Museum

*Olive the Alchemist.*

During the festival, children can take part in a Pirate's Treasure Hunt in the museum, including a prize for those who complete the puzzle and find the treasure.

A variety of experts, authors and artists will fill out the festival with their wisdom, books and wares. And, in addition to Westport Winery's Sea Glass Grill, festival guests can enjoy food from various vendors.

For more information about the festival or museum, go to [mermaidmuseum.org](http://mermaidmuseum.org).

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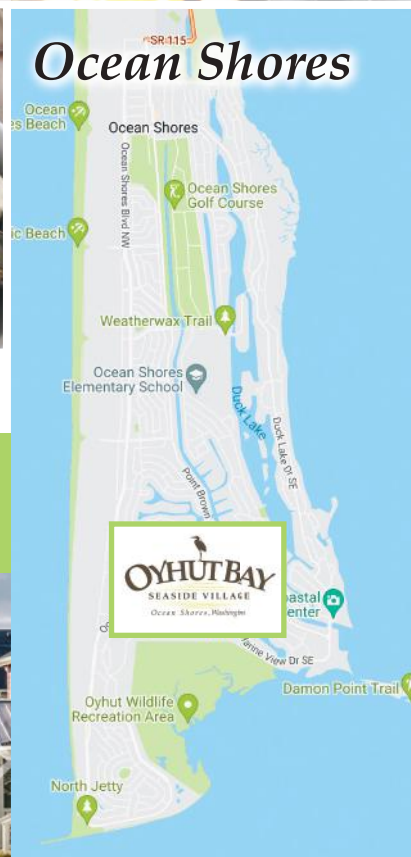
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# Harbor Haylofters Square Dance Club offers wholesome, vintage fun for all

STORY & PHOTOS  
BY CHRISTINE VINCENT

People looking for wholesome, inexpensive fun on the Harbor, should consider checking out the Harbor Haylofters Square Dance Club, which has been part of the fabric of life here for 63 years.

“Beware, however,” warned longtime member Lacey Bishop. “You are going to get wrinkles – smiling wrinkles, because you will have so much fun.”

Ray and Velma Lindenau founded the club in Hoquiam in 1960 during the country’s heyday of square dancing. As American as apple pie, square dancing is still the official dance of Washington State – as well as 30 other states.

“There were many clubs in Grays Harbor at the time. Today, the Harbor Haylofters is the only one left,” explained current club president Chuck Tjernberg. He and his wife, Gwen, joined in 1978. Sadly, Gwen died last year.

The couple’s granddaughter Lacey Bishop and 11-year-old great granddaughter, Kyah, are continuing the family’s do-si-do tradition. Kyah is currently taking the beginners class, where she loves to wear her red-and-black classic prairie skirt, complete with petticoat and petty



*Yee Chak and Claire Sides dance recently at a Harbor Haylofters gathering.*

pants. Like Kyah, some dancers wear the traditional Western square dance attire, which means western shirts and bolo ties for men, but one doesn’t have to don the garb to be welcomed in.

“We are not picky,” Lacey reassured. “Come as you are!”

### A bit of history

Early forms of square dance were brought to America by French, British and Irish immigrants. Clubs like the Harbor Haylofters teach Modern

Western Square Dance, which grew out of the traditional square dancing practiced in the American West. A caller directs dance teams consisting of four couples who form a square.

The various dance moves were standardized in the 1970s by the Callerlab, an international association of square dance callers. Callerlab developed uniform terminology and styling for each of the moves that is still recognized internationally.

Today the beginner level “Mainstream” program consists of 69 moves. After mastering all those steps, students can go on to the Plus, Advanced and Challenge levels.

### Calling the moves

Randy Carlson is the caller for the Haylofters. His encouraging and humorous manner makes classes extra fun.

Randy teaches each new class of dancers. After students graduate from the Mainstream class, they qualify for club membership as well as access to square dance events all over the world. (The Haylofters also perform round and line dancing. In round dancing, the caller is known as the cuer. Randy’s wife, Kris, is a cuer.)



***Kyah, 11, and her aunt, Lacey Bishop, continue the family tradition.***

"Most weekends have dances for members of any club going on somewhere," said Lacey. "Sadly, we have not had a dance since 2020 because of Covid. We are looking forward to resuming our dance events this year."

***Randy Carlson expertly calls the moves at the Harbor Haylofters weekly get-together.***

Currently, two Haylofter couples travel regularly to dance events. Olympia hosts five clubs and Bremerton is another area hotspot for square dance.

The Harbor Haylofters meet each Tuesday at Calvary Lutheran Church in Aberdeen. On one recent night, cousins Chris and Kate Rockett were among those taking the beginner class.

"I started a class here when I was 17," said Kate. "I had to stop before I finished – with only 10 moves left. Last September, I dragged Chris along and now we are finishing the class together."

Bob Fairis is a great recruiter for the Haylofters. He has introduced several people to the club. One of them is his friend Yee Chak. They both graduated from Mainstream in 2022 and are now club members.

Bob also invited Landin Purcell to go square dancing after meeting him at

the YMCA. Landin, who has suffered two strokes, has attended a few classes and enjoys them immensely. "His doctor is very pleased," added his wife, Joanne. In fact, studies have shown that square dancing is great rehabilitation for the brain.

### **'Angels' lend a helping hand**

On this Tuesday night, the dancing started with a set of two dances called a tip, executed by experienced club members. Randy plays music on a vintage turntable. He and Kris have some 5,000 vinyl records. The first dance is usually a pattern call. The music is instrumental and Randy calls the moves. The second dance is a singing call, a song especially composed for square dancing in which the caller sings the lyrics of the song, which incorporate the calls.

The second tip was for the beginners. It becomes clear that no one needs to worry about making mistakes

*(continued on page 21)*





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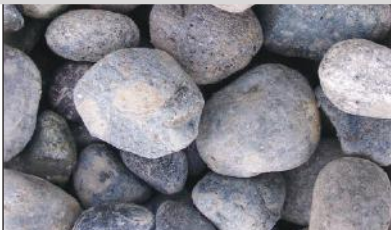
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# Square Dance *(continued)*

because everybody does as they learn. Moreover, there are many “angels” among the beginners to help newcomers along. In square dance lingo, angels are experienced dancers who participate in the beginner classes to support the newcomers. They are the sure-footed ones with little angel badges on their shirts.

Joanie Filyaw explained all this as others danced. While no longer able to dance, she is still a valuable club member, sharing her vast knowledge of both square dancing and the Haylofters. For 25 years, she danced with her husband Ray until he passed away seven years ago. Joanie proudly wears a selection of tags attached to her Harbor Haylofters membership badge, including her angel tag. The colorful tags Joanie and other Haylofters wear are given out at certain dances.

Veteran dancers Bob and Sandra Schlessler are also angels. When Bob retired in 1996, he wasn’t interested in square dancing, Sandra said. “But I persuaded him to try. He soon came to love it.”

Angels Lester and Anne Kilwien have been dancing with the Haylofters since 1995. They are proud of having danced in six states and on a cruise ship in the Caribbean. “Square dancing is such fun,” enthused Lester. “After a time, it just becomes second nature.”

