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# COASTAL

MAGAZINE

# Currents

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Summer 2024

June • July • August



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**Ocean Shores dining explored**  
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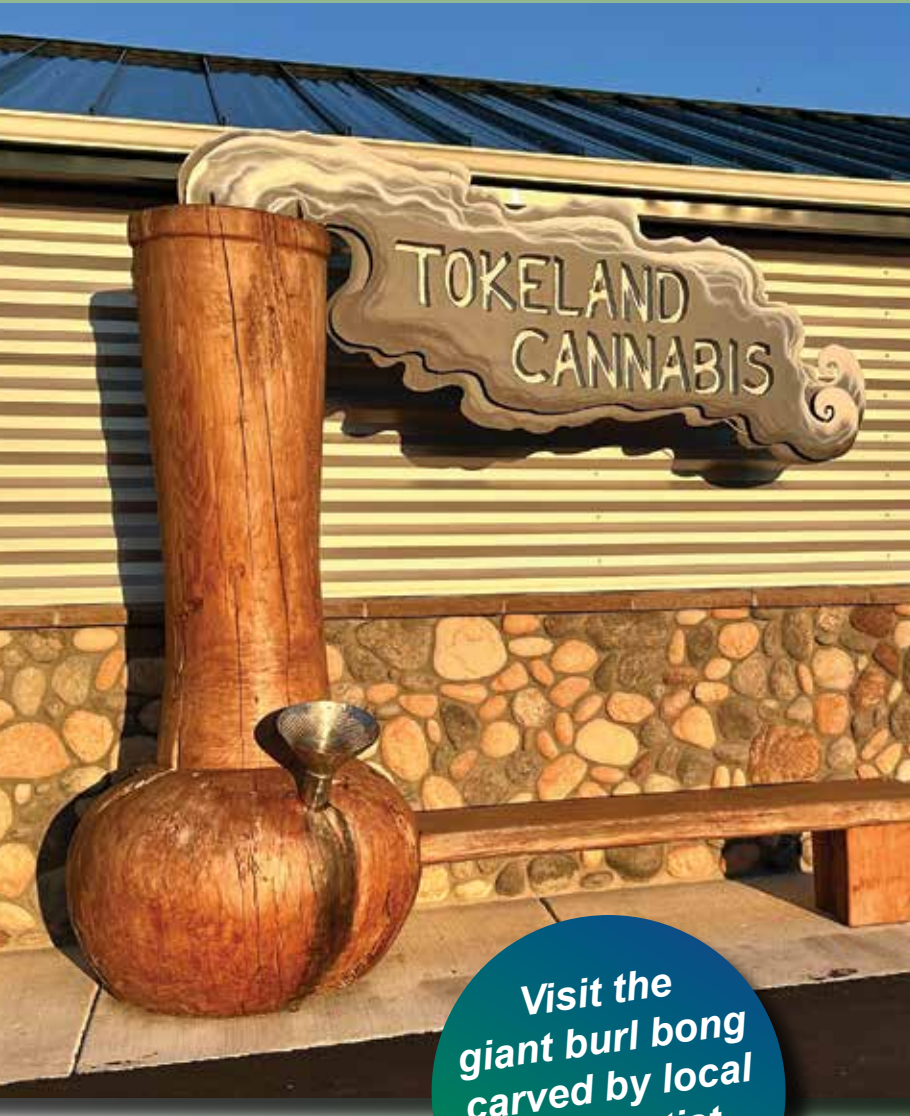
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Watercolor artist Rick Woods of Hoquiam often paints "en plein aire," which means in the open air. See story on page 14.

# COASTAL *Currents*

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*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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The front cover features Rick Woods' watercolor painting of Brusco Tugs on the Hoquiam River. See story on page 14.

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# Ocean Shores replete with restaurants to savor summer

OCEAN SHORES



*La Spiaggia chef, Doug Cox, demonstrates his cooking technique for "America's Best Restaurant" host, Theo Williams.*

## STORY & PHOTOS BY ANGELO BRUSCAS

Highly amped video host Theo Williams of the travel-hopping "America's Best Restaurants" show jumps for joy during the filming of a recent segment in Doug Cox's kitchen at La Spiaggia Ristorante in Ocean Shores. It's his first visit to the area and the restaurant experience leaves him literally gushing with delight on camera.

"Now that's what I'm talking about!" he raves, savoring the several different entrees of the evening.

[www.Coastal-Currents.com](http://www.Coastal-Currents.com)

**"La Spiaggia should be one of America's best restaurants, and is one of America's best restaurants. The food here was heavenly." – Theo Williams, "America's Best Restaurants"**

"I absolutely agree that La Spiaggia should be one of America's best restaurants, and is one of America's best restaurants. The food here was heavenly," Williams said. "I loved every bite of everything I had here today – whether it was the gorgonzola chicken, whether it was the ribeye steak, the lasagna. And I got a chicken parm to go home."

While the ocean beckons most people

*(continued on page 6)*



*La Spiaggia provides a white tablecloth atmosphere for this tasty meal of calamari.*

## Ocean Shores restaurants (continued)

to make a trip to the coast, it's the food that makes it worth staying a little longer.

Summer at the beach traditionally heats up from Memorial Day weekend through September with thousands of visitors flocking to the multitude of recreational possibilities along the 27 miles of Ocean Shores waterways.

This summer also cooks up something for everyone, with Ocean Shores now supporting more culinary experiences than ever in its 50-year history as one of Grays Harbor's most popular tourist destinations.

Top choices range from fine dining at Emily's ocean-side setting at Quinault Beach Resort and Casino; beach

elegance indoors, upstairs and outdoors at Oyhut Bay Grill; classic and creative Italian cuisine at La Spiaggia; family charm and tastefulness at Taqueria Los Tres Figgies; Irish fare and good spirits at Galway Bay Irish Pub and Restaurant; and the Washington Coast's premium fish, chowder and burger choices at Bennett's Fish Shack.

There are two new restaurants, Hot Mamma's Kitchen and the Copalis Cove, on Ocean Shores Boulevard across from the hotels; three pizza restaurants in town, two Mexican establishments, several fast-food eateries, one that serves sushi, one that serves breakfast and lunch only; along with long-lasting local favorites such as Mike's Seafood, Thai Fusion, the Lucky Dragon, the Porthole Pub and the Home Port, all in the downtown quarter-mile section of Point Brown Avenue.

**"Ocean Shores has become one of Washington's premier destinations for dining out." – Nicolette Shaklin, Quinault Beach Resort**

### Culinary destination

"Ocean Shores has become one of Washington's premier destinations for dining out. Gone are the days of having to settle for pizza or McDonald's during your beach stay," said Nicolette Shanklin, who has worked in marketing and public relations the past 18 years at Quinault Beach Resort and Casino (QBRC).



Photo courtesy of Quinault Beach Resort

*Emily's at Quinault Beach Resort and Casino features salmon, halibut and other seafood choices.*

Shanklin also is one of the administrators of the Ocean Shores Foodies Facebook page, with more than 4,500 followers and daily posts highlighting what's cooking around the North Beach area.

For something "seaside casual," Shanklin recommends Bennett's: "The crab melt and margaritas are a must."

*La Spiaggia was packed for the recent video filming for "America's Best Restaurants."*



For ocean-view dining and seafood, she highlights Emily's at QBRC: "Try the Dungeness crab for a real treat."

"You'll need to stay a couple of extra days to get in all of the local faves – like Oyhut Bay that's always Instagram worthy, or Galway Bay for some traditional Irish fare," Shanklin said. "And two of the newer additions – La Spiaggia Italian and Taqueria Los Tres Figgies 2 – have stepped up the dining game. Eating your way around the beach has never fared better."

For those who prefer to dine outdoors, weather permitting, Bennett's has a covered and heated patio, while Galway Bay has a covered outdoor area in the back that includes a dog-friendly watering spot and koi pond. Oyhut Bay has a popular patio with fireplaces in the main village center, where live music often is featured in the summer. After a weekend sunset dinner at Emily's, there usually is live music playing in the lounge. Plus, there



Rhonda Jones, server at Oyhut Bay Grill, serves lunch in the upstairs dining area.

are improvements throughout QBRC's gaming area to explore.

At the south end of the peninsula, the Oyhut Bay Grill and neighboring Corks and Taps help to bring locals and tourists together in an atmosphere not seen since the early days of Ocean Shores when there was a bustling marina, hotel, and ferry service from the Damon Point area.

"Truthfully, the restaurant is kind of the heartbeat of what we do out here," said Oyhut Bay's chief operating officer Jason Meersman.

"It happens to be centrally located in our plaza and the menu reflects the seasonal changes that we go through. If you look at the full scale of what we

(continued on page 8)

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## Ocean Shores restaurants (continued)

offer, there's something for everybody, breakfast, lunch and dinner, all different price points, a variety of entrée options and the usual things you'd expect if you were in a coastal town," Meersman said.

"But vacationers coming in might want to have something they are more accustomed to as well – beautiful steaks, hand-crafted deserts, hand-crafted cocktails, a pretty lengthy appetizer list, a great happy hour. All of these things come together," he said.



Authentic Mexican food by Taqueria Los Tres Figgies.

Photo courtesy of Taqueria Los Tres Figgies

Recently, Oyhut Bay hired a new executive chef from the greater Seattle area, Seth Cobb, and the staff took a look at the menu to determine what might be missing.

"Oysters," Meersman said. "Guess what? We now have oysters on the half shell."

"Our goal with the restaurant and with Corks and Taps opening almost two years ago is to create a food and beverage experience where people can dine their way through their vacation," Meersman said.

"Every time they come in, they can try something different," he said.

### Family roots

On the other hand, if you're just looking for a more specialized culinary experience, there's the family Figueroa-run Taqueria Los Tres Figgies 2, named for the three sons of Jose and Cindy Figueroa.

"We've got three boys, so that's where the name comes from," Cindy said during a lunch interview. Two of them now work in the restaurant.

Their menu is the same as that of their other restaurant on Dock Avenue in Westport: Tacos of five varieties (asada, chicken, al pastor, fish, lengua); "quessaabirrias" (grilled quesadillas stuffed with cheese, onions, cilantro and a side of birria broth); the grande burrito, picaditas and mulitas.

