

# FROM THE COVER

an inside look at northeast oregon's  
arts and entertainment scene

## Tiller's Folly returns to La Grande

By Lisa Britton  
EO Media Group

LA GRANDE — Tiller's Folly is returning to town for the first time in five years.

The band will play Feb. 15 at Eastern Oregon University, on its return trip from a Valentine's Day concert in Blackfoot, Idaho.

"What a great opportunity to promote a show in La Grande. I'm really looking forward to getting back to my hometown," said Nolan Murray, a 20-year member of Tiller's Folly.

The concert will be held in EOU's McKenzie Theatre in Loso Hall. Doors open at 7 p.m. and the show starts at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are available at the EOU Bookstore, at La Grande Stereo & Music and at the door. Cost is \$20 general, \$15 for students and seniors.

Tiller's Folly was founded 23 years ago. At one time, it was a six-

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— NOLAN MURRAY

piece band with nine Irish dancers.

"The alumni (list) of Tiller's is pretty lengthy," Murray said.

Current members are Murray (fiddle, mandolin, mandocaster, banjo, viola, guitar), Bruce Coughlan (songwriter, lead vocals, guitar, bodhran, flute, whistle) and Laurence Knight (bass, vocals).

For this month's tour, however, Lonnie Knechtel will be filling in for Knight on bass.

Tiller's Folly is based in Canada. Murray now lives in the far northwest corner of Washington, and Coughlan and Knight live just north in British Columbia.

The band's style of music is described as acoustic roots, Celtic, Canadiana and Americana.

Murray defines "acoustic roots" as "a little bit of everything. We have a lot of different flavors. We cover a variety of genres."

The band has toured the U.K. eight times, primarily in Scotland.



Tiller's Folly — (from left) Nolan Murray, Bruce Coughlan and Laurence Knight — is based in Canada but has roots in La Grande, Murray's hometown.

"We were a little apprehensive going to Scotland and playing Celtic music," Murray said. "But the next year, they invited us back."

They've also played in 37 states. "From one end of Canada to the other, one end of the U.S. to the other," he said.

Tiller's Folly has released nine albums. When they play, nearly all of the songs are original.

"It's storytelling, wrapped in a rich tapestry of music," Murray said.

More about the band and its music can be found at [www.tillersfolly.com](http://www.tillersfolly.com).

### NOLAN MURRAY

Murray has a long history as a multi-instrumentalist, and his touring/recording career has spanned decades. Highlights of awards include Oregon State Fiddle Champion, Top Ten Grand Masters Champion, Top Ten U.S. National Fiddle Champion, International World Bluegrass Championship Band, three-time BCCMA Instrumentalist of the Year and Western Canadian Bluegrass Fiddle Champion.

### BRUCE COUGHLAN

Coughlan is a true bard (a collector of songs) and the founding

member of Tiller's Folly. A career performer touring throughout western Canada since his teens, Coughlan has developed a keen knowledge of the history of the Pacific region while obtaining a solid background in performing and music.

### LAURENCE KNIGHT

Knight has more than 40 years of performing and recording experience, during which time he has performed with many bright lights of the Vancouver music scene. He has also had the opportunity to produce and record with numerous artists.

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