

No public nuisance here

Band of police officers to play New Year's Eve show

BY NIKKI DAVIDSON

Illuminated by red and blue lights in a full taproom at Fort George Brewery, a band of five men grabbed guitars, drumsticks and microphones and cranked out a setlist of crowd-pleasing cover songs.

The gig was quite different from what they do under flashing lights of the same colors at their day jobs. Each of them works in law enforcement in Astoria.

Lead vocalist Jason Hoover works at the Clatsop County Sheriff's Office, while Kevin Berry, Chris McNeary and Andrew Randall work for the Astoria Police Department and bass guitarist Keith Warren works as a Port of Astoria security officer.

Getting together to play music is an escape from the stress of their jobs.

"You don't think about police work when you're up playing the guitar and singing and listening for the drums," said McNeary, guitarist and vocalist. "It's definitely putting you out of that zone where you're doing police work, which, as many people know, is pretty stressful right now."

The men formed the unlikely band on a whim. Berry had played guitar since college and was asked to perform at the Clatsop County Fair in 2019 after posting a few cover songs on YouTube. He agreed under the condition he could perform with some law enforcement friends who were also musically inclined. The group formed plans to put on a one-time show under the ironic band name Public Nuisance.

The county fair performance was a fundraiser for the Oregon Fallen Badge Foundation, which supports families of officers killed in the line of duty. The guys noticed the group's work in action in 2016 when Seaside Police Sgt. Jason Goodding

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Photos by Nikki Davidson

ABOVE: The Yard Dogs band is made up of people who work in law enforcement. **LEFT:** The Yard Dogs perform in a concert at Fort George Brewery in December.

New Year's Eve concert

Yard Dogs

10 p.m. Friday at the Worker's Tavern

281 W. Marine Drive, Astoria

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New Year

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