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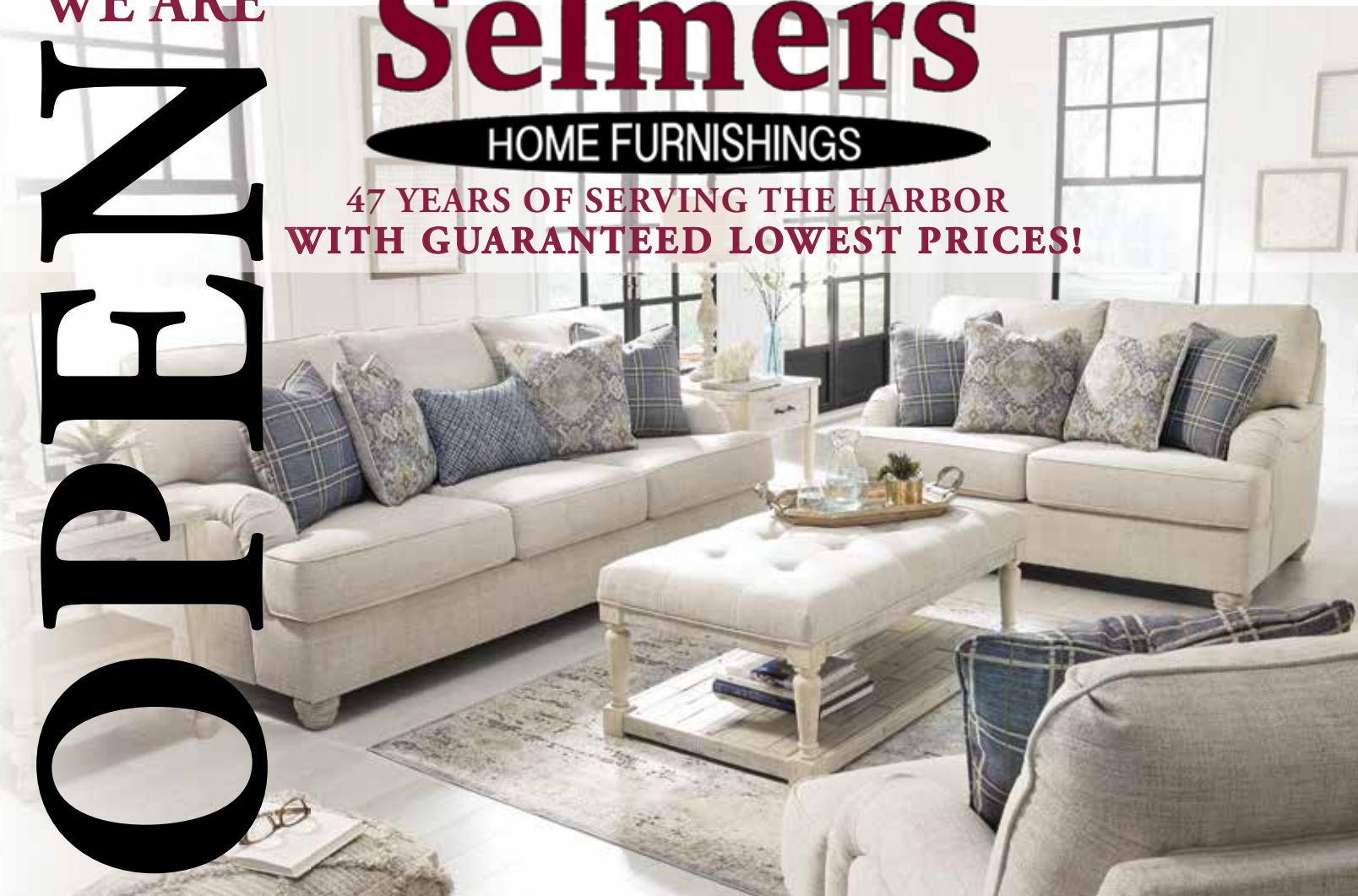
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Photo by Juliana Wallace

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Montesano ARTIST Keeps the Lost Art of SIGN Painting ALIVE



Photo by Juliana Wallace



Photo by Juliana Wallace



Photo by Rick Moyer

BY JULIANA WALLACE

PHOTOS BY
JULIANA WALLACE & RICK MOYER

Writer's Note: For years, I drove past Del Mullen's sign shop in Montesano, intrigued by the vintage signs outside his studio. One day I finally knocked on the door, hoping to commission a Harley Davidson sign for a Christmas present. That sign, beautifully rendered, opened my eyes to a nearly forgotten art form and one of the few artists who keeps it alive.



Photo by Juliana Wallace



Photo by Juliana Wallace

Sign painting came as a natural vocation for Del Mullen, who has operated a sign shop on the 700 East block of Pioneer Avenue in Montesano for 10 years. Del's father, Ray Mullen, worked as a sign painter in the 1950s, back when artisans joined a union and stood on scaffolding to paint the sides of tall city buildings.

