

Labor history meet set

Local history, contemporary workers' issues and music to be featured

ASTORIA — Respected Oregon historians Irene Martin, Bryan Penttila and Regan Watjus will discuss the Astoria area's industrial and labor history at a day-long mini-conference on Saturday, March 14 at the Columbia River Maritime Museum.

"The coastal city has a vibrant and sometimes volatile labor history," said Ron Verzuh, a labor historian and Oregon vice-president of the Pacific Northwest Labor History Association, the sponsor of the event. "The history of radical Finnish trade unionists speaks to the richness of the region's labor history as does the celebrated Astoria Labor Temple."

Coffee and introductions will take place from 9:30 to 10 a.m. Labor educator Marcus Widenor will moderate the labor history panel from

10 to 11:30 a.m.

At lunchtime, Nathan Moore and Kate Downing of the Eugene-based Low Tide Drifters, fisherpoet Mary



Eugene-based Americana band The Low Tide Drifters will perform and discuss their labor and social issues music. notforsale Submitted photo by Brian Halbrook

Garvey and banjo-playing folklorist Joe Seamons will play and discuss their labor and social issues music.

The mini-conference will also address the growing minimum wage movement represented by groups like \$15 NOW. "Our Oregon" research director Daniel Morris, Oregon School Em-

ployees Association staff member Mimi Khalili, and Portland labor activist Ryan Wisnor will offer their views on low-wage concerns at a panel moderated by labor historian Bob Bussel from 1:30 to 3 p.m.

At the end of the day, Pacific Northwest historian and labor educator Norm Diamond will lead a discussion about the future of labor history in the region from 3:15 to 4 p.m.

To register, email Verzuh at rverzuh@shaw.ca. There is no registration fee, but participants will be asked to complete a registration form. Those who wish to join the PNLHA may do so at the registration table.

The PNLHA was founded in 1968 as a nonprofit association dedicated to preserving the history and heritage of workers in Oregon, Washington and British Columbia. Its next annual conference will be held at SeaTac in Seattle from May 1 to 3.

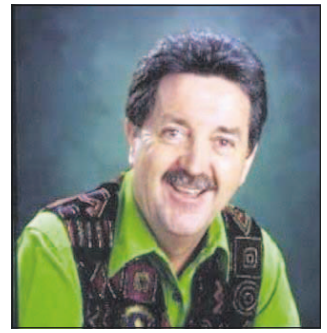
Liberty Theater kicks off new Third Thursday Comedy Series

ASTORIA — The Liberty Theater's Third Thursday Comedy Series begins two days after St. Patrick's Day with an Irish comedian. George Casey brings "A Night of Laughter with the King of Blarney" at 7 p.m. Thursday, March 19.

Casey was born in a remote seaside village on the west coast of Ireland legendary for its storytelling. Growing up in a large family, he saw humor everywhere and honed his skills as a comic.

Casey has been entertaining audiences all over the U.S. with his self-deprecating sense of humor and clean jokes.

Some of the acts Casey has opened for and toured with include Rosemary Clooney, The Osmond Brothers, Ray Price, Three Dog Night, Brooklyn Bridge, Donald O'Connor and Bobby Vinton. He performed with Vinton as his special guest in Vinton's Blue Velvet



Submitted photo Comedian George Casey will perform at the Liberty Theater on Thursday, March 19.

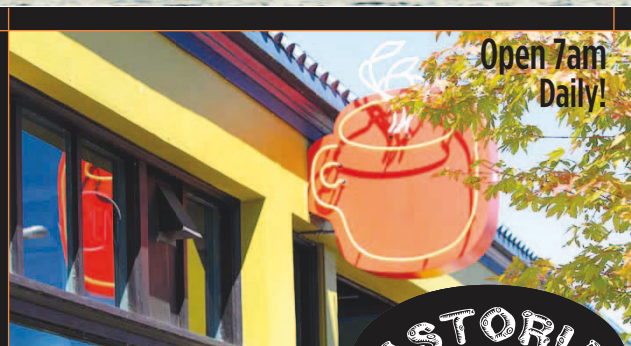
Theatre in Branson, Missouri, until its close in 2002. He is a regular act at The Riviera Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas.

Tickets are available at the Liberty Theater box office; call 503-325-5922, ext. 55 or visit ticketswest.com

Another Third Thursday Comedy Show will take place April 16 featuring ventriloquist Lynn Trefzger.

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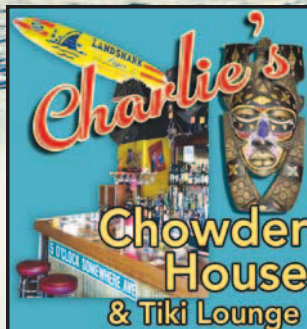
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