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*Eric Faramus, surrealist painter*

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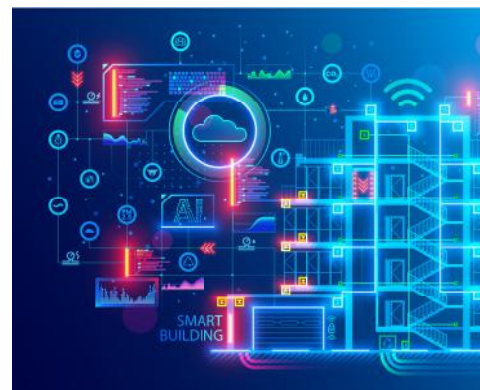
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Photo by Stephanie Morton

Galaxy Harbor Bellydancing Troupe members enjoy dancing with colorful costumes. See story on page 20.

# COASTAL *Currents*

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The front cover features a painting by Grayland surrealist painter Eric Faramus, who is featured on page 10 of this issue. Now in a private collection in France, the painting, which was completed January 10, 2019, wasn't named by Faramus, however its owner calls it "The Traveler." Faramus recalls being inspired by watching sandpipers on the beach taking off in the sky. "I guess I was watching so intensely that I became part of the flight."

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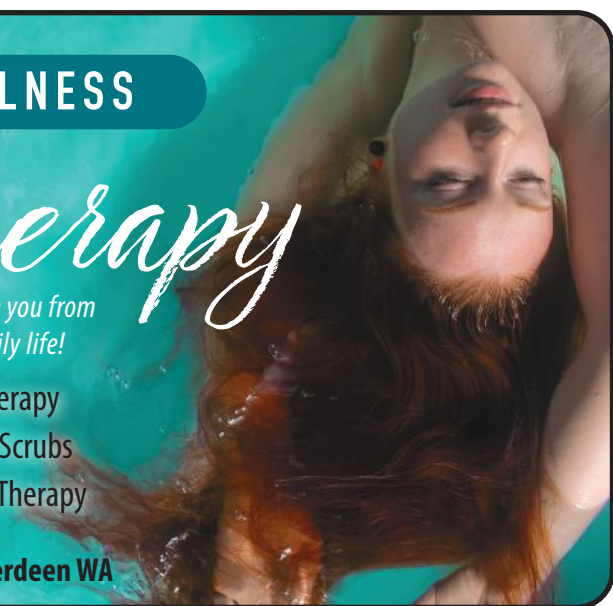
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# SR 109 PLAYS BLUES, ROCK AND A LITTLE BIT OF MAGIC



Photo by Juliana Wallace

BY JULIANA WALLACE

**E**ric Clapton once said, "When all the original blues guys are gone, you start to realize that someone has to tend to the tradition. I recognize that I have some responsibility to keep the music alive, and it's a pretty honorable position to be in."

Like Clapton, local band SR 109 does its part to keep the music alive. From Blues Brothers to Jimi Hendrix, ZZ Top to Johnny Winter, the three-piece band covers blues, rock, funk, jazz and even a little country. And they do it well.

Guitarist Jon Nygaard, drummer Steve Travis and bass player Tom Thompson met while playing with the Paul Bouma Band. The three musicians clicked,

*(continued on page 6)*



# SR 109 PLAYS MAGIC

(continued)

and so when Bouma's band stopped playing, they kept jamming together. Eventually, they started a band with another musician that they originally called Boneyard Dogs.

"We were thinking, it's just four old guys with half a step into the grave," laughed Nygaard. "Steve's wife came up with the name."

However, when a female vocalist joined the group for a while, the name no longer seemed to fit. The band wanted a name that evoked the freedom of driving down the road, listening to music with the top down. A friend suggested SR 109, a nod to the highway that represents the life blood for Ocean Shores, where all three musicians live. The name stuck.

Pinning the band down to a single style proves a little more difficult. They play the blues like nobody's business, with tunes like a stellar rendition of Jimi Hendrix's "Red House" that features Nygaard on guitar and vocals. And Thompson channels Johnny Cash to a T in "Folsom Prison Blues." But Travis also has rocker in his blood, and when he lets loose on the drums, he brings the house down.

"I used to be shy when it came to hitting cymbals. They're loud!" said Travis. "I really had to realize that the crashes and bangs are an integral part of playing the drums."

Travis discovered the drums around the sixth grade in Eastern Washington when he found a pair of drumsticks. Lacking a drum to go with the sticks, he would sit in his father's favorite leather recliner and jam out to the Doobie Brothers. Before long, his parents noticed telltale marks on the chair and bought him a used drum set. He was hooked.

Throughout college in Spokane and Seattle and during his career at Boeing, Travis played in a variety of



*SR 109 band members on their home turf in Ocean Shores (above) and ready to rock (below). From left: bass player Tom Thompson, drummer Steve Travis and guitarist Jon Nygaard.*

Photo by Juliana Wallace

Photo by Rick Moyer





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bands. When he retired and moved to Ocean Shores, he heard Paul Bouma was looking for a drummer. And the road to SR 109 began.

Like Travis, Nygaard has played music from a young age. "When I was nine, my dad brought home a funky four-string guitar. I picked it up, and it was like an instant connection," he said. He soon switched to electric guitar, playing in garage bands throughout high school in Sacramento.

Once Nygaard married and started a family, music temporarily took a back seat to his work as an electronic technician and a software engineer. But he still invited himself to any jam session he could find. Finally, in the mid-1990s, his wife bought him a gift certificate for lessons at a local music store.

"I told her, 'I'm going to take lessons from this guy, but it's going to change my life,'" he remembered.

(continued on page 8)

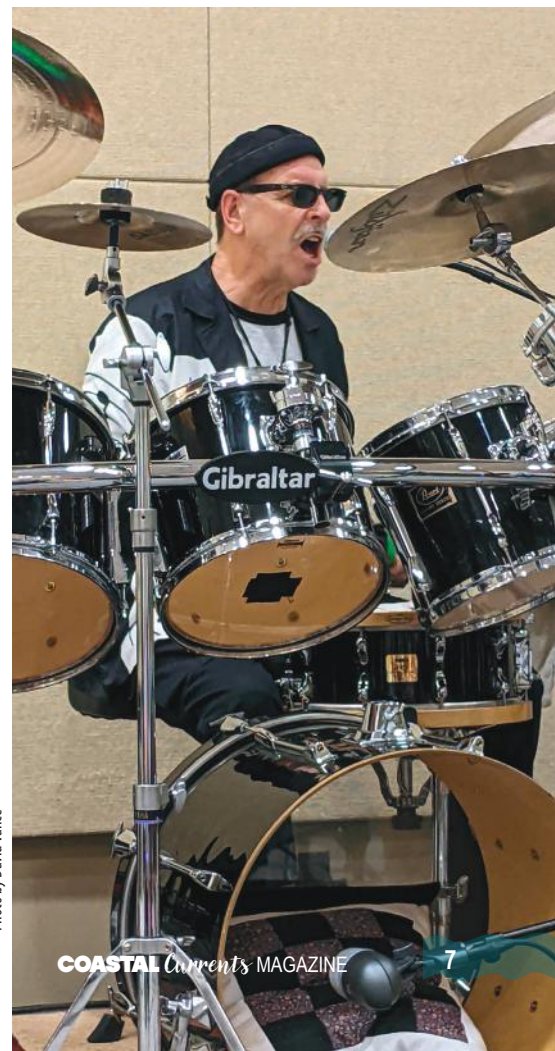


Photo by David Vance





Photo by Juliana Wallace

Tom Thompson goes full beard for a ZZ Top tune at a recent gig in Hoquiam.

## SR 109 PLAYS MAGIC

(continued)

And it did. Nygaard honed his impressive guitar skills playing with half a dozen bands in the San Jose area before moving to Washington in 2006, where he has performed with several local groups, including a long stint with Blues Remedy. In addition to guitar and vocals, he also writes songs, like the popular “You Driving Me Crazy.”

Thompson, on the other hand, came to music much later in life. After living around the world as part of an Air Force family, he settled in Spokane. He worked first as a deputy sheriff, then as an emergency room registered nurse and a deputy coroner. When he reached his mid-forties, his wife bought him an electric guitar. He asked friends for tips and watched a lot of videos, slowly learning how to play.

One day, a friend introduced Thompson to the bass, and he ended up selling all his guitars. That was just over eight years ago.

“He’s got a great ear and a great work ethic,” said Nygaard. “I’ve always had this theory that if you’re meant to be a musician that you’re drawn to an instrument by the time you’re in your teens. He blew my theory away.”

Together, Nygaard, Travis and Thompson make a formidable musical team. They love music, love performing, and it shows. Asked about their goals moving forward, Thompson joked, “I’d love to play the Royal Albert Hall by next year.”

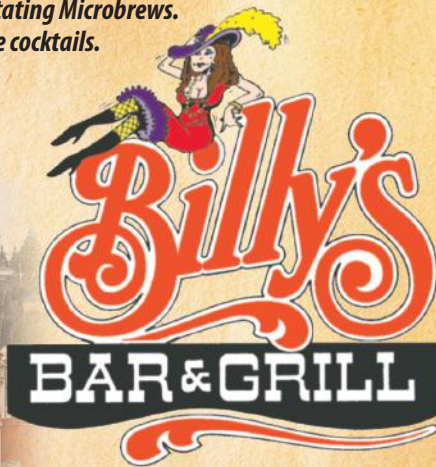
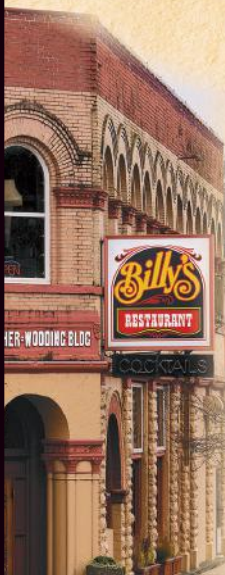
Whether or not London comes calling, the band can be found playing somewhere most weekends in festivals like Hog Wild or favorite venues like the new Loading Dock in Aberdeen. To hear them play locally or hire them for a gig, follow SR 109 on Facebook or contact Steve Travis at (253) 499-2355. [CC](#)

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Left: Eric Faramus poses alongside one of his Black Sun series painting completed on February 26, 2023.

