

## Peterson: Helps with Alzheimer's research

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Peterson's mother was busy caring for her own mother, and so Peterson was frequently left in the care of her paternal grandmother. A self-described "problem child," Peterson said her grandmother taught her to knit because she "was trying just anything she could to keep me quiet and from climbing the walls."

"I've been knitting off and on ever since, and it's been very much 'on' ever since I retired," she said. "I find great joy in the feeling of the yarn and the molding of a product. To share these with people has just been great."

Peterson and her husband moved to Portland about 20 years ago, and then transferred to the coast six years later.

"It was the best move my husband and I made," she said, adding they "fell in love with the area."

When the storm of 2007 took the roof off their house, they interpreted the event as a sign to move into Neawanna by the Sea, a facility they had been eyeing for a while. When her husband became ill and Peterson had to seek additional care for him, the couple moved to a facility in Hood River. Upon his death, Peterson was faced with the tough decision of whether she would stay or move back to Seaside. That was when she talked to the administrator at Neawanna by the Sea and discovered her old residence was available.

"I said, 'that's it,'" and moved back home to the coast



**Mary Peterson, a resident at Neawanna by the Sea, has turned her passion for knitting into a way to raise money for Alzheimer's research.**

in March 2016, she said. "I'm in the same cottage my husband and I lived in."

### Knitting for a cause

It was upon her return she started knitting with the intent of donating proceeds from her business to Alzheimer's research. Her mission spread to a few other knitters who also contribute items — including scarves, cowls and hats — to collectively put on a few sales each year. Most of their products sell for \$10 to \$15, or what people can afford, and all the proceeds go toward the cause.

Peterson also hosts an informal knitting class at the

facility on Thursdays, offering her assistance to anyone who needs help. Sometimes a few of the residents will "just get together and knit," she said.

While knitting only has two primary stitches — the knit stitch and the pearl stitch — there's a wide range of techniques or ways to use those stitches, Peterson said. Add in the different weight, density and texture of yarn, and the craft offers even more variety to its artisans.

Although Peterson prefers softer, high-quality yarn, she acknowledges "there's a place for everything."

"We knitters try to keep the whole world happy," she said.

She enjoys working on projects that don't take much time to complete, such as hats or scarves. However, she also has a few long-term projects — such as a lace shawl — on which she's gradually investing time. In general, she said, she gears her knitting toward what she believes people will enjoy, or "what will tickle their fancy."

"I'm always on the lookout for new patterns," she said. "I especially like it when someone will send off a piece to somebody and they'll send back a note saying, 'It's so gorgeous,' and send a picture. It's always good to see, to know it's being used and enjoyed."

## Commission: 'Our problem is that we are constrained by Washington's resistance'

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again be forced to moderate its stance, but he wanted to make sure it was clear commissioners are open to the possibility of allowing commercial fishing on the river's main stem.

The policy to phase gillnets off the river — often referred to as the Kitzhaber plan for its champion, former Gov. John Kitzhaber — was passed in 2012. It was first pitched as a way to protect wild salmon and steelhead runs by replacing gillnets with more selective gear.

Oregon and Washington state have experimented with a variety of gear on the river's main stem since 2012, including purse and beach seines. Data gathered over the years — and specifically last fall — appear to indicate that gillnets do not impact fish to the extent advocates of the Kitzhaber plan claimed, or that gear like seines provide a better option.

"We have seen some time pass and we have seen the results of our current management and it hasn't gone where we all had hoped it would as far as successes on both sides," Commissioner Holly Akenson said.

Akenson encouraged commercial fishermen to continue to "pressure Washington."

"As you know there is a will within this commission to allow more opportunities on the Columbia main stem for commercial fishermen," she told one fisherman who spoke. "Our problem is that we are constrained by Washington's resistance."

Gillnetters who spoke out at Friday's meeting at the Clatsop County fairgrounds — the first commission meeting held in Astoria since 2012 — said the Kitzhaber plan altered their ability to make a living. They pointed

to lost income and opportunities as well as wear and tear on their gear in off-channel waters like Youngs Bay, where gillnetting is still allowed.

Under the Kitzhaber plan, gillnets were supposed to be fully phased off the Columbia River main stem last year.

Several fishermen urged commissioners to take advantage of an adaptive management option built into the Kitzhaber plan, which allows Oregon and Washington state to adjust the policy. Jim Coleman, a commercial fisherman out of St. Helens, referenced former Commissioner Laura Anderson, who said at her last meeting in March that the plan "looks like a total failure."

The policy has not yet provided promised conservation or economic benefits, Anderson said. She hoped commercial fishermen and their advocates would continue to debate the policy.

"I truly believe the gillnet is a selective gear when used in the right place at the right time, as a conservation benefit," she said. "There are economic benefits and there are hundreds of thousands of consumers that benefit from that fishery that we don't talk about often enough."

Bob Oleson was in the audience for Friday's meeting and left feeling discouraged. He is a sport fishing advocate who also works as a consultant with the Association of Northwest Steelheaders, though he was not representing the association at the meeting.

"Oregon has moved toward achieving a balance between the sport fisheries and the gillnetters," he said afterwards. "It now seems like the commission is seriously considering backtracking on that and reversing course."

## Būsu: Booth hopes to open restaurant by end of May

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In addition to small plates and specialty dishes, Būsu will offer Japanese carbonated drinks, beer and sake.

Booth recently moved back from Kansas City, where he was an executive chef at a

farm-to-table restaurant, ran Bun Bros. KC making steamed pork and vegan curry Nikuman buns and served high-end pop-up dinners through his company, Dojo Kenichi.

He spent 10 years in Oregon, including two in Astoria working at the Silver Salmon Grille

and T. Paul's Supper Club.

After getting married, Booth said, he and his wife missed the bounty of the Pacific Northwest.

Booth plans to eventually decorate the walk-up window, install a new awning with drop-down walls to protect

from wind and rain and attach a new bar and stools for people wanting to hang out.

"It was really important for me to have a small space where I can interact with customers," he said.

Booth hopes to open Būsu by the end of May.

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