*Kate Rockett learns to square dance with her cousin Chris Rockett.*



The friendly club members as well as the way the evening is set up immediately draws in shy people or singles. Nobody is left out.


Randy encouraged the dancers in the beginning class that they had learned 15 moves during the evening: “It takes three times to learn a move. You will come back and think you have forgotten, but it will come right back.”

In addition to the Tuesday night practices, the group dances in nursing homes once a month and at community events. They get together for fundraisers, campouts, potlucks and just to take care of each other.

The oldest club member is Loyd Gill who recently celebrated his 101<sup>st</sup> birthday. Some club members visit him

regularly at his assisted living facility to play marbles. “I danced with Loyd in 2019, just before Covid started,” remembered Lacey.

“I’m extremely proud to call myself a Harbor Haylofter,” she said. We would all like to see our club grow with new members. All are welcome. All you need to do is show up!” No partner or special attire is necessary, she emphasized, and newcomers can join right in the free classes the first time.

Harbor Haylofters lessons are from 7 to 8:30 p.m. in the fellowship hall of Calvary Lutheran Church, 2515 Sumner Ave. For more information, contact Lacey Bishop at (360) 589-3442 or lacey@rileyjackson.net. Or visit the harborhaylofters Facebook page. 

*Barbara Smith learns a dance with Bruce Kuhnau.*



# MUSIC SPOTLIGHT

## Angel Damasiewicz

BY JULIANA WALLACE

**M**usic holds such a strong, empowering force in our lives," said Montesano resident Angel Damasiewicz. "It cuts through the soul to a deeper place where people can heal and the words can comfort them."

Angel, 37, has felt the force of music throughout her life, beginning with playing violin in elementary school. As a student at Aberdeen High School, she joined the choir, and it was there that she met her mentor, Pat Wilhelms, the longtime AHS choir director.

"She pretty much taught me everything I know about music," said Angel.

In addition to choir, Angel performed in Aberdeen High School musicals, playing

Bloody Mary in "South Pacific" and Dolly in "Hello Dolly." Those experiences cemented her lifelong passion for sharing music, whether as a singer, a songwriter, a worship leader or a choir conductor.

When Wilhelms retired from Aberdeen High School, she started the Poco

“**You need to use your gifts because they aren't for you. They are for other people so they can heal and process and grow.**

– Angel Damasiewicz

*Angel Damasiewicz, foreground, with the St. Mary School's Honor Choir, which she directs as music teacher at the school.*



Photo by Justin Damasiewicz

Voce children's choir, with Angel as her assistant director. Together they taught music to elementary school children, preparing Angel for her current position as a music teacher at St. Mary School in Aberdeen, which she began in 2019.

In addition to teaching, Angel has spent years leading worship, something she loves doing. "Leading worship is one of my favorite things to do and one of my greatest gifts," she said. "You need to use your gifts because they aren't for you. They are for other people so they can heal and process and grow."

Angel knows firsthand the healing influence of music, as it has helped her make sense of personal pain. When her young nephew received a frightening cancer diagnosis, she wrote the song "Carry Me," performing it frequently at local American Cancer Society's Relay for Life fundraisers. She wrote another song for his funeral last year, and she's written numerous songs about moving on from a painful situation.

"You have to write from a place of vulnerability, and that makes it a

Photo courtesy of Angel Damasiewicz



Photo by Kyna Wilson



Photo courtesy of Angel Damasiewicz




Photo by Juliana Wallace

little hard sometimes," she explained. "But the things I do, the things I write about, I want it to come from a real place, because I like having real, honest connections with people."

Throughout her musical career, Angel has collaborated with stellar local musicians such as Christian Svinth, Wil Russoul, Christine Hill, Ken Albert, Gladys Whitney and Steve Jacobson, as well as numerous worship teams. Her wide vocal range and powerhouse voice allow her to sing many different styles of music.

Wil Russoul, who recorded a Christmas special with Angel recently, recalled working with her through the years.

"Angel continues to astonish me in her songwriting, performances and capturing an audience with her beautiful, soulful gift of a voice. She really lives up to her namesake and lets her light shine, both on stage and in her daily life!"

Angel plans to record a new album soon. Meanwhile, listen to her 2015 album "The Way That I Am" on iTunes, Spotify and other channels. For details about upcoming gigs, check out her Angel Phoenix fan page on Facebook. Or look to the Storehouse Worship page for information on her non-denominational musical worship collaboration. 



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**June 24, 25 • Grays Harbor Opera Workshop** Sat. 7:30pm, Sun. 2pm. \$12, 12 & under free. Ian & Joy Dorsch directing.



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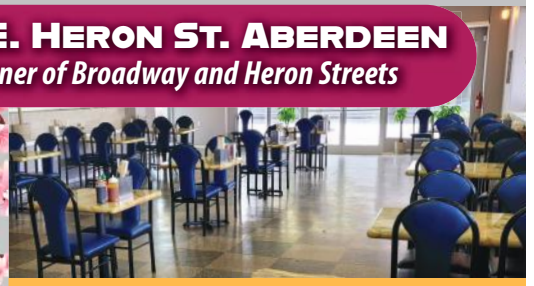
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# Spring beach cleanups bolstered by Jeep brigade in May



Leo and Nicole Koch.

BY ANGELO BRUSCAS

Teenager Leo Koch of Lacey had an idea for a school science project two years ago that has turned into one of the largest beach cleanup projects on the North Beach this spring.

In 2021, with help from mother Nicole Koch and dozens of little rubber ducks, Leo helped organize several Jeep clubs to rally in Ocean Shores and participate in a cleanup of beach trash all the way up the North Beach. More than 100 Jeeps and an estimated 300 people turned out for the second annual Clean Shores last year.

This year's **Clean Shores**, set for **May 19-21**, will focus on beaches from Ocean Shores to Moclips. Organizers expect many more participants, possibly record numbers of Jeeps, as well as trash hauled away. (And, the Guinness Book of World Records will be on hand to witness the potentially record-breaking event!)

Clean Shores developed out of a science project that Leo was assigned, which

had to involve the community.

"We wanted to do something that involved the beach, and we knew how to get ahold of (Jeep club members) because we had been to so many events before," Leo said.

Nicole had been active in a Lewis County Jeep club, and Leo thought of using a tradition of trading rubber ducks between members to spread the word.

"There is a thing in the Jeep community where you go around and give ducks to other Jeeps," Leo explained. "Little rubber ducks with tags on them. And we put the information about the cleanup on them and then just passed them out."

---

**"It's pretty impressive what we have been able to accomplish. Local businesses have been very supportive, the mayor of Ocean Shores has been supportive ..."**

— Nicole Koch

---

The Jeep community took to the idea like ducks to water, flocking to the beach in numbers that surprised everyone involved. Leo, now an 8th grader, received an A+ on the science project.

"It's pretty impressive what we have been able to accomplish," Nicole Koch said. "Local businesses have been very supportive, the mayor of Ocean Shores

has been supportive, and Joe and Pam at Too Cool Sportswear have supplied everything we needed. The city even supplied the garbage bags."