Above: January 15, 2015

Photos of paintings courtesy of Eric Faramus

Graphic Arts in Paris, Faramus arrived in Chicago in 1983. Supporting himself as a graphic designer, he hoped to make it as an artist.

A distraction arrived in the form of a Louisiana zydeco band named “We’re Late and Smell Like Beer.” Faramus travelled with them for 10 years, playing saxophone and singing lead vocals. “They were really good,” his wife said. “He never picked up a paint brush in those 10 years.”

Then, Faramus the visual artist reappeared.

“Painting is a solitary activity. I needed to calm down,” he remembered. He concentrated on his painting and became quite well-known in Galena, Illinois, where the couple had settled. He started selling paintings.

“**Nothing I paint is real. It is all mixed up.**”

”

In 2015, Faramus painted a series of realistic portraits of people he knew. The personalities of the subjects are so vivid, they seem to jump out of their frames. Faramus ironically called this series Mugshots.

“I wanted to show all 60 of them together in a gallery, but people kept buying them!” he exclaimed.

Fast forward to 2016. After the death of her mother, his wife wanted to move to Grayland, where her daughter Sarah lived.

GRAYLAND

# French-born artist Eric Faramus PAINTS HIS MIND

BY CHRISTINE VINCENT

The large, intensely colored surrealist canvases painted by Eric Faramus demand attention. They upset parameters of perception, affording a view into the artist’s mind – or perhaps one’s own. Meticulously executed, the paintings must be viewed on site to discover their full impact.

Born in 1959 in France, painter and graphic designer Eric Faramus joined the Grays Harbor art community in 2016. He and his wife, PK Farrell-Faramus, live in Grayland.

Equipped with a master’s degree in graphic design from the College of





August 18, 2015

"I complained, 'What am I going to do in that place?' I had no idea that Grays Harbor had so many artists," Faramus recalled. "The Alder Grove Gallery is a wonderful place. There is no stress. People are friendly." He is now showing his art exclusively at the Alder Grove Gallery, which is located inside the Aberdeen Art Center, 200 W. Market St.

When it comes to the subjects of his work, Faramus said, "Nothing I paint is real. It is all mixed up."

One such mixed-up painting is a forest of alder trees. On the right side, the trees grow in unusually straight lines. The top branches grow into a vaulted Gothic cathedral roof, opening into a sunny meadow. On the left, the forest is on fire. Most conspicuously, the knots on the trees are eyes.

Borders of perception are crossed here, borders of space and time.

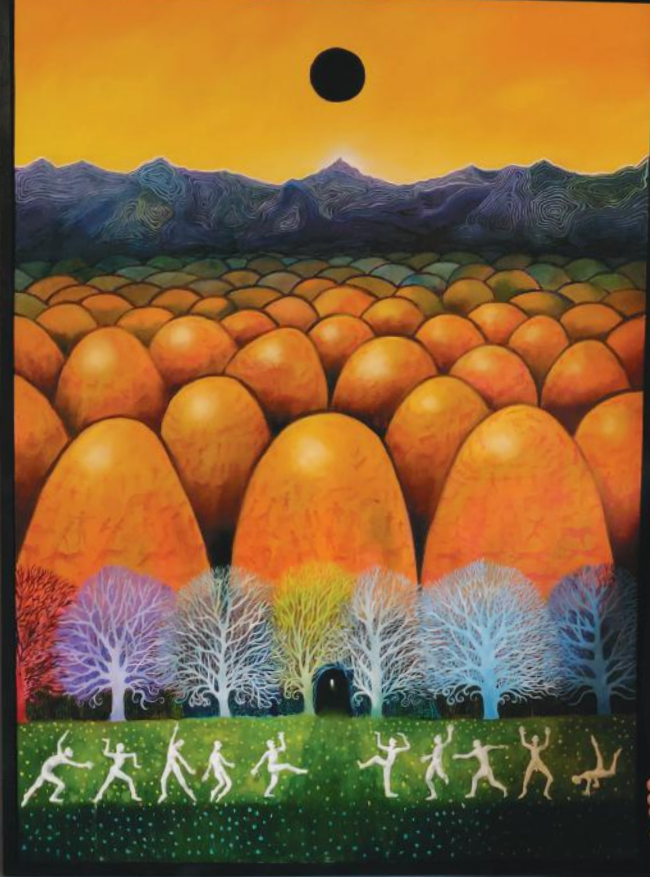


Photo by Christine Vincent



Eric with a Black Sun series painting, completed April 15, 2015. Above, close-up of civilization eggs.

Different realities come together. Anything can happen in the artist's mindscape.

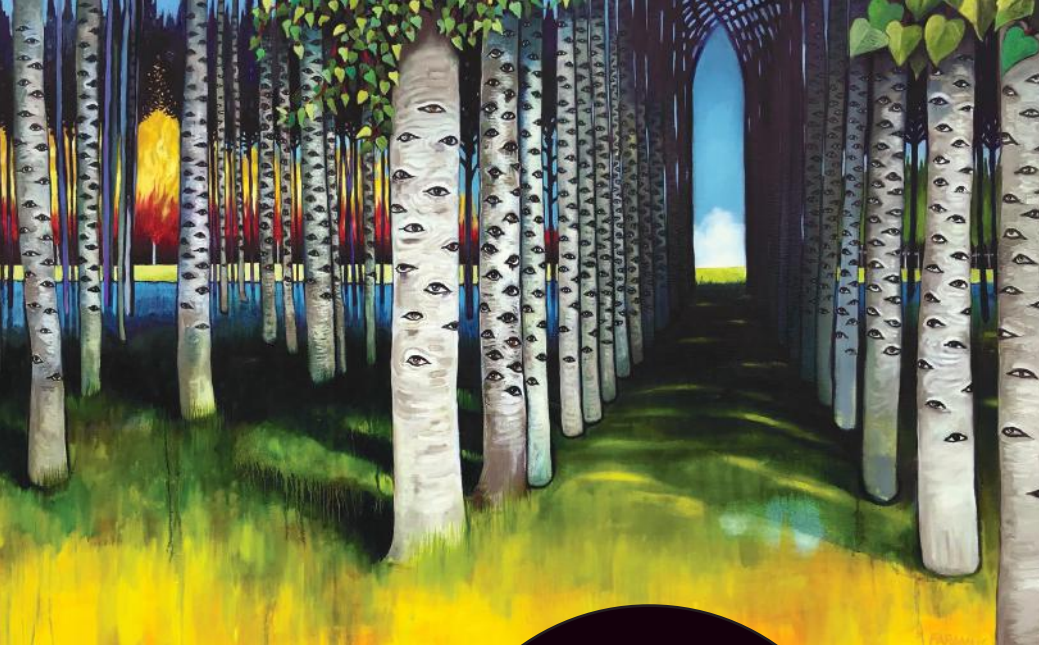
Faramus told the story of this painting: "PK and I were driving past a tree farm near Pe Ell. I wanted to do something with the rows of trees. Then I heard about the burning of Notre Dame

(continued on page 12)



Black Sun, June 15, 2022





## Eric Faramus

(continued)

Cathedral in Paris. The roof of Notre Dame is called the forest. It took an entire oak forest to make it – and it was burning. Then I put in the eyes.”

Two years ago, Faramus was diagnosed with cancer and was too sick to paint.

“I was lying in bed, thinking I was going to die,” he remembered. “I felt that the Ankou, a messenger of death from Breton mythology, was in the room and kissed me on the cheek. My family is from Brittany, and I spent a lot of time there. I looked out of the window and saw a black sun. I thought, I’m going to run with this.”

Although he is still on chemotherapy, in 2022 Faramus had recovered sufficiently to paint again. He started on a series of landscapes, each ruled by a black sun. The artist planned to paint 20 of them and show them all together for maximum impact. Instead, he had a déjà vu experience.

“He posted them on Facebook,” recalled his wife. “People wanted them. Some sold within the hour!”