"My wife and I are doing authentic Mexican food and we want everybody to come and try it. ... It's a time for us to put great food out there," Jose Figueroa said.

The family connections and longtime associations are a key ingredient for the success of Bennet's Fish Shack as well.

**"We wanted to have a local fish and chips and chowder house. A place that is consistent in high quality, generous portions, and a clean, friendly environment."**

**– Ron Lambert, Bennett's Fish Shack**

Jose and Cindy Figueroa, for example, first started working in the Harbor at the original Bennett's family restaurant in Grayland, then at Bennet's Fish Shack in Westport, as well as working for Bennett's family co-owner Ron Lambert at the now-closed Ocean Grill in Ocean Shores. Lambert now has Figueroa's nephew working for him at the local Fish Shack.

"My wife has always been a cook, and her Mexican food is the best," Jose said of how they decided to forge out



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Photo courtesy of Bennett's Fish Shack

**Bennett's Fish Shack is popular for its delicious fish and chips and many other menu choices.**

on their own. "Mexican food is a little more challenging because of all the condiments you have to make taste good, and it's all fresh food we do."

"I started making meals at home and selling them to friends," Cindy said. "We decided we needed a business to make full orders for the customers."

The Figueroas opened their new location in Ocean Shores last September after visitors kept coming into their Westport location encouraging them to expand across the Harbor.

"They would say, 'We need this in Ocean Shores so we don't have to drive all the way here,'" Cindy said.

When Bennett's Fish Shack expanded from Westport to Ocean Shores more than a decade ago, similar sentiments and loyal customers followed. Ron Lambert explained that the Bennett family had a well-planned concept able to weather the storms of winter downturns and unforeseen circumstances like the pandemic.

"It started out to be a well-thought-out conception of what a restaurant

in a small ocean town – like Westport or Ocean Shores – could look like," Lambert said. "We wanted to have a local fish and chips and chowder house. A place that is consistent in high quality, generous portions, and a clean, friendly environment."

The menu and the service doesn't vary with the seasons: "We stay within our own wheelhouse. We just know what works for us."

### Community concepts

It's not all about food when you stop into the restaurants that have been most successful over the years. Galway Bay, Bennett's, Emily's at QBRC and Oyhut Bay Grill also play leading roles in the beach community at large.

Galway Bay brings thousands to town every fall with the Celtic Music Festival; Bennett's; Oyhut Bay and QBRC help sponsor many productions at the Ocean Shores Convention Center or host events from weddings to concerts,

holiday parties to non-profit gatherings, even some public meetings.

"For my family, it's really important that we connect with the community," Lambert stressed.

Galway Bay this past year celebrated its 30th year in Ocean Shores, a testament to the vision of original owner William "Liam" Gibbons (now semi-retired) and his partner Chris Doyle. The summer of 2024 for Galway Bay represents being able to "fully embrace the areas that we have available for people," Doyle said.

"We're finally fully staffed post-Covid. We are going to be able to offer patio service during the day. We are dog-friendly on the patio. We'll have regular tastings (wines and whiskeys) in our tasting room. We have the largest Irish whiskey selection on the coast," Doyle added.

Galway Bay also hosts year-round entertainment, with live music every weekend. There's a cigar humidor and

*(continued on page 10)*

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# Ocean Shores restaurants (continued)

outdoor heated cigar puffing area. "We've got 10,000 square feet of Irish heaven, that's what I call it," Doyle said.

At La Spiaggia, Doug Cox credits the local community with helping to spread the word about the restaurant, and he and his wife and co-owner, Rhonda Wirkman, invited about two dozen of their most loyal customers to be part of the scene for the "America's Best Restaurants" video shoot.

The video is scheduled to be released this summer, and La Spiaggia will be able to view it in advance and then use it to promote the restaurant on social media platforms.

Cox has seen photos of the early days of Ocean Shores and wanted to rekindle a special feeling for visitors. "It was like a fancy place to come. It wasn't just a place to come for the beach. You stay

overnight at one of the hotels. You get dressed up and go enjoy a white tablecloth dinner," Cox said.

You may come to play at the beach, why not stay and dine there too?

"I do feel like there is a resurgence coming back," Cox said, noting there are months in the winter when he and Rhonda wonder if the personal success they feel is equal to financial success they also seek.

**"We've got 10,000 square feet of Irish heaven, that's what I call it." – Chris Doyle, Galway Bay Restaurant**

"Personal success, we are so happy to be here. People love the food, they're happy to come, and it's bigger than I thought it would ever be," he said.



At Galway Bay Irish Pub, bangers and mash and shepherd's pie are what's for lunch.

At Oyhut Bay, a new events building will be opening this summer, with weddings already being booked for July and August. In addition to serving restaurant customers, that means the Oyhut Grill also will be providing catering, something the new chef has experience with.

"We want to provide really great service for travelers coming in and locals as well," Meersman said. "Our goal with all of our menus is to have something for everybody." **CL**



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## Beach Dining Choices

The best list of Ocean Shores dining establishments is maintained by those who manage the local hotels, with summer customers always searching for advice on where to go. That list is certainly getting longer by the season.

"We definitely appreciate having a variety of places to send people," said Shannon Rubin, manager of the Canterbury Inn. "I definitely think over the last eight years it has gotten more diverse.

"Some of my personal favorites are Thai Fusion (They possibly have the best Massaman Curry I've had.) and Taqueria Los Tres Figgies. (The pastor is fantastic and anyone who hasn't tried the elote (corn) is missing out.) La Spiaggia is always a great choice and they will accommodate any dietary restrictions and also have amazing, from scratch desserts."

For more upscale dining, she recommends Oyhut Bay Grill. And, for something quick, she suggests the Aft Galley on Chance a la Mer: "It has a Chicago dog that rivals actual Chicago dogs."

## Ocean Shores Summer Dining List

### Aft Galley Hot Dogs

185 W Chance a la Mer NW

### Bennett's Fish Shack:

*Outside/Dine-In/Curbside/Take-out,*

105 W Chance a la Mer NW, (360) 289-2847

### Copalis Cove Pub & Eatery

798 Ocean Shores Blvd., (360) 289-4400

### Corks & Taps

130 Oyhut Bay Blvd. Suite 101

(360) 505-8422

### Dugan's Pizza

690 Ocean Shores Blvd. NW, (360) 289-2330

### Galway Bay Irish Pub & Restaurant

880 Point Brown Ave. NE, (360) 289-2300

### Home Port

857 Point Brown Ave. NW, (360) 289-2600

### Hot Mama's Kitchen

806 Ocean Shores Blvd., (360) 940-7211

### La Spiaggia Ristorante

729 Point Brown Ave. NW, (360) 289-2328

### Los IV Hermanos

824 Point Brown Ave. NE, (360) 289-0481

### Lucky Dragon Cantonese

860 Point Brown Ave. NE, (360) 289-2868

### Mike's Seafood

830 Point Brown Ave. NE, (360) 289-0532

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676 Ocean Shores Blvd. NW,

(360) 940-7314

### Oyhut Bay Grill:

*(Upstairs bar with full menu)*

404 Salmonberry Lane SW, (360) 940-7138

### Pizza Factory

131 E Chance a la Mer, (360) 940-9007

### Porthole Pub

893 Point Brown Ave. NW, (360) 289-4469

### Emily's Restaurant

*At the Quinalt Beach Resort and Casino*

78 State Route -115, (360) 289-3466

### Red Genie Pizza

766 Ocean Shores Blvd. NW, (360) 289-8144

### Rusty Anchor Grill & Pub

*At the Polynesian,*

615 Ocean Shores Blvd. SW, (360) 289-3315

### Shore Shack

698 Ocean Shores Blvd. SW, (360) 289-0900

### Taqueria Los Tres Figgies

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Customers enjoy Oyhut Bay Grill's outdoor dining area.

# Local woman launches challenge for vegan options

When Lisa Kemmerer hosted a friend for a visit to Ocean Shores, she came face-to-face with a dilemma when they went out to dine – the lack of vegan choices.

“I know we can do better,” she said. “We have good restaurants. They just need incentives.” So, Kemmerer has started the

“Fine(ally) Dining Hospitality Challenge.”

“To join the challenge, restaurants include a new dessert or soup and main dish that is clearly marked as either a universal meal (UM) or vegan (V) on the menu. Joining the challenge includes a colorful indicator for the window/door to let people know that



your restaurant is participating,” she said.

So far, eight restaurants have taken her up on the challenge: La Spiaggia, Thian’s Thai Fusion, Taqueria Los Tres Figgies 2, Hot Mamas, Surely Sweet Frozen Yogurt, Galway Bay, Aft Galley, Porthole Pub, Corks & Taps, Ocean Beach Roasters & Bistro and Beach Treasures Coffee.

In fact, La Spiaggia’s chef Doug Cox recently hosted an all-vegan dinner-and-dessert event.

“We see a lot of people asking for that now,” Chef Cox said. “Our menu can be made vegan. The sauce we use is vegan, so it makes it very easy.”

“(Vegans) want to be able to dine out in Ocean Shores, and we want to dine where we don’t need to ask for special dishes or inquire about prices for altered dishes,” Kemmerer said.

She encourages people to review the dishes online at HappyCow.net, a Vegan website.

For more information: [lisa.tapestryofpeace@gmail.org](mailto:lisa.tapestryofpeace@gmail.org)

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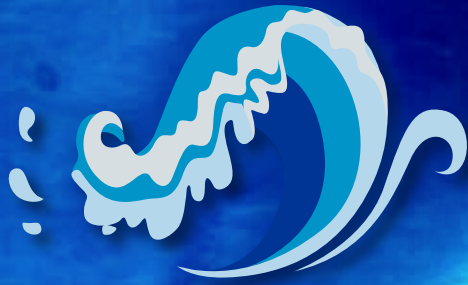
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Photo by Katie McGregor

Art has always been a part of Hoquiam painter Rick Woods' life.

HOQUIAM

## Woods' watercolors leave realistic impression of Harbor's beauty

BY KATIE MCGREGOR

**R**ichard "Rick" Eaves Woods has taken on countless roles throughout his life, but art has been a constant through it all.

"I have been doing art all my life," the 73-year-old Hoquiam artist said.

