

## Bits 'n' Pieces

# Clark teacher still has the music in him

**G**erard Smith, a Clark College English professor, knew he wanted to become a rock star after picking up the guitar as an 18-year-old. He clung to that dream through college and even played in a duo while teaching music after graduation.

But eventually, Smith said he decided, "Maybe I need a second career choice."



**Gerard Smith**

That led Smith, 52, to become an English professor. He has taught at Clark College for the past 17 years. In that time, he got married and raised a family. But he's giving his rock star dreams one more shot.

Next month, Smith will perform a pair of solo acoustic gigs at Krakow Koffeehouse in Portland. The Kalama resident, who goes by the stage name of Donnelly Smith, has performed sparingly at venues in Portland over the past few months. He hopes the gigs at Krakow Koffeehouse are the first in a series of regular performances.

Smith will perform his brand of acoustic blues and alternative rock at noon on Jan. 10 and Jan. 24.

So why is Smith back on stage? "I'm doing it seriously, but I have no expectations. I'm just going to keep doing it, and if things happen, that's cool," he said. "It's just something I love to do."