

GRAYS HARBOR

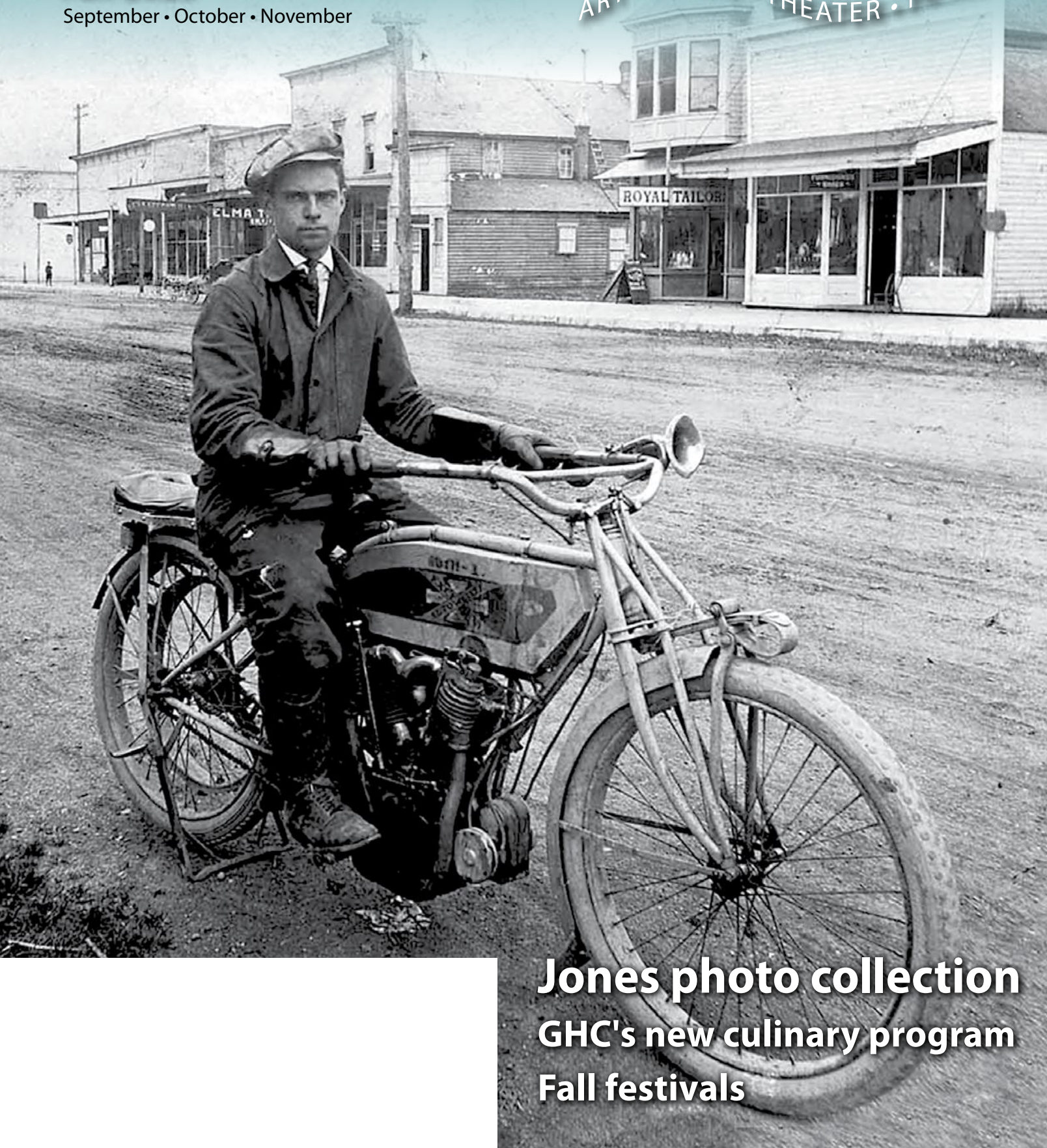
MAGAZINE

COASTAL

Currents
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Fall 2025

September • October • November



Jones photo collection
GHC's new culinary program
Fall festivals

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From the Jones Photo Historical Collection, Copalis Lumber Co. logging train on trestle circa 1910. (See story page 8.)

COASTAL *Currents* MAGAZINE

GRAYS HARBOR • ART • MUSIC • THEATER • FOOD

- 5** **Fall festivals**
By Gail Greenwood Ayres
- 8** **Jones Photo Historical Collection**
By Rick Anderson
- 17** **Theater Spotlight: Aiden Brown**
By Katie McGregor
- 22** **College's new culinary arts program**
By Juliana Wallace
- 28** **Melanie Israel creates unique ceramics**
By Katie McGregor
- 32** **Theater Spotlight: Rebecca Bronson**
By Katie McGregor
- 37** **Aberdeen Lions gala is a toast with many recipients**
By Rick Anderson
- 41** **Schedule of Events**
- 42** **Shows to enjoy this autumn in Grays Harbor**
- 48** **Index of Advertisers**

The cover photograph, which depicts a man on a motorcycle in downtown Elma circa 1900, is part of the historic Jones Photo Collection. The collection includes thousands of images online at jonesphotocollection.com. See story on page 8.

COASTAL *Currents*

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This issue of Coastal Currents is mailed free of charge to over 36,522 Grays Harbor homes and has a total distribution of 39,000 copies.

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Loggers, cranberries, mushrooms, Irish music feted at festivals

Early autumn in Grays Harbor is typically some of the nicest weather we get and an opportunity to celebrate our area's history and unique offerings. Thanks to many busy volunteers, here are a few of the Harbor festivals offered this fall.

Photo by Rick Moyer

Hoquiam Loggers' Playday September 6 • Hoquiam

Like a living time capsule celebrating hard-working loggers, the Hoquiam Loggers' Playday field show features talent of local and professional timber sports athletes vying to become "the Bull of the Woods." The tests of strength and skill include axe throwing, choker setting, double hand bucking, hot saw, log chop, speed climb, spring board chop and more.

In addition, the 6 p.m. show includes a log rolling exhibition and other entertainment. It all takes place at Olympic Stadium, 2811 Cherry St. To attend the show, a Loggers' Playday button is needed. They cost \$3 or \$5 and can be purchased at local stores, from the Hoquiam Loggers' Playday Court members or at the door.

While the logging show is the highlight of the evening, the festival is packed with activities from dawn to midnight. The Hoquiam Rotary Club hosts a pancake breakfast starting at 6 a.m. at Our Lady of Good Hope Catholic Church. The Elks Grand Parade starts at noon in downtown Hoquiam. The Hoquiam Lions Club Salmon Bake begins at 2 p.m. at the old Washington Elementary School.

In the evening, after the logging competition, there's even a dance starting at 9 p.m. at the Hoquiam Elks Club. This year the dance will feature music performed by Joker's Wild. The dance is for anyone 21 and older and requires a \$10 cover charge.

For more information, visit sites.google.com/view/hoquiamloggersplayday.



Photos courtesy of the Quinault Rainforest Mushroom Festival



Quinault Rainforest Mushroom Festival October 4 • Amanda Park

Headquartered at Lake Quinault School, the free-to-attend Quinault Rainforest Mushroom Festival is set from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 4. Attendees can peruse the various mushroom merchants, learn from educational talks, explore the kid zone with fungi activities and sample the food vendors' wares.

At 11:30 a.m. keynote speaker Noah Siegel will present "Cascadia – a Fungal Paradise." Additional speakers include Aaron Hilliard, Daniel Winkler and Rose Tursi. Workshops include the topics of culinary, cultivation, mushroom dye, tinctures and forest bathing.

For a fee, festivalgoers can register to forage in the Quinault Rainforest with regional experts and members of the Coastal Shores and Spores Mycological Society of Grays Harbor.

For festival schedule and registration, go to shoresandspores.com/qrmushfest.

(continued on page 6)

Festivals (continued)

Cranberry Harvest Festival October 10, 11, 12 • Grayland

Sponsored by the Westport/Grayland Chamber of Commerce, the 32nd Annual Cranberry Harvest Festival is set for 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Oct. 11 and from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Oct. 12. Vendors and live music are headquartered at the Grayland Community Hall. 2071 Cranberry Road.

But, for those who want to enter the Cranberry Cook-off, the entries are due at the Community Hall between noon and 5 p.m. Friday, Oct. 10. The rules and categories for the cookoff are available online.

The Firefly Parade begins at 7:30 p.m. Friday night. The Cranberry Festival also includes a pancake breakfast and 10K jog, 5K jog and 3K walk. For more information, go to westportgraylandchamber.org/cranberry-harvest-festival.

