

Story slam by the sea

By **KATHERINE LACAZE**
Coast Weekend

Every bar, every town, every place has storytellers.

But which ones are the best?

That's the question the upcoming Pacific Story Slam, organized by three North Coast bar owners, will attempt to answer.

Over the next 10 weeks, storytellers from Astoria, Seaside, Long Beach, Washington and everywhere in between can share tales on themes of love, first impressions, travel and more before meeting at a final Grand Slam on April 10 at Fort George Brewery in Astoria.

According to Carla Curtis, owner of North Beach Tavern in Long Beach, "There is already this storytelling environment here," not just at bars but throughout the Lower Columbia River area. "Bringing the communities' stories together is just going to be very fun."

Along with Curtis, the Pacific Story Slam is being hosted by Diana Kirk, owner of Workers Tavern in Astoria, and Sadie Mercer, co-owner of Maggie's on the Prom in Seaside. Each establishment will hold one

story slam per week through March 19 before doing a town-specific semifinal featuring the winners from previous slams. The top four contenders from each city will then advance to the Grand Slam. North Beach Tavern's slams will be held at 6:30 p.m. Mondays; Workers' at 7 p.m. Wednesdays; and Maggie's on the Prom's at 6 p.m. Thursdays.

An introduction at Maggie's

Story slams are hardly a novel idea, Mercer said, referencing NPR's The Moth Radio Hour and The Mortified Podcast, but when she held a 17-week series at Maggie's last year, the concept was well-received.

Kirk, an author and avid storyteller, was one of the weekly winners who advanced to Maggie's finale. Although she shared what Mercer described as a "tear-inducing funny" story, she lost the competition to Seaside Mayor Jay Barber, spurring jokes about the competition being rigged and sparking the idea of holding a town versus town competition.

More importantly than righting the wrong, however, Kirk wanted people, espe-

IF YOU GO

Pacific Story Slam

Weekly through March 19

6:30 p.m. Mondays, North Beach Tavern, 102 Pioneer Road, Long Beach, Wash.

7 p.m. Wednesdays, Worker's Tavern, 281 W. Marine Dr., Astoria

6 p.m. Thursdays, Maggie's on the Prom, 581 S. Promenade, Seaside

Free

cially from demographics who don't normally frequent her establishment, to have an opportunity to share their experiences.

"Those stories are important and they don't always have a place to tell them," she said. "All stories are meant to bring us closer together."

Mercer agreed, adding, "It's a defining moment. ... What gives the first impression of you? If you're meeting somebody new, what story do you tell?"

Judging the best

The Pacific Story Slam will borrow numerous concepts — and themes — from the event held at Maggie's last year. All stories must be true, personal stories told in first-person and under five minutes.

One element that will change is judging.

At Maggie's, three volunteer judges were asked to publicly score the stories, a judging style used at Rhythm and Rye's StoryOly in Olym-



Diana Kirk/Discover Our Coast

Winners at Maggie's on the Prom's Story Slam in 2019 compete during the Grand Slam. The storytelling event at Maggie's is serving as a template for the upcoming Pacific Story Slam, which takes place in Astoria, Seaside, and Long Beach, Washington, to April 10.

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Fundraiser set for Chisholm Center improvements

Phase two of project

By **R.J. MARX**
Seaside Signal

Phase 2 is ahead for the Bob Chisholm Community Center Refresh, and the project will go big with its annual Fascination fundraiser, to be held Feb. 5 at Broadway's Funland Arcade.

Carpeting and new bathrooms are at the top of the list, IT and Marketing Director Darren Gooch told members of the Sunset Empire Park and Recreation District Board of Directors on Tuesday, Jan. 21.

The center at 1225 Avenue A hosts the senior



R.J. Marx

IT and Finance Director Darren Gooch presents before the Sunset Empire Park and Recreation District Board of Directors on Tuesday, Jan. 21. At left, Skyler Archibald, executive director of the district.

lunch program with a hot meal served daily as well as delivering hundreds of Meals on Wheels to home-

bound seniors each week. Pottery classes, group fitness classes, martial arts, a weekly bingo game, senior

movies and more are part of the center's activities.

Of the total \$350,000 Phase 1 refresh completed last February, the Community Center Commission raised more than \$50,000 through grants and donations, updating the main hall, improving acoustics, new LED lighting, wall coverings and floor.

