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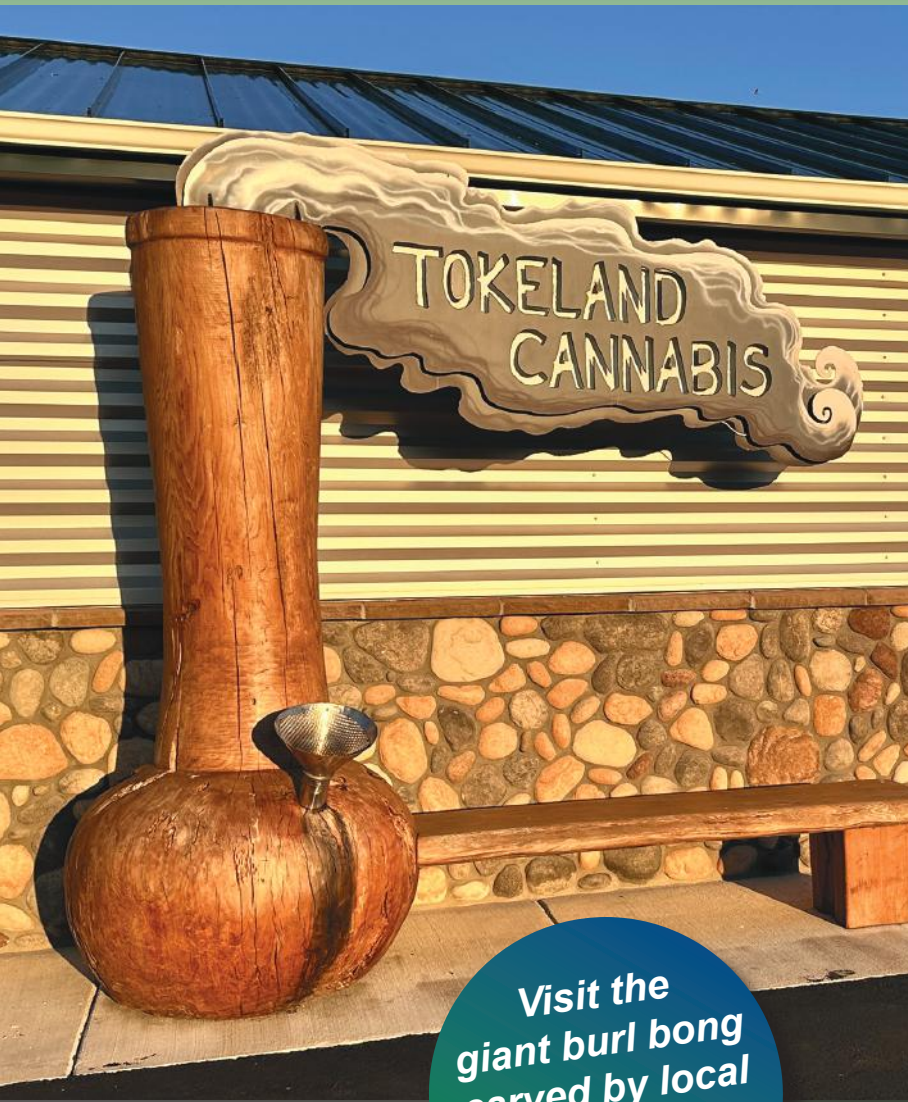
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Photo by Molly Bold

Westport's busy marina hosts numerous kinds of fishing. See story on page 20.

COASTAL *Currents*

Volume 5 • Issue 4 • Winter 2023

Published Quarterly: Spring, Summer, Fall, Winter

This issue of Coastal Currents is mailed free of charge to over 37,075 Grays Harbor homes and has a total distribution of 39,000 copies.

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

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PRINTING JG Commercial Printers, Inc

DISTRIBUTION USPS

P. O. Box 261, Grayland, WA 98547

www.coastal-currents.com

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This issue's front cover features Chef Andy Bickar of Aberdeen's Rediviva restaurant. See page 5 to read about his locally sourced food served with fine dining artistry.

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ABERDEEN

Chef Bickar's REDIVIVA

*locally sourced food
with fine dining artistry*

STORY BY CHRISTINE VINCENT
PHOTOS BY RICK MOYER

“A Northwest American Restaurant” reads the understated heading on the website of Rediviva, a remarkable restaurant inside a historic downtown Aberdeen building. These words translate into the amazing culinary artistry of Chef Andy Bickar, served in ruggedly charming surroundings by friendly, knowledgeable staff.

When dining at Rediviva, patrons should plan to dedicate a couple of hours to enjoy the multi-course tasting menu prepared lovingly by an extremely creative local chef who has never been to culinary school.

“Everything is cooked to order. Nothing is ever reheated. This takes time,” said Bickar.

(continued on page 6)



REDI

Proud to be “born and bred” in Aberdeen, Andy Bickar graduated with a finance degree from Montana State University. He learned to cook on the job.

Bickar had 12 years of professional experience when he established Rediviva in 2013. Most notably, he had been the chef at Ocean Crest Resort in Moclips before the highly acclaimed restaurant burned down in 2011.

“I wanted to cook Northwest American cuisine with wild, indigenous foods and locally grown ingredients.”

– Andy Bickar

Bickar has twin passions for cooking and for community: “I wanted to cook Northwest American cuisine with wild, indigenous foods and locally grown ingredients. I treat them with an open border approach, using techniques from all over the world to bring out their greatness.”

He uses only fresh, locally sourced ingredients, including boat-to-table seafood, foraged greens and mushrooms, and locally raised beef and duck. The menu includes an impressive number of vegetarian and vegan options. The staff is extremely attentive to special dietary needs. Chef Bickar and pastry chef Alexandria Ladich will gladly customize meals.

Drinks receive as much attention as the food. The wine list of exclusively Washington and Oregon wines won the 2015 Washington State Wine Award. The beautiful bar, the centerpiece of the space, was built by Bickar. It serves signature cocktails, imaginative craft cocktails and locally brewed beers.

Bickar remembered the restaurant’s planning stage: “The place was to have a nautical theme fitting for Aberdeen’s history. The Columbia Rediviva was the ship that Captain Robert Gray sailed on when he came upon the bay of Grays Harbor. The Lady Washington was a tender vessel of the expedition. Rediviva is Latin for new life.”

The décor showcases the raw structure of the 1941 building. A low ceiling was removed, exposing beautiful beams and creating a more open feeling. Simple metal chairs accompany the burr tables. A giant



VIVA (continued)

octopus mural, painted by local artist Jenny Fisher, presides over the space. There are carvings by Quinalt artist Ezekiel Bange. The lights over the bar are hand-blown by Opal Glass in Cosmopolis.

Chef Bickar purchases his ingredients directly from local fishermen, foragers and farmers with whom he maintains a close relationship. He plans his menu daily according to what his sources have available. "I just had a shipment of organic cranberries come in from Plenty Farm in Grayland," he remarked. "I am going to make cranberry juice."

When Kate Harwell and Bil Thorn established Sky Island Farm in Humptulips, Chef Bickar was one of their first buyers. "They only grew tomatoes then," he remembered. "When their well ran dry, and they lost their entire crop, I pre-bought their tomatoes for the coming year. They are a passion-based family working for the love of the community, and I wanted to help them."

Other Grays Harbor County purveyors include Tinder Box Café, Aberdeen; Cheeky Goose Farm, Aberdeen; Brady's Oysters, Westport; and Little Farm by the Sea, Copalis.

Always experimenting and using seasonal ingredients in unique ways, the chef said, "You can be a regular patron here and never eat the same dish twice."

"The menu consists of 12 to 15 items in two categories, normal or adventurous, at a 50-50 percent ratio." The term normal refers to the patron's familiarity with the main ingredient.

The quality of the dishes lifts them way above normal. Chinook salmon, line-caught because the quality is better, and the Rediviva Burger made from 70 percent Wagyu beef belong in this category.

A bone marrow dish falls into the more adventurous category. "The bone marrow is roasted," the chef explained. "It turns into a jell. The delicious substance is served to be spread onto toasted sourdough bread,

(continued on page 8)



"Everything is cooked to order. Nothing is ever reheated. This takes time."

– Andy Bickar



REDIVIVA (continued)

baked by Chef Bickar from sourdough starter Gus, vintage 1951. The dish is accompanied by wild mushrooms.

If you are not impressed yet, consider the preparation of Seared Cabbage. Seared napa cabbage hearts are served with shaved Romano cheese, crispy prosciutto, sourdough breadcrumbs and an ingredient Chef Bickar calls potato foam. "I make mashed potatoes, put them into a syphon and spray them onto the cabbage," he explained.

Bickar also co-owned Frontager Pizza in Seabrook. He pulled his share out of the business in 2020. The funds helped him survive when Rediviva was closed for 18 months during Covid-19.




"Going to have to make an excuse to come back to Aberdeen just for this restaurant!"

– Seattle patron

Rediviva was recently closed for another three-month period for necessary renovations to the 82-year-old building. Patrons were eagerly waiting for the re-opening in June 2023.

The re-opening brought an exciting new feature aimed at patrons with smaller wallets: the Wednesday Night Burger for \$15. If this still seems a bit steep, consider that the burger is 100 percent Wagyu beef and includes a local beer.

Rediviva has won the 2023 Best Restaurant of Twin Harbors award, an honor to be proud of. However, Chef Andy Bickar may be equally proud of a review from a patron: "You could taste the care and skill that went into each dish." Or of this from a Seattle patron: "Going to have to make an excuse to come back to Aberdeen just for this restaurant!"

Rediviva, 118 E. Wishkah St. in Aberdeen, is open from 5 to 10 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday. Opening hours extensions are planned. Please call to verify at (360) 637-8181. The restaurant seats 50 patrons. Reservations should be made at redivivarestaurant.com. 



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Allison and Joe Fagerstedt

Photo by Katie McGregor



Ben Fagerstedt performing at Seabrook



Lauren Fagerstedt

ABERDEEN

Talented family shares gift of music

BY KATIE MCGREGOR

Music is something that seems to emanate from and follow Joe and Allison Fagerstedt's family, including their three children, Michael, Ben and Lauren, the current Miss Grays Harbor. Though they have each forged their own paths, music and teaching are central to all of their lives.

"Their voices were exceptionally beautiful from the very beginning and it was pure joy to begin to fine tune them and guide them toward their goals and successes," said Montesano voice teacher Christine Hill. "It has been a delightful experience to watch each of them grow and improve and pursue different musical avenues with their voices."

Hill has been an integral part of Michael, Ben and Lauren's musical advancement from 2013 until her retirement as a

“It has been a delightful experience to watch each of them grow and improve and pursue different musical avenues with their voices.”

— Christine Hill

private voice teacher in 2020. She's been highly involved in the Grays Harbor music scene for decades and first worked with Allison and Joe when the two of them were cast in the Bishop Center's musical production of "Peter Pan" in 1999.

Joe Fagerstedt, the Aberdeen family's self-proclaimed "sports guy," who coaches football at Miller Junior High, loves to cheer on the musical talents of his family.

"I think they (Allison, Michael, Ben and Lauren) have leaned into their gifts. It's just

fun to find something that they all love and I can encourage."

