# coast June 11, 2015

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### on the cover

The Enso String Quartet features Melissa Reardon on viola, Richard Belcher on cello, Marueen Nelson on violin and Ken Hamao on violin.

Submitted photo

See story on Page 12

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# NOTES FROM THE EDITOR Ahoy, from the Lady Washington

sin. Climbing aboard was like

strate, a crew member ex-

plained the shrouds and rat-

lines, which form a ladder for

members to climb up to set or

stow the square and fore-and-

aft rigged sails on the ship.

Going aloft definitely sounded

like a balancing act — and a

set of skills most people aren't

"It's romance, pure and

familiar with nowadays.

Though he didn't demon-

stepping back in time.

The sky shone bright : ern boats moored at the bablue, and the briny smell of the water was sharp on the breeze. Baying sealions called for attention, but we had a greater destination in mind: The Lady Washington was docked at the East End Mooring Basin, and it was open for tours.

The official ship of the state of Washington, the tall ship is a replica of the original 18th century Lady Washington, which sailed from Boston Harbor in 1787 around Cape Horn to the Pacific Northwest. It was the first American ship to visit Japan and Hong Kong.

The replica was launched in 1989 for Washington's centennial. Now it travels up and down the Pacific coast and the Columbia River, giving tours, teaching students, and providing sailing excursions to the public. The ship is manned by a professional and volunteer crew; a minimum of 10 people can operate the ship, and it can accommodate 22 — though 14 is a more comfortable number, the first mate told me.

Made of wood and outfitted with rigging and sails, the Lady Washington stood in stark contrast to the mod-

Coast Weekend welcomes comments and contributions from readers. New items for publication consideration must be submitted by 10 a.m. Tuesday, one week and two days before publication.

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Haslam, told me about the Lady Washington's appeal. Anyone can volunteer to be a crew member, and your stay can last from two weeks to several months. "We get all kinds. We've had doctors, lawyers, architects," he said.

I noticed several fluffy balls evenly spaced on rigging overhead. "What are those puff balls?" I asked.

"They're called baggywrinkles," the captain said. Made from old, unraveled bits of rope, baggywrinkles help protect the sails. When sails come into contact with standard rope, chafing can produce holes, so soft baggywrinkles provide a cushioning barrier between the sails and rigging.

"Where's the wheel?" an inquisitive young girl asked.

'We don't have one," the capsimple," the captain, David tain replied. He gestured to a long,



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heavy bar at the stern: It was the tiller, which the helmsman uses to steer the rudder. "Want to try it out?" Haslam asked.

The girl heaved and pushed; the tiller glided to the side. She had all the makings of a fine future crew member.



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