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Nielsen said. A display of the captain's possessions above the door is "a nod to Mikey's attic," he added.

Classic tropical cocktails anchor the bounty, rubbing ice cubes with the bar's signature drinks. Three versions of mai tai are offered: the '44 is the original, the May-2-K is a little sweeter and infused with pineapple, and the '85, jokes Van Dyke, is "a dive bar mai tai."

Whether trying classics like the Blue Hawaiian or Cobra's Fang, or taking an adventure with creations like the rum-based Dead Man's Grog, Mutant Skull and Volcano, or the gin-centered Isle of the Dodo or Sleep-walking Sailors, the Isle will provide.

A small food menu complements the selection of drinks. Homemade fusion pub fare includes tots with gochujang ketchup and scallions and banchan with pineapple kimchi.

"It's generally the kind of food you'll see at a Tiki bar," Nielsen said. "With a healthy amount of vegetables," Van Dyke added.

For the two Astoria residents, also owners of the retail store Munktiki, Dead Man's Isle is an outgrowth and a natural progression of their respective businesses. Nielsen has co-owned, with his father, Paul, a business making custom Tiki-inspired mugs for bars and restaurants.

Nielsen and Van Dyke have transformed the building, that had formerly housed an internet service provider and auto repair shop, into a unique oasis. A bar and retail store now occupy the front of the building, while a ceramic studio and import warehouse are located in the basement.



Photos by Peter Korchnak

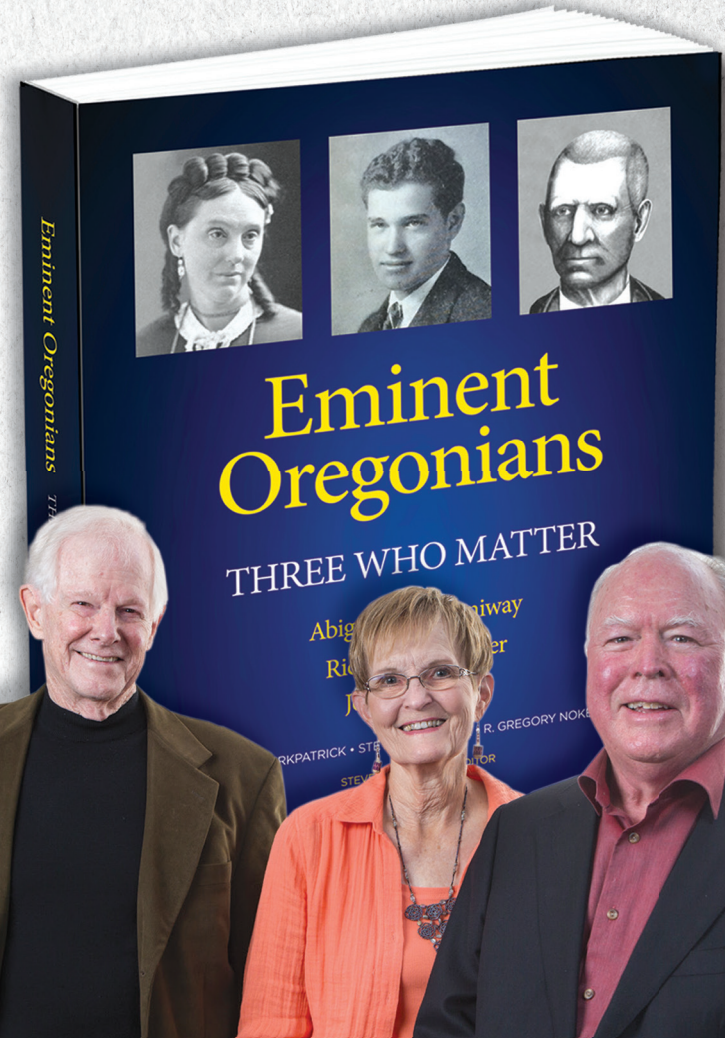
ABOVE: Cinnamon sprinkles top the volcano cocktail, causing sparks to fly. BELOW: Dead Man's Isle sits in a building which once housed an internet service provider and auto repair shop.

While Astoria boasts a number of destination breweries, Dead Man's Isle is fast becoming a destination Tiki bar. "We've been in the Tiki scene for 20-plus years," Van Dyke said, listing recent visitors to Dead Man's Isle. There are people the two have met on their journey, there are mug collectors and the Tiki-curious.



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