Yet, even though Joe considers himself more of a cheerleader than a performer, he too brings more music to the Harbor. A fifth-grade teacher at Robert Gray Elementary in Aberdeen for 21 years, he

founded the school's Glee Club in 2012, and continues to direct it.

"I started Glee Club so kids could have an opportunity to do music without having to pay for anything," he said.

Glee Club has been a great creative outlet for the students who have upcoming performances this Christmas and in the spring.

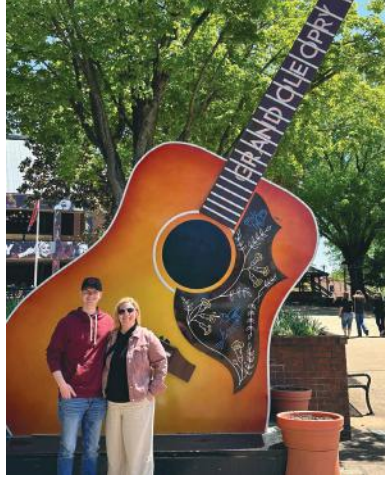
When it comes to encouraging his own family in their creative endeavors Joe said that first and foremost, he makes them practice.

"Sometimes I have to be quiet and let them be creative in their own time. I don't think people realize how hard everyone works in art and music."

As for Allison, not only does she teach music and perform music, she is also a songwriter.

"Recently I wrote a song. I've written for a long time but I just picked it up again and joined a writing club based out of Nashville," Allison explained.

"She's a published songwriter," Joe added.



Clockwise from top left: Ben, Joe and Michael Fagerstedt; Allison and Ben visit the Grand Ole Opry; Lauren was crowned Miss Grays Harbor in February; Allison and Ben lead worship at Grays Harbor Foursquare Church; Michael, far left, performs in the Pacific Chorale.

Photos courtesy of the Fagerstedt family

Allison works for the Montesano School District teaching art and music to students from kindergarten through sixth grade. And, with more than 30 years of experience on worship teams, she's also the worship director at Grays Harbor Foursquare Church in Central Park.

"I'm focusing more on writing songs now," she said. "I write for the church, for myself as a creative outlet. I write songs for the kids to sing at school."

Allison wrote her first of many songs, "Your Promise," about 20 years ago and had some friends around the Harbor help her put together a short album. Notably, one of the songs from that album became "This is the Day," the opening track on Grammy Award-winning artist Laura Story's 2011 album "Blessings."

Allison had submitted the original version of her partially written song, "My Salvation" to a songwriting bootcamp to receive constructive criticism and ended up being paired up with Laura Story. They co-wrote the remainder of the song together, changed the title, and the rest is history.

Now that Allison is spending more time songwriting, she's a part of writingworship.co based out of

www.Coastal-Currents.com

“ Music is just as much listening and feeling as it is producing sound. What you take in and who you're listening to is directly related to what comes out. ”

– Allison Fagerstedt

Nashville. She credits the time spent this past summer with the club as an opportunity to learn more about the songwriting process.

"One thing I share with my students," she said, "is that music is just as much listening and feeling as it is producing sound. What you take in and who you're listening to is directly related to what comes out."

While Joe and Allison's younger two children are still on the Harbor, their oldest, Michael, is currently pursuing education and music in California.

"Michael has flourished down in California. But when someone leaves for college, it's just not the same," Joe said.

"I think the biggest change was how quiet it got," Allison added. "We have a musical family. There's always someone doing something in the house. It was that silence that was hard to get used to."

Michael, 25, is thriving in Hemet, where he's balancing teaching children and performing.

"I've been working as a music teacher for elementary school kids. I adore them. I'm serving a community that feels a lot like Grays Harbor. I love my kids. It makes waking up at 5:30 every morning worth it," Michael said.

He strives to help his students learn how to integrate intention and storytelling into the music they make.

"It doesn't only apply to music," Michael explained. "Be intentional with everything you do and then you will never regret anything you do."

After getting his bachelor's degree in music performance from Cal State Fullerton in 2021, Michael, an accomplished baritone vocalist, has continued performing as a staffed singer

(continued on page 12)



Photo courtesy of the Fagerstedt family

Ben Fagerstedt with Michael Bublé in 2019.

Fagerstedt (continued)

with Pacific Chorale, a professional choral organization in Orange County.

Throughout the seven years he's lived in California, Michael has had some incredible performance opportunities including singing movie scores at the Hollywood Bowl and Newport Beach Film Festival, touring Europe with Pacific Chorale, and performing in a concert along with Italian opera singer Andrea Bocelli.

"I love teaching, but I want to get more into performing," Michael said. He hopes to have more solo performance opportunities in the future and to sing for more soundtracks.

"I want to sing with Ben and Lauren more too," he added.

Ben, 22, finished his time on campus at

“**Be intentional with everything you do and then you will never regret anything you do.**
– Ben Fagerstedt”

Central Washington University and is now back on the Harbor to complete his student teaching with a third-grade class in Montesano. He joined his mom on the Grays Harbor Foursquare Church worship team in 2020 after learning guitar, something that he also incorporates into his own musical performances and livestreams.

Notably, Ben rose to fame locally and beyond when while attending a Michael Bublé concert in 2019 as an eager fan, he was given the microphone and the opportunity to sing with Bublé, crooning out Frank Sinatra's "I've Got You Under My Skin." Then just 17, Ben's rich baritone and poise seemed to surprise Bublé and the audience. The performance became a YouTube hit and even garnered Seattle TV coverage.

"It gave me a lot of opportunities," Ben said. "Going into the future it's a motivator to get on the stage and have

the chance to do that for another person."

Ben hires out for private parties and performs for the public. Lately he's been singing in Seabrook, but has performed at other local locations such as Mount Olympus Brewery, Hoquiam Brewing Co. and Sam Benn Park in the past.

Ben is mostly known for covering crooner classics at his live performances, but he sings everything from John Mayer to Billy Joel to Kasey Musgraves on his social media livestreams.

"I love going to Channel Point to sing for those people. It's their generation of music," he said.

Photo by Kaite McGregor



Michael, Lauren, Ben, Allison and Joe Fagerstedt in 2019.

Ben has performances scheduled at the Stowaway Wine Bar in Seabrook on Dec. 9 and 15. He can also be found performing online on his Facebook page.

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After he graduates from college, Ben plans to teach on the Harbor for a while and then potentially pursue music full time.

Though 19-year-old Lauren is the youngest of the family, she's found her place in leading others and positively influencing kids. A talented singer herself, she's spending her time completing her associate's degree at Grays Harbor College with the goal of teaching kindergarten on the Harbor.

Lauren was crowned Miss Grays Harbor in February and has been using her platform, Kids for Kindness, as outreach in local schools to teach young children about caring for themselves and each other by doing good for others.

As a singer in the alto and mezzo soprano ranges, Lauren impressed the Miss Grays Harbor audience and judges with her rendition of the 1936 jazz standard, "Why Don't You Do Right?" which was originally made famous by Peggy Lee.

She frequently made appearances at local events this fall such as at Football

and Logger's Playday.

"I got to do a park dedication for MG Elden Bargewell," she recalled, referring to the new Delta Park in Hoquiam. "It was one of the biggest honors I've had as Miss Grays Harbor. I got to sing with the military band!"

Though hard work has been instrumental in all of their successes, the Fagerstedts credit God and those around them for getting them where they are.

"We wouldn't have been able to do everything we've done without the support of our family, extended family, and friends," Allison said. "I think it's important to say that we believe in

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divine appointments. Being studious and working hard have played a big role, but God put us in the situations we're in for a reason."

Michael is on Instagram @mfagerstedtmusic; Ben can be found on Facebook and Instagram as Ben Fagerstedt - Music, and Lauren's work as Miss Grays Harbor is on Instagram @missgraysharborwa.

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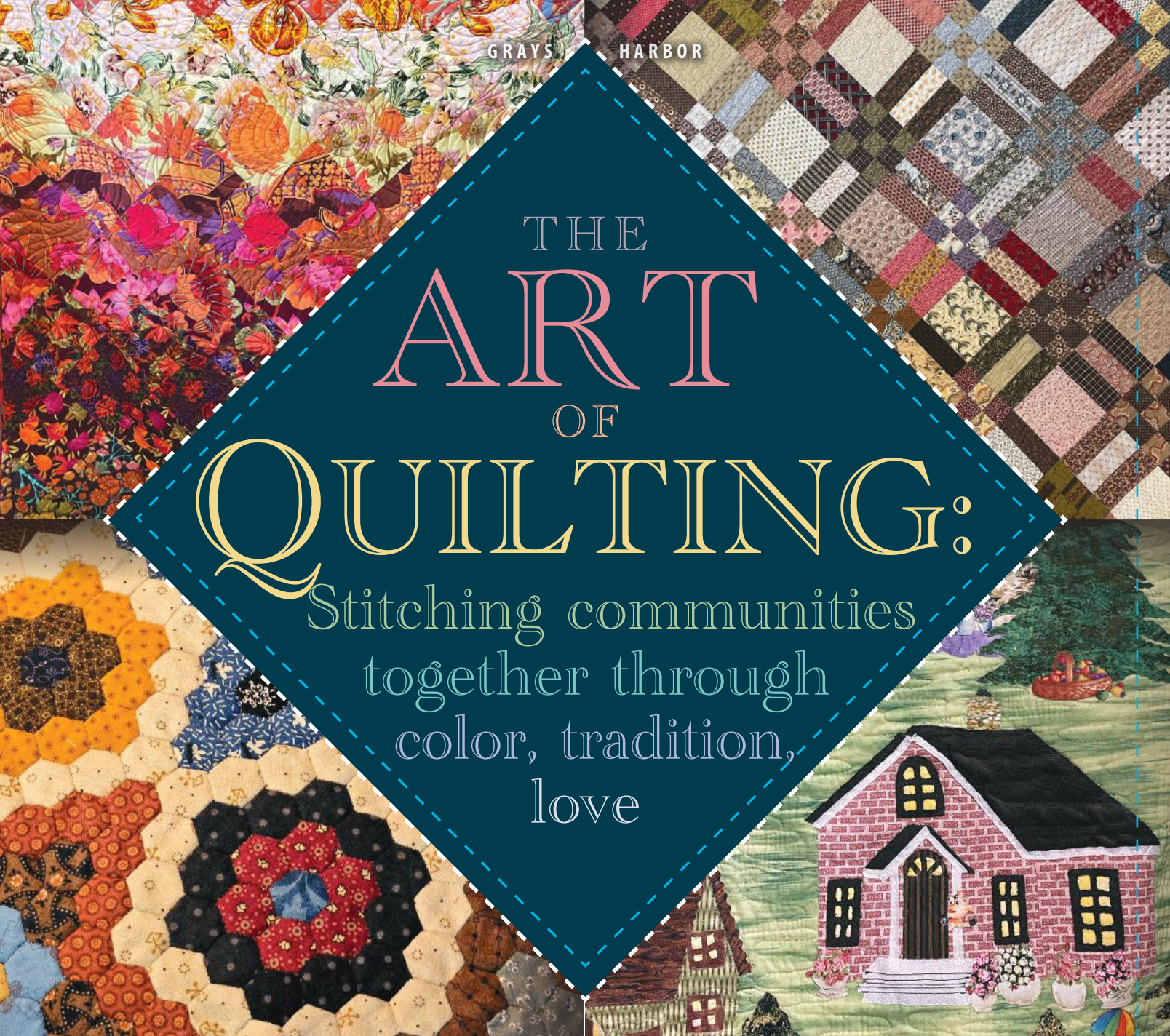


Photo by Jan Hines

These quilts were artfully created by Grays Harbor quilters. Clockwise from upper left: Bright pinks by Jane Adams, scrap quilt by Jan Hines, Fairy Tale quilt by Susan Rausch and English paper piecing quilt by Jan Hines.

