

Vol. 40 • No. 11 • December 2016

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**40**  
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# Positively Entertainment and Dining

NW Band & Club Schedules Inside!



Plus:

Michael Allen Harrison Christmas Shows • New Year's Eve At Gresham Eagles  
NW Women Rhythm & Blues Christmas Concerts • Shanghai Tunnels  
Loose Change @ Gilhooligan's • Rivershore Bar & Grill • Thrillride Variety Show  
Wayne Richards & Southern Nights CD Review • Travel Excursion • More



# Gresham Eagles celebrates New Year's Eve w/cruise ship theme & music with Taska

The Gresham Eagles is pulling out all the stops for a grand New Year's Eve dance party this year, featuring Taska & the Party Band, Dec. 31. Dinner is served from 5:30-8:30 p.m. and dance starts at 7 p.m. Instead of the traditional Black

& Silver Ball, they have taken to the water (figuratively) and will be heading up the gangplank aboard "THE SS EAGLES," with a cruise ship theme unlike any others! Guests will actually enter the club with an approach much like board-

ing an ocean-going passenger ship. The club will be transformed into "life aboard a party ship."

The tickets are only \$25 per person which includes five-and-a-half hours of live dance music, party favors, champagne for a midnight toast and breakfast buffet, beginning at 12:05 a.m.

One of the popular house bands Taska & The Party Band will be on deck to keep the dancers happy. Taska Barlow will be joined by Kae Pemberton and Ali Roskam for some special "girl group" nostalgia.

A great night is planned for non-stop fun in an atmosphere not seen before in Gresham! In the event of anyone getting "ship-faced," alternate transportation will be furnished.

ALL ABOARD THE SS EAGLES on 12-31-16! SHIPS AHOY! The Gresham Eagles is located at 117 N.E. Powell, Gresham, Ore. Phone: 503-667-3019.



Taska & The Party Band

## GRESHAM EAGLES • 12-31-2016

### CRUISE INTO 2017 ON THE SS EAGLES!

PRE-PURCHASED BOARDING PASSES \$25 each Includes party favors, breakfast buffet and champagne for midnight toast!

Plan your reservation early as passage will sell out!

Captain's Dinner: 5:30-8:30pm  
Sunrise Breakfast: 12:05am



Featuring "The Trio"

Music on The Flight Deck by

Taska & THE PARTY BAND 7pm

**SUNDAY SOCIAL DANCE**  
with *Mary Ann Carter* at **Ankeny Street Studio**  
SE 9th & Ankeny  
Lessons at 5pm  
Dance 'til 9pm  
\$7.50 per Person  
Call 503-676-4198

AREA 52  
6920 SE 52nd  
971-302-7084

Tues Jimmy Thompson, 7-11  
Wed-Thurs Karaoke, 7-10:30  
Dec 2 Johnny Vargo  
3 Plan B  
Sun Upright Blues Jam w/members of Bolt Upright, 4-7  
9 Bad Motor Scooter  
10 Robin Gibson  
16 Monterey Purple  
17 Ugly Sweater Dance Party w/Kable Roc  
23 Kenny Lavitz  
24 (Closed at 7 pm)  
25 Open at 2 pm - Merry Christmas!  
30 TBA  
31 New Year's Eve Party w/Felony 3

BILLY WEBB ELKS LODGE  
6 N Tillamook  
503-284-4853  
Fri DJ Eddie & more, 9  
Sat The Irving Brown Connection, 9  
Dec 31 New Year's Eve Party

BLUE DIAMOND  
2016 NE Sandy  
503/230-9590  
Sun Blues Jam w/Kevin Selfe, 6-9  
Mon Hot Tea Cold, 8:30 Tues AC Porter Blues Jam  
Wed The Fenix Project Blues Jam  
Thurs Ben Jones & Friends  
Dec 2 Michael Osborne  
3 Hess-Stevens Band  
9 AC Porter & the Live Wires  
10 Heavy Chevy  
16 Bottleneck Blues Band  
17 Department of R&B  
23 Lisa Mann  
24-25 Closed - Merry Christmas!  
30 Billy D  
31 New Year's Eve Party w/Kevin Selfe, 8:30

## MUSIC ON TAP

CI BAR & GRILL  
18786 SW Boones Ferry Rd, Tualatin  
503-692-2765  
Tues-Wed Karaoke, 8  
Dec 1 Dub Debie Jam  
2 Lloyd Jones  
8, 15, 22, 29 Ed Neumann & Friends Jam  
9 99-W  
10 Strawberry Roan  
16 Kevin Selfe  
17 Party Bus  
23 Stevens-Hess Band  
24 Closed at 3 pm  
25 Closed - Merry Christmas!  
30 Kenny Lavitz  
31 New Year's Eve Party w/Two-Bit Rumor

GILHOOIGAN'S  
10810 NE Sandy Blvd  
503-477-6484  
Dec 1 Loose Change  
2 TBA  
3 Soul Dimension  
7, 14, 21, 28 Karaoke  
8 Open Mike w/Ross  
9 Robbie Laws  
10 Krooked Finger  
15 Misc. Artists, PIFS Christmas Party  
16 Youth Revolution  
17 Hip Hop by Mandella  
18 Open Jam w/Mike Beaver  
22 Hip Hop w/Meachy Meachum  
23 King Krush (Punk revival)  
24 Open Jam  
25 Closed - Merry Christmas!  
29 Open Mike w/Ross  
30 Beaver Boogie Band  
31 New Year's Eve Party w/Beaver Boogie Band, Krooked Finger, Pickle Back Boys & Special Guests