Woods' earliest memory of art is sitting at the kitchen table with his mom, watching her draw a train out of boxes and circles. She encouraged him to make his own attempt, and the rest is history.

Woods was born in Seattle but attended high school in Concord, California, and has been all around the United States since then. He pursued fine arts training at California State University,

Chico; Indiana University, South Bend, and University of Nevada, Reno. And he served in the Coast Guard twice, which lent itself to more travel.

**"I do realism with a touch of impressionism. Mostly realistic, but tip-toeing along the impressionistic borderline."** — Rick Woods

"I've been all the way around North America by water," Woods said. "From Milwaukee up through the Great Lakes, down the East Coast to Panama, up the West Coast as far up into the Aleutians as you can get."

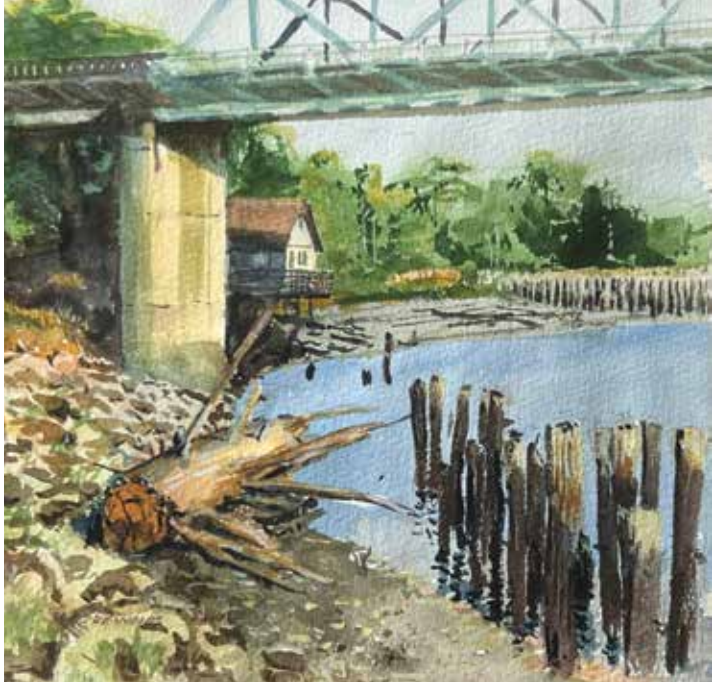
Woods was living in Reno when he and his wife, Brenda, took a trip to Portland and decided to drive up to Grays Harbor to visit his sister, Diane Stanley, in Ocean Shores. Rick and Brenda started perusing Grays Harbor real estate listings and bought the first house they looked at. They've been living in that Hoquiam house since 2018.

Woods' time spent outside traveling is evident through his work. While he uses photographs to create some of his

*(continued on page 16)*

**Art subjects clockwise from top left: Hoquiam River, under the bridge, 2023; Sailboats at dry dock in Port Townsend, 2023; Lady Washington in Aberdeen, 2022; 7th Street Theatre, Hoquiam, 2023; Satsop River bridge, 2023; Cape Disappointment Lighthouse, Pacific County, 2022.**

Art images courtesy of Rick Woods.





## Woods' watercolors

(continued)

pieces, he also does quite a bit of en plein air painting, meaning he takes his supplies outside and paints whatever is in front of him.

Viewers might recognize some familiar scenes included in his portfolio. He's depicted the likes of Kalaloch's "Tree of Life," the Satsop River bridges, 7th Street Theatre, Lake Quinault, and countless other local landmarks.

**"Compositionally, I'm looking at the large masses of color and patterns, trying to not get out into the weeds with all of the details."**

— Rick Woods

"I do realism with a touch of impressionism," Woods said. "Mostly realistic, but tip-toeing along the impressionistic borderline. I tend to put the most detail in the center of interest. Compositionally, I'm looking at the large masses of color and patterns, trying to not get out into the weeds with all of the details."

His work maintains a fine balance of being just detailed enough to capture the essence of a place without being overworked, which can happen easily with watercolor.



From top: Quileute River, Mora Road, 2019; Lifeboat at the Westport Maritime Museum, 2022; Westport Marina, 2023.

"Nobody ever warned me that watercolor was hard," Woods recalled. "You start understanding what to expect when you apply paint and pigment in a certain way in different conditions. That's what's shaped my style more than anything, you just learn to do it over the years."

Woods has won some awards for his work throughout the years, starting all the way back in high school. As a sophomore he entered Concord (California) Art Association's 1967 annual show and took second place.

Since then, he has been included in various publications, received some "Best of Show" and "People's Choice" awards in Reno, and has more recently







Sharky's Store in Ocean Shores, 2022.

been entering more high-end national art shows.

Though he has been creating art for as long as he can remember, Woods officially launched his full-time art career in 2009. Before that he was in the Coast Guard, worked as a public affairs specialist, communications director, photography assistant, magazine editor, a construction site supervisor, and more.

His eclectic resume of experiences has helped equip him for his latest role in the Grays Harbor arts community.

Since October 2023, Woods has been working to help determine the future of Art Drives, a local non-profit organization that gives artists the opportunity to open their studios to the public for tours.

As committee chair, Woods is taking the organization in a new direction and is in the process of relaunching it as the Grays Harbor Open Studio Tour Project through the Harbor Art Guild.

"It's a tradition that's been growing in popularity," Woods explained. "It's an extremely handy thing for artists who live in an area with limited galleries. We're trying to invite members of the local public and outside areas to come get a guide map and visit the artists in this area."

This fall's Grays Harbor Open Studio Tour is set for Oct. 5 and 6, he said. All local artists are invited to participate

(continued on page 18)

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## Woods' watercolors *(continued)*

and open their studios to the public.

"Some people are just working on their kitchen table, some people have full studios," Woods said. They're all welcome to be a part of the Grays Harbor Open Studio Tour Project and can do so by contacting Woods.

Woods' own work can be viewed and purchased on his website at [woodsarts.artspan.com/home](http://woodsarts.artspan.com/home) and at the Aberdeen Art Center, 200 W Market St, Aberdeen. He will also be at the Westport Art Festival (Aug. 17-18) as a facilitator for the members of Plein Aire Washington Artists.

Woods is on Facebook at Richard Eaves Woods Arts. He can also be reached at [rewoodsarts@gmail.com](mailto:rewoodsarts@gmail.com) and (775) 530-1930. 



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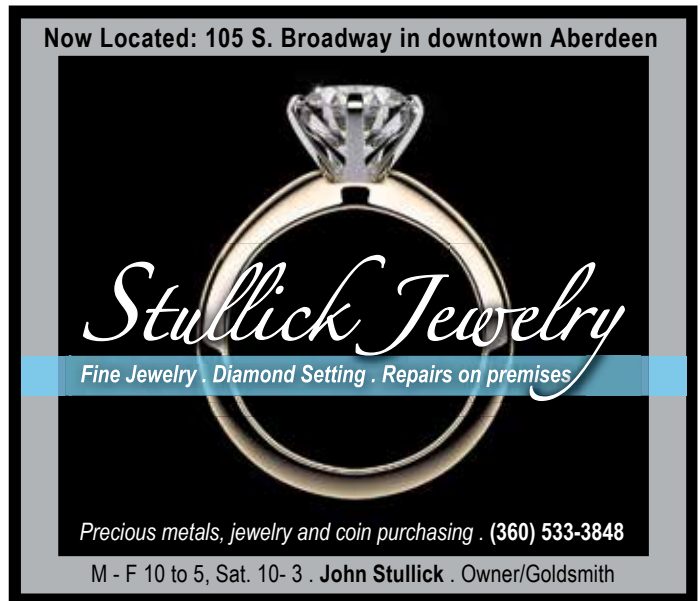


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Photo by Keith Krueger

Sam, Joy, Ian and Emma

# Dorsch family builds a life in four-part harmony

BY JULIANA WALLACE

In a world where the vibrations from Taylor Swift’s Eras concerts measure on the Richter scale, it might be easy to conclude that classical music no longer holds relevance. But Joy Dorsch, who teaches music at Grays Harbor College, finds that centuries-old music still resonates deeply, even with teenagers.

“I love being able to explore classical music with my students,” she observed. “We’ll be playing examples of 16th century songs, and I’ll look over to see my student wiping tears away. This music is powerful.”

Joy’s husband, Ian Dorsch, who also teaches music at GHC, agrees. Though he entered music school intending to

become a rock star, classical music won him over.

“It was a slow, multi-year process of having my mind blown wide open. What’s so wonderful about classical music is that you get to decide what it means to you,” he explained.

**“Singing as a family quartet honestly may be my favorite of all the music I do.”**

– Joy Dorsch

From the start, the Dorsch family has connected through music. Joy and Ian met on their first day in Music 101 at Western Washington University in Bellingham. Nearly 30 years later, they

continue to collaborate musically, co-directing the Grays Harbor College Opera Workshop, in addition to their vocal studios and other projects.

Both Joy and Ian grew up surrounded by music from a young age. Joy, who grew up in Bellingham, vividly remembers singing an operatic aria at the age of 14. “I finally felt like I wasn’t trying to cram my voice into a little space,” she remembered. She never looked back.

Ian, on the other hand, performed in a folk-rock group with his family throughout Washington and Oregon. The family even performed as one of the official musical acts for the Washington Centennial celebration in 1988. Consequently, by the time he started Aberdeen High School, he had the skills to write, record and produce music.

Following college graduation, Ian took a full-time music position at St. Mary Catholic Church in Anacortes before the family returned to Aberdeen in 2004. He directed a professional vocal quartet and several choirs, often while carrying his infant daughter Emma in a baby carrier on his chest.

While Ian and Joy have made it a point not to push their children into music, music settles into the soul, somehow creating an inescapable rhythm. As a result, Emma and her younger brother Sam are growing into serious musicians in their own right.

Twenty-year-old Emma, for instance, recently sang as one of five finalists in the Music Teachers National Association national competition in Atlanta, the first vocalist from Grays Harbor to advance that far. This fall, she will follow in her parents' footsteps, studying vocal performance at Western Washington University, with the intent to sing opera.

Eighteen-year-old Sam, who graduates from Aberdeen High School this month, also plans to attend music school,

though he finds his vibe in collaborative music and hopes to study music education. Currently, he sings in the AHS jazz choir, plays in the marching band, mentors younger drummers, and plays cello in the school orchestra.