STORY & PHOTOS BY JULIANA WALLACE

At quarters, drunkard's path, English paper piecing, exploding pineapple, charm packs, long arm, shop hops. Quilting comes with its own specific vocabulary. And it calls to people in many different ways.

Ocean Shores quilter Jane Adams, for instance, loves the color and beautiful fabrics of contemporary quilts. "I have always been attracted to the color and the variety in the fabric and different ways to use it," she said. "I like to design

my own quilts because either a color combination or a pattern in the fabric will trigger an idea in my head."

Adams frequently uses that love of color in creating what she calls a "human family quilt." A scrap quilt made of many colors, the human family quilt represents everyone: the rich, the poor, every color, need, and personality. She often gives these quilts to priests, medical personnel, or police chiefs because they work with everyone in the

community. "It takes all of us to make the whole, because there's only one human family," she explained.

Fellow Ocean Shores quilter Jan Hines, on the other hand, prefers making traditional quilts with definable patterns and shapes. Specifically, she became intrigued with Civil War reproduction fabrics and quilt designs from that period. With darker colors

(continued on page 16)



Susan Rausch treasures this art quilt created by her sister Karen and inspired by the family farm (detail shown).

Art of Quilting (continued)

and traditional patterns like log cabin and drunkard's path, Civil War quilts look comforting and familiar, invoking simpler times.

Susan Rausch, co-owner of Aberdeen's Quilt Harbor, loves the stories and memories that quilts can share. For instance, a blue-ribbon quilt hanging on the shop wall beautifully illustrates popular fairy tales, from Cinderella to the Three Little Pigs.

For the fairy tale quilt, Rausch pieced together dozens of fabrics to make houses, mountains, trees, and flowers. Customers brought in pigs and wolves they found in bits of fabric.

Green quilt detail, created by Jane Adams.



Jane Adams operates the long arm quilting machine. While many quilters still stitch by hand, the long arm quilter simplifies the process. The stitching pattern adds an important design element to the finished piece.

Rausch appliquéd them all into the quilt, adding texture with the stitching.

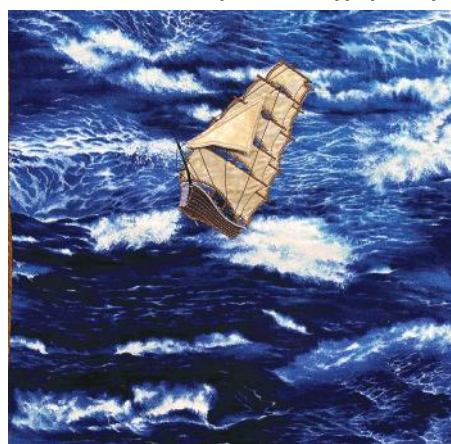
"That was one of the most artistic things I've done," she said. "It's basically doing a painting, and that's my canvas."

I have always been attracted to the color and the variety in the fabric and different ways to use it.

— Jane Adams

Many men find their way to quilting as well. Ken Rausch, Susan's husband, started quilting in 2010 when his wife conned him into making his own birthday quilt. An attic window quilt, it features clipper ships sailing on the ocean. Susan asked Ken to position the ships on the water, and by the end of the weekend, he had finished the entire quilt top. Susan did not sew a bit of it.

Detail of Ken Rausch's first quilt features appliquéd ships.



This award-winning quilt created by Susan Rausch brings fairy tales to life.

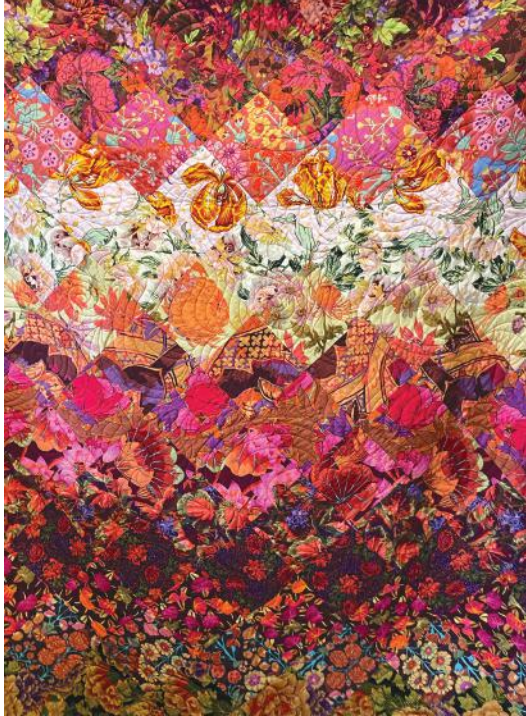
Ken likes to think outside the box with his quilting, experimenting with shapes and patterns. Susan's stepfather, Robert Legg, on the other hand, loves precision.

"He is more of a mathematician, symmetrical and exact," said Ken. "Susan showed her dad how to quilt, and now he's made more quilts than she has."

Quilters of all styles come together in quilting guilds like SeaPal Quilters of Ocean Shores or Pieciful Discoverers of Cosmopolis. These guilds promote the art of quilting and increase the knowledge of quilting techniques while also providing a social outlet. Most have a strong community outreach aspect, as well.

"Quilters are notorious givers," explained Carol Lea Jenkins, president of Pieciful Discoverers.

Adams agreed. "I think it's a natural fallout from getting together and



Bright pink quilt detail, created by Jane Adams.

making things. (A quilt represents) a little love to wrap up in." Both guilds have donated hundreds of quilts to people such as local veterans, fire victims, cancer patients, and children in the foster care system.

Local quilt shops also feature a strong community focus. When asked what they like best about owning a quilt shop, both Susan and Ken Rausch immediately said, "the people." As Ken put it, "Our business has been more of a mission field than a fabric store because of the community aspect."

Quilt Harbor donates quilts every year to Relay for Life and fabric to charities overseas. They have introduced the art of quilting to people with disabilities, rejoicing with them as they completed their first quilts. They have also taught

The Pieceful Discoverers Quilt Guild plans to donate a quilt to each Grays Harbor County veteran. They have donated 60 red, white and blue quilts so far this year.


Photo by Laura Sharp



Owners Ken and Susan Rausch stand amidst the fabric inside Quilt Harbor in Aberdeen.

countless people to sew and quilt through the years.

Gail and Chuck Anderson took over Beach Tyme Quilts in Ocean Shores in 2019, thrilled with the opportunity to make an investment in the community. They have a wonderful classroom at the store that they open for Friday night quilting classes and private lessons.

In fact, most quilters love to introduce new quilters to the art and help seasoned quilters expand their skills. New quilters can talk with the owners at Quilt Harbor and Beach Tyme to get advice or set up a lesson. Or they can come to a meeting of one of the quilt guilds and discover a whole community of creative people ready to welcome them into what may quickly become an obsession. 

Jan Hines of Ocean Shores loves the art of English paper piecing, taking tiny scraps of fabric and turning them into a work of art.

Photo courtesy of Jan Hines



Quilt Harbor

208 S. Broadway, Aberdeen (360) 532-1200
"Quilt Harbor" on Facebook

Beach Tyme Quilts

873 Point Brown Ave NW, Ocean Shores
(360) 289-7917

"Beach Tyme Quilts" on Facebook

SeaPal Quilters of Ocean Shores

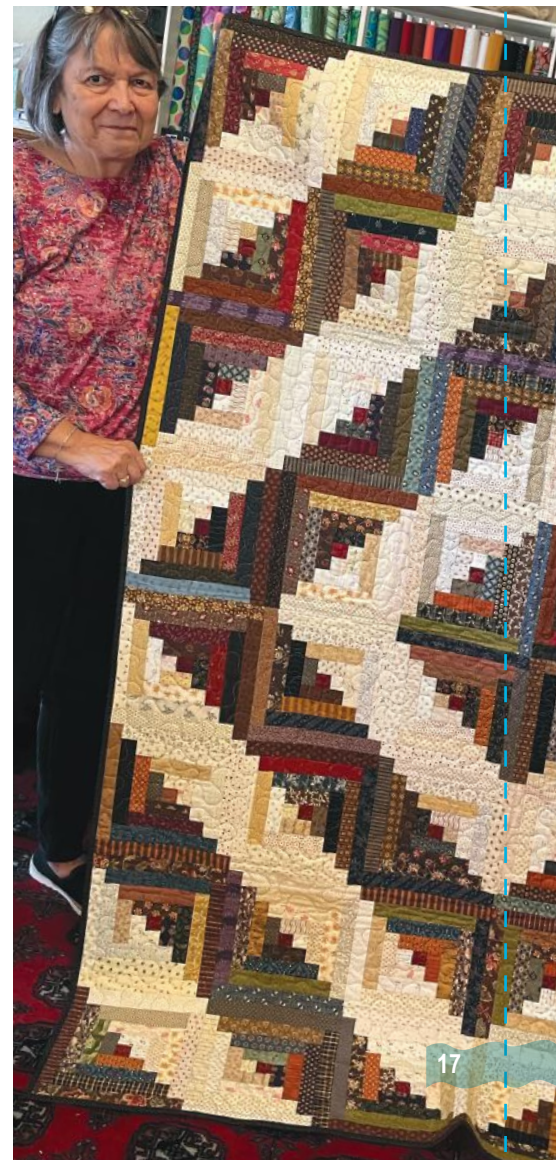
President Wendie Balmer
(360) 593-4414

Meetings: 10 a.m. on the 2nd Monday and 4th Wednesday of the month at the VFW, 953 Trent Ct. NE, Ocean Shores.

Pieceful Discoverers Quilting Guild

President Carol Lea Jenkins
(360) 580-0546 Meetings: 5:30 p.m. 2nd Tuesday of the month at the Lion's Club in Cosmopolis.

Jan Hines of Ocean Shores holds up her unique version of a traditional log cabin patterned quilt.



It's basically doing a painting, and that's my canvas.
– Susan Rausch



Eileen Schermer, Arlene Torgerson and Doris Tieder pose with some of the 225 quilts that were donated in 2022 to people in crisis around the world. The quilts are displayed on the pews each year to receive a blessing before being shipped.

Church group donates comforting quilts

Some may think that church quilting groups are a quaint thing of the past. Not so at Amazing Grace Lutheran Church in Aberdeen, where a quilting group has been in operation for decades.

Records are only available since 1988, but those indicate that over the years the quilters have crafted and donated more than 5,000 quilts, said Eileen Schermer, a longtime member of the group.

About 12 women meet at the church from 9 a.m. to noon on the first and third Wednesdays during the school year. Typically, the quilters sew portions of the tops of the quilts at home and spend their time on Wednesdays putting together the pieces and hand tying the colorful tops to the bottoms. Some spend time cutting fabric pieces to prepare for the next quilts.

