

A musical hybrid

Introducing Maddie Ford and KC Kunkle's Alka Mahdi



Courtesy of Alka Mahdi

Alka Mahdi, the duo of Maddie Ford and KC Kunkle, play Friday, Aug. 27, at Side A Brewing, 1219 Washington Ave. in La Grande.

By Lisa Britton
Go! Magazine

LA GRANDE — Maddie Ford and KC Kunkle have been the duo Alka Mahdi for only six months, but Kunkle has been working on their sound for years.

Six years, actually.

"I couldn't get the sound I wanted until this year," Kunkle said.

That's when he got the Akai Force, a machine that allows him to create arrangements with electronic instrument sounds that he then pairs with a live performance.

"Imagine a hybrid of DJ and live music," he said. "It's still complicated, but simpler than it was."

During a show, he's in charge of the electronic portion, while also playing a guitar and keyboard. That's why he brought

in Ford.

"I couldn't do all this and sing," he said. "I needed a lead vocalist."

Alka Mahdi is a cover band.

"We have some mash-ups, Ford said. "Music that makes everyone happy."

Alka Mahdi will play a free set Friday, Aug. 27, as part of the Side A-lley concert series at Side A Brewing, 1219 Washington Ave. in La Grande. The show

starts at 7 p.m. in the back courtyard.

Both Kunkle and Ford grew up in Union County and have long histories of studying and performing music. So far the new duo has played a show in Baker

City, and performed in Riverside Park on Aug. 19.

"We're just getting started," Ford said.

To learn more about the band, see their schedule, or book a show, visit their Facebook page.

An advertisement for smoking cessation. It features a black and white portrait of a woman on the right. On the left, there is a yellow box with the text "DAY 07 OF QUITTING". Below the portrait, there is a green box with white text that reads "SMOKING AND VAPING ARE EXPENSIVE. QUITTING IS FREE." At the bottom left of the green box, it says "1-800-QUIT-NOW or QUITNOW.NET/OREGON". At the bottom right, there is a logo for "SMOKEFREE oregon" and "CHD Center for Human Development, Inc. www.chdinc.org".

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SIDE A-LLEY CONCERT

Featuring Maddie Ford and KC Kunkle as Alka Mahdi
7 p.m. Friday, Aug. 27
Side A Brewing
1219 Washington Ave.
La Grande

An advertisement for Northwest Furniture & Mattress. It shows a modern living room with a large beige sectional sofa, a coffee table, and side tables. The word "UPGRADE" is written in large, bold letters across the top of the image. At the bottom, there is a logo for "NORTHWEST FURNITURE & MATTRESS" and contact information: "215 Elm Street La Grande • (541) 963-5440" and "northwestfurnitureandmattress.com". There are also logos for Visa, MasterCard, and American Express, and a "Like Us On facebook" button.

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