

Volunteer barkeep mixes show stopping cocktails

BY SOPHIA ALDOUS
OF THE MINER

NEWPORT — As the age-old adage goes, it takes a village to raise a child. A different take in the same vein might say it takes a village to keep the theatre lights on. The Pend Oreille Playhouse has many performing arts enthusiasts helping out behind the scenes, including Kris Fry, Vice President of the Board of Directors and Concessions Manager. Fry is not only responsible for serving patrons snacks before the show and during intermission. She also mixes up cocktails that are customized to each show.

"Before this, I had never done anything with any theatre," Fry, 45, says. "But we (Pend Oreille Players Association) had a liquor license and there were some cocktail recipes and it just kind of evolved from there."

Pend Oreille Players Association (POPA) is a 501c3 non-profit with its own liquor license. Before volunteering with the playhouse Fry had never done anything close to bartending. She says former



Kris Fry, board member and volunteer with the Pend Oreille Players Association stands behind the bar at the Playhouse with one of her signature cocktails.

playhouse artistic director Millie Brumbaugh who was one of her teachers at Spokane Community Colleges' Newport site recruited her in 2014.

"She asked if I would help with concessions and here I am so many years later," Fry says, smiling.

Fry took Mandatory Alcohol Server Training (MAST) through the Washington State Li-

quor and Cannabis Board that same year and received her alcohol server permit. When POPA moved from their former location on Union Avenue to their current spot in what used to be the Fraternal Order of Eagles clubhouse, Fry had an actual bar area where she could sell concessions and experiment with 21 and over drinks. Like all other board members and volunteers at the Playhouse, Fry is not paid. The money from popcorn, candy and beverages, non-alcoholic and alcoholic alike, is split between buying supplies for concessions and POPA's scholarship program for graduating seniors.

"Kris is wonderful and she gives 100% dedication to her job at the bar," current POPA President Paulina Staab says. "She's taken on a lot more responsibilities in the last year and has really shown up for us. She works so hard on cultivating drinks that are designed around our shows."

Fry's exploration into cocktails started when she had to find ways to use up what she refers to as the playhouse's, "not top shelf liquor." She began making liqueurs with leftover vodka, rum and whiskey. A friend turned her on to a "bonfire creation" as she calls it, one night when they were visiting in Priest River around a fire one autumn evening. His experimentations led Fry to name it a Carmel Apple Pop, which is Crown Royal Apple and cream soda. She serves it on occasion at the playhouse.

"My process is basically a crapshoot of trying new things," Fry says.

She also buys fruit from Green Bluff Growers in the summer, distills it into liquor and lets it steep for several months before using it to craft holiday cocktails. Sometimes she will read a production's script or ask for input from the cast and crew for inspiration. For this year's summer musical, 'Something's Afoot', Fry made cocktails based on one of the songs, 'My Little Dinghy' and one of the ways a character was murdered, Poison Dart Lemonade.

"Sometimes I take old standbys and just add a little something and give them a different name," Fry says. "Like a Poison Dart Lemonade is just a lemon drop with blueberry lemonade."

The playhouse partnered with local purveyors of spirits in 2018, adding Top Frog beer from Newport and Shannon Faye wines

from Colbert to the concession's adult offerings. Cocktails are now made with 2 Loons Distillery's vodka and gin from Loon Lake.

"It was really important to all of us that we try and get local suppliers," Fry says. Though the playhouse was closed throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, state guidelines allowed POPA to put on their first show in over a year last month. While the playhouse was shuttered Fry and other board members took the opportunity to change things up at the playhouse.

"It's not so much a renovation as it is a face lift," Fry says.

In concessions Fry and fellow volunteers pulled carpet off of the walls and bar, got rid of excess clutter, put tongue and groove pine on the walls where the carpet used to be, got oak barrels for tables and sanded and refinished the bar top. Some of the upper cupboards above the bar were also taken out to allow for more light in the area. There are still some finishing touches Fry wants to do, like glass tabletops for the barrels, but she is grateful to be back at the Playhouse after the long hiatus.

"I never, ever thought I'd be standing behind a bar doing this, but I really enjoy the complete creative freedom and support from the board and the Playhouse," Fry says. "If one of my ideas doesn't work, that's okay; there's no guilt-laying. We move on to the next thing."

She adds that she hopes newcomers to the playhouse and those returning will see it as a fun, inviting place where people are working together to create a great community theatre.

"It's about the whole experience," Fry says. "From the moment you walk in the door to when you leave and you're talking to your friends and family about it, it's something you want to come back to."

POPA is hosting the annual meeting and mixer Sunday, July 25 at 1 p.m. Past and present volunteers, season supporters, theatre fans and any curious members of the public are encouraged to come have a fun afternoon at the Playhouse. There will be a presentation in the updated auditorium, a meet and greet with snacks and live guitar music with Ben Kardos in the lobby. For more information about the Pend Oreille Playhouse and POPA, go to www.facebook.com/PendOreillePlayhouse.

Priest River Animal Rescue



OPEN HOUSE
5 to 7 pm



NEWPORT HIGHLANDS

Newly developed rural view homesites close in to schools, medical and shopping. This 21 acre private & secluded land parcel is located just 3 minutes from Newport. Mostly level terrain w/ a view homesite overlooking the Selkirks & rolling hills beyond. Newly built roadway. Wildlife abounds. Bring your horses, 4 wheelers & snowmobiles. The forest land has been thinned. Seller terms OAC w/ 50% cash down & balance at 6% apr & 10 year term. Electricity is to the property.



