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COASTAL

MAGAZINE

Currents

ART • MUSIC • THEATER • FOOD

Winter 2024

December • January • February



Kurt Cobain project unveiled



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Since June 2019, we have worked hard to produce an engaging magazine featuring the great things about Grays Harbor. For myself and the COASTAL CURRENTS team, it's really been a labor of love and dedication to the place we call home.

The decision to print and mail a free copy of each issue to the 37,000+ homes in Grays Harbor was my way of ensuring everyone would have the opportunity to know about, be proud of, and enjoy what's happening right here. Many of you have told us how much you enjoy Coastal Currents, but now I need you to tell me why!

By taking a few minutes to scan the QR code (or www.pulsepoll.com/currents) and answer some questions, you will help us to continue to publish a magazine we all can be proud of.

The local businesses make it possible for us to provide the magazine for free. We need to share with them what readers like about Coastal Currents. So please take a few minutes to complete the survey so we can find out what you enjoy most about our free magazine.



Enjoy this issue, please fill out the survey and have a joyful holiday season!

Sincerely,

Stan Woody
Stan Woody

Publisher/owner Coastal Currents

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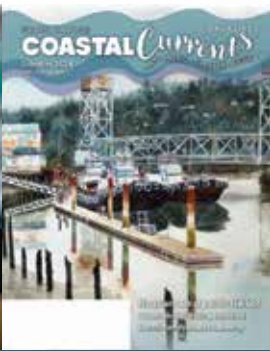
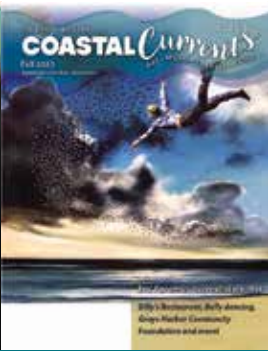
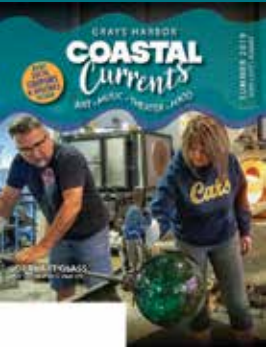




Photo by Katie McGregor

These in-progress wooden art projects are just a few of those of John Hampton, a member of Grays Harbor's Fine Woodworkers Guild. See story on page 16.

COASTAL Currents MAGAZINE

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This issue's front cover features the street view of Unplugged and The Green Room, recently opened tributes to Aberdeen's Kurt Cobain and Nirvana. See story on page 9. Photo by Rick Moyer.

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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BY RICK ANDERSON

Christmas light shows are a holiday staple of many communities. Few, however, use a 496-foot-high cooling tower at a never-completed nuclear power plant as the primary backdrop.

That's what makes East County's Harbor Lights holiday program unique.

The Harbor Lights program is scheduled to stage its fifth year of shows Dec. 11 and 12 at the Port of Grays Harbor's Satsop Business Park. As in the past, a laser light show will be projected against the westernmost of two cooling towers—the last

HARBOR LIGHTS BRINGS CHRISTMAS CHEER TO SATSOP

remnants of the park's link to the Satsop nuclear power plant proposed for the site — to the accompaniment of holiday music, with spectators witnessing the program from the comfort of their vehicles.

Hosted and primarily sponsored by the Summit Pacific Medical Center's Foundation, shows are scheduled for 5, 7 and 9 each night. Admission is free, but reservations are required. They may be obtained online at the summitpacificmedicalcenter.org website.

The Wellpoint medical insurance provider, Timberland Bank, Our Community Credit Union, Elma Family Dental and the Port Blakely forest products company are also sponsors.

Harbor Lights proved to be one of the few bright lights to emerge from the otherwise bleak winter of 2020, the first year of the Covid-19 pandemic.

With most public events canceled and many residents largely confined to their homes amid social distancing regulations, Summit Pacific CEO Josh Martin and Elma physician Dr. Shawn Andrews hatched the idea of a Christmas show with a twist.

"They got together and said, 'What can we do to get people together in a safe manner?'" related Brad Thomas, Summit Pacific's Foundation and Community Development director. "It all went wonderfully."

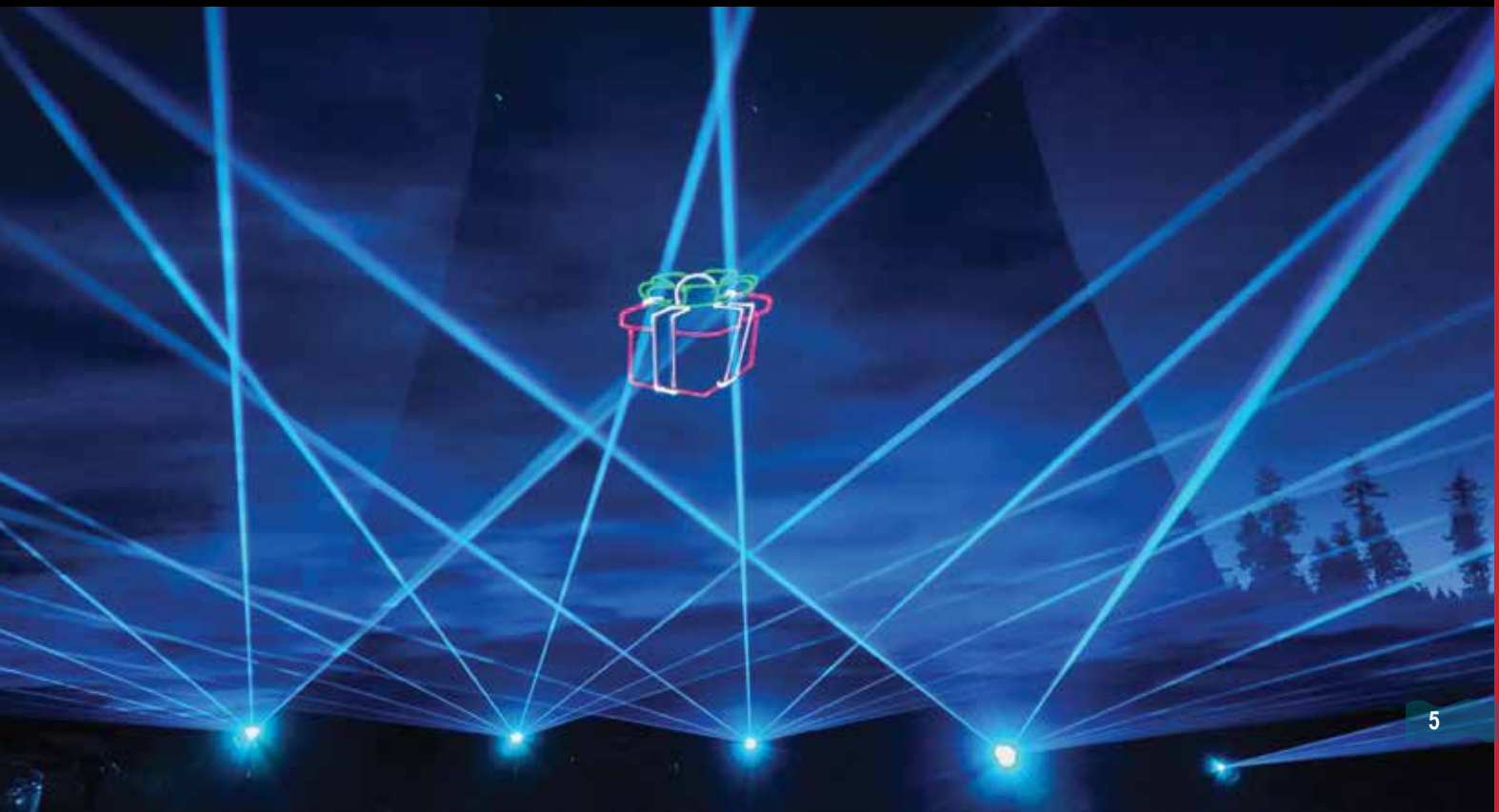
"This was the first Christmas with Covid and they wanted to do something that would be low contact but enjoyable for families," added Satsop Business Park General Manager Alissa Shay.

(continued on page 6)

"It is definitely a hit for families and is a great addition to the holiday season on Grays Harbor."

– Alissa Shay

Photos courtesy of Summit Pacific Medical Center





HARBOR LIGHTS *(continued)*

The notion of using one of the cooling towers for the show, however, required some creativity.

"Josh Martin wanted to use the biggest structure on Grays Harbor and what better than the nuclear towers?" Thomas said. "So, he reached out to the Port, and the rest is history."

Starved for entertainment, area residents responded enthusiastically — more enthusiastically, in fact, than organizers anticipated.

"The one logistical thing they didn't think of was that 2,000 people came," Thomas noted. "They had cars parked from the Satsop Business Park all the

way to the highway. That's how big the backup was."

