

Final Friday sizzles at Stockmans

Martin Doud was the opening performer for Stockmans Lounge's Final Friday open mic night on Sept. 30. A large and enthusiastic crowd packed into the venue to peruse the new addition to the area's open mic scene.



Steve Tool/Chieftain

New ownership committed to bringing live music to downtown Enterprise venue

By Steve Tool
Wallowa County Chieftain

Stockmans Lounge stuck its toe into the local open mic waters Friday night and managers found it to their liking.

The restaurant and bar recently opened in the space formerly occupied by Lear's at 111 W Main St.

The new open mic night is called Final Friday and will take place the last Friday of each month through April. The debut event introduced new performers to the Wallowa County music scene as well as some tried and true local acts.

Unlike many open mics in bar/restaurants, the evening crowd remained engaged with the music while they still enjoyed the Stockmans culinary fare.

The energetic audience filled every seat in the joint, and to their credit, cheered every performance with equal vigor, regardless of the genre played.

Martin Doud, recently returned to the Wallowa Valley after a hiatus of several years, served as the show's opening act. Doud reeled off four songs to raucous audience applause.

"I really appreciate the opportunity to perform," he said. "It was my first time in front of an audience in about five years."

Other performers included local stalwarts Jezebel's Mother and Sam Warr. A surprising amount of new talent performed, including Doud, who was followed by Lynda Morrison, recently of Medford. Morrison, accompanied by Jay Connolly, wowed the audience with a stunning rendition of T-Bone Walker's "Call it Stormy Monday" and several other blues staples.

One of the more unique performers of the evening was another recent Wallowa County transplant, Nicole McCutcheon. Her sassy brand of originals had the audience eating from her hand. She later said that she moved to Wallowa County just for the purpose of furthering her music career.

Unlike many local open mics that wane significantly after two hours, 9 p.m. saw still more hopefuls signing in to perform. In all, at least a

dozen different musicians hit the stage, likely a local open mic record.

Stockmans owner Rachel Esquibel gave the Final Friday a two-thumbs-up endorsement.

"I consider Final Friday as an astonishing success," she said. "The turnout was great, especially for our first event. It was beyond expectations — we were thrilled."

Esquibel's sons, Andrew Esquibel and Sam Warr, conspired with local musician Jordan Maslach for the open mic idea.

"One day I came in, and there was a poster on the window, and I said, 'I guess we're having an open mic,'" Rachel Esquibel said with a laugh.

Maslach served as the show's emcee and also provided the PA equipment.

Stockmans is working toward hosting live bands in the future.

"It's not going to happen right away though," Esquibel said.

The venue also will host the Wallowa Valley Music Alliance's 10th season of Tunesmith Night, a monthly showcase of original music.

The series opener takes place Saturday, Oct. 8 and features Tara K Howe, Tom Drake and Mike Mallory.

THE SCENE



- Wednesday, Oct. 5**
• Liz Vice, 7 p.m. at the OK Theatre. theoldok.com
 - Friday, Oct. 7**
• Open mic, 7 p.m. at Terminal Gravity
 - Saturday, Oct. 8**
• Tunesmith Night, featuring Tara K Howe and Tom Drake, and Mike Mallory, 6 p.m. at Stockman's Lounge.
 - Sunday, Oct. 9**
• Open mic night, 4-6 p.m. at the Josephy Center with emcee Ted Hays. josephy.org
• You Knew Me When, 7 p.m. at Terminal Gravity
 - Saturday, Oct. 15**
• Bullets & Belles, 7 p.m. at Terminal Gravity
 - Thursday, Oct. 20**
• HoneyHoney, Wallowa Resources fundraiser, 7 p.m. at the OK Theatre. theoldok.com
• Old-Time Community Dance, 7-10 p.m. at Odd Fellows Hall
 - Friday, Nov. 4**
• Open mic, 7 p.m. at Terminal Gravity
 - Thursday, Nov. 10**
• Portland Cello Project WLT Fundraiser, 7 p.m. at the OK Theatre. theoldok.com
 - Sunday, Nov. 13**
• Open mic night, 4-6 p.m. at the Josephy Center with emcee Ted Hays. josephy.org
 - Friday, Nov. 25**
• Brady Goss, 6 p.m. at the OK Theatre. theoldok.com
- Please submit Entertainment Calendar event information to editor@wallowa.com

Tunesmith Night returns

The Wallowa Valley Music Alliance is set to kick off its 10th season of Tunesmith Night, a monthly showcase of original music.

The series opener takes place Saturday, Oct. 8 at Stockman's Lounge, 111 W. Main St. Enterprise and features Tara K Howe, Tom Drake and Mike Mallory.

Tara K Howe is a singer-songwriter living in Moscow, Idaho.

Originating from folk and crossing many genres, Tara has a powerful voice, and often haunting lyrics, backed by a strong resonant and rhythmic guitar.

Tom Drake of Moscow, Idaho, was born in the ancestral stomping grounds of

Merle Haggard, John Steinbeck and Woody Guthrie, and raised all over the USA. Drake crafts songs to leap the canyon between the heart and head, the poet and roadhouse, the grapes of wrath, the red mud Mississippi back roads and the old West.

For Mike Mallory, the song is the thing. Mallory has been playing music professionally since age 15. That would be since, 1968.

Early on, he discovered the songs of Bob Dylan, Townes Van Zandt, Mississippi John Hurt and realized the songs were what spoke to him. He is comfortable strapping on his Telecaster and turning up to 11 or finger picking his acoustic trying to imitate

Mississippi John.

"That is the beauty of the players my age, we did not realize there was a division between acoustic and electric music," said Mallory, who is a member of the La Grande alt-country/Americana band The Wasteland Kings, along with son Kris Mallory, who is lead vocalist and main songwriter for the group. This is Mallory's third appearance at Tunesmith Night.

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