

Joseph Mountain Jubilee returns with 2 days of music

By Katy Nesbitt
Go! Magazine

JOSEPH — The Joseph Mountain Jubilee returns after a two-year break, bringing roots music to Joseph's downtown July 2 and 3.

In 2012 Tammy Kruger, a local nurse, musician and music festival aficionado, wanted to bring a festival to Joseph, but with a twist — instead of one venue stage for several acts, local restaurants, bars and the Wallowa County Farmers Market would provide space for bands. Entry would be free and music fans would be able to order food and drink from the hosting venue.

"I was visiting with my friend Hillary Valentine who was the manager of Mutiny is Brewing at the time, and I told her I wanted to have a festival and she said, 'Ok, let's do it,'" Kruger said.

The local businesses easily adopted the idea and this year, after skipping 2020 and 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the tradition of the Joseph Mountain Jubilee is back on Joseph's Main Street, showcasing eight bands at five venues over Independence Day weekend.

Getting things started from 10 a.m.-noon on July 2, Gabriel Bush, a singer-songwriter and guitarist from "around the world and sometimes Joseph," plays at the Wallowa County Farmers Market. Bush is followed by the "Burns Family Band" playing fiddle tunes at the market from noon-2 p.m.

Across the street from the Farmers Market, from 2-4 p.m., is the Mimosa Party at Bly-the Cricket featuring Wallowa

County's own "Calico Bones," the sister duo of Madison and McKenzie Lindsey. Come hear these singer songwriters perform acoustic rock covers and soulful originals.

From 3-5 p.m. "The Bad Penny Pleasurers" of New Orleans bring their old time music to Embers Brewhouse outdoor stage. Northeastern Oregon music lovers are well-familiar with Matt Bell and Joy Patterson's unique, early 20th century sound as they make several stops throughout the region each summer.

From 5-6:30 p.m. the Moscow, Idaho, band "Corn Mash" plays at the Gold Room. Their sound is a mix of rock, country, blues, folk, hillbilly, punk and funk, so be prepared for dancing.

Singer-songwriter and guitarist "Elwood" plays his signature folk-roots style songs, inspired by the natural world, at the Rusty Spur from 5-7 p.m.

Grizzly Goat, based in Nashville, plays "undomesticated folk rock" from 7-10 p.m. at Embers Brewhouse.

An "old-soul folk songwriter with a modern indie edge," Portland's Olivia Awbrey and her band will close out the day at the



Wallowa County Chieftain, file

The last Joseph Mountain Jubilee — featuring bands like The Local Yokels — was held in 2019. It returns to Joseph this year, July 2-3.

Rusty Spur from 10 p.m.-1 a.m.

Sunday night The Stubborn Mule hosts a Bloody Mary Party with E. Wayne Jones and his "note-bending harmonica and driving guitar rhythm." Jones' deep well of originals and covers, heavily influenced by the sounds of the '60s, ranges from Johnny Cash to John Lennon.

The Joseph Mountain Jubilee is a Wallowa Valley Music Alli-

ance event. Kruger said the City of Joseph and Wallowa County awarded grants for the festival and Community Bank sponsored the stainless steel pint and stemless wine glasses available for purchase.

Attendees can support the festival through donations and a 50/50 raffle. Kruger said raffle tickets will be available at all of the venues and the drawing will be 8 p.m. July 2 at Embers Brewhouse.

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