Intrigued by the trade, and blessed with natural artistic talent, Mullen, now 69, began experimenting with sign painting as a teenager. Then, like his father before him, he entered a rigorous apprenticeship, learning hundreds of letter styles, as well as the principles of form and spacing.

"Every sign has different letter styles," said Mullen. "That's what I like about it. Doing it the old way, the hand-done way, the signs have a different look, a different personality. They're just so colorful, so cool-looking."

The advent of large format computers in the 1980s changed all of that, and traditional sign painting nearly died out. For today's commercial signs, most of the design work happens at the computer screen. Regardless of the skill of the graphic designer, modern signs lack the individuality of hand-painted signs. And a vinyl sign has a useful life of only about five years. By contrast, think of the "ghost signs" still faintly visible on old brick walls after decades, evoking a bygone era.

For Mullen, the lure of nostalgia has defined much of his work in recent



Photo by Juliana Wallace

years. Many of his customers are collectors looking for vintage signs, such as the old oil and gas signs, or classic signs for Harley and Indian motorcycles. Originals can cost thousands of dollars at auction. But Mullen creates a hand-painted, customized work of art for a fraction of the cost of an original. For instance, a typical 30-inch diameter sign sells for \$200-\$300, depending on complexity.

Terry Baltzell, a local collector, commissioned his first sign from Mullen six years ago. "I hadn't ever met anybody who did that kind of work," Baltzell explained. "It was pretty unique. And as time went by, I started thinking of them more as art than as signs." Baltzell has since collected more than thirty of Mullen's signs.

A hand-crafted sign often begins with a decal or a picture from a magazine. Baltzell once even commissioned a sign using a milkshake cup from Seattle's historic Dick's Drive-In that included a



Photo by Juliana Wallace

drawing of antique cars from his high school days. Mullen can reproduce the image to exact detail, adding customized touches by request. In the process, he spends painstaking hours at his easel and saw table, bringing images to life with astonishing precision.

"I can paint the Coke bottle and make it look so real, you'd think you could just take it from the sign and drink it," he said, laughing. He paints signs on metal, wood, old shelves and even once on a tabletop. In addition to traditional paint brushes and special lettering enamels, his toolbox includes precision knives and saws.

Those tools and samples of the thousands of signs he has painted over the years literally went up in smoke July 14 when a devastating fire destroyed the building that had housed Mullen's workshop for the past decade. The cause of the fire was never determined. Heartbroken, Mullen quickly set up shop in a small barn across the street, but recovery has proved painful, and items like his father's carefully preserved brushes are lost forever.

(Continued on page 8)



Photo by Rick Meyer



Photo by Juliana Wallace



This Gilmore Gasoline sign is one of just a handful of signs salvaged from the fire that destroyed Mullen's former studio. (above)

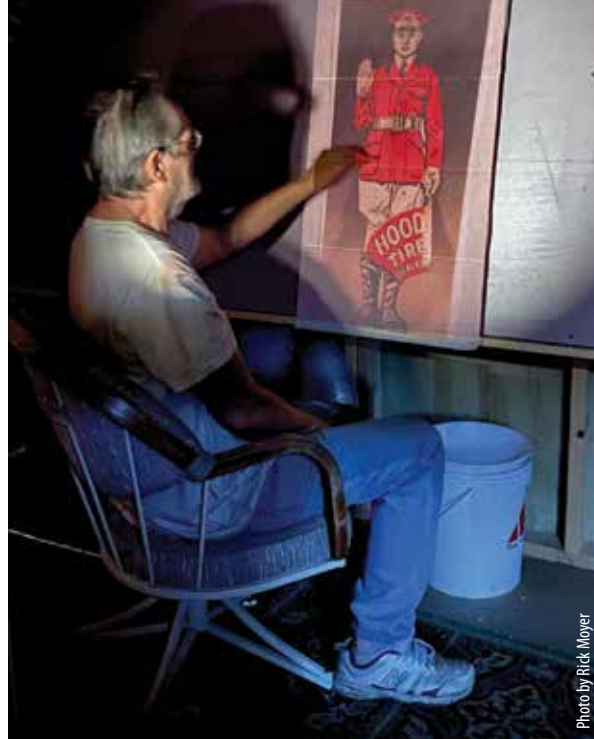


Photo by Rick Moyer

"It devastated me," said Mullen. "Losing all that stuff when you paint signs the lost art way, it's hard to get that back. It was horrible. There are no other words."

Early in his career, Mullen corresponded with Norman Rockwell, one of the

world's most well-known commercial artists. The famous artist paid homage to Mullen's craft, writing that despite his broad success, "I am no sign painter." Like Rockwell, you, too, can discover the nearly-lost art of sign painting. Stop by Mullen's shop in Montesano or spend

a delightful hour browsing Baltzell's collection at his private Rose Museum up the Wishkah.