**“We have a lineage of really extraordinary musical leaders in our little Harbor town, people who saw an opportunity to create something remarkable.”**

**– Ian Dorsch**

With four musicians running in a hundred different directions, finding time together as a family requires some creativity. The fact that both siblings study voice with their parents helps. It helps, too, that the Dorsch family forms a natural quartet, with the parents singing mezzo and tenor, and Emma and Sam covering high soprano and bass baritone.



Photo by Keith Krueger

*Joy and Emma singing a selection from "Handel's Messiah," Grays Harbor Opera Workshop at GHC Bishop Center, December 2022.*

They love to sing together, whether in concert halls, church sanctuaries, or simply around the kitchen table. And after countless hours of practice, their voices blend effortlessly.

“Singing as a family quartet honestly may be my favorite of all the music I do,” Joy remarked. “Besides, practicing music has allowed us to be together.”

*(continued on page 22)*

*Joy Dorsch (center in long red dress) as Gertrude, Emma Dorsch as Contrary Mary (red plaid dress, left), with Ian Dorsch, in the foreground, directing "Babes in Toyland" Grays Harbor Opera Workshop at GHC Bishop Center, December 2023.*

Photo by Keith Krueger





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Photo by Keith Krueger

Emma and Sam Dorsch as Gianetta and Don Alhambra in "The Gondoliers," GHC Bishop Center, June 2023.

## Dorsch family *(continued)*

Opera and musical theater have also given the family hours of rehearsal time together through the years. Ian and Joy started the Grays Harbor Opera Workshop in 2016, inspired after observing their voice students get excited about watching professional opera in Seattle.

That first year, they presented a one-act comic opera by Gilbert and Sullivan. Before long, they made the quantum leap to preparing full length operas such as "Hansel and Gretel" and "The Marriage of Figaro."

"It's one of those things where you look back and say, 'I can't believe we pulled it off!' But we figured it out," laughed Ian.

Both Emma and Sam have performed with the workshop. In fact, it was while singing the part of Amahl in "Amahl and the Night Visitors," that Emma realized she had found what she was meant to do.

Both Emma and Sam will perform as soloists in the Grays Harbor Opera Workshop performance on June 22 at the Bishop Center. Billed as "A Celebration of Mozart," the evening will include the Mozart's "Requiem," as well as staged scenes from "Magic Flute" and "The Marriage of Figaro."

**“What’s so wonderful about classical music is that you get to decide what it means to you.”**

**– Ian Dorsch**

Open to the public, the Opera Workshop has become a cultural highlight for the Grays Harbor community. While Ian and Joy feel proud that they have been able to help create something with staying power, they recognize the wealth of musical talent in the Harbor and the

*Emma Dorsch (blue dress, center), Joy Dorsch (behind her at left), in “Babes in Toyland,” Grays Harbor Opera Workshop at GHC Bishop Center, December 2023.*

Photo by Keith Krueger



*Sam Dorsch, center, in “Babes in Toyland,” Grays Harbor Opera Workshop at GHC Bishop Center, December 2023.*

leaders that have made that possible, from Bob and Nancy Neisinger to Pat Wilhelm, Brad Duffy, and many, many others.

“We have a lineage of really extraordinary musical leaders in our little Harbor town, people who saw an opportunity to create something remarkable. I don’t know a lot of other places that have fostered that kind of a community,” emphasized Ian.

A significant part of that legacy has to do with administrators at Grays Harbor College and the high schools who prioritize the arts, making it a point to bring in quality people and empower them to do their thing.

Meanwhile, as Emma and Sam spread their wings and find their musical paths, Joy and Ian will continue doing what they love, creating and collaborating, adding to the rich musical heritage here in Grays Harbor. **CL**

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# High school students awarded for artistic endeavors

STORY BY GAIL GREENWOOD AYRES

The creativity of Grays Harbor high school students was on display as 264 students from seven different schools submitted 391 pieces of art for this spring's Juried High School Art Show at the Grays Harbor College Art Gallery.

"The mixed media art really blew me away this year in particular," said Haley Adair, a Grays Harbor College library professional, who helps organize the event. "I was moved by the sheer number of entries, but also the increase in school participation from only four to seven!"

Local artists Jade Black and Mark James judged the five categories of art submitted from Aberdeen, Hoquiam, Montesano, Elma, North River, Ocosta and Oakville high schools.

Two Elma students took top honors. **Savannah Brewer earned Best in Show**



for "Fruit Punch," while Nikolett Kalo received an honorable mention for "The bug/rage." In addition, the overall high school and honored teacher was **Katherine Kuehne from Elma High School**. To determine this award, the number of entries relative to how many awards each school receives are calculated.

"The high school student show is my favorite of our annual events here in the gallery because of the spectrum of talent, motif and creativity," Adair said.

### The 2024 Art Show winners include:

**3-D Art – First: "Life's A Picnic" by Laynie Yakovich, Aberdeen;** Second: "Tug" by Xarana Donlay, Ocosta; Third: "Paperback Mystery" by Carmella Gumaelius, North River. Honorable Mentions: "Siren of the Harbor" by Katelynn Pacheco, "Teenage Wasteland" by Gracie Bryson, "Tic-Tac-Yumm!" by Cielo Soria Escobar, "Jewel of the Sea" by Esmerelda Vega, and "Coral Queen" by Meagan King, all of Aberdeen.

**2-D Black and White Art – First: "Sid Vicious" by Savannah Brewer, Elma;** Second: "Winona Reimagined" by Katelynn Pacheco, Aberdeen; Third: "My Mother... Raises Parrots" by Carmella Gumaelius, North River. Honorable Mentions: "Broadway" by Kaeden Baldridge, Ocosta; "Grays Harbor" by Wendy Neil, Aberdeen; "Wood Duck" by Nevaeh Patterson, Elma.

**2-D Color Art –First: "Tamara De Lempicka**

**Study" by Juliana Philamalee, Hoquiam;** Second: "Artimesia Gentileschi" by Michael Garcia, Hoquiam; Third: "Oil Spill" by Ava Weimar, Ocosta. Honorable Mentions: "Garnet Evolution" by Marisa Frank, Ocosta; "Hall of Dreams" by Penny Park, Ocosta; "Clueless" by Amy Ritodera Cruz, Elma; "The Right Angle" by Hannah Wlodaczyk, Montesano; "Family Photo" by Savannah Brewer, Elma.

**Mixed Media – First: "Bear with Salmon" by Sophie Olive, Ocosta;** Second: "Butterflies" by Karissa Kaarvand, Aberdeen; Third: "Composition #7" by Jakob Bowers, Aberdeen. Honorable Mentions: "Azteca" by Bryan Manuel Antonio, Aberdeen; "Tendons" by Deianira Thymiakos, Montesano; "Dream Lantern" by Peyton Sturgill, Aberdeen; "Inside Me" by Kai Hayter, Ocosta; "Space Selfie" by Payton Kaplan, Montesano.

**Photography – First: "Lights" by Stephen Byrd, Aberdeen;** Second: "Water Web" by Allisson Lopez, Aberdeen; Third: "Webbed Metal" by Landon Creamer, Aberdeen. Honorable Mentions: "A Lunar Landscape of Craters" by Fisher Ashby, Ocosta; "North Coast Grass" by Ronin Rutzer, Ocosta; "Measure Twice, Cut Once" by Isaiah Bird, Oakville; "Rabbit Scissors" by Koner Burnett, Oakville; "Balloon Oreo" by Kannabis Atkins of Oakville; "Hammer Head" by Laela Baker, Oakville; "Vinyl Oreo" by Natalie Atkins, Oakville; "Finger Food" by Hunter Russell, Oakville. 

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*From kitchen to kiln*

# Suzie Holt creates glass art in a fiery furnace

STORY & PHOTOS BY JULIANA WALLACE

**G**lass artist Suzie Holt began her art career in the kitchen. Specifically, in culinary school. Fresh out of high school, Holt earned her culinary arts degree in Seattle. Near the end of the program, she found herself sneaking up to the baking department to learn cake decorating.

After graduation, she moved to Grays Harbor, eventually running a successful bakery business, Suzie's Cakes, for 25 years.

Some people paint with brushes and acrylics. Holt painted with frosting.

"Basically, every day I was drawing on cakes, sometimes 30 to 40 cakes a day," she recalled. "When you're doing it all

**"Working with glass is so addictive!"**

**– Suzie Holt**

day, every day, you figure out what looks good and what doesn't."

While Holt honed her art skills decorating elaborate custom cakes, her sister-in-law, Arlene Huber, discovered glass art. Huber would take a class and then enlist Holt as a pupil so she could practice teaching the techniques she learned. They started with stained glass, then moved to fused glass, and Holt caught the bug.

Fused glass involves joining two or more pieces of glass together by heating them in a kiln. Glass artists use many forms of glass, from glass sheets to crushed glass (known as frit), glass rods, fine glass strings (known as vitrigraph or stringers), and more.

Artists also shape glass using various types of molds and achieve different effects depending on the firing process. For example, a full fuse involves heating glass to a very high temperature so that the pieces of glass blend smoothly together. Alternatively, a tack fuse uses a lower temperature, gluing individual pieces of glass together but allowing them to retain their original shape and texture.

With so many variables, the possibilities are endless, which is part of what attracted Holt to the medium. She laughingly describes her style as "very random," and she loves experimenting with new materials and techniques.





"I've taken tons of classes from Johnny Camp at Opal Art Glass in Cosmopolis over the years," she said. "Working with glass is so addictive!"

When she has the opportunity, she works with glass every day, often spending hours down in her studio inside her Aberdeen home. Glass shops like Irene Richardson's Happy Glass Art Supply in Hoquiam or Northwest Art Glass in Redmond are her candy stores, as enticing as a fabric store to a quilter. She uses found glass, as well, from intriguing scrap glass to pre-cut figures sourced online and even old marbles. The results range from fanciful mushroom forests to elegant bowls.

Stepping into her kitchen, for example, guests immediately notice an arresting backsplash created from panels of fused and stained glass. One of her early projects, she used glass, thin copper, and even actual shells to create a sea theme running the length of the room. She has also created platters, pendants, hearts, and even landscapes.

