

Spring 2026

Page 2

Museum Director's
Message

Page 3

Historical Society
President's Message

Page 4

From the Collections
Room

Page 5

New Years Around
the World Comes to
Winter Festival

Bigfoot and UFOs

New Book

Page 6

Thank You 2025
Annual Fund Drive
Donors!

Page 7

Gift Membership
Form

Page 8

Calendar of Events

Traveling Trunk Program Travels Afar!

At the beginning of this school year, we received a very unusual request for a Traveling Trunk. Four years ago, a Columbia Valley Gardens Elementary School teacher moved to Port Angeles and now teaches there. She wrote us, "I miss your amazing presentations," and asked us to come do our Oregon Trail Traveling Trunk with her new school's 4th graders. She applied for and received a grant to pay for the trip at the end of February. This grant covered staff time, travel, and lodging for this educational program, so we were able to bring our signature Traveling Trunk to another region at no cost to the Museum.

Just over 50 students in two classes participated in the two-day Oregon Trail experience. They made journals and maps, passed around education collection artifacts, voted things off the wagon, and asked lots of great questions. "My students loved the program and were excited for the second day." Many of the students asked how far away our museum is and said they wanted to come visit even if it was a three-hour trip – in fact we had a family visit us the following weekend!



RA Long Class of '64 Yearbook Program

Last March the Museum was honored to be the venue for a special RA Long High School Class of '64 yearbook program complete with cake and refreshments. This program was hosted by CCHS Life Member Jerry Kelly who has presented several Museum programs



in the past. Jerry's yearbook program shared many images from yearbooks of bygone eras, with a particularly interesting section on hairstyles throughout the decades. This program packed the museum parking lot and meeting room with old and new friends and provided an opportunity to reminisce about times gone by. Thank you Jerry and friends for a wonderful program!

Historical Society Officers

Seth McNally

President

Erik Moser

Vice President

Mindy Heuer

Secretary

Bob Chace

Treasurer

Board of Directors

Ted Gruber

Dean Takko

Brad Thurman

Hillary Simon-Felix

Lee Kessler

Museum Staff

Joseph Govednik

Museum Director

Joanna Roland

Office Manager

Bill Watson

Collections Curator

Danielle Robbins

Education &

Public Programs Coordinator

MUSEUM HOURS

Tuesday - Saturday 10 am to 4 pm

Phone (360) 577-3119

E-mail

govednikj@cowlitzwa.gov

rolandj@cowlitzwa.gov

watsonb@cowlitzwa.gov

robbinsd@cowlitzwa.gov

Website

www.cowlitzcountyhistory.org

Museum Director's Message

With our new year we have had a change in leadership at the Historical Society. I want to express my sincerest thanks to our Past President, Lee Kessler, who has led our Society for just over three years. Lee's vision, dedication, and commitment to our organization was an inspiration to all. We are fortunate that our new President, Seth McNally, brings great enthusiasm and experience to his new role on our Board. Seth has done great work in past years with the Children's Discovery Museum and currently works with the Kelso-Longview Chamber of Commerce. His community connections, work ethic, and passion for local history are a great fit to continue the leadership in our organization. I am so grateful to work closely with both Lee and Seth and look forward to future progress.



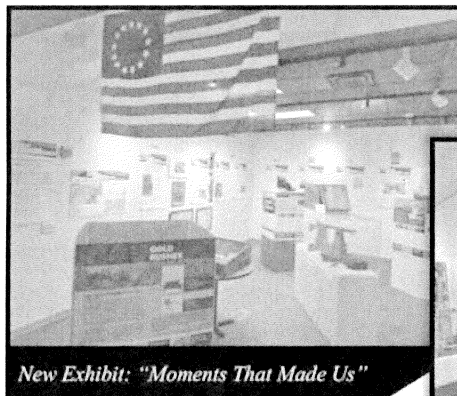
As you read this message, our 5th year of partnering with the Columbia Artist Association for the annual Spring Art Show will have wrapped up on April 18th. All these artworks were available for purchase with a portion of the proceeds supporting the Museum. This is always one of my favorite annual events where joyful colors on the walls contrast with the mix of gray and sunny skies of Spring.