To reach Del Mullen, stop by the small barn at 728 E. Pioneer Ave. in Montesano, or call him at (360) 590-2943. Call Terry Baltzell at (360) 533-7146 to schedule a time to tour his Rose Museum at 41 Squirrel Rd., nearly 15 miles up the Wishkah Road. 



Photo by Rick Moyer

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MAKING MUSICAL MARKS

BY GREGORY E. ZSCHOMLER

PHOTOS BY RICK MOYER

The 21-year-old singer-songwriter Tyler MarKZ (*pronounced Mar-Kay-Zee*) was already making his mark in music on the Harbor when he was just a 17-year-old homeschooled high school student participating in the Running Start Program at Grays Harbor College.

Now, just four years later, the Aberdeen musician has written 40 songs, 25 of which he will perform in concert. Some of the remaining 40 are still being worked on and others he's holding out for an album that he hopes to record next year. In addition, he plans to release a single by the end of this year.

"I've always been a little performer," Tyler said. His family was given a piano when he was 10 years old and immediately he took to creating original compositions. "Every day, every morning, I'd get on it and work out a melody or something."

One thing led to another and local piano teacher and family friend, Erica Hollen, saw him playing, recognized his potential and offered to teach him for free. He began writing music at 13 and later began playing and singing on the worship team at his church, Harbor Calvary Chapel in Aberdeen.

After seven years of lessons, he broke onto the local music scene at 17 by playing a local First Friday coffee house, performing originals and covers.

"The first song that I wrote, I think, was called 'Underwater Mystery' – a one-page arpeggiated piece (based on three chords)," he said. 'Town Crying' – the first song I wrote on paper—was awful, but I still have the original copy."

With a four-octave singing range spanning from baritone to soprano,

(Continued on page 12)

"I think my primary purpose in life is to facilitate healing—whether that's in nursing or music."

– Tyler MarKZ



Photo courtesy of Grays Harbor College



MUSICAL (Continued)

Tyler is considered a contra tenor. He describes his music as pop with a jazz feel, and says his music is influenced by such pop stars as John Legend, Charlie Puth, Toby Mac and Ryan Stevenson. He also attributes much of his style and success to local artists Ericka and Mattaniah Corban as well as Wil Russoul.

When he was 14, Tyler said, "Ericka Corban told me, 'pick up guitar, you will not regret it.' They (Ericka and Mattaniah) taught me so much." The encouragement he got from everyone helped him step out, develop and share the gifts stirring inside him, he said.

While developing his musical skills, writing songs, and moving into performing, Tyler also attended the nursing program at Grays Harbor College. He graduated in 2020 and is now a practicing licensed practical nurse (LPN). He's currently working on his registered nurse (RN) certification.



Once he has that under his belt – soon he hopes – he plans to "get into the studio" and work on that album.

Tyler's popularity as a performer increased greatly during 2019. "And,

I had the rest of this year lined up ... at least a gig a week, sometimes two, especially this summer. Then Covid-19 really stole that away." His last performance was in June at Aberdeen's Sunday Market.

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Tyler used to hate live performance: "I was excited, but I hated it," he said. However, now that the butterflies fly a bit less chaotically, he says he really enjoys engaging with an audience.


"I think my primary purpose in life is to facilitate healing—whether that's in nursing or music," Tyler said. Music is not something I create because I think it sounds good, but [because] my music is most true to my heart—what I'm thinking or feeling."

He says that his song "No Call, No Show" is not only his most personal song, but also that it gets the strongest reaction from audiences because it makes them feel. (A performance of the song is on YouTube.)

Tyler says his songs "come to him." "There are songs (melodies) I wake up with in my head." Then after a day running the melody through his mind, "I'll come home from work already with words in my head." He then just has to sit down and work it out.

The musician, who also enjoys gazing at the stars, listening to the ocean, and going on night drives to still his soul—as well as a good blended chai tea latte made with almond milk—says, "Never be afraid to step out and dare your dream. If you don't, you'll never know what could happen. Be comfortable enough with yourself to be yourself."

Tyler is looking forward to this fall when he hopes he may be able to get back to performing, sip a pumpkin spice frappe or two, write, record, and generally make more music.

He can be followed or contacted through his artist Facebook page: Tyler MarkZ. 

