

'Ol' Yonder' Van Tuyl's latest release

Four originals and four covers

By Steve Tool
Wallowa County Chieftain

Forrest Van Tuyl hasn't lived in Wallowa for a long time, but he's already making an impact on the music scene. Known for his cowboy garb, music and exhaustive knowledge of folk tunes, he is a force to be reckoned with.

Van Tuyl, 29, who performs under the name "An American Forrest," recently released a collection of songs, "Ol' Yonder," in both digital and cassette tape formats.

Van Tuyl moved to the area in January 2015. He began his music career in several rock bands before beginning what he called his "solo country songwriter project."

Van Tuyl bummed around for several years and said he kept a home base in Moscow, Idaho, on the couch of local musician Bart Budwig, who lived in Moscow at the time. Budwig's move to Wallowa County precipitated Van Tuyl's move to the area.

"When Bart moved down here, I said, 'Yeah,

I'll come down here and make a record,' and I've been down here ever since," he said.

Four songs on Ol' Yonder are Van Tuyl originals while four are covers, and two are in the public domain.

"It was an accidental record," Van Tuyl said. "I recorded part of it on this old (cassette) tape machine with all the motors out of whack that gives it a really weird warbly tone, and you can overdrive it really hard."

Van Tuyl said he'd been in a writing slump and sang every idea he had, finished or not, into the machine and promptly forgot about it.

Shortly after relocating to Enterprise, he came across a four-track Yamaha cassette recorder and tried to record one or two songs per night into it, sometimes immediately after he'd written a song. Those sessions, along with a reel-to-reel recording session, make up the album, which he mixed and mastered himself.

Van Tuyl is the only musician on the recording. He played four or five different guitars and a banjo. One of his favorite guitars used for the record

was a '60s three-quarter size Stella he rescued from under a friend's bed.

"It's a terrible guitar in terrible shape, but it's got this weird vibe to it, and it's tiny," he said.

It was truly a "do-it-yourself" project. "No one else was even in the room when I was recording," he said. "It was almost done secretly. I never even thought of putting it out."

The thought of not having released a recording in some time combined with the fact he was working on a new album was the impetus for the release of "Ol' Yonder."

Van Tuyl said that the album doesn't have a particular theme. He described it as a "dark winter album."



Ben Herndon/Contributed photo

Forrest Van Tuyl, a western musician who works for a trail packing company in the Wallowas, has released a new CD, "Ol' Yonder."

lowa outfitter Barry Cox, owner of Del Sol Wilderness Adventures, the album includes the cowboy standard "Diamond Joe" and his own composition, "Burning Starlight," about his experiences packing into the Eagle Cap Wilderness.

"I spend so much time around horses, talking about horses and thinking about horses, that they come into everything at his point," he said.

His favorite song on the album is the Woody Guthrie staple "Pastures of Plenty," a tune about migrant workers during the Great Depression. "It's the right time to be playing that song."

