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Alexa Wiley & the Wilderness will perform at 8 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 28 at the Fort George Brewery in Astoria. [notforsale](http://notforsale.com)

Sense of place informs poetic songs of Alexa Wiley

ASTORIA — Oregon Music News has described the sound of Alexa Wiley & the Wilderness as “wild metaphorical music that rocks.” Hear the Portland-based band perform at 8 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 28 at the Fort George Brewery.

The show is free and open to all ages. The brewery is located at 1483 Duane St.

Wiley is the singer-songwriter who nourishes the band’s blend of meaningful lyrics surrounded by the fully realized Americana-rock of guitarist Bret Malmquist, musician Steve Dearborn, drummer Sean Oldham and bassist and Dale Turnbull.

The group’s recent eponymous album, “Alexa Wiley & the Wilderness,” features songs like the folk-psych “Oregon Rain,” spin-dance “Water,” groovy “Must be Birds” and rock-poetry “Home.” The genres explored will satisfy aficionados and funabees alike who enjoy musical exploration.

Wiley has lived in Portland since she was 6 years old, and her music is inspired by the Pacific Northwest’s sense of place.

Her first major foray into

place-based artistic collaboration was the co-produced Salmon Nation Artist Project.

As a lover of the outdoors and the Columbia River, Wiley often donates performances for local outdoor organizations such as Outdoor School For All and Columbia Riverkeeper. Her anti-LNG song is featured in “Columbia Crossings: Oregon Faces America’s Energy Future,” a documentary of the long grassroots push in Oregon against proposed liquefied natural gas terminals.

Through her friendly collaboration with Astoria fisherman and poet Dave Densmore, Wiley teams her melodies with Densmore’s rough and real poetry to capture moments of transcendent relevance in a show they call “For the Love of Fish.” The duo’s blend of artistic virtues form a complementary lyrical dialogue addressing the difficult environmental choices facing the contemporary Northwest community. Wiley and Densmore have performed together at Astoria’s annual FisherPoets Gathering for several years.

Hike from the Necanicum to Tillamook Head

Register for free, final On the Land outing Aug. 26

SEASIDE — Join North Coast Land Conservancy Executive Director Katie Voelke and naturalist Mike Patterson for an exploration of the forests in the Necanicum River floodplain forest and lower reaches of Tillamook Head in their many stages: newly planted, dead and decaying, and everything in between.

This is the final event in NCLC’s On the Land series of guided summer excursions. It will be held 9 a.m. to noon Friday, Aug. 26.

Hikers will begin at Circle Creek, one of NCLC’s largest habitat reserves and also one of the most dynamic. From there, participants will venture up Tillamook Head and into 340-acre Boneyard Ridge, NCLC’s newest con-



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Biologist Mike Patterson will co-lead the hike.

servation property.

The excursion will take about two hours, and participants will hike between 2.5 and 3 miles. The walk will be on mown grass path, dirt or gravel trail, wooden boardwalk, and overgrown forest road and will include crossing narrow footbridges over creeks. Expect some elevation gain. There are no toilets on site, and no dogs or pets are allowed.

Hikers should bring water and snacks. Wear sturdy



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NCLC Executive Director Katie Voelke will co-lead the hike.

shoes and dress for the day’s weather. Binoculars are a good idea for spotting birds and wildlife. Circle Creek Habitat Reserve is located at the end of Rippet Road.

There is no registration limit for this free outing. However, registration is required; sign up at nclctrust.org or eventbrite.com

Voelke grew up in Sacra-

mento and earned a bachelor’s degree in biology at the University of California, Santa Cruz. She worked as a field biologist for the U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management and the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife before joining NCLC as its first stewardship director in 2005; three years later she became its second executive director. She and her husband, Scott Kirby, are expecting their third child this fall. They live in Cannon Beach.

Patterson is a biologist, educator and professional counter of things — birds, butterflies, flowers. “The goal is to take these disparate bits of data, stitch them together, and find some portion of the ecological whole,” he writes. Patterson lives in Astoria and blogs about birds and more at surfbirds.com/community-blogs/northcoastdiaries

Bart Budwig, Mike Midlo play Sou’Wester Lodge

SEAVIEW, Wash. — The Sou’Wester Lodge will host musicians Bart Budwig, of Enterprise, and Mike Midlo, of Portland, for a performance at 8 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 27.

The show is open to the public, and there is no cover charge. The Sou’Wester Lodge is located at 3728 J Place. For more information, call 360-642-2542.

Budwig grew up on the Idaho Palouse, with a pawn shop trumpet and a heart as big as a skyscraper — if skyscrapers knew how to be humble. He learned melody from classic jazz charts and learned that fault-lines in big hearts create drifting continents, cut new oceans and forge new mountains. Everyone close to him disappeared,

whether to death or Texas, and from Texas he got a letter from Waylon Jennings entreating him to pick up a guitar and a pen.

Budwig doesn’t write the big songs. He writes the songs about the places between the hills, in the draws and hidden canyons, where truth is a little more in focus, stories can take their time gettin’ told, heartbreak is a place of deep reflection, and melodies don’t have to wear rhinestone suits or drive new, shiny cars to be beautiful. He’s also not afraid of working out of the spotlight. Budwig engineered not only his own 2012 full-length “Whiskey Girl,” but also albums and tours with Radiation City, Holiday Friends, Girlfriends, Misé,



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Bart Budwig will bring his Americana sound to the Sou’Wester Lodge on Aug. 27.

John Craigie, Edmund Wayne and Mama Doll.

Mike Midlo is a storyteller disguised as a musician. His latest project, the feral eight-song collection “MidLo,” received a grant from Portland’s Regional Arts & Culture Council and was released as a digital download and on cassette in March 2013.

Palette Puddlers
Professional North Coast Women Artists

The Palette Puddlers of Cannon Beach
are moving their Labor Day Art Show and Sale to the

Astoria Art Loft
103 3rd Street, Astoria
(above Dots and Doodles Art Supply across from Burger King)

Saturday Sept. 3rd thru Monday Sept. 5th
10am to 4pm daily

Fantastic Original Artwork at Surprisingly Reasonable Prices!