Holt particularly enjoys creating landscapes, pieces that look like paintings with brilliant colors and stunning detail. The landscapes require multiple firings in the kiln, layering color and texture. She begins with a sheet of glass in her

background color, using finely crushed glass to paint in leaves and shadows, clouds, ducks, reflections. Thicker strips of glass become tree trunks.

"There are some artists out there who create scenes in glass that look like oil paintings," explained Holt. "I'm not quite there yet, but I'm learning all the time."

**"I think everyone is artistic. We all have our passion. When you are tinkering around and find yourself doing something that brings you joy, pursue it."**

**– Suzie Holt**

Glass offers many opportunities to learn, presenting unique challenges due to specific properties and rules. For instance, cooling fired glass too quickly will stress the glass and cause it to crack. Likewise, cutting glass requires the right tools and an understanding of how glass will break on a curve. And incompatible types of glass simply will not fuse together.

*(continued on page 31)*

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## Suzie Holt *(continued)*

Like all glass artists, Holt has learned some of those rules the hard way. On the other hand, she has accomplished beautiful effects experimenting with all different types of glass. A tour of her studio turns up uniquely formed scrap glass donated from blown glass artists, as well as dozens of molds and a wall filled with jars of frit in a rainbow of colors.

Holt finds joy working with glass, and she recognizes the power of art, of creating, for all of us. The trick, she said, lies in giving ourselves permission to explore, to play.

"I think everyone is artistic. We all have our passion," Holt explained. "When you are tinkering around and find yourself doing something that brings you joy, pursue it. That could be tying flies, making

spoon rings, stacking rocks, whatever."

For those interested in exploring fused glass, Holt and others in the area, occasionally teach classes. For instance, she recently taught a class in making fused glass hearts, a wonderful and accessible introduction to the art. To find out more about possible classes, or to purchase Holt's art, check out the Gallery of Ocean Shores. [CL](#)

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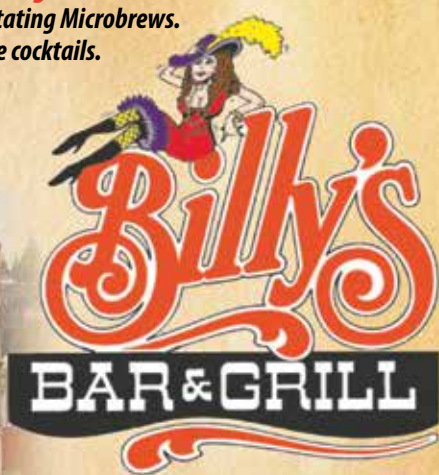
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GHC show set for July 18-21

# 'Big Fish' promises to be a performance of mythical proportions



Paige Mellon-Jackson, director of "Big Fish," July 18-21 at the Grays Harbor College, Bishop Center.

STORY & PHOTOS BY KATIE MCGREGOR

Local theater aficionados and casual attendees alike can expect to be dazzled by the magic and whimsy of the Bishop Center for Performing Arts' production of "Big Fish" this July.

"I just want to bring the magic to the Harbor and I'm excited about the creativity of bringing that to life on the stage," said "Big Fish" director Paige Mellon-Jackson.

Originally from California, Paige Mellon-Jackson has lived in Grays Harbor since 2000 and is the supervisor for diagnostic imaging radiology at Harbor Regional Health by day. But, for more than 10 years, she has spent countless hours

outside of her day job to bring local stage productions to life.

She was introduced to theater at the age of 12 and has since done everything from helping backstage to running soundboards and spotlights. Mellon-Jackson worked as a stage manager for Brad Duffy, former communications and theater arts instructor for Grays Harbor College, and has now stepped into the role of director for the Bishop Center's summer musical productions.

**"How do you bring whimsical alive on stage? You add lights and you add passion, and the acting, that's the key."**

**— Paige Mellon-Jackson, director**

This summer she will direct "Big Fish," a 2013 musical with music and lyrics by Andrew Lippa. It's based upon Daniel Wallace's 1998 novel, "Big Fish: A Novel of Mythic Proportions," and the 2003 film "Big Fish" directed by Tim Burton.

"Big Fish" tells the story of Edward Bloom, a traveling salesman who lives life to the fullest and entralls those

around him with his tall tales, and his relationship with his son, Will, who is determined to find the truth in his father's stories.

As a story with dual timelines and visual depictions of fantastical stories full of mermaids, witches, giants, and love, the musical is full of bright, colorful scenes with unique set pieces correlating to these subjects.

While the story may seem extravagant on the surface, it's about family at its core.

"It's about morality and fatherhood," Mellon-Jackson said. "Shows like this are about thinking outside the box. How do you bring whimsical alive on stage? You add lights and you add passion, and the acting, that's the key. You can make the audience believe anything. It's all about setting the stage and setting the story."

The work to bring a story like this to stage begins months in advance. As director, it's Mellon-Jackson's job to create a plan for rehearsals, scheduling what needs to be accomplished each night.

"It's about thinking ahead about whether you need dry ice, costumes, and additional people for scenic design," Mellon-Jackson explained. "Then it's also about promo spots on the radio or singing at service clubs. It's about getting the word out."

Once the pre-production plan is in place, auditions take place and the show starts to come to life.

"Big Fish" auditions were held in May, which only gives the cast and crew roughly two months to



(continued on page 34)

## 'Big Fish' performance

(continued)

rehearse and prepare before they perform in July.

"We use Grays Harbor College classrooms to rehearse. Then, working with Dr. Bill Dyer, we set up days where we actually sing with the orchestra. When you have a live (orchestra) pit, everybody needs to make adjustments," Mellon-Jackson said.

The annual Bishop Center Summer Musical started as a student production but has since evolved into a full community-driven effort. Cast and crew members are often comprised of students and community members alike, some completely new to theater, others with years of experience behind them.

For students, the Bishop Center Summer Musical is the next step when they graduate from 7th Street Kids productions at age 16. Mellon-Jackson believes that it's a good environment to be in because of the positivity and support in the local theater community.

"The support is genuine. I'm a big advocate for anybody needing a voice that doesn't always have a family to support them."

Community members dreaming of participating in a Bishop Center Production don't need any theater experience. Everyone is welcome to attend auditions even if they're just there to see how it works.

*Mellon-Jackson envisions how to stage "Big Fish," which will be performed in the Bishop Center July 18-21.*




*Mellon-Jackson, spends many hours with the script long before rehearsals begin.*

"Musicals generally have ensembles, so even if you don't have much experience there's usually a role for anybody," Mellon Jackson said.

"Big Fish" has about 20 roles and an ensemble, but these numbers can vary show to show. If being in the spotlight isn't appealing, there is plenty of behind-the-scenes work to do for any production.

"The talent that this Harbor has is beyond amazing," Mellon-Jackson said. "Theater is an amazing place for people to be themselves, but also not themselves. Every person I work with I treasure deeply, because I learn something from every one of them. That's why I keep coming back."

"Big Fish" will be performed at the Bishop Center July 18 - 21. Tickets can be purchased in advance at [www.ghc.edu/bishop](http://www.ghc.edu/bishop) or at the door. More information about auditions and upcoming productions can be found on Facebook at "Bishop Center for Performing Arts." 

## Summer theater on the Harbor

In addition to "Big Fish" at the Grays Harbor College Bishop Center in Aberdeen, other drama productions offered this summer in Grays Harbor include:

### 7th Street Kids

**313 7th St., Hoquiam**

The 7th Street Kids program will once again present two different plays this summer with casts comprised of Grays Harbor kids, ranging in age from 7 to 16.

The first show is Disney's "**Finding Nemo (KIDS)**" by Lindsay Anderson with music by Kristen Anderson-Lopez and Robert Lopez. Directed by Karin Noble, performances are set for **7 p.m. July 12 and 13, and 2 p.m. July 14** at the 7th Street Theatre in Hoquiam.

The plot, made popular by the movie "Finding Nemo," tells the story of Marlin, an over-protective clownfish living in the Great Barrier Reef, who goes on a great adventure when his son Nemo is captured and taken to Sydney.



This year's 7th Street Kids' six-week workshop presents Disney's "**High School Musical 2 JR.**" by David Simpatico. Directed by Kendall Cavin, performances are at **7:30 p.m. Aug. 1, 2, 3, and at 2 p.m. Aug. 4.**

This musical is set during summer break. Troy, Gabriella, and the East High gang are at Lava Springs Country Club for their summer jobs. While Sharpay schemes to steal Troy's heart from Gabriella, her brother Ryan has his sights set on winning the Star Dazzle Award at the annual talent show. The pressure is on and the gang has to remember their motto: "All for one, and one for all."





### Stage West Community Theatre

With the theme, "Beyond Wild," this year's **Wearable Art Show** is set for **June 1, with the doors opening at 6:30 p.m.** at 120 W. Chance a la Mer N.W. in Ocean Shores.

Artists are arriving from around the state to participate in a fast-paced and exciting runway show featuring every imaginable crazy "outfit." Tickets can be purchased online or at the door.

In addition, Stage West invites the public to attend its **Audience Participation Mystery Dinner Event July 20** at 832 Ocean Shores Blvd. N.W., Ocean Shores. More information can be found online at [www.stagewestcommunitytheatre.org](http://www.stagewestcommunitytheatre.org).

### Driftwood Players

120 E 3rd St, Aberdeen

While the Driftwood Players are not producing any shows of their own this summer, the group is hosting viewings of three different London shows at the Driftwood Theater in Aberdeen.



Yes, the National Theater Live comes to Driftwood Players! National Theater Live is a program hosted by the Royal National Theater in London. It broadcasts live performances of its productions to cinemas and arts centers around the world.