"We try to use up every piece of fabric

to the best of our ability," Schermer said. "Some of the quilts are in squares and others are free form."

Although the results are beautiful, besides enjoying each other's company, the goal is to help as many people as possible. In 2022, the group donated 225 quilts. The group will surpass that number this year.

The majority of quilts go to those in need internationally through Lutheran World Relief. "They've gone to Syrian refugee camps, to Ukraine, Guatemala, Africa, really all over the world," Schermer said.

Other quilts are given to local charities and families in need.

"We do it to bring comfort to people around the world and locally, too," she said.

The group welcomes newcomers and fabric donations. For more information, call Amazing Grace Lutheran Church, at (360) 532-8250. [CL](#)

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Fresh Fish! Connecting 'Westport's Fresh Catch' with hungry seafood lovers

BY GAIL GREENWOOD AYRES

Fresh fish! And plenty of it!

That's what the Westport Marina wants people to know about its busy docks, where fishermen bring in everything from tuna, whiting and bottom fish to Dungeness crab, salmon and pink shrimp. As each species of seafood comes in season, it is purchased and processed in set rhythms that the whole town moves to.

"For Westport, fishing means so much. It's culture, heritage and economic activity," said Brian Blake, former state representative who works for Ocean Gold, a large seafood buyer/processor in Westport.

So much seafood is caught out of Westport that "right now, Westport is tenth in the nation for total volume of seafood landed in the country. That even includes the ports in Alaska!" said Molly Bold, general manager of Westport Marina.

"Right now, Westport is tenth in the nation for total volume of seafood landed in the country." — *Molly Bold*
Westport Marina, General Manager

"People are always shocked when we tell them that," she said, "And, we have the largest fishing fleet in the state with seafood from here exported all over the globe."

"One of the things that is so special about Dungeness crab fishing is the culture behind it," said Bold, whose

Photo by Rick Meyer



Salmon dish from Bennett's Fish Shack, Westport and Ocean Shores.

husband is a crab fisherman. "It's multi-generational. It's a livelihood, but also a cultural identity as well. It's very unique and special," she said.

Dungeness crab is by far the most lucrative fishery at Westport, typically making up some 50 to 60 percent of the total money brought in by all species of seafood on the coast.

This past year was one of the largest Dungeness crab harvests on record in Washington State, with more than 25 million pounds landed on Washington's coast. However, while Dungeness crab is the most valuable fishery, it's the whiting fishery that brings in the most pounds, Bold said.

"We bought about 5 to 6 million pounds of Dungeness crab this year and 100 million pounds of whiting," said Greg Shaughnessy, the CEO of Ocean Gold Seafoods, a buyer/processor that

Crab fishermen on the F/V Carol Louise work to bring in the catch.

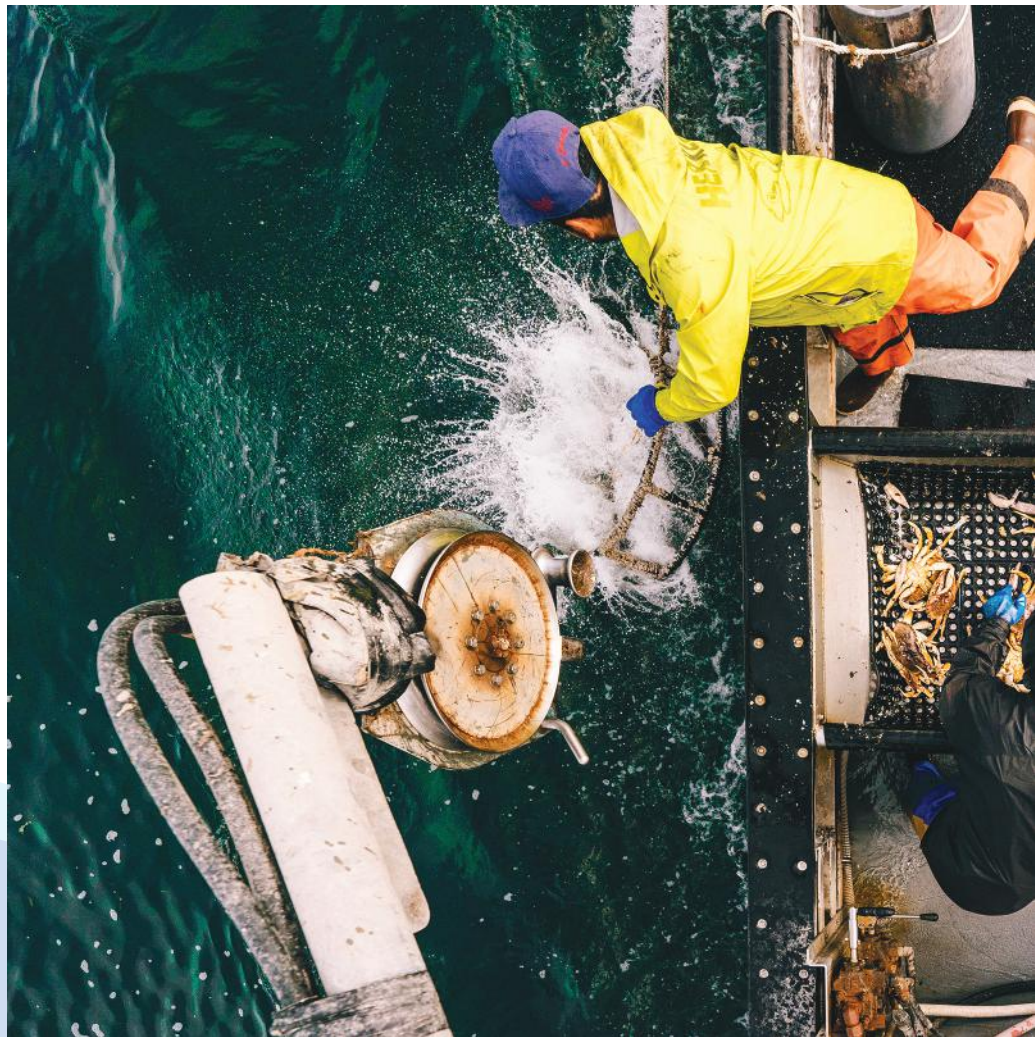


Photo by Capture.Share.Repeat.

employs up to 450 full time employees during peak whiting season.

He said about 5 percent of the whiting processed goes to the domestic markets, which prefer it fileted. "Internationally, they want it headed, gutted and tailed, so we sell 85 percent in that form. And, for those in Africa and the Middle East, we provide whole round fish, which they prefer," Shaughnessy said.

"For Westport, fishing means so much. It's culture, heritage and economic activity."

— Brian Blake

As far as ex-vessel value of coastal fisheries (money that fishermen receive for their catch), crab is typically followed by albacore tuna, pink shrimp and prawns, whiting and pollock, and then



Photo by Capture Share. Repeat.



Ev Tomlinson expertly carves salmon filets at the Seafood Connection on Float 8, Westport Marina.

groundfish, according to statistics from the Washington State Department of Fish & Wildlife.

Most folks would be surprised to learn that the commercial salmon fishery, brings in less than 1 percent of the value to the docks. (This does not include charter fishing, which is recreational.)

Although the large numbers are fascinating, it's also good to remember that each of the fishing boats at the marina is a business that employees two to three families, Bold said. Equally important in the equation are the processors, including Ocean Gold, Pacific Seafoods, Westport Seafood, D & M Live Crab and Jolly Roger that employ hundreds of people.

"The fisherman, the private businesses and investments, the public infrastructure and the workforce all coalesce into this very productive harbor that is also a tourist destination," Bold said.

Westport's Fresh Catch

With this variety and volume of fresh seafood coming into Westport, one would think it would be easy for the average person to get their hands on some. However, in the past it was hit or miss whether a Harbor resident, tourist

or restaurant owner could reliably find fresh catch to purchase.

The average person needed to find someone in the know to purchase fresh fish from the docks. If you didn't have an in, it was hard to know when fresh seafood was available, Bold said. At the same time, some fisherman would have loved to get the word out that they had catch for sale, but had no avenue.



Dungeness crab with vegetables and sticky rice.

"So, we created an even playing field for all people, all markets, all fisherman," Bold said. In 2020, Westport's Fresh Catch program was launched by the City of Westport's tourism brand, Experience Westport and the Port of Grays Harbor.

(Continued on page 22)



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Fresh Fish!

(continued)

A big, bright sign announcing Westport's Fresh Catch went up at the marina early in 2021. At the top, it indicates what months each species is typically caught. Below, there's room for fishermen to list their name, contact information, location on the dock and what they are selling.

"I love it when people drive down here for the first time to buy 100 pounds of tuna off the boat to can at home."

— Molly Bold

Westport Marina, General Manager

In addition, a website and Facebook page (WestportsFreshCatch) get the information out to a broader audience by acting as a sort of electronic fishmonger calling out "fresh fish," whenever seafood is available.

"It's gone really well. It's a fun project. I love the volume of seafood sold, but I also love it when people drive down here for the first time to buy 100 pounds of tuna off the boat to can at home," said Bold, who has managed the marina for seven years.

Fresh Catch sign, located between Float 4 and Float 6, guides consumers to fresh seafood.





Grilled tuna with mashed potatoes, sautéed vegetables and pineapple salsa.

To see how it works, go to www.experiencewestport.com and select Westport's Fresh Catch. The website offers specific information about tuna, crab, salmon and oysters. It also gives tips on how to plan ahead to buy fresh fish. (For instance, for the tuna fishery it's recommended to contact fishermen before they head out to sea and then wait to get a call when they return with the catch.)

The website features contact information for individual fishing boats and seafood markets in the Westport area that carry Westport's Fresh Catch.

Mike Cornman, owner of Merino's Seafood Market and Cannery, was one of the organizers behind Westport's Fresh Catch. A major fish buyer and processor in Westport, Merino's branched out into the restaurant business as well,

Photo courtesy of Port of Grays Harbor

succeeding beyond Cornman's wildest dreams, partly due to Covid-19.

"When everything closed in Washington State, the only places that were open were the beaches. So, the summer of 2020 was really busy," he said. While Merino's was known for its clam chowder, in 2019 Cornman had decided to take a little corner of the production plant and make a space large enough to make fish and chips.

When they opened an order window and set up a couple of picnic tables outside in August of 2020, "people literally lined up around the block to get fish and chips," he said. There was room above to expand, so the restaurant now can hold 40.



Photo by Molly Bold

A crab boat heads out to sea with crab pots on deck.



Photo by Capture.Share.Repeat.

Tuna fisherman Perry Graham shows a tuna caught on board the F/V Amber Lynn.

"People wanted to go out and have fresh seafood, so we decided we would give it a whirl," Cornman said.

The Westport Fresh Catch project also lists Westport restaurants like Merino's that serve Westport's fresh catch. The list also includes Aloha Alabama, Blackbeard's Brewing Taphouse and Blue Buoy Restaurant, as well as nearby Local Bar & Grill, Tokeland Hotel and Restaurant, Westport Winery's Sea Glass Grill and more.

The Facebook page, "WestportsFreshCatch," is another avenue where seafood seekers and seafood sellers can easily communicate. Fisherman will post if they have fresh fish for sale and seafood markets let customers know of availability.

