

Coastal Pride Ocean Shores

and Southwest Grays Harbor County

Community Newsmagazine
Celebrating LGBTQA Diversity
and Dances of the Human Spirit

June 2023

interview with
Mayor **Jon Martin**

Welcome to **PRIDE**

Out & Proud *in*
Grays Harbor
county

Washington State's
Equality Score

Creating **SAFE SCHOOLS**
for ALL students





Mike & Steven

From the Publisher

In 2017 my husband Steven and I stumbled upon the sandy beaches of Ocean Shores and into a sense of awe. We were enamored by the clean ocean air, roaring surf sprawling for miles up the coast and the laid-back beach town feel. With the roaring Pacific Ocean to the west, North Bay to the east, Damon Point to the south, and 23 miles of interconnected freshwater canals and lakes stretching up and down the middle, this was our utopia. This is where we wanted to retire.

But as an out married gay couple cresting into our 50's, we were understandably cognizant of the culture of our community. We didn't know early on what to expect. Who are these people? Do the Trump signs outnumber the Biden signs? Are we isolated liberal misfits in a bastion of small-town conservatism? Are we safe here?

So we invested time to get to know people, one by one, month after month, over the last six years: gracious neighbors, intrepid businesspeople, talented artists, folks walking down the street with kids and a dog on the leash waving hello with smiles, glad to strike up a friendly conversation.

Through those conversations, invitations to potlucks and plugging into circles of local common interests over the years we found diversity and acceptance all over our Ocean Shores peninsula, and beyond. I'd like to share that beautifully diverse, inclusive community through this ongoing publication.

Welcome to the first issue of *Coastal Pride*. This June issue honors LGBTQA Pride Month.

A special thanks goes out to Ocean Shores artist Gina McCauley, an ardent behind-the-scenes networker who organizes local LGBTQA events bringing the community together, like Gay Bingo nights, SaturGay brunches, and electric Duffy boat rides through our picturesque canals.

While centered in Ocean Shores, this publication includes southwest Grays Harbor County. How *Coastal Pride* evolves will be organic. It's a curated eclectic mix of local and non-local contributions. It will ebb and flow as it finds its community rhythm and its future.

Thanks for taking a look, and joining the ride.

Mike Schultz
Publisher

Coastal Pride

OCEAN SHORES

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Community newsmagazine
celebrating LGBTQA diversity
and dances of the human spirit

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Dedication

This issue is dedicated to three people central to my essence:

My late father, Lutheran Pastor Ralph Schultz (1935-2001), who left this earth having instilled within me the innate understanding that we are all beautiful creatures of the Universe.

My beautiful mother, Carol, who to this day - with grace and love - sends Steven and me annual cards of congratulations on the anniversary of our meeting each other for the first time, 17 years ago, on that dark snowy February winter night in the Spokane Airport.

My husband Steven, for the twinkle in his eye, the love in his heart, and centering me in a place of gratitude.

How did I get so lucky.



Photo by Pat Devine

If you participate in any of this year's LGBT Pride events, you'll be part of living history. Parades promoting LGBT visibility and marches for gay rights have taken place every June for the last fifty-four years.

Today, gay pride parades are usually colorful celebrations. The events that sparked the first June Pride events, however, were violent.

Welcome to PRIDE

From New York's Stonewall riots of 1969 to Grays Harbor County Pride Festival of 2023, a look at how it came to be.

by Natalie Wendt

In 1969, police raids on gay and lesbian bars were common. Though the police entered the establishments claiming to look for liquor license violations, they frequently arrested law-abiding patrons. Those dressed in drag or in a way that didn't conform to their perceived gender were especially targeted. Records of the arrests linked patrons to gay establishments and these records were often made public. Anti-gay harassment was largely unchecked. Employers could and did fire employees for their sexual orientation. Although GLBT rights organizations existed in the U.S. at the time, their membership numbered only in the thousands. Staying in the closet was a fact of life for many. During police raids, patrons usually tried to sneak out the back and draw as little attention to themselves as possible.

All that changed on the night of June 27th, 1969, when New York police raided Stonewall Inn, a gay bar in Greenwich Village. Instead of leaving quietly, the costumers who were not arrested formed a crowd outside of the bar. The crowd swelled to 500 or 600 people, including those from neighboring bars. They shouted "Gay power!" as police loaded the

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interview with CITY of OCEAN SHORES Mayor **Jon Martin**



by Rhonda Brown
photo by Matt Cyphert

“The good thing about being Mayor is you can get things done. I want to do great things for Ocean Shores.”

-Mayor Jon Martin

Ocean Shores as a community is vastly unique. From its location to its manner of founding as a city itself, to how it has become both a tourist destination and a community built of many from around the region making it a permanent home, this peninsula on the ocean is many things to many people.

Mayor Jon Martin arrived in Ocean Shores, as many do, as a transplant anticipating retirement and a more relaxed, rural life. He spent many years prior working in franchise business management in Washington and Alaska and found that even though the more laid-back feel of this area appealed to him, some of the day-to-day functions of local govern-

In addition to the city’s values of “Honesty, Openness, Ethical Behavior, Responsible Actions, and Fairness”, Mayor Martin personally values bringing people together.

ment needed improvement. That is what prompted him to enter the public arena and approach civil service in roles such as City of Ocean Shores Council Member, Board Member of Grays Harbor Chamber of Commerce, Commissioner of Grays Harbor PUD, and ultimately Mayor of Ocean Shores.

While he did not run for election as the current Mayor, it was with regret over the loss of then sitting Mayor, Crystal Dingler, that he took up the mantle of Mayor Pro Tem. Despite this position being an unexpected one, Jon Martin plans to run for re-election this year because, “The good thing about being Mayor is you can get things done. I want to do great things for Ocean Shores.”

Among the many goals he has for the city and area are community engagement, increasing liveability, and environmental sustainability. While these might seem lofty goals, his approach starts largely with the first of these three - community engagement. The city currently is working to encourage those inside Ocean Shores and the outlying areas to coordinate efforts to improve our region via the city’s Leadership Team, led by City Clerk, Sara D. Logan, and Chief of Police, Neccie Logan. They are also working alongside the Association of Washington Cities to encourage local promotion throughout the region on

bettering integration and communication overall.

Jon Martin underscored his pride in the diversity of this community. One of his great visions is to highlight that diversity - from the variety of artists to the many tribes that surround us, to the great history of coastal fishing, logging, and nature that need preservation. Among all of these is our diverse LGBTQ+ population. He stated that, in addition to the city’s values of “Honesty, Openness, Ethical Behavior, Responsible Actions, and Fairness”, he personally values bringing people together.