## Spring Cleaning

Clean Shores is just one of several cleanups scheduled along the Washington Coast this spring.

Set for **March 4,5**, the **Dash for Trash** is scheduled as part of the Beachcombers and Glass Float Expo. After collection, the trash will be analyzed at the Ocean Shores Convention Center.

On **Earth Day, April 22**, the **Washington Coastal Cleanup** is planned. The event, which began in 2007, covers the largest number of beaches as thousands of volunteers remove several tons of marine debris along the entire outer coast and the Strait of Juan de Fuca.

For that cleanup, volunteers are asked to register with CoastSavers in late March when further details are posted at [www.coastsavers.org](http://www.coastsavers.org). Volunteers are needed for a variety of tasks in addition to picking up garbage. The cleanup also is sponsored by Washington State Parks, which helps with camping and facilities for volunteers picking up the debris.

CoastSavers advises all beachgoers to "please collect as much debris as you like, but don't leave your collected debris on the beach. Take everything you collect back to a roadside dumpster or to your home's garbage/recycling."

*(continued on page 28)*

Volunteers clean up south of Ocean City.



Clean Shores cleanup Jeep brigade.



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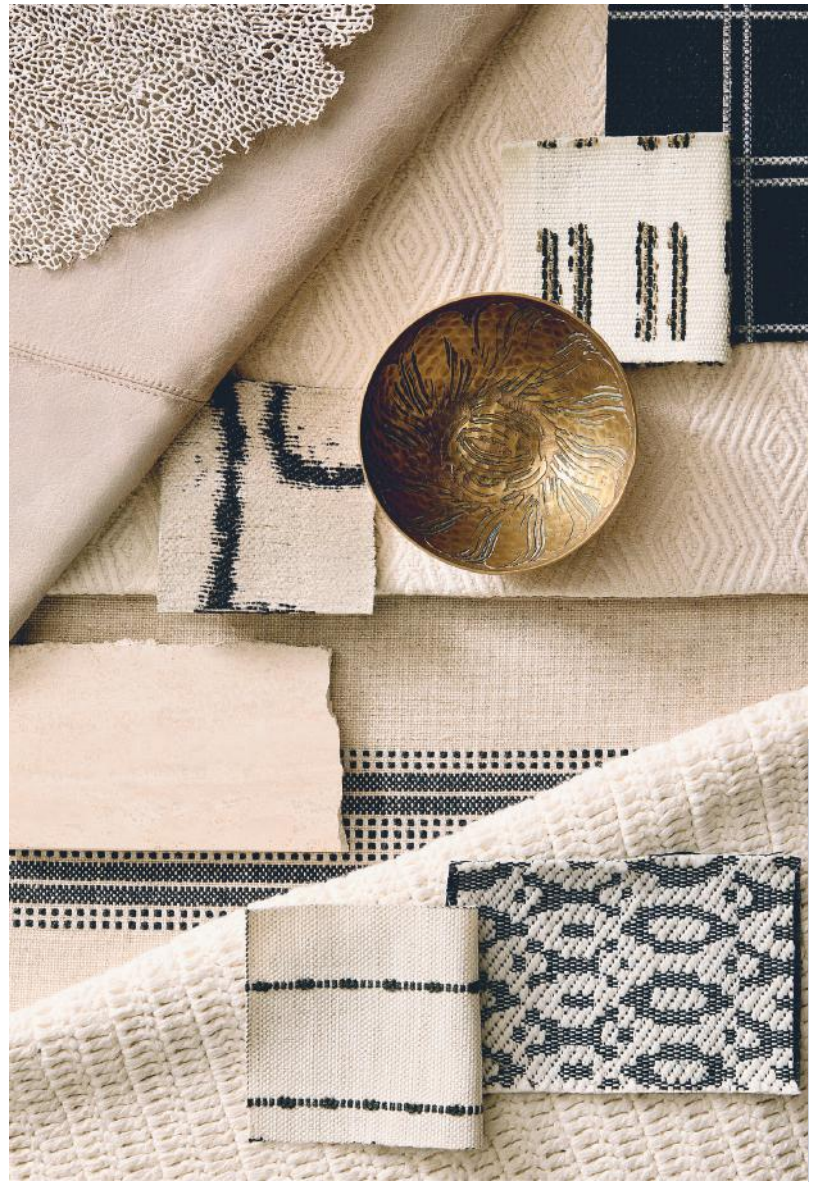
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# Spring Beach Cleanups

(continued from page 25)

## Clean Shores Topless

An umbrella group now provides the organization for the 2023 Clean Shores event: Nicole Koch and Russ Knorr in the Jeep community; and locally, Joe and Pam Grgetich of Too Cool Sportswear, and Gina Cooper of the community group Happily Sharing Ocean Shores. This year, they also have tied the cleanup to what is known in the Jeep world as National Go Topless Day, in which Jeep owners celebrate the beginning of spring by taking their Jeep's top off. The Clean Shores event information page on Facebook is Go Topless for Clean Shores in 2023.

"This year will be bigger and better," Joe Grgetich said. "The Guinness Book of World Records is attending, and we are going to (try) to fulfill the largest jeep parade at 2,500 jeeps. That's a lot of work." With a lot of garbage being removed from the beaches after the parade.

The first two years, many of the Jeeps came down just for the cleanup part of the day, but this year is planned to be a weekend-long event.

A local businessman, Grgetich had known the Kochs as customers and personal friends for several years and



Clean Shores bonfire May 2022, Leo and Nicole Koch, center, in tie-dye sweatshirts.

shared a part in the initial idea for Leo's science assignment.

"Leo asked me if I had any ideas what to do, and I said, 'beach cleanup.' So that's what they went with. I handled the city while they handled the Jeeps."


May was selected primarily as a time to clean the beaches before the start of summer, and it also helps fill hotel rooms before the onslaught of Memorial Day crowds bring higher prices for accommodations on the coast, Grgetich said. Summer already has cleanups scheduled after the Fourth of July, followed by the International Beach Cleanup every September.

Nicole emphasized how much she and others have been moved by the community support and the volunteers locally, like Beck's Towing in Ocean Shores, which helped haul away the trash.

"Over the years we noticed so many people coming into Ocean Shores and leaving so much garbage behind," she said. "So, when Leo created the event, it was a way to show Ocean Shores we appreciate the community and want to give back."

## Beach cleanup tips

Here are some tips for participating in beach cleanups.

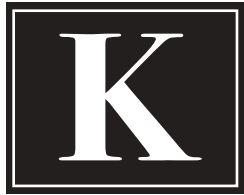
- Come prepared. Be sure to wear sturdy, closed-toe shoes. Protective gloves are a must with heavy work gloves the best. Rain gear and a hat are helpful for inclement weather and to keep from getting a sunburn in good weather.
- For safety's sake, remember to never turn your back on the ocean. Look for garbage closer to the middle of the sandy area. (Garbage is not normally lying around the edge of the ocean.)
- Do collect all plastics, glass, metals, waxed cardboard, "spent" fireworks parts, wood pieces containing nails or other sharp objects, twine, rope and fishnet.
- Do not collect wood that doesn't have nails or sharp objects. Also do not collect dead animals or dead birds. (The birds are monitored by COASST (Coastal Operations and Seabird Survey Crew volunteers.) 