As the manager of the Westport Marina, Molly Bold has been working to share the information about Westport's Fresh Catch, but she has another message she wants people to know.

(Continued on page 25)





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Fresh Fish! (continued)


"The news often tells story of crises having to do with the ocean, but the real news is how healthy the fisheries are, and how sustainable. Our fisheries have a vibrant future," she said. 

Photo by Molly Bold



New Westport festival celebrates Storms and Seafood

What started as a way to draw people into Westport during the off season is well on its way to becoming a popular annual event.


The second annual Storms and Seafood festival is set for Thursday through Monday, Jan. 11-15, in Westport.

"We gave it a try last year and thought about 40 to 60 people would come, and it ended up being about 400 people!" said Mike Cornman, owner of Westport Seafood and Merino's Seafood Market & Cannery.

The event is planned during the exceptional high tides over the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday weekend so that "people have a chance to enjoy storms as they eat seafood at various restaurants," he said. Combined with

normal January weather, including storm surges on the ocean, the high tides can make for a pretty impressive wave-crashing storm.

For the festival, restaurants throughout the Westport area are encouraged to offer specialty seafood dishes. Festival-goers can obtain a passport ahead of time and visit as many restaurants as possible, sampling the selections of seafood. The Maritime Museum, Westport Lighthouse and the Port of Grays Harbor Observation Tower will also be included. Passports filled with stamps can be entered into a drawing for a large seafood basket.

For more information about pre-registering for the event, follow Westport's Fresh Catch on Facebook. The cost is \$10. 



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GARY MOREAN: A MAN OF CHARACTER

BY STEPHANIE MORTON

Actor, singer, dancer! Local attorney Gary Morean is a triple threat and more. When it comes to the theater, Morean has done it all — from makeup to lights to playing the lead.

By day Morean, 68, is a partner at Ingram, Zelasko & Goodwin, LLP, in Aberdeen. By night he could be anyone: Biff Loman, Ali Baba, Thomas Aquinas or perhaps “man in chair.” If he is not acting, it’s likely he’s doing something near a stage or attending a show.

Morean has performed in more than 70 productions in Grays Harbor and

Photo by Stephanie Morton



also been a member of Aberdeen’s Driftwood Players Community Theatre Board for more than 30 years. He is currently co-directing “Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat,” at the Driftwood Theatre with frequent on-stage wife, Patty Sundstrom.

His first performance was in Gilbert and Sullivan’s “H.M.S. Pinafore” in sixth grade in Lake Oswego, Ore., and his most recent was playing Barry Glickman in this past summer’s production of “The Prom,” at the Bishop Center for Performing Arts.

“Clearly, I was not a shy thing,” said Morean. A tall kid, he usually played adult parts easily just by adding some gray to his hair. However, Morean was first an athlete, and focused on playing sports until he blew out his knees.

“I had to do something. I couldn’t do sports anymore, so I started doing a lot of theater,” Morean said. He continued acting in high school. At the University of Washington, Morean studied political science and took theater classes to fulfill arts credits. (He also studied stage makeup and wigs and has done his own hair and makeup for performances since.)

He met his wife, Nina Ingram, at the UW, where she was a theater major. While they didn’t meet in an acting class, they did go to a show called “Music Is” on their first date.

Morean married into the first family of theater in Aberdeen when he wed Nina. Her father,

Photos courtesy of Gary Morean

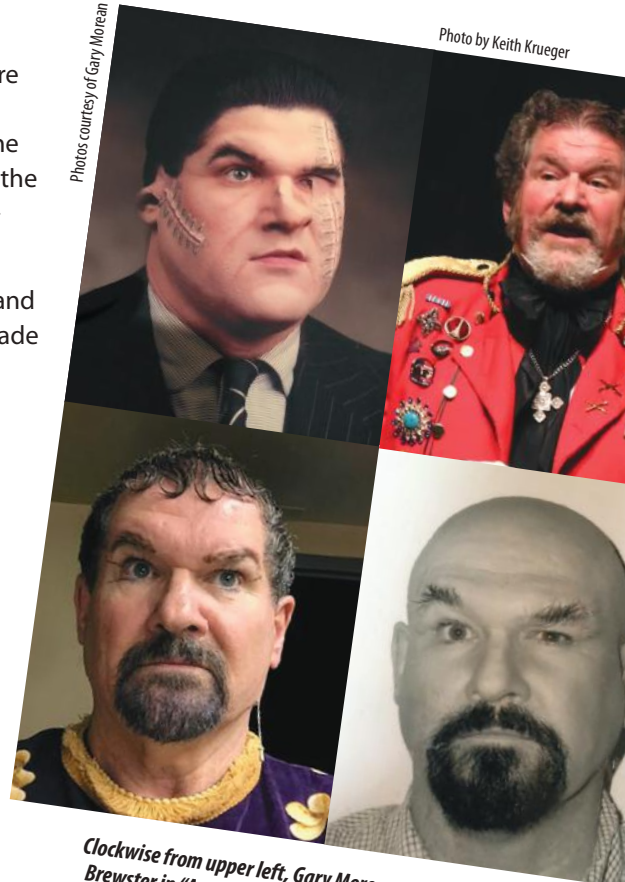


Photo by Keith Krueger

Clockwise from upper left, Gary Morean portrays Jonathan Brewster in “Arsenic and Old Lace,” (1983); Major-General Stanley in “The Pirates of Penzance,” (2019); Otto Von Brunno in “Bullshot Crummond,” (2009); and Senex in “A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum,” (2019).

Ernie Ingram, was one of the founding members of the Driftwood Theatre. Ingram was also a partner at Ingram, Zelasko & Goodwin and convinced his new son-in-law to apply to his firm once Morean had completed law school. So, the Moreans came to the Harbor in the early 1980s.

“Gary has been a huge influence in community theater in Grays Harbor, whether he realizes it or not,” said Brad Duffy, friend and fellow thespian.

When the Driftwood Theatre moved to its present location on Third Street in Aberdeen in 1981, Morean did everything he could to turn the space into a theatre, said Duffy. He built, he painted, and he did shows.



Morean agreed that he has spent hours and hours in the Driftwood Theatre. He and his father-in-law built the stage platforms. His mother-in-law helped him with character work.

Even with all the time spent there, his knowledge of the history of Driftwood Players is remarkable. He knows who built what piece of scenery. He knows who acted, directed, and choreographed almost all the performances over the years at the Driftwood and at the Bishop Center for Performing Arts. He also knows even obscure plays, playwrights actors and directors. Knowledge of all things related to theater simply flows from Morean.

Sadly, Morean's wife, father-in-law and mother-in-law have all died. As he walked around the Driftwood Theatre, the walls covered with playbills of all the past performances, he reminisced about the plays and performances with his family and his theater family.

"I keep coming back because of the people I work with, the camaraderie, the creative process, the collaboration with other like-minded people, and certainly the communion and joy between the actors and the audience when it all comes together," Morean said.

As a director, Morean is straightforward. Actress Kristin Noble asked Morean if she really had to go full man-eating cougar as the beautiful and scheming Mrs. Potiphar in "Joseph," and his reply was matter of fact.

Nina and Gary Morean perform in "The Man Who Came to Dinner," 1981.



Photo by Stephanie Morton

Gary Morean (center) works with the cast of "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat" during rehearsal.

"It's acting," Noble recalled Morean saying. "And he was right." She added that Morean was also good at character work and blocking, while his co-director Patty Sundstrom manages the vocals and music.

According to Sundstrom, she and Morean use the theater as their creative outlet. Having worked together so often, it is surprising that this is their first time as co-directors.

"Gary really does excel at character roles. He's hilarious."
– *Patty Sundstrom*

"We are hoping to have a sympatico relationship, and so far, it's going well," said Sundstrom.

Though tall, and possessing romantic lead good looks, Morean is more often cast as a character actor. Character actors are known for their versatility and distinctiveness and are colorful and quirky.

"Gary really does excel at character roles. He's hilarious. He can be very flamboyant, and he plays a caricature very well," said Sundstrom. But he is also an excellent singer, she added.


While he downplays his abilities, Sundstrom joked that no, he is not humble. "Please don't write that Gary is humble," she laughed.

Morean is a consummate performer and director, according to Duffy, who also said Morean understands the theater and he knows his craft well. He said that Morean is just a joy to watch perform and plays a wide variety of roles.

"I know that if I place him in a role, he's going to do 100 percent," said Duffy. "But I will also give him my notes."

As for Morean, "I don't know if 'satisfying' is the word I would use, but acting is way more fun and ... 'rewarding' may be a better word. Directing is a lot of work, a lot of decisions, a lot of pressure."

According to Noble, who is a director at 7th Street Theatre Kids, Morean and his law firm donate generously to their program. Both Duffy and Morean said the future of community theater in Grays Harbor is dependent on the success of the 7th Street Theatre Kids.

"The future of community theater in Grays Harbor is great from the perspective of the talent pool that we create and have locally; from the 7th Street Kids, through the high schools, and up to Bishop Center and Driftwood shows," Morean said. 

Performances of **"Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat"** will be at 7:30 p.m. on **Nov. 24, 25** and **Dec. 1, 2, 8, 9**. Matinee shows are set for 1:30 p.m. **Dec. 3** and **10**.

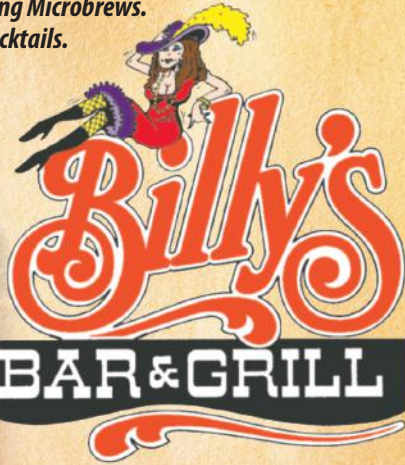
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A myriad of merchants keeps the inspired equipped

STORY BY GAIL GREENWOOD AYRES
& CINDY STEARNS

When it comes to creative pursuits, Grays Harbor has a bounty of businesses that fuel the inspiration and provide the supplies for artists and musicians.

From furnishing fabric to framing, to supplying scrapbookers, knitters, glass artists and musicians, this myriad of merchants quietly keep the inspired equipped.

Here is a sampling of Harbor businesses that might motivate you to create art for yourself or perhaps as a gift.



Weird Sisters Wool Emporium
305 W. First St., Aberdeen.

Weird Sisters Wool Emporium is a local yarn shop with a twist – or two.

“We carry no commercial yarns. It is all hand-dyed wool yarn organized into various fandoms,” explained Chelsea Barr, who co-owns the shop with Megan Blackburn.

That’s right, they sell colorful skeins – for \$25 to \$30 each – that have colorways inspired by various books, shows and movies and organized by those fandoms. The fandoms include Harry Potter, Dr. Who, Princes Bride, Lord of the Rings and The Goonies.

It’s a bit mind-blowing for those who envision the typical knitter as a granny in a rocking chair. Despite many naysayers trying to dissuade the women

“We have become what is known as a destination shop, with our customers traveling hours to visit us.”

*Megan Blackburn
Weird Sisters Wool Emporium*

from this business approach, they stuck to their plan.