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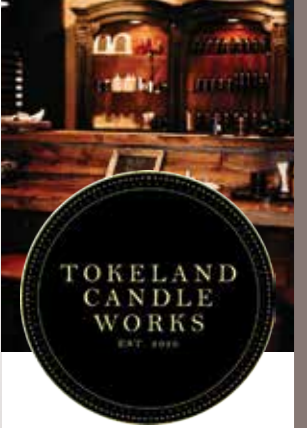
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**"Dear England"** by James Graham is a fictionalized account of the highs and lows of England's football teams and the role they play in the national morale as they struggle to climb to the top. "Dear England" will be broadcast at **7:30 p.m. June 28.**

**"King Lear"** by Shakespeare is a classic tragedy loosely based on the mythological Leir of Britain. As he grows old, King Lear divides his power and land between his daughters, Goneril and Regan, who feign

affection to gain favor. "King Lear" will be broadcast at **7:30 p.m. June 29.**

**"Fleabag"**, written and performed by Phoebe Waller-Bridge, is an award-winning play that inspired, BBC's hit TV series "Fleabag." Unfiltered and self-centric Fleabag is a modern woman navigating family, friendships, and a struggling guinea-pig cafe. "Fleabag" will be broadcast at **7:30 p.m. June 30.**

Tickets for the shows can be purchased online or at the door. **CC**

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**June 2** Sunday 7:00pm  
**Grays Harbor Symphony**  
The Spring Concerto Contest winner will also perform. Conducted by Dr. William Dyer. Tickets \$15, 12 & under free

**June 5** Wednesday 7:00pm  
**GHC Honors Recital**  
Featuring the best and most talented of the College's music students. Free

**June 9**  
Sunday 2:00pm  
**GH Civic Choir & Concert Band**

Civic Choir is directed by Kari Hasbrouck. Concert Band is directed by Tiffany Maki. Tickets \$15, 12 & under free

**June 13** Thursday 7:00pm  
**GHC Jazz Concert**

Jazz Band and Jazz Choir, directed by Dr. William Dyer and Kari Hasbrouck. Tickets \$5, 12 & under free

**Mozart's REQUIEM**

**June 22** Saturday 7:30pm  
**Grays Harbor Opera Workshop** A celebration of the timeless vocal music of W.A. Mozart. Directed by Ian & Joy Dorsch. Tickets \$15, 12 & under free

**July 18, 19, 20, 21**  
Thu., Fri., Sat. 7:30pm & Sun. 2pm



The summer musical is directed by Paige Mellon-Jackson.

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# Celebrations and festivals dot the Harbor this summer

*Whatever corner of Grays Harbor County you are exploring this summer, fun festivals and community celebrations await.*

## Sand & Sawdust Festival June 28-30 • Ocean Shores

The Five-Star Dealerships Sand & Sawdust Festival in **Ocean Shores** pays tribute to the natural beauty and resources of the Pacific Northwest, as well as its bounty of artists. This year it is slated for June 28-30.

This festival includes the largest chainsaw art auction in Washington State. Over three days, festivalgoers will have the opportunity to watch more than 100 chainsaw sculptures appear before their eyes. At the end of each day, attendees will have the opportunity to bid on their favorite sculptures. In addition, the Chainsaw Quick Carve Competition takes place Friday and Saturday.



This year's festival will feature more venues for the sand events, including contests and artist demonstrations.

And if sand castles and wood carvings were not enough, on Saturday professional kite fliers will fill the sky with two-line and quad-line kite-flying demonstrations.

Live music performances include Johnny and the Bad Boys, the Washington Old Time Fiddlers and Deer Swerver. For a schedule of events, visit [www.tourismoceanshores.com/sand-and-sawdust-2024](http://www.tourismoceanshores.com/sand-and-sawdust-2024).



## Rusty Scuppers Pirate Daze June 28-30 • Westport

Aye, matey! If it's a live pirate you are hoping to spot, head to **Westport's** Rusty Scuppers Pirate Daze June 28-30. Vendors, food, live music and plenty of pirate-themed mischief will greet you. The free festival is set up throughout downtown Westport. For more information and schedules, visit [www.rustyscupperspiratedaze.net](http://www.rustyscupperspiratedaze.net).

## McCleary Bear Festival July 12-14 • McCleary

If you've never been to the **McCleary Bear Festival**, it is time to change that. About as iconic as a small-town celebration can get and still draw large crowds, this 65th annual celebration is set for July 12-14 this year and includes entertainment in the park, a softball tournament, a car show, and more.

The highlights include a grand parade at noon Saturday preceded by a kiddie parade, and of course the bear stew dinner, which is served after the parade. Cooked by local volunteer firefighters, the stew is ladled from huge iron kettles in the city park and served with delicious sides. For more information, visit [www.mcclearybearfestival.org](http://www.mcclearybearfestival.org).

## The Montesano Car Show July 20 • Montesano

Thousands of spectators and nearly 300 cars are expected at the 22nd Annual Historic Montesano Car Show in downtown **Montesano** July 20.

"This is an open car show, any special interest car or vehicle of any kind is welcome," said Dave Foss, event organizer, adding that typically the show includes classic cars, street rods, muscle cars and sports cars.

Beginning at 8 a.m., the public is invited to admire the vehicles spread out over eight city blocks on Broadway, Main and 1st streets.

A pancake breakfast is scheduled at the Montesano Community Center that morning. The event also coincides with Montesano's Saturday Market and Kids Fest.

In addition to Saturday's event, at 4 p.m. Friday, July 19, car owners will enjoy a kickoff cruise-in at Snowbird Farm & Cidery, 484 Old Monte Brady Road. The cruise-in is also a good opportunity for the public to get a sneak peek of many of the cars that will be displayed the following day.

For more information about Montesano's Historic Car Show, visit the Facebook page or contact Foss at [dfoss@comcast.net](mailto:dfoss@comcast.net), or call (360) 580-7941.

*(continued on page 39)*

Photo courtesy of Montesano Car Show



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# Celebrations and festivals

(continued)

## Aberdeen Rain Glow July 27 • Aberdeen

The 2024 Aberdeen Rain Glow Festival is set for 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. July 27 in downtown **Aberdeen**. The night-time festival is all about enjoying the sights and sounds of art and light and includes nine “Glow Worlds,” pop-up galleries, glow-in-the-dark costumes and live music. Passports can be purchased online. For more information, visit [www.aberdeenartcenter.com/rain-glow](http://www.aberdeenartcenter.com/rain-glow).



Wood art by Jeffro Uitto

## Woodfest August 10-11 • Tokeland

Woodfest in **Tokeland** is slated from noon to 6 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, Aug. 10 and 11. Begun by popular local wood artists and carver, Jeffro Uitto, Woodfest has grown from a carving party for woodcarvers to a bona fide festival that includes live music, food, local and visiting artists and live chainsaw carving by some of the most talented carvers in the region.

The event is hosted at the historic Tokeland Hotel, 2964 Kindred Ave., Tokeland. However, due to limited parking at the hotel, festivalgoers are asked to park at the Shoalwater Bay Casino for a shuttle to and from the event. For more information, visit [www.tokelandnorthcove.com/events](http://www.tokelandnorthcove.com/events).



Painting by Tim Rossow

## Art Splash Studio Tour August 10-11 • Ocean Shores

The public is invited to visit 10 home studio sites with 18 artists from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Aug. 10 and 11 during the Art Splash Studio Tour of **Ocean Shores**. A brochure containing the artists, mediums, addresses, and a map can be obtained online at [www.artshplashtour.org](http://www.artshplashtour.org).

## Gnome and Fairy Festival August 17 • Seabrook

On Aug. 17, the Gnome and Fairy Festival will take place from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at **Seabrook's** Town Center. This festival celebrates the magic of Seabrook's forest, along with the creatures who call it home. The event, which coincides with the weekly Seabrook Saturday Market, includes opportunities for kids to make their own gnome hats and fairy wings, as well as participate in the Gnome and Fairy Parade and other family-friendly activities. For a schedule of events, visit [www.seabrookwa.com/events/](http://www.seabrookwa.com/events/)



## Westport Arts Festival August 17-18 • Westport

Situated along the picturesque **Westport** Marina, the 27th Annual Westport Arts Festival, set for Aug. 17 and 18, is certain to inspire creativity and promote fun.

In addition to the many artists and live music, the festival promises crafts and kids activities, vendors, food and a beer garden. It is also a great place to view plein air painting – or bring your own easel and participate yourself!


For more information, visit [www.westportartfestival.org](http://www.westportartfestival.org) or the Westport Art Festival Facebook page. 

Photo courtesy of Westport Arts Festival



## Grays Harbor County Fair July 31-August 4 • Elma

The Grays Harbor County Fair in **Elma**, features everything from 4-H animals and art displays to carnival rides and fair food. Running from July 31 to Aug. 3, this year fair organizers plan to bring back a cherished fair tradition – hosting one couple to exchange wedding vows at the fair. Potential applicants for this honor will be asked to submit a short video for consideration. (Application details are on the website.)

The 2024 Grays Harbor County Fair's headliners are country singers: Neal McCoy, who performs at 8 p.m. Wednesday, July 31, and Dylan Scott, who performs at 8 p.m. Thursday, Aug 1. Tickets for the concerts are not available for sale online. They can be purchased at the fair office or by calling (360) 482-2651.

For more information, visit [ghcfairgrounds.com/events/fair](http://ghcfairgrounds.com/events/fair).

Photo courtesy of Grays Harbor County Fair



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*The information listed is what was available at press time. As always, before venturing out, it's advisable to check online to see if the details have changed.*

## JUNE

**MAY 31 - JUNE 1, 2 . Grays Harbor Festival of Colors . Ocean Shores .** On the beach north of Lighthouse Suites Inn. Lighted kite fly Fri. night. Sat., kid's kite making & more. Fly your kite or watch.

**JUNE 1 . Seabrook Relay . Seabrook .** The course is a 60.2 mile run, 40.4 mile walk.

**JUNE 1 . Jon Lee in Concert . Pacific NW** musician sings about the beauty & life here.

**Amanda Park** Timberland Library . 11am.  
**Aberdeen Park** Timberland Library . 3pm.

**JUNE 1 . C&M Circus . Westport .** Culpepper & Merryweather Circus, big top at Harms St. & Harbor Ave. Enjoy big cats, tight rope, aerialists, horses, daredevils & more! Two shows 2pm, 4:30pm.

**JUNE 1 . Wearable Art Show . Ocean Shores** Convention Center. The theme this year is **Beyond Wild!** 6:30pm.

**JUNE 2 . Grays Harbor Symphony . Bishop Center . Aberdeen .** Grays Harbor College . A Salute to Hollywood & Broadway. Spring Concerto Contest winner also performing. Sunday, 7pm.