M&M LOUNGE  
137 N Main, Gresham  
503/665-2626  
Wed-Thurs Karaoke w/Melody, 8  
Dec 2-3 Mike Branch Band  
9-10 Nash Brothers  
16-17 Burn  
23 NW Sugar Shakers  
31 New Year's Eve Party w/Terrified Space Monkeys & The Insensitives

RIVERSHORE  
1900 Clackamette Dr, Oregon City  
503-655-5155  
Fri-Sat Karaoke, 9  
Dec 31 New Year's Eve Party

TRAIL'S END SALOON  
1320 Main St, Oregon City  
503-656-3031  
Tues Acoustic Jam w/Big Yellow Taxi, 7  
Wed Suburban Slim w/special guest, 7  
Thurs Girls Night Out w/Sonny Hess, Lisa Mann & guest, 7  
Dec 2 Erotic City - Prince Tribute, 8:30  
3 Big Yellow Taxi  
4 Gospel Sunday w/Rae Gordon / Sunday Jam (Junior jam w/Robbie Laws), 6  
9 Men in Blues Christmas Extravaganza, 8:30  
10 Uproar, 8:30  
Sun Sunday Jam w/Junior Jam w/Robbie Laws, 6  
16 Brady Goss, 8:30  
17 Ray Gordon's We Three Kings Christmas w/the West Coast Kings, 8:30  
23 Gold Dust - Fleetwood Mac Tribute, 8:30  
24 Closing at 4 pm  
25 Closed - Merry Christmas!  
30 Kevin Selfe & the Tornado, 8:30  
31 New Year's Eve Party w/Billy D & the Hoodoos, 8:30

# BANDSTAND

BIG BOSSA QUARTET  
Dec 23 Mock Crest Tavern, 3435 N Lombard, 9

DAVID F CURREY  
Thurs Open Mike @ The Skyroom, Hwy 26, Zig Zag, OR

ELVIS NAGEL EXPERIENCE  
Dec 23 (10 pm) Gilhooligan's w/Wood Works Band (8 pm) & Ron Fast Band (9 pm), 10810 NE Sandy Blvd

THE INSENSITIVES  
Dec 31 New Year's Eve Party @ The M&M Lounge, 137 Main St, Gresham  
www.theinsensitives.com

JESSIE RAE  
Dec 10 Salem Holiday Fair @ Oregon State Fairgrounds, Salem, 9:30-11:30  
31 New Year's Eve @ Ava Roasteria, 4655 SW Hall Blvd, Beaverton, 7:30-10:30

LISA MANN  
Dec 1 Women's Music Revue @ Trail's End Saloon w/Sonny Hess, Ed Pierce & guest, 1320 Main St, Oregon City, 7  
3 Trio @ O'Connor's Vault, 7850 SW Capitol Hwy, 7  
8 NW Women's R&B Christmas Show @ Trail's End Saloon w/Claudette King & more (www.nw-womenblues.com), 1320 Main St, Oregon City, 7  
9 Trio @ Tigardville Station, 12370 SW Main St, Tigard, 8  
10 Lisa w/Lloyd Jones & Willis Moss @ Junction Bar & Grill, 21000 Old Hwy 99 SW, Centralia, WA, 8:30  
11 NW Women's R&B Christmas Show @ St Phillip Neri w/Claudette King & more (www.nwwomenblues.com), 2804 SE 16th Ave, Portland, 6  
14 McMenamin's Edgefield w/Sonny Hess, 2126 SW Halsey Blvd, Troutdale, OR, 7  
15 Women's Music Revue w/Sonny Hess & Liz Coffman @ Trail's End Saloon, 1320 Main St, Oregon City, 7  
16 Band @ Vinyl Tap, 2099 SE Oak Grove Blvd, Milwaukie, 8:30  
17 "Singin' with Santa's Sweet Angels" @ Jimmy Mak's w/Lisa, LaRhonda Steele, Teresa James (Texas) & Lloyd Jones, 221 NW 10th Ave, 7:30 & 10  
18 Lisa & Sonny Hess @ Skyway, 71545 Hwy 26, Zigzag, OR, 6  
22 Women's Music Revue w/Lisa, Sonny Hess & guest @ Trail's End Saloon, 1320 Main St, Oregon City, 7  
23 Trio @ Blue Diamond, 2016 NE Sandy Blvd, 9  
30 Band @ Jimmy Mak's w/Ben Rice, 221 NW 10th Ave, 8  
www.lisamannmusic.com

MICHAEL ALLEN HARRISON  
Dec 10-26 Christmas at The Old Church, 1422 SW 11th, Portland, OR (Tickets & info: www.michaelallen-harrison.com or call 503-568-9134)

MISS AUGIE & FRIENDS  
Sun Jam Session @ Gresham Eagles Lodge, 117 NE Roberts Ave, Gresham, OR, 6

NEW IBERIANS  
Dec 31 Zydeco New Year's Eve Dance @ the New Old VFW Hall w/Jamie Leopold & the Short Stories, Reverb Brothers, & The Walter Cryderman Goodtime Four, 825 SW Mill St, Portland, OR, 7:30  
newiberians.com