State Parks Ranger Joe Fernandez and Eva Schmidt help register for CoastSavers at Ocean City State Park.

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# Local high school drama clubs return to the stage

BY JULIANA WALLACE

The pandemic took a toll on all of us. A year or two of relative isolation, interrupted schooling and social distancing exacted a high cost. For local high schools, that meant closing the curtains on the performing arts for a time. But over the past year, local drama programs have resurfaced, restoring a critical sense of community.

"These kids need this," explained Aaron Zassenhaus, the drama advisor at Elma High School. "It gets them away from their phones and interacting with their peers face to face."

Jeremy Totten, drama advisor at Aberdeen High School, agreed. "I think they are finding their confidence, and it's pouring over into the other classes. They are learning to interact with other students, building a skill that a book subject won't help them develop, particularly after Covid," he said.

For area high schools, drama has a long history of bringing students together on and off the stage, creating lasting memories and even launching careers. For instance, Patty Sundstrom has directed

the drama program at Hoquiam High School since the 1990s, presenting musicals such as "Joseph and the Technicolor Dreamcoat," "Cinderella" and this February's "Wizard of Oz."

Several of Sundstrom's former students have been instrumental in keeping drama alive in other programs, as well. For instance, Tamara Helland, now Sundstrom's assistant at Hoquiam, ran a highly regarded theater program at AHS for years. Other former students, Julayne Fleury and Alex Eddy, co-founded Plank Island Theatre Company in Aberdeen.

Currently at AHS, students have multiple drama options. Jeremy Totten, in his second year as choir director and drama advisor, teaches a drama class at the school. He began the class last spring, directing mini performances during the school day and holding improv days each Friday. He hopes to continue building the program, drawing on his experience working alongside

Kelly Gregersen at Washougal High School.

"I saw firsthand the impact that drama had at Washougal, and I know the impact it had on me in high school," he reflected. "It can allow kids to develop skills and pursue dreams that wouldn't have been possible otherwise."

In addition to drama classes, AHS also recently hired Maria Manning to direct the spring musicals, rekindling the longstanding tradition of beloved directors like Pat Wilhelms and Tamara Helland. Manning ran the theater program in Ellensburg prior to moving to the Harbor, and, like Totten, she recognizes the significant opportunities drama offers. Even the process of auditioning, which can prove nerve-wracking for some, delivers benefits.

"Auditioning gives you an added measure of confidence to stand up and be who you are in front of strangers," she explained. "Someone might see in you something that you don't even see in yourself. It's an amazing experience."

*Below, Elma High School's "Florence, David & Art," Fall 2022. Photo by Rose Van Blaricom*



*Below, Aberdeen High School's "Seven Brides for Seven Brothers," 2018. Photo by Keith Krueger*



*Aaron Zassenhaus, drama advisor at Elma High School. Photo by Juliana Wallace*



*Left, Montesano High School's "Senior One Acts," 2020. Photo by Erin Riley*

Like other area schools, Montesano High School has struggled to keep a drama program alive in recent years, due both to the pandemic and changing leadership. But drama advisor Erin Riley, who took over after Debbie Hornback retired, reports that students will return to the stage this March.

**“(Drama) can allow kids to develop skills and pursue dreams that wouldn’t have been possible otherwise.”**

**— Jeremy Totten, AHS**

“We have a large group this year who are ready to go,” said Riley. “We are looking forward to putting on a performance for the community after a long hiatus.”

In Elma, drama advisor Aaron Zassenhaus recognized the need to get students back performing as soon as possible after the pandemic. Presenting a play with masks and social distancing required some creativity, but Zassenhaus felt strongly that the students needed to be on stage, doing what they love.

Zassenhaus took over the drama program seven years ago, typically offering a fall play and a spring musical annually. He often tells students who are hesitant to audition to learn from his example and not let fear keep them from a fantastic experience.

“In high school, I wanted to do the musicals so much, but every year I chickened out on the audition,” he recalled. He performed in his first show in college and had a blast, always regretting that he waited so long to act.

To that person who feels nervous about auditioning, Zassenhaus said, “Nike’s got it: ‘Just do it!’ That 15 to 20 minutes of uncomfortable will become months of having a good time and making new friends.”

Hoquiam High School’s Sundstrom emphasizes that even students with no interest in acting can fill key roles in the drama family. “We have kids that build and paint the sets. We have musicians,” she said. “I feel like it gives a lot of kids a place to belong.”

For community members who want to take in a night of quality local theater, the next few months bring several opportunities.

## Upcoming high school spring productions:

- Montesano Jr./Sr. High School’s **“Beauty and the Beast”** will be performed this spring. (Dates to be determined.)
- Aberdeen High School will present **“Little Women, the Broadway Musical”** on **April 20-23**.
- Elma High School will present **“The Lady Pirates of Captain Bree”** on **April 27-29**.

## Other productions:

- **Grays Harbor College:** This year’s spring production will be Stephen Sondheim’s Tony Award-winning musical **“Company,”** performed at the Bishop Center **March 3-12**. Additionally, the college drama department will present **“Theatre Showcase: A Staged Reading”** on **May 25**. For more information on either show, see the Bishop Center website.
- **The 7th Street Kids** will perform **July 27-30**. Beginning May 1, pre-registration for auditions will be available online at the 7thStreet Kids website. The auditions will take place June 3. 



**Above, Hoquiam High School’s “Putnam County Spelling Bee,” 2020.**

Photo by Keith Krueger

**Left, Aberdeen High School’s “Legally Blonde,” 2017.**

Photo by Keith Krueger

**Right, Hoquiam High School’s “Cinderella,” 2019.**

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# Abe Singer creates sculpture that inspires curiosity and awe

BY KATIE MCGREGOR

Many artists display their art in galleries or at art shows. Iron artist Abe Singer focuses on creating pieces to improve public spaces throughout Washington.

"I'm kind of an outsider to the art world in a way. I'm not a gallery guy. I like to

be the guy for people who say, 'I don't like art, but I like that.' Sort of a connection to art for people who wouldn't normally appreciate it."

The 44-year-old artist resides along the Wynoochee River with his wife, two sons, a small herd of turkeys, sheep, and dogs. Originally from Sonoma, Calif., Singer moved to

*Abe Singer's sculpture, "Metamorphosis," located in Covington, Wash., is a striking example of his public art.*



Photo by Katie McGregor

*Metal sculptor Abe Singer at his Montesano home.*

Grays Harbor in 2006. The fact that the Wynoochee property was both on the river and included a big shop made it a done deal.

"My first contact, artwise, when I moved here, was Kim Roberts of the Westport Winery," he said.

