

STEP UP TO THE MIC

If you dare to share, there’s a venue for you

By Steve Tool
Wallowa County Chieftain

While Wallowa County summers are filled with entertainment of all types — especially the musical variety — the winters can be long and bleak with long spaces of virtually no entertainment. Open mic nights can be a cure for that with several available around the county. Depending on the night and performers, open mics are a good way to see the talent the county harbors within its borders.

Terminal Gravity, located at 803 SE School St. in Enterprise, is a brewery/restaurant that hosts an open mic night on the first Friday of every month starting at 7 p.m. and lasting until 10 p.m. or so. During the winter, the



Steve Tool/The Chieftain
Bell belts the blues — Local musician Al Bell rocks the Josephy Center during its Dec. 13 open mic event.

open mic is held upstairs in the restaurant. During balmy weather, the event is held from TG’s large front porch.

The winter open mic is very close and intimate for the most part. In some respects it’s like playing in a living room with friends. Occasionally, diners who are not there to hear music can talk over the musicians, which

can be disconcerting to both performers and listeners.

The outdoor event is not nearly so intimate, partially because of the space between diners/audience and the performers. It also has a bit of a talent-show feel, which may be due to the lack of intimacy. Both events have a revolving emcee/host who also runs the sound board, which not surprisingly, can determine how much the listener can enjoy the show.

Robby Day has played the event off and on since 2011 and enjoys the variety the venue offers.

“I really like the mix of performers, and you’re always playing to a different type of audience, too,” Day said. “It’s a great place to debut new material.”

Performers do have a sign-up sheet to fill out before they perform and generally are not held to a time limit or specific number of songs.

The Josephy Center, located at 403 N. Main St. in Joseph, hosts an open mic



Steve Tool/The Chieftain
Cathryn-Ann Paterson reads from one of her poetry journals at the Fishtrap Fireside open mic on Dec. 11.

night starting at 4 p.m. on the second Sunday of the month from November to April. This open mic is several years old, with emcee Ted Hays hosting the event the last two years. According to Hays, a varied cast of performers takes the stage from month to month.

Performances are not limited to musicians. Anyone can read a poem or their original writing. Hays encourages the community to come out and strut their stuff with musicians being prepared to perform one to three tunes.

“It’s a respectful audience,” he said. “We’d like to get some new performers, maybe those who want to try their hand at music and have been uncomfortable with performing before.”

The Josephy offers the most varied open mic with performances of acapella singing, improv jazz piano, baritone ukulele, guitar, harmonica and cajon (a type of hand drum).

The Josephy audience is somewhat older compared to the other open mics, but it is very appreciative of any and all kinds of music.

Anyone with performance jitters or new to the performer game could easily break in at this venue. No refreshments are offered here.

Fishtrap, located at 400 Grant St. in Enterprise, hosts Fishtrap Fireside the second Friday of the month from November to April. The open mic portion, which follows readings by three preselected authors, pertains strictly to literature/poetry. Four slots of five minutes are available — first come, first served.



Steve Tool/The Chieftain
An American Forrest, current emcee of the Terminal Gravity open mic plays his brand of neoclassic country at the Dec. 5 open mic event.

True to the fireside name, a crackling fire accompanies the readings.

This event always has a packed house and a very appreciative audience. Although Fishtrap is known to promote writing of the West, open mic participants of almost any age can read from any genre. Fishtrap program manager Mike Midlo encourages exploration.

“Take chances. Be an artist. As long as it’s 5 minutes

or less.”

Cathryn-Ann Paterson enjoys reading to the audience.

“I always get great feedback, and the audience is always so supportive. You can’t ask for much more than that.”

One thing participants may want to keep in mind: About a quarter of the audience is there to hear the featured readers and will depart after those readings. Take heart, this is not because of you. Actually, it is because of you, but you can count on unwavering support from the audience that remains — bet on it. Light refreshments are offered here.

If you have information about other open mic events or listings for our new Entertainment Calendar, please contact reporter Steve Tool at steve@wallowa.com.

