

Beer tasting continues at Homegrown tomorrow

Homegrown will present another in its series of free beer tastings Thursday, Feb. 18, from 4 to 6 p.m.

Homegrown will introduce Norm Vidoni II and Charlie Whedbee from Plough Monday Organic Brewery and Farm in Veneta.

Both Vidoni and Whedbee started Plough Monday in 2008. They have had many challenges but have continued growing hops and brewing. They have mastered their craft of making unique brews with locally sourced organic ingredients.

Plough Monday is committed to using organic ingredi-

ents. Vidoni and Whedbee believe in educating their customers about the chemical fungicides commonly used in growing conventional hops, and the effects these fungicides have on our environment and body. They go to all lengths to produce a final product that is healthy for their customers and the environment.

Come to Homegrown, 294 Laurel St., to meet the brewers and taste some of their creations.

Call 541-997-4886 for more information.

Library holds book signing

The public is invited to attend a book signing for "Family Disaster Dogs" author Amber Higgins at the Siuslaw Public Library, 1460 Ninth St., on Saturday, Feb 20, from 1 to 3 p.m.

For more information, email Higgins at contact@familydisasterdogs.com or call 541-991-0584.

Can't make the event? Visit www.familydisasterdogs.com to get a copy and learn more.

FANS GATHER FOR JESSE COOK CONCERT

Jesse Cook Review

BY ELLEN TEMPLAR

During Seacoast Entertainment Association's Jesse Cook pre-concert talk at the Florence Events Center on Jan. 29, it became clear that the singer/songwriter was not only a pleasant and highly humorous presence, but also a very popular performer.

Having never given a pre-concert talk before, Cook asked for questions. After answering a few of them, Cook realized many in the room had been to his concerts before.

He asked how many had been to more than one of his concerts. Hands went up for 5, 6, 7 and even 9 concerts by what were obviously huge Jesse Cook fans.

Many out-of-town attendees in this audience had been to his concert the night before in Eugene and were planning to attend his concert the following night in Seattle.

It gives new meaning to the term "he has a following."

That's how good Cook and his band are.

Onstage, the lighting was just enough to enable the first of five musicians to find their way out to start the strains of Cook's original composition that borrows from traditional music so ancient there is no known author.

During the pre-concert talk,



PHOTO BY ELLEN TEMPLAR

Jesse Cook (center) performs at the Florence Events Center.

Cook was asked who in the music field influenced him and one of his answers was The Gypsy Kings, a very famous traditional and modern music ensemble with a style all their own. Their musical style could definitely be heard in this piece and in many of the pieces performed by Cook and his band during the evening.

As a composer and album producer, while borrowing from ancient traditional music and Gypsy King styling, Cook still manages to create exciting new music all his own. Mastery of guitar and instrumentation combine into artful uniqueness.

The energy level never let up. It all appeared so easy and yet one knew it had to be exhausting in the end.

During the pre-concert talk there was discussion about one of Cook's past performances of "Cancion Triste." Cook stated that it is a sad song but the audience comment

responded that it was more relaxing than sad.

However, with eyes closed you could see, hear and feel the ocean waves rolling onto the shore and back out again with every breath of the music. At one point there was the surprising echo of a fog horn.

Cook played with some of the most talented musicians to ever grace the event center's stage. The multi-talented Chris Church plays violin, concertina and learned to play the haunting Armenian duduk expertly for one particular tune. Church also displayed a singing voice to envy.

Dennis Mohammad provided the all-important bass rhythms with great energy and excitement.

Nicholas Hernandez on flamenco guitar perfectly complimented Cook. Both musicians were outstanding with the flamenco hand clapping that gives this style of music so much verve.

Late into the program, the audience was surprised to learn that this was only Juan Mendrano's second

performance with this group.

The only word to describe Mendrano's talents on trap set, ethnic drums, a box, a tin can and unusual percussion tools is "amazing."

It just cannot be easy for a young man from Columbia to suddenly and quickly be performing the intricate rhythms of Armenian styled music.

Cook is an engaging performer who brings great humor to the stage and brings the audience to its feet often.

During the first encore piece, Paul Simon's "Cecilia," the entire sold-out crowd was on its feet singing, clapping and swaying with the music.

It was sometimes difficult to catch titles for the music.

The last song was something about rain falling down, which may have been the title, and was very telling as to the vast amount of talent on stage. Guitars were unplugged, amps and mikes were turned off and only the sounds of pure acoustics and human voice were heard.

As Church sang this song with harmonies by Cook and the rest of the band accompanying, his enviable voice rang beautifully throughout the hall with great timbre and projection.

Presented by SEacoast producers Linda Gargis and Steve Dennis, Jesse Cook was the third of SEA's 2015-16 concert season.

SEacoast's next concert, "Ballet Fantastique," will be this Saturday, Feb. 20.

Call the FEC box office for tickets at 541-997-1994 or contact it online at www.eventcenter.org.

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IF:GATHERING

EVENT DATES
 •Friday, Feb 26, 6:30pm-9:30pm (doors open at 6pm)
 •Saturday, Feb 27, 9am-5pm (lunch: 12pm-1pm)

a global gathering

IF:Gathering brings together women from all over the world to humbly seek God and to equip them to better live out their callings. It is a raw, authentic and community-driven global gathering for women who desire to invest in and love one another across denominations, generations and cultures. We seek to model, resource and empower women so that they can create fresh, honest spaces in their local places to wrestle with essential questions of faith like:
 IF God is real... then what?
 IF God is real, then we want more than anything to live like it.

Please join us at the
FLORENCE EVENTS CENTER.
 Seating is limited.
 Registration is required to reserve your seat.
 To register visit: ifgatheringFlorence.eventbrite.com

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Rotary announces SHS student of the Quarter

On Feb. 9, the Florence Rotary Club presented Siuslaw High School student Michael Larson with an award for SHS Student of the Quarter. Larson was nominated by staff members at the high school. Pictured are (from left): Student of the Quarter Michael Larson, Siuslaw High School Principal Kerri Tatum and Rotary President Crystal Farnsworth.

COURTESY PHOTO

240 HOURS

Is your family prepared?

If an emergency happens in your community, it may take emergency workers some time to reach you. You should be prepared to take care of yourself and your family for a minimum of 240 hours.

Get your emergency car kit started with these essentials:

- Always have at least one half tank of gas
- First aid kit
- Class ABC fire extinguisher
- Radio and fresh batteries
- Nonperishable food in coffee can
- Bottled water
- Tool kit
- Blankets or sleeping bags
- Short rubber hose for siphoning
- Jumper cables
- Waterproof matches and candles
- Reflectors and flares
- Flashlight with fresh batteries
- Paper and pencil maps
- Towel, plastic bags, medications

This message brought to you by the West Lane Emergency Operations Group. www.wleog.org

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