“We wanted to do the stuff that we like,” said Blackburn, who like Barr is a self-described nerd. “And, it turns out that many people liked the things we do. ... We have become what is known as a destination shop, with our customers traveling hours to visit us.”

In other words, there’s a profitable convergence zone between those who like Harry Potter or Star Wars and those who are into fiber crafts.

The women close the shop each Thursday to hand dye 80 to 100 skeins to keep up with the demand. They work with 17 bases, which include different weights and wool blends. In addition to the more creative colorways, the shop offers tonal yarns for the less adventurous.

Weird Sisters is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday. For more information, call (360) 637-9738 or visit weirdsisterswool.com.



Cynsational Memories
2305 Simpson Ave., Aberdeen.

Scrapbookers and card makers not only shop at Cynsational Memories, but they are also responsible for helping create the 18-year-old business, said owner Cyndi Stocks.

“When I first started, I knew nothing about crafting. My daughter suggested I open a scrapbooking store because there wasn’t one here,” Stocks said. “The women here in Grays Harbor taught me everything – from what I should stock, to how to more easily order products. And, I’m still learning from them.”

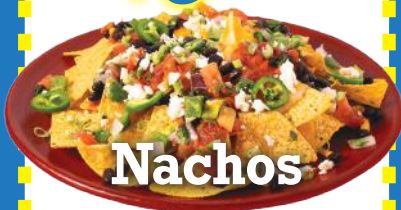
The shop features shelves of scrapbook paper and cardstock, as well as vinyl for signs and heat transfer vinyl for clothing. It also carries things like

(continued on page 32)



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Art Merchants *(continued)*

specialty cutting tools, a variety of adhesives, dies, stamps and ink pads.

Open from 7:30 to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday, Cynsational Memories also hosts classes. Stocks invites people to talk to her about what they'd like to create so she can design a special project or event for a small group.

"A lot of people say, 'I'm not creative,' said Stocks, "And I say, 'Yeah, you are, we just have to bring it out of you.'"

For more information, call (360) 537-6598, or email cyndistocks@hotmail.com.

The Market Place

101 N. Broadway St., Aberdeen

While most people think of The Market Place in downtown Aberdeen as a health food store, it is also a place where creative folks source some of their key ingredients, said Michelle Olson, who owns the store with her husband, Erick.



This airy emporium offers bees wax and scents for candlemakers and glycerin supplies for soap makers. It's the go-to place to purchase little containers for home-crafted cosmetic products from bath salts to essential oils to moisturizers, lip balms, diffusers and face masks. Not to mention the specialty ingredients that go into those tins, droppers, tiny rollers and cosmetic containers, including lanolin, castor oil, shea butter, sea salts and essential oils.

"We have people buy things to create air fresheners, ointments, face creams,

salves, face masks and more!" she said.

The store is open seven days a week. Call (360) 538-1521 for more information.

Photo courtesy of Glass Art Studio



Glass Art Studio

2840 Sumner Ave., Hoquiam

Stained glass artists have a treasure trove of materials available at the Glass Art Studio in Hoquiam.

"We have almost four million items in stock," said owner Irene Richardson. "We carry all the supplies to do glass art using multiple techniques."

"One day, I ran out of solder and the nearest shop to buy some was a three-hour round trip. So, I decided to open up my shop."

– Irene Richardson, Glass Art Studio

The stock includes art glass and fusible glass in a variety of colors and textures, as well as lead came, zinc, brass, cutting equipment, foiling equipment, leading equipment, glass stringers and much more. And, if she doesn't have it, she can order it.

"In 1980, a friend shared the techniques of making stained glass with me and it was a gift to last a lifetime," Richardson said. "One day, I ran out of solder and the nearest shop to buy some was a three-hour round trip. So, I decided to open up my shop." That was in 2002.

Since Covid-19, the way she operates her shop has changed. Customers now make an appointment to shop for supplies or some of her finished artwork. She offers appointments seven days a week.

"Some clients need to pick up their order from the online store and then be on their way. Some clients need some time to shop for items that are not listed on the website," she said.

In addition, Richardson is available to teach classes for two to five people in their home or studio.

For more information, call (360) 589-7766, or email her at happyglassartsupply@gmail.com. The online shop is at happyglassartsupply.com.

Photo by Rick Meyer



Guitar Galactica
204 South K St., Aberdeen

In April 2023, Guitar Galactica opened as a place to buy new, used and vintage guitars – acoustic, bass and electric – and all the accessories needed to keep the music coming.

Ron Harless and Joe Backus, both musicians, come with plenty of experience, having managed The Trading Musician in Seattle for 20 years.

"It's like everything from our youth that we like to be around,"

– Ron Harless, Guitar Galactica

Harless grew up on the Harbor and had worked at Rosevear's Music Store.

(continued on page 35)

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Art Merchants *(continued)*

Guitar Galactica also provides instrument repair services inside the striking green storefront. The store's stock includes ukuleles, turntables, old and new records, and rock T-shirts.

"It's like everything from our youth that we like to be around," Harless said. "It makes us happy."

The store is open from 11 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Tuesday through Friday, and 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday. For more information, call (360) 660-5912, email guitargalactica@gmail.com or visit www.guitargalactica.com.

Whisperwood Custom Framing Studio 1310 W. Whisperwood Lane, Montesano

Tucked into a Montesano neighborhood, Whisperwood Custom Framing Studio is a full-service framing business that can help artists add the finishing touch to their pieces, preparing them for display.



Marisa Salzer, owner of Whisperwood Custom Framing.

Owner Marisa Salzer, who has a degree in visual arts, has worked in a variety of framing shops over the years. However, having her own shop is a dream come true, she said.

Whisperwood offers framing materials made from wood, metal, acrylic, raku and more. The vast array of mats offers a rainbow of possibilities. And, Salzer offers various types of glass, including museum glass, anti-reflective, non-glare and clear.

Salzer even has wholesale pricing options for local artists. With all the equipment right there in her shop, she also offers repair services.

The shop is open by appointment. For more information, call (360) 470-7180, email marisa@whisperwoodframing.com, or visit Whisperwood's social media sites on Instagram and Facebook.

(continued on page 36)

Photo courtesy of Whisperwood

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 Saturday 12pm – 9pm
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 Amanda Ransom, Jokers Wild**

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For more info: 360.482.3055
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Photos by Cindy Stearns



Art Merchants *(continued)*

Beach Box Glass Art
 4762 State Route 109, Moclips

As an 8-year-old attending parochial school, Kari Wulf was enamored with the building's stained glass. Years later, her vocation aligned with that love of the beauty she saw through those windows.

Starting in an RV park in Ocean Shores, Bad Wulf Studio moved to its current location on State Route 109. Wulf's glass art fills the intimate studio. Recently, her daughter, Heather Worley, has become the owner, evolving it into Beach Box Glass Art, which includes the work of other artists.

In addition to offering fine art, Beach Box Glass Art also offers stained glass supplies for sale. And, "Make Glass Art Now" is a working space for people to come and create a piece. Any age or skill level has the opportunity for experienced guidance with Wulf assisting.

"Mosaics are ideal for children," Wulf said. An individual or up to a class of six are encouraged to create with art. Classes and lessons are one to three hours. Participants can pick up their finished piece the following day.

Beach Box Glass Art can be contacted at (360) 591-1871.

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Photo by Cindy Stearns

Starlight Hi-Fi Music & Collectibles
698 Ocean Shores Blvd., Ocean Shores

With a shared passion for music, Ken Garza and Brett Walker recently opened Starlight Hi-Fi Music and Collectibles in the Driftwood Plaza.

This eclectic music store is replete with musical instruments, collectibles, posters, memorabilia and bins of CDs, DVDs, vinyl and yes, cassettes.


All ages will find something to draw them into this musical playground. Seeing a need for a music store to serve the area, the duo jumped on the retail space.

The partners also have online businesses. Garza sells audio file equipment. Walker specializes in instruments, games and toys.

Musicians will find parts, supplies and instruments needed. And if you don't see it, ask. They're connected to a long dealer list and are happy to special order for their customers. Garza or Walker (or both) may be found strumming along as customers browse through this wide-ranging mix of musical fun.

In the winter, the store is closed on Wednesdays. For more information, call (360) 940-7447, or visit www.Starlighthifi.com.

Fabric Stores

Two fabric stores, Quilt Harbor in Aberdeen and Beach Tyme Quilts in Ocean Shores, are featured this issue as a part of "The Art of Quilting" story, beginning on page 15. 

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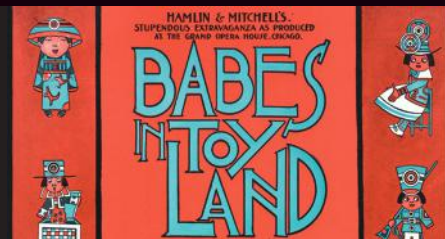
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December 16, 17
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March 1, 2, 3, 8, 9, 10
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GRAYLAND SCHOOL HOUSE GALLERY

It has been over a year since artist Andrea Brannon purchased the historic red school house on the corner of Highway 105 and Grayland Beach Road. Renamed the Grayland School House Gallery, her vision for the building was to restore and reclaim its heritage as a teaching space. On November 4th, with the help of Angela Johnson, owner of Evergreen Flower Farms and Ameer Russell owner of Tokeland Candle Works, the old doors were reopened. Guests filled the space, anxious to see what had become of their beloved school house.



and candle making. There is a grand lobby where visitors are encouraged to gather and relax. In addition, Andrea will operate a gallery featuring her work and that of several other local artists.

Amazing creations by Angela and Ameer flew off the walls and shelves, purchased by new and returning customers. Guests were treated to a fresh new vibe and a huge expanse of space brimming with new life, art and tasteful, eclectic teaching areas. Art classes will be offered including glass fusing, pottery, floral arrangement,



1767 State Route 105 Grayland

Winter festivals feature fun, food, freezing weather



Photo by Rick Moyer



Photo by Rick Moyer



Photo by Rick Moyer

BY STEPHANIE MORTON

It's the season to be jolly, and folks will find all sorts of ways to celebrate at various festivals throughout Grays Harbor this winter.

Seabrook Jolly Days – Nov. 23 - Jan. 1

It is jolly indeed at Seabrook this holiday season because every weekend includes a fun holiday event!

While some of the Jolly Days have already passed, the town elves are still hiding winter glass floats around Seabrook daily. Check Seabrook's Facebook and Instagram pages for clues, or stop by the guest services office.

Snow will fall in Seabrook several more times this winter – during the scheduled "Snow Drops" at 5 p.m. Dec. 2 and Dec. 9. The final Snow Drop is set for 6 p.m., Dec. 16, during the holiday parade.

An ice-skating rink is scheduled for Jolly Days but the location and times have yet to be finalized.

Winterfest in Aberdeen – Dec. 2

Snowflakes, appearing on downtown Aberdeen business windows, are the first signs of Winterfest, the annual free (or nearly free) celebration of the winter season.

Breakfast with Santa starts off the celebration at Messy Jessy's Bar and Grill, 212 S I St., from 9 to 11 a.m. The food is prepared and served by the Lions of Aberdeen and Central Park. Kids under 12 are free; older than 12 are encouraged to donate. Photos with the Jolly Old Elf, courtesy of Moyer Multimedia, will be available from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The Holiday Market, will be at the DNR Event Center, 122 E. Heron St., from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Find Christmas gift items among the nearly 35 vendors. A holiday craft table will help keep the little ones busy. Free Winterfest shopping bags are available while supplies last.

