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## Expo and Bite of Grays Harbor at AHS on Saturday

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BY JILLIAN BEAUDRY

The Daily World

Businesses and groups from around Grays Harbor will be setting up booths and giving away freebies and candy at Expo Grays Harbor & Bite of Grays Harbor this Saturday.

The Grays Harbor Chamber of Commerce has provided the event in several incarnations for families for the past 20 years. This year, it is from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Saturday at Aberdeen High School.

"It's really showing the goods and services available on the Harbor," said Angela Endres, the office and events manager for the chamber.

This is just the third year the event has been called the Expo and there are a ton of exhibitors in two of the high school gyms for people to peruse on Saturday including Scentsy, Dennis Co., local radio stations, the Grays Harbor PUD, City of Hoquiam, Hoquiam Business Association, The Daily World, Satsop Business Park, NewWood and Kiewit General, just to name a few.

"The response to this year's Expo has been enormous," said Callie White, the chamber's vice president of communications. "We have never sold so many booths so fast. Local companies really feel that this year is a turnaround point for the Harbor. With the pontoon project breaking ground, all the amazing new businesses at the Port, Cosmo Specialty Fibers in Cosmopolis, and NewWood and Grays Harbor Energy up at Satsop Business Park, everyone is feeling reinvigorated and that it's time to put their best foot forward for their business."

Endres said these companies will not be accepting job applications or resumes, but they will be able to sell their products, provide information, make appointments and give price quotes at the Expo.

The chamber will be handing out directories of the exhibitors on Saturday so those attending don't miss their favorites, Endres said.

In addition to the freebies and information from local businesses, some local restaurants and bakeries will be in the high school commons Saturday as part of the Bite of Grays Harbor.

Businesses such as the Dog House, Clarks Restaurant, Nancy's Bakery, Deidre's Deli and Half Moon Bay will be selling lunch items. Clarks will be giving away its famous ice cream, Endres said, and Nancy will have her cinnamon rolls for those looking for a breakfast option earlier in the day.

Endres suggests bringing cash Saturday for the Bite because she did not know if the restaurants would be accepting credit or personal checks.

And while your family is grabbing some grub on Saturday, it will be treated to entertainment provided by the Grays Harbor Banjo Band and the Hoquiam High School and Aberdeen High School jazz bands.

There is also a chance for a scavenger hunt with prizes Saturday. Pick up a passport at the event and find the 10 exhibitors listed. Each of the 10 exhibitors will provide you with a stamp. Once you fill your entire passport, return it to event volunteers at the chamber's booth and you will be entered into a drawing to win a box of crab from Ocean Company or other gift baskets.

About 5,000 people attended last year's event, and Endres hopes the same amount take their Saturday to come out -- if not more.

"You might find something you did not know that we had here," Endres said.



Dan Jackson | The Daily World Shayla Knottingham applies frosting flowers to a Barbie cake at the Suzie's Cakes booth at last year's Bite of Grays Harbor.

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