

ENTERTAINMENT Update



An acoustic house concert with Irish fiddler Lucia Comnes (pictured above) and Daniel Carr is scheduled for Sunday, March 8, at 7 p.m. at 401 Montello Ave, in Hood River. Suggested donation is \$15. Comnes leads a San Francisco-based band that delivers "hair-raising vocal harmonies, soul-shaking harmonica solos, fierce melodies on the fiddle and danceable jigs and reels." Call Paul Blackburn at 541-387-4011 to reserve a seat.

Tony Smiley plays Pint Shack

One man band Tony Smiley returns to Hood River on Saturday, March 7, from 8:30-10:30 p.m. at the Pint Shack in Hood River. The Pint Shack, 105 Fourth St., Hood River; 541-387-7600.

Bird walk group meets Sunday

There is a free bird walk this Sunday, March 1, hosted by the Gorge Bird Walk group and led by Stuart Johnston. Meet the group at Charburger in Cascade Locks at 7:00 a.m. for breakfast — tour for the Government Cove area leaves at 8:15 a.m. (Car pool meet at the Hood River Starbucks/Best Western at 7 a.m.) For more information call Stuart at 509-493-3363.

'Heroes not Welcome Home' exhibit opens March 14

Columbia Gorge Discovery Center and Museum presents "What if Heroes Were Not Welcome Home?" Saturday, March 14. The exhibit opening features a Culture a la Carte evening of dining followed by a presentation by author Linda Tamura. This poignant exhibit examines the experience of Japanese American veterans upon their return home after serving in World War II. Doors open at 5:30 p.m., dinner served at 6, with the 7 p.m. presentation at the Discovery Center, 5000 Discovery Drive, in The Dalles. Reservations required by March 11. Cost for the dinner and presentation is \$18; presentation only is \$3. Tickets are available online at gorgediscovery.org or by calling 541-296-8600 ext. 201.

Willy and Nelson play March 5

Willy and Nelson, will perform at the White Buffalo complimentary wine tasting on Thursday, March 5, from 6-8 p.m. Bill (Willy) Nielsen (acoustic guitar) and singer Lisa Nelson, known for their beautiful harmonies, perform familiar pop, rock and country tunes you can sing along to. Memaloose winery of Lyle, Wash., will be this week's featured winery. White Buffalo Wine Bar & Bistro, 4040 Westcliff Dr., Hood River; 541-386-5534.

'Stories & Lies' March 2

Columbia Center for the Arts proudly presents a very special evening with famous actor, writer, singer, songwriter Ronny Cox: Songs, Stories and Out and Out Lies, on Monday, March 2, at 7:30 p.m.

A look of familiarity has helped make Cox one of Hollywood's most versatile character actors. His first time in front of a camera featured him playing the guitar in the Dueling Banjos scene in "Deliverance," creating one of the most iconic moments in the history of moviemaking. Despite his great success in movies and TV, what he says he loves most is singing and playing the guitar. According to him, nothing cuts through to the heart like music.

"Songs, Stories and Out and Out Lies" is a family show for all. Tickets for this special show are \$20 in advance, \$15 students and seniors and \$25 at the door. Tickets are available online, at Waucoma Bookstore and at Columbia Art Gallery.

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JIM DRAKE'S ENTERTAINMENT BLOG

Local musician gives voice to The Countryside

By **JIM DRAKE**
Hood River News

Since last April, drummer turned DJ Jeff Minnick has been broadcasting the classic country sounds of the 40s, 50s and 60s with his two-hour Tuesday night program 'The Countryside, live on the air and over the internet from 7-9 p.m.

From studio B of Y102 FM The Dalles, Minnick plays songs from his extensive record and CD collection, and takes caller requests, which he appreciates because it has made him discover a whole other world of music.

"I love honky-tonk music, but a lot of my callers are old-timers who live out in Eastern Wasco County and up in Goldendale, and they really like the old stuff like Roy Acuff, Ernest Tubbs, and the Gene Autry. I've been listening to music my whole life but I have not been paying attention to these artists as much as I should have been, and I appreciate people requesting these songs. It's always so great to discover or re-discover somebody," Minnick said.

