

View special exhibit 'Birds of a Feather' at Columbia Pacific Heritage Museum

ILWACO, Wash. — The Long Beach Peninsula is known for many great things, one of which is birding. With several distinct eco-systems in this far corner of southwest Washington, Pacific County includes Pacific Ocean seashore and marshland, lakes, inland waterways, wetlands, the Columbia River, the Willapa Bay and its many tributaries. As a result, more than 300 species of birds make their home on the peninsula, with hundreds of species of birds migrating here each fall.

In honor of the beloved pastime of birding, the Columbia Pacific Heritage Museum presents "Birds of a Feather," a special exhibition that explores how artists depict regional birds. The exhibit opens with a reception from 5 to 7 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 29 and continues through

March 6. It includes wood-carvings, photographs, paintings, ceramics and quilts. The main room of the Special Exhibition Gallery will be devoted to the work of five artists whose pieces show a great affinity for birds.

Don Gibbons (1926-2015), owner of a cabin in Seaview, Washington, was a professor at Portland State University and a world-recognized criminologist. As a self-taught artist he painted local scenes and carved local birds. Well-known bird enthusiast and photographer Madeline Kalbach recently gave a collection of his carved birds to the museum.

Kalbach is professor emeritus of sociology at the University of Calgary, Alberta. Her research interest in population studies deals with people and birds. She was a ma-

major participant in the Breeding Bird Atlas project for Ontario and has co-authored several publications, including "Common Birds of the Long Beach Peninsula: Marsh, Bay and Backyard." She has lived part-time on the peninsula since 1992. Her photographs and articles are seen often in the Chinook Observer. The selected photographs on view are from her travels around the peninsula.

Sue Raymond is a ceramic artist with a long teaching career in public and private schools. Since 2008, Raymond has lived and worked in Ocean Park where she has a studio and operates the Bay Avenue Gallery. Her ceramic birds are whimsical and engaging. Viewers can relate to the humor in her work as the birds take on everyday activities.

"Birds have always been part of my artwork. Today, surrounded by wonderful models, my flock has become almost life size," Raymond says. "Each bird is constructed by pushing, bending and punching slabs of clay into the shape I want. I try to make each filled with fun and whimsy as they fish, look for worms or just take on an attitude. My special friends are the cranes, pelicans, ravens and silly made-up creatures."

Abby Schlingensiepen is a



Submitted photo

"Wood Ducks," a pastel painting by Marie Powell.

painter who has fallen in love with fabric. Using brush and fabric pens, she paints her subjects — often building the images through layers of detail and color. When she quilts the piece, she uses the sewing machine like a drawing tool to highlight the composition, creating background patterns and uniting the image with the field. Her group of images on view in this exhibition was inspired by the prints of John James Audubon.

Artist Marie Powell is a long-time resident of the Long Beach Peninsula. After teaching high school for 19 years, she now devotes her time to creating beautiful pastels, oils and mixed-media work. Powell currently divides her time between the Pacific Northwest and New Zealand, where she is influenced by the people and environments of both countries. While Powell now focuses her work on abstraction utilizing the monoprint medium, she formally worked in

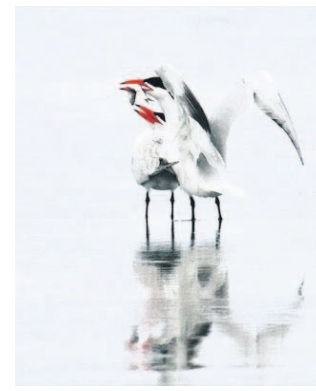


Submitted photo

"Swallows," hand-painted fabric by Abby Schlingensiepen.

pastel and watercolor. With her masterful eye for color and composition she created many extraordinary paintings capturing the natural world of Willapa Bay. Her herons, wood ducks and other waterfowl paintings are highly regarded.

The Columbia Pacific Heritage Museum is located at 115 S.E. Lake St. For more information, call 360-642-3446 or visit www.columbiapacificheritagemuseum.org



Submitted photo

A photograph by Madeline Kalbach.



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"Ceramic Bird" by Sue Raymond.



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"Whimbrel" by Don Gibbons.

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Tickets on sale now for 'The Nutcracker'

Little Ballet Theatre stages its 41st annual holiday ballet

ASTORIA — It's a not-to-be-missed North Coast tradition that leaps with energy, and it's back to delight for another season — its 41st annual.

"At Little Ballet Theatre, we realize that attending 'The Nutcracker' is a tradition for many families," says the ballet theater's founder and artistic director Jeanne Maddox Peterson. "It has become a multi-generational

experience; parents, grandparents and children alike entranced by the magical story. We are so honored and grateful to uphold this tradition."

With sets designed by Ann Murray, costumes by Debra Barbic, a 50-piece orchestra, a 12-voice choir and 75 dancers, the beauty of classical dance comes alive with "The Nutcracker," taking place Dec. 5 and 6.

The brilliant Tchaikovsky score will be conducted by Cory Pederson, and artists from the Oregon Ballet Theatre will guest star to make a stunning production appear on the stage of the Astoria High School Auditorium.

Mark your calendars. Saturday, Dec. 5 will include two performances, one at 2 p.m. and the second at 7:30 p.m. The ballet's run will

conclude at 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 6.

Tickets range from \$15 to \$50 and are available now online at TicketsWest and at the Liberty Theater box office.

Tickets will also be available Dec. 5 and 6 at the AHS box office one hour before each performance. For more information, call 503-861-1971.

Little Ballet Theatre is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit foundation recognized by the Oregon Cultural Trust.