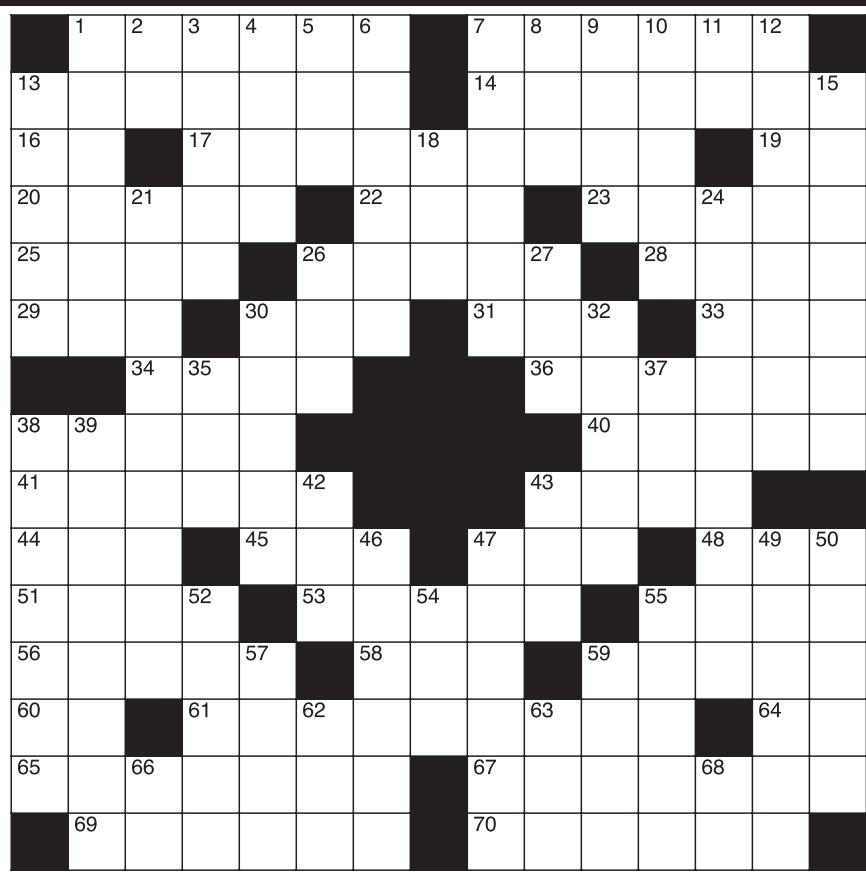
Van Tuyl is currently barnstorming the west on a tour that takes him through Montana, California and the west side of Oregon.

The album is available on Spotify and on bandcamp.com. A cassette version was made available on April 14 for \$10. The digital album is \$6 on Spotify and Bandcamp.

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CLUES ACROSS

1. Glowering
7. Sports equipment
13. Relief organization
14. Go against the flow
16. A public promotion of some product or service
17. Premier League's Spurs
19. Of I
20. Tears down (Brit.)
22. One point north of due east
23. Sandwich shops
25. American spy
26. Medieval stringed instrument
28. Self-immolation by fire ritual
29. Pearl Jam's debut
30. Panthers' Newton
31. Press against lightly
33. ___ Squad
34. Eminem hit
36. Violent seizure of property
38. Native or inhabitant of Asia
40. Loudness units
41. Knotted anew
43. Daddy
44. Folk singer DiFranco
45. Women from the Mayflower
47. Metric capacity unit
48. Couple
51. A way to coat
53. ___ and Diu: Indian territory
55. French river
56. Asteroids
58. Investment measurement (abbr.)
59. India and Nepal border river
60. Santa says it three times
61. Hungers
64. Linear unit
65. Speech
67. Taking forcefully
69. Places to be
70. Amusing behavior

CLUES DOWN

1. Adult female
2. An alternative
3. Rituals
4. Native American people
5. High school exam
6. Respect
7. Tanned
8. Kilometers per hour
9. Ancient Israel city
10. Periods
11. Electron volt
12. Smallest interval in classical Western music
13. Metric weight unit
15. Occupies
18. ___ and flow
21. Responsive to physical stimuli
24. One who presses into thin sheets
26. Jogged
27. Automobile
30. Punished
32. Belonging to a bottom layer
35. Japanese delicacy
37. Soda
38. Algonquian language
39. Legislators
42. Father
43. Needed at the ATM
46. Baltimore footballers
47. ___ Tomei, actress
49. Expands
50. Person (Indonesian)
52. Related
54. Where wrestlers work
55. American communist leader
57. Creatively tell
59. Separatist group
62. Edgar Allan ___ poet
63. A way to discolor
66. Actinium
68. Integrated circuit

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web: gracelutheranenterprise.com

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St. Katherine of Siena, Enterprise 10:30am

Saturdays:
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Sunday Worship Service
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JosephUMC.org

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Lostine

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541.398.0597

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Stephen Kliever, Minister

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wallowasassemblyofgod.com

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