**JUNE 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 . Aberdeen Sunday Market .** Farm market, arts & crafts, live music, food & fun for all, on Broadway. 10am - 3pm.

**JUNE 5 . GHC Honors Recital . Bishop Center . Aberdeen .** Grays Harbor College, 7pm.

**JUNE 7 . First Friday Art Walk . Aberdeen Art Center .** Enjoy live music on stage, artist demonstrations, snacks & art on display. 5 - 8pm.

**JUNE 7, 14, 21 . Friday Market . Elma .** Farm market, crafts, food, downtown. Noon-6pm.

**JUNE 8 . Celebrity Chef Event . Seabrook** Delicious food & wine, with award-winning chefs, multi-course dinner & more. \$85 per person pre-purchase, benefits Coastal Harvest. 5:30-8:30pm.

**JUNE 8, 9 . Urban Unglued . Ocean Shores .** Convention Center, vendors. 10am-5pm.

**JUNE 9 . Grays Harbor Civic Choir & Concert Band . Bishop Center . Aberdeen .** Grays Harbor College . Sunday, 2pm



**JUNE 9 . Red, White, & Blue . Raymond Theater.** American Legion Band of Olympia. 2pm.

**JUNE 13 . GHC Jazz Concert . Bishop Center . Aberdeen .** Grays Harbor College. Thurs., 7pm.

**JUNE 15 . Father's Day Vintage Car Cruise-In & Crab Boil . Seabrook .** Crab Boil at Town Hall (\$25), beer tent & special Father's Day Market. With Push Rods of Hoquiam. 11am-3pm.

**JUNE 15 . Exploring Edible Weeds . Amanda Park .** Timberland Library . Turn your walks into culinary adventures, with Katie Tossey. Noon.

**JUNE 15 . Harvey's All Star Comedy . Aberdeen .** Driftwood Theatre . Live stand-up comedy with Susan Rice & more. 7pm.

**JUNE 15, 16 . Northwest Mini-Horse Show . Elma .** County Fairgrounds.

**JUNE 15, 16 . TICA Cat Show . Elma .** County Fairgrounds. The Int'l Cat Assoc. 10am-5pm.

**JUNE 22 . Oakville Rodeo Summer Gaming** Oakville Regional Event Center, 7000 US Hwy 12. Barrels, Poles, Figure 8, Key Race. 9:30am start.

**JUNE 22 . Harbor Havoc – Sand & Slam . Ocean Shores Convention Center .** The ultimate wrestling extravaganza. Sat., 7pm.

**JUNE 22 . Grays Harbor Opera Workshop . Bishop Center . Aberdeen .** Grays Harbor College. Celebration of Mozart. Sat., 7:30pm.

**JUNE 22, 29 . Seabrook Saturday Market** Fresh produce, food, art, handcrafts. 10am to 3pm.

**JUNE 21 . World Music Day 2024 . Aberdeen** Musicians downtown . Listen and mingle, mostly around Wishkah Street.

**JUNE 28 . Seabrook Sunset Concert Series .** Live music in Sunset Amphitheater Park. 5:30pm.

**JUNE 28, 29, 30 . Five Star Dealerships Sand & Sawdust Festival . Ocean Shores .** Chance a la Mer beach approach & OS Convention Center. Chainsaw carvers, sand sculptures, music, food, & fun! Noon Fri. - 3pm Sun.

**JUNE 28, 29, 30 . Rusty Scuppers Pirate Daze Westport .** Fun, food, booty, & pirates! Wear your pirate duds & enjoy Rusty Scupper and his bawdy band of buccaneers! Fri. Noon - Sun. 6pm.

**JUNE 28 . "Dear England" . Aberdeen .** Driftwood Theatre . National Theater Live in London, broadcast of live performance. 7:30pm.

**JUNE 28, 29, 30 . Elma City-Wide Garage Sale Days .** Maps available.

**JUNE 29 . Exploring Edible Weeds . Aberdeen** Timberland Library . Turn your walks in wild places into culinary adventures, with Katie Tossey. Noon.

**JUNE 29 . Mocktails & Melodies "Neil Diamond Nights" . McCleary Museum & Event Center .** by Music Memories with Terry Bartelme. 3pm

**JUNE 29 . "King Lear" . Aberdeen .** Driftwood Theatre . National Theater Live in London, broadcast of live performance. 7:30pm.

**JUNE 29, 30 . 4-H Pre-Fair Horse Show . Elma .** County Fairgrounds

**JUNE 30 . "Fleabag" . Aberdeen .** Driftwood Theatre . National Theater Live in London, broadcast of live performance. 7:30pm.

(continued on page 42)

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It's time for baseball, enjoying the warmer weather and working around the home, as gardeners, contractors and home owners head outdoors to work on spring projects. Ladders, man lifts and extendable tools make the job possible, but without awareness they can also be a direct line between power lines and the unsuspecting worker. 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 power lines around your home or business. Contractors, paint crews and private homeowners can contact the Grays Harbor PUD Safety Department at 360-538-6248 for information on how to be safe around power lines. Underground utilities can also pose a threat so be sure to get underground locates by calling 8-1-1 for the Northwest Utility Notification Center. Take the time to know your surroundings before you dive into a home project. It's easier to call for information than to call for emergency assistance. Helping to keep you safe around electrical utilities...

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[www.ghpud.org](http://www.ghpud.org)

## JULY

**JULY 3 . Jeff Evans' Amazing Magic Show . Montesano** *Timberland Library. 10:30am.*  
**Hoquiam** *Timberland Library. 2pm.*

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

**JULY 5 . Coastal Clean-up Too . Clean up the beaches following 4th of July.**

**JULY 5 . Pacific Beach Red White & Blue Artisan Market . Local artists & goods. 14 Main Street, Pacific Beach. 10am - 4pm.**

**JULY 5 . First Friday Art Walk . Aberdeen Art Center . Enjoy live music on stage, artist demonstrations, snacks & art on display. 5 - 8pm.**

**JULY 5, 12, 19, 26 . Friday Market . Elma Farm market, crafts, food, downtown. Noon-6pm.**

**JULY 5, 12, 19, 26 . Seabrook Sunset Concert Series . Live music, Sunset Amphitheater. 5:30pm.**

**JULY 6 . Old Fashioned 4th of July Parade & Picnic . Tokeland . Parade at 11am.**

**JULY 6 . Oakville Independence Day Parade & Celebration . Handcrafts, food, car show, kids zone & beer garden.**

**JULY 6, 7 . Oakville Junior Rodeo . Oakville Regional Event Center, 7000 Highway 12.**

**JULY 6, 13, 20, 27 . Seabrook Saturday Market . Fresh produce, food, art, handcrafts. 10am - 3pm.**

**JULY 7, 14, 21, 28 . Aberdeen Sunday Market . Farm market, arts & crafts, live music, food & fun for all on Broadway, 10am - 3pm.**

**JULY 9 . Jeff Evans' Amazing Magic Show . Amanda Park** *Timberland Library. 10:30am.*  
**Aberdeen** *Timberland Library. 2pm.*

**JULY 12, 13, 14 . Windrider's Kite Festival Westport . Kite flying competition, demonstrations, games, & fun for the kids. Banquet & auction too.**

**JULY 12, 13, 14 . Disney's "Finding Nemo (KIDS)" . Hoquiam . 7th Street Theatre, 7th Street Kids . Fri. Sat. 7pm, Sun. 2pm. (see page 34).**

**JULY 12, 13, 14 . McCleary Bear Festival . Enjoy the grand parade, family entertainment, a softball tournament, car show, soapbox derby, & famous Bear Festival stew. Fri. 1pm - Sun. 4pm**

(continued on page 44)



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**JULY 13, 20, 27 . Saturday Morning Market . Montesano .** Enjoy local artists, farm market, vendors & live music! Fleet Park, 9am - 1pm.

**JULY 14 . Run Like the Wind 5k/10k/Half Marathon . Westport .** All the races will start at the marina. Pre-register only. 9am start.

**JULY 18, 19, 20, 21 . "Big Fish" Summer Musical . Bishop Center . Aberdeen .** Grays Harbor College. Thurs. - Sat., 7:30pm, Sun. 2pm. (See story on page 33).

**JULY 20 . Elk River Boat Challenge .** This 3- or 7-mile human-powered boat race starts at Brady's Oysters on the beautiful Elk River Estuary. Registration at 9am.

**JULY 20 . Emergency Preparedness EXPO . Aberdeen .** Gateway Plaza. Emergency response vehicles, dunk tank, scavenger hunt & more. Noon K-9 demo by Sheriff. 10am - 2pm.

**JULY 20 . Historic Montesano Car Show .** Downtown. 8am - 4pm. Also, KidFest bouncy house

& Saturday Market in nearby Fleet Park.

**JULY 20 . Westport Wine Festival .** Sample wines from Washington & Oregon wineries, food & gift vendors, live music. Marina, Noon - 8pm.

**JULY 20 . Olympia Jazz Singers . McCleary Museum & Event Center .** 3pm.

**JULY 20 . Audience Participation Mystery Dinner Event . Ocean Shores .** Stage West Community Theatre.

**JULY 24 . Creature Teachers . Montesano** Timberland Library. Explore the weird & wonderful world of animals! Meet several animals. 10:30am.

**JULY 25 . Creature Teachers . McCleary Library** event held at McCleary Museum & Event Center. Explore the weird & wonderful world of animals! Meet several animals. 2pm.

**JULY 26, 27, 28 . Hog Wild in Ocean Shores .** Biggest motorcycle rally in Western WA! Enjoy cruising, music, vendors, parades, food & stunt performers.

**JULY 27 . Rain Glow Festival . Aberdeen .** 9 Glow Worlds. Downtown comes to life at night with lighted exhibits, pop-up galleries, glow-in-the-dark costumes, live music. 9pm-1am. (see pg. 39)

**JULY 27 . Oakville Rodeo Summer Gaming** Oakville Regional Event Center, 7000 US Hwy 12. Barrels, Poles, Figure 8, Key Race. 9:30am start.

