

Lewis & Clark Trail Series kicks off with 5K, 10K runs

ASTORIA — Greet the arrival of spring with a trail run. Lewis and Clark National Historical Park will host the first event in its Lewis & Clark Trail Series on Saturday, March 19.

The event includes a 5K or 10K course that features the Kwis Kwis Trail.

The start/finish line will be at the Fort to Sea Trail parking area off Fort Clatsop Road. Enjoy a half-mile warm-up hike on the Fort to Sea Trail to the start line

prior to the 10 a.m. start. Register from 9 to 9:30 a.m. at the visitor center. Cost to participate is the purchase of a \$20 annual park pass that grants entry into all 2016 Lewis & Clark Trail Series events. Registration is free with any pass that allows entry into all national parks. Participants younger than 18 need their parent to sign the registration.

Other events in the series will be June 25 and Sept. 24. For questions, call 503-861-2471.

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Ellen Whyte Trio performs jazz and blues in Clatskanie

CLATSKANIE — The Clatskanie Arts Commission announces the first performance of its Sunday Series: The Ellen Whyte Trio will perform jazz and blues at 3 p.m. Sunday, March 20 at the Birkenfeld Theatre, 75 S. Nehalem St.

The trio consists of Oregon Music Hall of Fame Inductee, three-time Grammy Award nominee, and Cascade Blues Association Hall of Fame Inductee Ellen Whyte on vocals and acoustic guitar; Gene Houck on bass, and Jean-Pierre Garau on keyboards.

Whyte, Houck and Garau, combine R&B, jazz and pop influences, and the trio's performances showcase their musicianship and rich harmonies.

The Ellen Whyte Trio's three releases — "Take One," "Sea-

son of Peace" and "Inside Out" — resonate with the energy that characterizes their songwriters-in-the-round-styled live performances.

Tickets are \$10 and are available at the door or by calling Elsa at 503-728-3403.

Sunday Series tickets are available for \$35 and include the following performances:

- April 24, Contrapunctus Brass Trio, classical;
- May 15, The Honky-Tonk Rebel, Western honky-tonk;
- June 5, Scott Kritzer, classical guitar.

The series is funded by the Columbia County Cultural Coalition, the Oregon Cultural Trust and the National Endowment for the Arts.

Ziak to explain Dismal Nitch Fort Clatsop hosts author for In Their Footsteps presentation on March 20

ASTORIA — Lewis and Clark National Historical Park's Fort Clatsop announces the next In Their Footsteps free speaker series event. Rex Ziak will give the talk "Explaining 'Dismal Nitch': Confirming Lewis & Clark's Unknown Campsites in the Lower Columbia River" at 1 p.m. Sunday, March 20.

Despite the Lewis and Clark Expedition members' meticulous journaling, historians often gloss over portions of their journey, resulting in puzzles — including the expedition's specific locations Nov. 10 to 15, 1805 along the north side of the Columbia River.

Ziak has been working this puzzle since 1991. In 1997, he was appointed by Washington Gov. Gary Locke to the scholarly Lewis and Clark Trail Advisory Committee representing Pacific County. After years of patient study of the journals, specific terrain, weather patterns, watersheds and tides, he published his conclusions, which led to his 2002 book "In Full View." Ziak was awarded the Washington State David Douglas Award for his research that "revolutionized the way people see the end of the Lewis and Clark trail in Washington for all time." The resulting focus on this history led to



Submitted photo
Rex Ziak will speak about Dismal Nitch at In Their Footsteps on March 20.

a restructuring of the local National Park system to embrace historic sites on both sides of the Columbia.

In March 1806, Lewis and Clark's party bid good-bye to Fort Clatsop and began their return journey to St. Louis. On this 210th anniversary of the expedition's departure, Ziak will tell the story of its arrival into the Columbia estuary and show the precise location of three unmarked Lewis and Clark sites, including Dismal Nitch.

Ziak has lectured around the world, received many prestigious awards, and authored three history books. These books are available at the Lewis & Clark National Park Association bookstore in the Fort Clatsop visitor center. There will be a book signing following his presentation.

This monthly Sunday forum is sponsored by the Lewis & Clark National Park Association and the park. These programs are held in the Netul River Room of Fort Clatsop's visitor center and are free of charge.

For more information, call the park at 503-861-2471.

Crossword Answer

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