Photo by Laura Brydon




Photo courtesy of Galway Bay Irish Pub

Galway Bay Celtic Music Feis Oct. 13 – Oct. 19 • Ocean Shores

For the 22nd year, Galway Bay's Celtic Music Feis is welcoming musicians from near and far to Ocean Shores to celebrate all things Irish. This year the festival is from Tuesday, Oct. 13 through Sunday, Oct. 19.

During these six days, an eclectic mix of Irish bands, choirs and dancers will

come from throughout the United States, Canada and, of course, Ireland to perform on 10 stages located at three venues including at the Ocean Shores Convention Center and the Galway Bay Irish Pub, 880 Point Brown Ave NE.

For more information about the lineup and to purchase tickets, visit www.celticmusicfeis.com. Additional information can be found on Facebook at GalwayBayIrishPubOS. 



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Jones photo collection



This photo of Aberdeen views Heron Street, looking east from I Street on January 23, 1926.

is treasure trove of Harbor history

STORY BY RICK ANDERSON
PHOTOS COURTESY OF JONES PHOTO
HISTORICAL COLLECTION

For a pictorial view of 20th century Grays Harbor, area residents need not buy a book. Nor are they required to visit a museum or sift through microfilm at a library.

More than 8,000 photos depicting the Harbor's historic past have been assembled into the Jones Photo Historic Collection. The digitized collection can be viewed free of charge online at the website www.jonesphotocollection.com.

"What a marvelous resource," said John Larson, the director of Hoquiam's Polson Museum. "It's just a treasure-trove of local history."

Now owned and administered by the Anderson & Middleton Co., the collection represents the work of the Jones family — four generations of commercial photographers who operated studios in Aberdeen for some 90 years.

William Lloyd Jones, an immigrant from Wales and a former seaman, started the business in Silverton, Oregon, in the 1880s. He and his son, Bliss, moved to Grays Harbor in 1913, and owned separate studios in Aberdeen and Hoquiam for more than a decade before

(continued on page 11)

Young men and canoe at Taholah labeled as 'Tahola Surf Riders' circa 1915.

"Father and son were meticulous craftsmen working with bulky large-format cameras to record all manner of events..."
— John Hughes





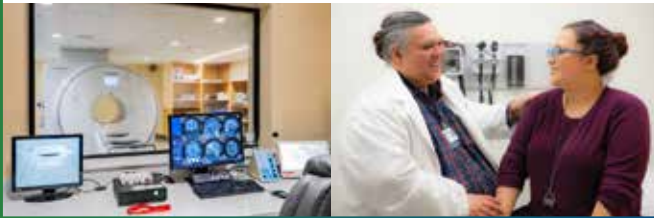
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Jones photo collection (continued)

financial constraints forced by the Great Depression necessitated consolidation into a single Aberdeen operation.

Bill D. Jones, Bliss's son, began working for the company as a delivery boy at the age of 11 in 1933. He then teamed with his father as a photographer until eventually taking over the studio, which was a fixture in downtown Aberdeen before ultimately relocating to Simpson Avenue in Aberdeen.

"Father and son were meticulous craftsmen working with bulky large-format cameras to record all manner of events — from ship launchings to pioneer picnics, auto collisions and river scenes, not to mention the weddings, engagements and graduation photos that were the bread and butter of photo studio revenue," former Daily World editor/publisher and recently retired Washington State historian John Hughes said.

A gathering at Lake Sylvia in Montesano circa 1927.

The Joneses were assuredly not your garden-variety commercial photographers. They were hired by most of the timber companies that dominated the Grays Harbor landscape for much of the 20th century to provide photos of logging operations and were also the official photographers of several law enforcement agencies.

"They took photos out in the woods, for Anderson & Middleton, Lamb-Grays Harbor, ITT Rayonier, Weyerhaeuser," related Paul Jones, Bill's son, who now lives in Montana.

*"He was
really proud of
Aberdeen's history
and he wanted
to share it."
— Paul Jones*

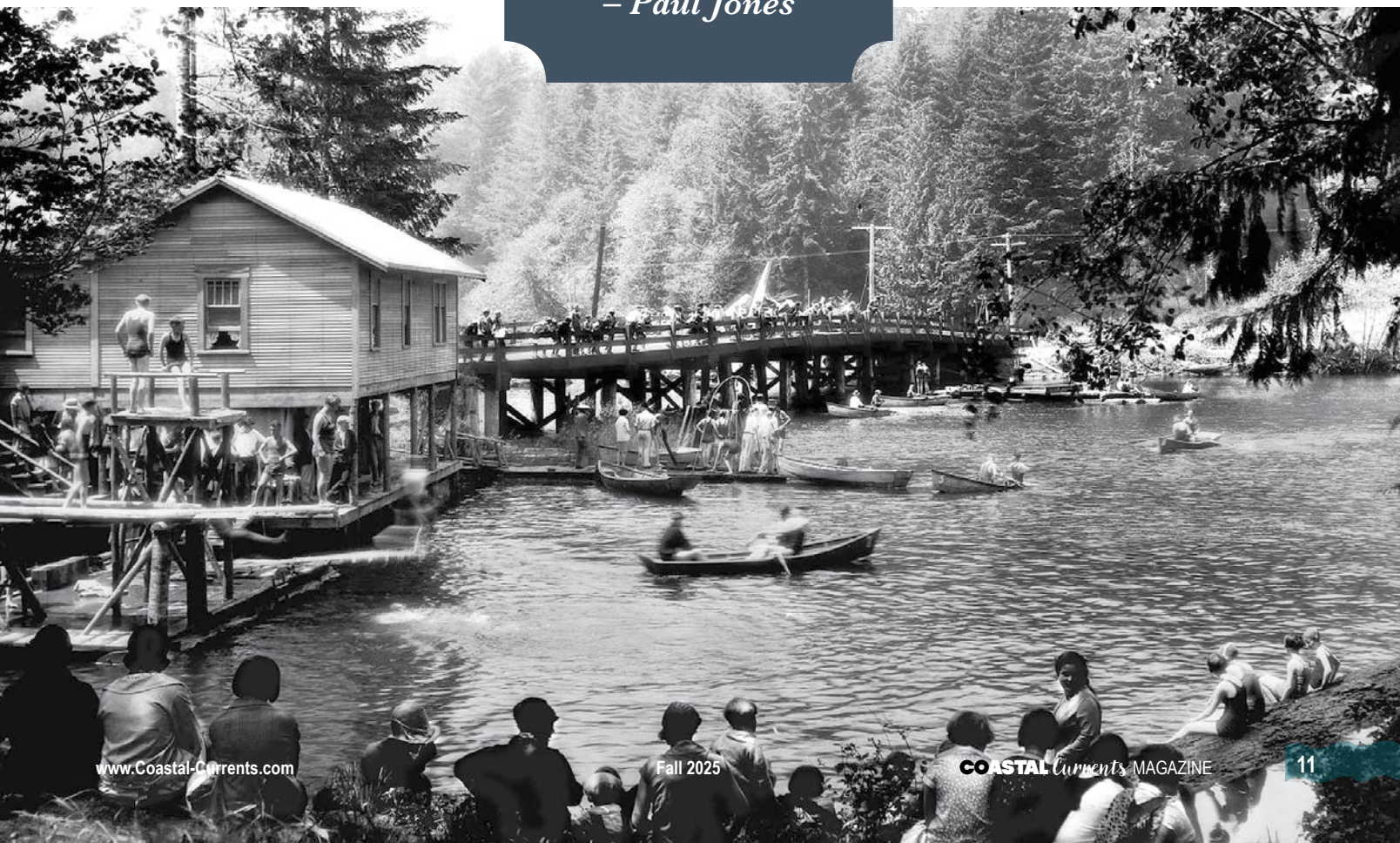


Ocean Shores Resort personnel, June 12, 1960.

"He did have the studio, but he was also the (Aberdeen) police photographer," Bill's daughter Barb Caskey, an Aberdeen resident, said of her father. "He had a badge and everything. He was on call all through the night."

The family's various duties provide unusual breadth to the photo collection,

(continued on page 12)



Jones photo collection (continued)

which is stocked liberally with environmental, slice-of-life pieces of art.

"This collection includes more than just the old logging photos, though there are plenty of them," said Terri Middleton of Olympia, who manages the collection. "It also includes shops, festivals, schools, churches and community events."

Preserving a historical record of Grays Harbor became a particular passion of Bill Jones, who became an original member of Aberdeen's Museum Board.

Although a soft-spoken man with a wry sense of humor under normal circumstances, the lanky Jones could become effusive while discussing Aberdeen history.

"I just spent three hours with Bill Jones and we only got through the (World War II) years," former Daily World writer Dee Anne Hauso Shaw wrote in an article announcing Jones's selection as the newspaper's Citizen of the Year for 1996.

"When I was in junior high, he put together a slide show, a history of Aberdeen as he knew it," Paul Jones recalled. "He was

really proud of Aberdeen's history and he wanted to share it."