NOBODY'S SWEETHEART  
Dec 23 Cascade Bar & Grill, 15000 SE Mill Plain Blvd, Vancouver, WA, 9  
31 New Year's Eve Party @ Timberline Lodge, 27500 E Timberline Lodge Rd, Mt Hood, 8  
nobodyssweetheart.net

NORMAN SYLVESTER BAND  
Dec 3 Elsinore theater, 170 High St SE, Salem, 9 am / Vinyl Tap, 2099 SE Oak Grove Blvd, Oak Grove, 8:30  
9 Rogue Pub, 31500 NW Commercial St, North Plains, 9  
10 Spare Room, 4830 NE 42nd, 9  
11 Norman guest w/Soul Filled Christmas @ The Unity Center, 20255 Willamette Dr, West Linn (Tickets: www.worldhealing.org), 3 & 6 pm  
16 Clyde's, 5474 NE Sandy Blvd, 9  
17 Mac's Place, 201 Waters St, Silverton, OR, 9  
www.normansylvester.com  
www.myspace.com/thenormansylvesterband

NW WOMEN RHYTHM & BLUES  
Dec 8, (7 pm) & 11 (6 pm) Christmas Concerts @ Trail's End Saloon & Carvlin Hall featuring Claudette King, Ellen Whyte, Lisa Mann, LaRhonda Steele, Arietta Ward, Rae Gordon, Vicki Stevens, Lady Kat, Kimberly Hall, Kelly Pierce, Sonny Hess (www.nwwomenblues.com)

ROCKET SCIENZZ  
Dec 31 New Year's Eve Party @ Wooden Chicken, 12500 NE Sandy Blvd

TASKA & THE PARTY BAND  
Dec 2 Clark County Newcomer's, Green Meadows Golf Club, Vancouver, WA  
3 Harlequin Dance Club @ Kelso Elks Lodge, Kelso, WA  
16 Gresham Eagles, 117 NE Roberts, Gresham, 7-11  
17 "Free Tom & Jerry" Dance Party @ Gresham Eagles, 117 NE Roberts, Gresham, 7-11  
23 "Night Before Christmas" Dance Party @ Gresham Eagles, 117 NE Roberts, Gresham, 7-11  
30 Gresham Elks, 3330 NE Division, Gresham, 7-11  
31 New Year's Eve "Cruise Into 2017" Out -To-Sea Passenger Ship-style Dance Party @ Gresham Eagles, 117 NE Roberts, Gresham, 7-11 (\$25 ticket includes 5-1/2 hours live music, midnight champagne toast & 12:05 am breakfast buffet)

THRILLRIDE  
www.thrillrideband.com  
Dec 2 Wranglers, Canby, OR  
3 Thrillride, plus many of NW most unique, crazy & eclectic talents @ CI Bar & Grill, 18786 SW Boones Ferry Rd, Tualatin, 8  
17 Gresham Elks, 3330 NE Division, Gresham  
31 New Year's Eve Boomers @ Monarch Hotel, 12566 SE 93rd Ave, Clackamas

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Leo Curry

# Crush exudes energy to standing-room-only crowd at World Famous M&M Lounge in downtown Gresham

While many know Crush to be amongst the elitists in the cover band genre, there may be a small few that haven't heard this accomplished band. With a standing room only crowd and energy bursting at the seams of World Famous M&M in Gresham, Crush made their way to the stage in true rock 'n' roll royalty fashion. The stage

Article by Chris Pain - Photos by Jim Dorothy

lights dimmed and the crowd was full of anticipation. After all, it had been a six-month hiatus for Crush. It was abundantly evident that Crush fans were ready for the return of this world-class band.

Fast forward a bit to a very revealing conversation *Positively Entertainment* had with guitarist, singer and songwriter Clay Harn. It was very revealing that Harn holds Crush close to his heart. When asked about his band philosophy, Harn states, "It's our commitment to put 100% into our stage production." After spending an incredibly fulfilling evening with Crush, this writer can attest to the truth in the Crush mission statement. However, what seemed to really resonate throughout the conversation was Harn's admiration for his fellow band mates.

About Leo Curry, front man extraordinaire: "Leo is an incredibly talented vocalist that has a knack for pulling at that youthful fiber we all hang on to. His vocals remind us of every influential singer we ever fell in love with. There is absolutely something wonderfully pleasing in every note of every song. For Curry, spanning through classic and modern music is a sweet walk through time grabbing little hearts along the way. From Aerosmith to Muse, Journey to Bruno Mars, Curry's vocals come across as 100% believable."

About Harn; exemplary guitarist: "Guitarists can easily be said to be an over-populated species. Not so fast.... Harn is a rare find in the sense that, his tone, presence and chops are so far above par. He simply brings the Crush factor to the stage. Each song is deliberately delivered with a strong sense of tonal quality, giving respect to the masters of six-string gymnastics. Harn's stringent and disciplined approach added so much authenticity to the songs we all grew up with. He simply sights his influences as 'too many to list.'" This writer needs to weigh in on this. Harn effortlessly rips out leads/rhythms from Neal Schon and the late great Randy Rhodes. It was pleasant to hear the total sum of this guitarist and know you heard it quite right.

Troy Phipps; brilliant bassist: "Imagine taking yourself to that one special spot in this world that guarantees an ear-to-ear smile on your face. Seeing Phipps play his beloved instrument, one would surmise that this powerhouse bass player arrived there. With a brilliant smile and a low slung bass, Phipps adds yet another fiery illusion

to the epic light show. His relentless bottom-end instrument really powers Crush into the dimension of stardom. It's pure and true to the core and that is something fun and exciting to witness in a bass player."