Faramus created 17 of his Black Sun landscapes in a year. They contain many

“ I had no idea Grays Harbor had so many artists. ”

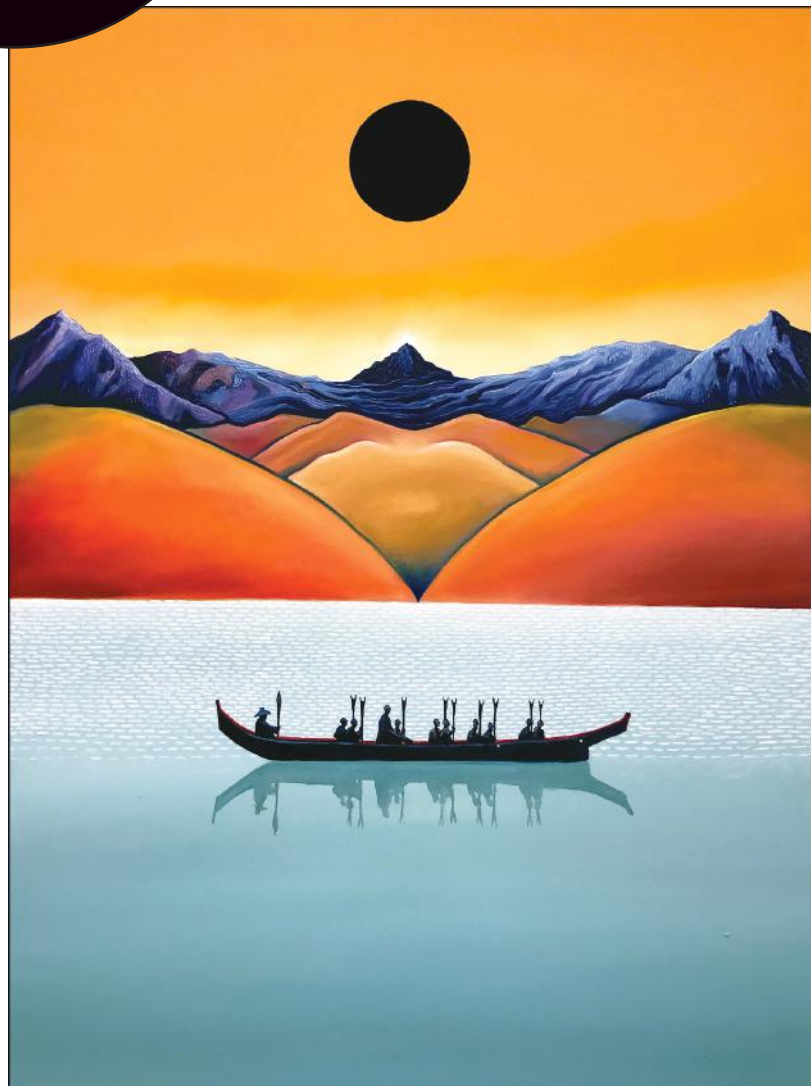
December 11, 2019 Faramus and daughter Sarah, pose with his painting, “Life on the Edge,” completed March 10, 2017. The portrait features his wife, PK Farrell-Faramus, and daughter, Sarah.

Photo by Christine Vincent

of the recurring elements inhabiting the landscape of the artist’s mind.

The artist likes to merge natural mountain ranges, bodies of water, or trees into

Black Sun series, May 11, 2022







Mugshots, January 9, 2015

graphic design patterns. There often is a focus item, usually small and distant, such as a lonely house or a swimmer. Often, running dogs or unruly little dancing people run all over his work. Both are reminiscent of petroglyphic symbols. There is always the otherworldly black sun with much burnt orange and mysterious dark blue. However, there is an absence of the haunted quality frequent in his past work. Instead, there is a stillness, as if the world is waiting.

A recent Black Sun painting features a landscape of roughly egg-shaped mounds in burnt orange. They are covered with petroglyphs.

"They represent different civilizations," Faramus explained. "The similar symbols on them show how we are

*(continued on page 15)*

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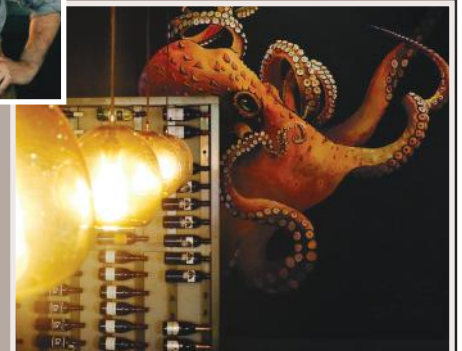


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Photo by Christine Vincent

A painting in progress in Eric's studio.

## Eric Faramus *(continued)*

all connected. Right now, it's all about civilizations."

Eric loves petroglyphs. "As a child I saw the cave paintings in Lascaux in Southern France. They are powerful. Nothing better has ever been done. It is because they are honest. Honesty is everything in art. If it's honest, it is going to stay."

In addition to viewing his work at the Alder Grove Gallery, Eric Faramus can be contacted through Facebook, where he regularly posts his latest creations. 



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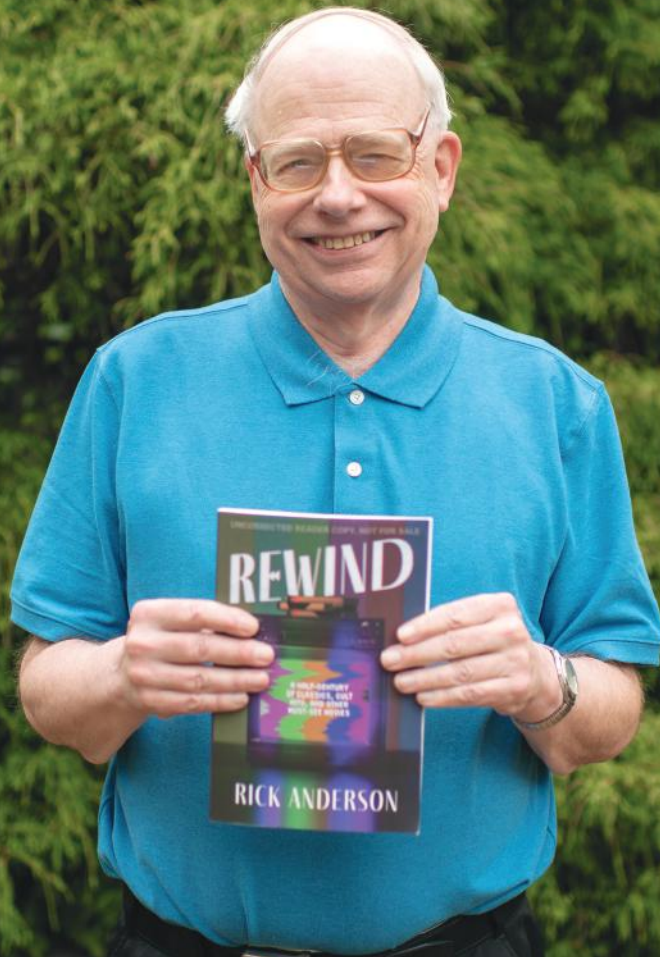
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## Rick Anderson's lively writing makes 'Rewind' a must-read

**STORY BY GAIL GREENWOOD AYRES  
PHOTOS BY KATIE MCGREGOR**

**R**ick Anderson, a Harbor icon who raptly reported on generations of athletes during his 37 years as sports editor of *The Daily World*, now has the spotlight shining on him as he releases his first book.

For some it may be surprising that his debut book isn't sports related. But for those who in addition to reading the sports page also checked out the newspaper's entertainment section, Anderson's more than 30 years of movie reviews build a solid case for his expertise in another of his passions.

In "Rewind: A Half-Century of Classics,

Cult Hits, and Other Must-See Movies," Anderson showcases his extensive – nearly encyclopedic – knowledge and insight into the film industry as he reviews 50 movies from various genres released from 1945 to 1995. His lively writing, intriguing comparisons and fascinating historical nuggets nearly compel the reader to compile a must-watch list.

A book signing is set for 6 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 7 at the 7th Street Theatre in Hoquiam. Anderson will be signing "Rewind" before the showing of "The Day the Earth Stood Still," a 1951 film that is the sole science fiction movie reviewed in his book.

"The point of the book is to get people interested in classic movies that they

may not have seen for a while, or maybe ever," the affable Anderson said, adding that he really likes "The Day the Earth Stood Still," calling it "the first mature science fiction movie," a genre he doesn't typically enjoy.

Anderson, 74, is quick to point out that the book does not include his favorite 50 movies, although it does include three of his top 10 – "Rear Window," "Broadcast News" and "The Sting." In addition, he intentionally ignored movies that have been reviewed a lot.

"I also focused on movies a notch below blockbuster status, some that are underrated, some that are good, but could have been better, and a couple of obscure titles that are like guilty pleasures. All the movies I knew something about and thought the background was sort of interesting," he said.

For instance, in 1983's "The Big Chill," Anderson noted that the corpse being dressed at the beginning is played by a nearly unknown Kevin Costner, with all other flashback scenes of Costner having been cut from the picture.

"Most of the movies reviewed are dramas, some are comedies, musicals and a few sports movies, but not necessarily the ones you might think," Anderson said.

Alfred Hitchcock's "Rear Window," is Anderson's favorite thriller. "It almost perfectly blends suspense, romance and humor. Basically, everything is in there. I've seen it probably more than 50 times."

### **Prequel to his love of movies**

While he can't recall for sure, Anderson believes either "Pinocchio" or "Lady and the Tramp" was the first movie he saw in a theater. The first non-animated movie he remembers viewing was "Around the World in 80 Days." He also remembers walking out of "Gone with the Wind" with his dad, a movie he considers overrated.

He credits his late brother Jack Carhart, who was 12 years his senior and owned an extensive home video collection, as the one who piqued his interest



**“Most of the movies reviewed are dramas, some are comedies, musicals and a few sports movies, but not necessarily the ones you might think.”**

– Rick Anderson

in vintage films. Anderson notes that one of the movies in the book, “Apollo 13,” impressed him partly because it impressed Jack, a Boeing Company aerospace engineer. “Jack dismissed the majority of space exploration movies as unrealistic, but said ‘Apollo 13’ did the subject justice.”

**Rewind: The Origin Story**

Anderson retired from The Daily World in 2014 after a total of 42 years, beginning as a news reporter in 1972. As retirement became a reality, he began thinking about writing a book as a “bucket list” project. While he started years ago and had several different former colleagues encourage him and help with ideas and editing, the longtime writer, stumped by the actual publishing process, simply set the project aside.

A serendipitous conversation at an outdoor reunion of Daily World staff in

the middle of Covid-19 took Anderson’s project off the shelf. Former Daily World staffer Jeff Burlingame – an award-winning author of several books—stepped in and offered to help with his publishing imprint, Gray Bear Books.