Jones would frequently sell historical photos to the Daily World and other publications, but hardly became rich in the process.

"Twenty-five bucks a photo and sometimes he'd throw in a freebie," Hughes remembered. Another son, Greg, took over the studio operation upon his dad's retirement. But Greg's premature death in 2003 (Bill Jones died in 2010) resulted in the closure of the business and clouded the future of

*Jim Middleton
so loved Harbor
history that he
wasn't going
to let the Jones
collection be sold
off piecemeal or
otherwise leave
the Harbor."*
— John Hughes

Group views jetty construction in Westport, September 2, 1937.



the collection that Bill had meticulously assembled.

That's when Anderson & Middleton, the family-owned Hoquiam-based timber company that was one of Jones' clients, figuratively entered the picture. Company executives (and cousins) Jim and Rick Middleton approached Bill Jones and convinced him to sell the collection.

"We didn't buy it as a profit-making operation, but as a community service," current CEO Rick Middleton explained. "The goal was to get it online, where somebody could access it."

"The bottom line was that Jim Middleton so loved Harbor history that he wasn't going to let the Jones collection be sold off piecemeal or otherwise leave the Harbor," Hughes asserted. "I remember that vividly from my own conversations with him."

Jim Middleton, who died in 2009, was a somewhat improbable advocate of turning the collection into a digitized online service.

"He was a big proponent of it," Rick Middleton said of his cousin. "It's ironic, because he didn't use e-mail and he wasn't online. But he wanted it online so people could access it. Jim did not want it where the only people who could access it were academics."



Wood Week with Spruce Girls, October 28, 1929. Wood Week was an event to promote the Harbor's lumber industry. A sign says "Bathing Suits, Hats and Dresses made from this Spruce Veneer."

The Middletons hired Howard Giske, the respected photo archivist for Seattle's Museum of History and Industry, to oversee the team that assembled and digitized the collection. The online operation began in 2006.

According to Terri Middleton (Jim's daughter), the collection currently contains some 8,500 photos — spanning the period from the 1890s through the 1980s. It includes some of William Lloyd Jones' early work in Oregon and a large assortment of Olympic Peninsula aerial photos

(continued on page 14)

Sledding on Broadway hill in Aberdeen, 1902.



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Jones photo collection (continued)



Schafer Bros. logging crew with an ox team, August 21, 1901.

“Licensing is usually free, since most uses are not for profit.”
– Terri Middleton

taken by legendary California-based photographer Stan Spiegel.

By following instructions included on the website, specific photos may be ordered for varying fees. But the price is truly right for those wishing to use the photos to illustrate a school project or a non-profit historical enterprise.

“Licensing is usually free, since most uses are not for profit,” Terri Middleton said. “We have charged a fee when

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Cosmopolis, Fourth Grade Military Drill circa 1909.

the photos are used for books that are meant for commercial sale for profit. There is a licensing agreement to be signed that specifically (details) what use is permitted."

The cultural benefit of the Jones Photo Historic Collection is impossible to measure.

"The fact that it is a free resource makes it incredibly valuable," John Larson said.

"I couldn't put a value on it," Grays Harbor Port Commissioner and Harbor historian Tom Quigg added. "It can't be replaced." 



Grays Harbor county Sheriff and federal agents with confiscated moonshine stills at the courthouse in Montesano circa 1929.

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THEATER SPOTLIGHT

Rising local theater star Aiden Brown

STORY & PHOTOS BY KATIE MCGREGOR

I love bringing an experience to people and seeing them enjoy it. Especially with musicals," said Aiden Brown of Hoquiam. "The harmony of it is really a spectacle and it's a feeling you can't really replicate with other things."

Originally from Montesano, the 21-year-old has been involved in theater on Grays Harbor since auditioning for his first Missoula Children's Theater production in elementary school. (The Missoula Children's Theater is a renowned touring theater company that brings performing arts opportunities to children throughout the country.) Since then, he's become connected with nearly every local theater production company on the Harbor, both on stage and behind the curtain.

"I did every Missoula show that I could, then I helped as an older kid coordinating things. In 2018 it was 7th Street's 'Bugsy Malone' and I got a principal role, which I thought was fun. Then I got a lead as Horton in 'Suessical' the next year," Brown said.

“I never really had any training; I just didn't have a lot of embarrassment going onto stage and doing what I can.

— Aiden Brown

The list goes on. He was 15 when he ran lights for the first time for Driftwood's 2018 production of "Cabaret," worked backstage on its production of "The Wedding Singer" in 2021, and was later cast in a lead role as CB in Plank Island Theater Company's production of "DOG SEES GOD: Confessions of a Teenage Blockhead" in 2022. This past March he played the lead role of Phil Connors in "Groundhog Day: The Musical" at the Grays Harbor College's Bishop Center.

When he entered high school, Brown



Aiden Brown, driving, in his role as Phil Connors in the show "Groundhog Day" at the Bishop Center in 2025.



Photo by Keith Krueger

was immediately welcomed into the theater department at Hoquiam High School. He even received impressive recognition from the adjudicators of the 5th Avenue Theater Awards for his performance as William Barfée in Hoquiam's production of "The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee." Brown was awarded the "You Hit the High Note Achievement," which only goes to students who receive more than a 95 percent score from all three adjudicators.

Independent from that, Brown was also recognized with a National Choir Award

(continued on page 18)



Aiden Brown stars as Shrek at the Bishop Center in July of 2025.

Aiden Brown (continued)

during his senior year of high school.

"I try to come at a lot of auditions organically without too much preparation," Brown explained. "I try to not imitate the professionals and usually put on a voice for the characters I play. It's really funny, and I think it helps embody the characters."

Most recently, Brown was cast as the

titular character in the Bishop Center's Summer 2025 production of "Shrek: The Musical."

"I think it's going to make people laugh and cry and just enjoy their weekend and let loose," Brown said at one of the rehearsals for "Shrek." "We have fantastic set pieces being built — a giant dragon puppet that's 15 feet tall. The vocals of the cast sound like a professional recording. I think it's going to be a riot."

Brown often aims for comic relief roles

that get to play a bigger part in the overall plot because he enjoys playing them and they tend to be audience favorites. Notably, he fondly remembers his time in the role of Miss Trunchbull for the 7th Street Kids production of "Matilda."

"That movie was a big part of my childhood and playing the villain is its own fun in itself. I still get people who come up to me and ask about that role."

Aside from a brief stint of time taking

(continued on page 20)

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Aiden Brown *(continued)*

vocal lessons with Ian Dorsch, a voice instructor at GHC, Brown has mostly learned theater through experience.


"I never really had any training, I just didn't have a lot of embarrassment going onto stage and doing what I can," Brown said.

He credits the Grays Harbor theater community members for being welcoming and always willing to help teach others regardless of experience level.

"These are people I knew as a kid. Actually, having these people be my day-to-day friends now? It's an honor to be among them.

"There are a few things I really love about theater," Brown said. "But one of them is having an end product where I can say, 'I made this. We made this. We brought joy to a group of people.'"

As much as he enjoys theater, Brown will be taking a brief break this fall.

"I plan on attending the new culinary classes that Grays Harbor College is providing, focus on finding work and continuing my education," Brown said. "But I will be back!" 

Aiden Brown as Karl the Giant in the show "Big Fish" at the Bishop Center in 2024, along with AJ Cooper, who played the lead character, Edward Bloom.



Photo by Keith Krueger



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College's new culinary arts program starts cooking in September

STORY BY JULIANA WALLACE

For Chef Nina Urioste, cooking is much more than a job or a class she teaches. She sees the kitchen almost like an artist's studio: a place to create, a place to capture memories and, here in Grays Harbor, a place to build professionals.

"Through cooking, you can express yourself through aromas, through textures, through taste. You show who you are," explained Urioste. "And then you are building yourself. Because flipping hamburgers is important, but there is also more than that in cooking, way more."

“Through cooking, you can express yourself through aromas, through textures, through taste. You show who you are.”

– Nina Urioste

Beginning this fall, an inaugural culinary arts program at Grays Harbor College gives students the opportunity to

discover their own passion for cooking. At the same time, the program will prove a significant boon to local businesses.

"Coming from the industry, I can tell you there is a huge need for line cooks and prep people and anyone with basic skills in a kitchen," said Candi Bachtell, who owned the popular Savory Faire restaurant in Montesano for 37 years. "We don't have enough, and it does hold back a lot of restaurants from opening or continuing on."

In addition to being a longtime restaurant owner, Bachtell's background includes developing a culinary arts curriculum for Aberdeen High School and teaching

Chef Nina Urioste is eager to begin teaching Grays Harbor College's new culinary program on September 22.

Photo by Juliana Wallace





Cooking brings people together as is demonstrated at the Community Education cooking classes restarted last year.