**JULY 27, 28 . Lake Quinault Regatta .** Hobie Cat sailing races.

**JULY 31 . Grays Harbor County Fair . Elma .** Fairgrounds. Description below.

## AUGUST

**JULY 31 - AUGUST 3 . Grays Harbor County Fair . Elma .** County Fairgrounds. Amusement rides, animal exhibits, horse shows, fair food, daily entertainment & more. Headline music: Neal McCoy 7/31 8pm, Dylan Scott 8/1 8pm.

**AUGUST 1, 2, 3, 4 . Disney's "High School Musical 2 JR." . Hoquiam .** 7th Street Theatre, 7th Street Kids. Thurs. Fri. Sat. 7:30pm, Sun. 2pm. (more info see page 34).

**AUGUST 2 . First Friday Art Walk . Aberdeen Art Center .** Enjoy live music on stage, artist demonstrations, snacks & new art on display. 5 - 8pm.

(continued on page 47)



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**AUGUST 2, 3 . Heat on the Street Car & Motorcycle Show . Elma .** Downtown. 8/2 street dance with live band Joker's Wild.

**AUGUST 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 . Seabrook Sunset Concert Series .** Live music in Sunset Amphitheater Park. 5:30pm.

**AUGUST 3 . Ride the Harbor . Elma .** Road cycling event to build a healthy community & raise funds for Summit Pacific Medical Foundation.

**AUGUST 3, 4 . NW Area Championship . Lake Quinault .** Hobie Cat sailing races.

**AUGUST 3, 10, 17, 24 . Saturday Morning Market . Montesano .** Enjoy local artists, farm market, vendors & live music! Fleet Park, 9am - 1pm.

**AUGUST 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 . Seabrook Saturday Market .** Fresh produce, food, art, handcrafts. 10am to 3pm.

**AUGUST 4, 11, 18, 25 . Aberdeen Sunday Market .** Farm market, arts & crafts, live music, food & fun for all on Broadway, 10am - 3pm.

**AUGUST 6 . Jeff Evans' Amazing Magic Show . McCleary** Timberland Library event held at the McCleary Museum & Event Center, 2pm.

**AUGUST 6 . National Night Out . In your community .** Find an event in your town or neighborhood or host one yourself.

**AUGUST 9, 16, 23, 30 . Friday Market . Elma** Farm market, crafts, food, downtown. Noon-6pm.

**AUGUST 10 . Jessica Blinn & Vince Brown . McCleary Museum & Event Center .** Songs from the American Songbook. 3pm.

**AUGUST 10-11 . Ocean Shores Art Splash Studio Tour .** Visit 10 home studios sites with 18 artists. www.artshplashtour.org. 10am - 5pm.

**AUGUST 10-11 . 15th Annual Tuna Classic .** Competitive Albacore Tuna Tournament that benefits Veteran Heroes & South Beach Food Bank.

**AUGUST 10-11 . Tokeland Woodfest .** Tokeland Hotel. Chainsaw carving, wood artists, food & live music. Noon - 6pm.

**AUGUST 10, 17 . Movies in the Park . Montesano .** Fleet Park, downtown. 9pm.

**AUGUST 16-18 . Body & Soul Festival . Ocean Shores .** Convention Center.

**AUGUST 16-18 . Annual City-Wide Garage Sale . Montesano .** Map available.

**AUGUST 17 . Junk Queens Flea Market . Westport .** Near viewing tower. 10am - 4pm.

**AUGUST 17 . Gnome & Fairy Festival . Seabrook .** Enjoy a bouncy house, make a gnome hat and wings, gnome home building, gnome & fairy parade. Town Center. 11am - 4pm.

**AUGUST 17, 18 . Westport Art Festival .** Enjoy beautiful art, beer garden, food, live music, crafts, kids activities, plein air painting & more! Located along the Marina. 10am - 4pm.

**AUGUST 24, 25 . Driftwood Show & Glass Float Hunt .** Vendors, music, food, driftwood exhibits, competition & prizes. Glass float round up on Grayland Beach. 10am - 5pm.

**AUGUST 30, 31 & SEPT 1 . AAOS Arts & Crafts Fair . Ocean Shores .** Convention Center. 1,000's of unique items showcased by gifted artists & craftspeople. 10am - 5pm.

**AUGUST 31 . Junk Queens Flea Market . Westport .** Near viewing tower. 10am - 4pm.

**AUGUST 31 . Seafood Festival & Craft Show . Westport .** A family feast with fresh fish, oysters, live music & local crafts.

**AUGUST 31 . Corvettes at the Marina . Westport .** Bring yours!

**AUGUST 31 . Harper Joe Memorial Gaming . Rodeo .** Oakville Regional Event Center, 7000 US Hwy 12. Barrels, Poles, Figure 8, Key Race, 2 Mystery Events. 9:30am start.

## SEPTEMBER

**SEPTEMBER 6 . First Friday Art Walk . Aberdeen Art Center .** Enjoy live music on stage, artist demonstrations, snacks & new art. 5 - 8pm.

**SEPTEMBER 6, 13, 20, 27 . Friday Market . Elma**

**More events to come! The fall issue will be in your mailbox on Sept. 1! Meanwhile, check our website at [www.coastal-currents.com](http://www.coastal-currents.com) for the latest information on Harbor events.**

**Do you have a Grays Harbor event you would like to be considered for inclusion in the fall issue of Coastal Currents? Please e-mail the info by Aug. 1 to [ccads19@gmail.com](mailto:ccads19@gmail.com). Event column sponsorships available. **



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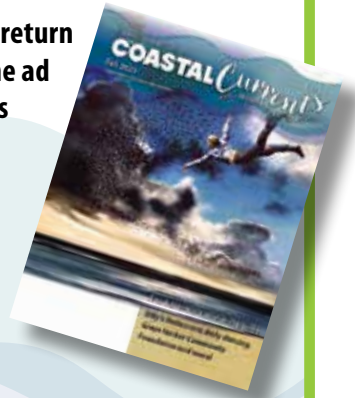
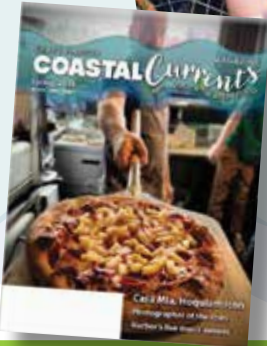


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- The Cave . Aberdeen
- Elks Club . Aberdeen
- Galway Bay Irish Pub . Ocean Shores
- Gepettos Italian Restaurant . Montesano
- Koko's Restaurant & Tequila Bar . Seabrook
- The Knotty Pine . Westport
- Messy Jessy's Bar and Grill . Aberdeen
- Mount Olympus Brewing . Aberdeen
- Nirvana Coffee Co. . Aberdeen
- Ocean Lounge . Quinalt Beach Resort . O. Shores
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- Oyhut Bay Grill . Ocean Shores
- Pine Tree Bar and Grill . Westport
- Porthole Pub . Ocean Shores
- The Sand Dollar . Westport
- Shujacks Bar & Grill . Elma
- The Rising Tide Tavern . Seabrook
- The Stowaway Wine Bar . Seabrook
- Tinderbox Roasters . Aberdeen 

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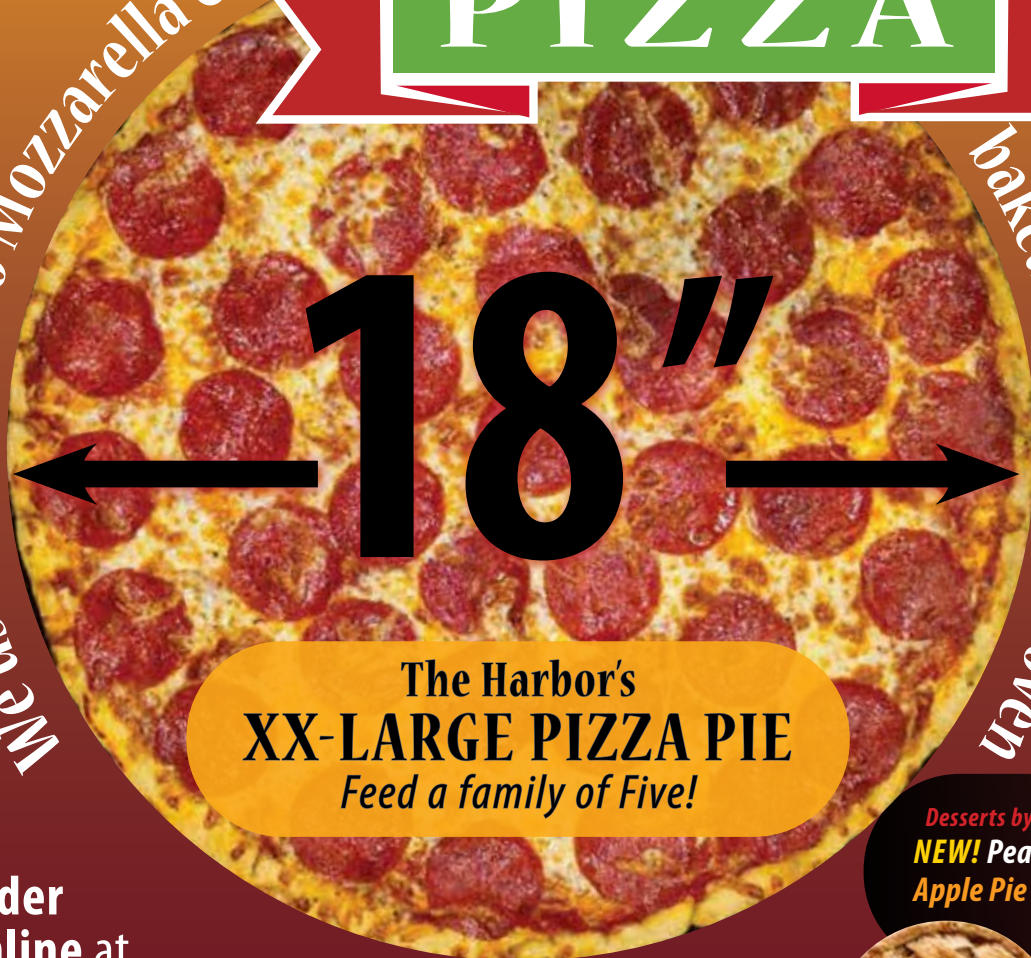
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