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on the cover

Jonathan Lay, left, and Gordy Euler perform as Shanghaied on the Willamette. You can catch the lively musical duo perform on Troll Radio Revue at 11 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 28. During this year's FisherPoets Gathering, the Portland band will perform at 7 p.m. Friday at the Wet Dog Cafe and at 9 p.m. Saturday at Pier 11. Photo by Alex Pajunas

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Out & about

NOTES FROM THE EDITOR

Time for the FisherPoets Gathering!

This week's Coast Weekend is a special edition (and a large one!). We've once again partnered with the FisherPoets Gathering to bring you the Official 2015 FisherPoets Gathering Program.

You can find the program on Pages 13 to 20.

With its own cover, the program both fits snugly in Coast Weekend and is a middle pull-out section readers can remove. It will help fisherpoet fans easily navigate their way around the various venues and special events of the 18th annual Gathering, which runs Friday, Saturday and Sunday, Feb. 27, 28 and March 1 in downtown Astoria.

Pull the program out to carry with you as you traverse the Gathering from venue to venue. Or, keep it in Coast Weekend and read up on all the fun events happening in the region this weekend between sets of fisherpoetry.

For an introduction to the Gathering, make sure you don't miss the Coast Weekend cover story on Page 10, which lays out what Gathering-goers can expect this year, including a concert sponsored by Columbia Riverkeeper and a celebration

of the new FisherPoets Gathering anthology, "Anchored in Deep Water."

I've attended the Gathering twice, and I have to say I'm looking forward to this year's festival with anticipation. My friend and I have even signed up as volunteers Saturday evening at the Astoria Event Center — I'll be checking admission buttons and giving directions to errant fans.

At the Gathering, speakers on stage tell many stories throughout the weekend: trag-

edies and triumphs, homesickness, weather woes, fast friendships and hard work. Audiences listen to limericks about new boats, poems about the call of the sea, stories of heartache and bawdy rhymes. And all of it focuses on the art of fishing.

One thing that's striking about this event is the variety of experiences attendees can get from it. Depending on which venue you visit, on which night, and which fisherpoets are on stage, the feelings, mood and over-arching experience you walk away with can differ from that of your neighbor.

Are you part of the dark crowd in the Voodoo Room? Do you enjoy the bustle of the Wet Dog Cafe? Are you going to tour Dave Densmore's boat? Or do you want to turn your own hand to writing in the poetry contest?



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There's an endless array of stories to hear and activities to enjoy. You don't have to do them all — there are 90 fisherpoets at this year's Gathering, after all. But that lively variety makes this festival something truly special.

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