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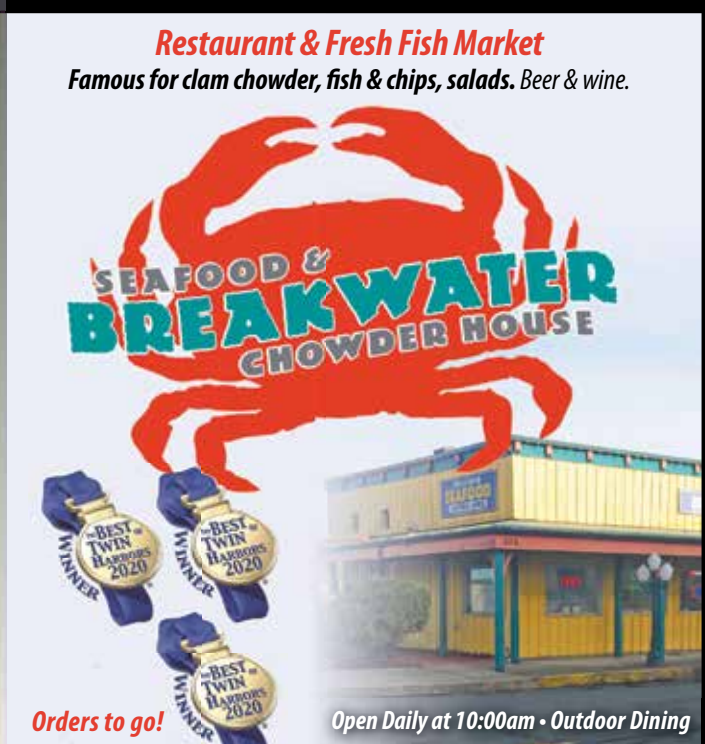


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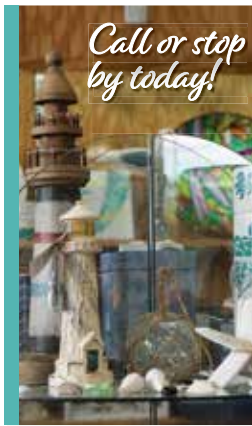
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A Night Out at the Theater – *Pandemic-Style*

BY CHRISTINE VINCENT

What is it that makes theater special? It is a combination of elements: the show, the actors, and the interaction between the cast and the audience. But it is also the excitement of going out, dressing up and meeting other theater fans. The special chemistry created by these elements is what makes going to the theater a community experience depending very much on the physical space of the building.

Sadly, Covid-19 safety measures have put severe restrictions on live theater in Grays Harbor this fall. However, the three large venues, the Bishop Center for the Performing Arts, the Driftwood Theatre, both in Aberdeen, and the 7th Street Theatre in Hoquiam, have each found creative ways to bring shows to their audiences. Take your pick from their offerings for your special night out – or in.

Opening the 2020/21 season, the **Driftwood Players** have elected to perform a reduced number of live shows. They will be delivered virtually, in real time, via Zoom.

“Constellations,” directed by Brad Duffy, and “The Gin Game,” directed by Stacy Hopkins, are two-person plays allowing for sufficient social distancing among the actors. They will each run for two weekends. “Constellations” performances are Sept. 25, 26 and Oct. 2, 3, 9 and 10. “The Gin Game” performances are Nov. 21, 27, 28 and Dec. 4, 5, 11, 12 and 13. Theatergoers can purchase tickets for \$15 per household and view the live-streamed performances from home.

This is almost the real thing! The only barrier between you, the actors and the other audience watching simultaneously with you will be space. Why not create your own Champagne Opener at home with an elegant dinner,

dressed up in your gala outfits. On the other hand, you may opt for the Covid-19 bonus choice – a night out in your pajamas.

The Driftwood Players depends on its annual Champagne Opener with hors d’oeuvres, wine and dessert to raise funds.

“Ticket sales never keep our doors open,” explained Debbie Scoones, publicity trustee. “We had to come up with a solution to raise maintenance costs, especially the \$200,000 needed for the replacement of our roof,” she said.

The Bishop Center for the Performing Arts is taking a slightly different approach.

“Our mission is to bring high-quality performing arts to the community and make them accessible to everybody,” said Jennifer Alt, Bishop Center manager. “We have come up with a creative blend of pre-recorded and live

(Continued on page 18)

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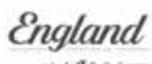
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Night Out at the Theater (Continued from page 15)

Zoom streams with free, open-access links on our website. As there is going to be no football this season, we decided to offer 45-minute to one-hour shows, consistently airing at 7 p.m. on Friday nights. We are pleased with our Fall Fridays program, which will keep the arts going under the Covid-19 restrictions."

Fall Fridays opened Sept. 25, the first Friday of Fall Quarter. During these Fridays, local performers will include Grays Harbor singer/songwriter Ericka Corban and Seattle trumpeter Morris Northcutt.

Other Friday performances include Grays Harbor College Theater Arts Director Dr. Andrew Gaines interviewing Broadway star vocalist Jenn Gambatese and Broadway music director/conductor Charlie Altermann, continuing the "A Conversation With..." series introduced last June. The conversations will be live-streamed, allowing the audience to engage. This fall's Halloween show, "Molly's Creepy Comedy Cabaret" will also be live-streamed, inviting audience participation with a costume contest for kids and pets.

