

Brown Hen spaghetti dinner to benefit Liz Mobley

The Brown Hen Cafe invites the community to a spaghetti feed from 4 to 7 p.m. Wednesday, July 15, to benefit Liz Mobley.

Mobley is a life-long Florence resident, Siuslaw High School graduate and U.S. Army veteran who was diagnosed with brain cancer.

She owned Florence Travel Agency before having to close the business due to her cancer diagnosis.

A silent auction will also be held throughout the duration of the event.

All money raised will help pay for cancer treatment and expenses.

Tsunami of song stirs souls, shines shoes

Concert Review

"Who's Gonna Fill Their Shoes?"

BY BURNEY GARELICK

Feet have grown in the last 50 years, but no matter how big they get, they will never fill the shoes of musical icons like Hank Williams, the Carter Family, Patsy Cline, and George Jones.

That's the premise of a "Who's Gonna Fill Their Shoes?," a delightful show at Florence Playhouse in Old Town.

This classic country music retrospective written and directed by estimable singer and actor Mike Jacobson stirs a golden kettle of nostalgia for the evergreen melodies from five decades of country songs — the 1940s through the 1980s.

These are the songs you couldn't help but hear on radio, records, and television.

Songs like Hank Williams' "Your Cheatin' Heart," Tennessee Ernie Ford's "Sixteen Tons," the Carter Family's "May the Circle Be Unbroken" and Roger Miller's "King of the Road."

Jacobson, who directed

the wonderful tribute to The Ink Spots last summer, chose 45 classic country songs and four excellent local vocalists to join him in this country music retrospective.

Right from the start, the singers provide an ensemble chemistry that captures the audience with fireworks of laughter and joy.

The singers are accompanied by keyboard, drums, acoustic guitar and steel guitar.

Two magic hours of song with very little talk speed merrily along like that "Orange Blossom Special" coming down the railroad track.

Even the treble clef and the big black cartoon notes pinned to the stage backdrop bounced with singalong glee — and plenty of audience lips moved, singing along softly.

In addition to Jacobson, singers included Nancy Pearson, Denise Dee, Doug Bushwar (who also picked acoustic guitar) and Marty Adams, who also tickled the ivories.

Emmanuel Beaulieu tapped the traps, and a young man (whose name escapes me) plucked a mean steel guitar and occasionally stole the show with his nifty licks.

Pearson's exuberant voice is so country, she sounds fresh

from the holler between Dolly Parton and Loretta Lynn. A few years ago she wowed Florence audiences as Patsy Cline in "Always ... Patsy."

You can still catch Patsy in Pearson's rendition of "Crazy" by Willie Nelson, "Walkin' After Midnight" by Alan Block and Donn Hecht and "Sweet Dreams" by Don Gibson.

But her cover of Bill Monroe's "Blue Moon of Kentucky" shone so brightly with hues of turquoise and silver, Elvis would have approved.

Understated Dee dressed for the genre in a cowboy (girl, person) hat and Annie Oakley braid and delivered, among other songs, a riveting, bluesy "Help Me Make It Through the Night" by Kris Kristofferson and Tammy Wynette's defiant "Stand By Your Man."

Bushwar's rich, low voice was stunning on Marty Robbins' "Don't Worry 'Bout Me" and Roy Orbison's swinging "Pretty Woman."

His hot guitar breaks and warm backup singing won the audience's applause.

Adams' swift verbal spontaneity kept the rhythm bouncing, slowing enough for a dramatic "White Sport Coat and a Pink Carnation," another Marty Robbins' chestnut.

Whimsical Dee even pinned a flower on Adams' coat.

Always affable Jacobson,

with a ranging voice that never falters, positively charmed with Ernest Tubb's "Waltz Across Texas," Marty Robbins' saga of "El Paso," Johnny Cash's titular tale of parenting, "A Boy Named Sue," and Hank Williams' spicy "Jambalaya," complemented with sizzling steel guitar.

Jacobson concluded with "Who's Gonna Fill Their Shoes?" a George Jones 1985 classic with lyrics recognizing the Red-Headed Stranger, the Man in Black, the Okie from Muskogee, Blue Suede Shoes and Elvis, ending with: "Who's gonna play the Opry and the Wabash Cannonball?"

It would have been nice to have a list in the program of all 45 songs and the artists who sold them, but the show's emphasis is on the sound of the great country songs that survived to sail forever in the American stream of consciousness.

The artists stepped into the songs and fused a unique identity with them.

Other singers can cover their songs, but nobody can fill their shoes.

So saddle up and waltz across Florence to enjoy an evening or afternoon of classic country music.

The show concludes this weekend, July 3, 4 and 5.

And stay tuned for three more productions this summer at Florence Playhouse, now in its 10th year.

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Mary Ann Earl, RN, BSN will be facilitating these free sessions in the Activity room. The meetings are designed to assist and support families and friends as they navigate the care of their loved ones.

For more information contact Annette at (541) 997-6111



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Yachats Arts Guild hosting summer show July 2-5



COURTESY PHOTOS

**Natural-edged wood vase
by Barry Campbell**

YACHATS — The Yachats Arts Guild will host its annual summer show tomorrow, July 2, through Sunday, July 5, at The Commons, located at W. Fourth St. and Highway 101 in Yachats.

The guild welcomes new members Kathy Whitson, Eileen Lighthawk, Lee Haynes, Mark Adcock and Jane McCarthy.

These new guild members, as well as original participating artists Claire Good, Carol Summers and Barry Campbell, are just a few of the artists who will be featured in this summer's show.

The show will feature various mediums of artwork including watercolor, oil, acrylic, photography and wood-turned bowls and vases.

Original paintings as well as prints and note cards will be available for purchase.

The Yachats Arts Guild was formed to promote central coast artists and photographers and to call attention to the beauty of the Oregon coast.

Anyone interested in becoming a member or a subscriber member to support the Yachats Arts Guild can apply at the summer show.

A percentage of all sales go to the support and promotion of the Yachats Commons.

Show hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Thursday through Saturday, and 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Sunday.

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*We invite you to
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