Photos by Candi Bachtell

there for five years, as well as teaching classes for Montesano Community School and at her private cooking school.

Recognizing both the need for culinary professionals and the need for individuals to develop highly marketable skills, Greater Grays Harbor, Inc. awarded the college a grant to develop a culinary program. The college hired Bachtell in May 2024 to begin writing curriculum for the program.

“Because of my background in developing a Career and Technical Education culinary arts curriculum for AHS, which was originally a home economics program, I was hired under the CHEF grant to develop a curriculum for Grays Harbor College and revive the community education program,” Bachtell explained.

Then, last fall, the college brought another experienced chef, Urioste, on board as the instructor for the program.

Currently, the culinary arts program includes a one-year, 54-credit certificate designed to prepare students for entry-level jobs in the culinary industry. With the certificate as the foundation, the college is working toward the goal of also offering a two-year culinary degree program. But even the certificate program gives students a significant boost.

“In less than a year, students can get the skills they need for an entry level position. And because they have those skills, they can advance very quickly,” Urioste said.

For instance, by the end of the first quarter of the program, students will have earned their ServSafe certification. This initial certification means they can legally apply for a supervisor position.

“Coming from the industry, I can tell you there is a huge need for line cooks and prep people and anyone with basic skills in a kitchen.”

– Candi Bachtell

More importantly, the culinary program teaches students the whys and hows of cooking, as well as critical aspects of professionalism. For example, they will learn how to confidently choose the right cooking method for a specific cut of meat. They will also learn how to handle inventory, work with vendors and manage a kitchen. And they will learn the important extras that promote an eating experience designed to bring customers back again and again.

Many of the skills students learn will transfer to other professions, as well. “Students will learn important durable skills that will make them marketable to employers,” said Cathy LeCompte, Dean for Workforce Education at the college.

Urioste agreed, stressing that while the program is not difficult, it is intense. “Employers need somebody who is willing to work, to push hard, and to be prepared for challenges. That’s what we’re preparing them for.”

In September 2024, the college unveiled a brand-new student center that features a state-of-the-art culinary lab. They gave the student center the name “tulaIW,” which means “together” in the Quinault language. While the name tulaIW was initially chosen to reflect the gathering spaces in the building, it also invokes the critical role of food in bringing communities together.

For Urioste, that community aspect is significant. Now a resident of Humptulips, she grew up in the Russian countryside. Without the supermarkets that Americans are used to, communities in Russia depended on

(continued on page 24)

The culinary lab is in the new tulaIW student center.

Photo by Juliana Wallace



Culinary arts (continued)

gardening, farming, foraging, hunting and exchanging goods. People made use of the ingredients outside their windows, and they supported each other, she said.

With that background, Urioste aims to promote Grays Harbor cuisine while emphasizing principles of zero waste and hyper local cooking. To that end, the Grays Harbor program takes a unique approach of farm to table, tide to table and trail to table.

"The Pacific Northwest is a fantastic place to forage almost all year long and not knowing how to use these resources is almost like a crime to me," Urioste said. "I believe we can find what is so unique about this place and offer it in every restaurant, make it our selling point."

As a step toward building a more sustainable, local kitchen, Urioste petitioned the college for garden space. This spring, with the help of volunteers from the community, she planted a fledgling garden in a sunny spot right outside the door of the culinary lab. She has also built relationships with farmers in the area who will both supply local ingredients and use the food waste generated in the program.

In addition to the garden, the culinary

lab boasts state-of-the-art facilities including a bakery, a large professional kitchen and a cold room for working with meats and other perishables. The program also has access to a well-equipped pantry in the student center's event center. From gleaming ovens to countertops built by the college's carpentry program and hand-selected serving plates, students have the tools they need to prepare them for professional life.



The Pacific Northwest is a fantastic place to forage almost all year long ...

— Nina Urioste



With a sparkling new culinary lab, experienced faculty, a chef's garden, and a curriculum designed for today's hospitality needs, the culinary arts program is ready to welcome its first students this fall. Classes start on September 22, and students can enroll up to the first day of classes. For more information, go to the Grays Harbor College website (ghc.edu) and search on "culinary arts."



Photos by Candi Bachtell

Candi Bachtell, top, also revived the Community Education cooking classes at the college.

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Cooking classes for all

While the for-credit culinary program prepares students for the culinary profession, not everyone has a goal of working in a restaurant or catering business. Consequently, last year the college offered several culinary classes through its community education program. These affordable courses bring a wide variety of people together to learn new skills under the tutelage of instructors from the community.

There's something about food and community that just fits together.


— Candi Bachtell

For example, the college offered two series of non-credit culinary classes. The Chefs in the Kitchen series created a culinary journey to celebrate the vibrant flavors and talents in the community and included classes in areas such as wood fired pizza and bread making. A second series explored the intersection of cuisine and culture and included culinary traditions from France, India, Poland and more.

"I love how excited people were and how we were anxious to see each other each week and spend time together," recalled Candi Bachtell, who organized the

program. "There's something about food and community that just fits together."

The community education classes include a nominal cost to cover the supplies, teaching and experience, typically ranging from about \$50 for a single class to \$125 or so for a series, depending on the materials involved. In most cases, students can take either a single class or sign up for the whole series.

Community members interested in signing up for a community education class should send an email to ce@ghc.edu. In addition to cooking classes, the college has offered courses in print making, watercolors, photography and more. Classes will be offered at the Grays Harbor campus in Aberdeen, with new community education centers underway in Raymond and Ilwaco. 

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"I think that the garden totems are my favorite pieces to make because it takes all of my skill and effort to make all of the pieces."

— Melanie Israel

STORY & PHOTOS BY KATIE MCGREGOR

Since relocating to Grays Harbor eight years ago, ceramic artist, business instructor and outdoor enthusiast Melanie Israel has found an inspiring community amongst fellow local artists.

"It didn't take very long to figure out that this is where I wanted to be. I'm from a rural town, so the Aberdeen area is similar to Maine even though it's across the country," Melanie said. "I love it here. There's more trees than people."

Originally from Bangor, Maine, 59-year-old Melanie moved to Aberdeen in the fall of 2017 when she was brought on as the Business Division Chair at Grays Harbor College.

Melanie is a renaissance woman and loves to share her expertise with others. She currently teaches Introduction to Business at the college, is a deep-sea kayaking guide in the summers and teaches the occasional ceramic class at the South Beach Arts Association (SBAA) gallery in Westport.

Introduced to ceramics in high school, Melanie continued learning while attending the University of Vermont. She learned under the likes of Tom White, a Massachusetts-based potter with more than 35 years of experience making functional pieces; and Aurore Chabot, an American ceramicist known for her sculptures, wheel-thrown pieces, and ceramic tile murals.





But life happened and eventually art took a backseat to Melanie's teaching career. "It's an expensive hobby. I shelved it for a while until I could find a studio to work out of."

Over the years she has been a weaver, quilter, spinner, and even took a series of paint-and-sip-style classes which she says helped develop her approach to glazing her ceramics.

Upon moving to Grays Harbor, Melanie became involved with the South Beach Arts Association and has been creating ceramic pieces out of the Westport-located studio ever since.

Much of Melanie's work is ocean themed and features sea creatures and motifs. Right now, she is, perhaps, most known for her unique ceramic totems which consist of individual hand-built pieces that she stacks on top of each other in a totem-pole style.

Back in 2020, Melanie was making ceramic yard stakes when she and SBAA studio manager and friend Tanya Lana collaborated to experiment with the idea of ceramic garden totem poles.

The structural aspect of these totems presented a challenge. The individual pieces are held in place by rebar which has eventually evolved into a combination of rebar and plastic pipe to ensure that the ceramics won't move around too much and break.

"Before we started making them, figuring out how they would go together was the big challenge," Melanie explained.

Melanie starts each garden totem with a concept and a sketch.

"I'll have an idea and sometimes it works, sometimes when I put the

pieces together it doesn't. But the more I do, the better I get at putting them together and making individual pieces that will go into a totem."

From there she starts making the individual pieces that will be stacked together. She's honed her process to the point where she can make about three fish in a few hours. But once they are formed, they still need to be cleaned up and glazed.

Ceramics is a medium that takes time. After the initial formation of a piece, it needs to dry before being trimmed and cleaned; then it goes into the kiln for the bisque firing, which makes pieces more durable for glazing. Once a piece is glazed, it goes back into the kiln for the final firing. The final firing alone can take several days simply due to the time it takes to load the kiln, fire the pieces, let them sit to cool down and unload the kiln.

"My work is way better because of the social creation that happens here. If I was doing this alone in the studio I wouldn't be as good."

– Melanie Israel

"I think that the garden totems are my favorite pieces to make because it takes all of my skill and effort to make all of the pieces," Melanie said.

Melanie credits the SBAA community for being an inspiration and driving force to constantly be learning.