His initial introduction to many of his neighbors and friends was largely through the broad artist community. Like so many places in the world, the visual, musical, and theatre arts are often very inclusive of the diaspora of the LGBTQA community. Associated Arts of Ocean Shores has been promoting not only the work of established artists, but also promoting classes and scholarships to encourage creativity and collaboration since 1974. The capstone to the summer season is the Annual Arts and Crafts Festival Labor Day weekend, with Art Splash studio tours the second weekend of each August - allowing local artists to show not only their craft, but also welcome others into their creative spaces. Mayor Martin’s love and encouragement of the

arts and the artists themselves shows a great enthusiasm for how neighbors can truly come together and share to remain an inclusive community.

Another of the major outreach programs that have been enacted under his watch is the Citizens Academy program that is presented through the local library. A nine-week course with a variety of local public leaders from various backgrounds have lent their time to engage with, inform, and take additional time to answer questions about their specific roles in public service. While this may seem like a small Q&A session, Mayor Martin notes it’s a great step in giving citizens of the area information they need to not only inform themselves, but also be more engaged in local civic opportunities, and has been well-attended in this current session.

However, major issues tend to be divisive, such as some of the transportation upgrades in the area. Mayor Martin is an advocate of increasing the walkability and public safety of the entire community, with special care to a potentially aging population. Many of these changes present additional challenges, such as: receiving federal, state, and private grants in order to supplement a small city budget. Medical care in

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THOSE FOR WHOM I MARCH

As I march my introverted self down the street, besides alternately holding my wife's hand, helping to carry our church's banner, and practicing my best "Miss America" wave, I steady my nerves by reminding myself of those for whom I march.

by David R Weiss



"Before we begin this Festival Mass that will open our new school year, we invite you to turn to the person next to you to introduce yourself and greet them," said the worship leader.

I was at the back of the church sanctuary, standing in the aisle, in my black master's academic gown, with my red velvet hood, denoting my degree in theology. It was the start of a new school year at the Catholic college where I (a Lutheran) work in campus ministry. My job was to signal the start of a very festive procession down the aisle, making sure that each person was paced appropriately.

I turned to the young woman standing next to me in the aisle, our Student Senate president. Claire, attired in her own black gown, was first in the procession,

carrying a college banner. I knew her name from the program only; we'd never met. "Hi," I said, "My name is David, I work in campus ministry."

Claire smiled brightly and said, "I'm Claire, and I know who you are. This past summer I was at the Twin Cities Pride Parade with some of my friends. As we were watching the parade you walked by with your church, and I recognized you as being from our college. One of the friends with me had you for a class and told me who you were. David, it brought tears to my eyes to know there was a straight man from my college marching in our Pride Parade!" And her eyes welled up again with gratitude.

Then the music started, I watched for my signal from the choir director, and I sent Claire marching down the aisle, both of us – the straight Lutheran man

and the lesbian Senate President – finding our most powerful moment of grace in the eyes of each other before the Catholic Mass had even started.

I learned a powerful lesson that day.

I've marched with my Lutheran church (part of a larger contingent of about 24 Lutheran churches that are represented at Twin Cities Pride) for several years now. Mind you, like many writers, I have a pretty close relationship with my introversion. Marching for a mile and a half down a gauntlet of crowded sidewalk (we have 125,000 people turn out for our parade!) – even if the crowds are cheering those of us who march, it's not exactly my cup of tea.

So as I march my introverted

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self down the street, besides alternately holding my wife's hand, helping to carry our church's banner, and practicing my best "Miss America" wave, I steady my nerves by reminding myself of those for whom I march. It is not a short list. I call to mind the faces of friends, like Dale, who died without ever finding a spiritual home to embrace them. And the faces of others who are still wrestling to find peace with their twin impulses of sexual and spiritual longing. And the children of same-sex couples that I've taught in Sunday School. And the many friends who share the pews with me at church on Sunday mornings. And the college students I've met through my teaching and work in campus ministry. When I march I hold lots of faces in my mind and heart.

But this is what I learned from Claire on that day in September 2007. I also march for persons I don't know. I march to be seen by someone like Claire, whom I'd never met at the time, but whose journey became a little easier and whose day became a little brighter because she saw me.



David Weiss (he/him) is a theologian, writer, poet and hymnist, doing "public theology" around climate crisis, sexuality, justice, diversity, and peace. With master's degrees in theology (Wartburg Seminary) and Christian ethics (Notre Dame), he taught theology and religion for twenty years at Luther College, Augsburg University, St. Catherine University, and Hamline University. Today David teaches in congregational settings and blogs at www.davidrweiss.com under the theme, "Full Frontal Faith: Erring on the Edge of Honest." Support him in writing Community Supported Theology at www.patreon.com/fullfrontalfaith. Reach him at drw59mn@gmail.com

Marching in our pride parade is hardly the biggest thing I do as an Ally, but for Claire, in June of 2007, it was pretty significant. And this year, when I march again, Claire's shining smile will be one of the faces I have before me. But thanks to her, I will also be a little more comfortable marching my introverted self down that street, because I will remember that maybe this year, too, there will be someone watching that I'm not even thinking of yet, who will be happy to see me there.

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the area has many highly trained emergency services, but there is the issue of urgent care and local hospital care being geographically distant. Jetty improvements have also moved high on the priority list, as environmental factors have created greater concerns about our coastline and emergency preparedness.

As many who live here or have visited briefly may have noticed: the area can seem quite conservative at the outset. But in his time living here and in many public service roles, Jon Martin has come to see that though Grays Harbor is more right-leaning, Ocean Shores is overall very midline when it comes to many of the divisive issues that are often addressed on the national stage or in other cities. To him this is reassuring: neighbors are looking out for each other as a whole, and seeing what

unites them rather than divides them. This inclusivity and acceptance have been repeated when speaking with business leaders and owners as well.

While heavy may be the head who wears the "mayoral hat", Mayor Jon Martin is an enthusiastic supporter of all who choose to visit or call this place home. As Mayor Martin stated, "Welcome! Come and be whoever you are!"



Rhonda Brown (she/her) is a contributor to local LGBTQ+ publications in Washington State. She currently resides in Shoreline, WA and continues to work in art restoration and international finance. Her hobbies include kayaking and caring for elderly and disabled pets.



ONLINE LINKS

City of Ocean Shores: <https://www.osgov.com>

Mayor's Page: <https://www.osgov.com/government/mayor/index.php>

Mayor's FaceBook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/JonMartinOceanShoresMayor>

What's with the rainbows ?