We recently opened our latest temporary exhibit, "Moments That Made Us", which was a combined effort of several western state historical societies and created specifically to celebrate America's 250th anniversary from a western-state's perspective. As a component of this exhibit, we created a regional display of how people came to Cowlitz County over the past 250 years. This exhibit includes objects on loan from local citizens, including our featured artifact, an original Brown Bess musket from the era of the American Revolution. I invite you to visit this exhibit which samples events and stories through America's 250 years, along with a local flavor of immigration and migrations stories of how we came to Cowlitz County.

Warm Regards,

Joseph Govednik

Museum Director, Cowlitz County Historical Museum



New Exhibit: "Moments That Made Us"



5th Annual Spring Art Show

President's Message

I'll be honest... this is one of those roles that still makes me stop and think, "Wow, this is pretty cool." It is truly an honor to serve as President of the Cowlitz County Historical Society—and I'm having a lot of fun doing it.

I've always been a history guy. When I was younger, I was convinced I was going to grow up and be an archaeologist. And yes... I 100% wanted to be Indiana Jones. Fedora, adventure, hidden artifacts—the whole thing. And of course, growing up in the Pacific Northwest, *The Goonies* only made that dream bigger. Treasure maps, secret passageways, and the idea that there's history and adventure right under our feet... it stuck with me.

Spoiler alert: I did not become Indiana Jones. (Probably best for everyone involved.) But that curiosity? That never went away.

Instead, my path took me through marketing, education, radio, and nonprofit work—but at the center of it all has always been storytelling. And that's really what we do here. We tell stories. We preserve them. And sometimes, we help people discover something about their own community they never knew before—and that's pretty special.

I also want to take a moment to say a big thank you to everyone who supported our recent Annual Fund Drive. Seriously—we can't do this without you. Your support helps us keep preserving local history, growing programs, and making sure this museum continues to be a place for our community to connect and explore. As shared in past newsletters, that support is what keeps everything moving forward.

In February the Museum hosted its first Business After Hours with the Kelso-Longview Chamber. This event brought a great energy into the Museum as we welcomed our local business community. It was awesome seeing the space filled with conversation, laughter, and people experiencing the museum in a different way. Nights like that remind me—this place isn't just about history... it's about community.

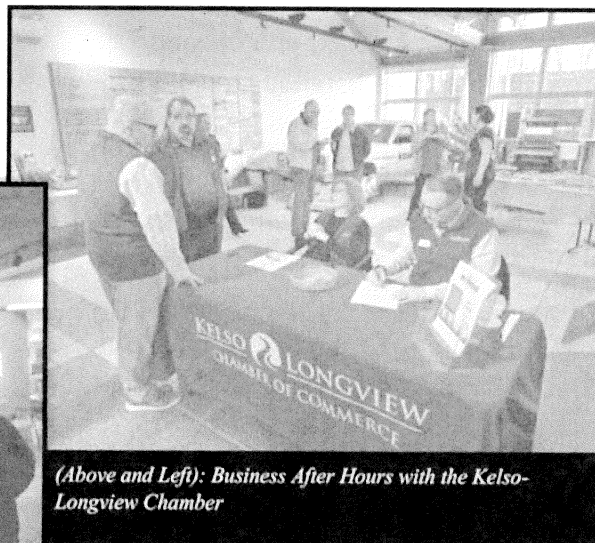
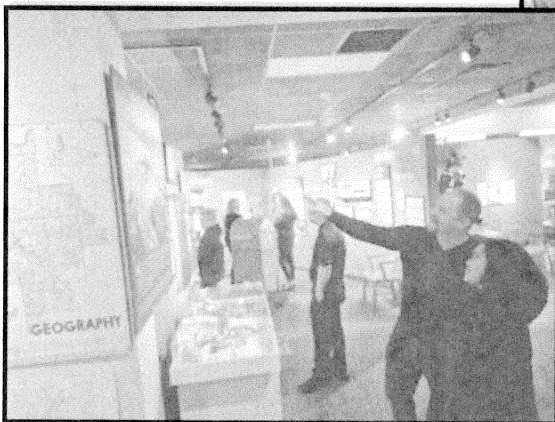
I'm really excited about what's ahead. There's a lot of good things coming, and I'm grateful to be part of it with all of you.