"My work is way better because of the social creation that happens here," she explained. "If I was doing this alone in the studio I wouldn't be as good. It stretches my ability as an artist to try out other ideas."

Notably, Melanie's approach to designing

(continued on page 30)



Photo by Liz Gronlund



Artist Melanie Israel (continued)

the fish that go on her garden totems was altered when a marine biologist came to take a class from her. Melanie now uses templates that were created with the input from a field expert to bring a more realistic aspect to her ceramic fish.

Those templates as well as a variety created by others are available as references for anyone who chooses to take a class at the South Beach Arts Association studio. Classes are taught by volunteer artists and can vary in price from \$30 to \$65.

Some classes are "one and done," while others take place over a series of weeks.

The SBAA offers pottery throwing classes, hand building classes and more. The group is currently in the process of integrating a glass kiln and lithograph into the tools available in the studio.

Artists of all ages and experience levels are welcome to come learn or just show up during open studio hours in the afternoons and pay \$5 to use the space for the day. Annual memberships are \$20. Studio hours are 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Thursday to Sunday.

All the teachers, including manager Tanya, volunteer their time to share their expertise and keep the studio and gallery running. Many of them,



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including Melanie, donate some of their pieces to the gallery to be sold so the profit can be put toward the cost of studio operations.

Melanie herself offers hand building classes where anyone can come learn how to make pottery fish that can either hang on the wall or be turned into yard stakes.

"I do a lot. I volunteer as much as possible and it's not just here (South Beach Arts Association). I believe in giving back and this is part of how I give back. I like sharing my knowledge. That's part of the fun in life."

Tanya agrees: "Melanie volunteers for hundreds of hours at SBAA, organizes baking cookies with families for the High Holidays, makes Christmas wreaths for another holiday fundraiser, plays with the Grays Harbor College metal drums twice a week, dances with a square-dancing group, paints stage



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props for Grays Harbor College, and sits on a few college committees," she said. "In other words, this lady is young and still working strong."

Melanie Israel currently has pieces for sale at the South Beach Arts Association Gallery, 800 N Montesano St, Westport;

the Alder Grove Gallery, 200 W Market St, Aberdeen, and the South Bend Riverside Gallery, 1015 Robert Bush Drive East, South Bend. She can be contacted through the South Beach Arts Association at southbeacharts.org or southbeacharts@gmail.com. 



THEATER SPOTLIGHT

Rebecca Bronson loves both sides of theater curtain

STORY & PHOTOS BY KATIE MCGREGOR

Aberdeen's Rebecca Bronson discovered a love of theater while attending Hoquiam High School and has since involved herself with every aspect of performing on stage and behind the scenes.

"I was in choir at Hoquiam High School and Patty Sundstrom (drama teacher) pulled me into theater. Then I did it every year after that," Bronson said.

Bronson initially didn't know much going into her first audition, but she has always enjoyed singing and went into it with that experience. She credits Sundstrom for encouraging

her to continue her theater career by auditioning for "Legally Blonde" at the Bishop Center after graduating from high school.

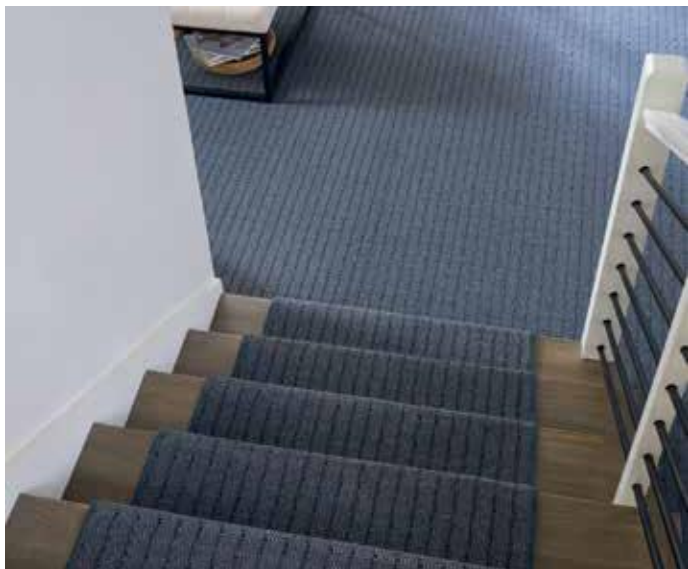
"She [Sundstrom] pulled a lot of the current theater community into that show," Bronson recalled. "It was kind of scary going into the Bishop Center with Brad Duffy directing — (but) he's really nice. It was bigger scale, but fundamentally the same."

Bronson has fond memories performing on stage at the Bishop Center and considers "Mamma Mia" and "American Idiot" to be especially memorable performances of her career.

“If you don't get cast in a show, you can always join the stage crew or paint sets. There's always so much to do in the theater community.
— Rebecca Bronson”

"Mamma Mia" was Brad Duffy's final show as director at Grays Harbor College. Everything about it was a blast and all of the shows sold out," Bronson

(continued on page 35)



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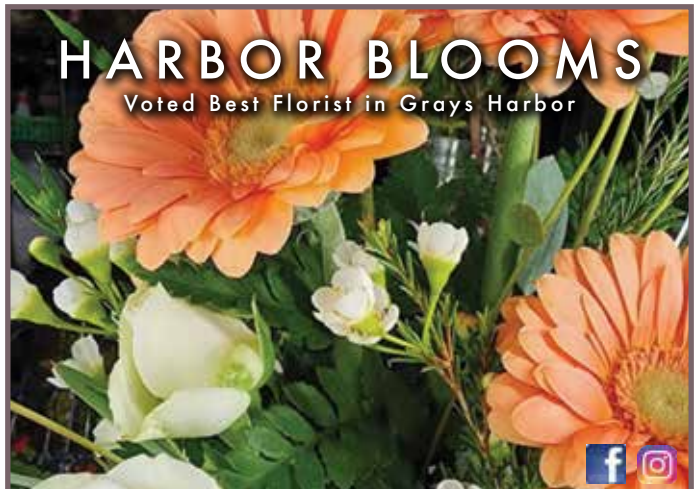
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Rebecca Bronson

(continued)

said. “‘American Idiot’ — that’s where I met my husband, Casey. We had previously interacted but not enough to know each other so we didn’t talk much until we were cast in opposite roles that were forced to talk to each other in that show. And I got to do flips on wires.”

For the most part, Bronson goes into auditions with an open mind. Only occasionally does she have a role that she specifically auditions for, but she was lucky enough to play her dream role as Natalie in “Next to Normal.” She recalls crying on the phone call, unable to talk because she was so thrilled to be cast in that role.

“That was probably the most stressful audition process. I’d never wanted anything more than I wanted that,” Bronson said.

Now at 31 years old, Bronson has spent her fair share of time on stage. Nowadays she still performs and was most recently a chorus member in Grays Harbor College’s summer production of

Rebecca Bronson played Catherine Donohue in “These Shining Lives” at the Driftwood Theater in 2025.



Photo by Keith Kraeger



Bronson, right, was a Duloc chorus member in “Shrek The Musical” at the Bishop Center in 2025.

“
The upcoming Driftwood season is really exciting. It’s the first season in a long time where we’re doing five shows instead of four.

– Rebecca Bronson

“Shrek The Musical.” But Bronson is more often found behind the curtain as the sound trustee at Driftwood Players in Aberdeen.

“I’m in charge of coordinating all of the sound for the shows here. I’ve done sound for pretty much all of the theaters here on Grays Harbor. Now I just do sound for Driftwood.”

As sound trustee, Bronson is responsible for coordinating all the audio logistics for a show. For musicals, this involves setting up all the equipment including connecting everything and distributing microphones between performers. If there aren’t enough microphones to go around, she also coordinates how the actors will share. At the same time, she


runs the backing tracks for shows that don’t have a live pit.

Bronson also works on plays which have a much more straightforward process for sound operations. In these plays, she simply gets instructions from the director and makes sound effects or finds the proper sound effects from online sound libraries to fit the performance.

“The upcoming Driftwood season is really exciting. It’s the first season in a long time where we’re doing five shows instead of four. We’ve reignited the summer slot for a one weekend show.”

Driftwood’s production of “Matilda” will be the highlight of the season. It’s a huge show and very ambitious for the space. Brad Duffy will be directing so Bronson is looking forward to seeing how the plans for the show come together.

Bronson’s passion for local theater is palpable and evident from years of enthusiastic participation and her packed schedule.

“I like to be busy. Theater is so fun because there are so many different avenues you can learn. If you don’t get cast in a show, you can always join the stage crew or paint sets. There’s always so much to do in the theater community.” 



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Aberdeen Lions gala is a toast with many recipients

BY RICK ANDERSON

Celebrating its 85th anniversary this year, the Aberdeen Lions Club meets each Monday at Aberdeen's Rotary Log Pavilion, at noon for lunch most weeks, but at 6 p.m. for dinner on the second Monday of the month.