History of the Pride Flag

Color has long played an

important role in our community's expression of pride. In Victorian England, for example, the color green was associated with homosexuality. The color purple (or, more accurately, lavender) became popularized as a symbol for pride in the late 1960s - a frequent post-Stonewall catchword for the gay community was "Purple Power". And, of course, there's the pink triangle. Although it was first used in Nazi Germany to identify gay males in concentration camps, the pink triangle only received widespread use as a gay pop icon in the early 1980s. But the most colorful of our symbols is the Rainbow Flag, and its rainbow of colors - red, orange, yellow, green, blue, and purple - represents the diversity of our community.



tragedy, the 1979 Pride Parade Committee decided to use Baker's flag. The committee eliminated the indigo stripe so they could divide the colors evenly along the parade route - three colors on one side of the street and three on the other. Soon the six colors were incorporated into a six-striped version that became popularized and that, today, is recognized by the International Congress of Flag Makers.

In 1998 Michael Page designed the bisexual pride flag, a three-color design. Page explained that the pink represents same-sex attraction, the blue represents opposite-sex attraction, and the purple overlap represents attraction to both. This was followed by the transgender pride flag designed by Monica Helms, a transgender woman, in 1999. The light pink and blue represent the colors traditionally associated with girls and boys, and the white represents transitioning, neutral or undefined genders, and intersexuality. "[N]o matter which way you fly it, it is always correct, signifying us finding correctness in our lives," Helms said of the flag

In 2017, following an outcry over racism in Philadelphia's Gayborhood, the city commissioned the design of a new eight-color flag with black and brown stripes to recognize the contributions of LGBTQ+ people of color. The flag was unveiled at Philadelphia's Pride celebration in 2017 and remains the official LGBTQ+ flag of the City of Philadelphia.

In 2018 Designer Daniel Quasar created the "Progress Flag", which combines elements of the 2017 Philadelphia flag and the trans flag with the traditional rainbow flag. According to Quasar, the colors in the chevron represent trans individuals, people of color, those living with HIV/AIDS, and deceased members of the LGBTQ+ community.



The Progress Flag

The first Rainbow Flag was designed in 1978 by Gilbert Baker, a San Francisco artist, who created the flag in response to a local activist's call for the need of a community symbol. (This was before the pink triangle was popularly used as a symbol of pride.) Using the five-striped "Flag of the Race" as his inspiration, Baker designed a flag with eight stripes: pink, red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo, and violet. According to Baker, those colors represented, respectively: sexuality, life, healing, sun, nature, art, harmony, and spirit. Baker dyed and sewed the material for the first flag himself - in the true spirit of Betsy Ross.

Baker soon approached San Francisco's Paramount Flag Company about mass producing and selling his "gay flag". Unfortunately, Baker had hand-dyed all the colors, and since the color "hot pink" was not commercially available, mass production of his eight-striped version became impossible. The flag was thus reduced to seven stripes.

In November 1978, San Francisco's gay community was stunned when the city's first openly gay supervisor, Harvey Milk, was assassinated. Wishing to demonstrate the gay community's strength and solidarity in the aftermath of this

Queer Goggles

Old people are fascinating!

by Joan Opyr

Most writers have day jobs. Unless we're lucky enough to have caught a popular wave of some sort -- boy wizards, romantic vampires, or terrifying fathers with psychic sons snowed in for the winter at a Colorado hotel -- we have to think of some way to support our typing habit. It isn't always easy. Some of us do a lot of freelance work. We write humor columns and do interviews. Others go into technical writing, and even more of us do some mixture of freelance and "real world" work. Not long ago, I added CNA to my collection of jobs. When I'm not writing, I'm taking care of the elderly in a nursing home, a job that is more than paying back in the writing department.

For example, I was working with an Alzheimer's patient who was adamant that his car had been stolen. Rather than argue with him, I asked him to describe the make and the model. He thought for a moment, looked at me, and said, "How the hell should I know? I've got Alzheimer's."

I have a tiny little woman who

calls me Chauncey. This is so we can run off to Hawaii together. We were planning our escape at lunch one day, and she asked my last name. When I told her "Opyr," she tried spelling that a couple of times and said, "No, no, that won't do. I can't go anywhere with a name like that." I asked what name she could go with, and she said without missing a beat, "Chauncey."

I have been groped in the nursing home. I was bending over to take an old man's blood pressure when, like lightening, he reached out with his free hand to cop a feel. By this time, I was getting savvy to the joint. I told him, politely, to knock it off. When he refused, I reminded him that this was a nursing home and not a strip club. That's why I don't get tips, and he doesn't get the rectal thermometer.

Quite apart from the intrinsic value of the work, not a day goes by when there is not something worth recording in the nursing home. The elderly are fascinating. They've lived long, full lives, not much shocks or surprises them, but they take great delight in shocking and surprising you. A

woman in her mid-80s gave us a disquisition at lunch on gay marriage. The theme? Why should anyone care if gay people marry? Who are they hurting? She thinks the people who are opposing us are too young to have any perspective. "If they were a bit closer to death, or had Parkinson's or an artificial hip, then they'd really have something to worry about, and they'd leave other people alone."

Old people are fascinating -- a rich vein for the writer to mine. This is the best day job ever.



Joan Opyr (she/her) is a gigantic crank. Her life is frequently weird, and she enjoys writing and talking about that. She's a transplanted Southerner who dreams of golden beaches, sweet iced tea, and sunny skies. She believes that Eva Cassidy should be beatified. Oh, and she's also an award-winning novelist.

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According to a report by GLSEN, over 85% of LGBTQ+ students experience harassment or discrimination in the schools they attend.

Creating schools Where all Students and Families are Safe and feel Welcome

by Andrew Kelly

For over 31 years I have been blessed to serve public school children in Washington, Oregon, and Nevada.

My goal has always been to create schools where all children can learn and thrive. Unfortunately, the LGBTQ+ students I've served are frequently discriminated against and harassed. Many times this is the result of kids not understanding anyone who is "different than them". Adults in the school system hold the responsibility to keep their kids safe... ALL the kids. Adults in the school system also have the responsibility to build inclusive ways to welcome all family configurations to the classroom environment.

Schools are supposed to be safe havens for all children,

but unfortunately, this is not always the case for LGBTQ+ kids. These kids are at a higher risk of being bullied, discriminated against, and physically assaulted. According to a report by GLSEN, over 85% of LGBTQ+ students experience harassment or discrimination in the schools they attend. As parents and educators, it is our responsibility to create a safe and welcoming environment for these children and families. On the following page are some commonsense tips to be nurtured in all schools to ensure our kids can thrive and that all families are celebrated within the school house.

Keeping LGBTQ+ kids safe in schools requires creating a safe and welcoming environment, educating teachers and staff, creating support networks, implementing anti-bullying policies, respecting students' privacy, and validating all

family configurations. It's my belief that high quality public schools are one of the most pre-eminent civil rights of our lifetimes. Failure to educate ALL our kids well will create a less optimal nation in the future. The suggestions in this article should actively exist in all schools and parents should feel empowered to ask, question and make recommendations to ensure that every school is a school where ALL students and families feel safe and welcome.