“I doubt if too many first-time authors had more help from their former co-workers and friends,” Anderson said.

“Rick was the one to initially give me a job at The Daily World and I was

more than glad to be able to return the favor,” Burlingame said. “He’s a good friend, and such a beloved figure in the area who deserved the chance to knock this off his bucket list. And he hit this one out of the park.”

**How contemporary movies compare**  
Although this book is about classic movies, Anderson also enjoys heading to the movie theater to enjoy current releases.

“The best contemporary movies stack up well against all the good classic movies, but there are just fewer of them,” he said, adding that for his taste many contemporary movies are too gory, rely too much on special effects, or are pushing a political agenda – “I don’t want to be lectured for two hours.” In addition, he isn’t a fan of R-rated humor or situations, or superhero action.

On the flip side, one thing he enjoys about contemporary movies is that their endings are not as predictable.

“For years there was a production code that mandated happy endings. The villains had to be punished as a condition for the movie to be made,” he explained. “Nowadays, a lot of the actors are better than the classic actors. Meryl Streep, is the greatest actor of all time. And people like Denzel Washington and Tom Hanks are really great.

“I’d say that on the whole, actors today are better, and the stories are less predictable. I just wish they had better stories.”

What makes a good movie? Anderson said the three key elements, in order, are a well-written screenplay of a good story, a good director and a cast well-suited to their roles. “If the story is not great it doesn’t matter if you have Meryl Streep or De Niro, or Jack Nicholson, you are going to be bored.”

(continued on page 19)





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Anderson works on the computer in his Aberdeen home.

## 'Rewind' by Anderson

(continued)

### Making movies in Grays Harbor


As for Grays Harbor stories that would make great movies, Anderson thinks the traditional Thanksgiving Day Game, the former Aberdeen-Hoquiam rivalry football game that defined the holiday on the Harbor from 1906 to 1973, would make a great screenplay.

He can also image a movie on the 1940 unsolved murder of Finnish immigrant Laura Law, as well as movies on John Tornow and Billy Gohl, historic Grays Harbor outlaws.

However, it's the Montesano High School's 2012 football season that he thinks could make the best movie. "That's the year that Montesano lost a regular-season game to Hoquiam and the stadium burned to the ground on the same September weekend. Through many hurdles that team, which wasn't even ranked, went on to win the state football championship. Even Coach Terry Jensen said it would make a good inspirational sports movie."

### Sequel to come?

As to whether there will be a sequel someday -- perhaps reviews of more recent movies, or of all sports-related movies, Anderson said that it is a possibility, depending on how well his first book sells.

In addition to being available at the book signing, "Rewind," which retails for \$16.99, can also be purchased online at Amazon, Barnes & Noble, and elsewhere. For more information, contact [info@graybearbooks.com](mailto:info@graybearbooks.com). 

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# Galaxy Harbor Bellydancing Troupe: *Shimmying into collective effervescence*



BY STEPHANIE MORTON

Belly dancing is sometimes thought of as a mysterious, exotic and sultry dance. “Arabian Nights,” “Dance of the Seven Veils,” and all that. It’s certainly not the kind of thing you’d expect to find next to the VFW in downtown Hoquiam. Or is it?

If you peek in the door of ArtHQx on a Tuesday or Thursday evening, you’ll see dancers whirling and twirling, wearing colorful flowing fabrics, jingling coins and sparkling sequins. This is home to the Galaxy Harbor Bellydancing Troupe.

An eclectic mix of about 12 dancers, the troupe mixes beginners with seasoned professional dancers. Some wear jeans, and others are glittered, tasseled and garbed in fluid, gauzy skirts. Some may dance from a seated position or just watch. Ages run the gamut.

Regardless of what they are wearing, their shape, age or ability, the troupe dances together as a cooperative community.

*“I want to help people explore their own movement vocabulary...”*  
— Lindy Dansare-Mohan

The dance sessions are group-led gatherings, said Lindy Dansare-Mohan, the troupe’s founder. As the dancers come in, dress and stretch, she asks each what they would like to focus on, and then the group decides together where the evening’s session will take them.

“We worked on snake arms the other day,” Dansare-Mohan said, her hands and arms mimicking a serpent. “We put on some snakey-sounding music and danced like snakes.”

Occasionally, a bongo player accompanies the dancers. Some evenings, children

Photo by Rick Meyer

*Lindy Dansare-Mohan dances at the Aberdeen Sunday Market.*



dart about with silk streamers trailing behind them. The overhead lights are turned off when the blacklight comes out. Acquaintances pop in to say hello.

Dansare-Mohan emphasizes that these evening dance sessions are not classes, per se. The more experienced members provide instruction on performing certain dance movements, but there isn't a lesson plan. It's just dancing, moving, laughing, sharing, connecting and creating an environment where people feel safe to be themselves.

"I want to help people explore their own movement vocabulary (so) they can express themselves physically in their own way," Dansare-Mohan said. "It's like the difference between teaching someone the alphabet so they can read a book versus teaching the alphabet so they can write their own story."

She said that the troupe's dynamic is continually evolving. At times the focus is on choreography or perhaps costuming. Other times the group might stretch or sit on the floor and talk.

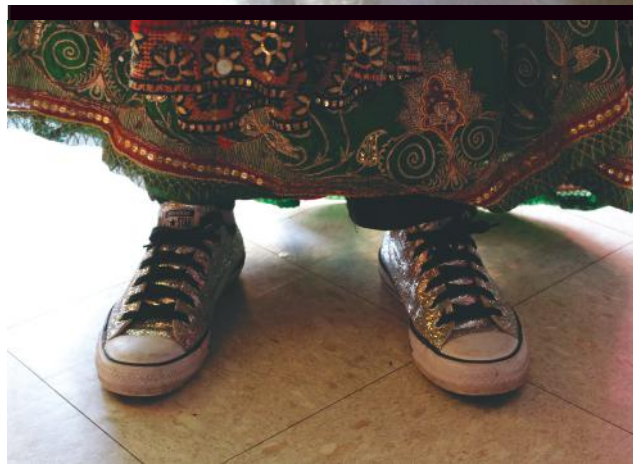
Heather Osoy, a relatively new Harborite and belly dancer, said she loved how the Galaxy Harbor dance sessions are different each time she has gone.

"It's so chill and open and welcoming. Sometimes, we dance in unison and sometimes we have full-on conversations as we dance. Sometimes, it's a therapy session," said Osoy.

Another belly dancing newbie, Krysten Srail, said she was intrigued when she saw Galaxy Harbor dancers perform at the Sunday Market in Aberdeen. When she finally got up the nerve to chat with the dancers, Dansare-Mohan invited her to join the group.

"I was so worried that I was going to be judged. And there was no judgement. None. I am always off the beat, you know, just awful. But I'm having fun. There are no expectations and no one's judging me for being terrible," said Srail, laughing.

*(continued on page 23)*



Photos top, middle & bottom left by Stephanie Morton

Photo by Rick Moyer





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Photos by Stephanie Morton

## Bellydancing Troupe

(continued)

She said that she also loved the feeling she got after each dance session.

"It puts me in a very good mood. I'm sore and tired but it's so fun. It's wonderful," said Srail.

Kylie Shepherd has been dancing since she was a child and has performed a belly dancing routine for local pageants. At times she faced misconceptions about the art form.

"A lot of people think it's a sexualized dance to 'attract the sultan,' but it's not really. You feel good doing the movements and some of it can be sexy, but it's more about active body appreciation," Shepherd said.

The hip movements, undulations and shimmies of belly dancing are undeniably exaggerated feminine movements. It actually helps to have a

"lil' jiggle" according to Dansare-Mohan. But even if you don't jiggle, you'll be welcomed into the fold.

"I think this group is just drawn to it (body positivity). We attract people who are ready for a change. We want to change how we perceive other people. Let's give ourselves that grace to be OK with different shapes, sizes and abilities," said Dansare-Mohan.

Heather Osoy said the group has helped her feel better in her own skin and have more peace of mind. As she dances, she focuses on connecting with her body, and it helped her to feel that there was no judgment from the other dancers.

"I suffer from PTSD and I get so lost in my head," said Osoy. "I dance and I can get out of that headspace. I'm so thankful for this community."

Sheley Bell, another troupe member, said dancing makes her happy. You can see it on her face as she spins.

(continued on page 24)



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## Bellydancing Troupe

(continued from page 23)

She's radiant. Her joy and the joy of the other dancers is palpable. Infectious. Dancer Bianka Black said the term for that euphoric feeling from a communal experience of shared energy and spirit is "collective effervescence."

In addition to the Sunday Market in Aberdeen, the Galaxy Harbor Bellydancing Troupe occasionally performs at public events. The troupe has performed at Rusty Scupper Pirate Daze in Westport; the Rain Glow Festival in Aberdeen; the Wearable Art Show and Urban Unglued market in Ocean Shores, as well as performing in flash mobs at various venues throughout the Harbor. The group decides communally where and when to perform, and not all participate in the performances.

Dance costumes and props used by Galaxy Harbor are made by Dansare-Mohan and sold through Dancing Crow




Photo by Stephanie Morton

Studio, which helps support the troupe. The funds raised by sales go toward rent for the ArtHQx space and other expenses.

Part of the fun of belly dancing is the costuming. Loose, flowy skirts and pants, jingly hip scarves adorned with silver and gold coins, flowers. Silk and satin and sequined Converse sneakers. It's all just fun, pretty and bedazzled. The dancers also use fans and flags

with long sails that catch in the breeze. Tambourines, zillas (handheld cymbals) and sometimes swords add to the drama. As Dansare-Mohan says, we all could use a little extra pizzazz now and then.