But the weekly gatherings represent just the tip of the iceberg when it comes to the club's community activities — just as attendance is only a small portion of the volunteerism commitment for its 70-odd members.

"The Lions Club International motto is 'We serve.' We try to live up to that in every way possible." – Erv Granahan

"Most everybody does something (in terms of service projects)," confirmed Bruce Worth, Aberdeen Lions president.

One of six Lions clubs within an Olympic Peninsula zone (the others include Hoquiam, Central Park, Cosmopolis and Ocean Shores in Grays Harbor County and Clearwater-Kalaloch in Jefferson County), the Aberdeen Lions are gearing up for their signature event.

The 19th annual **Toast the Harbor** fundraiser is scheduled for **Oct. 18** at the Quinault Beach Resort and Casino near Ocean Shores and everyone – 21 and older – is invited.

The gala event, which runs from 1 to 8 p.m., offers wine, beer, spirits and cider tasting with food vendors and

a large silent auction. Tickets are \$30 if purchased in advance either online at toasttheharbor.com, or from Lions members. They are \$35 if purchased at the door.

Previous Toast the Harbor events have raised close to \$20,000.

"It's a major part of our income," said Erv Granahan, a club member since 1988.

"But we turn around and give it away," Worth added.

The Aberdeen Lions president isn't joking. Proceeds from the event are the primary source of income for financial donations to some 20 Grays Harbor non-profit organizations for projects that the club annually supports.

"One hundred percent of the money obtained through the Lions Club is returned to the community with no overhead," Worth said.

The Aberdeen club partners with other area Lions organizations for perhaps its most ambitious program — the vision screening of children.

The Lions provide camera equipment and personnel (including members who are licensed optometrists) to assist in administering state-mandated vision screening for kindergartners through seventh-grade students. Testing results are forwarded to school nurses, who make the appropriate referrals to eye-care professionals.

The program covered 55 schools and more than 11,000 students last year.

"We do not charge (for the service). We have experienced camera operators, so we are fast and accurate," related Granahan. "We typically screen on the average two kids a minute, where

(continued on page 38)



Kenna Dilley pours wine at the 2024 Toast the Harbor fundraiser.



Xander Johnstone and his dad Greg at last years event.



Bicycles from Heaven provides free refurbished bikes to kids. Below, Mike Barkstrom makes pancakes at a recent Winterfest.





The Lions Club provides Thanksgiving boxes to families in need.



John Tieder working on the paper recycling fundraiser.

Lions Club (continued)

it would typically take a nurse two minutes or more to screen one student using the (eye) charts. Our cameras are much more accurate than using the charts. As one local optometrist said, "You can't lie to the camera."

Other Aberdeen Lions projects throughout the year include:

- **Aberdeen spring and fall cleanup.** Lions members join with other organizations, including the City of Aberdeen, to remove litter and do general cleanup work in downtown Aberdeen in April and October.
- **Bicycles From Heaven.** In this program, used bicycles are collected by Lions members, refurbished at the Stafford Creek Corrections Center and then distributed free to low-income families.
- **World Music Day.** The Aberdeen Lions join other organizations in staffing Aberdeen's portion of World Music

Day in June. The club operated a beer garden this year.

- **Paper recycling.** A year-round program that is the club's second-largest fundraiser recycles newspapers, magazines and old books.
- **White Cane Days.** In one of the most visible of the club's programs, club members station themselves at the entrance to local stores soliciting donations to assist those with vision difficulties, and handing out tiny symbolic white canes to donors.

The Aberdeen Lions also volunteer with Aberdeen's Summerfest and Winterfest festivities, offer scholarships to a handful of Harbor college students and help staff the Salvation Army's food bank, among other activities.

Internationally, the Lions Club is the biggest service club organization with 1.4 million members in 49,000 clubs located in more than 200 countries, according to its website.



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At one time, the Lions had the reputation as a labor-oriented club — an organization more likely to supply volunteer personnel than funds to assist with local programs. Granahan said that perception has changed in recent years.

“One hundred percent of the money obtained through the Lions Club is returned to the community with no overhead.” – Bruce Worth

“I think our reputation for work-related projects stems from years ago when we didn’t have a lot of money,” he said. “So, the only way we could help was labor. One thing that changed that is Toast the Harbor, which provides more funds

than we have ever had from any other project so now we have more money than in the past. We are still up to labor-related projects, like helping with Summerfest, Winterfest, World Music Day and city clean-up days or even our paper and plastic recycle projects. Service is just not related to labor or just money but the combination of the two.”

Like all service organizations, the Lions clubs on the Harbor are always on the lookout for community-minded new members.

“All of us are actively seeking new members and all of the (Grays Harbor) clubs have different projects, some sell fireworks, or have a baseball park or support a senior center. But all Grays Harbor Lions Clubs support the vision screening project,” Granahan said. “We are all different but with a common theme of supporting projects for improving vision. Helen Keller challenged Lions back in 1923 to be “knights for the blind.”



Harold Warren and Mike O'Connor fundraise for the Salvation Army.

For more information about the area's Lions Clubs, contact the following:
for the Aberdeen Lions Club, Mike Welliver at (360) 532-9131 or wellivermike65@gmail.com, or Erv Granahan at (360) 249-3463 or ervg@comcast.net; for Central Park Lions Club, Conrad Jobst at (360) 538-1128, or Sandy Tometich at (360) 590-4999 or wildbill09@comcast.net; for Cosmopolis, Raymond Zukowski at (253) 223-9332 or rzukowski.cht@gmail.com; for Hoquiam Lions Club, Jerry Schaefer at (360) 533-4632 or docshores@outlook.com, and for the Ocean Shores Lions Club, Patty Sikora at (253) 653-0961 or lionpatty@gmail.com. 



Medusa Quartet

October 11 • Sat. 7:30pm

These four folk musicians are reimagining the western string quartet.



FALL MUSICAL

Oct. 31, Nov. 1, 2, 6, 7, 8, 9

Thurs. Fri. Sat. 7:30pm, Sun. 2pm

A parody of Netflix's 'Stranger Things.'



Grays Harbor Symphony & GHC String Ensemble

November 23 • Sun. 7pm

'Love Letters' romantic music, renowned piano soloist Dr. Yiyi Chen is featured.



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GRAYS HARBOR SCHEDULE OF EVENTS • ART • MUSIC • THEATER • FOOD • FESTIVALS

SEPTEMBER

SEPTEMBER 1-19 . GHC Employee Summer Art Exhibition . Aberdeen . College library gallery.

SEPTEMBER 5 . First Friday Art Walk Aberdeen Art Center . Enjoy art, live music, artist demonstrations, free art class & snacks, 5 - 8pm.

SEPTEMBER 5, 12, 19, 26 . Friday Market . Elma . Produce, eggs, local artisans, Noon - 6pm.

SEPTEMBER 6 . Loggers' Playday . Hoquiam . Celebrates Logging's heyday and Hoquiam's history. Noon parade, 2pm salmon bake, 6pm main logging show at Olympic Stadium. (See page 5).

SEPTEMBER 6, 7 . 'The Caine Mutiny' . 7th Street Theatre . Hoquiam . Saturday 7pm, Sunday 2pm. Movie from 1954.

SEPTEMBER 7 . Cosmopolis Festival in the Park . Cosmopolis Lions Club . Fire Dept. Pancake Breakfast fundraiser, 8am. Festival 11am - 4pm. Vendors, live music & food trucks.

SEPTEMBER 6, 13, 20 . Seabrook Sunset Concert . September Encore Series . Live music in Seabrook's Meadowview Park, 5-6:30pm.

SEPTEMBER 6, 13, 20, 27 . Aberdeen Farmer's Market . Artisans, farmers, kids activities, live music, on Broadway downtown, 10am - 3pm.

SEPTEMBER 10 . Rock the Shores . Ocean Shores . Live bands, silent auction, vendors, beer garden. 12-8pm at Lions Club. OS Food Bank benefit.

SEPTEMBER 10 . History of the Grays Harbor National Wildlife Refuge . Hoquiam . Timberland Library . With Ranger Julia Pinnix. 4pm.

SEPTEMBER 11 . Annual 9/11 Walk to Remember . Westport . From Grays Harbor Lighthouse to Gen. Doolittle VFW in Westport, 11am.

SEPTEMBER 13 . A Year of Gardening: Seasons of Color . Hoquiam . Timberland Library . Discussing types of plants & design ideas. 2:30pm.

(continued on page 45)

Shows to enjoy this autumn in Grays Harbor

Grays Harbor actors, musicians and directors have been busy putting together productions designed for your entertainment this fall. The autumn offerings include the following:

Driftwood Players **120 E. 3rd St., Aberdeen**

Driftwood Players have two shows coming this fall in their intimate theater.