And hey... who knows—maybe there's still a little Indiana Jones or *Goonies*-style discovery waiting for us right here in Cowlitz County.

Sincerely,

Seth McNally

President, Cowlitz County Historical Society



(Above and Left): Business After Hours with the Kelso-Longview Chamber

From The Collections Room

The pace of collection donations has yo-yoed up and down through the winter months, with December and February being especially busy. Since the last newsletter we have received: a Weyerhaeuser millwright certification certificate; items and photos from the football career of David Richie; several Kelsonian Tribune wooden printing blocks; a small group of photos from Gertrude Rivers' time as Cowlitz County Treasurer; some Longview Ski Club patches and a trophy; a large group of Cowlitz Black Bears gear and ephemera; an R. A. Long High School newsletter and high-water photos from the winter of 1955-1956; a few Clark Kinsey logging photos; some Longview, Portland & Northern Railroad photos; a small group of 1980s paper bags from local businesses; a Gifford Pinchot forestry book; and a circa 1950 area map.

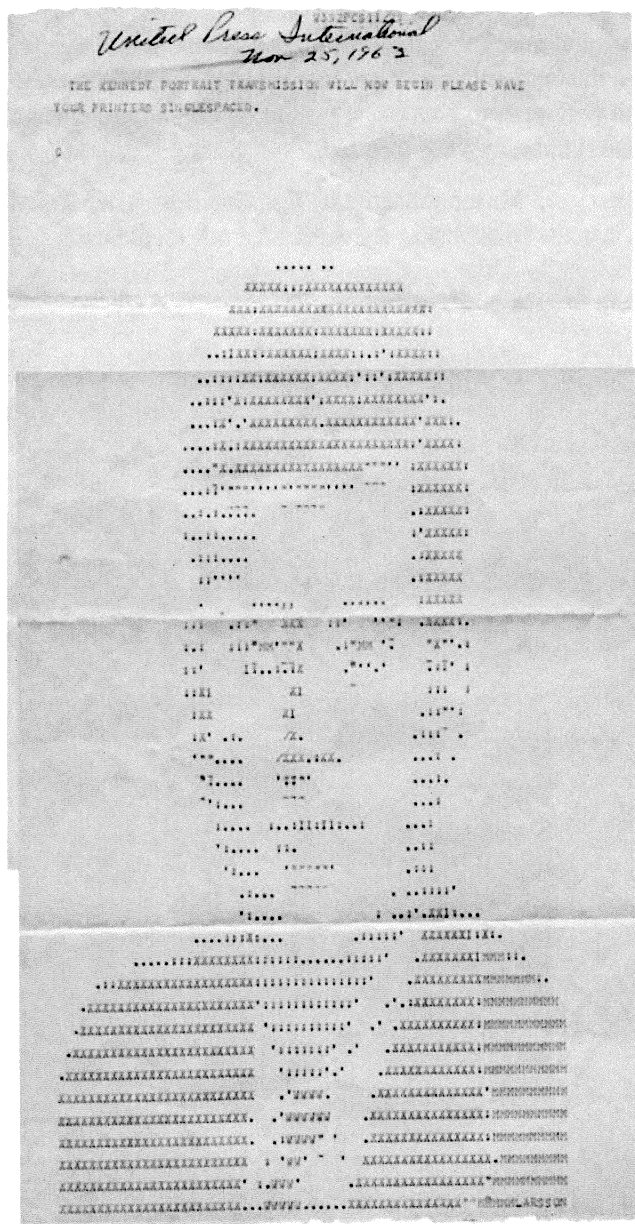
One other big donation we got in the last few months came from the Castle Rock Visitor's Center. In February they gave us four large boxes of old Cowlitz County Advocate newspapers. These issues cover many of the early years of the newspaper, including 1897, 1899, 1901-1903, and 1905-1925. Previously, the museum had only a few scattered issues of the Advocate from this time period. The newspapers are, however, in a fragile state. Ideally, we would like to digitize these issues to preserve their content and prevent them from having to be handled so often (the perfect job for some enterprising volunteer).

Another donation we got in February is physically smaller but packs a bigger emotional punch. Many of us have been asked the question, "Where were you when [insert big historical event here]?" Around here, it usually pertains to the Mt. St. Helens eruption. But for those old enough to remember, the assassination of President Kennedy in November 1963 was just as huge and earth-shattering. It was certainly no different for Vern and Lori Eaton of Longview.