When you tune into Jeff's show, you'll definitely notice a change in the musical era, because there's a good chance you'll hear seldom played artists like Kitty Wells and Little Jimmy Dickens.

"I spend my life cherishing and learning these songs, and since I got into this show, there's always so many people you miss listening to, so I'm really enjoying hearing people I haven't got to hear a lot of. Since I bought a turntable, it's a lot like seeing a bunch of old, long-lost friends," Minnick said.

Although the honky-tonk style of songs is on the playlist in the form of George Jones, Merle Haggard and Johnny Paycheck, Jeff likes to include some "newer" artists that he thinks is keeping in a classic



Photo by Jim Drake

JEFF MINNICK hosts a classic country radio show on Y102 FM every Tuesday from 7-9 p.m. He wants to incorporate live music into the show to recreate the early days of radio broadcast. You can listen live on the internet through www.gorgecountry.com.

'People can tell I love the music I'm playing.'

country style, so Crystal Gayle and Willie Nelson show up in the mix as well.

"Throughout the week I listen to my records and my CDs in the house here, and I just kind of decide who I want to start with. On Monday night I put the whole show together. I like to keep this music that I love and cherish alive. People can tell I love the music I'm playing," Minnick said.

Jeff's interest in being a DJ host stems from wanting to recreate the by-gone era of radio broadcast when bands performed live on the radio. He wants to utilize the studio space to bring in some local musicians to play.

"The Countryside show has taken up a lot of my

time, and I'm getting the hang of it. Eventually, I'm going to be doing some live broadcasts from the studio. Just like the days when those old radio stations used to do live broadcasts — I'd like to bring that back into our small town here," Minnick said.

He plans on working with local guys from Hood River, and The Dalles, and hopes to work live music into the show this year, at least once every other month.

One artist that has inspired Jeff to carry on this tradition is Hank Williams.

"I've been listening to a lot of material from Hank Williams that has been resurfacing — old tapes of live radio broadcasts that were sponsored by the Mother's Best Flour Company. He played his music live, and then talked in between the songs, and it gives you a good idea of who he is — his manner of speaking, his voice is just compelling. He's one of

these guys who just draws you in. It's like listening to someone like John Lennon talk," Minnick said.

Minnick admits that being a DJ host is not the easiest job he's had, but he has maintained a passion for keeping the tradition of live radio.

"I'm really happy that I'm doing this. I think that even though I'm living in a small town like this, radio is a little more alive and well here than in the big city. I know people are listening, because they call in to my show. It's not easy and I'm new at it, but I feel passionate about it," Minnick said.

Eventually, Jeff hopes the radio station will be able to start archiving his shows, because he knows about hectic schedules people can have.

"I would like them to start archiving the show, so people can listen anytime. A lot of people are watching Wheel of Fortune during my slot on the air (laughs)."

Lunafest returns March 11-12

Soroptimist International of Hood River is presenting the 12th annual Lunafest at Columbia Center for the Arts on March 11 and 12. The showing is at 7 p.m. and tickets are \$10. It will be an evening of nine short films directed and produced by women filmmakers from around the globe. This season, the film program will

travel to over 150 cities and screen in front of 30,000 people. The films are filled with stories of reflection, hope and humor.

Lunafest is sponsored by Laughing Mountain and by Providence Hood River Memorial Hospital. Tickets are available at Waucoma Bookstore and Columbia Center for the Arts.

COLUMBIA CENTER for the ARTS presents the CAST Theater production of

Feb. 13, 14, 19, 20, 21, 26, 27, 28 at 7:30 p.m.
MATINEE SHOWING: Feb. 22nd at 2:00 p.m.

sponsored in part by NAKED WINERY

TICKETS: \$18 for adults, \$15 students and seniors
Groups of 10 or more \$12
Be part of the show — 8 packages sold for each show, 2 tickets, front row table, a bottle of the Full Monty from Naked Winery and 2 show wine glasses for \$75
Tickets available at Waucoma Bookstore, Columbia Art Gallery and online at www.columbiaarts.org ~ 215 Cascade Ave.

Destiny Theatres
Fri - Wed, Feb. 27 - Mar. 4, 2015
Subject to change. Check times daily.

Columbia Cinemas
2727 W. 7th St., The Dalles - 296-8081

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Gorge Restaurant Guide

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