THEARTS **HOMECOMING** KINGS

Astoria band Whizkey Stik returns to local music scene after 30 years

By KAELIA NEAL FOR COAST WEEKEND

n the late 1970s and early 80s, the Astoria band, Whizkey Stik, was finding its place in the music scene. But after failing the one audition they tried out for and getting busy with other concerns in life, the band broke up.

Now, more than 30 years later, Whizkey Stik will return home to play songs off their recently released album, "On The Level," a compilation of their original recordings from about 1977 to 1981.

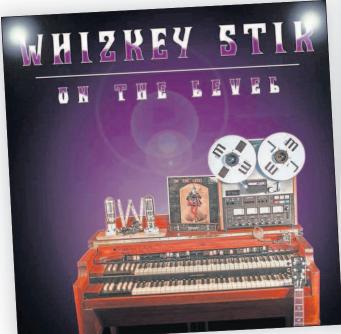
"It's all kind of a second chance of having people hear our stuff," said bass guitar player Mark Bugas, 62.

The concert starts at 8 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 26, at the Astoria Armory Skatepark (1636 Exchange St.). Seattle-based heavy metal band Substratum and Portland-based rock n' roll band Time Rift will play as well. Doors open at 7 p.m.

"We never played as good as we do now," Bugas said. "I'm certain that the music and energy and sound we bring will make people happy.'

Carl McLaughlin, 62, the guitarist and lead vocalist, described Whizkey Stik's

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"On The Level" cover