Concerts by the Grays Harbor College Symphony and the Grays Harbor College Jazz Band will also be pre-recorded and streamed. The Grays Harbor College Opera Workshop will be represented with a tech-savvy virtual collage of socially distanced comic



Molly's Creepy Comedy Cabaret, Oct. 30.

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opera selections created by Director Ian Dorsch. The directors of the Grays Harbor College Music Department will demonstrate their personal virtuosity on Director's Night, slated for Nov. 13. The Grays Harbor College Civic Choir and Concert Band will conclude Fall Fridays with a holiday concert Dec. 11.



Jenn Gambatese, Oct. 16. Charlie Altermann, Nov. 6


A generous donation from the Marian J. Weatherwax Foundation has offset the cost of the Fall Fridays Program.

Hoquiam's 7th Street Theatre is the only theater venue on the Harbor physically open to the public. With its 997-seat capacity, the theatre can easily comply with the 25-percent occupancy restriction in place because of Covid-19. Unfortunately, social distancing for actors is not possible so there will be no Hoquiam High School performances this fall. However, the 7th Street is happy to again offer its popular

screenings of classic feature films. These classy cinema events in this grand old atmospheric venue are complete with concessions. Masks required!

Sadly, Ocean Shores' small but active **Stage West Community Theatre** had no choice but to postpone two of this year's productions. Similarly, the

brand new **Aberdeen Shakespearean Theatre** had to cancel its "Shakespeare in the Parks" shows after their July 18 performance in McCleary.

Refer to each theater's website and Facebook page to check schedules and any last-minute changes. 



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The Polson Museum

A Grays Harbor Jewel Flourishes Under its Director

STORY & PHOTOS BY MARGUERITE GARTH

The Polson Museum in Hoquiam's grounds and buildings are beautifully appointed, historically significant and appreciated by thousands of visitors each year. Its success is greatly due to Director John Larson, who has provided vision, energy and a medley of talents for more than half of the museum's history.

"John has taken the museum into the 21st Century and has saved it from being mediocre to being exceptional," said former museum board member Pat Lanning.

In what turned out to be a serendipitous meeting for both Larson and the museum, the day after he returned to his hometown with a degree in history from the University of Chicago, Larson almost literally ran into his future.

In 1997, while jogging in his Hoquiam neighborhood, he came upon his neighbor Evelyn Murnen (now deceased). Back in town that very day, Larson was wondering what his future held.

Murnen was on the Polson Museum Board and urged Larson to apply for the new position of director. The board

determined for the museum to grow, it needed to have someone in charge. Larson met with the board two days later and, on the date of the museum's 20th anniversary, was hired.

Resting along the banks of the peaceful Hoquiam River, the Polson Museum's grounds include lovely gardens, landscaping, a hiking trail and outdoor machinery displays that complement the stately mansion. The mansion was built in 1924 by lumber baron, Arnold Polson, with no expense spared. The estate has been lovingly restored, maintaining many of the exceptional architectural details, such as the 40-foot-long hemlock plank flooring.

Over the last 23 years under Larson's direction, the museum has acquired an extensive collection of Grays Harbor history. Fifteen of the mansion's 26 rooms are filled with entertaining and educational displays. .

Downstairs exhibits include tributes to historical hometown athletes and teams, a display of the history of the museum and its founder, and a presentation of the domestic realm of Harbor life – highlights include a working kitchen and china cabinets filled with vintage dishes and souvenirs.

Upstairs displays include the Little Hoquiam Railroad. The 160-square-foot



The Railroad Camp houses a steam locomotive that carried logs for the Polson Logging Company.

model train exhibit depicting a logging railyard circa 1915 is a "kid magnet," Larson says. Other highlights include a period costume room and another youngster favorite, a large dollhouse that had been the Polson daughters.

On the museum grounds, Larson's wood working skills have enabled the museum to add additional structures. A wooden shop was built by Larson and volunteers in 2009 to replicate an early 1900's logging camp, complete with a short set of railroad tracks and all the accompanying classic machinery and tools.

Another structure retains the aesthetic, material and functional qualities of a century-old locomotive shed. The Railroad Camp sits in the northeast corner of the property and measures 80 by 40 feet. Ribbed with 12 by 12s milled by Larson, the \$750,000 structure houses the No. 45 steam-powered locomotive that once carried logs for the Polson Logging Company.

And, the board recently acquired a 1915 craftsman bungalow located next door to the museum. Called the Hubble house after its original owners, the bungalow is currently being restored by Larson and volunteers. It will house archival papers and perishable artifacts along with a woodshop.

Polson Museum Director John Larson enjoys the variety in his job.



Larson's building expertise goes beyond his woodworking talents. He also has built an impressive list of donors and benefactors to enable the ongoing institutional work.