Several changes were made to subsequent shows. Multiple programs were added, with attendance limited to 500 vehicles per show (RV's and oversized vehicles are not permitted). Parking professionals were hired to



December 5

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assist with the traffic flow, directing spectators to a lot adjacent to the cooling tower.

The popularity of the program has not diminished. Four of last year's six shows were sellouts. Assuming several passengers in each vehicle, the 2023 attendance was estimated at 7,500.

The operation resembles the experience at a drive-in movie theater.

Each driver is instructed to tune their car radio to a designated frequency. Spectators then watch the synchronized light show while listening to a wide range of musical selections, from traditional Christmas carols to more contemporary holiday music interspersed with such seasonal favorites as "White Christmas" and "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer." Audience sing-alongs are not only allowed but encouraged.

Each show lasts approximately 40 minutes. For the sake of variety, according to Thomas, about 25 percent of the musical selections differ from the previous year's program.

Slick Lasers, a well-regarded Seattle laser production company, provides



"To get close to 8,000 people in Grays Harbor County to do anything together is pretty special."

– Brad Thomas

the visual effects. Some of the laser lights are even directed back at the spectators.

"It's very modern and has a lot of upbeat, exciting music," said Shay, who has witnessed the program. "It is definitely a hit for families and is a great addition to the holiday season on Grays Harbor."

Because most spectators remain in their cars, concessions are not offered. Portable toilets are available.

The Christmas shows probably will remain the Satsop Business Park's sole venture into the entertainment industry for the foreseeable future.

Although the cooling towers have been suggested as venues for everything from sporting events to rock music concerts, Shay said they will continue to be restricted to film and photography productions, plus public safety and military training.

"We are not able to allow public access to the cooling towers due to their unfinished nature," she explained.

The Harbor Lights program, however, is one Grays Harbor holiday tradition that is likely to endure.

"I think it is a great community project that both the foundation and the hospital do to say thank you for the amazing support they receive all year," Thomas concluded. "To get close to 8,000 people in Grays Harbor County to do anything together is pretty special." 



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HUMANIZING THE ROCKSTAR:

The Music Project brings Kurt Cobain back to his roots

STORY BY JULIANA WALLACE

PHOTOS BY RICK MOYER

Rockers Tom Petty once claimed that “Nirvana was the most significant thing since the Beatles.” And, though Aberdeen native Kurt Cobain himself rejected the notion that he represented the “voice of a generation,” both his music and his persona continue to resonate deeply with fans from 8 years old to 80.

Thousands of those fans have trekked to Aberdeen through the years from all over the world, hoping to find connections with the reluctant icon in his hometown but finding few places to pay tribute. That all changed in June 2024 with the opening of “Unplugged” in downtown Aberdeen.

“It’s a living narrative that reflects not only Kurt’s artistry but also Aberdeen’s unique role in shaping modern music.”

— Gillian Gaar

“There isn’t a dedicated Kurt Cobain project anywhere like this,” said Aberdeen resident Lee Bacon. Lee and his wife, Dani, have worked tirelessly for the past six years to create a set of experiences dedicated to the music and the musicians who upended the music scene in the early 1990s.

(continued on page 10)

Emma Bradford, left, welcomes guests to the Unplugged space.





Lee and Dani Bacon have gathered numerous Kurt Cobain artifacts to build a powerful, immersive experience.

The Music Project (continued)

Though only active for seven years, Nirvana became one of the best-selling bands of all time, selling more than 75 million albums worldwide. The band produced just three studio albums: "Bleach" (1989), "Nevermind" (1991), and "In Utero" (1993). However, fans can also purchase several live and compilation albums, including the Grammy Award-winning "MTV Unplugged in New York."

The Bacons moved to Grays Harbor 10 years ago from the Seattle area. Music enthusiasts, they recognized the significance of Kurt Cobain and Nirvana and felt strongly that fans needed a place to connect. No space like that existed. But then Kurt's childhood home came on the market, and that became the turning point.

In 2018, the Bacons purchased the home on East First Street in Aberdeen from the Cobain family. They spent the

"This experience has the power to attract visitors from around the globe, establishing Aberdeen as a must-visit destination..."

— Dmitry Pashkin

next five years transforming the house into a living museum, working closely with the Cobain family and others to make the space as historically accurate as possible.

"The house is completely reset, frozen in time, as if the family was there and then left to go to the store, and it got locked up," explained Dani Bacon. "It has the original carpet, the original countertops. ... Ninety-five percent of the interior finishings are original and the majority of furnishings, art and décor have been recovered." Even Kurt's drawings on his bedroom walls remain.

As work on the house proceeded, the Bacons realized they also

Unplugged and the Green Room are located at 121 West Wishkah Street in Aberdeen.



needed a larger venue to serve as a gathering place for grunge fans and a space for people to create and connect and explore music together.

Consequently, in 2020 the Bacons purchased the former Goldberg Furniture building in downtown Aberdeen. With the additional space, the vision began to take shape in the form of several distinct but interconnected projects, all under the umbrella of The Music Project nonprofit.

The Bacons founded The Music Project in 2023 with the goal to enrich lives and empower individuals through the transformative power of music. Initiatives under the nonprofit include youth music education, community workshops, music mentorship, and multimedia resources,

all aimed at fostering community pride and personal growth.

UNPLUGGED

121 West Wishkah St.

Open 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Friday – Sunday; free

Guests walking through the door immediately find themselves immersed in Cobain's world. Nirvana's music fills the space. Large screens stream videos of Nirvana concerts and interviews. Visitors can play guitar on the stage or take a photo in front of the actual highway sign from a famous photograph of Cobain with his bandmate Krist Novoselic. Interactive exhibits tell story upon story.

Photo courtesy of The Music Project

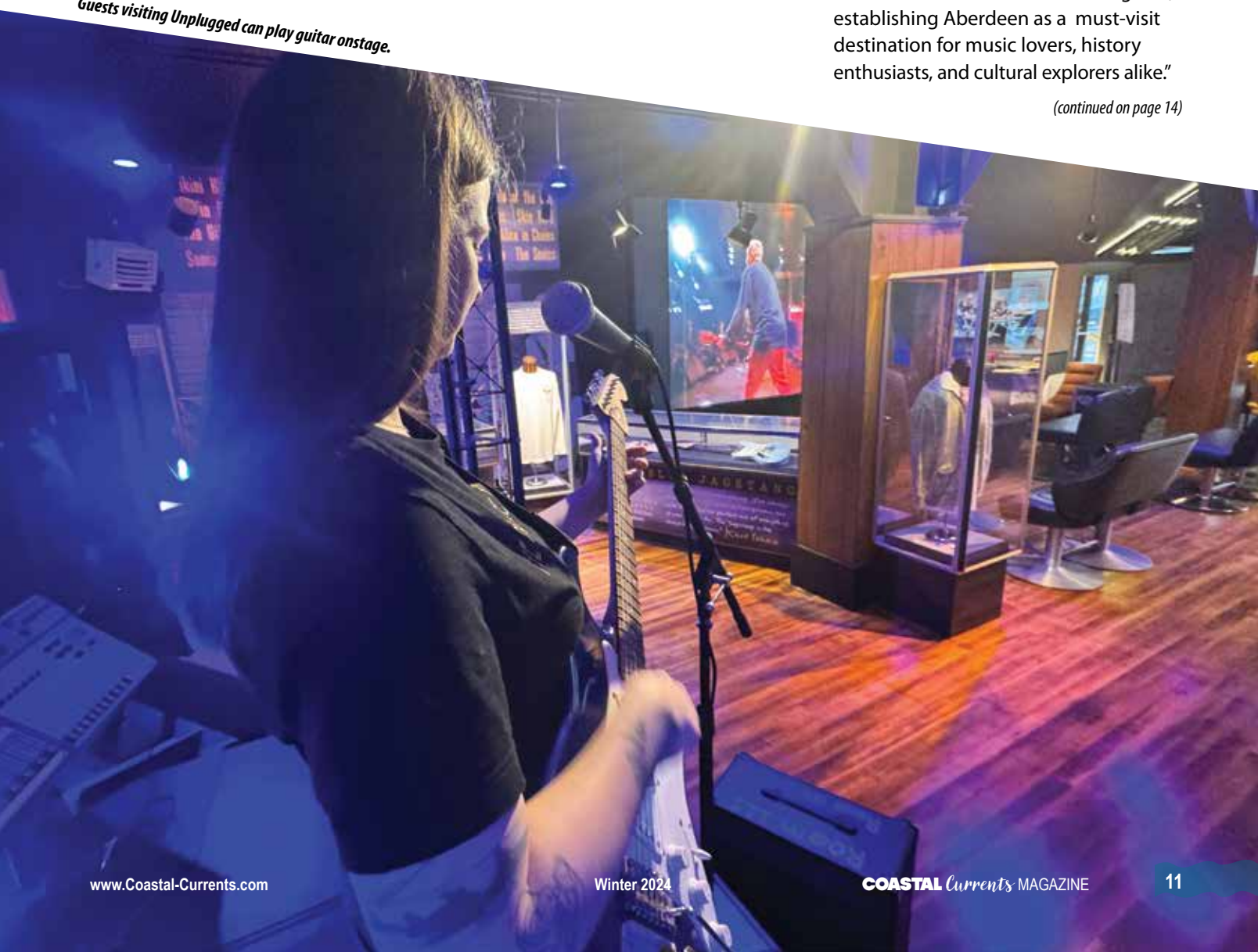


Visitors tour the Unplugged exhibits.