"The Marvelous Wonderettes"

Written by Roger Bean and directed by McKenna Hansen, "The Marvelous Wonderettes" is a musical comedy set in the 1950s.

Join Betty Jean, Cindy Lou, Missy, and Suzy at the Springfield High School class of 1958 Super Senior Prom, as these four best friends navigate relationships, growing up, and following their dreams. This is a colorful jukebox musical full of 50s and 60s hits

The show will be performed at 7:30 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, **Oct. 3, 4, 10, 11, 17 and 18**, and at 2 p.m. Sundays, **Oct. 12 and 19**.

"The Diary of Anne Frank"

This classic drama, based on the 1947 book, "The Diary of Anne Frank," is a screenplay written by Frances Goodrich and Albert Hackett and will be directed by AJ Cooper.

The drama tells the true story of a young Jewish girl who goes into hiding in Amsterdam along with her family during World War II to escape capture by the Nazis.

THE DIARY OF



Anne Frank

The show will be performed at 7:30 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, **Nov. 28, 29, Dec. 5, 6, 12 and 13**, and at 2 p.m. Sundays, **Dec. 7 and 14**.

Tickets for Driftwood plays are \$20 and can be purchased online at aberdeendrftwood.com. If available, tickets may be purchased at the door.

Bishop Center for Performing Arts **1620 Edward P. Smith Dr., Aberdeen**

The Medusa Quartet, four Canadian folk musicians who have reimaged the Western string quartet, will perform at the Bishop Center for Performing Arts at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, **Oct. 11**. Medusa's dynamic arrangement style includes sounds of Middle Eastern, Scandinavian, Celtic, Appalachian and Eastern European music, as well as original tunes.



"Stranger Sings! The Parody Musical,"

is a comedic "upside down" take of the popular Netflix series "Stranger Things" and all its campy 1980s glory. Written by Jonathan Hogue and directed by Julayne Fleury and Alex Eddy, the show is a joint production of the Bishop Center for Performing Arts and Plank Island Theatre Company.

The show is set in Hawkins, Indiana, in 1983, when times were simpler, hair was bigger and unsupervised children were getting snatched by inter-dimensional creatures. Join Mike, Eleven, Lucas, Dustin, Hopper and the whole Hawkins gang for a night of adventure, thrills, pubescent angst, heavy synth, catchy tunes, poor parenting, convoluted love triangles, dancing monsters, and maybe, just maybe, justice for everyone's favorite missing redhead, Barb Holland.

Just in time for the highly anticipated final season of the Netflix series, the

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musical will be performed at the Bishop Center for Performing Arts **Oct. 31 and Nov. 1, 2, 6, 7, 8 and 9.** The Thursday, Friday and Saturday shows begin at 7:30 p.m., with 2 p.m. matinees on **Nov. 2, 8 and 9.**

Tickets can be purchased online at ghc.edu/bishop.



Grays Harbor Symphony Orchestra
The Grays Harbor Symphony Orchestra and GHC String Ensemble will present the fall concert, **"Love Letters"** at 2 p.m.,

Sunday, **Nov. 23.** In "Love Letters," the Grays Harbor Symphony, under the direction of Bill Dyer, will highlight romantic themes. Renowned piano soloist Dr. Yiyi Chen joins the Grays Harbor Symphony, performing Clara Schumann's Piano Concerto in A Minor. 



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SEPTEMBER 13, 14 . And a Mouse Cat Club Cat Show . Elma . *Grays Harbor County Fairgrounds.*

SEPTEMBER 13, 14 . Westport Longboard Classic . *Surfing competition, national & local talent. Surfers & spectators invited. Many divisions & a team relay paddle race! Check-in, live music & social 9/12. HQ: The Surf Shop.*

SEPTEMBER 13, 20, 27 . Grays Harbor Raceway . Elma . *Sprint cars, Limited Sprint, IMCA Modified, IMCA Northern SportMod, Super Stocks, Hornets, Midgets. 9/13 fireworks. 9/27 Season Finale, 6pm.*

SEPTEMBER 15 to OCTOBER 31 . Boat Basin Salmon Derby . Westport Marina . *Dockside fishing for salmon, locally donated prizes.*

SEPTEMBER 16, 23 . Learn to square dance! Hoquiam . *Grays Harbor Haylofters, free beginner lessons. No experience or partner needed. Washington Elementary School, 6:30-8:30pm. 360-589-3442.*

SEPTEMBER 17 . Ocean Shores Food Bank Fundraiser . Mini-Golf Tournament . Pacific Paradise sponsor, 3-6pm. Tickets: Ocean Sunset Drug.

SEPTEMBER 18 . Joel Gibson Jr . Ocean Shores Cinema . *Live music with the premier independent country & rock artist in the PNW, 7pm.*

SEPTEMBER 19 . Showcase Grays Harbor . *An exclusive tour of North Beach; Coastal Interpretive Center, Oyuhut Bay, Seabrook & Lytle Seafoods – GGH Inc. Register by 9/5. 8am-4pm.*

SEPTEMBER 19, 20 . 'Napoleon Dynamite' . 7th Street Theatre . Hoquiam . *Friday & Saturday 7:30pm. Movie from 2004.*

SEPTEMBER 19, 20, 21 . Annual Fundraiser Yard Sale. McCleary Museum . *Breakfast served on 9/20, 7:30am until the food runs out.*

SEPTEMBER 19-21 . 30 Miles of Junque . Tokeland-Westport-Ocosta . *Garage sales galore.*

SEPTEMBER 20 . Murder Mystery Dinner . Lake Quinalt Lodge . *Join us for a thrilling night of suspense! Book online. 4-8pm.*

SEPTEMBER 20 . There's No Place Like Home Dinner & Auction . Montesano . *City Hall. Fundraiser for Family Promise of Grays Harbor, providing temporary shelter & other services to aid families working towards permanent housing, 5pm.*

SEPTEMBER 23 . Preparing for the Camino . Montesano . *Timberland Library . Candi Bachtell shares about hiking the Camino de Santiago, noon.*

(continued on page 46)

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Your Grays Harbor PUD is conducting a brief survey to learn how energy costs are impacting our customers. The survey, accessible by this QR code or online at ghpud.org, focuses on your current energy burden, or the portion of your income spent on electricity and other fuels used at your home. Your responses will help identify where support may be needed and ensure that our clean energy efforts are equitable and responsive to the needs of our community. The information is secure, confidential, and will directly inform programs and policies aimed at easing energy costs for our customers and supporting the PUD's clean energy future. Thank you for taking the time to participate in this process. Your Grays Harbor PUD works for you.



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SEPTEMBER 26 . "Old-Timers" Social . McCleary Museum & Event Center . *The Salmonberry Band, 1-2pm. Refreshments, museum tours & more. 2-4pm.*

SEPTEMBER 27 . Reach the Beach . Westport *Cyclists choose 25, 44, 77 or 100 mile rides, all ending in Westport. Fundraiser for Amer. Lung Assoc.*

SEPTEMBER 27 . North Beach PAWS Dinner & Auction . Ocean Shores . *Convention Center. 6pm.*

SEPTEMBER 30 . Consumer Protection Fraud & Scam Awareness . Montesano . *Timberland Library. Office of Secretary of State & Consumer Protection, 2pm.*

OCTOBER

OCTOBER 1 . A Year of Gardening: Seed Saving . Hoquiam . *Timberland Library . 3pm.*

OCTOBER 3 . First Friday Art Walk . Aberdeen Art Center . *Enjoy art, live music, artist demonstrations, free art class & snacks, 5 - 8pm.*

OCTOBER 3, 4, 10, 11, 12, 17, 18, 19 . 'The Marvelous Wonderettes' . Aberdeen *Driftwood Players. Musical comedy. (See page 42).*

OCTOBER 4 . Quinault Rainforest Mushroom Festival . Amanda Park . *Speakers, forage with*

experts, vendors & more. 9am-5pm. (See page 5).

OCTOBER 4 . Bigfoot Brewfest . Seabrook *Drink, food, games & live music. Noon-4pm.*

OCTOBER 4, 5 . 'Vertigo' . 7th Street Theatre . Hoquiam . *Sat. 7:30pm, Sun. 2pm. Movie-1958.*

OCTOBER 4, 5 . Swap Meet . Elma . *Grays Harbor County Fair & Event Center. Sat. 9-4, Sun. 10-3.*

OCTOBER 10 . Cranberry Festival Cook-Off . Grayland . *Enter your best cranberry dishes, Grayland Community Hall, Noon-5pm.*

OCTOBER 11 . Shipwrecks of the Northwest . Timberland Libraries . *Joann Lacy shares stories about shipwrecks along with photographs, maps & more. Westport, 11am. Hoquiam, 2:30pm.*

OCTOBER 11 . Clinton "Dogger" Mullins . McCleary Museum & Event Center . *An eclectic mix of country, classic rock, 90's music & beyond. 7pm.*

OCTOBER 11 . Medusa Quartet . Bishop Center . Aberdeen . *Grays Harbor College. Toronto-based folk musicians, 7pm. (See page 42).*

OCTOBER 10-12 . Cranberry Harvest Festival . Grayland Community Hall . *Bog tours, cranberry*

cook off, pancake breakfast & firefly parade. (See pg. 6).

