

North Coast Symphonic Band celebrates American heroes for Independence Day

ASTORIA — The North Coast Symphonic Band will present a free concert of patriotic music at 7:30 p.m. Sunday, July 3 at the Liberty Theater. Doors open at 6:45 p.m., and the North Coast Jazz Ensemble will perform pre-concert music at 7 p.m. while the audience enters the auditorium. Donations are encouraged.

The 50-member North Coast Symphonic Band under the directorship of Dave Becker will entertain with a two-hour program featuring concert wind band music around the theme of American heroes. Clatsop Post No. 12 of the American Legion will present the colors before “The Star Spangled Banner,” and during the second half of the concert American Legion members will present the flags of all the service branches, including the Merchant Marine, in a tribute to veterans and their families.

Guest vocalists from Portland, Andy and Rachel Becker, will sing familiar songs such as “God Bless the USA,” “You Raise Me Up” and a medley of tunes called “The Homefront: Musical Memories from WWII.”

The Beckers previously performed with the North Coast Symphonic Band in February 2015 and were well received. By day, Andy Becker teaches choir at a middle school in Portland. He is an Ironman triathlete and performs vocally when special opportunities arise. Rachel Becker is an elementary educator in the Portland suburbs. By night she performs with Portland-based theater companies.

Astoria High School student Johnny Barker will be featured as snare drum



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The North Coast Symphonic Band will perform July 3.



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Andy and Rachel Becker are guest vocalists.



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Johnny Barker will perform a snare drum solo.

soloist in Douglas Richards’ “Field Ayres.” Barker is a member of the band and discovered recently he is a distant relative of Thomas Cheney, a 16-year-old drummer from the Revolutionary War.

Sara Meyer of Sara’s Old Photos will present a visual tribute to the 50th anniversary of the dedication of the Astoria-Megler Bridge while the band performs Thomas Doss’ “Trumpets and Bridges.” The presentation will feature vintage photos of Astoria and the bridge.

Other selections include tributes to Abraham Lincoln by film composer John Williams and a tribute to the U.S. space program’s Apollo 13 mission by film composer James Horner. There will also be marches: two by Sousa, one by Karl King titled “The Coast Guard,” and a new one inspired by the Vietnam Memorial titled “Black Granite.” The evening’s program is patriotic, inspirational, and family-friendly, and all ages are invited to attend.

The band will take a brief break after this concert and resume rehearsals in the fall. New musicians interested in joining are encouraged to leave contact information with personnel director Lee Stromquist at encore1@charter.net. For more information, visit www.northcoastsymphonicband.org, email ncs-band@charter.net or call 503-325-2431.

Read poetry at new monthly open mic

ASTORIA — A monthly poetry event now has a new name, a new place to meet and a new date.

Ric Vrana founded the Last Tuesday Poetry Open Mic event in September

2014. Vrana died unexpectedly in March, and the poetry event was put on hold.

In honor of Vrana, the new monthly poetry reading will be called Ric’s Poetry Mic. It will be held the first

Tuesday of every month at WineKraft, 80 10th St.

The first reading is set for Tuesday, July 5.

Readings are from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Show up a little early at 6:45 p.m. to sign-up.

Columbia River has rich history of boats

Redmen Hall opens ‘Rolling on the River’ exhibit

SKAMOKAWA, Wash. — The River Life Interpretive Center at Redmen Hall will present an exhibit on the history of sternwheelers, steamboats, and tug boats on the lower Columbia River. The exhibit “Rolling on the River” will include stories about boat captains, river pilots, builders, and the histories of the companies that managed the

complex commerce.

Until roads were built in the 1930s, boats were the only way to move logs, fish, dairy products, people, produce and goods from communities on the river to markets. The exhibit will show the development of this traffic and why it still matters. “Rolling on the River” will open Saturday, July 2 and run through Labor Day weekend.

There will be speakers on most Saturdays, starting with Peter Brix, who will speak and sign copies of his book

at 2 p.m. July 9. Brix is the author of “The Brix Maritime Story: A Century of Towboating and Barging,” a definitive history of the tug boat companies from sail to steam to the present day. Illustrated by maritime photos and maps, the book portrays the development of the industry over the course of 100 years.

Redmen Hall is located at 1394 Washington State Route 4 and is open from noon to 4 p.m. Thursday to Sunday. For more information, visit www.redmenhall.blogspot.com



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