



# Winter Warmers change 'frightful' to 'delightful'

Heat up the holidays celebrating with friends

Story & Photos by Tracy Beard

**W**eather forecasters predict this winter will be even colder than last year, when many areas in the Pacific Northwest felt like Arctic conditions. Anticipating frigid winter nights, my friend, Christy, and I ventured out to see what some of the local restaurants, public houses, and taverns might be offering to help keep their customers toasty this holiday season.

in one spot and walk to The Carriage Restaurant & Lounge, The Bistro, and The Breakroom Bar at the Mill City Grill.

We began our adventure at The Carriage Restaurant & Lounge, which sports several TVs, dartboards, and lottery machines. Whether you want to watch a game, compete with friends, or try to hit the jackpot, this lounge offers plenty to do. The wood beam ceilings and chandeliers give the place a rustic but warm and inviting feel.

Andrew, the bartender, whipped up a Hot Captain Morgan® Pumpkin Pie. This warming delight contains coffee, Captain Morgan® Original Spiced Rum, pumpkin pie spice, Bailey's Original Irish Cream, creamer, cinnamon, and Kahlua. Cinnamon sugar coats the rim, and whipped cream floats on the top. This sweet and tasty cocktail will cut through any evening's frost.

The Bistro, a fine dining restaurant located above the Country Folks



Deli, hosts special dinner events throughout the year along with wine tasting nights. Live music livens the atmosphere on most Thursday and Friday evenings. Tess, the night manager, made Christy and me the Bistro's version of a Spanish coffee. She blended hot coffee — mentioning it's Guse's Gourmet Coffee, roasted in Longview — with fresh orange juice, Gran Gala Liqueur, and Bacardi 151°. Tess decorated the drink with whipped cream and a Bordeaux cherry. These cherries are not the dyed red Maraschinos most of us are familiar with; they are deep-dark purple cherries that pack a punch with incredibly rich flavor.

For our last stop in downtown Longview, we visited The Breakroom Bar at The Mill City Grill. Once inside the Grill, head upstairs and take a seat in the spirited bar and ask for Trina's holiday concoction, the Salted Caramel Cider Toddy. Trina owns and operates the bar and restaurant.

We sat at the bar so we could watch the bartender make our beverage. The bartender began by salting the rim of the glass and then drizzling caramel all over the inside. She mixed Crown Royal Regal Apple, an apple-flavored whiskey, together with hot apple cider, poured it in the glass, stirred it with a cinnamon stick and garnished the glass with a slice of apple. The apple flavor stood front and center, and the caramel added an additional level of sweetness. The salted rim cut through the sugar, balancing the flavors to perfection.



Cocktails, clockwise from top: Spanish Coffee; Hot Captain Morgan Punkpin Pie; Winter Dream; Salted Caramel Cider Toddy; Spiked Hot Chocolate.

The next two places to visit are not in the immediate downtown area of Longview: Porky's Public House & Eatery and The Office 842. You'll be driving to these, so be sure to recruit a designated driver for the group or get one of your favorite teenagers to drop you off and pick you up.

Porky's Public House & Eatery is a fun, energetic establishment. Located on Industrial Way near the local mills, it attracts a robust after-work crowd and hosts live music throughout the year. On the night of our arrival, JR, one of the bartenders, invented on-the-spot a holiday drink he named Winter Dream. He combined Arctic's White Hot Chocolate mix with Captain Morgan®

Original Spiced Rum and pumpkin-flavored Kahlua.

Topped with whipped cream and a chocolate drizzle, this rich and creamy dessert-like cocktail warmed me to the bone.

The Office 842, a trendy spot offering gourmet small plates, radiates a sophisticated and lively club atmosphere. I arrived alone that night and Brittany, The Office's mixologist and night manager, crafted a scrumptious new surprise for me to sample. She constructed a simple syrup of cinnamon and plums with Captain Morgan® Original Spiced Rum and scalding water. She topped off her Spiced Plum Toddy with whipped cream and sprinkled it with cinnamon. A cinnamon stick garnished the innovative and delightful beverage. Brittany thought outside of the box on this one as the flavors were familiar, yet new and exciting. The drink is certainly one to enjoy encountering this season.

Amazing holiday winter warmers abound on the other side of the border in Oregon, too. The historic Goble Tavern on Highway 30, just six miles east of Rainier, abounds with pool tables and TVs to help keep visitors entertained. Michelle, one of the bartenders, created a Spiked Hot Chocolate. She poured a generous amount of steaming hot chocolate into a mug and laced it with Captain Morgan® Original Spiced Rum. Topping the chocolate delight with whipped cream, she finished with a liberal drizzle of chocolate sauce. My sense of traditional hot chocolate rose to a new level with the rum infusion. This "adult cocoa" may knock your socks off, so beware.

Remember the song, "Let it Snow"? Dean Martin sang, "Oh the weather outside is frightful, but the fire inside is so delightful." Assemble a group of your adult friends and loved ones and light the fire in your bellies by sampling a few of these local winter warmer creations available this holiday season. But wherever you go — even if you decide to stay home and create your own concoctions — sharing winter warmers is sure to make everyone's spirit bright!

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**WHERE TO FIND WINTER WARMERS**

**LONGVIEW, WA**  
 The Carriage House & Lounge  
 1334 12th Ave, Longview, WA

**The Bistro**  
 1329 Commerce Ave

**Mill City Grill**  
 1260 Commerce

**The Office 842**  
 842 Washington Way

**Porky's Public House & Eatery**  
 561 Industrial Way

**Red Kitchen**  
 858 15th Ave.  
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**Teri's Restaurant**  
 3225 Ocean Beach Hwy

**RAINIER, OR**  
 Alston Pub & Grub  
 25196 Alston Rd

**Evergreen Tavern**  
 115 E 1st St

**Goble Tavern**  
 70255 Hwy-30

Note: This is only a partial list of the many establishments serving spirits and where readers can order a special hot holiday cocktail.