The Eatons were part-owners of local radio station KEDO, and on that fateful morning of November 22nd, Vern was on the air, with Lori and their young daughter Tracy also in the studio. As the news came in on the station's AP/UP wire teletype, Vern tore off the piece of paper and had to read the tragic news on the

air. Tracy remembers her mother crying as he did. All these years, the Eaton family saved that impactful piece of teletype paper, complete with jagged top edge from being torn off the printer. Now that Vern and Lori have passed on, their daughters Tracy and Jan agreed that the Cowlitz County Historical Museum was the right place for this tiny piece of local and national history.

We thank all those who have donated items to help preserve our history. If you have items which could help us tell the stories of Cowlitz County, please contact us.



New Years Around the World Comes to Winter Festival

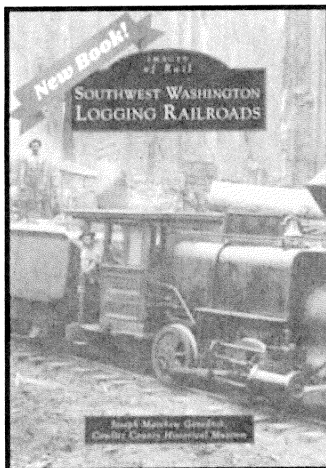
What do Ethiopia, Thailand, and India have in common? They celebrate a New Year other than January 1st. The beginning of each new year means different things to different cultures, and we were able to bring that to life at Winter Festival, held December 7, 2025. This was a brand new theme and covered not just the January 1st New Year celebrated by so much of the world, but also the Ethiopian New Year Enkutatsh, the Igbo people's Iri Ji festival, the Jewish New Year Rosh Hashanah, Diwali which is one of many New Years in India, the Lunar New Year (Chinese New Year), the Persian New Year Nowruz, Southeast Asia's Water Festivals such as Thailand's Songkran, and the Islamic Hijri New Year. "Passports" were stamped, crafts were made, and games were played all to commemorate traditions from around the world. In addition, two members of the Storytellers Network, Leslie Slape and Jennifer Cheney, told several traditional Asian stories. Mike Stephens of the Lower Columbia

Woodcarvers joined us and shared his wonderful carvings with visitors. And for the first time we had Santa Claus pay us a visit. Jim Cram has many years of experience bringing Santa's joy to area children. There was so much to do and learn, many displays laid out, authentic holiday recipes to take home, that families and volunteers alike were glad they came. Thank you to all the volunteers who make Winter Festival possible!



New Book!

A new Arcadia Publishing book is now available at our gift shop. Authored by CCHM Director Joseph Govednik, "Southwest Washington Logging Railroads" provides information and hundreds of images during the golden age of logging railroads. Stop by the gift shop or visit our online store to grab your copy today!



Bigfoot and UFOs

For the first time, the museum joined the Kid's Cave at the annual sQuatch Fest and Galactic Fest held at the Cowlitz County Fairgrounds, Saturday, January 31st. It's not every day you get an up-close sighting of—and maybe pose for a photo with—the elusive legend himself! Our table centered on folklore and cosmic themes, including a Draw your own Big Footprint craft and the very popular UFO in the Solar System tiddlywinks game. Additionally, four bonus story and craft times were presented at intervals by Joseph Govednik and Danielle Robbins: the "Ape Canyon" and "Maury Island to Rose Valley" stories, twice each, with Make a Bigfoot Mask or UFO crafts being offered.



Thank You 2025 Annual Fund Drive Donors!