**“ I like to be the guy for people who say, 'I don't like art, but I like that.'**

**– Abe Singer ”**

Singer was creating iron art as a hobby when he crafted pieces such as "Tree of New Life" and "Phoenix Rising" to be displayed in the winery's expansive garden. Many might consider his large-scale wine bottle sculpture to be a somewhat iconic piece of Grays Harbor as it is one of the first things to greet Westport Winery patrons when they drive into the parking lot.

Before he became a full-time artist, Singer was a plumber. "The plumbing background helps," Singer explained. "I use pipe a lot in my work and the ability to see how it's going to fit and what angle it will intersect at is pretty helpful."

*(continued on page 37)*



Photo courtesy of Abe Singer



“ My idea was to create this underwater world where you’re swimming through the stems of this lily pad.

– Abe Singer

”

Photo by Kaitie McGregor

Singer works welding toes onto a frog for the Eli’s Park Project in Seattle.

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Photo by Katie McGregor



A frog for the Eli's Park Project in Seattle is complimented with a glass eye from Opal Art Glass in Cosmopolis.

## Abe Singer, sculptor

(continued)

When his dad, who had always encouraged Singer to do art, died, Singer decided to pursue it as a career. "It was sort of a reality check and life-is-short kind of thing."

While he never attended school for art, Singer did experiment with metal in his high school shop class and apprenticed with a gate maker around the same time.

Now Singer is his own boss and takes on projects when cities and corporations put out a call for public art. This usually entails writing a proposal, sending in a resumé, and figuring out how to fit the budget.

This process has led Singer to be very deliberate about what he takes on, which is how he ended up with his latest project: creating an underwater environment for The Eli's Park Project within the Burke-Gilman Playground Park in Seattle. The concept of the park is to have a nature-based space where people of all ages and abilities can enjoy themselves.

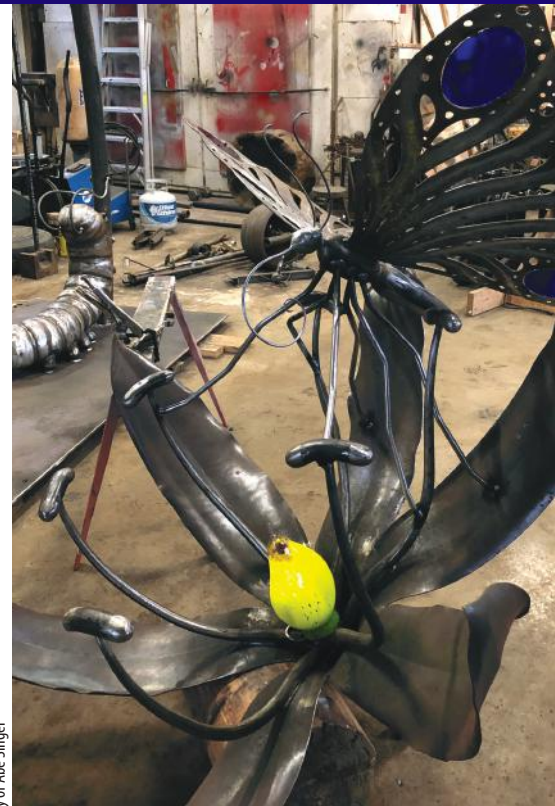
"My idea was to create this underwater world where you're swimming through the stems of this lily pad. The thought is that a kid in a wheelchair could cruise through and swing around the stems."

“ The plumbing background helps. I use pipe a lot in my work ...  
— Abe Singer ”

Singer has plans to add a polliwog, tadpole, and frog to the scene and hopes to have time to even add braille to the lily pad stems to help describe the sculpture to visually impaired people. Right now, he's just over halfway done with this project and plans to be finished within the next six months.

"I like to make art that little kids appreciate," Singer explained. He and his wife,

(continued on page 38)




Photos courtesy of Abe Singer



Top: The butterfly and flower from the "Metamorphosis" project before it was completed. Bottom: Eli Singer, working on welding techniques with his Dad's oversight.

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## Abe Singer, sculptor

(continued)

Stephanie, have sons, Eli, 12, and Zion, 8.

"I always run everything by the kids. My oldest just started to learn how to weld and my youngest is always wanting some tool or toy."

Singer's metal fabrication background has always been in steel but he's currently focusing on using stainless and COR-TEN® weathering steel so he can let the beauty of the material itself be on display.

Recently Singer has been integrating enameling into his work, which is something that shows up on the lily pad flowers he's creating for The Eli's Park Project. This is difficult because whatever is assembled has to be able to take the heat, but Singer enjoys the challenge.

"That's what gets me excited about the art that I do: crazy problem solving,

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Top: "Rockfish," in progress. Right: Completed "Rockfish" in Ocean Shores. Below right: Singer with his son Zion.

“I like to make art that little kids appreciate.”  
 – Abe Singer

building your own tools. ... I really enjoy the big pressure, big tools. I have the space for it and enjoy it so it kind of seems like that's what I should be doing," he said.

Singer's public art pieces can be viewed around Grays Harbor at the Westport Winery and Chance A La Mer State Park access lot in Ocean Shores. He also has pieces around the state in Covington, Bainbridge Island and Edmonds.

His art can be viewed online at [www.abesironart.com](http://www.abesironart.com).



Photos on this page courtesy of Abe Singer

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# Jamming with the Salmonberry Band

STORY & PHOTOS BY STEPHANIE MORTON

“

**You have to buy a ukulele.  
We'll start a band.**

— Robin Moore

”

When Bing Crosby's 1944 romantic classic, "Let Me Call You Sweetheart," is played on a ukulele, it's not so much romantic as silly. And when a kazoo is exchanged for Bing's mellow baritone, not even members of the Salmonberry Band can keep it together. It's outrageously goofy.

The Salmonberry Band, a ukulele and other "portable instrument" band based out of Aberdeen, is comprised of about 20 regular members — none of whom take themselves seriously. Having a sense of humor is a prerequisite to joining the band while musical skill is not.

The band was formed when MaryLou Gregory and Robin Moore attended a ukulele performance at the Aberdeen Timberland Library in August of 2011.

*Cristine Gilliland plays the kazoo and the ukulele during a practice session at the Aberdeen Art Center.*



*Weed whacker string is used on the washtub bass played by Jim Allen.*

A few days after the performance, Gregory received a phone call from Moore who asked if she had purchased a ukulele yet.

A dumbfounded Gregory, who had not purchased a ukulele and who had no intention of buying a ukulele, asked, "Why would I do that? I saw the show. It was fun. The end."

Moore would have none of it, Gregory remembered, laughing.

"You have to buy a ukulele," Gregory recalled Moore saying. "We'll start a band."

Moore got the ball and the band rolling — organizing the group, cataloging ukulele-appropriate music, finding a space to practice at a local gallery until the upstairs neighbor complained. The group moved again and again until they landed at their current space,



the Aberdeen Art Center, where they practice every Friday, from 1 to 3 p.m.

David Rodriguez, manager and curator of the art center's gallery, said the sound of the ukuleles draws in the curious. People who pop in or even those who come with a purpose tend to linger when the Salmonberries play. The band's presence helps the art center fulfill its vision as supporting all the arts, including music.