Dan Bowers; go-go gadget drummer: "Mind-bending, mind-melting and just overall precise in every bit of his delivery. As the drummer of Crush, Bowers has the unique and difficult roll of switching gears over and over again. Polyrhythmic rhythms and a plethora of time signature drive the band in a special four hours of music. As an added feature, Bowers manages (more like masters) a high quality of vocal ability to the flowing pitch-perfect harmonies that Crush demands. Bowers provides excellence at percussion/vocals that is unrivaled in the local cover band scene. It's a treat to see these qualities in any drummer."

Mark McMurphy, engineer with an ear: "It's apparent that McMurphy has adopted a can-do attitude with regards to giving Crush exactly what they need to sound epic. Throughout the evening, several patrons approached the *Positively Entertainment* table with comments to the likes of "isn't their sound incredible" and "wow, their soundman really

knows his stuff." Harn and McMurphy have been in this together since they were in first grade. It's something special to have that kind of commitment as friends. However, it is even more impressive to know that they have embarked on a life-long quest to produce excellence in music to this degree."

There are so many aspects about Crush that make them a high caliber favorite amongst music lovers. Not to be overlooked is their Full Monty Light Show. The investment they have in stage lighting could not be appreciated enough. The lighting embellishes an already spectacular display of arena/modern rock. Motorized lights, lasers and custom lighting programs are something out of the ordinary. You get the impression that Crush is in the business of rocking you down the motorway and that is exactly what they do!

The members of Crush are about quality of music, quality of disbursement and quality of character. Here is an opportunity to see possibly the best cover band in The Pacific Northwest. That is how the legions of Crush followers feel every time they have the chance to dance to this eclectic, formidable and fun band. You can follow Crush schedule at their website [www.crushlive.com](http://www.crushlive.com) or stay well-tuned to [www.positivelyentertainment.com](http://www.positivelyentertainment.com).



Troy Phipps



Dan Bowers



Clay Harn

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*Positively Entertainment and Dining*

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# Claudette King, daughter of BB King, joins NW Women R&B for 2 annual Christmas concerts

Sonny Hess brings Claudette King "The Queen of the Bluz" to Portland, Ore!! She will be joining the already incredible line up of the Northwest Women Rhythm & Blues for their 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Christmas concerts, Dec 8

and 11. These concerts are fundraising for the Candlelighters, for kids with cancer. The stellar cast of award winning divas include Lisa Mann, LaRhonda Steele, Arietta Ward, Lady Kat-True Blue, Rae Gordon, Ellen Whyte,

Kimberly Hall, Vicki Stevens, of course Sonny Hess, Kelly Pierce holding down the beat. With the recent addition of Claudette King, it will be a show you surely won't want to miss.

Claudette King, dubbed "The Bluz Queen" is the youngest daughter of THE Ultimate Blues Master, B.B. King and, if familial genes count for anything, she is "on to something." Claudette King can be described as dynamic, amplified and downright sassy. She exudes a confidence that perhaps was born of her struggle to prove who she is and at the same time carve out her own identity. Inheriting her father's gift for music, Claudette sang in glee clubs and the choir of Reverend Brown's Baptist church growing up in the San Francisco Bay Area. "My inspiration is my dad", says Claudette, who was also mindful of how her father was constantly on the international concert circuit as the tireless "Ambassador of the Blues." Listening to the radio and her mother's collection of record albums, she soaked up the joyous singing of notables like Aretha Franklin, Chaka Khan, Michael Jackson and Mahalia Jackson.

Concerts are slated on Dec. 8 at Trails End Saloon, 7 p.m. 1320 Main St., Ore. City ; and Dec. 11 at Carvlin Hall at St Philip Neri Church, 6 p.m., 2408 S.E. 16<sup>th</sup> & Division.

Tickets are available at [www.nwwomenblues.com](http://www.nwwomenblues.com). For more details about tickets and sponsorship, please contact Jamie 503-319-1333



Claudette King

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## The GOD BEAT

By Steve Johnson

This is the season when you only need to look around you to feel the heart of God beating in the city. Since childhood, Christmas has held a very special place in my heart. Not because of the presents, but because of the love. Although it shouldn't be the only time, it is the one time of year that most of us celebrate family and friends with love.

The bible tells us to imitate God as little children. Have you ever seen a child try to adopt their father's mannerisms, to look and act like him? That is what we are to do, we're to act like God.

So the question is asked, how do we do that? How do we act like God?

Answer: Love! Love with all your heart, live with a heart of love, love your enemies, love your neighbor as yourself. For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son so that all who believed on him would have everlasting life. (John 3:16)

Not only "did" God love, but the Bible tells us that God "is" love. I believe that one of the things that we "see through a glass darkly" about at this present time, and that we will see clearly about when we are face to face with him, is the depth of his love. There are people, and I do know many of them, that walk in love the other 11 months of the year also.

Be one of those people, be willing to suffer a little wrong for someone else's sake. If you have a problem with someone, go out of your way to resolve it. Even if you are not the one in the wrong, you be the one to apologize.

If you haven't said "I love you," to someone who needs to hear it, don't let the sun set without saying it. We are not guaranteed tomorrow, we are not even guaranteed our next breath. Regret can last a lifetime, so avoid it at all costs.