Dmitry Pashkin, CEO of Soundcheck Tours, an international tour company, noted the rare nature of this project. He remarked that touring the space "was like stepping back in time, experiencing the raw energy of grunge... This experience has the power to attract visitors from around the globe, establishing Aberdeen as a must-visit destination for music lovers, history enthusiasts, and cultural explorers alike."

(continued on page 14)

Guests visiting Unplugged can play guitar onstage.





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WALKING TOURS

**Beginning at 121 West Wishkah St.
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A tour guide takes guests on a walking tour of Aberdeen, visiting various unique sites related to the story of Kurt Cobain and Nirvana. In 2025, the tours will expand to include a guided van tour that will cover more locations and offer greater accessibility. Go into Unplugged to sign up for a tour.

GRUNGEOLGY

To take a deep dive into grunge and Kurt Cobain's Aberdeen, access Grungeology via computer or mobile device from www.themusicproject.org. For fans who visit Aberdeen in person, Grungeology becomes a self-guided tour of approximately 60 points of interest related to Kurt Cobain's story. This free online experience is scheduled to be available by the first quarter of 2025.

“The house is completely reset, frozen in time, as if the family was there and then left to go to the store, and it got locked up.”
— Dani Bacon

And for people located anywhere in the world, it provides an interactive, in-depth journey through the Nirvana story, from significant locations to concerts and practice sessions.

KURT COBAIN HOUSE TOUR

Very soon, fans will be able to reserve a personal tour of the Cobain home. This intimate tour provides a phenomenal opportunity to immerse themselves in Kurt's world through a living museum of sight and sound and texture. They will learn the stories that humanize the rock star, showing him as a son, a brother, a kid, a friend. This experience is expected to be ready during the first quarter of 2025. The price has yet to be set.

UPCOMING PROJECTS

In addition, two more exciting projects are well underway at 121 West Wishkah St. The Kurt Cobain Tribute Gallery and AMP Lab will be opening soon. In the Kurt Cobain Tribute Gallery, visitors will tour a 5,000-square-foot space devoted to highly interactive, highly immersive vignettes telling the story of Kurt growing up in Grays Harbor, including the friends, places, and deep connections that influenced his journey.

"It's kind of an anti-museum," explained Lee Bacon. "It's not brass and glass and stanchions. We want people to come and share and connect. If you see a couch, go dive into the couch. Soak in the story. Soak in the music. Soak in the silence in some cases."

Next, the upcoming AMP Lab will provide a space for individuals and groups to build connections while learning about multimedia and music. Youth-focused programs in the AMP Lab will include workshops and mentoring aimed at building confidence through self-expression and practical learning.

A LIVING NARRATIVE

With The Music Project, the Bacons have built a powerful and stunning tribute not only to a rich musical heritage but also to a community that too often

www.Coastal-Currents.com

The Music Project

(continued from page 11)

THE GREEN ROOM

121 West Wishkah St. Open 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday – Sunday; free

At the same address, in the Green Room, every guest becomes a VIP, stepping backstage into the encapsulated story of the grunge movement. Concert shots, cameos, and studio shots of Nirvana band members and their contemporaries line the walls, along with streaming videos of interviews and other imagery.



Photos courtesy of The Music Project





Lee and Dani Bacon have spent years creating venues for Nirvana fans to visit.

flies under the radar. And the broader community is taking notice.

"What stands out about this project is its ability to connect visitors to Kurt's creativity and the roots of grunge in a way that is both personal and culturally significant," said Seattle-based rock-and-roll author Gillian Gaar. "It's a living narrative that reflects not only Kurt's

artistry but also Aberdeen's unique role in shaping modern music."

To learn more about The Music Project, access Grungeology, or see updates on the Tribute Gallery, house tours, and other initiatives, check out www.themusicproject.org. You can also reach out via phone at (360) 747-7648, or email at info@themusicproject.org. 



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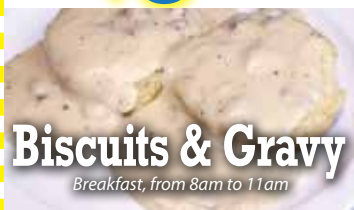
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Grays Harbor's Fine Woodworkers Guild keeps the art of woodworking alive

STORY & PHOTOS BY KATIE MCGREGOR

When walking through John Hampton's woodworking workshop full of hundreds, if not thousands, of expertly crafted pieces, his 55 years of experience is immediately evident. His collection contains everything from bowls to Christmas ornaments to wooden cowboy hats that are light enough to wear.

“I turned my first hats 20 some years ago after a Wyoming trip. At first, I made a lot of mistakes, but you learn a lot from making mistakes.”
— John Hampton

“I grew up just down the road from here and we had bees and I would build beehives for them. I pretty much taught myself,” said Hampton, 75.

Hampton took woodshop in high school but has largely developed his skills by replicating pieces he has seen.

John Hampton enjoys creating custom fit cowboy hats out of wood.



Guild members John Hampton and Vern Heikkila discuss materials to be used for a project.

His wooden cowboy hats are a great example of this.

Hampton was initially inspired by JoHannes Michelsen's iconic cowboy

hats. He saw one in a gallery while on a trip in Wyoming and, through trial and error, came up with a process to create his own. Hampton now makes them custom fit for order.

The hats each start as a 50-pound block of wood and are close to 12 ounces by the time he's done with them. Hampton starts with measurements of his client's head and then does calculations to figure out how much the wood will shrink when it dries.

Then each hat goes through an initial cutting stage, the bandsaw, lathe, and a bender for the brim. The hat slowly bends and dries after 10 days. At that point it is ready for sanding and a

(continued on page 18)





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John Hampton, Vern Heikkila, Adam Pratt and Bruce Kuhnau discuss woodworking.

Woodworkers Guild

(continued)

lacquer or oil finish. The process takes patience and sometimes the hats split while bending or drying, which requires starting the whole process over.

"I turned my first hats 20 some years ago after a Wyoming trip. At first, I made a lot of mistakes, but you learn a lot from making mistakes. You learn to accept failure because you're going to have some."

Hampton remembers making four different hats for one client in an attempt to finally get the fit right.

The hats are unique, but Hampton keeps things interesting by creating functional pieces as well.

"I like making utility items. Bowls, plates, platters... stuff that's going to get used."

Hampton makes a point to repurpose unwanted wood for many of his pieces. He'll take wood that nobody wants and make it into something nice enough that other people do want it.

"Most of the wood I get is free," Hampton said.

His pieces are colorful both because of the wood he uses, which ranges from local types like alder and maple to

“ Just show up and you’re a part of the guild. Bring some interest in woodworking. You don’t have to be a woodworker; you can just be interested. There’s always someone there who is willing to help. ”

— John Hampton

those that come from other areas like African blackwood, and because he'll occasionally experiment with adding color via airbrush.

Hampton's current project is creating kitchen cabinets in his beautiful light-filled home in Raymond where he lives with his wife, Marlynn. Though he can focus on house projects now, before retirement Hampton worked as the head setup and grinder man caring for the planer at the Weyerhaeuser plant.

Hampton is still very involved with the community. He demonstrated wood turning at the county fair and local schools for many years, teaches classes, and is a member of Wood Turners of Olympia and the Fine Woodworker's

Guild here on Grays Harbor.

The guild currently has about 32 members of all ages and has been active on the Harbor for more than 25 years.

"It's not just about building cabinets or furniture. We have a range of people. People who are just getting started to those who have been doing it for years. We've got a lot of talented people in the area but you don't have to be professional to get involved in this group," Hampton said.

Hampton currently serves as president for the Grays Harbor Fine Woodworker's Guild which meets from 1 to 3 p.m. on the first Tuesday of each month in the Grays Harbor College's carpentry classroom. Adam Pratt, head of carpentry technology at the college, and a few students are involved with the guild as well.

In the past, guild members and carpentry students have even worked on projects together to make toys for toy drives.

The guild boasts a variety of talented members: boat builders, guitar makers, spoon carvers, wood turners, scroll saw workers, and more. Member attendance can vary depending on time of year but



John Hampton shows off his wood stash that will provide the material for future projects.



Hampton crafted this 3-foot-tall vase.

the meetings are casual and optional to attend.

