

FINNISH 101

IF YOU GO

FINNISH-AMERICAN FOLK FESTIVAL OF NASELLE

Where: Naselle-Grays River Valley Schools, 793 Washington State Route 4, at the junction of state routes 4 and 401

When: 12:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Friday, July 27; 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. Saturday, July 28; 10 a.m. (worship), 11 a.m. Sunday, July 29 (coffee hour and closing ceremonies). (Note: On Sunday the food, booths and exhibits will not be open.)

Admission: Free, but donations are appreciated (Free parking)

More info:
nasellefinnfest.com



Krist Novoselic hasn't played with many other bands since Nirvana. Giants in the Trees, which will perform at Finn Fest this weekend, is his first local musical project. The musicians describe their music as Americana with a mix of classic country.

'Sisu-powered' Finnish-American Folk Festival takes place July 27-29 in Naselle



NATALIE ST. JOHN PHOTO

Maypole dancers weave themselves back and forth around the pole using blue and white streamers, the colors of the Finnish national flag, at the 2014 Finnish-American Folk Festival.

By **HEATHER DOUGLAS**
FOR COASTWEEKEND

All it took was one crazy idea and a whole lot of "sisu."

When Sue Holway hesitantly told her friend Darlene Bjornsgard back in 1982 that she wanted to start a Finnish Festival in Naselle, she had no clue her idea would catch fire as quickly as it did.

This year's Finnish-American Folk Festival takes place Friday through Sunday, July 27 to 29, at Naselle-Grays River Valley Schools.

"Finnish people tend to be shy and don't always put themselves out there as a general rule," Holway said. "Some were very enthusiastic from the beginning, while others were being 'very Finnish' and holding back. My idea felt kind of crazy at first."

"Sisu" is a Finnish concept

meaning "tenacity of purpose," and the Finnish community of Naselle demonstrated just that in the festival's formative years: A steering committee, enthusiastic volunteers and the Finnish community of Naselle rallied.

A couple thousand festivalgoers appeared the very first year — only a few hundred were expected.

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