For Phase 2, Gooch said the commission will re-engage RESOLVE Architecture, the firm that designed the first renovation.

Fundraising, already underway, moves into high gear at the Wednesday, Feb. 5 event. Adults are invited to form a team of four for \$100, with money raised designated for the Phase 2 improvements.

community College South County, Room 2; <https://bizcenter.org/centers/clatsop-sbdc/our-classes>; email sbdc@clatsopcc.edu; 503-338-2402.

Thistle and Rose

5-7:30 p.m., folk/Americana; The Bistro, 263 N. Hemlock, Cannon Beach; 503-436-2661.

Fascination Tournament

6-8 p.m., Funland Arcade in Seaside, fundraiser for Bob Chisholm Community Center Phase II projects; 503-738-7393; www.sunsetempire.com.

Thursday, Feb. 6

SDDA Breakfast

8:30 a.m., Pig 'N Pancake, weekly speakers, discussions and a no-host breakfast; 323 Broadway, Seaside, 503-717-1914, www.seasidedowntown.com.

Rotary of Seaside

Noon, lunch meeting with featured speakers; Shilo Ballroom, 30 N. Prom.

Seaside Kiwanis Club

Noon, lunch meeting, Pig 'N Pancake, 323 Broadway, Seaside.

When Life Gives You Lemons

6-8 p.m., story slam, hosted by Pacific Story Slam; Maggie's On The Prom, 580 S. Beach Drive.

Celebrate Recovery

6-8 p.m., Faith-based 12 step recovery from hurts, habits and hang-ups, North Coast Family Fellowship, 503-738-7453.

Floating Glass Balls

7-9 p.m., folk, Americana and beachgrass; Bill's Tavern, 188 N. Hemlock, Cannon Beach.

Community Calendar

Friday, Jan. 31

Wes Wahrmond

6-9 p.m., The Bistro, guitar, 263 N. Hemlock, Cannon Beach; 503-436-2661.

Mother and Son Dance

6-8 p.m., live d.j., dessert, dancing, photo booth, raffle prizes; Seaside Civic and Convention Center, 415 First Ave.; sunsetempire.com.

Saturday, Feb. 1

Learn to Play Ukulele

9:45 a.m., for beginners, conference room, Bob Chisholm Community Center, 1225 Avenue A; sunsetempire.com.

Daddy Daughter Dance

6 p.m., presented by Sunset Empire Park and Recreation District; Seaside Civic and Convention Center, 415 First Ave., Seaside.

Sunday, Feb. 2

Buffet Breakfast

8:30-11 a.m., waffles, omelets and more; American Legion, 1315 Broadway, Seaside.

The Super Bowl

3:30 p.m., big screen viewing, Times Theatre & Public House, 133 Broadway.

Free Sunday Supper

Doors open 3 p.m.; dinner at 4, all welcome; Our Lady of Victory Church, 120 Oceanway, Seaside.

Monday, Feb. 3

Coffee, crafts and conversation

10 a.m., senior group, Bob Chisholm Community Center, 1225 Avenue A; sunsetempire.com.



Katherine Lacaze/For Seaside Signal

Dale Malvaney and his daughter Lily were frequently on the dance floor during the 2019 Daddy Daughter Dance. This year's dance is Saturday at 6 p.m. at the convention center.

Bingo

12:30 p.m.; cost \$2.40 in dimes; Bob Chisholm Community Center, 1225 Avenue A; sunsetempire.com.

Pinochle

1 p.m., Bob Chisholm Community Center, 1225 Avenue A; sunsetempire.com.

Jam Session

6:30-8:30 p.m., featuring local musicians, Cannon Beach American Legion, 1216 N. Hemlock.

Tuesday, Feb. 4

TOPS

9:15 a.m., Take Off Pounds Sensibly focuses on healthy life-

style changes for weight loss, meets weekly. North Coast Family Fellowship, 2245 N. Wahanna Road, Seaside; ncff-church.org or 503-738-7453.

Knit, Needle and Crochet

10 a.m., senior group, Seaside Yarn and Fiber, 10 N. Holladay; sunsetempire.com.

Wednesday, Feb. 5

Good Morning Seaside

8 a.m., Weekly coffee and networking; Seaside Chamber of Commerce; contact for details, www.seasidechamber.com.

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