This Christmas season, anger slowly, praise swiftly and love deeply. God Bless you all and **Merry Christmas!**

Here are some things you might enjoy during this Christmas Season around Portland:

Christmas at the Pittock Mansion: Follow this link to the information for this Christmas season: [http://pittockmansion.org/events/symbolsof-theseason/?gclid=CjwKEAIA9s\\_BBRCL3ZKWsflgS8SJACbST7DJP6JzTDEsh0rlxG7JnU\\_lcoQPINbOFevQvIkMmPPJxoCqBTw\\_wcB](http://pittockmansion.org/events/symbolsof-theseason/?gclid=CjwKEAIA9s_BBRCL3ZKWsflgS8SJACbST7DJP6JzTDEsh0rlxG7JnU_lcoQPINbOFevQvIkMmPPJxoCqBTw_wcB)

Follow this link to the events calendar for this Christmas season: <http://www.events12.com/portland/december/>

Dec. 3 - Lincoln Brewster ("There is Power", "Made New") and special guests East Hill Worship ring in the Christmas season with an evening of holiday classics, worship and original songs. Join us for The Fish Family Christmas on Saturday, Dec. 3 at East Hill Church in Gresham, Ore. See more at: <http://thefishportland.com/content/station-events/the-fish-family-christmas-lincoln-brewster-2016#sthash.ZIV1YEb6.dpuf>

Dec. 10, 7 p.m. - Georgene Rice & Friends - Christmas by Candlelight, Calvary Chapel Portland -9100 S.W. Wilshire St. Portland, OR 97225. 93.9 KPdq's own Georgene Rice ([The Georgene Rice Show](http://www.kpdq.com/eventsinfo/default.aspx?id=14335#sthash.FgUsUiah.dpuf), Portland's Singing Christmas Tree), and special guests, will perform an evening of classic and original Christmas music. See more at: <http://www.kpdq.com/eventsinfo/default.aspx?id=14335#sthash.FgUsUiah.dpuf>

Stephen A. Johnson, Master's Peace Ministries, 214 S. 4th St., Central Point, OR 97502. 503-871-0235 [www.mppmin.org](http://www.mppmin.org)

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# CLAUDETTE KING

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Daughter of Legendary BB King

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 RAE GORDON - VICKI STEVENS,  
 LADY KAT-TRUE BLUE  
 KIMBERLY HALL - KELLY PIERCE  
 SONNY HESS

18th Annual

## NW Women Rhythm & Blues Christmas Concert

Thursday - Dec 8, 2016  
7pm - Trails End Saloon 1320 Main st

Sunday - Dec 11, 2016  
6pm - Carvlin Hall 2408 SE 16th

Tickets \$22 - \$39.50  
[www.nwwomenblues.com](http://www.nwwomenblues.com)  
 email: [nwwomenblues@gmail.com](mailto:nwwomenblues@gmail.com)  
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## Michael Allen Harrison lifts spirits, shares music w/struggling families

A partnership between local charities and benefactors will provide tickets for hundreds of families to attend Michael Allen Harrison's Christmas at the Old Church concerts Dec. 10-26.

Over the years, businesses and foundations have sponsored the series to allow members of the community to attend the performances – people who might not otherwise have the financial ability to purchase tickets.

In 2015, the concert series celebrated its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary, breaking all attendance records, playing to thousands of concert-goers over its 25-show run at the Old Church, 1422 S.W. 11<sup>th</sup>, Portland, Ore., phone: 503-222-2031.

This year, thanks to special donations by Sure ID and the Hedinger Family Foundation, there will be 2,000 free tickets offered to families

in need, twice the number of free tickets that were available to last year's shows. Many of the families attending the holiday concerts will come from Birch Community Services (BCS), a non-profit organization founded by Barry and Suzanne Birch. BCS, also celebrating its 25-year anniversary, offers food, clothing and financial management classes to working-poor families.

In a recent article in the *Gresham Outlook*, BCS Board Chair Mark Childs said that organization's "strategy of partnership with working, struggling families, who fall between the cracks, has enabled BCS to foster a culture of dignity and accountability, giving the opportunity to instill hope and provide product from family to family."

This year will be the first year working with BCS and for Harrison, the relationship is personal. When a close friend was going through tough times many years ago working full-time as a single parent, she was able to make ends meet with the help of BCS. "There are many wonderful organizations out there

making a difference and BCS is one that really exemplifies partnership and empowerment," says Harrison.

Harrison also reaches out to the Salvation Army, veterans' groups and others. Through the support of corporate and individual sponsors, Harrison says the performers "have the ability to share the warmth of holiday spirit with people from all walks of life – it is a gift for all of us!"

The 2016 shows (22) will include performances by regular cast members, members of Harrison's family, Julianne Johnson, Israel An-noh, Bill Lamb and Haley Johnsen, *American Idol*. New additions to the show this year include We Three, a family of multi-talented siblings from McMinnville and The Mallory Family from Sherwood. There will also be a special appearance by Thomas Ellis, son of guitarist Tim Ellis, a local music icon who passed away of cancer earlier in 2016.

To sponsor a family, email to [MAH@teleport.com](mailto:MAH@teleport.com), or call (503) 568-9134. For tickets, go to [www.michaelallenharrison.com](http://www.michaelallenharrison.com) or BCS website <http://www.birchcommunityservices.org>.