Of the eight school districts I've had the honor of serving, North Beach School District was the most recent. I'm particularly thankful for our ability, as a district, to grow our counseling support for kids. When I started in North Beach we had less than a .5 counselor in the entire district. Today there are three full time

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Commonsense tips:

- 1. Create a Safe and Welcoming Environment:** It is essential to create an environment that is accepting and welcoming of all students, regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity. This can be achieved by using inclusive language, displaying LGBTQ+ friendly posters and literature, and including LGBTQ+ history and contributions in school curriculum. It is also important to provide gender-neutral restrooms and changing rooms.
- 2. Educate Teachers and Staff:** Educating teachers and staff is crucial to ensuring a safe and welcoming environment for LGBTQ+ students. They should be trained to recognize and respond appropriately to instances of bullying, harassment, or discrimination. Teachers and staff should also be trained to use inclusive language and avoid assumptions about students' gender identity or sexual orientation.
- 3. Create Support Networks:** Creating support networks for LGBTQ+ students are critical to their well-being. These networks can be in the form of support groups, peer mentoring programs, or LGBTQ+ student organizations. These groups provide a safe space for students to discuss their experiences, share their feelings and receive support from others who understand their struggles.
- 4. Implement Anti-Bullying Policies:** Implementing and enforcing anti-bullying policies is crucial to ensuring a safe and welcoming environment for all students, especially our LGBTQ+ kids. The policies should clearly define what constitutes bullying, how it will be reported, and the consequences to instances of bullying.
- 5. Respect Students' Privacy:** Respecting students' privacy is essential to their well-being. Students should be allowed to choose whether to disclose their sexual orientation or gender identity, and their privacy should be always paramount. Teachers and staff should also avoid disclosing students' sexual orientation or gender identity without their consent.
- 6. Validate ALL Family Configurations:** Schools must actively work to create safe places for all family configurations in schools, especially those who do NOT mirror the "Leave it to Beaver" model.



GLSEN is an education organization working to end discrimination, harassment, and bullying based on sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression and to prompt LGBT cultural inclusion and awareness in K-12 schools.

For more info visit :
National Headquarters
<https://www.glsen.org>

Washington Chapter:
<https://www.glsenwashington.org>



Rights. Respect. Responsibility.

Advocates for Youth works with youth leaders to ensure that all young people's rights are respected, including LGBTQ youth.

For more info visit :
<https://www.advocatesforyouth.org>



Live Out Loud cultivates safe, inclusive, and affirming educational environments for LGBTQ+ youth by connecting them to positive role models, resources, and opportunities in the LGBTQ+ community.

For more info visit:
<https://www.liveoutloud.org>

wagon with those arrested. The crowd threw bottles at the police wagon.

A female patron was treated roughly by the police officers trying to force her into the wagon and called out to the crowd to do something. It was the last straw. A riot broke out, and the crowd threw trashcans, rocks and bricks. The demonstration was spontaneous and furious. Transgender rights activist Sylvia (Ray) Rivera, a riot participant, later said that the Stonewall Riot "was one of the greatest moments in my life."

The riots lasted for days. News of the rebellion attracted national attention. For one of the first times in modern history, gays had openly resisted government-sponsored persecution. Inspired by the riots, gay activism increased. When the one-year anniversary of the Stonewall Riots rolled around, it was commemorated with gay rights marches in New York, San Francisco and Los Angeles. In New York the march took up fifteen city blocks.

Throughout the 1970s, the gay

rights movement was grassroots but growing. Each year, the number of cities participating in the June Gay Pride marches and parades increased. In 1971, Gay Pride marches took place in several American cities and spread to Europe, with parades in France, England, Germany and Sweden. The Pacific Northwest joined the movement when Seattle began holding Gay Pride marches in 1974.

In the 1970s, bisexual activist Brenda Howard developed the idea of a week of celebrations leading up to the actual parade. Howard was also one of the original organizers of first Stonewall anniversary march. These celebrations and activities later expanded, transforming June into a month of Pride.

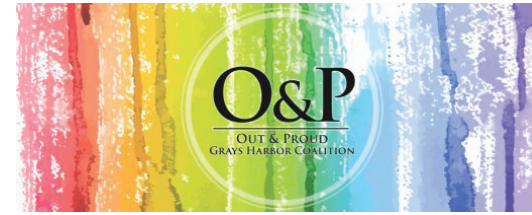
In the 1980s, the HIV/AIDS crisis brought a sense of urgency to the gay community. The movement became more organized. The Gay Pride Day Parade became the official name of the June parades, which until then had used various names in different cities. Gay activism dramatically increased throughout the decades following Stonewall. In 1970, the first anniversary march

for the Stonewall Riots had 5,000 participants. In 1987, 600,000 people marched in Washington, D.C. for gay equality.

In June 2000, President Bill Clinton declared June to officially be "Gay and Lesbian Pride Month. Today, Gay Pride parades and other events span the globe, reaching India, South Korea, and Brazil. Millions take part in the festivities every year.



Natalie Wendt (she/her) grew up in Idaho and graduated from College of Santa Fe with a Bachelor's degree in education, and San Francisco State University with a Master of Arts - MA Special Education and Teaching. She has worked as a special education teacher and most recently as a Board Certified Behavior Analyst.



Out & Proud *in* Grays Harbor

County

From a protest emerged a determined coalition advancing equality and county Pride events.

"We hope to keep growing and building awareness. We will continue to be a positive voice for the LGBT+ community."

- Jen Gillies, President and Co-Founder, Out & Proud Grays Harbor Coalition

flags and talking to people. A woman pulled to the side of the road and handed them a \$10 bill – the group's first donation.

Shortly after that, Out & Proud Grays Harbor Coalition was formed in Tully's coffee shop in downtown Hoquiam by co-founders Jen Gillies and Miki Cabell. After several focus group meetings, they determined there was a need to start an organization to advocate for the local Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer (LGBTQ+) communities.

terms. I had a lot of students who thanked me afterward."

Out & Proud received its first invitation to march in the Aberdeen Founders Day Parade in July 2014, a month before the first Pride festival. Miki wrote in a Facebook post: "It was the first legit presence of an LGBT community here on the Harbor. We had so many people come out and offer their help, hearts open, smiles radiating through the rain. ... My heart was so full and proud."

The first Grays Harbor Pride took place Saturday, Aug. 23, 2014, along Levee Street in downtown Hoquiam. It attracted about 40 vendors and over 2,000 attendees. Afterward, Out & Proud hosted a drag show at the 7th Street Theatre in downtown Hoquiam, followed by a late showing of the Rocky Horror Picture Show.

