

ENTERTAINMENT Update

Hop Trip, more at White Buffalo

Hop Trip (featuring Mark Daly) will be cooking-up interesting originals with a hint of folk, funk and fun at the White Buffalo on Thursday, Feb. 12, from 6-8 p.m. Enjoy a complimentary wine tasting with Helioterra wines. Polly Norris and Mark Womble will be performing at the White Buffalo on Valentines Day, Saturday Feb. 14, from 6 to 8 p.m. White buffalo Wine Bar and Bistro, 4040 Westcliff Drive, Hood River 541-386-5534.

Tillinghast plays House Concert

Treat your Valentine and yourself to music the critics call "a deep, healing well." Richard and Tova Tillinghast will play songs from their new album "The Door is Open," on Sunday, Feb. 15, at 7 p.m. Expect some "Valentine's Day songs, plus some new ones about family, travel, and whitewater." 401 Montello Ave., Hood River. For more information call Paul Blackburn at 541-387-4011.

Three for Silver at Trillium

"Portland's Three for Silver is redefining musical performance. Their songs exist in and relate to a kind of dreamtime reality. Each live show is a dramatic unwinding - lacking breaks and patter between songs - so that the evening becomes a flow of feelings, intonations and incantations." Catch them at the Trillium Cafe on Friday, Feb. 13. Call for showtimes. Trillium Cafe, 207 Oak St., Hood River; 541-308-0800.

Valentine's dance at CG Hotel

Celebrate love songs through the ages and dance to the music of Henry Schifter, Dan Crothers and Mike Stillman. Expect love songs in French, Spanish, Russian and English. Guaranteed to "have the love songs that put romance in the air." Saturday, Feb. 14, 7-10 p.m. No cover charge. Columbia Gorge Hotel, 4000 Westcliff Dr., Hood River; 541-386-5566.

Entertainment listings can be e-mailed to jdrake@hoodrivernews.com

JIM DRAKE'S ENTERTAINMENT BLOG

Deep soul and rare records: Ural Thomas and the Pain plays HR

By JIM DRAKE
Hood River News

A unique R&B-soul band is coming to Hood River on Friday, Feb. 13, and even if you're superstitious, we should be treating this show like it's our lucky day.

If you're into the 60s classic soul era, like the songs on the Atlantic Rhythm and Blues series which features artists like Ray Charles and Otis Redding, you'll really enjoy Ural Thomas and the Pain.

One reason that this band has such a classic sound is the lead singer, Ural Thomas, played music during that classic 60s era. He is 74 years old, and he's still performing.

When I think about his age, I'm amazed by the fact that he's older, by 20 years or more, than most of my 78-rpm records that I've been recently archiving into my digital music library.

I have found that when a record of that speed and age is played, there's an indescribable feeling that happens when you listen to it. It's truly like being transported back to a different era.

When I interviewed the Pain's bandleader and drummer Scott Magee I wasn't surprised to find out that it

was his encounter of finding the rare, out-of-print records of Ural Thomas in a Portland record shop that led him to put this band together last year. I guess you could say his sole (soul?) purpose was to bring back the 'deep soul' music, as he called it, of a singer with decades of experience, but one who had not much in the way of national recognition over his career.

"My friend who owns Mississippi Records had reissued some of Ural's lesser known songs, one of which had limited release in almost complete obscurity. We had a conversation about Ural's music one day, and he knew I was a drummer, and I mentioned how it would be a dream come true situation to play with someone like Ural. The owner thought that Ural would actually be interested in getting back out onstage again, and put me in touch with him," Scott Magee said.

What seems to make Ural Thomas and the Pain unique is the age difference in band members. Magee is 40-ish, and most folks in the 10-piece band are half that age. Yet it's the music that really brings it all together.

"Well, I'm the band leader and music director and the drummer, from where I sit I've seen the project grow



Got vinyl?
Ural Thomas is older than most of my 78 r.p.m. discs.

and the generational aspect of it is really interesting. We have a saxophonist who is 22,

I'm in the middle at 40, Ural is 74, and I think the level of talent in the band is very high, so age has kind of transcended that situation. Ural, who has all this experience under his belt, and has an amazing talent for singing and performing, and really brought the whole group into a family of sorts. We've become very close, so there's a strong bond that's taken place. There's fifty years of experience between band members, and it's pretty unusual," Magee said.

Ural Thomas and the Pain was recently featured on

Please see PAIN, Page A3

Treat your sweetheart on Valentine's Day!
We are serving a sweet, savory dinner for two ...

Starting with freshly baked BBQ pork, a platter with 3 favorite entrees:
Salt & Pepper Shrimp, Honey Glazed Chicken Breast, Dry style Green Bean, served with steamed or fried rice, and a gourmet chocolate brownie with salted caramel for dessert

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