

# The sounds of Ireland

Inaugural Coastal Celtic Music Festival brings 'pub rock,' old country sounds to Long Beach Peninsula

By **JONATHAN WILLIAMS**  
FOR COAST WEEKEND

**F**or bands and audiences alike, an Irish pub is the ideal place to relax, eat, drink and share stories with friends.

This is also what Crown Alley Irish Pub owner Dan Tobin in Ocean Park, Wash., wants to bring to listeners at the first annual Coastal Celtic Music Festival, taking place Friday through Sunday, March 22 through 24, and featuring 10 bands from Washington and Oregon: Annie Henry, Katie Jane Band, That Irish Guy, The Bold Doherty, Sons of Malarkey, Stout Pounders, Castletown, Curlew's Call, Marian DiCicco and the Shameless Celts, from Long Beach, Wash.

Tobin, who opened the pub last June, hosts live music every Friday and Saturday night. The festival musicians, he said, are upbeat "pub rock" bands that often interact with the crowd.

The festival starts at 5 p.m. Friday and ends at 9 p.m. Sunday. Tickets are \$30 Friday, \$60 Saturday, \$50 Sunday, or \$100 for all three days. The bands will also play at the Chautauqua Lodge, Peninsula Arts Center and Shelburne Hotel.

Tobin likes the storytelling element of Celtic and folk music. "I feel like there's something about music that can really touch anybody, and it doesn't matter if you're from the same walk of life or even speak the same language, you can enjoy music with somebody," Tobin said.

He wants festivalgoers to relax and enjoy the music, food and drinks with their friends.

"I hope that people come down here and see the passion that has gone into this," he said, "the passion that comes through in the music from the people who are playing."

## The musicians

For That Irish Guy, aka Ireland native Emmet McElhinney, music is in his DNA.



Stout Pounders

**Stout Pounders in concert.**



Sons of Malarkey

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*Dan Tobin,  
owner of Crown Alley Irish Pub*