Galaxy Harbor Bellydancing Troupe meets at ArtHQx, 413 7th St. in Hoquiam, at 5:30 p.m., Tuesdays and Thursdays. For more information, visit [galaxyharborbellydance.com](http://galaxyharborbellydance.com) or [dancingcrowstudio.com](http://dancingcrowstudio.com). 



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IN THE LIMELIGHT:

# Kathe Rowe plays many roles at Driftwood Theater



Kathe Rowe and David Bennett show off the new Driftwood Theater sign.

Photo by Christine Vincent

BY CHRISTINE VINCENT

**K**athe Rowe is a familiar and beloved face on the stage of Aberdeen's Driftwood Theater. She has acted in 24 shows and directed 15 since she joined the Driftwood Players in 1998. The roles she plays off-stage, however, are equally important. In addition to acting and directing, she is a mentor, volunteer coordinator, board trustee, and enthusiastically fills any other job asking for her attention.

"Kathe is an accomplished director and actress," said Brad Duffy, the Driftwood Theater's board president. "Moreover, she is absolutely vital to the theater by what she has done in the past and by what she will do in the future."

Kathe Rowe's life is deeply rooted in the Grays Harbor community. A fourth-generation Hoquiam resident, she grew up in a logging camp in north Hoquiam. Theater runs in the blood.

"My grandmother never stood on a proper stage, but she sang at every

wedding in town," said Rowe, 70. "She was a great influence on me."

Rowe left home to study theater at Washington State University. She graduated with a bachelor's degree in speech. In 1998, she returned to the Harbor as a single mother with four kids, who worked full time as a respiratory therapist.

"I thought I would do the summer and winter shows when the kids were with their father," she explained. "I ended up participating in almost every show in some function."

Rowe's favorite roles as an actress include

Annie Wilkes in "Misery" and Florence Foster Jenkins, the worst singer in the world, in "Glorious!" "That wasn't a far stretch," she quipped. She has also appeared

repeatedly as Mother Mary Regina in the musical comedy series "Nunsense."

***"Kathe is an accomplished director and actress. Moreover, she is absolutely vital to the theater ..."***

***— Brad Duffy***

Directing often involves unusual challenges.

Citing the Driftwood's best-ever attended summer show, "The Tavern," by J.M. Cohen, Rowe said, "I had to find 17 men! Do you know how hard it is to find male actors?"

Rowe said that traditionally the repertoire of the Driftwood Players was vanilla, nothing too risky or controversial.

"We still like to entertain our audience with comedy that pleases everyone, but we reserve the summer show for more experimental plays," explained Rowe. "We love to do musicals but must restrict ourselves to one per year because we have to pay royalties twice, for the script and for the music."

Rowe is looking forward to directing the first show of the 2023-2024 season this fall, "Arsenic and Old Lace," a popular dark comedy

Photo courtesy of Driftwood Theater



Kathe Rowe as Mother Mary Regina in "Nunsense: The Second Coming," 2022

Photo courtesy of Driftwood Theater



Rowe as Florence Foster-Jenkins in "Glorious!"





**"Arsenic and Old Lace"**  
 Driftwood Theater  
**September 29, 30,**  
**October 6, 7, 14**  
 7:30 p.m.  
**October 15**  
 1:30 p.m.

*Driftwood Theater's exterior and interior are both well taken care of. Right: Kathe Rowe shows off a newly decorated dressing room. Photos above by Christine Vincent*

by Joseph Kesselring. This funny farce involves theater critic Mortimer Brewster discovering that his spinster aunts kill lonely old men by offering them poisoned elderberry wine and then disposing of their remains in the cellar.

***"My grandmother never stood on a proper stage, but she sang at every wedding in town. She was a great influence on me."***

***– Kathe Rowe***

"This is going to be our fourth rerun of 'Old Lace.' It's a nugget," she said. "There's lots of screaming and hollering. I enjoy that."

The rest of the Driftwood Players schedule is tentatively "Joseph and the Technicolor Raincoat," "Significant Other," and "Hand to God." The 2024 summer show has not been decided yet.

Mentoring new directors is a new addition to Rowe's busy schedule. David Bennett, her sixth person to mentor, is the mentored director of "Arsenic and Old Lace." Bennett has a master's degree in

theater from WSU.

"I've known Kathe since I was a teenager," Bennett said. "She is fun to work with. She has an immense knowledge about the theater and her tutelage for our upcoming show will be invaluable."

Taking care of the beautiful historical building is another labor of love for Rowe. When she couldn't find a space to put down a ladder to change a lightbulb, she initiated the sorting of the costume room, a project of epic proportions. As head of the volunteers, she involved 45 people in the task, while also working on it herself: "A little every day." It took six years to transform the disorderly mass of donated clothing into neat rows, beautifully organized by historical

*Rowe and Bennett in the Driftwood Theater prop room.*



period. The Driftwood costume collection is a community resource. Costumes are loaned out to Grays Harbor's many theater companies and others who need them.

*Photo courtesy of Driftwood Theater*



*Kathe Rowe, center, standing, with the "Glorious!" cast in 2011.*

Amazingly, all the off-stage spaces are neat, organized and look freshly painted. Rowe is grateful for her many capable and dedicated volunteers who help to make it so.

"I always took our building for granted," said Bennett. "I have been in many theaters, and have found that the Driftwood is by far the most pleasant place to work in."

Rowe agreed. "Apart from the actors and directors, we have so many dedicated hidden persons, who work at any task imaginable. Sue Keltner is the business manager who knows and remembers everything and everybody. Set builders Bruce Kuhnau and Steve Beck construct

*(continued on page 31)*



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Rowe in the newly organized costume room.

## Kathe Rowe *(continued)*


anything we ask for, including a moving windmill for "The Rainmaker." Deb de Beauchamps is our new, extremely knowledgeable, costume professional, and there is the expert gentleman who houses our military uniforms. And there are many others. Without them the

show could not go on."

The same could be said about Rowe herself. "The Driftwood has been my second home," she said.

The Driftwood Players 2023-2024 season begins with the traditional champagne opener on Sept. 23. Tickets for this fundraiser are \$50 and include food and champagne. (Call Sue Keltner for tickets or more information – (360) 532-8243.)

The other performances of "Arsenic and Old Lace" will be performed at 7:30 p.m. **Sept. 29 and 30, and Oct. 6, 7 and 14,** and at 1:30 p.m. on **Oct. 15.** Tickets are \$18 and can be purchased online at [www.main.aberdeendrftwood.com](http://www.main.aberdeendrftwood.com). In addition, two weeks before opening, tickets can be purchased at Waugh's Men's & Women's Apparel in Aberdeen, Harbor Drug in Hoquiam, The Dusty Trunk in Ocean Shores and Valu Drug in Montesano.

The Driftwood Theater is located at 120 East 3rd St. in Aberdeen. Although a dark comedy, the play is suitable for all ages. 

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# Billy's features fascinating history, flavorful food, friendly staff



**STORY & PHOTOS BY KATIE MCGREGOR**

**K**nown for its haunted history, mouth-watering burgers and friendly faces, Billy's Bar & Grill has been a cornerstone of downtown Aberdeen for decades.

"We're burger and beer driven and there's a historical allure to the building. People seem to like that," explained Gary Running, who co-owns the business with Sonny Bridges.

The building at the corner of East Heron and South G streets was purchased and turned into Billy's Bar & Grill by Bridges in the 1980s, but it has served many purposes throughout the years. It was originally built in 1904 and was used as the Red Cross Pharmacy until 1933 when it became Evans Drugs.

**“We're burger and beer driven and there's a historical allure to the building. People seem to like that.**

**– Gary Running**

"There have been several other old businesses up there too. There were some attorney offices and different clerical offices throughout the years," explained Jenn Montoure, Billy's general manager.

Even today, signs of the past can be found in the building. Notably, the call button from the brothel days can be found on the right side of the bar, and the original decorative tin ceilings are still in the dining room. A bullet hole in the upstairs bathroom from a madam who shot at her handler also hints at a more colorful past.

"Many of the servers have their own ghost stories. We've had a lot of paranormal investigations here throughout the years," Running said.

On top of all of that, Billy's Bar & Grill is named after alleged serial killer, Billy Gohl, who worked as a union official and allegedly murdered sailors who passed through Aberdeen.

Since then, it operated as various taverns and, most infamously, was home to the Elnora Rooms, a brothel on the second floor in the 1950s.





While the haunted history of Billy's draws a lot of visitors from out of town, it's obvious that the restaurant is loved by locals too. All it takes is a few minutes inside to notice how friendly staff members are to their customers, many of whom they know on a first-name basis.

Monture has been working with Sonny Bridges for more than 25 years and is one of the many people who keeps Billy's up and running.

"My staff is amazing; all of the women here are local women who have been here for a long time. Most of us have been here for years and years," Montoure said.

Gary Running has been affiliated with Bridges since the 80s. He started at Bridges Restaurant and now is a co-owner of both Billy's and Breakwater Seafood, another local favorite located just down the street at 306 S. F. St.

Running himself can often be found at

Comfort food is another big draw to Billy's. The menu offers some classic breakfast dishes, seafood, and many sandwich and burger choices.

"We feature a half pound chuck burger in brick size. All Brick Burgers are made personally for us by Tri City meats in Olympia," Montoure said.