The group heard from many people the impact of having the event had on them. One particular story caught our hearts: Two elderly gentlemen got up early and drove a few hours to attend the festival. They were overcome with tears of joy when they found that they could

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by Kat Bryant

Like most Pride stories, Grays Harbor's began with a protest.

In 2013, owners of a downtown Hoquiam restaurant stated they were hosting a Sunday community dinner geared toward "traditional family values" – specifically, marriage being between one man and one woman. A group of LGBTQ+ individuals and allies gathered across from the restaurant on J Street to protest that concept. They later moved to Simpson Avenue (the small city's main drag) and stood waving their

That year, they provided support for a Hoquiam High School student who identified as nonbinary in a controversy over gendered graduation robes. Girls had traditionally worn one color, boys another. Other students were harassing this individual because the school was moving toward single-color robes, breaking the tradition. Jen was asked to do safe space training for teachers and staff, then for students.

"I spent a day in a classroom and taught five different classes on it," said Jen. "The kids were really receptive. There were some stereotypes that we broke down, and we talked about the different



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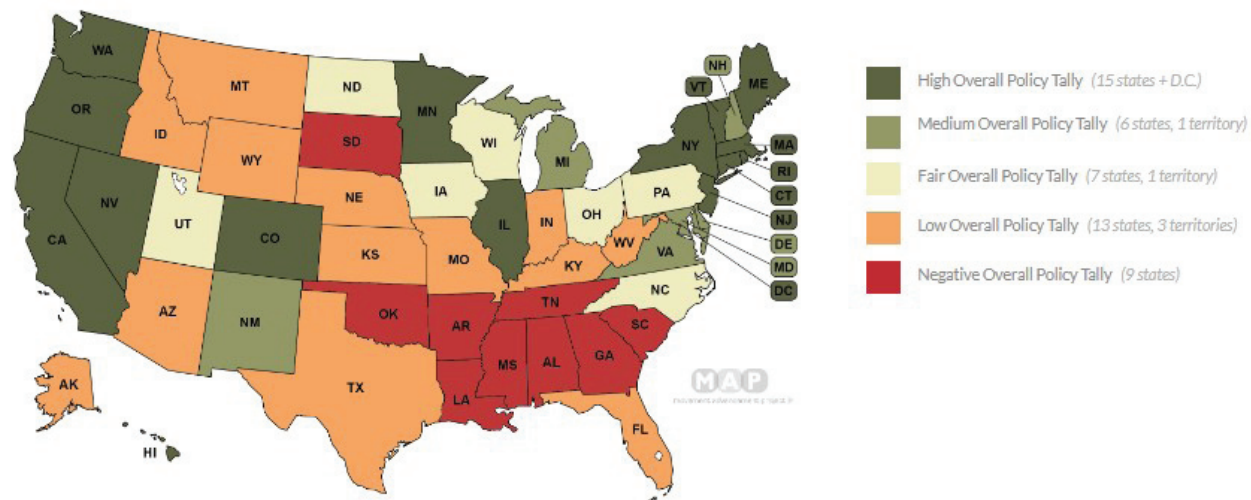
National Perspective
how does
Washington State's Equality Compare?

While rural communities in southwest Grays Harbor County may vary in attitudes toward LGBT equality, it helps to connect with this issue at the state level, and even compare our state to the rest of the country.

SNAPSHOT: LGBTQ EQUALITY BY STATE

- OVERALL POLICY TALLY
- SEXUAL ORIENTATION
- GENDER IDENTITY
- STATE DATA TABLE

The Movement Advancement Project (MAP) tracks over 50 different LGBTQ-related laws and policies. This map shows the overall policy tallies (as distinct from sexual orientation or gender identity tallies) for each state, the District of Columbia, and the five populated U.S. territories. A state's policy tally scores the laws and policies within each state that shape LGBTQ people's lives, experiences, and equality. The major categories of laws covered by the policy tally include: Relationship & Parental Recognition, Nondiscrimination, Religious Exemptions, LGBTQ Youth, Health Care, Criminal Justice, and Identity Documents.



WASHINGTON'S EQUALITY PROFILE

Quick Facts About Washington

Percent of Adults (18+) Who are LGBTQ 5.2% <i>Gallup/Williams 2019</i>	Total LGBTQ Population (13+) 342,000 <i>Williams 2020</i>	Percent of Workforce That is LGBTQ 6% <i>Census 2018; Williams 2020</i>	Total LGBTQ Workers 226,000 <i>Williams 2020</i>	Percent of LGBTQ Adults (25+) Raising Children 28% <i>Gallup/Williams 2019</i>
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Washington's LGBTQ Policy Tally



Sexual Orientation Policy Tally: **17.25/20.5**
HIGH

Gender Identity Policy Tally: **20/22**
HIGH

Overall Tally: **37.25/42.5**
HIGH

MAP's "LGBTQ Policy Tally" examines each state's LGBTQ policy climate, as measured by over 35 pro- or anti-LGBTQ laws and policies. These laws are grouped into seven major categories: relationship and parental recognition; non-discrimination; religious exemptions; LGBTQ youth; healthcare; criminal justice; and the ability for transgender people to correct name and gender markers on identity documents. See the state's full profile for more detailed information.

Scores as of 05/06/2023. For full state profile, visit: https://www.lgbtmap.org/equality_maps/profile_state/WA

Recommended citation: Movement Advancement Project. 2023. "State Equality Profile: Washington." https://www.lgbtmap.org/equality_maps/profile_state/WA. Accessed May 6, 2023.

Washington State's Equality Score in Detail

Washington's LGBTQ Laws and Policies

KEY

- ✔ Indicates state law or policy
- ✘ Indicates no law or policy
- ✔ Indicates local laws or policies and/or partial law
- Enumeration not applicable

Relationship and Parental Recognition	Sexual Orientation		Gender Identity	
	Law Exists?	Tally	Law Exists?	Tally
As a result of the 2015 U.S. Supreme Court decision in Obergefell, same-sex couples can marry nationwide and states must extend all the rights and benefits of marriage to same-sex couples. As a result, the following benefits are available to all married same-sex couples on the same basis they are available to married different-sex couples:				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✔ Marriage for Same-Sex Couples ✔ Medical Decision-Making Authority for Married Same-Sex Couples ✔ Stepparent Adoption for Married Same-Sex Couples ✔ Joint Adoption for Married Same-Sex Couples 	✔	1/1	—	—
Second-Parent Adoption for Unmarried Couples	✘	0/1	—	—
Family Services Nondiscrimination Laws				
Adoption Nondiscrimination Protections for LGBTQ Parents	✔	0.5/0.5	✔	0.5/0.5
Foster Care Nondiscrimination Protections for LGBTQ Parents	✔	0.5/0.5	✔	0.5/0.5
Recognition for Parents Using Assisted Reproduction	✔	1/1	—	—
Recognition of De Facto Parents	✔	1/1	—	—
State Family Leave Laws				
LGBTQ-Inclusive Definitions of Spouse/Partner	✔	0.25/0.5	—	—
LGBTQ-Inclusive Definitions of Children/Parents	✔	0.5/0.5	—	—
Subtotal		4.75/6		1/1
Relationship and Parental Recognition Total				5.75/7