"The Polson is a fun and unique place to work," he said. "One minute I'm sitting at the computer writing grants, the next minute I'm knee deep in sawdust."

"We at the Polson have crafted ourselves to handle any situation and we have amassed and collected the equipment to do this, like welding equipment," Larson said. "I learn as I go," he said. In fact, Larson's reputation for being able to learn any new skill or handle any crisis has earned him the nickname "Indiana John" amongst some volunteers.

Former board member Lanning says the value of Larson's work can't be overstated.

"John has saved the museum. He has built a network of people who he is able to call for help and advice. ... He is a people person, talking and sharing information about the museum, Grays Harbor and the logging industry," she said.

The museum is always looking for volunteers for a variety of projects from working on the No. 45 to cataloguing artifacts, Larson said.

Of all his hard work, Larson said, "It's essential for the community to reliably count on the history of Grays Harbor being preserved and easily accessed. ... I just want the local public to always have



Vintage china is displayed in the built-in cabinets of the grand mansion.




The stately Polson Museum was built as a grand home in 1924.

the museum as a cherished place."

While so much is shut down because of the coronavirus, the large building and grounds of The Polson Museum can remain open with easy social distancing. The museum is located at 1611 Riverside Ave. in Hoquiam.

It is open from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday and from noon to 4 p.m. Sunday. The entrance fee is \$15 for a family, \$5 for an adult and \$3 for a student. Museum members and those under 5 years old are free.

For more information, visit the museum's website at www.polsonmuseum.org, call (360) 533-5862, or e-mail John Larson at jbl@polsonmuseum.org. 



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At the HeART of Holiday Giving

BY GREGORY E. ZSCHOMLER

Who doesn't like a thing of beauty? As we approach the gift-giving season, what better gift to carefully select than something lovingly created. Works of art are one-of-a-kind gifts that aren't plastic clones bought from impersonal online stores. Giving art is a gift that keeps on giving because it is shared again and again.



Fusions Gallery in Ocean Shores has an eclectic selection of art.

Hundreds of people make their home and endeavor to make their living as artists in Grays Harbor County. When someone buys a piece of art, the artist is the first to receive a gift—the gift of support. Then, once it is given, not only do the recipients enjoy the thoughtful gift, they often will display it, creating an opportunity for others to enjoy it for years to come.

When considering purchasing art as gifts, keep in mind that artists include more than painters, photographers and sculptors. You'll find creators of jewelry, screen prints, fabric art, music, handcrafted furniture, stained glass, blown glass, pottery, indie literature, multimedia ... and the list goes on. There's even art that can't be categorized or even labeled!

So many choices! Can't decide? Most galleries sell gift certificates.



Preachers Slough, acrylics on wood by Douglas Orr 42"x62" at Alder Grove Gallery in Aberdeen.

Keep in mind that many local artists rely heavily upon arts fairs and public venues to show and sell their work and that many of these events were cancelled because of Covid-19 shutdowns. It is highly likely that this year there will be no holiday bazaars, thus affecting artists' bottom line. And don't forget the annual Art Drive Studio Tour in October, which has gone virtual this year as well.

While you may be able to find artists directly (maybe you know some of them), or may stumble across them, here are some great places to look intentionally into a variety of artists and support local businesses as well:



Stained glass at Grays Harbor Farmers Market

- The **Aberdeen Art Center**, 200 W. Market, Aberdeen;
- The Gallery at Ocean Shores**, 849 Point Brown Ave., Ocean Shores;
- Opal Art Glass Blowing Studio**, 1232 1st St., Cosmopolis;
- Sandpiper Gallery**, 102 First St. N., Pacific Beach;
- Healing Gallery at Grays Harbor Community Hospital**, 915 Anderson Dr., Aberdeen;
- South Beach Arts Association Gallery**, 800 N. Montesano St., Westport;
- Crows Foot Gallery**, 2616 Sumner Ave., Hoquiam;
- Grays Harbor Public Market Gallery**, 1956 Riverside Ave.,

(Continued on page 24)

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HeART of Giving (Continued)

Photo by Marguerite Garth



Find blown glass art including vases and jellyfish lights at Opal Art Glass Blowing Studio in Cosmopolis.

Hoquiam; **Irene's Stained Glass Gallery**, 2840 Sumner Ave., Hoquiam; **Seabreeze Artist Gallery**, 7WA-115, Hoquiam (Hogans Corner); **Tinderbox Coffee Roasters and Art Gallery**, 113 E. Wishkah St., Aberdeen; **Riverside Gallery**, 1015 W. Robert Bush Dr. E., South Bend; **Mermaid Cove Art & Gift**, 739 Point Brown Ave. #2, Ocean Shores; **Namaste**, 648 Ocean Shores Blvd. N.W., Ocean Shores; **Fusions Gallery**, 834 Point Brown Ave. N.W., Ocean Shores; **Harbor Books** (local authors and art), 510 W. 1st St., Aberdeen. 