COLUMBIA (\$1000 and over)

Collins Holding Company
Robert Chace
Charles and Cheryl Davison
Ken Glibert
Clara Lemmons
John Natt

COWLITZ (\$500 - \$999)

James Baker
Bud and Elaine Cockrell
Columbian Artists Association
Bruce Eyer
David and Janet Freece
Arne Mortensen
Pete and Karen Pickett
William Reade

LEWIS (\$250 - \$499)

Lesley Bombardier
Booth & Davis & Associates
PLLC
Edwin Brown
Robert & Barbara Danielson
Diane Dick
Joseph and Erin Govednik
Tom Gunn
Scott Luhn
Leslie Sammons Roth
John and Shirley Simpson
Dean and Debra Takko
Maryanne Wainwright
Dennis Weber &
Kris McElroy-Weber

Wanda K Wines
Richard Woods

KALAMA (\$100 - \$249)

Dr. Bruce Austr
Larry and Veryl Anderson
John Boatman
Maynard Brent
Rick Davey
Patricia Devin
Sharon Campbell
Phyllis Cavens
Susan Cunningham
Steve and Ann Hanson
Ted & Marilyn Herold
Allen and Dixie Gould
Joseph F. and Margaret W.
Govednik
Ted Gruber
Robert and Jill Hall
Peter and Jenny Isaacson
Ray & Bonnie Kahler
Roger & Nancy Karnofski
Linda King
Sarah Koss
Steve & Jayne Lafady
Beth Laufer
Ken Lutz
Don and Diane Manasco
John & Pauly McClelland
Richard McCool
Mark & Theresa McCrady
Carol McRae
David & Veronika Minthorn

Edward Phillips & Laurel Mur-
phy

Mike Phillips
Jerry Schroeder
Rosemary Siipola
Thomas and Myrna Stecker
Andre Stepankowsky
Blaine Tolby
Dick and Edith Uthmann
Juanita Wasser
Teri Weedman
Ebby Williams
Daniel Kerlee &
Carol Wollenberg

TOUTLE (up to \$99)

Fred and Janet Amrine
Robert Baldwin
Joanna Boatman
Deborah Burns
Don Denzinger
David and Pamela Eikrem
Darlene Goodman
Karen Green
Robert Guide
Richard Hallett
Byron Held
Donna Hilton
Marie LaFave
Vincent and Susan Lee
Craig Morris
Cathy Paul
Janice Stixrud

GIFT MEMBERSHIP FORM

Give a gift membership to the COWLITZ COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY!

The Cowlitz County Historical Society was founded in 1949 to discover, preserve, and interpret the history of Cowlitz County and Southwest Washington for the public's education and enjoyment.

THE RECIPIENT OF YOUR GIFT will receive the *Cowlitz Historical Quarterly* and historical society newsletters and invitations to special Museum events, as well as a 10% discount on all items sold in the Museum store as well as a 20% savings on custom printed photos from our collection. Our gift members are also eligible for a discounted membership in the Washington State Historical Society.

A membership in the Cowlitz County Historical Society makes a great gift! If you would like to buy a membership for a friend or family member, please fill in the information below.

YES, I/we would like to support the Cowlitz County Historical Society by giving a gift membership!

Enclosed is \$ _____ for the membership category indicated below. (Please check one box)

- General Membership \$50
- Sustaining Membership..... \$100
- Benefactor Membership..... \$150
- Sponsor Membership..... \$500
- Life Membership..... \$1,500

For gift memberships at the Sustaining Level or higher, the recipient will also receive free admission to all NARM-affiliated museums, Visit <http://narmassociation.org>

Your Name _____ Phone _____ Date _____

Address _____ E-mail _____

Gift Member's Name _____ Phone _____
Address _____
When it is time to renew this gift membership, would you like the renewal notice sent to: <input type="checkbox"/> Yourself <input type="checkbox"/> Your Gift Member

Check enclosed Visa/Mastercard Visa/MC # _____

Amount Enclosed \$ _____ Exp. Date _____ Signature _____

Please make checks payable to: Cowlitz County Historical Society • 405 Allen Street • Kelso WA 98626

CALENDAR

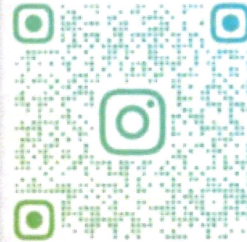
Museum QR codes below

Calendar of Events – Spring 2026

May 7th at 7pm: An American Journey with Thuy Vo, Past City of Longview Councilmember and local businessman.

June 4th at 7pm: "250 Years of Roots and Routes: Tracing How Families Came to Washington" with Crystal Hicks, Head of Collections, Washington State Library

Follow us!



COWLITZCOUNTYHISTORICALMUSEUM



405 ALLEN STREET
KELSO, WA 98626

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT #66
KELSO, WA