The Gingerbread House Contest returns with several entry options – youth, adult, family, made by scratch or from a kit. The downtown businesses will also compete for the top decorating prize. The decorated gingerbread creations will be on display at Go Get the Pho, 100 E. Heron St.

To cap off the day, enjoy the acoustic and cross-genre music of Erwilian at 7:30 p.m., at the Bishop Center for Performing Arts, 1620 Edward Smith Dr. Blending Celtic, New Age and World music, Erwilian has a distinct and ethereal sound. The seven-piece band will perform original music along with holiday favorites.

Ho Ho Hoquiam – Dec. 2

Enjoy a holiday evening with music and movie courtesy of the 7th Street Theatre. The theater helps host Ho Ho Hoquiam on the first Saturday of December, beginning about 5 p.m.

The downtown Hoquiam businesses decorate for the holidays, each with its own special tree. Visitors are encouraged to stroll with their favorite warm beverage as they view the sparkly lights and decorations. Sing along with the choir at the tree-lighting ceremony, usually around 6 or 6:30 p.m.

After the tree is lit, head over to the 7th Street Theatre for a special showing of "Elf," beginning at 7:30 p.m. This new holiday classic starring Will Ferrell is rated PG. Tickets are \$6.

(continued on page 41)



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Winter festivals *(continued)*



Photo by Rick Moyer

Festival of Lights in Montesano – Dec. 8-10

While organizers were still putting finishing touches on the schedule at press time, what's for certain is that Montesano's Festival of Lights will be sparkling bright and packed full of tradition and fun.

This year's theme is "Snow Globe."

Saturday morning will begin with the traditional Jingle Bell Jog.

A large craft fair is a traditional spot to pick up holiday gifts, décor and treats. It is set for 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday at Montesano Jr./Sr. High School.

The annual grand parade is slated at 6 p.m. Saturday and is followed by the lighting of the yule log near Fleet Park.

Visit the Montesano Chamber of Commerce website for a full schedule of events.



Photo courtesy of Elma Chamber of Commerce, Rick Moyer

Winter Wine Festival in Elma – Jan. 20

The Winter Wine Festival is held during the drearier days of winter for a very good reason: Wine makes it all better.

This year, the festival goes country with a "WineDown HoeDown" theme perfect for the locale, the pavilion at the Grays Harbor County Fairgrounds, 32 Elma McCleary Rd.

Wineries from across the state will be in house, along with local wineries, including Wynoochee River Winery and the Westport Winery.

Amanda Ransom starts the live music at 1 p.m. with her folk and pop originals. Jokers Wild will play a variety of country and rock hits beginning at 4 p.m. Headliner Aaron Crawford takes the stage at 7 p.m. Crawford describes his music as classic country meets the Seattle grunge scene.

Vendors will offer everything from wine-themed items to soaps. Returning favorites include Wild Heart Sipping Vinegars and Corns-A-Poppin' gourmet popcorn, kettle corn and cotton candy.



Photo by Stephanie Morton

Burning Bear Festival in Ocean City – Feb. 16-18

This annual woodcarvers' festival culminates with the burning of a 20-foot carved bear. Watch chainsaw artisans carve fantastic creations during the day and then get ready to bid on the art pieces during the live auctions on Saturday and Sunday afternoons, around 3 p.m.

The bear will be ignited after the Saturday auction around sunset. Refreshments will be available for sale. All the fun takes place at Carvers Corner, aka Ocean City Marketplace, 2619 S.R. 109. [CL](#)



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The 'Accidental Poet' shares his gifts on purpose

BY CHRISTINE VINCENT

Eight years ago, an accident happened to chiropractor Brian McGregor while he was driving to Olympia. A poem came into his head and wanted to get out! While traveling at 60 miles per hour, Dr. McGregor frantically tried to write down the words, lest they disappear. Having succeeded without crashing, he had become the Accidental Poet.

"I was never interested in poetry," Dr. McGregor said. "Since that first poem came to me, many others have followed in the same mysterious and often inconvenient way. I have no explanation for how this happens."

Dr. McGregor grew up on the Harbor. He is married to Joy and they have two grown children, Katie and Josh. He has worked for 32 years with Dr. Linda Rose at Chiropractic Offices in downtown Aberdeen. On the surface, his life seems ordinary.

However, Dr. McGregor is not an ordinary person. He is gifted with many talents and with a nice dose of self-confidence, which he uses to pursue them.

When young Brian was in third grade, a chiropractor healed his back injury. The boy thought: "I want to do THAT!" Yet other things got in the way before he found his way to what he now considers his calling.

These "things" included graduating from the Art Institute of Seattle and successfully exhibiting and selling his art. For a time, he ran a successful flower shop in Raymond.

Photos by Katie McGregor



Dr. Brian McGregor, the Accidental Poet

But then, he felt led to follow his childhood desire of becoming a chiropractor. After graduating from the University of Western States in Portland, Oregon, in 1991, he joined Dr. Rose, D.C., at her Aberdeen office. While he truly considers his chiropractic work his vocation, he's always found time for creative pursuits. Over the years, he was commissioned to illustrate a card game, created art for friends and illustrated his own books.

Meanwhile, the poems came. Silly Kids Poems, he calls them. They have been coming for eight years, but have slowly become less urgent and easier to live with. So far, he has 258 saved on his iPad.

Dr. McGregor feels accountable for his gifts: "I imagine God asking me, remember that poem thing? What did you do with it?"

"Since that first poem came to me, many others have followed in the same mysterious and often inconvenient way."

– Brian McGregor

He has done a lot! Dr. McGregor writes funny children's poems in rollicking verse. Their playful language shows the poet's delight in creating them. He faithfully scribbles them down, whenever and wherever they come, then illustrates them with bright cartoons that perfectly complement the words. He has built a website to publish them, and has just completed a book of poems titled "Fat Cat Fred and other Silly Kids Poems."

The Accidental Poet website brings pure delight to the visitor. Apart from a slew of silly poems, each with an audio recording by the poet, the Poems and Pics tab showcases his illustrated poems. "It takes me five to ten minutes to write a poem and way longer to illustrate them," he said.

Another fun feature is the Challenge button, where visitors may request a personalized poem for a child by submitting some of the child's characteristics. Read some of the amazing results and request one yourself!

Together with his chiropractor friend, Dr. Owen Martin, Dr. McGregor is currently working on book seven in their wonderfully entertaining teen series



"The Adventures of Bob Kat." The hero is a reluctant spy using highly unusual superhero weapons that tend to malfunction. The stories are only available as eBooks.

Everything on Dr. McGregor's two websites, www.bobkatrocks.com and www.the-accidental-poet.com is free. "I don't need money," the author said. "I just want kids to enjoy my work."

Dr. McGregor enjoys entertaining children, but he also feels strongly about passing on his gifts. His daughter Katie inherited his artistic gift and had success at a young age. He encouraged her to profit from a teacher close at hand – her father. He is glad she accepted this shortcut to expertise.

Parents passing on their gifts to their children, or their failure to do so, is a subject close to Dr. McGregor's heart. He lost his father at a young age

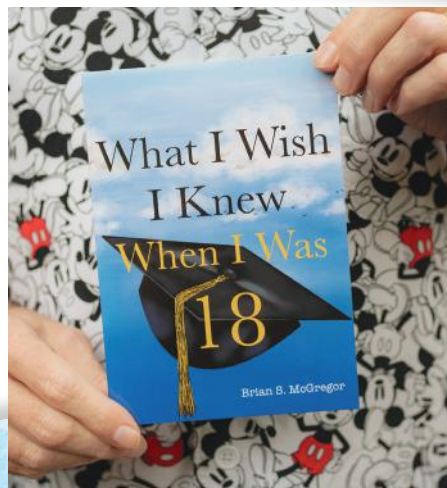
ORANGES ARE ORANGE

Oranges are orange
That's the way it oughta be
Names should all be just that way
I know that you'd agree

The color of a plum
Is, well, plum I'm sure you know
Black describes the blackberry
Blueberries, there you go

Catfish were never cats
Butterflies were never flies
Something else you might not know
Lady bugs are sometimes guys

Our thinks aren't always true
To me my folks often told
Strawberries aren't made of straw
-BUT-
I wish Gold Fish were really gold



and regrets that he was not pressed harder to learn from his dad.

He started a survey among 500 of his patients and friends to help young people avoid the major pitfalls of life. The results he published in a little book titled "What I Wish I Knew When I Was 18." He found there were basically eight categories of simple, life-changing advice adults wished they could give to their young selves.

"With my father dying so young, I had to figure out most of the stuff in my book for myself and thus felt somewhat compelled to write it," he explained.

Dr. Brian McGregor may be an "accidental" poet, but he's certainly purposely using his gifts wisely and generously.

Dr. Brian McGregor's books, "Fat Cat Fred and other Silly Kids Poems" and "What I Wish I Knew When I Was 18" are available at his office at 400 W. Wishkah St., Aberdeen. They can also be ordered by emailing him at brianandjoy@comcast.net, or messaging him at the-accidental-poet.com. "The Adventures of Bob Kat" stories are available in eBook format only.

They can be downloaded for free at www.bobkatrocks.com.

OPEN SPACES

I dream of roaming wild and free
Open spaces all around
Just me and lots of nothing else
No others to be found

I don't so much like crowds of folks
I'm more comfortable with space
I'd rather shout across the room
Than talk, well, face to face

I don't even like my toes in socks
I want them to just be free
No other little piggies near
Just them, myself, and me

Small spaces do not set with me
I don't like them, not at all
I'm told it's claustrophobia
Big word, that's what it's called

This is, hmmm, most unfortunate
A problem my friend Myrtle
Says it's odd, and quite ironic
Seeing as how I'm a turtle



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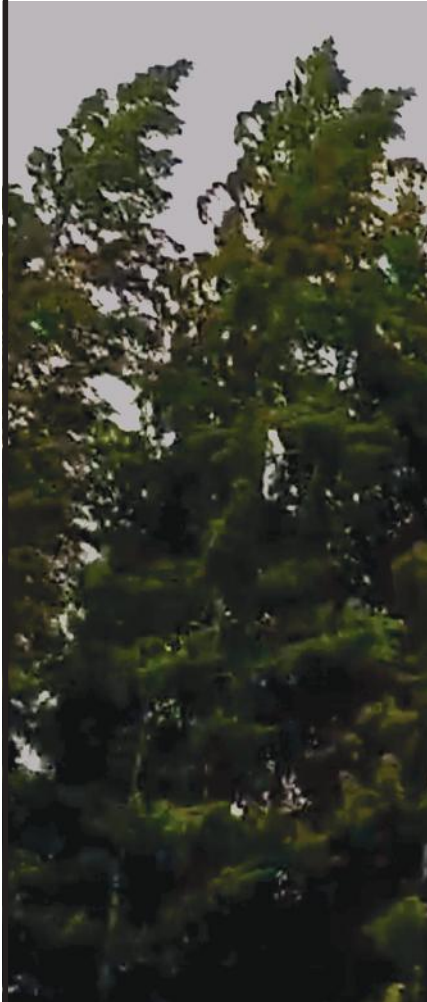


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Winter Power Interruptions



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It's just another way the Grays Harbor PUD works for you.