Small Totem by Vicki Garrett, and other ceramics at Alder Grove Gallery in Aberdeen.

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Give Delightful, Delicious Gifts from Grays Harbor this Season

BY GAIL GREENWOOD AYRES

Sweet or savory, specially selected food and drink make thoughtful gifts. Many of the businesses that create nibbles and sips are struggling financially this year with the cancellation of so many holiday bazaars and events. At the same time, Grays Harborites, quarantine weary and Zoomed out, are looking for something – anything – to do.

So, why not help Grays Harbor small businesses and gladden recipients

by keeping your money local, while exploring the county's gastronomical delights by purchasing Grays Harbor goodies for gifts.

One way to approach this is to simply stay in your town and put together some of what it offers.

In Westport, for instance, a stop at **Granny Hazel's Candy and Gifts** or **SeaBird Gifts and Candy** could yield several different kinds of homemade fudge. The choices for fresh and canned seafood in Westport are plentiful including **Merino's Market** and **Seafood Connection**. Or, make a side trip to **Nelson Crab** in nearby

Tokeland. A trip to **Bay City Sausage** on State Route 105, will yield such savory bites as beef jerky, as well as cranberry mustard, jams and jellies. Don't forget the libations. Stop at **Cranberry Road Winery**, for a bottle of their holiday frontrunner, cranberry cinnamon wine. A stop at the **Westport Winery**, is a great opportunity to pick up a bottle of wine, some nibbles, and freshly baked items.

In the Montesano area, the journey would include the **Wynooche Valley Meats and Deli** for cheese, jerky, pepperoni and the like. The **Wynoochee River Winery**, located 15 miles up the valley, features hand-crafted fruit wines. In downtown, add a scone or cookie mix with some freshly baked treats from **All Wrapped Up**. Don't forget to stop by **Savory Faire Café and Bakery** to choose from the fresh breads, specialty bars, cookies and holiday cookie trays.

Following a theme is another approach. Do you have a beer connoisseur on your list? Perhaps purchasing a growler – or a gift certificate for one – at **Mount Olympus Brewing Co.**, or **Steam Donkey Brewing Company**, both in Aberdeen, or at **Hoquiam Brewing Co., Inc.** – would be just the ticket.

Maybe your recipient is more interested in coffee. Getting a bag of freshly roasted whole beans or ground coffee from **Ocean Beach Roaster & Bistro**, on the North Beach or **Tinderbox** in Aberdeen, would be a great start. Add in some fresh French macarons from **CakeCakes**, or order up a wild blackberry pie, apple pie or cream pie from **Duffy's Restaurant**, both in Aberdeen, to complete the gift.

(Continued on page 27)

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Delicious Presents

(Continued)



Seafood is plentiful on the Harbor. In addition to the Westport companies, **Quinault Pride** products, including canned razor clams and salmon can be purchased several places including at **Q-Mart** in Aberdeen. Other stops should include **Lytle Seafood**, north of Hoquiam; and **Breakwater Seafood** in Aberdeen. Of course there's **Brady's Oysters** on the way to Westport with, you guessed it, oysters and more.

A third approach is to gather up goodies in one place such as **The Market Place** in Aberdeen or **Grays Harbor Farmers Market** in Hoquiam.

The Market Place, which recently moved to 101 North Broadway in Aberdeen, has the reputation as the

Harbor's go-to place for baking supplies for the holidays, as well as a large selection of bulk foods and specialty foods for all types of diets. It also offers nuts, seeds and beans of all kinds, freshly made almond or peanut butter, honey, and the largest loose-leaf tea selection on the Harbor.

In Hoquiam, the **Grays Harbor Farmers Market** combines local arts and food items from a variety of vendors, chief among them Nancy Lachel. Owner of **Nancy's Pies**, she does her baking onsite so the heavenly smells of her pies and cookies linger in the market all day. She and her team also produce bread, rolls, biscotti, granola, jams and specialty desserts such as her pumpkin rolls.

Also inside the market, specialty fudge from **Vagabond & Happenstance Gourmet Fudge**, a Hoquiam family business, is available, as are salad dressings, canned seafood, smoked salmon, gourmet canned soups and a large assortment of teas, attractively presented at the booth for **The Fancy Accent Tea Company**.


So whether buying food stuffs from one store, one town or one theme, Grays Harbor cooks, bakers, roasters, brewers and vintners are more than pleased to help you shop on the Harbor. Still at a loss? Most all of the aforementioned places, as well as Grays Harbor restaurants, offer easy-to-purchase gift certificates, that will help bring sustenance to the recipient and the business alike. 

Photo by Camberly Road Winery

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Seabrook's restaurant choices keep growing



Photo by Seabrook

Seabrook's Frontager's Pizza specializes in Italian gourmet cuisine with local ingredients.

