

Nightlife After Kids

Yes, it's possible: a primer. BY MATT NEELY

My first daughter was born and I imagined fun days were over. I could see myself trying to take kids to a late-night rock concert: screaming, embarrassing meltdowns, repeated tearful complaints. "Daddy, can we go now?" or "Daddy, my ears hurt!" Then I would be thrown in bad-parent prison.

I read the entertainment section in many newspapers, and felt as if I were living on a different planet. I sadly resigned myself to my new, boring life. Plus, I was getting older — can't stay up late, don't even want to. I still love live music and dancing, but the world doesn't seem to cater to families.

Then I made an important discovery: Corvallis has a decent selection of *early* evening music events.

Decaf and Deadwood

My first choices are the Downtown Corvallis Beanery or the New Morning Bakery on Friday and Saturday nights. The Beanery has live music every Friday and Saturday night from 8 to 10; New Morning has music most weekends from 7:30 to 9:30 pm. Folk, rock, blues, jazz, swing — I've seen it. The shows are free, which fits nicely with a tight budget. Other parents and kids are there and my girls have made fast friends.

A couple weeks ago, I went to the Beanery with my two daughters (ages 2 and 4) and we watched **Deadwood Revival**, a bluegrass/old-timey duo that got my girls shrieking and dancing in front of the stage.

Being a musician myself, I appreciated the energetic, percussive performance and tight vocal harmonies. Just before 9, it was time to go. My youngest was ready for bed and approaching the inevitable "meltdown."

Back in May, we went saw **Melange** at New Morning. A combo of fiddle, a hammer-

dulcimer and guitar, Melange played a fascinating mix of gypsy, swing and Russian folk tunes. We got our desserts and sat at the back of the room near the play area. The girls weren't very interested in the music, but they were contented playing with blocks and toy trucks while I listened. The play area saved the day.

It's the Bomb

Another early-evening entertainment venue is Bombs Away Café, with frequent live shows and great food. Bombs Away has restaurant-style seating in the front and a bar in the back. The bands play on a stage in the restaurant area and the sound is piped back into the bar through the sound system.

Thursday evenings expect to see some really fine jazz, with two artists alternating weeks. One week it's **Neal Grandstaff** and friends, the next it's the **John Bliss Xtet**. The

sound system is kept down to a dull roar, good for sensitive young ears. The girls are less tolerant of loud music than my fundamentalist grandma was!

Deli Style

Perhaps the most involved my kids have ever been in one of these events was when we went to Old World Deli on a Saturday night for the **Old-Time Fiddlers**. I brought my guitar, my oldest daughter brought her ukelele

and we sat in the song circle playing along with the rest of the "old-timers."

Up on the stage, about 10 people sat down with their instruments. We went around the circle, each one of us choosing a song to play and then "performing" it as a group. Sometimes, the songs sounded pretty good. Other times, well ... at least we were having fun. No matter how the songs came out, though, the audience was appreciative and the atmosphere was light-hearted.



Early Bird Corvallis Entertainment

THE BEANERY. 500 SW 2ND, 753-7442

All shows start at 8 pm

Fri., Aug. 12, Joe Stevens

Sat., Aug. 13, Lisa Landucci and Chris Arellano

Fri., Aug. 19, Tim Avilla

Sat., Aug. 20, Jeremy Griffin

NEW MORNING. 219 SW 2ND, 754-0181

Music is not yet scheduled, but they plan to have music every Friday and some Saturdays starting in September. Check their website: www.newmorningbakery.com

BOMBS AWAY CAFE. 2527 NW MONROE, 757-7221

Thurs., Aug. 11, Neil Grandstaff, Ray Brassfield, jazz, 7, free

Wed., Aug. 17, Eric Dickey's Plus One, jazz, 7:30, free

Thurs., Aug. 18, John Bliss Xtet, jazz, 7:30, free

Wed., Aug. 24, String Loaded, bluegrass, 7:30, free

Thurs., Aug. 25, Neil Grandstaff, Ray Brassfield, jazz, 7, free

Wed., Aug. 31, Corvallis High School Jazz Combo, 7:30, free

Thurs., Sept. 1, John Bliss Xtet, jazz, 7:30, free

Wed., Sept. 7, Alex from Costa Rica, Flamenco and Latin rhythms, 7:30, free

Thurs., Sept. 8, Neil Grandstaff, Ray Brassfield, jazz, 7, free

Wed., Sept. 14, Dan Bregar, 7:30, free

Thurs., Sept. 15, John Bliss Xtet, jazz, 7:30, free

Wed., Sept. 21, Ben Mutschler, jazz, 7:30, free

Wed., Sept. 28th, String Loaded, bluegrass, 7:30, free

Thurs., Sept. 29th, Neil Grandstaff, Ray Brassfield, jazz, 7, free

Wed., Oct. 5, Alex from Costa Rica, Flamenco and Latin rhythms 7:30, free

Thurs., Oct. 6, John Bliss Xtet, jazz, 7:30, free

Wed., Oct. 12, Dan Bregar 7:30, free

Thurs., Oct. 13, Neil Grandstaff, Ray Brassfield, 7, free

Wed., Oct. 19, Ben Mutschler, jazz, 7:30, free

Thurs., Oct. 20, John Bliss Xtet, jazz, 7:30, free

Wed., Oct. 26, String Loaded, bluegrass, 7:30, free

Thurs., Oct. 27, Neil Grandstaff, Ray Brassfield, 7, free

OLD WORLD DELI. 341 SW 2ND ST., 752-8549

Every Tuesday, Ramblin' Rex, acoustic blues and gospel done in Rex's "unique and entertaining style," 7 to 9 pm.

Every Thursday, The Strings of Time, Marvin and Troy Higgins play melodic jazz and classic standards on guitar and bass 7 to 9 pm, free. Information: 758-3764.

Fridays, The Hot Air Band

Saturdays, Old-Time Fiddlers et al

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