

# SHORE LINES

## Local News & Events

### Bayview Community Council

#### JANUARY 2024



## Crafting Dreams *by Sheryl Puckett*

Imagine embarking on a cross-country quest to find that one place to call home, a place where you can plant your roots and build a life. In the early 2000s, **Will Branson** and his wife made a commitment to find the place they wanted to settle to raise a family. Then, one day he discovered the small, quiet town of Athol. This is the story of how Will Branson, the man behind **Athol Ironworks**, found his home, his passion and his community.

Athol Ironworks is a place where artistic blacksmithing, craftsmanship, and creativity meld. Will's product line isn't static; it evolves throughout the year. From seasonal items when he attends fairs to the custom pieces that he forges upon request, Will's creations reflect a blend of artistic expression and handmade expertise.

Will Branson: "I've been a maker and a tinkerer my whole life from fixing cars to building computers. I can say the path that started me towards blacksmithing started about 15 years ago and it eventually got to a point where folks wanted me to start taking commissions."

The essence of being a blacksmith lies in the art of forging, an age-old tradition that Will finds immensely captivating. Teaching classes has become an integral part of his journey, where he gets to share his knowledge and see the pride in his student's faces.

Will Branson: "I would definitely call myself a blacksmith. The overwhelming majority of the work I do is with

a hammer, forge, and anvil."

Athol Ironworks is not just about creating; it's also about sharing the craft. Will has partnered up with **Fire Iron Forge**, an established blacksmithing school in Rathdrum and both are currently offering classes out of Will's shop in Athol.

Will Branson: "We have the blacksmithing Fundamentals classes, which follow the Artists Blacksmithing Association of North America (ABANA) curriculum. We also have knife making and seasonal classes."

Safety is paramount when working with fire and Athol Ironworks ensures that students have access to a range of protective gear. Will is dedicated to making safety a top priority for everyone in his classes. The shop uses both propane and coal forges with temperatures reaching up to 2000 degrees Fahrenheit for the former and over 3000 degrees for the latter.

Will Branson: "Anytime you're dealing with fire there are safety concerns, but we've done our best to mitigate chances of injury. Before anyone gets near the forge, we conduct safety procedures."

The world of blacksmithing isn't limited to any specific age or gender. Will proudly mentions the participation of boys and girls of all ages in his classes. His favorite memory includes a Girl Scout Troop crafting their copper bracelets during an introduction to copper smithing class.

For those considering blacksmithing classes, Will recommends committing at least two hours a week to get the most out of the experience. While this is not mandatory, it provides an ideal timeframe to work, build skills and bond with classmates.

Will Branson: "That's usually enough time to get work done, build muscle and calluses but it's not required. I offer flexibility for diverse schedules."

Will's passion for blacksmithing extends beyond the workshop. He frequently hosts live demonstrations at various events, including craft fairs, renaissance fairs, and over-landing and prepping groups. These demonstrations give the public a firsthand look at the art of blacksmithing.

Will Branson shares, "I love participating in live demonstrations. They're a great way to connect with the public. I have several events throughout the year."

Will was able to get knife classes going again and start a new blade smithing curriculum. He also launched his Zombie Mower Machete classes. Axe and sword classes are also coming very soon. For more information on classes or questions contact him at:

[atholironworks@protonmail.com](mailto:atholironworks@protonmail.com)

Lastly, Will adds, "Athol really has grown since we moved here 9 years ago. We still love the area and the people we've come to know and still thank God every day for bringing us here."



# Mystery Solved

by Sheryl Puckett

In our previous article titled "What Triggered the Bernard Peak Rockslide?" published in December 2023, we explored the intriguing possibility that the 1964 Great Alaska Earthquake might have been linked to the monumental rockslide on Bernard Mountain.

Thanks to a Shore Line reader, it has been discovered that the rockslide on Bernard Mountain occurred in 1962, two years prior to the Alaskan earthquake in 1964.

A recent article from the **Idaho Statesman Newspaper** sheds light on the actual circumstances surrounding the Bernard Peak rockslide. According to this source, the event in 1962 involved a 6-foot wave. The adverse weather conditions at the time may have contributed to a fortunate circumstance because there was an absence of boats in the area which potentially led to saved lives.

Furthermore, the article suggests that recent heavy rains might have played a role in loosening the hillside, leading to the rockslide.

We remain committed to delivering engaging stories to our readers.

## Shining a Light



Have you ever wondered if the Bayview sign coming into town could extend its greeting into the night? Well, wonder no more! We are excited to share, thanks to the unanimous decision by the Bayview Community Council Board members, our sign that marks Bayview's 100th year will soon

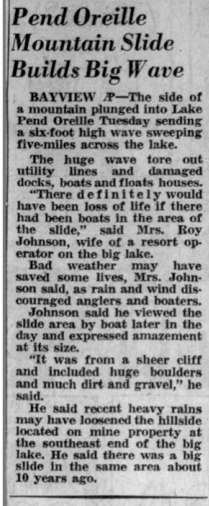
be adorned with solar lights, casting a warm glow on our beloved entrance even after the sun sets.

Since its installation, by the Centennial Committee, the Bayview Community Council organization has been tasked with maintaining the sign's beauty and visibility.

## Sad News

by Sheryl Puckett

During the summer months, chance encounters at the Bayview Post Office with Bayview resident **Sam Silva** became a delightful routine. In our last conversation, Sam beamed with joy as he proudly showed me a photo of his granddaughter. Sam and his wife Pam were long time Bayview residents. Pam played a significant role in my life when she babysat my daughter, along with her son, Matt, a considerable time ago. My thoughts and condolences go out to Pam and Matt. The memorial service date is not determined yet.



# The SMART Approach

by Dr. Cecilia Fry, a Bayview resident

There are several New Year Resolutions that are very popular: eat healthier, exercise more and lose weight. If you are considering one of these broad categories, I would like to provide you with a tool that can help achieve lasting change. The tool is called setting **SMART** goals. S-M-A-R-T is an acronym to help you remember the key elements of goal setting. The instructions for setting a SMART goal is as follows:



**S-Specific** – Write down the details of your goal. Be very specific about what you want to do. For example, "I will ride my exercise bike for 30 minutes per day, 5 days a week from January 1st – April 30th"

**M-Measurable**- Make sure that your goal is measurable and have a method to track your behavior. Using the above example, we could write the minutes that we ride our exercise bike down on a calendar or spreadsheet.

**A-Achievable**- Make your goal a challenge but realistic. Only set a goal that you feel confident that you will be able to achieve. You will want to stretch yourself somewhat but if it is not realistic, it is less likely that you will have lasting change.

**R-Relevant** – Set a goal that is relevant to your desired outcome. In our example, we are going from being sedentary to doing regular exercise. 150 minutes of moderate exercise a week is the recommended standard. Therefore, our SMART goal is very relevant.

**T-Time connected** - How often and how long will you make this change? In our example it is for 30 minutes, 5 days a week for 4 months. It is best to set an end-date. At that time you can make a new SMART goal.

Enjoy reaping the benefits of your SMART goals!

## Athol Pickle Ball?

The idea of indoor pickleball at the **Athol Community Center** was suggested by Bayview resident John Mackey. John reached out to the Bayview Pickleball group for help and suggestions. If any Athol resident is interested in spearheading this, please contact John:  
[coloradomackey1@gmail.com](mailto:coloradomackey1@gmail.com)

*TO ALL HAPPY NEW YEAR*

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