"People hear the music and they stay," said Rodriguez. "They check out the art, and the music is fun to listen to. It makes me smile. It adds a lot to the space."

The Salmonberries have also played at events such as Winterfest and the Aberdeen Saturday Market as well as performing at almost every residential care facility in Grays Harbor. Bringing people joy through music is pretty much what drives the band. Playing well is beside the point.

"We're having a good time and that comes across in all the places we play," said Christine Gilliland, who has been with the band since 2018.

"We want to have a good time and we want the audience to have a good time."

"We're not professionals," said Jim Allen, who has played the washtub bass (with weed whacker cord) for the band for years. "It doesn't matter. It's just fun."



**We're having a good time and that comes across in all the places we play.**

**– Christine Gilliland**



The band plays what they term "moldy oldies." Fun, upbeat tunes with singable choruses are a large part of the group's repertoire. "Yellow Submarine," "I Believe in Music," "You Are My Sunshine" are examples. They tried adding some Nirvana but the results were disconcerting, according to Gregory.

Even playing the ukulele is not a requirement to join the band. In addition to the washtub and kazoo previously mentioned, Salmonberry



**We're not professionals. It doesn't matter. It's just fun.**

**– Jim Allen**



*The Salmonberries practice at the Aberdeen Art Center.*

members have played tambourines, maracas, washboards and train whistles.

At a recent performance at a memory care facility in Hoquiam, the effect of the Salmonberry's music was evident in the residents who attended. Fingers and toes tapped. Shoulders swayed. Heads bobbed. Many sang along. One woman danced, delighting the nurses who cheered her on. There were hints of smiles on faces which previously held muted expressions.

Over coffee and cookies, some of the residents expressed how much the performance meant to them. A resident named Willy said singing along was the best part of an excellent program.

"I really enjoyed that," he said.

Another resident named Pauline said she had also enjoyed the show. "It was really wonderful. I knew the lyrics to most of the songs."

Karen Stutesman, life enrichment coordinator at the facility, said live entertainment provides residents with a window to the world outside. The Salmonberry Band, perhaps because of the songs they play or the easy, pleasant sound of the ukuleles, seemed to be a favorite among the residents. Stutesman said there is a connection

*(continued on page 43)*

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As the Salmonberries prepare to play, residents at a local memory care facility take their seats.

## Salmonberry Band *(continued)*

between memory and music, and that familiar songs may spark a lovely memory.

"We just want them to keep coming back," said Stutesman.

For those who would like to learn more about ukuleles and the Salmonberry Band, they will be hosting a "petting zoo" at the Hoquiam Timberland Library, from 1 to 2:30 p.m., Saturday, March 25. Guests may "pet" the ukuleles and perhaps even learn a chord or two. Gilliland said this is an opportunity for





Suzanne Hierholzer practices the ukulele at the Aberdeen Art Center.

people to get up close and personal with a real, live ukulele. Additional information can be found online at salmonberryband.weebly.com.


The Salmonberry Song, written by Robin Moore, is how the band begins each performance. Here is an excerpt:

### The Salmonberry Song

**"Hello Folks. How do you do?  
We've come here to play for you.  
We are the Salmonberry Band.  
Sing along if you please.  
Clap your hands; slap your knees.  
We are the Salmonberry Band!"** 



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# TRAVELING WALL COMES TO OCEAN SHORES TO HONOR VETERANS

Photos provided courtesy of the American Veterans Traveling Tribute

BY STEPHANIE MORTON

The Traveling Wall, a replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial wall in Washington, D.C., will make a stop at the Quinault Beach Resort and Casino from June 14 to 18. The exhibit will be open 24 hours a day for the five days that it will be in Grays Harbor. The visit is being sponsored by the VFW Post 8956 North Beach in Ocean Shores. There is no charge for admittance.

The original memorial is a black granite wall that stands near the National Mall in Constitution Gardens at the nation's capital. According to the National Park Service, the wall is engraved with more than 58,300 names of men and women who gave their lives during the conflict. It was designed by architect Maya Lin and was completed in 1982. The memorial includes the Vietnam Veterans Memorial wall, the Three Servicemen statue and the Vietnam Women's Memorial.

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– MIKE HARRIS

The memorial offers those who served an opportunity to heal, said Mike Harris of the VFW Post 8956 and the Vietnam Veterans of America. He added that about 10 percent of veterans saw combat and most were in supportive roles.

“That’s service. This is for all veterans,” Harris stressed. “And it includes their friends and families. This is a focal point for healing. It unites people.”


Harris added that he hoped the memorial might also bring the plight of the veteran to the forefront.

The American Veterans Traveling Tribute Wall is an 80 percent scale replica made of 144 metal panels. It stands 8-feet high and stretches to 360-feet long. In addition to the memorial wall, the exhibit will include panels honoring those who served in World War II, Korea, Vietnam, Iraq, Afghanistan and also 9/11. The Quinault Beach Resort and Casino is hosting the wall at their outside space, 78 State Route 115 in Ocean Shores.





An opening ceremony will be scheduled later and will include dignitaries such as Ocean Shores Mayor Jon Martin and U.S. Representative Derek Kilmer, among others.

T-shirts will be available for purchase and guided tours will be offered. Donations to the VFW Post 8956 may be mailed to P.O. Box 54, Ocean Shores, WA 98569. For more information, contact Harris at the VFW post by calling (360) 591-7595. 

**The American Veterans Traveling Tribute**, including a replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial wall, will be exhibited at the **Quinault Beach Resort and Casino** at Ocean Shores, 24 hours a day, **June 14-18**.

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**MARCH 3 - 5 . Beachcombers & Glass Float Collectors Expo . Ocean Shores Convention Center . 10am - 4pm. (See story on page 5.)**

**March 4-5 . Dash for Trash . Ocean Shores . part of the Beachcombers and Glass Float Expo. After collection, the trash will be analyzed at the Ocean Shores Convention Center.**

**MARCH 3, 4, 5 . 'Proof' . Aberdeen . Driftwood Players . Friday, Saturday 7:30 pm, Sunday 1:30pm . Drama for teens & adults. How much of her father's madness—or genius—will Catherine inherit? Directed by Brad Duffy.**

**MARCH 3, 4, 5, 10, 11, 12 . 'Company' . A Musical Comedy . Bishop Center . Aberdeen . Grays Harbor College . Fridays, Saturdays 7:30pm, Sundays 2pm. Winner of six Tony Awards including Best Musical. Music & lyrics by Stephen Sondheim.**

**MARCH 4 . Dukes of Swing . Aberdeen Elks . 7 - 9pm . Big band music.**

**MARCH 4 . 24th Annual All-You-Can-Eat Crab Feed . Westport . Ocosta Recreation Hall . Noon - 6pm . All the local crab you can eat! Includes spaghetti, garlic bread & coleslaw. Proceeds benefit Ocosta Booster Club Scholarship Program.**

**MARCH 4 . Polson Museum Presents: Greatest Hits of the Polson Photo Collection . Hoquiam Timberland Library . 2pm . Museum Director John Larson presents his personal "Greatest Hits" of the Polson's photo collection.**

