

Enjoy a night of jazz with John Stowell

Guitarist performs at Cannon Beach History Center & Museum

CANNON BEACH — World-renowned jazz guitarist John Stowell returns to the Cannon Beach History Center & Museum for a performance at 7 p.m. Friday, March 25.

Stowell began his career in the early 1970s with guitarist Linc Chamberland and pianist John Mehegan. He is an internationally renowned performer who has been welcomed to Australia and all over Europe. He was the first American jazz performer to appear in Russia after the fall of the Iron Curtain.

Stowell continues to tour, record and teach internationally. He has been an artist-in-residence at schools in Germany, Indonesia, Argentina, the United States and Canada. He served as assistant director and performer at Oregon Public Broadcasting's PDX Jazz Summit in 1991, and since 1995 he has been a contributing columnist for a number of magazines, including Down



Submitted photo

John Stowell will perform at 7 p.m. Friday, March 25 at the Cannon Beach History Center and Museum.

Beat, Guitar Player, Canadian Musician, Soundcheck (Germany), and Guitar Club (Italy).

Stowell's "Through the Listening Glass" with David Friesen was designated one of the "10 Best Jazz Albums of the

Decade" by the Los Angeles Examiner, and he was chosen as a "Talent Deserving Wider Recognition" by Downbeat's International Critic's Poll in 1978 and 1979. He has appeared on BET's "Jazz Discovery" and "Guitar Series" television shows.

Stowell is one of the museum's most popular performers. The event space creates an intimate setting that produces a sound warm enough to wrap up in. Seating for this concert is limited.

Tickets are available through <http://cbhistory.org>, by calling 503-436-9301, or in person at the museum, located on the corner of Sunset and Spruce streets. Tickets are \$12 for adults and \$2 for children. Complimentary refreshments will be provided.

All proceeds will help fund upcoming events at the museum, including future concerts, lectures, exhibits and field trips.

Join Deb Vanasse for Lunch in the Loft

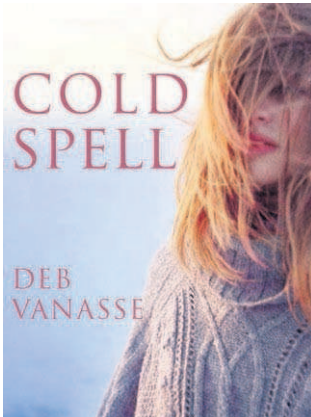
Beach Books hosts new North Coast author for book reading

SEASIDE — Beach Books will host author and new North Coast resident Deb Vanasse for Lunch in the Loft at noon Monday, March 28.

Vanasse is the author 16 books, the newest of which is "Wealth Woman: Kate Carmack and the Klondike Rush for Gold," a deeply researched biography of one of the most elusive but essential characters in the Klondike history.

At Lunch in the Loft, she will discuss her writing life and her many works of non-fiction, and she will read from "Cold Spell," her latest novel that tells the parallel stories of a mother who risks everything to start over and a daughter whose longings threaten to undo them.

At age 21, Vanasse was dropped by a bush pilot on a gravel runway in middle of the Alaska wilderness. No roads, no houses, no cars, no people



Submitted photo

"Cold Spell" by Deb Vanasse.

— only a winding brown slough and tundra spread flat as prairie. She had come not for adventure but to live, an isolating but evocative experience that inspires much of her work. Vanasse earned a Master of Arts in humanities from California State University at Dominguez Hills and is an alumnus of the Squaw



Submitted photo

Deb Vanasse is the author of 16 books.

Valley Writers Workshops. She is also co-founder of the 49 Alaska Writing Center and founder of the author collective Running Fox Books

Lunch in the Loft costs \$25 and includes a signed copy of "Cold Spell" and a catered lunch. RSVP by Saturday, March 26 to insure a copy of the book and lunch.

Astoria Bridge celebrates 50 years in 2016

The 50-year milestone of the completion and opening of the Astoria Bridge is being commemorated this year in Washington and Oregon. Communities north and south of the bridge will celebrate the anniversary throughout 2016 with special exhibits, talks and a rededication.

"The opening of the bridge was a big deal for coastal communities at the mouth of the Columbia River," said Betsy Millard, executive director of the Columbia Pacific Heritage Museum. "Easier auto access opened up both sides of the river to more travelers and made Astoria much more accessible to local residents."

The impressive structure links Astoria to Point Ellice at Megler in Pacific County, Washington, 14 miles from the mouth of the Columbia River and 11 miles from the Long Beach Peninsula. Approximately 6,000 cars cross the two-lane (plus bike lanes) bridge daily.

As part of the celebration, the Columbia Pacific Heritage Museum will open a special 50th Anniversary Astoria/Megler Bridge exhibition on July 29. The exhibition will focus on the history of Megler and its transition from the era of steamboats and ferries to that of the modern bridge. For more information, visit columbiapacificheritagemuseum.org or call 360-642-3446.

The Clatsop County Historical Society is presenting a free, monthly "Bridge Talk" at Fort George Brewery at 7 p.m. the second Wednesday of the month. For more information, email cchs@cumtux.org or call 503-325-2203.

Other events in the planning stages include a rededication on Aug. 13 with tie-ins to the Astoria Regatta (taking place Aug. 10 to 14) and a bridge workers reunion. Specifics will be announced.

In addition to the 50th



Photo by Joshua Bessex

Runners make their way across the Astoria Bridge during The Great Columbia Crossing.

anniversary events, the popular Great Columbia Crossing, a timed 10K walk or run, is held annually in October; this is the only set day each year when foot traffic is allowed on the bridge. The 35th annual crossing is slated for Oct. 16, and registration opens on May 1 at greatcolumbiacrossing.com

History of the bridge

Construction began Nov. 5, 1962 at a cost of \$24 million. The longest continuous, three-truss, through-span bridge in North America, the Astoria-Megler Bridge opened on July 29, 1966 and was dedicated by Washington Gov. Dan Evans and Oregon Gov. Mark Hatfield, along with a crowd of 30,000 people, on Aug. 27, 1966.

The engineering feat was designed by William Adair Bugge, with the Oregon and Washington Departments of Transportation overseeing the project. Bonds were paid off and tolls were removed on Dec. 24, 1993.

At one time nicknamed the "Bridge to Nowhere," the 4.1-mile-long Astoria Bridge is significant as the last-to-be-completed link in the Trans American Highway: a continuous, uninterrupted motor route between the Canadian and Mexican borders.

Upon its completion, the

bridge replaced the Astoria-Megler Ferry, a commercial ferry service established by Capt. Fritz Elfving in 1921 and sold to the state of Oregon, with operations assigned to the State Highway Department (now the Oregon Department of Transportation) in 1946. In good weather, the crossing could take half an hour. The ferry's limited car capacity and cancelled service most always meant long waits. The nearest non-ferry crossing was at the Lewis and Clark Bridge, crossing from Rainier to Longview, Washington, approximately 48 miles upstream.

"The opening of the bridge marked a change of life for all of us on the Long Beach Peninsula," recalls David Campiche, native of Seaview, Washington, and owner/operator with his wife Laurie Anderson of the historic Shelburne Inn. "It marked the end of a slower-paced, in retrospect, more-romantic-though-less-predictable means of crossing.

"I remember taking the ferry to The Y swimming pool in Astoria. Sometimes the ferry would stop running or get caught on a sand bar. We'd have to overnight at the John Jacob Astor Hotel, quite the adventure for us as young people."