

word nerd

By RYAN HUME

Willapa

[wil•ə•pə]

noun

1. *People*: Also known as the Kwalhioqua, a native people historically located in southwestern Washington throughout the Willapa River valley whose survivors dispersed to nearby coastal Salish tribes in the 19th century following devastation by smallpox. Descendants of the Willapa Hills and Willapa Chinook

are members of the Shoalwater Bay Tribe

2. *Willapa River*: A river in Pacific County, Washington, that runs approximately 20 miles northwest through the Willapa Hills to dump into the estuary near South Bend

3. *Willapa Bay*: Separated from the Pacific Ocean by the Long Beach Peninsula and just miles north of the Columbia River, the bay is the second largest estuary on the Pacific coast of the United States. Prided for its biodiversity, the bay, which was named after the people and the river,

produces approximately 7 to 9 percent of the oysters consumed in the U.S.

4. *Willapa National Wildlife Refuge*: An 11,000-acre shoreline refuge including the entirety of Long Island in the bay

Origin:

From the Willapa dialect of Kwalhioqua-Clatskanie, an Athabascan language extinct since the 1930s. Noted by Captain George Davidson to have possibly been derived from either *ah-whil-a-pah* or *ah-whil-lapsh*, though many other theories exist. Sadly, the original meaning of the word seems to have been lost along with the language. The bay was originally named Shoalwater Bay by Lt. John Meares on July 5, 1788, though the name was later discarded. He would

go on to name the mouth of the Columbia River Deception Bay the very next day.

"A townsite of several hundred acres has been laid out at the mouth of the Willapa, and a burg called 'Pacific City,' which is the nucleus of a great port of entry, has been established. With a vast area of fine country tributary to it and possessing the advantages of a terminal city of a great railroad line, Pacific City is destined in the not very distant future to become one of the largest and best seaport cities on the Pacific coast."

—J. E. Willis, "An Important Enterprise," *West Shore*, Nov. 16, 1889, p. 311

"The ridges on both branches of the Willapa are covered with the same dense forests of fine timber, although in this part of the country, fir predominates. All that part of the country lying between the upper part of Willapa and Lewis county, is almost a solid tract of timber, which will someday be made into lumber."

—"Pacific County Lands," *The Daily Astorian*, Tuesday, June 19, 1883, p. 1

COLUMBIA BAR

Gummy Bear

By RYAN HUME

On Broadway in Seaside, past the dining room of Finn's Fish House and behind a wall of video poker machines, there's a copper-topped bar that opens into a lounge warmed by a large, circular fireplace. It should come as no surprise that the lounge at the back of Finn's concentrates on specialty drinks that use Huckleberry-infused vodka.

This particular off-menu confection is said to be a bestseller both here and at Finn's neighboring sister bar, the Twisted Fish, a few doors down. One sip will answer any questions about how the Gummy Bear got its name. Some sort of chemical reaction occurs between the moment citrus meets sugar and berry, resulting in a trick to the taste buds that lifts a flavor straight from childhood. Beware that the risk of sugar crashes is still the same. Some things never change.

Ingredients

2 wedges of fresh lime
1/2 ounce simple syrup*
1 1/2 ounces 360 Huckleberry Vodka**

A splash of
sour mix
Sprite,
7-Up, or any other lemon-lime soda
Ice

Directions

Muddle the lime wedges in the simple syrup at the bottom of a highball or other deep cocktail glass. Add the vodka, sour mix and ice. Top off with lemon-lime soda.

—Recipe courtesy of Jen Wayne, bartender at Finn's Fish House and Twisted Fish Steakhouse, Seaside, Oregon

*Simple syrup is equal parts sugar and water. To make it, bring sugar and water to a boil and simmer for three minutes or until the sugar is completely dissolved. Cool completely before using.

**The bartender noted that it is possible to change the flavor and color of the gummy bear by adding a splash of cherry-flavored vodka on top of the Huckleberry.



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