State Nondiscrimination Laws	Sexual Orientation		Gender Identity	
	Law Exists?	Tally	Law Exists?	Tally
As a result of a June 2020 U.S. Supreme Court ruling, people in all states can seek recourse for employment discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity through the federal Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and federal courts.				
Employment Nondiscrimination Laws	✔	1/1	✔	1/1
Housing Nondiscrimination Laws	✔	1/1	✔	1/1
Public Accommodations Nondiscrimination Laws	✔	1/1	✔	1/1
Credit and Lending Nondiscrimination Laws	✔	1/1	✔	1/1
Nondiscrimination Policies for State Employees	✔	0.5/0.5	✔	0.5/0.5
Negative Law: State Bans Cities and Counties from Passing Nondiscrimination Laws	No Negative Law	0/-1	No Negative Law	0/-1
Subtotal		4.5/4.5		4.5/4.5
Nondiscrimination Total				9/9

*If state lacks statewide law, tally looks at local nondiscrimination ordinances in employment, housing, and public accommodations and provides partial points based on percent of LGBTQ population covered by local laws.

Religious Exemption Laws	Sexual Orientation		Gender Identity	
	Law Exists?	Tally	Law Exists?	Tally
Negative Law: Broad "RFRA" or Religious Exemption Law	No Negative Law	0/-0.5	No Negative Law	0/-0.5
Negative Law: Targeted Religious Exemption for Child Welfare Services	No Negative Law	0/-1	No Negative Law	0/-1
Negative Law: Targeted Religious Exemption for Medical Professionals	No Negative Law	0/-1	No Negative Law	0/-1
Negative Law: Targeted Wedding Services				
Private Wedding Services	No Negative Law	0/-0.5	—	—
State and Local Officials Providing Marriage Licenses	No Negative Law	0/-0.5	—	—
Subtotal		0/-3.5		0/-2.5
Religious Exemption Laws Total				0/-6

Criminal Justice Laws and Policies	Sexual Orientation		Gender Identity	
	Law Exists?	Tally	Law Exists?	Tally
Hate Crime Law Covering LGBTQ People	✔	1/1	✔	1/1
Ban on Panic Defense	✔	1/1	✔	1/1
Jury Service Nondiscrimination	✔	1/1	✔	1/1
Negative Law: HIV Criminalization Law	NEGATIVE LAW	-0.5/-1	NEGATIVE LAW	-0.5/-1
Negative Law: Restrictions on Drag Performances	No Negative Law	0/-1	No Negative Law	0/-1
Subtotal		2.5/3		2.5/3
Criminal Justice Total				5/6

LGBTQ Youth Laws and Policies	Sexual Orientation		Gender Identity	
	Law Exists?	Tally	Law Exists?	Tally
Nondiscrimination Laws and Policies Covering LGBTQ Students	✔	1/1	✔	1/1
Anti-Bullying Laws and Policies Covering LGBTQ Students	✔	1/1	✔	1/1
State Curricular Standards Required to Be LGBTQ-Inclusive	✘	0/1	✘	0/1
Negative Law: "Don't Say Gay" Law Barring or Explicitly Restricting Educators From Discussing LGBTQ People or Issues in Schools	No Negative Law	0/-1	No Negative Law	0/-1
Negative Law: State Law Requires Parental Notification of LGBTQ-Inclusive Curricula and Allows Parents to Opt Children Out	No Negative Law	0/-1	No Negative Law	0/-1
Negative Law: Laws Banning Local Schools and Districts from Passing LGBTQ Nondiscrimination and/or Anti-Bullying Policies	No Negative Law	0/-1	No Negative Law	0/-1
Negative Law: State Law Prevents Transgender Students from Participating in Sports Consistent With Their Gender Identity	—	—	No Negative Law	0/-1
Negative Law: State Law Prevents Transgender Students from Using School Facilities Consistent With Their Gender Identity	—	—	No Negative Law	0/-1
Negative Law: Forced Outing of Transgender Youth in Schools	—	—	No Negative Law	0/-1
Conversion Therapy Ban Covering LGBTQ Youth	✔	1/1	✔	1/1
Protections for LGBTQ Youth in the Child Welfare System	✔	1/1	✔	1/1
Subtotal		4/5		4/5
LGBTQ Youth Laws Total				8/10

Healthcare Laws and Policies	Sexual Orientation		Gender Identity	
	Law Exists?	Tally	Law Exists?	Tally
Private Health Insurance Nondiscrimination Laws	✔	1/1	✔	1/1
Negative Law: Ban on Best Practice Medical Care for Transgender Youth	—	—	No Negative Law	0/-1
Health Insurance Providers Banned from Excluding Coverage for Transgender-Specific Care	—	—	✔	1/1
State Medicaid Policy Related to Coverage for Transgender People	—	—	✔	1/1
Transgender Inclusive Health Benefits for State Employees	—	—	✔	0.5/0.5
Data Collection				
LGBTQ Adults	✔	0.5/0.5	✔	0.5/0.5
LGBTQ Youth	✘	0/0.5	✘	0/0.5
Subtotal		1.5/2		4/4.5
Healthcare Total				5.5/6.5

Ability for Transgender People to Correct Name and Gender Marker on Identity Documents	Sexual Orientation		Gender Identity	
	Law Exists?	Tally	Law Exists?	Tally
Changing Gender Marker on Driver's Licenses	—	—	✔	1/1
Changing Gender Marker on Birth Certificates	—	—	✔	1/1
Gender Neutral Options				
"X" Option on Driver's Licenses	—	—	✔	0.5/0.5
"X" Option on Birth Certificates	—	—	✔	0.5/0.5
Name Change Process	—	—	✔	1/1
Subtotal				4/4
Identity Documents Total				4/4

Grand Totals	Sexual Orientation Policy Tally	Gender Identity Policy Tally	Overall Tally
Totals	17.25/20.5	20/22	37.25/42.5
Ratings	HIGH	HIGH	HIGH



For more info on the Movement Advance Project (MAP) please visit: www.lgbtmap.org

O&P - From Page 13

walk hand in hand on the streets of their hometown. They had met in high school and moved away to find a place where they could be in love and accepted.

It was stories like these heard over and over again that kept the momentum to continue having the event each year.