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ACROSS

- Characters in one inch of tape
- In a hold
- Jewish mystic
- A way to souse
- A small sharp knife
- Frogs, toads, tree toads
- Brew
- Rowdy carouser
- Poetries
- ___ salts, remedy
- Expect eagerly
- Obstructing the view of something
- Denotes three
- Expression of uncertainty
- Greek portico
- Bureau
- Electric battery
- Vapor density
- Radioactivity unit
- Strive to equal or match
- Cologne
- Carrier's invention
- Highest in degree or quality
- Female horses
- Serbian
- Publicity
- Actress Lupino
- Supporting structures
- Jobs
- Indian founder of Sikhism
- Capital of Zimbabwe
- Woman of charm and good looks
- Order
- Draft animal in desert regions
- Unaccented syllable verse
- Fail to keep pace
- Sheath or shirtwaist
- Moss stalks
- ___ Lilly, drug company

DOWN

- Exclamation of praise
- 200 island Pacific nation (alt. sp.)
- Repeated
- Hungers
- School of Business, UCB
- Bobby ___, NHL champ
- Lease
- More parched
- Medieval merchant guild
- Negative ions
- Top
- One of the Gershwins
- Dekalitre
- Imitate
- Gentlemen
- Dawn
- A citizen of Chile
- Bright stars
- Codfish genus
- Extremely unrefined
- Diacritical mark
- Correspondences
- Indicates position
- Small cup
- 12th Greek letter
- Capable of being eliminated
- 12th Jewish month
- Rechristen
- In a way, imputes
- Hydroxyls + 2C
- Follows sigma
- Vegetable shrubs
- South African village
- Monetary unit of D.R. Congo
- First Chinese dynasty
- Divides evenly into (Math)
- Household god (Roman)
- Pakistani rupee
- American time

Church Directory

St. Katherine's Catholic Church

Ft. Roger Fernando

301 E. Garfield Enterprise

Mass Schedule

Weekdays 7:15am

Saturdays 5:30pm Sundays 10:30am

(541)426-4008

stkatherineenterprise.org

St. Pius X Wallowa Sundays 8:00am

All are welcome

Summit Church

Gospel Centered Community

Service time: 10:30 am

Cloverleaf Hall in Enterprise

Pastor Mark Garland

www.summitchurchoregon.org

Joseph United Methodist Church

3rd & Lake St. • Joseph

Pastor Cherie Johnson

Phone: 541-432-3102

Sunday Worship Service 10:00 am

Children's Sunday School meets during service

Faith Lutheran Church

409 W. Main

Enterprise, Oregon

Worship 2nd & 4th Sundays - 2 pm

Bible Study Tuesdays before the 2nd & 4th Sundays at 11 am

LCMS

(Lutheran Church Missouri Synod)

Enterprise Christian Church

207 East Main - (541) 426-3449

Worship at 8:15 & 11:00

Sunday School at 9:45

Evening Worship at 6:00 (nursery at A.M. services)

"Loving God & One Another"

David Bruce, Sr. Minister

Christ Covenant Church

Pastor Terry Tollefson

Church Office: 541-426-0301

Family Prayer: 9:30am

Sunday School: 10am

Worship Service: 11am

723 College Street • Lostine

Providence Academy

Lostine Presbyterian Church

Discussion Group 9:30 AM

Worship Service 11:00 AM

Childrens program during service

Blog: dancingforth.blogspot.com

541.398.0597

Hwy 82, Lostine

Stephen Kliever, Minister

Wallowa Assembly of God

606 West Hwy 82

Wallowa, Oregon

541-886-8445

Sunday School • 9:30

Worship Service • 10:45

Pastor Tim Barton

wallowaassemblyofgod.com

Enterprise Community Congregational Church

United Church of Christ

The Big Brown Church

Sunday Worship 11A.M.

301 N. E. First Street

Enterprise

(541) 426-3044

Sunday School 11 A.M.

Seventh-Day Adventist Church & School

305 Wagner (near the Cemetery)

P.O. Box N, Enterprise, OR 97828

541-426-3751 Church

541-426-8339 School

Worship Services

Sabbath School 9:30 - 10:45 a.m.

Worship Hour 11:00 a.m. - Noon

Pastor Jonathan DeWeber

THE SCENE

Friday, Dec. 18:

Simon Tucker (rhythm and blues, pop), 7 p.m. at Terminal Gravity

Saturday, Dec. 19:

Bullets and Belles (neo doo wop folk), 7 p.m. at Terminal Gravity

Thursday, Dec. 17:

Caleb Klauder and Reeb Willms w/Brann family opening at OK Theatre. Doors open at 6:30 with show time @ 7 p.m. Tickets \$15, ages 10 and under free. Tickets available at M. Crow, The Dollar Stretcher, Joseph Hardware and eventbrite.com.

Thursday, Dec. 24:

Heidi Muller, Bob Webb (Americana), 5-7 p.m. at Silver Lake Bistro.

Friday, Jan. 1:

Open mic, 7 p.m. at Terminal Gravity

Friday, Jan. 8:

Fishtrap Fireside, 7 p.m. at Fishtrap. Three select authors read, followed by a literary open mic. The open mic is limited to five minutes (including introductions) and a maximum of four performers. First come, first served.

Sunday, Jan. 10:

Open mic, 4-6 p.m. at Josephy Center