

Head to the alley for live music

Side A-ley concerts happening at least once a week

By Lisa Britton
Go! Magazine

LA GRANDE — Caiti Burke became the event coordinator at Side A Brewing right before pandemic restrictions prompted the cancellation of concerts and gatherings.

"Obviously we couldn't do anything," Burke said.

But the downtime did give her time to plan for 2021, and the brewpub launched the Side A-ley concert series in early July. To schedule artists, Burke called every-one she'd contacted in 2020.

"We just went back to those people, and 90% said yes," she said.

The name "Side A-ley" refers to the back courtyard — the alley — of Side A Brewing, 1219 Washington Ave. in La Grande. The area has nine tables, plus about 20 chairs set around the perimeter. There's also a walk-up window where patrons can order drinks. Shows start at 7 p.m. There is no cover charge.

"There's plenty of room to sit and dance," Burke said.

Her goal was to have 12 weeks of concerts.

"That's why the concert series goes into the fall," she said.

Next summer, she plans to have a true summer concert series, from early June through August.



Photo by Caiti Burke

Olivia Harms played a Side A-ley concert on Tuesday, Aug. 3, at Side A Brewing in La Grande.

"We wanted to make Side A not only a great place for food and beverages, but to hear great talent," she said.

Some musicians are local, or have ties to La Grande.

Others travel some distance to play — often on their way to shows in Portland or Boise. There are one to two

concerts each weekend, and "pop up" shows are added on occasion.

"We wanted to have music at least once a week," Burke said.

The Side A-ley concerts are posted on the Side A Brewing website, www.sidea-beer.com, and on Facebook.

UPCOMING SHOWS

Saturday, Aug. 21: Grayson Dean

Friday, Aug. 27: Alka Mahdi

Thursday, Sept. 9: Jess Clemons

Friday, Sept. 10: Elwood

Friday, Sept. 17: Bag of Hammers

Friday, Sept. 24: Jobe Woosley & Co.



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