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# Wayne Richards & Southern Nights New CD harnesses feelings to create lyrics of sheer poetry

By Michael P Jones

When Wayne Richards collects his thoughts and harnesses these written feelings together in lyrics that are linked with music, it is sheer poetry. Add a few great musicians and a talented vocalist to help interpret what's created and you have a great CD. This is an oversimplified description of *...Notes From A Journal*, the latest release from Wayne Richards & Southern Nights, which may be one of the band's best releases to date.

Listening to the songs of *...Notes From A Journal* is much like accidentally discovering someone's journal and reading their personal thoughts; only in this particular case, it is listening to these words through songs that are captured in a recording project by Wayne Richards and Southern Nights.

Wayne Richards and Southern Nights have created another CD that is, like their others, remarkable. This recording project, however, seems to be more personal and revealing than the others whose songs were more funny or rowdy than this one. Again, listening to *...Notes From A Journal* is like actually discovering someone's journal, which in this case belongs to songwriter Richards; and reading his personal thoughts that were intended for no one but him.

There are 13 thought-provoking songs corralled on *...Notes From A Journal*. Wayne Richards and Southern Nights may be at their very best with this recording project.

The band is bursting at the seams with creativity. With 13 tracks, it is difficult to pick out the best ones, which clearly means that this is an ideal recording for which every recording artist strives.

*Katrina* is one of those perfect

songs that could only be written by Richards. The lyrics reveal a believable story about sailing for the sands of Mexico on a Louisiana shrimp boat and meeting a beautiful woman when you reach the southern shores of your destination. There are two lines that seep through the great music of this track that are so true in living one's life: "...when you got no choice but you got to choose..." or, "I don't have a plan, just doin' the best I can..."

The interweaving guitar work in the song *Lucky* is so musically interesting and complimenting to the lyrics. The Mexican guitar is enhanced by the lead guitar work, a very beautiful tune.

*Cozumel* is another beautiful song that enriches this CD. Richards has a special talent for telling a story through music. The songs are always thought-provoking and magical.

The song *Sweeter* is a brilliant country song sung by female vocalist K.J. Miller. Wow! can only describe this great tune that is an obvious standout and a definite favorite that is filled with great tracks. This is clearly a song that is a favorite, whether it's live or captured on a CD.

*Listening* is Richards at his absolute very best. The accompanying harmonica reveals itself just at the right time and adds just the right ingredient amongst the other fabulous instrumentation. This illustrates just how perfect a song can be.

*Please Jesus* is another one of those great country songs that features the voice of vocalist Miller. It's one of those oh-my-God songs that is so perfect in every way - the lyrics, the vocals, the music and how this all comes together on this track. The line "...please Jesus come and get me..." is one that a lot of people will reflect

on when it comes to their own life.

The song *Moving On* is another that is pure country from its beginning to ending note. Sung by Miller, it's another tune that reveals the depth of the band.

*If You Believe* is still another fine country song featured on *...Notes From A Journal*. It's beautiful in every way and sung by Miller.

Richards' reflective *Just Another Day* is another favorite song. The hardships of a struggling working person are revealed in this musical journal. How many times has anyone said "...just another day coming to an end..." as they crawl into bed so tired only to realize that they're going to get up the next morning and start all over again on tasks that may not be very exciting or creatively rewarding, but have to be done if you're going to survive.

The track *Texas Underground* is the only song on the recording project that was not written by Richards. It was written by the late Dave Carter, an incredible singer-songwriter who left this world far too early. Richards interprets this tune in his own special way that makes it his own.

*Folksinger* is about a simple folksinger, if there are any such kind. The song is beautiful and reflective. Once again, it's a story told in music as only Richards can deliver.

The title track, *Notes From A Journal*, is still another one of Richards' special songs that he somehow keeps creating. There is a story that is unveiled on this track as it reveals the perfection of this songwriter's words: "...fitting into the moonlight as it drifts across the floor..." creates the imagery that is so simple that it's complicated, which is the mark of a great songwriter.

The song *Steve* concludes this

recording project. This appears to be a story about a friend who has gone away and left a major void in the lives of those he affected. In reality, this was a friend of Richards' who retired as a pastor from his church. The music and lyrics of this track make one think about those special people that have influenced and touched lives. Listening to this thought-provoking tune is like finding a journal and reading someone's personal thoughts.

The kind of songs that are featured on *...Notes From A Journal* are those that have made Richards so popular. This is a recording project that is probably the best ever by Wayne Richards & Southern Nights, and is definitely one that needs to be heard and reflected on. These are 13 songs that need to be cherished because they are that special.

The creativity of *...Notes From A Journal* is a team effort by the members of Wayne Richards and Southern Nights. They are: Brent Rogers on bass and harmonies; K.J. Miller, recognized by Richards as an "extraordinary singer," shares in the vocals; Bob Hirschman, with his incredible lead guitar work and perfection in making musical magic with his performances; and the musician behind the scenes that keeps the beat going, percussionist Bob Pearson on drums. These

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outstanding musicians, along with the songwriting abilities of Richards, have created an amazing CD.

This album was also a joint engineering effort between a Portland, Ore. and a Garland, Texas, company. These were Brent Rogers at Rex Recording in Portland and Mike McClain at McClain's Recording in Garland. Their combined talents helped to enhance the best elements of *...Notes From A Journal* and make the final project what it is.

This album is a masterpiece, from its lyrics and accompanying music, to its high production values and immense creativity. Richards is at his creative best as he interweaves his stories through this musical maze. The lyrics of these 13 tracks are clever and tend to pull you into each tune as you anxiously listen for what happens next.