"It's basically a friends-getting-together-for-a-coffee hour type of thing," Hampton explained.

The guild aims to cover different topics at each meeting. Experienced woodworkers teach about picking out the right wood for projects, which tools work best, and safety. But members will do demonstrations as well. It's an information source for everybody.

Guild members are more than willing to share their expertise and sometimes even tools. Hampton recalled bringing guild members to his personal shop so they could try equipment before investing in their own.

A lathe is a machining tool used for shaping wood. It rotates the wood around a stationary tool to remove unwanted parts. At first glance it might resemble a horizontal pottery wheel with much more power behind it.

(continued on page 20)

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This rack holds a small portion of John Hampton's handcrafted bowls.

Woodworkers Guild

(continued)

It is imperative to have access to a lathe for woodturning, which is the type of woodworking that Hampton specializes in.

"I've got four different lathes so whatever guild members want to turn, I've got a lathe that will fit it," Hampton said. "Just about anything can be put on a lathe."

“ I like making utility items. Bowls, plates, platters. ... stuff that's going to get used. ”
— John Hampton

The guild is also a great place to acquire tools and wood. There are always members buying and selling equipment. Hampton recommends that beginners take some time to learn from an expert before investing in a lathe or other machinery.

"Don't invest a lot of money into it before you really know that you like it."

That being said, the guild is always looking for new members. It's free to

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join and a great resource for those interested in any type of woodworking.

"Just show up and you're a part of the guild," Hampton said. "Bring some interest in woodworking. You don't have to be a woodworker; you can just

be interested. There's always someone there who is willing to help."

Though he isn't currently displaying his work in any galleries, Hampton still sells pieces out of the extensive collection in his workshop. To buy his

pieces or get more information about the Fine Woodworkers Guild meetings, contact Hampton through email via marlynnandjohn@gmail.com.

You can also view some of his work on his website www.hamptonwoodcraft.com. 



Guild members gather around during "show and tell" at a recent meeting.

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FIRED FERN STUDIO

Jenna Waddell has burning passion for pyrography

STORY & PHOTOS

BY GAIL GREENWOOD AYRES

Sitting in a cushion chair snuggled into a corner of her living room, Jenna Waddell adeptly handles a poker-hot pen as the aroma of burning wood wafts, and wisps of smoke curl up around her. It's all part of the creative process when you are a pyrographer.

From the Greek words "pur" and "graphos," pyrography simply means writing or drawing with fire.

A much higher quality than the wood-burning sets found in hobby shops, the Colwood SuperPro II, with its variety of shaped tips, helps Waddell transport images from her imagination, artfully burning them into reality. For instance, one tip is good for detail, another for heavy-duty burning and another perfect for stippling, she said.

"I feel like it is really limitless," Waddell, 38, said of pyrography. "I hoard stuff all the time that I think I can burn and transform – wood of all kinds, canvas, leather, paper, bone. It's really very cool. It's also very challenging. Every surface is different."

"I love scavenging wood from the beach or from thrift sales, discovering the beauty in it and then upcycling it. It gives it more personality. It's like it has a new, different life now."

She finds driftwood, for instance, particularly beautiful, but notoriously tricky to work with.

"There are so many different textures in driftwood. It is so challenging. And, there is no erasing."

A small fan sits at the ready near her cozy little workstation to be used for especially smelly or smoky woods, although she does avoid burning wood with a varnish or finish. Sometimes she needs to even wear a mask or use a thermal glove as she creates.

Waddell designs everything from earrings and bracelets to wooden spoons, rolling pins, decorative plates and boxes, gun stocks, bottle openers and much more. She's even decorated

(continued on page 24)



Winter 2024



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Pyrography (continued)



a skateboard. Nature, ancient designs, mythology and fantasy are among her favorite motifs. She enhances many of her pieces with color by using watercolor paint or colored pencils.

As beautiful as her rolling pins and wooden spoons are they are still intended for actual use in the kitchen. "I leave my stuff unfinished so that the buyer can seal or coat it with what they want in their kitchen – perhaps what they use on their cutting board," she said.

"I want people to know what I was thinking about when I was making it."

Waddell, her husband Warren, a military veteran who works at the Washington Emergency Management Division, and their three children, Bailey, 15; Brodie, 13; and Bonnie, 7, moved to



Grays Harbor four years ago, living in Aberdeen before settling in Montesano in 2023. It's from this home that she now operates Fired Fern Studio, which she began in 2014.

An artistic legacy, an appreciation of beauty, skilled hands and thousands of hours of learning and practice have honed Waddell's natural talent. And, her associate's degree in anthropology along with her evident love of learning add interest to her pieces and her conversation. It's not everyday that



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Edgar Allen Poe, Henry David Thoreau, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow and Robert Frost, along with names of various mushrooms, flowers and trees, Norse mythology and Celtic symbols, come up naturally while chatting.

Little quips, quotes and puns accompany many of her pieces. "I want people to know what I was thinking about when I was making it," she said.

Waddell may come by her talent naturally. Her great-grandfather Sven Elven, was one of DC Comics most prolific artists. A couple of his sketches hang in her home as inspiration, including one of his home in the Ozarks and another of his wife making hats.

"When people buy one of my pieces, they aren't just paying for the time it took for me to create that piece, they are also paying for my investing thousands of hours honing my craft."

While Waddell said she's been "a dabbler" most of her life, she can't remember exactly where the idea of pursuing pyrography came from. However, she does remember picking up her first pyrography machine at a craft store 10 years ago.

She began to practice using the basic machine, but "it was like trying to color using a jumbo crayon."

"Then I invested in this machine and I've definitely gotten my money out of it," she said with a warm smile.

Waddell explained that she does a lot of her work freehand, but also uses graphite transfers with tracing paper on



items – such as intricate knot patterns or while designing a pair of earrings – where symmetry is part of the aesthetic.

"When people buy one of my pieces, they aren't just paying for the time it took for me to create that piece, they are also paying for my investing thousands of hours honing my craft – buying something that I've spent years of my life learning, doing and investing in," she said.

That said, her pieces are modestly priced – \$10 for a wooden spoon, earrings starting at \$17, with larger and more complicated pieces marked higher.

Last summer she sold her work at the Montesano Saturday Market, and she has taken part in several festivals in Grays Harbor this fall. She is scheduled to be part of the Montesano Festival of Lights Craft Fair on Dec. 14 at the high school and is also set to be at the Beachcombers and Glass Float Expo on March 1 and 2 at the Ocean Shores Convention Center.

Waddell often brings her wire-nib burner pyrography machine to demonstrate during markets and festivals. With it, she creates more inventory and draws a crowd at the same time.

"People are interested in the machine and the process. And, I love talking about it."

Recently Waddell's oldest daughter has begun to create jewelry as well and sometimes accompanies her at various markets. Having that family time and contributing to the family budget with her sales are added bonuses to the joy she gets from creating.

"I love scavenging wood from the beach or from thrift sales, discovering the beauty in it and then upcycling it. It gives it more personality. It's like it has a new, different life now."

In addition to local craft shows, Waddell's work can be viewed on the Fired Fern Studio Facebook and Instagram pages, and on her Etsy site, [firedfernstudio.etsy.com](https://www.etsy.com/shop/firedfernstudio). She can also be reached at jennawaddell3@gmail.com. 



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Harbor music teachers group provides scholarships, instruction

BY GAIL GREENWOOD AYRES

Music.

It can calm us down, hype us up, nudge us to purchase something, transport us instantly to the long summer days of our youth, and annoyingly get stuck in our heads for hours.

Songs help students remember key concepts, make it easier to learn a new language and quickly bring strangers together in social situations. Amazingly, lyrics from sacred hymns, love ballads and long-ago lullabies can escape the lips of a dementia patient for whom all other words have long departed.



“Music education supports the educational system going on in the public schools, brain development and self-discipline.”

– Merry Jo Zimmer

If that isn't enough, learning to perform music has even more powerful benefits!

“Music education supports the educational system going on in the public

schools, brain development, and self discipline,” said Merry Jo Zimmer, a retired Aberdeen piano teacher who has taught on the Harbor for more than 30 years.

“It also supports social connection, even encourages social skills because of the negotiation that goes on with other musicians. And then, it is just a heck of a lot of fun!” said Zimmer, who is a longtime member and current secretary of the Grays Harbor Music Teachers Association.

The Grays Harbor Music Teachers Association is a nonprofit organization devoted to fostering “musical knowledge and education in our community through programs and activities building musical excellence in students and teachers.”

Grays Harbor Music Teachers Association members include, from left, Ruth Kivi, Merry Jo Zimmer, Christine Hill, Kira Miller, Joy Dorsch, Kari Hasbrouck and Ian Dorsch. Photo courtesy of Keith Krueger



The current seven members not only want to let other music teachers and retired music teachers know about the camaraderie and collaboration available, but also invite members of the public to join the organization to encourage and support music and musicians on the Harbor.