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DECEMBER

DECEMBER 1 . First Friday Art Walk . Aberdeen Art Center . Enjoy live music & food while viewing art. 5 - 8pm.

DECEMBER 1 - 8 . 2023 Annual Fall Gala Art Show . Aberdeen . Grays Harbor College, open during Spellman Library hours Mon. - Thurs. 7:30am to 5pm, Friday 10am - 2pm.

DECEMBER 1, 2, 3, 8, 9, 10 . 'Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat' . Aberdeen Driftwood Theater. Lyrics by Tim Rice, music by Andrew Lloyd Webber. Fri., Sat., 7:30pm, Sun., 1:30pm.

DECEMBER 1, 2, 3, 8, 9, 10 . 'One Christmas Eve at Evergreen Mall' . Ocean Shores . Stagewest Community Theater. Intertwined stories in a midwestern mall. Ocean Shores Lions Club. Fri., Sat. 7pm, Sun. 2pm.

DECEMBER 2 . Santa Breakfast & Tree Auction . McCleary . VFW, 8am.

DECEMBER 2 . Winterfest . Aberdeen Breakfast with Santa, Holiday Market, gingerbread house contest. More info page 39.

DECEMBER 2 . Erwilian . Aberdeen . Grays Harbor College, Bishop Center. Holiday favorites & more. Blending Celtic, new age & world music. 7:30pm

DECEMBER 2 . Santa By the Sea . Westport The jolly guy arrives at Float 6 at 10:30am. Festivities continue at the Westport Maritime Museum, Lens Hall.

DECEMBER 2 . North Beach Singers . Pacific Beach Community Church, 3 pm.

DECEMBER 2 . Harbor Dice Con . Ocean Shores . Convention Center.

DECEMBER 2 . Ho Ho Hoquiam . Tree lighting downtown. HHS band, choir, holiday lights & festivities, 5pm. More info page 39.

DECEMBER 2 . Elf . Hoquiam . 7th Street Theatre 7:30pm.

DECEMBER 2 . Christmas Tree Lighting . Elma . Chamber of Commerce, 4 - 6pm.

DECEMBER 2 . Christmas Train & Fire Engine Lighting . McCleary . Beerbower Park, 6pm. Following the lighting, an unofficial parade of decorated vehicles escorts Santa through the streets.

DECEMBER 2-3 . Artisan Faire . Ocean Shores VFW. Fair-trade gift items, arts, patisserie. Sat. 10-4. Sun. 12-4. Grizzly Den food truck. Mrs. Claus will be there. FIDO and you photo shoot. Prizes.

DECEMBER 2 . Procrastinators Holiday Art & Craft Show . Ocean Shores . Elks Lodge, 10am-4pm.

DECEMBER 2, 9, 16 . Snow Drop . Seabrook . Town Center . It's snowing in Seabrook! 5pm on 12/2 & 12/9, 6pm on 12/16.

DECEMBER 3 . Yule Log Celebration . Schafer State Park . Experience this tradition in the large Community Shelter where the fire will be roaring and great memories will be made, 1 - 4pm.

DECEMBER 5-31 . Ice Skating Rink . Seabrook . 10am-5pm through 1/31.

DECEMBER 8 . The Loading Dock . Aberdeen . Rock and metal on stage with 3 bands – Frolock, Just Barely and Of Lioness. 7pm.

DECEMBER 8, 9 . North Beach Singers . Ocean Shores . Galilean Lutheran Church, Friday 7pm, Saturday 3pm. Bring food bank donation.

DECEMBER 9 . Harmonic Pocket . Libraries . Aberdeen 10:30am, Montesano 2pm. Celebrate winter with books, ukuleles, & silly-sweet songs, featuring 'Harmonica Pocket' from Port Townsend.

DECEMBER 9 . The Loading Dock . Aberdeen . Afternoon rock show with Little City Song Birds, Absolute Zero & The Good Grief. 1pm.

DECEMBER 9, 10 . Grayland Holiday Bazaar . Gingerbread house contest, Christmas Bazaar with local vendors, and a community Christmas party.

DECEMBER 8 . Festival of Lights Kickoff Concert . Montesano . Ken Albert & Christine Hill with guest performers Angel Phoenix Damasiewicz, Gladys Whitney & Steve Jacobson, performing holiday favorites. Montesano Community Center, 7pm.

DECEMBER 8-10 . Festival of Lights . Montesano . Sat., Holiday craft fair 9am - 2pm at the high school, Grand parade downtown 6pm, Yule log following. More info page 41.

DECEMBER 9 . One Stop Christmas Shop . McCleary . VFW, 10am - 4pm.

DECEMBER 9, 10 . GH Dance presents Polar Express . Hoquiam . 7th Street Theatre. Holiday recital, free with food bank donation, 2pm.

DECEMBER 9, 15 . Ben Fagerstedt at the Stowaway Wine Bar . Seabrook . Listen to holiday crooner classics, 6:30pm. Story on page 10.

(Continued on page 47)

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RODENTS • SPIDERS • FLEAS • ROACHES

DECEMBER 10 . Grays Harbor Civic Choir & Concert Band . Aberdeen . Grays Harbor College Bishop Center, 2pm.

DECEMBER 13, 14, 15 . Harbor Lights – Laser Light Show . Satsop Business Park . Musical laser light show viewed from your vehicle. Laser images illuminate cooling tower. Free tickets, Summit Pacific web.

DECEMBER 16 . Holiday Parade . Seabrook . Town Center. Enjoy decorated floats, music and a snow drop, 6pm. More info page 39.

DECEMBER 16 . A Day with Santa . Grayland . Grayland Fire Hall, refreshments, photos, 10am-2pm.

DECEMBER 16, 17 . Babes in Toyland • Grays Harbor Opera Workshop . Aberdeen . Grays Harbor College Bishop Center. Sat. 7:30pm, Sun. 2pm.

DECEMBER 22 . The Loading Dock . Aberdeen . A Very Merry Hip-Hop Show, plus pictures with Santa. Time TBA.

DECEMBER 23 . Olson Brothers Band . Hoquiam . 7th Street Theatre. Celebrate the Christmas season with country music, 7pm. 25% of proceeds to Family Promise of Grays Harbor.

DECEMBER 30 . Musical Conversations – Tim Connell & Bernardo Gomez . Raymond. Raymond Theater. Mandolin & upright bass, eclectic repertoire from Beatles to Brazil, 2pm.

DECEMBER 31 . Westport New Years Eve Fireworks . Westport Marina at dusk.

DECEMBER 31 . New Years Eve Beach Bash . Ocean Shores . Convention Center. Casino Games dinner, Comedian Charlie Williams, live music with Leah Justine, Janis Lives Tribute Band, Johnny & The Bad Boys.

JANUARY

JANUARY 1-31 . Ice Skating Rink . Seabrook . 10am-5pm through 1/31.

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

JANUARY 6 . Harbor Havoc Ring in the New Year . Ocean Shores . Convention Center. Live action professional wrestling by Rogue Wrestling Attractions, 6pm.

JANUARY 10 - MAY 15 . #Wildfloats . Westport . Westport South Beach Historical

Society is releasing 1,000 authentic Japanese for anyone to find one while beachcombing.

JANUARY 11-15 . Storms & Seafood Festival . Westport . See story on page 25.

JANUARY 13-14 . Urban Unglued Freaks at the Beach . Ocean Shores . Convention Center.

JANUARY 15 . The Loading Dock . Aberdeen . Acoustic punk & rock with Greg Rekus, Ty Wulf, Tim Holehouse, Hollow-Hound. 6pm.

JANUARY 18 . Seattle Women's Jazz Orchestra Aberdeen . GH College Bishop Center, 7pm.

JANUARY 19 . Aaron Crawford Concert . Ocean Shores . Blending Classic Country with his Seattle Rock influences. Live concert at the Ocean Shores Cinema, 7pm.

JANUARY 20 . Winter Wine Festival . Elma Wine provided by many Washington wineries. Live music starts at 1pm at Grays Harbor County Fairgrounds. More info page 41.

JANUARY 20, 21 . Despicable Me . Hoquiam . 7th Street Theatre, 2010 movie. Sat. 7:30pm, Sun. 2pm.

(Continued on page 48)

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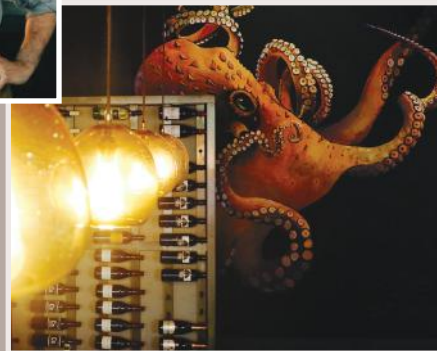


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JANUARY 26 . Matt Baker Comedy Stunt Show . Aberdeen . GH College Bishop Center, 7:30pm.

FEBRUARY

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

FEBRUARY 2-4 . ABC Festival . Ocean Shores . Galway Bay Irish Pub. Appalachian, Bluegrass, Cowboy, Country, and Cavalry music.

FEBRUARY 9, 10, 16, 17, 18, 23, 24, 25 . Significant Other . Aberdeen . Driftwood Theater . Fri., Sat. 7:30pm, Sun. 1:30pm.

FEBRUARY 10 . Souper Bowl Chili Cookoff . Seabrook . Town Hall . Competition with chefs and celebrity judges.

FEBRUARY 10-11 . Artisan Faire . Ocean Shores VFW. Fair-trade gift items, arts, patisserie. Prizes. Sat. 10-4. Sun. 12-4.

FEBRUARY 16, 17 . The Long, Long Trailer . Hoquiam . 7th Street Theatre, 1954 movie. 7:30pm.

FEBRUARY 16-18 . Renewed Antique Show . Ocean Shores . Convention Center.

FEBRUARY 16-18 . Burning Bear Festival . Ocean City . Chainsaw carving, live auctions. Saturday at sunset witness the Burning Bear. More info page 41.

FEBRUARY 24 . Harbor Havoc – Love & Lariats . Ocean Shores . Convention Center. Live action professional wrestling by Rogue Wrestling Attractions, 6pm.

MARCH

MARCH 1, 2, 3, 8, 9, 10 . Oklahoma! • Aberdeen Grays Harbor College Bishop Center. Musical by Rodgers & Hammerstein. Fri., Sat. 7:30pm, Sun. 2pm.

MARCH 1-3 . Beachcombers & Glass Float Expo . Ocean Shores . Convention Center.

MARCH 4 . Ocosta Booster Crab Feed . Ocosta Rec Hall, Noon to 6pm.

MARCH 9, 10 . Guess Who's Coming to Dinner? . Hoquiam . 7th Street Theatre, 1967 movie. Sat. 7:30pm, Sun. 2pm.

MARCH 10 . Sons of Serendip . Raymond. Raymond Theater. Beautiful music with harp, piano, cello and voice, 2pm.

More events to come! Spring issue will be in your mailbox on March 1st.

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Enjoy this 18th edition of Coastal Currents Magazine representing over 680,000 copies since 2019.

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