

Side A welcomes Scott Knickerbocker

The Side A-Iley concert is July 1

By John Vollinger

Go! Magazine

LA GRANDE — As the weather begins to (finally) become warmer, it might be a good time to lounge in the shade, grab a cool drink (perhaps even some food), and enjoy the live music offered by Side A's "Side A-Iley" concert series.

Coming up on July 1, La Grande welcomes Scott Knickerbocker. The music begins at 7:30 p.m. on the back patio of Side A Brewing, 1219 Washington Ave.

Knickerbocker's original songs center around such themes as, he explains, "love and murder, sin and redemption, whiskey and whimsy" with a variety of stringed instruments, from a banjo and resonator guitar to a fiddle.

When not playing music, Knickerbocker is a Professor of English and Environmental Studies at The College of Idaho, and he has also published a book titled "Ecopoetics: The Language of Nature, the Nature of Language." His work focuses on the ways that language can bring us closer to our ecology, and centers on poets who, rather than blandly describing the world, think about language as something that is "rather wild, and...[can recreate] the world, perhaps performing the world on the page."

For an example of his music, check out his performance



Side A/Contributed Photo
Scott Knickerbocker plays the Side A-Iley concert Friday, July 1, at Side A Brewing in La Grande.

of his song "Dear Reader" by typing "Scott Knickerbocker – A Coyote A Day" into YouTube. Here, Knickerbocker sings from the perspective of a shelved book, entreating his "dear reader" to pull him down and explore his words and ideas.

To the tune of a folk/country guitar strum, he delicately balances two ideas in the song. The listener is able to imagine the book as a metaphor for the singer, asking his love to embrace him again — but the lyrics also make a comment on the importance of language and taking the time to step away from the screen to enjoy the complexities of the written word.

For more information about the musician, visit junkerdashrecords.com/artists/scott-knickerbocker.

SIDE A-LLEY CONCERT SERIES

Side A-Iley concerts are held most weeks at Side A Brewing, 1219 Washington Ave. in La Grande. For updates, visit the Facebook page or sideabeer.com.

Schedule:

July 1: Scott Knickerbocker

July 8: Melissa Ruth

July 15: Alka Mahdi

July 23: Sage & Stone

July 30: Jezebel's Mother

Aug. 6: Chris Baron & the Two Secrets

Aug. 12: Calico Bones

Aug. 20: Megan Alder

Aug. 26: Wes Youssi & the County Champs

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