The group's annual Musicale Scholarship Benefit Concert is scheduled for 7 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 18, at the Aberdeen Presbyterian Church.

Each spring the association also hosts a concerto competition produced with the Grays Harbor Symphony. Throughout the year, the members organize various recitals and opportunities for students, including a music artistry program where students receive a mini music lesson with an expert.

The group also has monthly meetings that include an instructional program with topics ranging from tips for running a music studio to overcoming performance anxiety. There's sometimes even a song or two!

Founded in 1946 during a meeting at the Morck Hotel in Aberdeen, the nonprofit organization has been both an on stage and behind-the-scenes encourager of musicians and promoter of bringing music to the Harbor for decades.

In addition, Grays Harbor has a history of supplying state and national leaders to the affiliate organizations, the Washington State Music Teachers Association and the Music Teachers National Association. Lois Whitner and Marianna Stensager both served as state presidents, Helena Smith was state secretary and one of the current group's members Christine Hill, the current Harbor group's treasurer, served as District IV vice president.

Phyllis Pieffer, who lived in Grays Harbor and taught piano from 1988 to 2014, was instrumental in the local chapter and elected the national president in 2003.

(continued on page 30)

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Pianist Sara Burkhart, a student teacher member of GHMTA last school year, performs with the orchestra during the June 2024 Concerto.

Photo courtesy of Keith Krueger

Music teachers *(continued)*

That tradition of music leadership continues with current Grays Harbor Music Teacher Association's vice president, Kira Miller, who also spent time as the District IV Director and is

currently the president elect of the state organization. The Montesano piano and flute instructor is a former scholarship recipient herself.

Miller said for people looking for a private vocal or instrumental music teacher,

contacting the organization is a great place for a referral.

"We welcome inquiries and try to pass them along to teachers whether they are part of our association or not," said Miller.

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The organization's president Joy Dorsch said participation in the organization brings many benefits.

"Teaching music can be kind of a solitary job, so getting around people whom you have so many common interests with and have a similar day-to-day routine, is nice because they understand what you are going through and there is power in that," said Dorsch, who teaches vocal students at Grays Harbor College and her own studio. She, along with her husband, Ian Dorsch, another GHC music instructor and member of GHMTA, also directs the college's opera workshop.

Completing the current GHMTA leadership team is Montesano's Christine Hill. She has retired from teaching voice and piano after instructing hundreds of students at GHC and at her private studio. However, the community is blessed that the melodious mezzo-soprano continues to perform and support music on the Harbor.

Vocalist Allison Patterson performs during the 2019 Concerto.



Photo courtesy of Keith Krueger



The Patterson family performs a trombone quartet at last year's Musicales, from left, Shannon, Toby, Foster and Dan Patterson.



"We welcome inquiries and try to pass them along to teachers whether they are part of our association or not."

- Kira Miller

In fact, as an Aberdeen High School graduate who herself received a music scholarship from the Grays Harbor Music Teachers Association, Hill's trajectory comes full circle as she continues to encourage musicians and raise money through GHMTA's scholarship program to help young musicians further their educations and fill the Harbor with song.

Hill said the local, state and national organizations have helped her hone her teaching skills and techniques.

"From workshops at conferences to hands-on opportunities of administering ear training exams at our local music literacy program, Music Olympics, it has been an invaluable part of my personal growth as an educator."

Hill said her students have reaped the benefits of the educational and

performance opportunities, and some have received scholarship money. "These things mean a lot to me, and that is why I'm still active in the association after my retirement."

For more information about the organization or to inquire about local music teachers, contact the Grays Harbor Music Teacher Association via Facebook. [CL](#)

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GRAYS HARBOR

Barbara Page, third from right, demonstrates how to form a Polish pierogi.

Photos courtesy of Candi Bachtell

Area cooks share their tastes, talents and traditions at new GHC classes

From Polish pierogies to Swedish cardamon bread, Cuban home cooking to traditional South Indian chicken curry, Grays Harbor and Pacific County cooks and bakers are sharing their tastes, talents and traditions at culinary classes hosted in the state-of-the-art culinary arts lab in Grays Harbor College's new tulalW Student Center.

Dr. Clara Shin teaches Korean cuisine.



The non-credit cooking and hospitality courses are offered through the college's Community and Continuing Education program. They typically cost between \$50 and \$60 per person.

"We've had great response so far," said Cathy LeCompte, the new workforce dean at Grays Harbor College. "Most have been very well attended."

LeCompte explained that the college's for-credit culinary program was put on hold in 2018 but is scheduled to start up again in the fall of 2025. In fact, the chef that will design and teach the program

Students practice their knife skills.



"Candi recruited wonderful chefs from around the area in part to get people in to enjoy these continuing education classes, but also to get people excited about our culinary program coming back soon."

– Cathy LeCompte

was recently hired, Nina Urioste.

Meanwhile, to help get the culinary arts program back on its feet, the college hired Candi Bachtell, former owner of Savory Faire in Montesano who has 37 years of experience in the culinary industry, as a consultant. She's the one recruiting instructors and organizing the community education cooking classes.

"Candi recruited wonderful chefs from around the area in part to get people in to enjoy these continuing education classes, but also to get people excited about our culinary program coming back soon," LeCompte said.

(continued on page 34)



Dr. Shin's class included new and traditional Korean food.

Cooks share their tastes

(continued)

The new culinary teaching kitchen, located on the first floor of the building, includes a bakery, and a cold room suitable for butchering. "It's a pretty amazing facility," LeCompte said. On the

third floor of the building is a huge event center with a catering kitchen.

Two continuing education culinary classes were on the schedule at press time, but check the college website frequently as more will be added. They are

Traditional South Indian Chicken Curry from 6 to 8 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 15. Taught by Pona Samuel, students will dive into the rich culinary heritage of South India with this class dedicated to mastering the art of preparing an authentic Indian chicken curry. Students will learn to blend and toast spices, creating a fragrant and flavorful curry base using traditional ingredients such as curry leaves, mustard seeds, and coconut milk and understand the importance of marination in achieving tender, flavorful chicken, and the use of fresh herbs and spices. After preparing the curry from scratch, the students will enjoy the meal they've created.

From Bean to Brew: Exploring the World of Coffee from 9:30 a.m. to noon Sunday, Jan. 26. Taught by Randy Bachtell, this class dives into everything that makes a great cup of Joe. This includes the skill of bean selection, the science behind roasting, and the art of brewing. Various brewing techniques will be explored from pour-over to French press, espresso to cold brew. Learn the details of how grind size, water temperature, and extraction time impact the taste and texture of your coffee, and hone your skills to brew with precision and consistency.

Grays Harbor College President Carli Schiffner said she's grateful for the financial support of community partners that has made the restart of the culinary and the continuing education programs possible.

"The GHC Foundation has provided financial support for restarting the culinary program. And, the Pacific Mountain Workforce Development Council and Greater Grays Harbor Inc. provided funding through a CHEF grant for the startup activities and engaging with Candi Bachtell, who is responsible for the successes experienced so far in these programs," Schiffner said.

For more information about upcoming community education classes check the ghc.edu website as well as the college's

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Facebook page. Also, to get on a mailing list for community education courses or to tell organizers what classes you'd like to see offered, e-mail ce@ghc.edu.

Teach a culinary class

Grays Harbor College is seeking community members to teach non-credit culinary classes this winter. The autumn series of classes was a hit and now culinary arts consultant Candi Bachtell is looking for more people to teach classes this winter focused on cooking, baking and the hospitality industry.

"You don't need years of experience as an instructor or a teaching degree," said Bachtell. "These classes are about community members sharing their expertise with other community members. We are looking for chefs and home cooks and bakers."

Those interested in sharing their expertise in foods or hospitality are encouraged to e-mail ce@ghc.edu to let Bachtell know what kind of class they'd like to teach and to find out more about the program. As part of the community and continuing education program, most of these non-credit culinary classes take place in the state-of-the-art Culinary Arts labs in the new tulalW Student Center at the college. 

Students make and decorate cakes instructed by Kate Klinger, owner of The Flour Shop in Montesano.



Winter months bring wind



The winter months mean windy conditions and the possibility of power outages. PUD crews and staff are ready to respond. Customers can be too. Make sure your outage prep kit is stocked with fresh batteries, canned food and water. Check that your generator is ready and that you have reviewed tips for safe operation. A portable charger can allow you to use your mobile device or tablet to monitor the news and to follow PUD outage information. Register for outage updates at www.ghpud.org/outage-alerts, follow the PUD on Facebook (Grays Harbor Public Utility District) or on Twitter (@GHPUD) to get the latest outage and utility information.



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Winter music and theater offerings

Grays Harbor is rich with cultural opportunities this winter, including theater productions and concerts. Get out of the cold and enjoy the talents of your friends and neighbors at a stage near you! The winter offerings include the following.

