



# Library Tidings

News about upcoming Siuslaw Public Library programs

by Kevin Mittge

NYAH from page 1A

Her parents, Scott and Marijo, and her siblings, Luke, Jonah and Simone, are all along for the ride as she sees just where her ambition and talent can take her. Two have even embarked on performing careers of their own. "To do a job, any job, you have to be at it for 3 to 5 years before you feel really comfortable," Marijo said. "Everyone has to start somewhere — which is really nice, because Nyah has started as a teenager. ... Even if she decides she wants to be an accountant when she's 25—"

"No, thank you," Nyah interjected.

"— She'll have been in the business for 12 years, and that's a lot longer than a lot of people stick to their first career. Then, she can go to college again for something else," Marijo said.

Nyah has spent the last year refining her writing, singing and playing skills. From "Empty Spaces," which she wrote when she was 13 and released in February, to "Flowers on my Grave," released in August, and "Midnight," released in September, audiences will be able to hear a variety of sounds. Most recently, she debuted "Maybe It's A Christmas Song" on Thanksgiving Day.

"I wrote them all at different times," Nyah said. "None of these songs were written around the same time. It was all done one at a time. None of them are related, and yet they're all me."

For her mother, "It's about being part of an experience and having the ability to come back to a Nyah original every season."

Like other creatives, Nyah carries a notebook with her most of the time. She writes songs with pen and paper, but uses her tablet for longer-form

prose. She also draws. Add in her blossoming talent for guitar and ukulele, and she is working hard to be not only a well-rounded performer, but a well-rounded person.

"Writing, painting, making music — that is the joy part of humanity," Marijo said. "If you ask people what brings them joy, someone will say a song, or musical or something that's related to the arts. Nyah is doing all of those. From one art type, she is learning more."

Besides her own songs, Nyah sings karaoke at The Firehouse Restaurant in Historic Old Town Florence and performs covers of popular tunes.

"When Nyah covers a song, she has two options," her mother said. "To make it exactly like how it is—"

"Or completely different," Nyah added.

Marijo finished, "Because people have an expectation."

"If I like the song, I'll sing it," Nyah said firmly. "If I'm going to play it on the ukulele, it's if I can play the chords."

Her musical influences cover multiple genres, something she keeps in mind with both her covers and her own songs.

In the playlists she listens to, "I'll have an AC/DC song right next to a Frank Sinatra song."

This versatility opened the doors for Nyah at InRage Entertainment, where she blew them away after an open call for a singer to be part of a K-Pop-style band.

Marijo said, "Part of the question they asked Nyah was, 'If we decide we're all going to do this as a team, what kind of artist do you want to be?'" And she had no idea, since her musical genres cover so much. If you look at her tablet, she has showtunes next to emo music. Her musical taste is so diverse — jazz, rock and roll."

## Gingerbread Houses!

Don't miss your opportunity to decorate a gingerbread house this Saturday, Dec. 14, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the library's Bromley Room. Free and fun!

A very popular program, families are invited to bring kids of all ages for this gingerbread house decorating extravaganza. Supplies will be provided. Children under

the age of 8 must be accompanied by an adult.

## Hang-It All Winners

The library is pleased to congratulate this year's Hang-It All Art Show winners.

The Bob Kutsch Award, selected by the library's Art Committee, goes to "Lily" by Jerry Schneider. The People's Choice Award, se-

lected by members of the public, was a tie, with the award going to "Simba #2" by Carol Carpenter and "Untitled Ocean View" by Roberta Brenner.

All three works of art will be on display inside the library through the end of the month. A big thank you to all the fantastic artists and craftspeople who took part in this year's celebration of art.

## Holiday Cards

The Friends of the Library have filled their greeting card rack with a wonderful assortment of holiday cards. Pick up these creative, one-of-a-kind cards to send to family and friends and support the library.

Cards, priced \$2-\$3, will be available for sale through December.

Each song on Nyah's upcoming EP will be thematically different, reflecting distinct emotions with each song. Now, the team at InRage will ask if Nyah has any songs, and she can pull one out.

InRage Vice President Ebony Rae Vanderveer said, "This is a period of exploration musically for her right now. She can do anything, so the question is where is she going to land? We're getting closer to that."

Nyah also continues to perform, recently with Maree Beers and Hip Pocket at a venue in Eugene.

"I really love performing with Maree," Nyah said. "She's one of the best vocalists in town and I love her. But I'm like, 'Oh my god, you were my mentor. I can't believe I'm on the same stage doing the same thing as you.'"

The Vollmars listed off some of the local musicians who have gone from supporting Nyah as mentors to fellow performers: Marty Adams, Paul Biondi, Denise Dee, Hip Pocket, Nate Kaplan, Judi Kelly and Jason Wood.

"It's just weird that I'm performing with them now,"

Nyah added. "I remember being 7 and looking up to them, and now I'm doing the same stuff. And they give me solid advice. There are some lovely people in this town."

Marijo said, "It's really neat that there is this community of people who have been doing this their whole lives and taking a really genuine interest in her."

The next step for the family is to get Nyah out there "beyond the county fairs," Marijo said. Part of that is the release of her EP with InRage in 2020, interviews with regional radio stations and more performances with longer set lists.

Two of these will be this weekend — Friday, Dec. 13, at Mindpower Gallery's holiday reception from 5 to 7 p.m. at 417 Fir Ave. in Reedsport, and Saturday, Dec. 14, from 5 to 6 p.m. at the Victorian Christmas Open House at Heceta Lightkeeper's House. She will perform with guitarist Marco Peña.

People can expect to hear her own songs, mixed with Christmas favorites. And maybe one new one, too, with "Maybe It's A Christmas Song."

For Nyah, who loves Christmas, she acknowledges it's not her usual type of song. "It's soft. It is a love song, something I don't write often, or when I do, I don't show to people. Because love is strife. But it is a love song. Will you stay with me? It's cold, can I have the warmth of company with another person?"

"Or a puppy," her mother added.

Nyah agreed. "Puppies are better than humans."

As for InRage, Vanderveer said Nyah's mix of genres continues to be a strength. "InRage is proud of Nyah and

the work she has done, as well as the community that backs her. We're working to continue to put her on the map as she represents Florence. ... We're just excited to be in this stage of life with her as she becomes more self-aware as an artist"

The download of "Maybe It's A Christmas Song" is available through 11:59 p.m. on New Year's Eve at [www.nyahtheunicorn.com](http://www.nyahtheunicorn.com). At that time, they will also be entered into a drawing for a pair of Apple AirPods Pro. The song will be available for purchase after Jan. 1.

## Siuslaw News

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