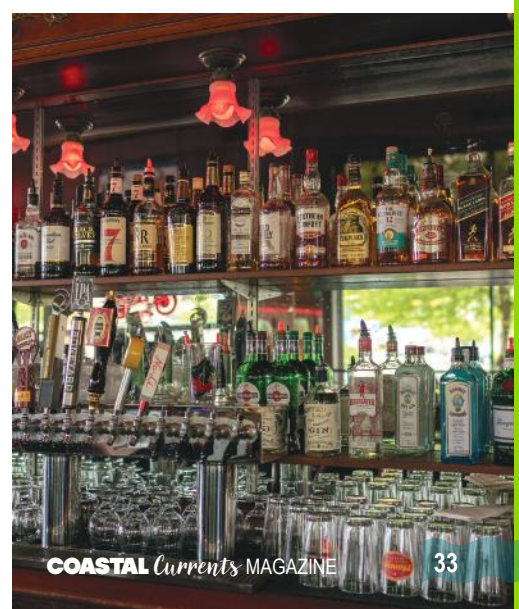


**It can be a little noisy in here at times, but it's all fun. We're very family oriented so kids are welcome.**

**— Gary Running**



The Brick Burgers originate all the way back to Gohl's cousin, Bob Brickford, who was the master brick mason who



*Jenn Montoure, general manager, and Gary Running, co-owner, in front of the Billy's bar.*

Billy's and is known for making bacon-infused vodka for Bloody Marys.

Billy's offers breakfast, lunch and dinner every day and welcomes customers of all ages.

"It can be a little noisy in here at times, but it's all fun. We're very family oriented so kids are welcome," Running explained.

built the structure that now houses Billy's. The story found on the Billy's menu is as follows:

"On a cold winter day, he bought some hamburger for his crew, started a fire, formed a round ball from the hamburger, and smashed it between

*(continued on page 34)*





At the top, the Billy's building when it was the Red Cross Pharmacy, the current Billy's sign, and the restaurant's namesake, Billy Gohl.

# Billy's Bar & Grill


(continued)

two bricks. The 'Brick Burger' was born."

Another dish unique to Billy's is the "Big Cheese," a ground chuck burger between two grilled cheddar and bacon sandwiches, with lettuce, tomato, and mayo/mustard sauce.

"Billy's 1lb Belt Buster" is a customer favorite with its double brick patties, cheese, bacon, lettuce and mustard/mayo sauce on a torta bun.

Whether it's ambience, ghosts, a hint of historical danger or just great food and friends, it's clear by the crowds that Billy's Bar & Grill continues to satisfy customer cravings year after year.

Billy's Bar & Grill, 322 E. Heron St., is open seven days a week until 9 p.m. It can be found online at [billysaberdeen.com](http://billysaberdeen.com) as well as on Facebook, Google and TripAdvisor. 

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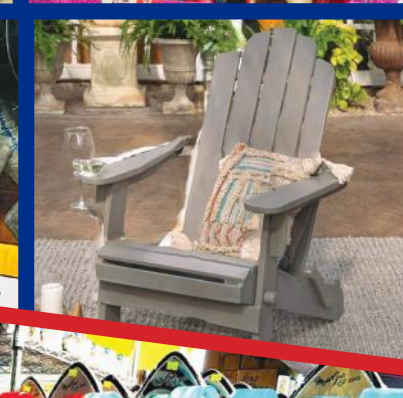


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# Grays Harbor Community Foundation invests millions in people, programs and projects

BY ANGELO BRUSCAS

A common thread ties together the resilient fabric of community across Grays Harbor – from the new Westport Skatepark and Pump Track to the revived Highland Park playground in Cosmopolis to the Coastal Interpretive Center watershed project in Ocean Shores.

The Grays Harbor Community Foundation, operating from a quiet storefront on J Street in Hoquiam, now binds together a multimillion-dollar charitable enterprise that bolsters all corners of the county and all communities in between.

Since it was established in 1994, the philanthropic organization designed to “enhance the quality of life in Grays Harbor County” has become what a small group of local leaders envisioned as a collaborative way to both invest local dollars and spend the proceeds where they are most needed.

A group of community leaders pooled separate, locally controlled funds to enhance the quality of life in Grays Harbor, starting with just \$1,000. The Foundation now has more than \$84 million in assets, which continue to grow.

Last year, the Foundation provided

## *Highland Park in Cosmopolis.*



*Grays Harbor Community Foundation leaders, Jessica Hoover, senior program officer, and Eric Potts, executive director.*

Photo by Angelo Bruscas

funds for more than 40 projects, and most recently it awarded more than \$40,000 to 11 different organizations in its June grant cycle.

Earlier in 2023, the Foundation channeled \$483,013 into the community through 26 different organizations during the 2023 1st Cycle Community Building Grants program. That funding included everything from the Kurt Cobain Tribute Museum to a boiler project at St. Mary School to stage lighting at the Ocosta High School commons.

On top of all the projects, programs and grants, the nonprofit oversees 70 scholarship funds for Harbor students in college and vocational programs.

“Our community is pretty amazing,” said Eric Potts, the Foundation’s executive director. “Now we have about 185 different fund types.”

Grays Harbor Community Foundation receives contributions from local people, nonprofit organizations and businesses. Some contribute to The Fund for Grays Harbor, which is the core fund supporting the wide-ranging community grants program.

Others establish separate named funds for specific purposes: to support local education or health, to fund a scholarship for local students, or to endow a local nonprofit institution.

“The Harbor is very giving and that is one of the reasons why the Community Foundation has received a lot of money, but more importantly, it has a good status in the community for helping nonprofits and putting money where it belongs,” said Wes Peterson, executive committee chair.

## **Scholarships Skyrocket**

In 2000, the Foundation gave out its first two scholarships for \$1,000 each. This year, the Foundation awarded more than \$1 million in scholarships to 330 students.

Jessica Hoover, the Foundation’s senior program officer, emphasized that scholarships are not just for graduating high school seniors: “You can be, for example, 35 and going back to school, or just a graduate from a Grays Harbor school and still be eligible.”

“We’re a lot different than many foundations in that we encourage scholarships and setting up scholarship



funds," Potts said. "I see it as something that will directly impact our community."

Many parents are blown away because we renew the scholarships for three years," he added. "So, when the students going to college are seniors, they still have money coming in."

### Legacy Philanthropy

Here is how the Foundation explains its role to potential donors: "A Community Foundation saves individual donors time and money by handling the administrative details of many funds jointly." A finance committee makes investment decisions for all funds; staff handles all tax filings, bookkeeping, and grants processing.

**"(The Foundation) has a good status in the community for helping nonprofits and putting money where it belongs."**

**– Wes Peterson**

"There have been some really generous families," Potts said, pointing to the initial boost provided by the Weatherwax family, descendants of pioneer settlers in the Harbor.

In fact, the family of Scott Weatherwax, a board member who died in 2008, gave an unrestricted gift that allowed the Foundation to identify the community's



Photo by Angelo Bruscas

**Eldon Bargewell statue dedication ceremony in Delta Park, Hoquiam.**

greatest needs. "That's how our large scholarship program was created, and large granting program was created," Potts said.

The Foundation also can partner with other community groups as a fiscal sponsor to help bolster funding efforts through the Foundation's guidance, Potts said. That's how the Foundation helped channel \$350,000 for the Delta Park Memorial in Hoquiam.

"With the Community Foundation, we're very flexible," Potts explained. "There are a variety of different funds that you can create. You can set up a scholarship fund, or a designated fund where you set up a fund for one purpose or an organization. We have donor-advised funds, where a family or individual donor essentially has their own private foundation within the Community Foundation, and they are the ones directing all those funds. They say where they want their gift to go, and as long as it fits with values of the Foundation, that works."

Over the past year, the Foundation conducted seven different grant cycles to distribute funds throughout the community, Hoover said. "We do that purposefully, so if you have this immediate need and can't wait, until say October, you have less time in between to wait."

The large-scale grants (up to \$30,000) are known as Community Building Grants, and then there are quarterly Small Grants (\$5,000 and under). In addition, there are after-school funding grants, and grants covering basic needs,

health and wellness, arts, culture, history, and education.

The Foundation maintains the ability to provide immediate gifts where there is need. "Like, we had some students who couldn't afford a yearbook, and we paid for it," Hoover said. "We can do really big things, like \$30,000 for a playground, and then help someone buy a yearbook if they don't have \$50 for it."

### Harbor Bellwether

Potts and Hoover are both Weatherwax High School graduates. Nine years ago they were hired for their respective roles with the Foundation. In that time, the need and requests for assistance have mounted.

"When we first started our Community Building Grants, it would be maybe \$300,000 in requests. The last two go-arounds we have had close to \$1 million in requests each time," Hoover said.

Potts added: "We are seeing a lot more smaller groups, not your normal larger nonprofits, in our area. There are a lot of smaller groups coming together on a volunteer basis for things like, 'How can we revitalize a park?'"



Photo courtesy of Grays Harbor Community Foundation

**Sunshine Park bleachers in Hoquiam.**

That was how funds were allocated for Highland Park in Cosmopolis, the Lions Park in Central Park, and Sunshine Park in Hoquiam.

The bigger organizations and nonprofits still have needs too. "But a lot of groups

*(continued on page 38)*



Photo courtesy of Grays Harbor Community Foundation

**Lions Club Park in Central Park.**



## Grays Harbor Community Foundation *(continued)*

are forming within the Harbor to do community projects that are good for everyone," Hoover said. "The cool thing about the Harbor is just how much people care about it. On our Board of Directors, we have four members from every pocket of the county that have a pulse for where the needs are and where the gaps are, and that really helps."

When they attend events with other foundations, the Grays Harbor Community Foundation stands out because of the flexibility it has to allocate funds.

**"A lot of groups are forming within the Harbor to do community projects that are good for everyone."**

**— Jessica Hoover**

"In the community foundation world, it's unheard of to have over 50 percent of your assets be unrestricted. Most foundations in the state of Washington also don't have as robust of scholarship programs as we have either," Hoover said. "That's really at the heart of what we do."

Often, the Foundation can see trends and needs emerging across the county from the applications they get.