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



"Winter Gifts" will be presented by the Grays Harbor Concert Band and Civic Choir at **2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 8**. The Civic Choir, directed by Kari Hasbrouck, will feature music from composer John Rutter and other seasonal selections. The Concert Band, directed by Tiffany Maki, will perform fun pop music from several eras, with a splash of holiday music mixed in.

Directed by Ian and Joy Dorsch, **the opera "Iolanthe"** will be presented at **7:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 14, and 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 15**, by the Grays Harbor Opera Workshop.

Iolanthe, the most beloved of all the fairies, committed an unforgivable crime: marrying a mortal. As she returns from 25 years in exile, her half-fairy, half-human son also wishes to marry a mortal. The fairies of the forest face off against the most pompous politicians in this comedy,



considered by many to be Gilbert and Sullivan's most perfect creation.

Tickets are \$15 for adults, with children 12 and under free.



The David Lee Joyner Quintet, jazz artists from the Puget Sound area, will perform at **7 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 16**, at the Bishop Center for Performing Arts. Visit www.ghc.edu/bishop for tickets.

Groundhog Day, the Musical, based on the Columbia Pictures 1993 hit movie, will be Grays Harbor College's winter theater production.

Phil Connors is an arrogant Pittsburgh TV weatherman who, during an assignment covering the annual Groundhog Day event in Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania, finds himself in a time loop, repeating the same day again and again. Music and lyrics by Tim Minchin and book by Danny Rubin. Directed by Andrew Gaines.

The show is set for **7:30 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, March 7, 8, 14 and 15, and 2 p.m. Sundays, March 9 and 16**.

GROUNDHOG DAY



Driftwood Players
120 E. 3rd St., Aberdeen

The musical comedy, **"Nunset Boulevard,"** is the 7th show in playwright Dan Groggin's "Nunsense" series. This time the Little Sisters of Hoboken go to Hollywood! All the nuns have traveled west to make it big in show biz. However, their concert "at the Hollywood Bowl" turns out to be a gig at the Hollywood Bowl-A-Rama.

Directed by Brad Duffy, the December shows include performances at **7:30 p.m. Dec. 6, 7, 13 and 14**, with matinees set for **1:30 p.m. Sundays, Dec. 1, 8 and 15**.



"These Shining Lives," by Melanie Marnich, Driftwood Players next drama, is suited for teens and adults.

Directed by Alex Eddy, "These Shining Lives" chronicles the strength and determination of women considered expendable in their day, exploring their true story and its continued resonance. Catherine and her friends are dying. It's true, but theirs is a story of survival in its most transcendent sense, as they refuse to allow the company that stole their health to kill their spirits—or endanger the lives of those who come after them.

(continued on page 39)

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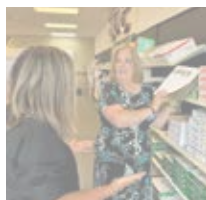
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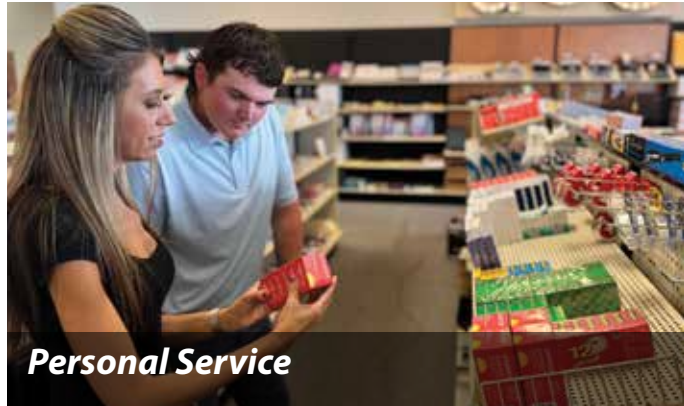
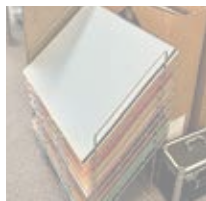
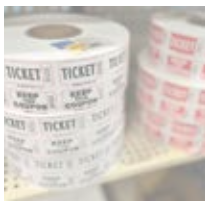
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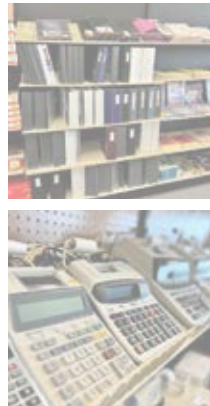
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Music and theater

(continued)

The drama is set for **7:30 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, Feb. 8, 14, 15, 21 and 28, and March 1**, with matinee shows set for **1:30 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 23 and March 2**.

Tickets for Driftwood plays are \$20 and available online at aberdeendrftwood.com. In addition, they can be purchased at Valu Drug in Montesano, The Tinderbox in Aberdeen, Harbor Drug in Hoquiam and The Dusty Trunk in Ocean Shores. If available, tickets can also be purchased at the door.

Students presenting a current student ID card at the door, can purchase "rush" tickets for \$10, if seats are available.

Stage West Community Theatre
Ocean Shores Lions Club
832 Ocean Shores Blvd. NW

"Looking at Christmas" will be performed at **7 p.m. Fridays and**

Saturdays, Dec. 6 and 7, 13 and 14 and 2 p.m. Dec. 8 and 15.

Set in New York City, an aspiring writer and a struggling actress meet while looking at the famous holiday windows, and the characters in the displays come to life and look back at them. A smart, sweet, slightly twisted holiday romantic comedy.

Stage West's next show will be Noel Coward's "**Blithe Spirit**," a classic farce. Performances are set for **7 p.m. Feb. 28 and March 1, 7 and 8**, as well as **2 p.m. Sundays, March 2 and 9**.

It is the story of a writer who invites a local psychic to his home to gather material for his new book. During the séance he flatly does not believe in, the hapless psychic manages to summon the ghost of his late wife Elvira! Elvira proceeds to turn life upside down for the writer and his new wife.

Tickets for Stage West Theatre can be purchased online at stagewestcommunitytheatre.org.



7th Street Theatre
313 7th Street, Hoquiam

Holiday happenings at the 7th Street Theatre include classic Christmas movies and more.

"**A Christmas Story**" is set for **7:30 p.m. Dec. 7**; "**It's a Wonderful Life**" will show at **7:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 21 and 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 22**. Tickets are \$6 and can be purchased at the door, online or at Harbor Drug in Hoquiam.

(continued on page 40)

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Music and theater

(continued)

Live entertainment includes **"Christmas around the Magic Kingdom,"** the Grays Harbor Dance holiday recital set for **2 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 14 and 15.** The show is free with a food bank donation.

The Hoquiam High School Holiday Concert is set for **7 p.m. Dec. 17.**

The Olson Bros Band will perform a holiday show with opener Luke and Kaylee at **7 p.m. Dec. 20.** Tickets can be purchased at the door or online at theolsonbrosband.com. 



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Fagerstedt's vocal talents shine on national TV



Aberdeen's Ben Fagerstedt performs on the 2024 premiere of "The Voice" on NBC.

Photo by Tyler Golden/NBC

BY KATIE MCGREGOR

Aberdeen crooner Ben Fagerstedt's hard work and vocal talents recently brought the 23-year-old to his biggest stage yet: NBC's "The Voice."

"'The Voice' is a reality television show voice competition. The whole point is to enhance you as a singer," Fagerstedt explained. He was featured on the show's 2024 premiere on Sept. 23.

Every year tens of thousands of hopeful aspiring musicians audition to be on the show, which is aimed at finding and coaching unsigned vocal talent. Once on the show, the contestants do a blind audition where the four coaches vie to recruit them to their teams. The coaches are facing the audience unless they press the button in front of them,

which turns them around to face their prospective vocal mentee.

Fagerstedt, previously featured in the December 2023 issue of Coastal Currents, comes from a musical family and notably had the opportunity to sing with Canadian crooner, Michael Bublé, at a Tacoma Dome concert in 2019.

After auditioning for "The Voice" several times, he finally got a call from the casting team confirming his spot on the show and flew down to an undisclosed location in California. Once there he spent a few weeks with the Season 26 cast, crew and fellow contestants during which he filmed his own blind audition for the celebrity coaches.

It was especially apropos that Fagerstedt was cast in this recent season where Michael Bublé was

“ I was super nervous before going on stage. But as soon as the doors opened it all went away. It was a God thing.

– Ben Fagerstedt

”

introduced as a new coach along with Snoop Dogg and returning coaches Gwen Stefani and Reba McEntire.

"I was super nervous before going on stage. But as soon as the doors opened it all went away. It was a God thing," Fagerstedt said.

Ben sang a rendition of "I've Got You

“**I’m thriving writing worship music with my mom and working on originals. I really want to show people the creative side of what I can do.**

– Ben Fagerstedt

Under My Skin,” a song written by American composer Cole Porter, made famous by Frank Sinatra, and the song he sang with Bublé in front of 40,000 concertgoers in 2019.