OCTOBER 13-19 . Celtic Music Feis . Ocean Shores . *Celebrating Irish songs, ballads, players & bands. Music & fun for 7 days. (See page 6).*

OCTOBER 18 . Toast the Harbor Festival & Auction . Ocean Shores . *Quinault Beach Resort, Fundraiser for Aberdeen Lions Club. Wine tasting, silent auction, entertainment & food. (See pg. 37).*

OCTOBER 18 . Walk of the Undead 98520 . Aberdeen . *Expect fun with a side of Spooky! The ultimate zombie experience, downtown Aberdeen.*

OCTOBER 18 . New Constellations Live! . Seabrook Town Hall . *Great music in a vibrant atmosphere. Tickets available online, 7:30pm.*

OCTOBER 18 . 2nd Annual Mushroom Festival . Grayland Community Hall . *10am-5pm.*

OCTOBER 24 . Explorations of Traditional Print & Film . Hoquiam . *Timberland Library . Explore two historic 100-year-old machines to create a unique mini movie. 3:30pm.*

OCTOBER 24, 25 . 'Jumanji' . 7th Street Theatre Hoquiam . *Fri. & Sat. 7:30pm, Movie from 1995.*

(continued on page 47)

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OCTOBER 25 . Hawaiian Murder Mystery Dinner . McCleary Museum . Tickets \$75, dinner, beverage, dessert & fun, 6pm.

OCTOBER 25 . Rogue Wrestling Attractions Harbor Havoc . Ocean Shores Convention Center

OCTOBER 25, 26 . Seabrook Halloweenkend . Enchanting Halloween spirit, thrilling Fall festivities.

OCTOBER 26 . YMCA Harvest Carnival . Aberdeen Carnival games, prizes & costume contest. Noon-2pm.

OCTOBER 28 . Mowing the Grass at Low Tide . Montesano . Timberland Library . Efforts to save Willapa Bay shores from invasive species, noon.

OCTOBER 31 (thru Nov. 9) . 'Stranger Sings! The Parody Musical' . Bishop Center . Aberdeen . Grays Harbor College . A comedic take of

the Netflix series 'Stranger Things,' 7:30pm. (pg.42)

NOVEMBER

NOVEMBER 1, 2, 6, 7, 8, 9 . 'Stranger Sings! The Parody Musical' . Bishop Center . Aberdeen . Grays Harbor College . A comedic take of the Netflix series 'Stranger Things.' (See page 42).

(continued on page 49)

Index of Advertisers

A-1 Roofing	38
Aberdeen Office Supply	19
Advanced Heating & Air	7
Bayview Redimix	44
Bishop Center, GHC	39
Blue Buoy Restaurant	41
Bonnell Tree Service	47
Breakwater Seafood	16
Billy's Restaurant	16
Bryan & Son Jewelers	20
Budget Blinds	49
C & C Classic Diner	27
Casa Limon Mexican Restaurant ...	41
Cascade Pizza	52
Chavez Beauty School	42
Clean Time Landscaping	47
CMD Sign Electric Inc.	47
CSM	34
DBC Company	47
Doug's Small Engine Repair	47
First Harbor Real Estate	10
Foothills Family Furniture	15

Glass Doctor	31, 47
Go Get the Pho	14
Granny Hazels Candy	40
Grays Harbor Farmers Market	43
Grays Harbor PUD	45
Grizzly Den Restaurant	43
Grocery Outlet	10
Harbor Blooms	34
Harbor Insulation	47
Harbor Regional Health	10
Hungry Heifer Diner	26
JIT Landscaping	16
Jones Creek Brewing	26, 27
Junk Queens	41
K & J Designs	30
Little Richards Doughnuts	41
Longshore Credit Union	47
The Market Place	25
McHugh's Furniture	33
Montesano Dental	24, 34
Montesano Farm & Home	31
Nancy's Bakery	43
Nelson Crab	18
Nevergreen	47

Northwest Carriage Museum	26
Northwest Swim Spas	50-51
Olympic Realty, Reynvaan	15
OURCU	16
Pacific Care & Rehabilitation	6
Pacific County Historical Society ..	26
Playtime Family Fun	46
Q-Mart	4
Raymond Liquidation Warehouse ..	27
Roof Doctor	48
Service Directory	47
Shoalwater Bay Casino	3
Shop-N-Kart	13
Stullick Jewelry	34
Summit Pacific Medical Center	2
Swansons SuperValu Groceries	36
Twin Harbor Drug	40
Washington Coast Real Estate	43
Westport Pizza Company	40
Westside Pizza	21
Wildman Brewing Company	26, 27
Willapa Brewing Company	26, 27
Willapa Liquidation Warehouse	27



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NOVEMBER 1 . A Year of Gardening: Landscaping with Native Plants . Hoquiam . *Timberland Library . Enhance your landscape, 2:30pm.*

NOVEMBER 1, 2 . 'The Little Princess' . 7th Street Theatre . Hoquiam . *Saturday 7:30pm, Sunday 2pm. Movie from 1939.*

NOVEMBER 1, 2 . Swap Meet . Elma . *Grays Harbor County Fair & Event Center. Sat. 9-4, Sun. 10-3.*

NOVEMBER 7 . First Friday Art Walk . Aberdeen Art Center . *Enjoy art, live music, artist demonstrations, free art class & snacks, 5 - 8pm.*

NOVEMBER 7 - DECEMBER 11 . Annual Fall Gala Art Show . Aberdeen . *GHC library gallery. Juried art show, open weekdays. Opening 6pm, Nov. 7.*

NOVEMBER 14 . Explorations of Traditional Print & Film . Montesano . *Timberland Library. Explore two historic 100-year-old machines to create a unique mini movie. 3:30pm.*

NOVEMBER 14 . The Mistaken . McCleary Museum & Event Center. *Concert of folk, country, TexMex, soul, rock, & world music, 7pm.*

NOVEMBER 15 . Learning to Identify & Combat Misinformation . Aberdeen . *Timberland Library.*

Workshop by the Office of the Secretary of State, 3pm.

NOVEMBER 21 . YMCA Turkey BINGO . Aberdeen . *Play to win turkeys, dessert & gift cards. BINGO boards \$3, 6-8pm.*

NOVEMBER 21, 22 . Sasquatch Summit . Quinault Beach Resort . Ocean Shores . *Research Conference. Hear from the biggest names in the Sasquatch world.*

NOVEMBER 22, 23 . 46th Annual Country Christmas Bazaar . Elma . *Grays Harbor County Fairgrounds. Sat. 9am-5pm, Sun. 10am-3pm.*

NOVEMBER 23 . Grays Harbor Symphony Orchestra . Bishop Center . Aberdeen . *Grays Harbor College. Featuring renowned piano soloist Dr. Yiyi Chen, 2pm. (See page 43).*

NOVEMBER 27 . Seabrook Turkey Trot . *Before the feast, join the fun at Seabrook's annual Turkey Trot, a 3k family-friendly run (or walk).*

NOVEMBER 28, 29 . 'Home Alone' . 7th Street Theatre . Hoquiam . *7:30pm, movie from 1990.*

NOVEMBER 28, 29, DECEMBER 5, 6, 7, 12, 13, 14 . 'The Diary of Anne Frank' . Aberdeen . *Driftwood Players. The true story of a young Jewish*

girl who goes into hiding during World War II to escape capture by the Nazis. (See page 42).


DECEMBER

DECEMBER 5, 6, 7, 12, 13, 14 . 'A Good Old-Fashioned Big Family Christmas' . Ocean Shores . *Stage West Community Theater.*

DECEMBER 6 . Winterfest . Aberdeen . *Festivities downtown.*

DECEMBER 12-14 . Montesano Festival of Lights . *Saturday evening parade, 6pm with lighted floats, yule log, craft fair & more.*

DECEMBER 13, 14 . Grays Harbor Opera Workshop - 'Patience (or Bunthorne's Bride)' . Bishop Center . Aberdeen . *Grays Harbor College, Sat. 7:30pm, Sun. 2pm.*

More events to come! The winter issue will be in your mailbox on December 1. Meanwhile, check www.coastal-currents.com for the latest information on Harbor events. Do you have a Grays Harbor event you would like to have considered for inclusion in the winter issue of Coastal Currents? Please e-mail the info by November 1 to ccads19@gmail.com. 



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