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on the cover

Patricia Fagerland, owner of Forsythe, holds up a wooden block set for sale at the store. The shop's children's section in the back is a treasure trove of educational toys, puppets and more.

Photo by Joshua Bessex

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Enjoy winter songs with Naomi Hooley, Rob Stroup Folk-pop duo give two performances

LONG BEACH, Wash. — The Peninsula Arts Center concludes its 2015 season in grand style this weekend with two special concerts featuring singer-songwriters Naomi Hooley and Rob Stroup. Ticket reservations are highly recommended and can be obtained at Brown Paper Tickets or by calling 360-901-0962. Tickets are \$12 each.

Hooley and Stroup will bring a program of winter songs to share at 7 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 19. There will also be a performance at 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 20.

When Hooley moved 3,000 miles from a small town in Alaska, the chances of meeting Rob Stroup, from a small town in Oregon, were pretty slim. But it happened. From the moment they met it was clear they were destined to combine their musical talents. Stroup is the perfect producer, co-writer and band mate for Hooley's melodic, energetic and thoughtful songs.

A prolific songwriter with a vocal signature, Hooley's voice has been called "cool and powerful" and her songwriting "masterful." She combines the melodic sensibilities of the great folk writers of the '70s like Jim

Croce, Gordon Lightfoot and James Taylor with vocal abilities of Adele or Annie Lennox.

Stroup's musical background brings a whole other set of sounds and influences. A founding member of Portland's roots-rock combo The Baseboard Heaters, Stroup draws on '60s rock and classic country influences and is also influenced by the Oklahoma sound of JJ Cale and the bluesy sides of Bob Dylan. Together they cover a lot of ground and meld together in a cohesive act. Their newest album, "Wild



Submitted photo

Naomi Hooley and Rob Stroup are folk-pop duo Moody Little Sister.

Places," was released in October.

The Peninsula Arts Center will also host a free open mic at 7 p.m. Friday, Dec. 18. Singers, instrumentalists, poets, spoken-word artists, stand-up comedians and dramatists are all welcome.

The arts center is located at 504 N. Pacific Ave. Wine, beer and other refreshments are available for purchase. Concerts benefit the Long Beach Peninsula Acoustic Music Association, a 501(c) 3 nonprofit charitable organization.

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