

CANDYMAKER TWISTS, TURNS TAFFY TO 12



On the road to the Super Bowl, locals create new delights

Kelli Truax Taylor of Bruce's Candy Kitchen shared how the candy-makers decided to honor the Seattle Seahawks: "We first made our 12th Man taffy last year for the Fourth of July parade! My husband, Brian, and I came up with the idea. I think I asked him if he could put a 12 in the taffy we would throw in the parade, and he did it! Our float's theme for the parade was a Seahawks' Super Bowl victory. Brian was so excited after last year's Super Bowl win that he had wanted to have a parade through town. That didn't happen so he settled for a float in the Fourth of July parade.

"After the amazing victory in the NFC Championships this year, we discussed what new flavor(s) we would be adding to our selection and again we thought of the 12th Man taffy in honor of the Seahawks heading to another Super Bowl.



Bruce's Candy Kitchen not only offers 12th Man taffy, but also other candy creations just for the Super Bowl.

"We are big fans of the 'Hawks, and since last year, we've been making lots of fun different candy mixes with Seahawks color.

The flavor is 12th Man

Winning (strawberry banana), we will keep making them until Super Bowl Sunday, and heck, maybe after that in honor of back-to-back championships! Go Hawks!"



JEFF TER HAR — For The Daily Astorian

Bruce's Candy Kitchen is getting in the Seattle Seahawks 12th Man spirit with these special saltwater taffy creations.

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Submitted photo



Submitted photo

The final roll of Bruce's Candy Kitchen's saltwater taffy flavors to create the 12th Man taffy in honor of the Seattle Seahawks return to the Super Bowl.



in the garden

Q&A

with

Vickie Abrahamson

Q: You have gardened in Minnesota and now in Gearhart. Describe your Minnesota garden in contrast with your Gearhart garden.

A: Gardening in Oregon seems to be a competitive sport. Everywhere you look there's a Master Gardener or MG wannabe with awesome knowledge to share. In Minnesota a garden has a very short growing season. It is survival of the wind-chilled fittest. One doesn't dare plant until around mid-May which means it's a feeding frenzy on Mother's Day to buy the most mature bedding plants to gain a head start on a luscious looking garden. Minnesota plants are typically underachievers until the first of August. I remember the first seed I sowed in Oregon soil was a cosmos. I returned from Minneapolis about a month later and that seed was a full flowering wonder as tall as me. Amazing turbo growth. A Midwest garden is heavy on phlox, garden rue, geraniums, petunia, cleome and mosquitoes. I never met a slug until I moved to Gearhart.

Folks are warning me it is unseasonably warm, but what pure joy to be deadheading hydrangeas and checking if the daffodils are pushing. This week a primrose is blooming by my Gearhart front step, my neighbor's rosy camellias are opening. Could winter soon be over here? It's just revving up in Minneapolis.

Q: What has been your biggest gardening challenge in Gearhart?

A: I think my No. 1 biggest headache is playing whack a mole. No. 2 is sand, sand, where did the topsoil go?

Q: How do you find the right plant, to plant in the right place?

A: I have a love affair with lavender, beach roses, box-



JOSHUA BESSEX — The Daily Astorian

Vickie Abrahamson, of Gearhart, stands in a designed piece of her backyard garden. The design, outlined with lavender and boxwood, reflects the design of the Celtic-style cross and moldings on her house, an old church.

wood and hydrangeas. Any place where I can wedge in another plant is the right place for me. A piece of advice from an old friend guides my planting — "When you walk through the garden it's wonderful to have a relationship with your plants."

Q: What is your design philosophy? Is there a design element that is unique to your garden in Gearhart?

A: Hard to describe my design ethos, if I even have one. Maybe symmetry meets chaos? If there is too much manicure in a garden I know I am a bit uncomfortable. There is a design element that holds sentimental value in my back garden. My husband was a Bauhaus ruled architect with a love of straight lines and grids but also a keen sense of whimsy and adventure. On our first trip to Oregon we fell in love with an abandoned Episcopal camp church on a corner in Gearhart. We transformed it into a home and as a home it begged for a garden.

With my husband busy on the inside I had and am still having great fun outside. Borrowing from the simple beauty of the chapel's Celtic-style cross and its roof trim detailing I patterned a river stone cloverleaf as the center of a boxwood and lavender knot garden. Yes, it's a bugger to keep weeded, but it smells great when you sit in the center. And, in a small way it pays homage to our St. Ann's Episcopal Chapel, consecrated by a priest and I suspect a few rowdy young summer campers in 1929.

Q: What is your favorite place to buy plants here at the beach?

A: I have 3 favorite haunts — Brim's Farm and Garden is wonderful. The Natural Nook in Gearhart and the growers at the Astoria Farmers Market.

Vickie Abrahamson is a Minnesota transplant and is a Gearhart resident, who had a career in consumer research.

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