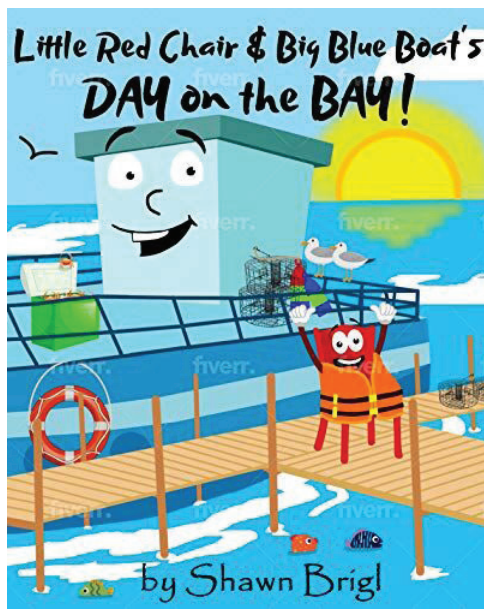


'Let's Go See What Comes from the Sea!' is another of Shawn Brigl's children's books.



The cover of 'Little Red Chair & Big Blue Boat's Day on the Bay!'

Children's books: Focus on teaching young children about the world around them

Continued from Page B1

look and act and run, it would be a cute story," Brigl said.

Each of the books focuses on teaching young children about the world around them. Brigl crafted the stories to allow families to actually do the same things as they read about in the books, she said.

"That was the whole point in my mind," Brigl said. "I wanted to teach them on their level and not just be imagining ... I'll make it easier for them to learn how and understand how — the young ones especially."

Brigl, who owns her own vacation rental cleaning and maintenance company, said she has long dreamt of publishing her own books. She wrote the text for her first two books years ago, though she waited to release them while looking for a publishing company.

She pursued traditional publishing options but found them to be expensive and difficult. Eventually she learned about Kindle Direct Publishing, a free self-publishing platform that links directly with Amazon and other online bookstores.

"My friend lives in the Philippines and he bought it through Apple. He's sent me a video of their daughter listening while he reads," Brigl said.

Around the same time, the coronavirus pandemic caused business at High Tide Home Cleaning & Yard Maintenance to

slow down. Fewer people were using vacation rentals so Brigl had less demands from her day job. That freedom opened up more time to focus on publishing her stories.

"I would have done it, it just would have taken me longer because we were busy," Brigl said. "I had a golden opportunity during COVID, so I thought, 'What the heck? I won't have to wait until winter when it slows down.'"

In her own home, Brigl's books are a hit, especially with her 2-year-old granddaughter.

"She just loves them ... The crabbing one has crabs falling off the boat, and she points her finger and says, 'Cabs! Cabs!'" Brigl said. "It's fun to give to the grandkids. It's something grandma did and it's something they can have. And she really enjoys reading it with Poppy, her dad or her mom."

Brigl said she plans to cut back on her cleaning and maintenance business this year to focus more on her farm, family and books. She is already noticing more everyday moments that might make good fodder for her next story.

"Our other puppy is brown and white ... and his name is Captain Jack Sparrow because he has a brown patch over his eye," Brigl said. "I'm thinking Captain Jack on the high seas."

Mallory Gruben is the communications manager for the Tillamook Chamber of Commerce. She is a contributor for The Astorian and Coast Weekend.

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