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# Rivershore Bar & Grill provides Karaoke, delicious dinner specials, happy hour prices

By Kane Taylor

On a recent Saturday, the Rivershore Hotel Bar provided nice opportunities for patrons from all over the area to sing their favorite songs, backed by great KJ Luke. His all-pro system was basically "inherited" from the previous generation of Unique Entertainment.

Located at 1900 Clackamette Drive in Oregon City, the Rivershore is easy-access from I-205 at the Downtown Oregon City exit. Well-lit and generous off-street parking are featured, as well as the hotel and dining room. Karaoke on Fridays focuses on "Top 40" tunes and Saturdays are "Old Skool", with both sessions starting at 9 p.m. Bar Manager Joe Versoza, both professional and personable, pointed out some specials offered in the bar. This place has a lot going on!

Sundays offer the house specialty at a special rate: Slow-roasted prime rib is available nightly as well. Their "Happy Hour" menu 9-6 daily, 8-9 Sunday-Thursday and 9-11 p.m. Friday and Saturday. Different entrées, most under \$5.95, include a 1/3 lb. cheeseburger and sweet and spicy chicken. Appetizers include steamer clams, sautéed mushrooms in creamy garlic sauce, sea scallops wrapped in bacon and al-

ways the N.E. clam chowder.

The dinner menu lists entrée salads like seared salmon caesar, blackened top sirloin, and a Rivershore salad with candied walnuts, kalamata olives, cranberries and gorgonzola cheese. Café meals include cod and chips, boneless fried chicken and a pulled pork sandwich, plus a list of pasta dishes. Half-pound burgers, a blackened salmon burger, prawn skewers, crab cakes, halibut fish and chips, and a stuffed salmon dish are more of the choices. Slow-roasted prime rib is a regular offering, as well as a list of steaks and chops, such as center-cut top sirloin, rack of lamb and a surf 'n' turf plate.

An extensive wine list is in residence, along with specialty cocktails like the Cadillac Margarita and the Oregon Manhattan featuring Pendleton Whiskey. Many beers are on tap or bottled, after-dinner wines also, plus the dessert tray.

For special occasions, a banquet room can seat from 30-150 people. A special football menu is offered, and the bar menu includes a monster pretzel with stone-ground mustard. You'll never go away hungry, no matter who wins the game!

At least four large-screen TVs are mounted overhead around the bar area and the table seating features upholstered chairs.

Many video lottery games offered, as well as other game machines. Ask about their "Party Package Special Buffet!"

KJ Luke, a sound pro and excellent Karaoke host, fosters a very comfortable and upbeat atmosphere. His outfit is available for any venue around town, so be sure to ask him about it. Not only is the setting upscale and cozy at the same time, there is even room for a few energetic swing dancers. This writer enjoyed performing a couple of favorite tunes and the audience was friendly.

It's a very nice way to spend an evening, any day of the week, especially on Karaoke nights. The access off the I-205 freeway or surface streets is easy and well-lit. Parking is ample. Food is abundant and prices are reasonable. Drop in, have a snack, a meal, a special or favorite drink, and maybe even check out the dessert tray. For more information call 503-655-5155 or visit [www.RivershoreRestaurant.com](http://www.RivershoreRestaurant.com). Tell Joe and Luke you read it here!



KJ Luke (Photo by Kane Taylor)

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# Magical city inspires Christmas holiday adventures

By Patrice Raplee

As dusk settles on a crisp, winter's evening, brightly colored lights twinkle across the city and the sound of carolers echoes in the distance. Excited shoppers pause to exclaim at breath-taking holiday displays and the tantalizing aroma of fresh-baked pastries and steamy coffee fills the air. It is Christmas time in this beautiful and magical city of Victoria, B.C.

Victoria, British Columbia, captivates visitors with its charming British influence, gorgeous gardens, parks, museums, fabulous shopping and lovely hotels and B&Bs. This harbor city is especially enchanting during the season when Christmas bacchanalia prevails and the city becomes a traveler's holiday destination. From Christmas At Butchart Gardens to decorated Victorian Castles and Festive Afternoon Tea at the Empress Hotel, Victoria offers an abundance of enticing activities!

Butchart Gardens resides on 55 acres of floral splendor and leads visitors through pathways of established, themed gardens. The gardens are magnificent, especially during the holidays with Christmas At Butchart Gardens. In the evening, Butchart offers a magical realm of enchantment with stunning, multi-hued lights throughout the gardens and ice-skating under the stars on their outdoor ice rink. It is one of the most popular lighted holiday gardens in the world and a must-see if you visit during Dec. 1-Jan. 6. For additional information, visit [www.butchartgardens.com](http://www.butchartgardens.com).

The Fairmont Empress Hotel is known globally for its beauty and history, as well as a splendid Afternoon Tea. However, during the month of December each year, the Empress features a scrumptious Festive Afternoon Tea served in the lovely grand Tea Lobby. With the gentle

sounds of live holiday piano music and a warming fire in the hearths, it is time to relax and enjoy the delectable desserts created by Executive Pastry Chef AJ Thalakkat. Several of the treats include rum-cured Christmas cake, vanilla bean Scottish shortbread and a host of delectable pastries and chocolate inspirations that melt in your mouth. After your sumptuous tea, take a stroll around the Empress and admire the hotel's annual Festival Of Trees. This year, 20 remarkable Christmas trees line the hotel's halls with themes to make you laugh, sigh at the beauty or garner a smile with the sheer creativeness. In addition, to experience the rest of the Festival Of Trees display, visit the Bay Centre in Victoria (three blocks away from the Empress). The annual display in support of BC Children's Hospital Foundation, features 65 sponsored trees, uniquely decorated by local businesses, organizations and individuals decking the halls of level two and three. While you are here, be sure to donate to vote for your favorite tree. For additional information on the Empress Festive Afternoon Tea and Festival Of Trees, visit [www.fairmont.com/empress-victoria](http://www.fairmont.com/empress-victoria). [www.thebaycentre.ca](http://www.thebaycentre.ca).