**MARCH 4 . 'Dr. Strangelove' . 7th Street Theatre . Hoquiam . 7:30pm . Movie from 1964.**

**MARCH 5 . Empire Trio . Raymond . Raymond Theatre . Sunday 2pm . For the lovers of Broadway shows, tunes and movie themes.**

**MARCH 16 • GHC Jazz Concert . Bishop Center . Aberdeen . Grays Harbor College . 7pm Directed by William Dyer and Kari Hasbrouck.**

**MARCH 16 . Glimpses Lecture Series . Ocean Shores . 7pm at OS Lions Club . Sponsored by**

*Coastal Interpretive Center . Mary Beth Beuke of West Coast Sea Glass . Learn how sea glass is formed, historical tidbits, identifying unique pieces, & finding sea glass.*

**MARCH 17, 18 . 'Monty Python & the Holy Grail' . 7th Street Theatre . Hoquiam . 7:30pm . Movie from 1975.**

**MARCH 17-19 . Ocean Shores Razor Clam Festival & Seafood Extravaganza . Celebrate all things seafood! Razor clams, oysters, Dungeness crab, clam chowder & clam fritters. Live music & more.**

**MARCH 21 . Herbal Balms and Salves . Hoquiam Timberland Library . 5:30pm . Learn the properties of some herbs – calendula, clove, comfrey, feverfew and ginger. Learn about the infusion process, straining, adding beeswax and bottling.**

**MARCH 24 . Annual Nonprofit Leaders Conference . Ocean Shores Convention Center . Mission to strengthen rural and coastal area nonprofits. Provides information and training on a variety of topics.**

**MARCH 25 . Ukulele Petting Zoo . Hoquiam Timberland Library . 1pm . Join the Salmonberry Band for an introduction to the ukulele. View and touch ukuleles and learn about the instrument. (See story on page 40.)**

**MARCH 25 . Habitat for Humanity Dinner & Auction . 5:30pm . Hoquiam Grand Central Event Center . 15th annual dinner & auction fundraiser.**

**MARCH 26 . Tel Aviv Wind Quintet . Raymond . Raymond Theatre . Sunday 2pm . Fun & lively classical pieces.**

**APRIL**

**APRIL 1 . Polson Museum: Local History, Local Resources . Hoquiam . 2pm . Discover resources available for researching Grays Harbor history.**



**APRIL 1 . 'Some Like it Hot' . 7th Street Theatre . Hoquiam . 7:30pm . Movie from 1959.**

**APRIL 1 . Spring Wine Fair . Ocean Shores . Shilo Inn . Noon - 5pm . Over 25 Washington wineries . Food pairings available also.**

**APRIL 1 - 9 . Mermaid Festival . Mermaid Museum at the Westport Winery . Free Museum admission during festival. (See story on page 15.)**

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

**APRIL 7 & 20 . The Loading Dock, Live Music . Aberdeen . 6 - 9pm . 202 E. Wishkah St. Performances by local rock bands on 1st Friday & 3rd Thursday of the month.**

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**APRIL 9 . Celebration of Glass .** Westport Maritime Museum . 10am - 4pm . Visit with renowned float collectors, see unique floats displayed. Buy, sell, trade.

**APRIL 14, 15 . 'Mamma Mia!' .** 7th Street Theatre . Hoquiam . 7:30pm . Movie from 2008.

**APRIL 15 . World Class Crab Races, Crab Feed & Crab Derby .** Westport Marina . Derby 8am - 5pm. Races and Feed 11am - 5pm.

**APRIL 20-23 . 'Little Women, the Broadway Musical' .** Production at Aberdeen High School.

**APRIL 22 . Coast Clean-up .** Join Washington CoastSavers, in the Washington Coast Cleanup in honor of Earth Day. (See story on page 25.)

**APRIL 22 . Ms. Maki & Co. .** Hoquiam . Ashley's Pub Haus.

**APRIL 22 . Jokemasters Comedy Show .** at The Knotty Pine . Westport . 7pm

**APRIL 27-29 . 'The Lady Pirates of Captain Bree' .** Production at Elma High School.

**APRIL 29 . 'The Baltimore Waltz' .** Aberdeen . Driftwood Players . Saturday 7:30 pm . Comedic

satire — follow Anna and her brother Carl around Europe. Directed by John Cooper.

**APRIL 30 . Norm Olsen, Bluegrass .** Raymond . Raymond Theatre . Sunday 2pm . Hometown bluegrass icon.

**MAY**

**MAY 1 . 7th Street Kids Summer 2023 Auditions .** Preregistration begins on May 1. Auditions are on **June 3**. Providing musical theatre education and live entertainment. Auditions open to kids from 7-16 years old. No experience acting, singing, or dancing necessary.

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

**MAY 5 & 18 . The Loading Dock, Live Music .** Aberdeen .

6 - 9pm . 202 E. Wishkah St. Performances by local rock bands on 1st Friday & 3rd Thursday of the month.

**MAY 5 - 7 . Grays Harbor Shorebird Festival .** Hoquiam . Grays Harbor National Wildlife Refuge . Hundreds of thousands of shorebirds stop to rest and feed on the Washington Coast and in the Grays Harbor estuary during migration.

**MAY 5-14 . 'Exit Laughing' .** Stage West Community Theatre . Ocean Shores . Directed by Lori Hardin.

(Continued on page 48)

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**MAY 5, 6, 12, 13, 19, 20, 21 . 'The Baltimore Waltz' . Aberdeen . Driftwood Players . Fridays, Saturdays 7:30 pm, Sunday 1:30pm . Comedic satire – follow Anna and her brother Carl around Europe. Directed by John Cooper.**

**MAY 6 . 41st Annual Oyster Feed . Ocosta Recreation Hall. All you can eat from 3 - 7 pm.**

**MAY 6 . 'Roman Holiday' . 7th Street Theatre . Hoquiam . 7:30pm . Movie from 1953.**

*Ocean Shores Artisan Faire*  
**May 13 . 10 am - 7 pm**  
 Ocean Shores Convention Center  
**Fair Trade Gift Items**  
 Select PNW Vendors & The Patisserie  
 See ad page 43

**MAY 6 . Dukes of Swing . Aberdeen Elks 7 - 9pm.**

**MAY 7 . Special Consensus, Bluegrass . Raymond . Raymond Theatre . Sunday 2pm . Bluegrass band features favorite, Greg Blake.**

**MAY 13 . Ocean Shores Artisan Faire . Ocean Shores Convention Center . 10am - 7pm . Fair Trade gift items, PNW vendors & The Patisserie.**

*Washington State*  
**Chili Cook-Off**  
 Stoves on 8 am . Ocean Shores Convention Center  
**May 13**  
 See ad page 43

**MAY 13 . Washington State Chili Cook-Off . Ocean Shores Convention Center . Stoves on at 8am . Qualifier for the World Champion Chili Cook-Off.**

**MAY 13 . Celebrate Summer Jam with Leah Justine . Ocean Shores Convention Center . 4pm . Opening: Johnny & the Bad Boys, Jonathan Harris.**