"We're in a place where we can approach that holistically because we see all these organizations applying to us, and so we can say, 'Do you know that this organization also is doing this?' We are like a money piece, but we also are a community connector for these organizations," Hoover explained.

"Jessica and I can see a need in the community and come up with an idea to help fulfill that need," Potts added.

### **Community Collaboration**

During the three years the community was dealing with the Covid pandemic, the Foundation kept fulfilling its mission.

"We really didn't skip a beat," Potts said. "We partnered with a few different organizations throughout the county, and we did about a half-million dollars in Covid-related gifts."

The pandemic highlighted the importance of the donor-advised funds, where charitable giving can be channeled for a specific need or purpose that may arise.

"People were looking for how they can help and jump right in," Hoover said. "We were a really good place for that."

Photo courtesy of GH Community Foundation



**Early Learning Center dedication with Foundation and YMCA members and staff.**

For example, people need to be fed, so we found all these organizations within the Harbor that we can funnel the money through."

The Foundation also launched an "Appreciation Grant" cycle in 2021 to give nonprofits "an extra boost" while dealing with the impacts of the pandemic.

"We try to think outside of the box," Hoover said. "We thought at that time, with everything the groups had gone through, we wanted to help them start off the year in a positive spot."

The Foundation also has been able to provide a few "surprise grants" over the years of a couple thousand dollars to some of the organizations doing community service in the area.

"It was just to say, 'We appreciate the work you're doing; we see you, and we just wanted to say thank you,'" Hoover said.

Another idea was a "Collaboration Grant," where organizations with similar services may form partnerships "and not

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compete with each other for funding," said Hoover.

Perhaps the most collaborative effort involves the Foundation's evolving support for early learning programs throughout the Harbor – beginning when the YMCA of Grays Harbor came up with a proposal to expand daycare with what is now the Learning Center in the building that formerly housed the Crown Drugstore in Hoquiam. The Foundation awarded \$200,000 as part of the center's funding package in 2020, and the effort has been able to spread across the county.

"We really saw a need a few years ago to help with early learning. There were not a lot of preschool opportunities," Hoover said. With the Foundation's help, partnered with the YMCA and state support, a "transitional kindergarten" was launched to begin all-day preschool for 4-year-olds.

"Now we have that in several different locations throughout the Harbor, including Pacific Beach, Montesano and Oakville. That sort of catapulted us when we found it was working partnering with the YMCA," Hoover said. "In five years, I think it will be in most schools in the Harbor."

"It worked out perfect," Potts added. "We were able to make an initial investment in a facility to get the classrooms to fit what the state requirements are, then operate through scholarships for a few years, and finally transition (the program) back to the school districts. That's really what we are looking to do – get it going, help out initially and then move on."

Not all proposals or requests fit within the parameters set by the Foundation, Peterson explained. "But a lot of times, staff will work with these groups to find other foundations or opportunities where they might have funds that are appropriate. We might not be the main funder, but we can help in many ways. Quite frankly, I think our Foundation staff does a great job in helping people help themselves."

*(continued on page 40)*



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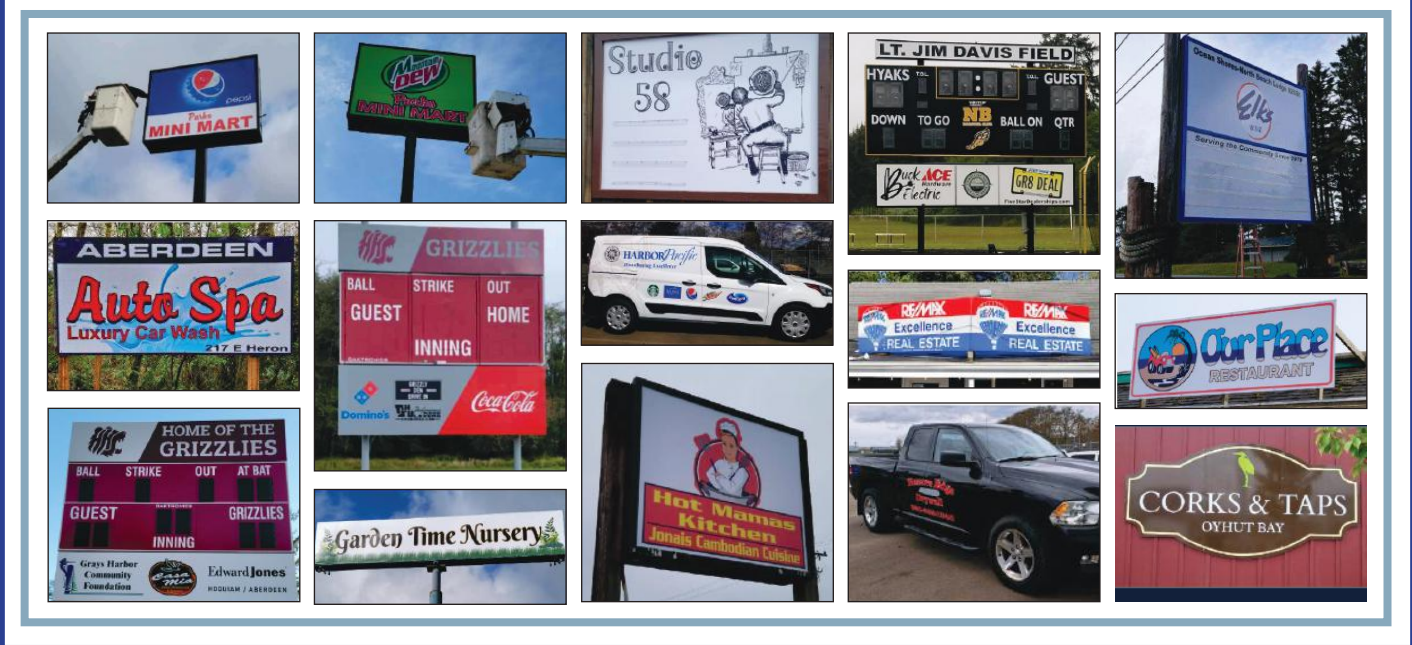
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## Grays Harbor Community Foundation *(continued)*

### Scholarships help Grays Harbor students

Students fill out only one application to apply for any of the numerous scholarships awarded annually by the Grays Harbor Community Foundation.

In the past year, the Foundation awarded 350 scholarships worth a total of \$940,000, according to Jessica Hoover, senior program officer.

"This year, we are sending out 65 checks to schools across the U.S.," she said. "It could be to Harvard or the UW, or to beauty school or a trade school to be a welder."

The application can be found on the Foundation website: [www.gh-cf.org/scholarships/application/](http://www.gh-cf.org/scholarships/application/)

Applications are accepted from Jan. 1 through March 1. Recipients who remain eligible and reapply via the online renewal application process may receive up to four years funding for their undergraduate or vocational studies.

#### All applicants must meet the following requirements:

- Must be a resident of Grays Harbor County or have graduated from a high school in the county.
  - Must submit a complete application following the guidelines listed in the instructions.
  - Must request renewal online each year to continue receiving a scholarship (up to four years).
- "Beyond meeting these basic requirements, each applicant should exhibit outstanding character, a proven work ethic, and the promise of useful citizenship," the Foundation guidelines state. "These more qualitative judgments will be based on the applicant's personal essay, resume and other information provided through the application form."



*Foundation scholarship recipient Einar Sharpe learns wooden boat building.*

### Could your local charity benefit from a grant?

All local charities are welcome and encouraged to apply for grant support from the Grays Harbor Foundation.

With a 10-member committee to determine grant recipients, Grays Harbor Foundation Executive Director Eric Potts said new applicants should start the process with a visit to the office, located at 705 J St. in Hoquiam. Groups and organizations may start

*(continued on page 41)*



## Foundation *(continued)*


the application process for the grants program on the Foundation's website at [www.gh-cf.org](http://www.gh-cf.org) or by contacting the office at (360) 532-1600.

The basics at that first meeting include providing a "clearly defined summary of the project and then also a project budget as to what it will cost and what is your request from us and who else is going to fill in the gaps."

"It is really good for those first-time applicants to start working on that relationship so we get to know you, and feel comfortable with you and your organization," Potts said.

Senior Program Officer Jessica Hoover added: "Give us a call, set it up, come on in so we can get to understand how we can help."

The upcoming deadlines for the Small Grant applications – for \$5,000 or less – are Sept. 1, Dec. 1, March 1, and June 2.

Also, Community Building Grant cycles occur twice annually, with application deadlines of Oct. 1 and Feb. 1. Community Building Grants range between \$5,000 and \$30,000. 

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# Twin Harbor artists featured at Grays Harbor College's Fall Gala

BY GAIL GREENWOOD AYRES

Visual artists from throughout Grays Harbor and Pacific counties will have their creations displayed as part of the 2023 Annual Fall Gala at Grays Harbor College.

The public is invited to this juried show for adult artists, which premieres with an opening night reception at 6 p.m. Friday, Nov. 3 in the art gallery inside the college's library building. In addition to viewing the art, the reception is an opportunity to meet many of the featured artists.

The Fall Gala is free and open through Dec. 8, during the library building hours, 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Mondays through Thursdays, and 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Fridays. Most of the art will be available for purchase.

"Every year this is a wonderful opportunity for the community to come together and celebrate the abundance of amazing artists we have in the area," said Susan Schreiner, one of the managers of the art gallery.

"During the pandemic years we lost this event, while many artists actually had more time to create great pieces. With the pent-up demand for events and socialization, as well as the potential art to be displayed, I believe this may be




the most exciting Annual Fall Gala we have ever hosted!" Schreiner said.