Though his audition was strong, none of the judges selected him to join their team. In the end he went out on a high note after singing a second duet with Bublé, this time on national television.

Fagerstedt said that the experience of being on the show for even a short time was incredible. “There were about 90 of us and I made a lot of connections. They all have their own stories and genres. We felt like a really big family.”

Now, back in Aberdeen, Fagerstedt is working as a substitute teacher, writing his own music, and still performing. He’s optimistic about the future as his

Ben Fagerstedt and his mom, Allison



appearance on the show has already brought him more gigs and future opportunities.

“I’m thriving writing worship music with my mom and working on originals. I really want to show people the creative side of what I can do,” Fagerstedt said.

He credits much of his current success to his support system. “It’s all thanks to my family; parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles. They’ve supported me since day one. They’re my biggest fans.”

Fagerstedt will be performing locally at the Aberdeen Elks on Saturday, Dec. 7, and at the Stowaway Wine Bar in Seabrook on Friday, Dec. 13. You can find him on Facebook and Instagram as Ben Fagerstedt - Music.

Ben Fagerstedt’s performance on “The Voice” can be viewed on the official “The Voice” Youtube Channel under “Ben Fagerstedt Sings a Frank Sinatra Duet with Coach Bublé | The Voice Blind Auditions | NBC.” 



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DECEMBER

DECEMBER 1 - JANUARY 10 . Annual Fall Gala Aberdeen . Grays Harbor College library gallery. Juried art show, open weekdays.

DECEMBER 1 . Yule Log Celebration . Schafer State Park . Gather for the log hunt, delicious food, Christmas carols & gingerbread contest. 1pm.

DECEMBER 5 . GHC Winter Steel Drum Concert . Wellington Rehearsal Hall . Aberdeen . Grays Harbor College. Featuring seasonal favorites, reggae hits, Caribbean folk & pop. 1pm.

DECEMBER 5 . GHC Jazz Concert . Bishop Center . Aberdeen . Grays Harbor College. Jazz Band & Jazz Choir. A lively evening of jazz, directed by Dr. William Dyer and Kari Hasbrouck. 7pm.

DECEMBER 6 . First Friday Art Walk . Aberdeen Art Center . Festive holiday event with music by Christine Hill & Ken Albert, artist demonstrations, gallery, snacks. 5 - 8pm.

DECEMBER 6, 7 . Winterfest . Aberdeen downtown . Trolley Express Light Show on Broadway Hill, Friday 6-8pm. Enjoy hot cocoa, cookies & Holiday music. Saturday, 9am-3pm, breakfast & pictures with Santa at Messy Jessy's, Holiday Market at D & R Event Center, Gingerbread House Contest next to Go Get the Pho.

DECEMBER 6, 7, 8, 13, 14, 15 . "Nunset Boulevard" . Aberdeen . Driftwood Theatre, The Little Sisters of Hoboken are off to Tinseltown. Musical comedy directed by Brad Duffy. Fri., Sat. 7:30pm, Sun. 1:30pm.

DECEMBER 6, 7, 8, 13, 14, 15 . "Looking at Christmas" . Ocean Shores . Stage West Community Theatre. The characters, lost in their own troubles, meet on the street near magnificent holiday store windows one snowy night. A slightly twisted romantic comedy. Fri. Sat., 7pm. Sun., 2pm.

DECEMBER 7 . Santa by the Sea . Westport . US Coast Guard will deliver Santa to Float 6 at 10:30am, then to Westport Maritime Museum to greet kids.

DECEMBER 7 . Pacific Beach Winter Wonderland Artisan Fair . Local artists & goods. Pacific Beach, 10am-4pm.

DECEMBER 7 . Holiday Show starring Ben Fagerstedt . Aberdeen Elks Lodge . Ring in the holiday season with an evening of first class entertainment. 21+, tickets limited, buy early. 7pm.

DECEMBER 7 . 'A Christmas Story' . Hoquiam . Seventh Street Theatre. 1983 movie. 7:30pm.

DECEMBER 7, 8 . THE Artisan Faire . Ocean Shores VFW . Fair Trade items from 5 continents, select PNW vendors & food. 10am-4pm.

DECEMBER 7, 8, 14, 15 . Simpson Railroad Christmas . Matlock/Shelton . Take a ride on the Simpson Railroad, tour the restored caboose. Ride 2.25 mile by train to visit Santa, tour our museum & warm up by the bonfire. Still Water Industrial Park, Shelton Matlock Rd.

DECEMBER 7, 14, 21 . Snow Drop . Seabrook Town Center . 5pm on 12/7 & 14. 6pm on 12/21.

DECEMBER 8 . GH Civic Choir & Concert Band Bishop Center . Aberdeen . Grays Harbor College.

Music by composer John Rutter, pop music and seasonal selections. 7-8:30pm.

DECEMBER 11, 12 . Harbor Lights . Satsop Business Park . Musical laser show projected on cooling towers. 3 shows, 5, 7 & 9pm. (See pg. 5)

DECEMBER 13 . Holiday music with Ben Fagerstedt . Seabrook . Stowaway Wine Bar.

DECEMBER 13, 14, 15 . Festival of Lights . Montesano . Activities throughout the weekend, Saturday evening parade, 6pm with lighted floats, yule log, craft fair & many more festivities.

DECEMBER 13 . Hoque & Moore Band . Montesano . Gepetto's. 7pm.

DECEMBER 14 . A Day with Santa . Grayland . Grayland Fire Hall. Cookies, hot drinks.

DECEMBER 14 & 15



Artisan showcase of unique creations. Accepting donations of non-perishable food for community food baskets.

Cosi Art Center
10 AM to 4 PM
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DECEMBER 14, 15 . The Great Dickens Christmas Fair & Victorian Holiday Party . Cosmopolis . Cosi Art Center, artisan showcase of unique creations. Accepting donations of food for community food baskets. 10am-4pm.

(Continued on page 46)

DECEMBER 14, 15 . Beachy Christmas Bazaar .
Grayland Community Hall . *Gingerbread House Contest, vendors, Come see Santa (11-3). 10am-4pm.*

DECEMBER 14 . One Stop Shop Christmas Shop
McCleary VFW . *Variety of gifts from crafts to home based business. Santa will be here! 10am-4pm.*

DECEMBER 14, 15 . Christmas around the
Magic Kingdom, Grays Harbor Dance Holiday
Recital . Hoquiam . *Seventh Street Theatre, 2pm.*

DECEMBER 14, 15 . International Cat Show .
Elma . *Grays Harbor County Fairgrounds. 10am-4pm.*

DECEMBER 14, 15 . Grays Harbor Opera
Workshop, Iolanthe . Bishop Center . Aberdeen
Grays Harbor College. Iolanthe, the most beloved of all the fairies, committed an unforgivable crime: marrying a mortal. Sat. 7:30pm, Sun. 2pm.

DECEMBER 16 . Alder Grove Gallery, Holiday
Open House . Aberdeen Art Center . *Door prizes, hot cider, frosted cookies, free gift wrapping. 5 - 7pm.*

DECEMBER 17 . Hoquiam High School Holiday
Concert . *Seventh Street Theatre, 7pm.*

DECEMBER 18 . Ace Light the Night Tour of

Lights. Ocean Shores . *Travel a route through the city to see the lights in our Light the Night Holiday Outdoor Decorating Contest. 5:30pm.*

DECEMBER 20 . Olson Brothers Band . *Seventh Street Theatre. Celebrate the holiday season with country music. 7pm.*

DECEMBER 21 . Holiday Parade . Seabrook
Town Center . *Festive floats, traditional music & holiday lights. 6pm.*

DECEMBER 21, 22 . 'It's a Wonderful Life' .
Hoquiam . *Seventh Street Theatre. 1946 movie. Sat. 7:30pm & Sun. 2pm.*

DECEMBER 27 . Leah Justine with full band .
Montesano . *Gepetto's . 7:30pm.*

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DECEMBER 31 . Westport New Years Eve
Fireworks . Westport Marina . *Show starts at midnight!*

JANUARY

JANUARY 3 . First Friday Art Walk . Aberdeen
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JANUARY 9 - 13 . Storms & Seafood Festival . Westport . Enjoy local seafood & a king tide. Participate in the passport: visit local restaurants, markets & viewpoints, to receive a Fresh Catch swag bag.

JANUARY 11 . Beachside Author Series with Becky Selengut . Seabrook Town Hall . Seattle-based chef, instructor, podcaster & author. 3pm.

JANUARY 11, 12 . Urban Unglued Freaks at the Beach . Ocean Shores Convention Center Metaphysical, cosplay, weird things, unusual market. Costumes welcome. 10am-5pm.

JANUARY 16 . David Lee Joyner Quintet . Bishop Center . Aberdeen . Grays Harbor College. Jazz in January, festival performance with Clipper Anderson, Alexey Nikolaev, Mark Ivester, & Brian Monroney. 7pm.