**CELEBRATE SUMMER JAM**  
 2023  
*Country Music singer/songwriter*  
**Leah Justine • May 13**  
 Ocean Shores Convention Center  
 See ad page 43

**MAY 13, 14, 20, 21 . Tokeland & North Cove Art Studio Tour . 10am - 4pm. Several studios and multiple artists selling unique art and demonstrating the artistic process. Artists also on the grounds of the Tokeland Hotel.**

**MAY 19, 20 . 'Secondhand Lions' . 7th Street Theatre . Hoquiam . 7:30pm . Movie from 2003.**

**MAY 19, 20 . North Beach Singers Presents 'Celebrate the 70's' . Ocean Shores . 7pm . Galilean Lutheran Church.**

**MAY 19-21 . Clean Shores Beach Cleanup . Beaches from Ocean Shores to Moclips. (Story pg. 25)**

**MAY 25 • Theatre Showcase: A Staged Reading . Bishop Center . Aberdeen . Grays Harbor College . 7pm . Drama performed by 'Intro to Acting' students, directed by Andrew Gaines.**

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**MAY 27 - 28 . Superhero Music Fest . Ocean Shores Convention Center . Superheroes, petting zoo, bounce house, vendors, food trucks, kids zone & more. Fastlane: Eagles tribute on the 27th.**



**MAY 28 . Blessing of the Fleet . Westport Fishermen's Memorial . 1pm . Remembering those lost at sea and blessing the fleet for a safe and bountiful harvest.**

**JUNE**

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

**JUNE 2 & 15 . The Loading Dock, Live Music . Aberdeen . 6 - 9pm . 202 E. Wishkah St. Performances by local rock bands on 1st Friday & 3rd Thursday of the month.**

**JUNE 2 - 4 . Festival of Colors . Ocean Shores beach . Kicks off with a lighted kite fly on Friday at dusk just north of the Lighthouse Suites. For kite fliers of all skill levels with special events for kids.**

**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 Presents 'Celebrate the 70's' . Moclips . 7pm . Chapel by the Sea.**

**JUNE 3 . Ocean Shores Wearable Art show 'Transitions' . Ocean Shores Convention Center . The biggest, wildest wearable art show on the Washington coast.**

**JUNE 4 - Grays Harbor Symphony . Bishop Center . Aberdeen . Grays Harbor College . 7pm . From the Earth to the Moon, and Beyond! Favorites from space-themed 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 . Choir is directed by Kari Hasbrouck. Band is directed by Tiffany Maki.**

**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. (See story on page 44.)**

**JUNE 15 - GHC Jazz Concert . Bishop Center . Aberdeen . Grays Harbor College . 7pm . Directed by William Dyer and Kari Hasbrouck.**

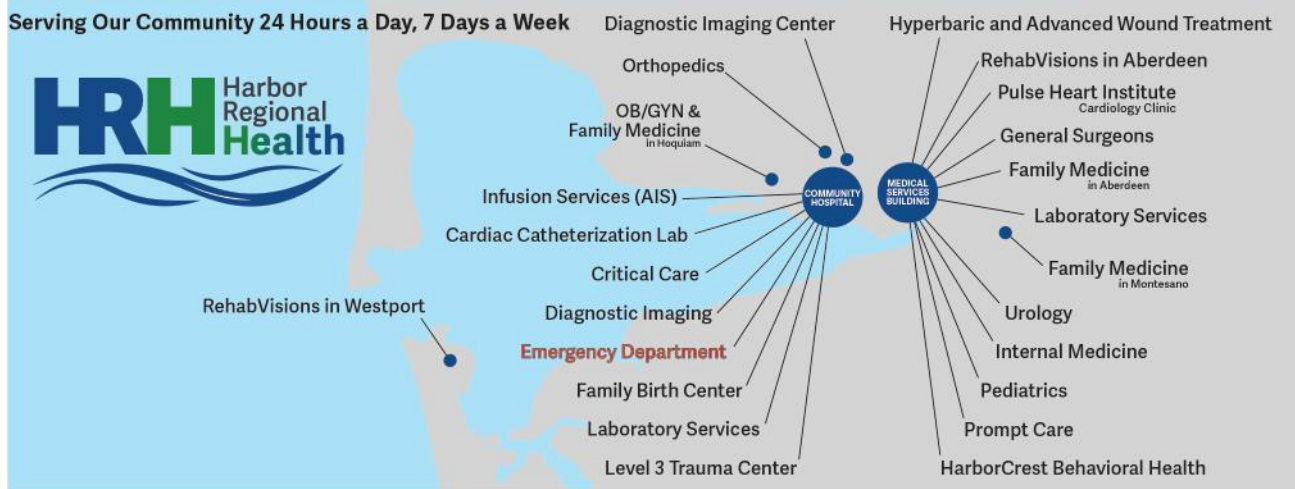
**JUNE 23-25 . Sand & Sawdust Festival . Ocean Shores Convention Center & Chance a la Mer beach approach . Sand sculpting & chainsaw carving.**

**More events to come! Summer issue will be in your mailbox on June 1st.**

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## Index of Advertisers

A1 Roofing .....	45	Grays Harbor Farmers Market .....	9	Ocean Shores IGA .....	42
Aberdeen Art Center .....	43	Grays Harbor PUD .....	45	Organics 101 .....	24
Advanced Heating .....	36	Harbor Blooms .....	37	Oyhut Bay .....	16-17
Artisan Faire Ocean Shores .....	43	Harbor Insulation .....	38	Oyhut Bay Grill .....	17
Bayview Redimix .....	20	Harbor Regional Health .....	49	Oyhut Bay Market & Bakery .....	16
Bishop Center, GHC .....	23	Home Port Restaurant .....	14	Pacific Care & Rehabilitation .....	14
Breakwater Seafood .....	8	K & J Designs .....	4	Pacific County Fair .....	38
Billy's Restaurant .....	8	King Tide Bakery & Bar .....	29	Playtime Family Fun .....	8
Cascade Natural Gas .....	47	Kitsap County Fair .....	47	Seabrook .....	7
Cascade Pizza .....	52	Market Place .....	3	Seaglass Gifts at Oyhut Bay .....	16
The Cave .....	46	Marshall's Garden & Pet .....	14	Seaside Liquidation Outlet .....	51
Celebrate Summer Jam .....	43	McHugh's Furniture .....	26-27	Stullick Jewelry .....	37
Chili Cook-Off .....	43	Meltdown Bar .....	47	Summit Pacific Medical Center .....	2
Corks & Taps - Oyhut Bay .....	16	Michael's Meats .....	29	Superheroes Music Fest .....	12
Dirty Dogs .....	7	Miller's Marijuana .....	38	Swansons Grocery .....	32-33
First Harbor Real Estate .....	29	Montesano Farm & Home .....	48	Tokeland & North Cove Chamber .....	3
Go Get the Pho .....	24	Nancy's Bakery .....	9	Twin Harbor Drug .....	12
		Nelson Crab .....	15	WA State Dept of Corrections .....	48
		North Beach RV .....	15	Westport Winery .....	3
		Northwest Swim Spas .....	39		

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