The festival expanded in 2017 to include the Pride Prom the night before. It was the brainchild of longtime supporter Steven Puvogel, now the Pride Committee chair. It is meant to provide a safe, family-friendly event for all ages.

Two youth groups started up shortly thereafter: Harbor Include, based in Hoquiam, and Come As You Are, based in Elma. Both welcome individuals ages 13 to 18.

The fifth Grays Harbor Pride shifted from Levee Street to the historic Olympic Stadium in Hoquiam. But in 2019, largely because of weather issues, it was moved to the Shoppes at Riverside, a mall in South Aberdeen.

"This was a place we could spread out and we had plenty of parking," said Jen. "We didn't have to worry about food vendors because there were restaurants there, and it had a stage for the drag show and other acts."

And then came Covid, which precluded the group from holding in-person gatherings in 2020 and 2021; so the event went virtual. Several hours of drag and other acts, music and gaming



Photo by Kat Bryant

Drag Queen Delyla Delyte performs at the ninth annual Out & Proud Grays Harbor Pride at the Seaport in 2022.

were scheduled online. They also showed several short films of Harbor community members telling their stories.



Kat Bryant (she/her), a lifelong writer and editor, has been an Out & Proud board member since 2019. She lives in Hoquiam.

In 2022, Out & Proud held its largest Pride since 2014 at the Grays Harbor Historical Seaport in South Aberdeen, with 35 vendors and about 1,000 attendees. The Lady Washington, Aberdeen's resident tall ship, helped draw people – as did the drag show, as always, hosted by board member Caesar Hart.

The 10th annual Grays Harbor Pride festival will be held Sept. 23 at the Seaport. They're looking to attract a widely known act for this special event, with help from two community grants and plenty of donor support.

"We hope to keep growing and building awareness," said Jen. "We will continue to be a positive voice for the LGBT+ community."

**Out & Proud
Grays Harbor Coalition**

For more info visit:
www.opghc.com

Real Estate Market Update



by Charlotte Mullen
Windermere Real Estate
Ocean Shores

What is happening in the real estate market now? Is it picking up or staying neutral? How does it compare to last year? We'll look at Grays Harbor County and Ocean Shores (in particular) to shed some light on these questions.

Grays Harbor County

In the first quarter of 2023, home sales in Grays Harbor County declined 32.7% from the same time period in 2022. Of the 14 counties in Western Washington, Grays Harbor County had the third largest decline in sales, surpassed only by Thurston County (36.0%) and Jefferson County (36.9%). Home sales in all Western Washington counties fell when compared to

the final quarter of 2022. Lower sales activity was, in large part, due to lower levels of available listings in the first quarter of 2023. Home sales prices in Grays Harbor County fell 10.1% between Q1 of 2022 to Q1 of 2023 and the average number of days it took to sell a home was 76 days, up from 35 days in Q1 2022.

Slightly lower prices, higher average days on the market, improving mortgage rates, and fewer sales tend to favor home buyers.

(Source: "The Gardiner Report" produced by Matthew Gardiner, Chief Economist for Windermere Real Estate)

Ocean Shores

Ocean Shores is now experiencing more of a balanced market, according to the Northwest Multiple Listing Service, which means that it doesn't heavily favor sellers or buyers—it's a mixed bag. The total numbers of properties listed for sale has slightly increased in April 2023 versus the year before, while the number of closed

sales was down 40.9% from 2022. However, the number of properties under contract (pending sales) increased 43.5% in April 2023 versus March of this year indicating increasing buyer confidence. Even with the increase in pending sales, 2023 pended properties are 40% lower than April 2022 (when sales were very strong). The average list price in April this year was down 8.8% from 2022, but the average sold price this April was up 12.7% from April 2022 showing signs of appreciation.

Visitors are heading to Ocean Shores which is a good thing for real estate sales. January 2023 saw a large increase in the DOT visitor counts over 2022. The number of visitors increased in February, spiked in March, and lowered slightly in April. The high season (late June through September) should bring more potential buyers to Ocean Shores.

(Source: Northwest Multiple Listing Service)

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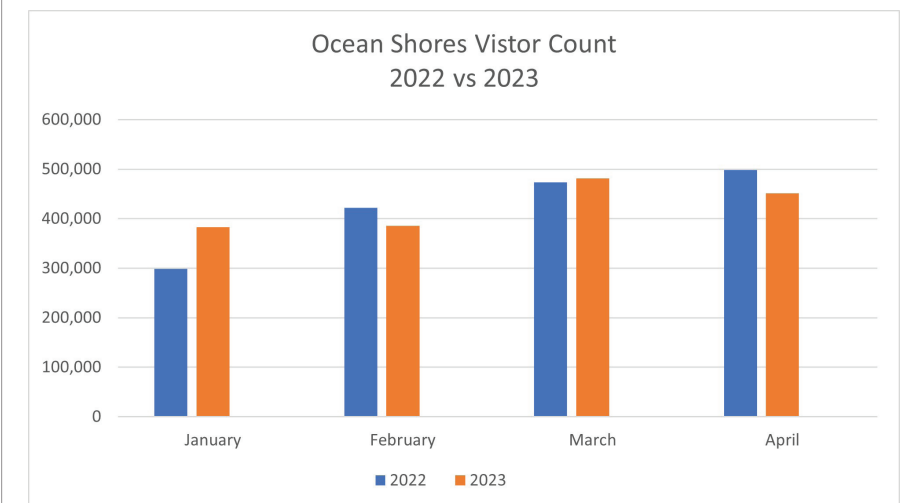
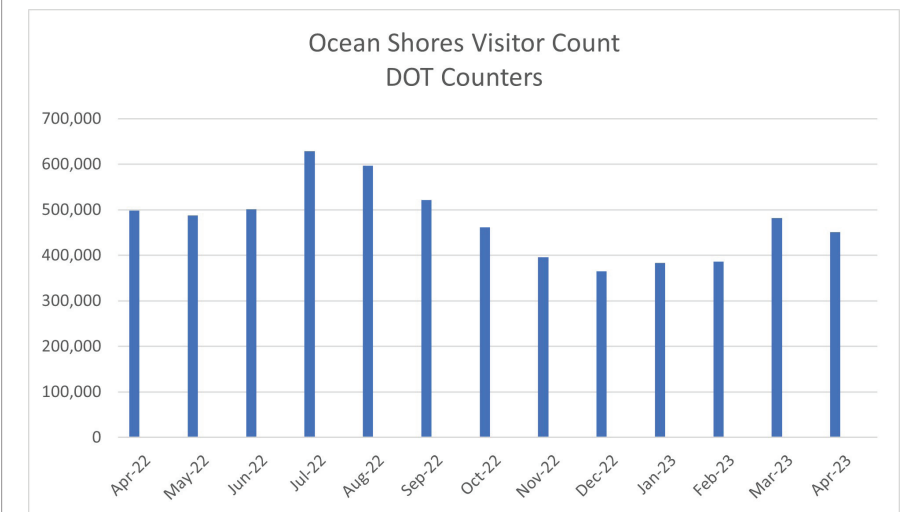
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What about mortgage rates?