JANUARY 18 . Elma 'Great Gatsby' Winter Wine Festival . Grays Harbor County Fair & Event Center. 20+ wineries, food, vendors, beer garden. Plus live music: Ben Fagerstedt, Mike Pierce Project, Black Ice and Fleetwood Mask. 21 & over. 12pm to 9pm.

JANUARY 18 . Musicale Scholarship Benefit Concert . Aberdeen . Presbyterian Church. By the Grays Harbor Music Teachers Association, 7pm.

JANUARY 18 . United Way Black & White Gala . Ocean Shores . Convention Center. Reception, silent auctions & games. Gather in the Grand Hall for a 5 course dinner, live auction and After Hours Dance Party. 5:30pm

JANUARY 21 . Surviving & Thriving: A Guide to Grief . Hoquiam Library . Learn about the cycle of grief, healthy coping tools & local support resources for the grieving process. Presented in partnership with Harbors Home, Health & Hospice. 3-4:30pm.

JANUARY 24 . Coast Trio . McCleary Museum & Event Center . Specializes in a variety of repertoire for violin, viola and cello., 7pm.

JANUARY 25, 26 . 'Raiders of the Lost Ark' . Hoquiam . Seventh Street Theatre. 1981 movie. Sat. 7:30pm & Sun. 2pm.

JANUARY 25 . Burns Night . Tokeland Hotel . Celebration of Scotland's national poet, Robert Burns, with a traditional Scottish dinner & music.

JANUARY 31, FEBRUARY 1, 2 . ABC³ Music Festival . Ocean Shores . Galway Bay Irish Pub. Appalachian, Bluegrass, Cowboy, Country & Calvary music, all weekend at the pub.

(Continued on page 49)



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FEBRUARY

FEBRUARY 4 . Staying Safe at Home . Hoquiam Library . *Tips and solutions for physical safety and security in your home, including fall prevention and emergency preparedness. Presented in partnership with Harbors Home, Health & Hospice. 3-4:30pm.*

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

FEBRUARY 8 . Beachside Author Series with Jeff Burlingame . Seabrook Town Hall . *Author of over thirty books including biographies of John Lennon & Kurt Cobain and the Moon guidebook to the Olympic Peninsula. 1pm.*

FEBRUARY 8, 14, 15, 21, 22, 23, 28, MARCH 1, 2 . "These Shining Lives" . Aberdeen . *Driftwood Theatre. Chronicles the strength & determination of women considered expendable in their day. Drama directed by Alex Eddy. Fri., Sat. 7:30pm, Sun. 1:30pm.*

FEBRUARY 14, 15 . 'As Good as it Gets' . Hoquiam . *Seventh Street Theatre. 1991 movie. Fri., Sat. 7:30pm.*

FEBRUARY 15 . Tintype Portraits . Tokeland Hotel . *9am - 2pm.*

FEBRUARY 18 . Paperwork & Documentation as You Age . Hoquiam Library . *Understand the importance of managing documents, such as wills, power of attorney, and medical records, to ensure your wishes are honored and affairs in order. Presented in partnership with Harbors Home, Health & Hospice. 3-4:30pm.*

FEBRUARY 21 . Student Orchestra of Greater Olympia . Hoquiam . *Seventh Street Theatre.*

FEBRUARY 22 . Miss Grays Harbor . Hoquiam . *Seventh Street Theatre.*

FEBRUARY 22 . Jon Reynolds Music . McCleary Museum & Event Center . *Acoustic Rock musician from Montesano. Jon plays a big variety of rock ranging from the 50s to the present.*

FEBRUARY 28, MARCH 1, 2, 7, 8, 9 . "Blithe Spirit" . Ocean Shores . *Stage West Community Theatre. Enjoy wit, conflict & big laughs as a novelist gathers writing material from a homicidal spiritualist. Fri. Sat., 7pm. Sun., 2pm.*

MARCH

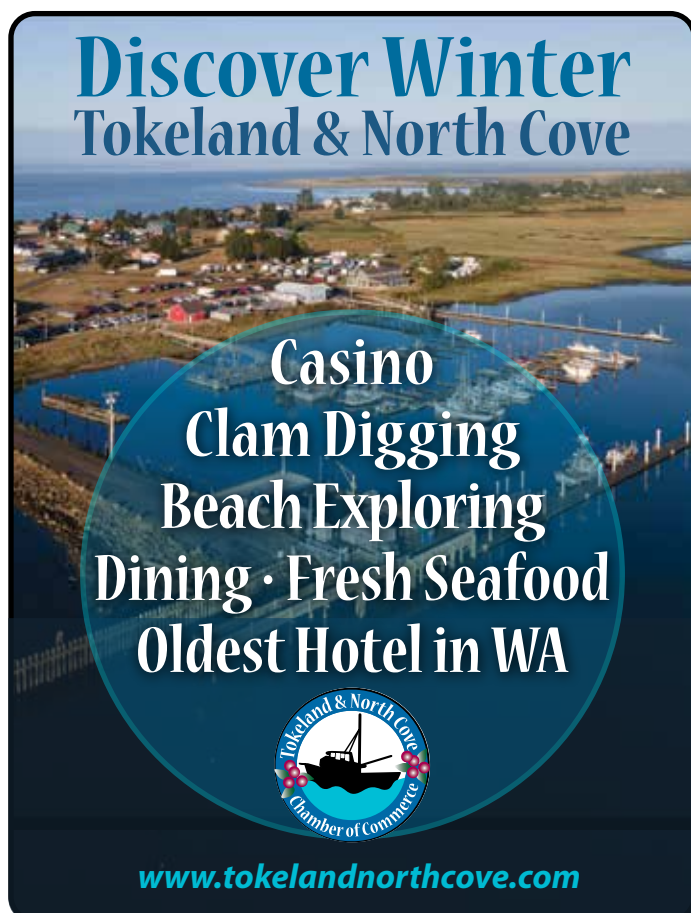
MARCH 1-2 . Beachcombers & Glass Float Expo . Ocean Shores Convention Center . *10am - 4pm. Celebration of beachcombing, glass float collecting and our marine environment.*

MARCH 7, 8, 9, 14, 15, 16 . Groundhog Day . Bishop Center . Aberdeen . *Grays Harbor College. The Winter Musical is the story of the TV weatherman at the Groundhog Day event. Fri., Sat. 7:30pm & Sun. 2pm.*

MARCH 8 . Beachside Author Series with Martha Brockenbrough . Seabrook Town Hall *Award-winning author of many books for young readers. 10am.*

More events to come! The spring issue will be in your mailbox on Mar. 1. Meanwhile, check our website at 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 spring issue of Coastal Currents? Please e-mail the info by Feb. 1 to ccads19@gmail.com. Event column sponsorships available. 

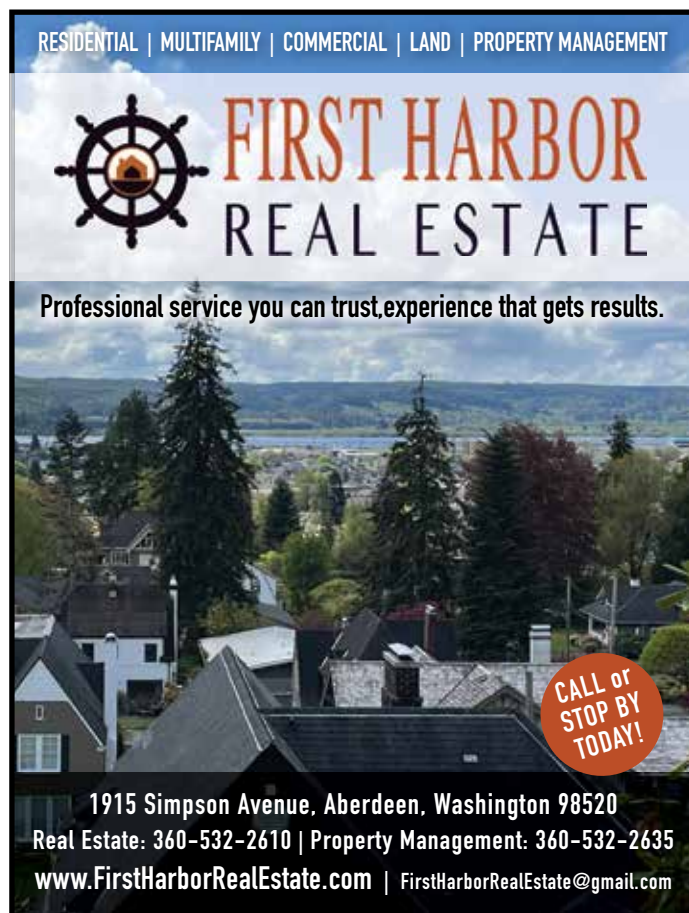


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