



# CRANBERRIAN FESTIVAL

## COMES TO THE LONG BEACH PENINSULA

BY KATHERINE LACAZE

**F**or two days in mid-October each year, the cranberry takes center stage, drawing attention to its dignified status in the agriculture industry on the Long Beach Peninsula.

"The cranberry production here is massively important," said Betsy Millard, executive director of the Columbia Pacific Heritage Museum. "Our cranberries are all over the world."

The heritage museum is once again part-

nering with the Cranberry Museum, owned by the Cranberry Growers Association, to host the annual Cranberrian Festival, which takes place this year Saturday and Sunday with activities at both venues.

According to Cranberry Museum manager Jeanene Williams, one unique event during the festival is the cranberry harvesting, which takes place in the morning at the bogs adjacent to the museum in Long Beach. Flooding of the field and beating the berries begins about 8:30 or 9 a.m., and guests are able to come view the demon-

stration and take self-guided tours.

"We have a number of people that come into the museum here throughout the year that have never seen the harvest," Williams said, adding it's often a "highlight" for festival-goers.

"It's the essence of cranberries," Millard agreed, "to see those red berries on the water."

The Cranberry Trolley is available to transport people from Long Beach to the heritage museum in Ilwaco, which will host demonstrations by the Peninsula Rug

Hookers, the Peninsula Quilt Guild, blacksmith Gary Lewis and other artists and craft-makers.

The Cranberrian Festival is also one of two weekends per year when the 1889 NAHCOTTA rail car is open for touring with members of the NAHCOTTA Preservation Committee, Millard said. People can also purchase cranberries at both locations.

"Between the two, you get a lot of activities," Millard added.

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