Mortgage rates in the first quarter of 2023 were less volatile than last year and have come down slightly from the high in the last quarter of 2022. Matthew Gardiner, Chief Economist for Windermere Real Estate expects the Federal Reserve to pause rate increases after the May 4th quarter percent increase. He forecasts that mortgage rates will continue to move lower with occasional spikes and that they will be below 6% for the second half of this year. Lower mortgage rates should help fuel real estate sales.



Charlotte Mullen (she/her). "After leaving corporate marketing careers in banking and health care, I started selling real estate in Portland, Oregon in 2005. I moved to Ocean Shores in mid-2018 and began selling with Windermere Real Estate Ocean Shores in January 2020. We live in such a special place."



Resources

Events

Ocean Shores Fun

(Added June 2023)
Regional
Comprehensive online calendar of regional events, can be filtered by location.
<https://www.oceanshores.fun>

Coastal Pride

(Added June 2023)
Regional
Online calendar of regional events focused on the LGBTQA community, can be filtered by location.
<https://www.coastalpride.net>

Social

Out & Older in Ocean Shores

(Added June 2023)
Ocean Shores / North Beach
Private Facebook group fostering community for LGBTQA generally 50 years and older.
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/582414015695077>

LGBTQ+ Family & Allies - Ocean Shores/ North Beach

(Added June 2023)
Ocean Shores / North Beach
Private Facebook group for LGBTQ+ people, their parents, families and allies, resource and support.
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/osnballies>

Ocean Shores/North Beach LGBTQA+

(Added June 2023)
Ocean Shores / North Beach
Private Facebook group to share events, stories, news, make friends and support.
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/osnblgbtq>

Medical/Mental Health

BHR

(Added June 2023)
Hoquiam
Counseling LGBTQ
205 8th St
Hoquiam, WA 98550
800-825-4820

SeaMar

(Added June 2023)
Aberdeen
Medical and Counseling LGBTQ
1813 Sumner Ave
Aberdeen, WA 98520
360-538-1293

Advocacy/Outreach

North Beach Project Connect

(Added June 2023)
Ocean Shores
Putting you in touch with the information and services you need.
info@harborinclude.com
<https://nbprojectconnect.com>

Harbor Include

(Added June 2023)
Hoquiam
Harbor Include is a nonprofit organization serving teens between the ages of 13 to 18 years of age that are part of the LGBTQ community and their friends.
info@harborinclude.com
<http://harborinclude.com>

CAYA

(Added June 2023)
Come As You Are
206-307-9388
CAYA4youth@gmail.com
<https://abelhousefarm.wixsite.com/caya>

Out & Proud Grays Harbor Coalition

(Added June 2023)
Aberdeen
Resource Center, Community Outreach and Education
PO Box 173 Hoquiam, WA 98550
360-580-7774
outproudghc@gmail.com
<https://opghc.com>

Safe Schools Coalition

(Added June 2023)
Anti-bullying, anti-harassment and support for GLBT youth.
888-307-9275
info@safeschoolscoalition.org
<http://www.safeschoolscoalition.org>

Churches

Galilean Lutheran Church

(Added June 2023)
Ocean Shores
ALL are welcome. Come as you are.
824 Ocean Shores BLV NW
Ocean Shores, WA 98569
www.galileanlutheranchurch.com
churchoffice1419@gmail.com

Hoquiam Methodist Church

(Added June 2023)
Hoquiam
Reconciling Church
520 5th St, Hoquiam, WA 98550
360-533-1101

Aberdeen First Presbyterian

(Added June 2023)
Aberdeen
Open and accepting church.
420 N Broadway, Aberdeen, WA 98520
360-532-1330

Emergency/Helplines

GH Beyond Survival

(Added June 2023)
Aberdeen
Support for those impacted by sexual abuse.
360-533-9751
888-626-2640 (24-hr crisis line)
admin@ghbeyondsurvival.com
<http://www.ghbeyondsurvival.com>

Crisis Clinic Grays Harbor

(Added June 2023)
Hoquiam
360-538-2889
360-584-6569

Foster Care Helpline

(Added June 2023)
LGBT youth specifically.
866-LGBTTeen
800-227-8922 (STD Hotline)

Trevor Helpline

(Added June 2023)
24-hour suicide hotline for LGBT youth.
800-850-8078
<http://www.thetrevorproject.org>

State

Equal Rights Washington

(Added June 2023)
Ensure and promote dignity, safety and equality for all LGBTQ Washingtonians.
<https://www.equalrightswashington.org>

National

SAGE

(Added June 2023)
Advocacy & Services for LGBTQA+ Elders
<https://www.sageusa.org>

Movement Advancement Project (MAP)

(Added June 2023)
Independent nonprofit think tank working to create a thriving, inclusive, and equitable America.
<http://www.lbgmap.org>

Equality Federation

(Added June 2023)
Working collaboratively on critical non-partisan issues that affect how LGBTQ+ people experience the world from cradle to grave.
<https://www.equalityfederation.org>

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Southwest
Grays Harbor
County LGBTQA

Calendar

To view and post events on the calendar, please visit the Coastal Pride website:

www.coastalpride.net



SCHOOL - From Page 10

counselors in North Beach; Lisa Sem-Rodriguez at PBES, Cassie Conrad at OSES, and Jennifer Simmons at North Beach MS/HS. These three amazing educators, in coordination with their building administrators and countless other teachers and para educators have opened the dialogue about openness and acceptance of all kids. I will forever be thankful for educators who work diligently to ensure that "ALL" really means "ALL." North Beach embraces kids and families from all backgrounds, including the LGBTQ+ community. As we move forward to improve, grow, and expand opportunities and acceptance for all kids, community involvement and advocacy will remain key.



Andrew Kelly (he/him) has worked for 31 years as a public school educator serving as a music teacher, Assistant Principal, Alternative School Director, Principal, Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent in the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction. He is a father to six kids and a bonus dad to two, all of whom graduated or will graduate from public schools. He is married to Marlene Perez who currently serves as the Principal at Pacific Beach Elementary School. He currently serves as a retirement specialist and insurance broker with Bankers Life.

GALILEAN
LUTHERAN
CHURCH



*ALL are welcome.
Come as you are.*

824 Ocean Shores Blvd NW
Ocean Shores, WA 98569
360-289-3313
churchofficeglc1419@gmail.com
www.galileanlutheranchurch.com

Angela Renecker
Pastor


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