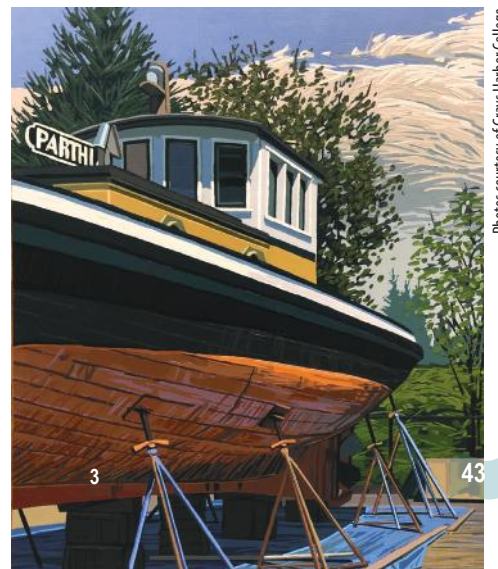
This year Carrie Larson and Matthew Coyle will be the local artists spearheading the event and displaying the art, which is required to have been completed in the last two years. Robert Hunter, a visual artist and retired Aberdeen High School art teacher, will jury the exhibition.

The last traditional Fall Gala was presented in 2019, although in the winter of 2022, a smaller more informal exhibit was installed in the gallery.

"This will be my first year involved with this show, and I am so excited to get it back up and running," said Haley Adair, who helps manage the art gallery. "I adore having art up in our gallery to showcase all of the beautiful, thoughtful work being done by local artists. I'm honored to even be a part of it."

While the deadline for entry was Sept. 1, Schreiner and Adair suggest artists contact them to find out application information for the next exhibition. They can be reached at (360) 538-4052. 

*Art from recent Fall Gala's is shown. From top: "Elegy" by Carrie Larson, and "Black Basket with White Leather Trim" by Arlene Eubanks. Left: Title unknown by Sue Lowatchie. Below from left: "The life and genome of Henrietta Lacks" by Nicole Gugliotti, and "Parthia" by Nathan Barnes.*





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**SEPTEMBER 11 . 9/11 Walk to Remember . Westport . Join the American Legion at the Grays Harbor lighthouse, walk to the VFW. 11am.**

**SEPTEMBER 1 & 21 . The Loading Dock, Live Music . Aberdeen . 6 - 9pm . 202 E. Wishkah. Local rock bands on 1st Friday & 3rd Thursday.**

**SEPTEMBER 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 . Friday Market Elma 12 - 6pm . Farmers market, crafts & food.**

**SEPTEMBER 3, 10, 17, 24 . Aberdeen Sunday Market . Farmers market, arts & crafts, live music.**

**SEPTEMBER 10 . Lake Sylvia Fall Festival .**

*(continued on page 46)*

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**Montesano . Lake Sylvia State Park . Art, food, live music, trail races, kayak paddle, Galaxy Harbor Dancers, exhibits & kids activities. 8:30am - 4pm.**

**SEPTEMBER 15, 16 . 'The Blind Side' . Hoquiam . 7th St Theatre, 2009 movie. 7:30pm.**

**SSEPTEMBER 15 - OCTOBER 31 . Boat Basin Salmon Derby . Westport . Dockside fishing for**

*salmon with great locally donated prizes.*

**SEPTEMBER 16 . Artist Fair . Grayland . Cranberry Museum.**

**SEPTEMBER 16 . Operation Shore Patrol . Local beaches . Beach cleanup hosted by PNW 4-Wheel Drive Assoc.**

**SEPTEMBER 23 . Family Fun Kite Fly Day . Pacific Beach . Prizes, kites to give away, music and loads of fun planned.**

**SEPTEMBER 29 . Wild Mushrooms from Patch to Plate . Ocean Shores Library . Presentation by award-winning author and culinary adventurer Langdon Cook. 1:30pm.**

**SEPTEMBER 29, 30 . 'Arsenic and Old Lace' . Aberdeen . Driftwood Theater . Murder, mayhem, and a mountain of laughs! (Story page 28)**

**SEPTEMBER 30 . Reach the Beach Washington . Bicycle event – Lacey to Westport. Riders choose distance: 25, 44, 77, or 100 miles.**

**SEPTEMBER 30 . Brewfest . Montesano . Beer, wine, cider, food, a cornhole tournament and live music! 5pm - 10pm.**

**SEPTEMBER 30 . Locarno . Aberdeen . GH College Bishop Center . A high-energy fusion band – contemporary & traditional hispanic music! 7:30pm**

**OCTOBER**

**OCTOBER 1, 8 . Aberdeen Sunday Market . Farmers market, arts & crafts, live music, food & fun.**

**OCTOBER 6 . First Friday Art Walk . Aberdeen Art Center . 5 - 8pm . Enjoy live music, food & art.**

**OCTOBER 6, 7, 13, 14, 15 . 'Arsenic and Old Lace' . Aberdeen . Driftwood Theater . Murder, mayhem, and a mountain of laughs! (Story page 28)**

**OCTOBER 6 & 19 . The Loading Dock, Live Music . Aberdeen . 6 - 9pm . 202 E. Wishkah. Local rock bands on 1st Friday & 3rd Thursday.**

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**OCTOBER 7 . Bigfoor Brewfest . Seabrook . 2 - 6pm . Great drinks, food, games, and live music.**

**OCTOBER 7 . Coastal Interpretive Center Annual Dinner and Auction . Ocean Shores . Quinault Beach Resort, 6 - 8pm.**

**OCTOBER 7 . Book signing of 'Rewind' with author Rick Anderson at 6 p.m. 7th St Theatre Hoquiam. Followed by 'The Day the Earth Stood Still,' 1951 movie.**

**OCTOBER 12 . Ladies' Night Out . Elma . Summit Pacific Wellness Center. A free women's health workshop. 5:30pm - 8:30pm.**

**OCTOBER 13 . Cranberry Harvest Festival Cook-Off . Grayland . Enter your best cranberry dishes. Professional or Novice. Drop off Noon - 5pm.**

**OCTOBER 13-14 . Frightmare in Elma . Haunted Barn . Grays Harbor County Fairgrounds**

**OCTOBER 14 . Never Come Down . Aberdeen . GH College Bishop Center. A blend of modern & traditional bluegrass music with Americana. 7:30pm.**

**OCTOBER 14-15 . 30th Annual Cranberry Harvest Festival . Grayland . Bog tours, a pancake breakfast, live music by 'Jim Achilles', Market place and firefly parade. Grayland**

*Community Hall. 10am-5pm Sat., 10-3 Sun.*

**OCTOBER 14-15 . Urban Unglued 's More Freaks at the Beach . Ocean Shores Convention Center . Freak Show theme. Shop weird. 10am-5pm**

**OCTOBER 17 - 22 . 20th Annual Galway Bay Celtic Music Feis . Ocean Shores . Celebrating Irish songs, ballads, players & bands that will be flooding the town with music & fun. Galway Bay Irish Pub & Ocean Shores Convention Center.**

**OCTOBER 21 . Billy's Back: Walk of the Undead . Aberdeen . Calling all zombies. Ghoulish celebration of horrifying fun. Spooky costumes please. South 'I' St., downtown.**

**OCTOBER 27-29 . Habitat for Humanity of Grays Harbor Haunted House . Hoquiam . Evenings, starting at 6pm, are scary. Not so scary on Saturday from Noon - 3pm.**

**OCTOBER 27-29 . Seabrook Halloweekend . Trick-or-treating, hay maze, pumpkin patch, pumpkin promenade, Halloween costume parade & more.**

**OCTOBER 28-29 . Nightmare Before Christmas . Grayland . 10am-4pm . Gifts, face painting, handmade art, food, prizes, fresh cranberries. Hosted by the Cranberry Museum.**

## NOVEMBER

**NOVEMBER 1 - JANUARY 31 . Ice Skating Rink . Seabrook . 9am - 8pm. More info TBA.**

**NOVEMBER 2, 3, 4, 5 . 'Puffs or Seven Increasingly Eventful Years at a Certain School of Magic & Magic' . Aberdeen . GH College Bishop Center . A parody of a certain boy wizard.**

**NOVEMBER 3 . First Friday Art Walk . Aberdeen Art Center . 5 - 8pm . Enjoy live music & food while viewing art.**

**NOVEMBER 3 . 2023 Annual Fall Art Gala Opening Reception. Aberdeen . GH College, 6pm - 8pm. Viewing Nov. 3 - Dec. 7 (Story page 43).**

**NOVEMBER 3 & 16 . The Loading Dock, Live Music . Aberdeen . 6 - 9pm . 202 E. Wishkah. Local rock bands on 1st Friday & 3rd Thursday.**

**NOVEMBER 18 . Silver Bells Bazaar at the Shore . Ocean Shores . Convention Center.**

**NOVEMBER 18 - 19 . Country Christmas Bazaar . Elma . County Fairgrounds.**

**NOVEMBER 19 . Grays Harbor Symphony . Aberdeen . GH College Bishop Center . 7:00pm**

**NOVEMBER 23 . Seabrook Turkey Trot . 3K family-friendly fun run or walk.**

**NOVEMBER 24 . Winter Fanta-Sea . Ocean Shores . Convention Center.**

**NOVEMBER 24, 25 . 'Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat' . Aberdeen . Driftwood Theater . Musical fun for all.**

**NOVEMBER 30 . GHC Jazz Concert . Aberdeen . Grays Harbor College Bishop Center . 7pm**

## DECEMBER

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

**DECEMBER 1, 2, 3, 8, 9, 10 . 'Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat' . Aberdeen . Driftwood Theater . Musical fun for all.**

**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 Float 6 & Westport Maritime Museum.**

**DECEMBER 2-3 . Artisan Faire . Ocean Shores VFW. Fair-trade gift items, arts, patisserie. **

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