From \$195,000



Dick Bockmuel

WATERFRONT SPECIALIST • 509 951-4390
dickb@21waterfront.com
www.parade-of-lakes.com
www.21waterfront.com
CENTURY 21 BEUTLER-WATERFRONT
41 W. Riverside Ave #110
Spokane, WA 99201

HOT BOX

Special deadline Tuesdays noon.

MULTI FAMILY SALE

Friday/Saturday, 8:00 a.m. 502 Spring Valley Road, Newport. Tools, fishing, books, vcars, kid stuff, more. (26p)

MOVING SALE

at Spring Ridge Estates, 81 Freedom Meadow Drive, Newport. July 23 and 24, 8:00- 3:00. Various tools, parts washer with motor, snowblower, couch futon, stackable washer dryer, heavy duty garage shelving, brand new single mattress and frame and much more!(26p)

GARAGE SALE

Sponsored by Responsible Growth- Northeast Washington. Friday and Saturday, July 23- 24, 8:30 a.m.- 4:00 p.m. 513 South Meadowdale Avenue, Oldtown.(26p)

FARMERS MARKET,

Newport. Reminder- 8:00-12:00 Saturdays during heat wave. Fresh produce available. 236 South Union. EBT/WIC welcome. (26p)

MANLY YARD SALE

Lots of lumber, tools, hardware, etcetera. 20 years collecting, all going! Stuff for women also. Friday, Saturday, Sunday 7:00- 4:00. 643 Timber Mountain Road, Newport. Off Leclerc Creek South, follow signs.(26p)

ROAD ATLAS

Current, detailed road atlas, spiral bound with laminated cover. Pend Oreille County, Washington \$39.00. Bonner County, Idaho \$39.00. Available at The Miner Newspapers, 421 South Spokane Avenue, Newport. (509) 447-2433(26-AltTF)

FULL-TIME FRONT DESK RECEPTIONIST

ELTC Law Group wants you to fill our open position! We're looking for someone to answer phones, schedule appointments, do basic clerical duties and interact with our clients. If this sounds like you, please bring your resume and cover letter (with your name spelled backwards in the subject) to our office 418 West 3rd Street, Newport or email to heather@eltclawgroup.com. (26)

FREE INITIAL CONSULTATION

at ELTC Law Group to support you and your family. Unexpected illness and death can happen and new tax changes that will affect everyone's estate have been proposed. Make sure you are prepared and please call our office for your Estate Planning, Asset Protection, After Death Transfers, Long Term Care/ Medicaid and General Business needs (509) 447-3242.(26)

FOUND

Dock found north of Cusick area May 2, 2021. To identify contact the Sheriffs office at (509) 447-1903. (25-2)

FIRE MAYOR SANDS

Newport deserves better. Paid for by Michael Fox. (20,22,24,26p)

3RD ANNUAL

Woodland craft sale. 1 day only! July 24, 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.. Local vendors. 2177 North Reeder Bay Road, Nordman, Idaho. (25HB-2p)

STAY INFORMED
Read The Miner .

Mark your calendars!

Dalkena's **VBS** is coming!

Save the Dates

AUGUST 9-13TH
9 a.m. - Noon

Visit: www.dalkena.com

THE INCREDIBLE RACE
One Family, One Race, One Savior

Bus Pickup & Drop Off at Newport Safeway 8:20 a.m. & 12:30 p.m.
Ages 4 years to 6th grade

Pend Oreille County Republicans Are Seeking Republican Candidates for Commissioner District 2

This position has become vacant effective July 17th, due to the early retirement of Mike Manus after 9 years of excellent service to our county.

Republican residents, living within the District #2 boundary, interested in being considered by the Pend Oreille County Republicans for nomination to the post, are invited to contact the POCR Chairman prior to our next meeting. Candidate participation and presentations to the POCR membership will be on Thursday, August 12th.

On September 2, the Pend Oreille County Republican PCOs will elect and nominate three candidates. The existing two commissioners will have until September 15th to select one person to fill the vacancy for the remainder of the term and election in 2022.

Government belongs to those who show up. May we hear from you soon?

Bill Deilke, POCR Chairman

www.pocrwa.com

Email: copywd@gmail.com

Phone: 509-994-7204

Mail: 2443 Flowery Trail, Usk, WA 99180

Paid for by the Pend Oreille County Republicans

Where to Join

PRIEST RIVER AMERICAN LEGION #147

For God and Country
VETS HELPING VETS
Community Breakfast A.Y.C.E. \$6.00
1st Saturday 8:00a.m. - 10:30a.m.
Meeting follows at 11:00a.m.

OLDTOWN AMERICAN LEGION POST #155

VETS SUPPORTING VETS
in the ID/WA area
Meeting 2nd Saturday at 10:30 am
Oldtown Rotary Park
509-671-1057

SOROPTIMIST OF NEWPORT

Meetings second and fourth Tuesday at noon
PineRidge Community Church
1428 W. First Ave., Newport
Contact Micki Weisbarth
509-671-2552
www.facebook.com/siofnewport/

MILITARY SUPPORT GROUP

ALL Branches Welcome
Meetings every 3rd Thursday of the month
6 - 8 pm
759 4th St., Priest River
208-610-4152