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WEEKEND BREAK

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Amiran White
Ron Pulliam with his paintings.

REDISCOVERING TALENTS

Bay Center artist delights with scenic views

By PATRICK WEBB
For The Astorian



A painting by Pulliam captures the Niawiakum River in Washington state at low tide.

‘NOTHING ELSE EXISTS EXCEPT THE CANVAS,
THE COLORS AND MY BRUSH.’

Ron Pulliam | Bay Center artist



At 73, Pulliam is pursuing an old passion for painting in cozy surroundings.

Amiran White

Is painting like riding a bicycle — once you learn, you never forget? Perhaps.

Ron Pulliam put down his brushes almost half a century ago. Now, the north Pacific County man is delighting fellow residents of Bay Center, Washington, with artwork of familiar scenery.

He posts his finished art — and sometimes works in progress — on his Facebook page and Remembering Bay Center, Washington, a local Facebook group.

Positive comments from residents spur him to create more.

“I paint for pleasure for sure but it’s not all pleasure. Sometimes it causes temporary grief but I get a lot of satisfaction from it,” he said. “Nothing else exists except the canvas, the colors and my brush. It’s like I am in a vacuum or maybe an hour in a warm pool. It’s a pleasant feeling.”

Pulliam is married to Jane Pulliam, a member of the Chinook Tribal Council. They split their time between their home in Tacoma, Washington, where he has a tiny basement studio, and an older property in Bay Center.

“We love it there, the town and the people,” Pulliam said.

The couple bought the Bay Center home, which they are restoring, 13 years ago. There, Pulliam’s painting is confined to a corner of their dining room.

Rediscovering his talents

One facet of his creative talent has been on hold for almost 50 years.

Pulliam grew up in Ohio and attended Kent State University in 1968. He was drafted into the U.S. Army and served a tour in Vietnam as a surveyor and photographer.

“It was a period of prolonged, unrelenting stress and threat,” he said.

He returned changed and wasn’t keen on resuming his early artistic endeavors.

“I painted now and then, but had to go looking for my brushes,” he said. “It was a long period in between paintings.”

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WHERE TO VIEW ONLINE

Facebook: Ron Pulliam Artist, facebook.com/nautilusdesign.biz

Remembering Bay Center, Washington: facebook.com/groups/446375956155087