BY GAIL GREENWOOD AYRES

SEABROOK – *Whether it's enjoying a pizza after clam digging, picking up sandwiches for a picnic or exploring the new neighborhoods while enjoying an ice cream cone, this growing beach community now offers many dining options at a variety of prices.*

Located about 16 miles north of Ocean Shores on Highway 109, Seabrook's combination of primary residences, second homes and rental houses – about 480 in all – creates a stable yet lively atmosphere, which has become the perfect incubator for eateries.

Founded in 2004, Seabrook is now going through a growth spurt, said Lily Walsh, Seabrook's marketing manager. "So, now's the time to build more and more restaurants and more and more retail. This is the part we have been building up to for the last 15 years and that's what makes it really exciting."

"We love our community and want people to come out here, enjoy the

town, the beach and all the beautiful public spaces and just have a great time. We thrive in the off season and the winter because of Grays Harbor residents," Walsh said.

All of Seabrook's eateries are within walking distance of each other. Check Seabrook's website www.Seabrookwa.com, or each restaurant's Facebook page or website for the latest information.

Front Street Market – This little shop not only provides fresh groceries, it's also a great spot to order up a deli-made sandwich. Grab a package of chips, apple and a cookie and your picnic lunch is complete. (They also carry beer and wine.) And, if it's your first stop of the day, treat yourself to some freshly brewed Stumptown coffee. (360) 276-6810

Frontager's Pizza Co. – Specializing in gourmet Italian brick-oven style cuisine, Frontager's Pizza proudly offers "local artisanal ingredients, good wines and locally brewed beer." In addition to its Neapolitan-style pizza, calzone, and Stromboli, it features several fresh salads and kid-sized pizzas. If a hearty lunch or dinner isn't what you're after, try the anitpasta board, charcuterie or fresh-from-the-oven focaccia bread for a mid-day break or light meal. (360) 276-0297

Koko's Restaurant and Tequila Bar –

This popular dining spot offers homemade modern Latin cuisine in a lively, family-friendly environment. Its pork street tacos and enchiladas prepared with a Salvadorian twist are menu items that create instant repeat customers. And, the Burrito Gordo is a meat lover's dream wrapped in a tortilla. (360) 276-1090

The Stowaway Wine Bar – Open every day from noon to 9 p.m., The Stowaway Wine Bar, which features wines from Washington, Oregon and California, also offers some amazing heavy appetizers. This is a place that takes its cheese boards seriously! (360) 276-1091

Growler's Alley Beer Garden – Marked by the selfie-magnet Big Foot sculpture, the Growler's Alley Beer Garden is a tented area offering dining al fresco at picnic tables. It is family-friendly – heck, it's even dog-friendly – but it includes an area for patrons 21 years and older. The beer garden is situated next to several food trucks which currently include **D.C. Slices** and **The Urban Juice Factory**. (360) 276-0297

(Continued on page 30)

Koko's Restaurant offers homemade modern Latin cuisine.

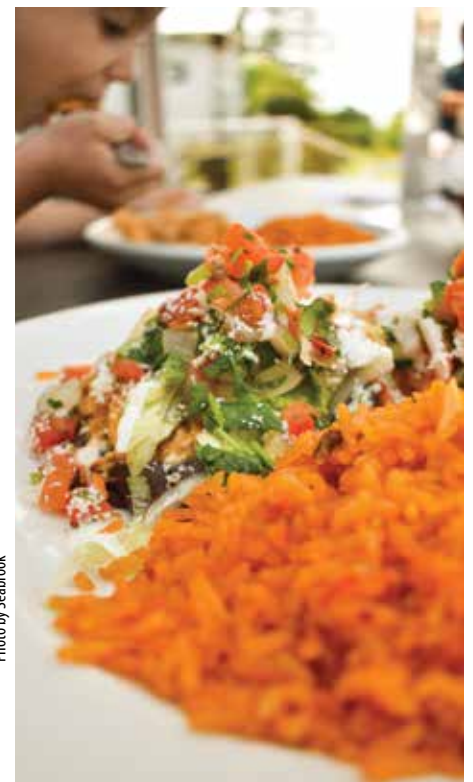


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Seabrook choices *(Continued)*



Photo by Seabrook

Sweet Life Ice Cream and Candy Shop – When it's time for dessert, or just a stroll down memory lane, a trip to Sweet Life is in

order. A one-stop shop for those with a sweet tooth, this cute confectionery is a feast for your eyes, even if you are forgoing sweets. Its neon sign and artistic displays of retro candy draw you in. Natural, homemade, local ice cream, floats of all kinds and huge ice cream cookie sandwiches are some of the biggest draws. (253) 906-0624

The Wanderer, which has just been built on Market Street across from Frontager's, plans to open this winter. Its fare will be a Northwest take on an English pub, with menu offerings including fish and chips, hamburgers, razor clams and fresh salads. 

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