For holiday activities in a Victorian theme, Craigdarroch Castle and the Royal BC Museum both offer a wonderful period experience. Craigdarroch Castle, located on Joan Crescent, was originally built between 1887 to 1890 for Robert Dunsmuir, a Scottish Coal Baron. Although Dunsmuir passed away before his castle was completed, his wife and children lived in the castle with its 36 rooms. Today, 29 of the castle rooms are open for viewing and, during the month of December each year, the castle is decorated in breathtaking, full Victorian Christmas

splendor. Make sure to visit Craigdarroch Castle's website (under events and programs) for their holiday calendar of events that include a one-man-act of a Christmas Carol and holiday music. For additional information, visit [www.thecastle.ca](http://www.thecastle.ca).

Have you ever wondered what it was like at Christmas in the 1800s? The Royal BC Museum invites guests to explore Christmas in Old Town. This permanent exhibit with authentic artifacts was designed to represent life in Victoria's late 1800s. The town features wood-cobbled streets, a silent movie theater, a hotel to walk around, numerous shops, a post office and apothecary. For the holiday season, the museum decorates the town in a traditional Victorian style that will delight visitors of all ages. Make sure to visit the historical Helmcken House that lies adjacent to the main museum for an Old-Fashioned Christmas. It is one of the oldest homes in Victoria and belonged to a physician and one of Victoria's founding fathers, John Helmcken. For additional information, visit [www.royalbcmuseum.bc.ca](http://www.royalbcmuseum.bc.ca).

Many of Victoria's downtown hotels present annual holiday themes and events for visitors. A burgeoning tradition by locals and visitors is to start at the Inn At Laurel Point for the National Gingerbread Showcase and then continue on to the next holiday-themed hotel. The Fairmont Empress Hotel displays their lovely Festival of Trees and the Chateau Victoria delights with prize-winning holiday decorations. In addition, Chateau Victoria presents their popular annual Pancakes with Mr. and Mrs. Claus for family fun on Dec. 3; proceeds from the event are donated to Times Colonist Christmas Fund. For additional information visit, [www.laurelpoint.com](http://www.laurelpoint.com); [www.fairmont.com/empress-victoria](http://www.fairmont.com/empress-victoria); [www.chateauvictoria.com](http://www.chateauvictoria.com).

A stroll in the evening reveals the city's illuminated holiday grandeur, especially in Centennial Square. Each year, the square is transformed with multi-colored lighted trees, interactive wall displays, ice skating rinks and this year, a 65-foot tall, brilliantly-lit ferris wheel. Take a ride to the top for great city views and photos. Moreover, Government Street and Fort Street offer a host of excellent holiday shopping, but are even more impressive at night

with awesome Christmas lights and intriguing window displays. Make sure to keep your eye out for Father Christmas, who also likes to take strolls along the city's downtown streets.

If you go, here is a list of shops and cafes you won't want to miss: Roger's Chocolates, Murchies Tea and Coffee, Munro's Books, Silk Road Tea Room, Chintz & Company and the incomparable Patisserie Daniel on Cook Street (the best French pastries in Western Canada).

For a comfortable and scenic way to arrive in Victoria by car

or foot, take the Black Ball M.V. CoHo Ferry from Port Angeles to Victoria's inner harbor.

The passage is 90 minutes and there are incredible photo opportunities from the snow-capped Olympic Mountains to whale-watching year-round, especially in spring and fall. For additional information, visit [www.cohoferry.com](http://www.cohoferry.com).

For a comprehensive list of holiday events, sites and exciting activities and promotions, check out Victoria's fantastic Advent Calendar, [www.tourismvictoria.com/christmas](http://www.tourismvictoria.com/christmas).



Father Christmas on Government St. in Victoria  
(Photo by Patrice Raplee)



Centennial Square in downtown Victoria (Photo by Patrice Raplee)



Bay Centre Festival of Trees (Photo courtesy of The Bay Centre)



Christmas at Butchart Gardens (Photo by Patrice Raplee)

Patrice Raplee is a monthly columnist for the Award-Winning "Offbeat Travel" and a travel radio correspondent, as well as a member of the North American Travel Journalists Association, International Food Wine & Travel Writers Association & Recording Academy  
<http://www.travel-excursion.com>





Loose Change

## At Gilhooligan's Veteran band Loose Change entertains crowd with incredible skill

By George Dant

Rich in history, Gilhooligan's, 10810 N.E. Sandy Blvd, Portland Ore., has brought great food, family fun and entertainment back to Parkrose. Loose Change played to an enthusiastic crowd there recently.

Driving west up Sandy Boulevard, Gilhooligan's is not hard to find. All you need to do is look at the roof tops, where you will see #43 Richard Petty's stock car; then you've found Gilhooligans.

Walking through the front door, you will find a long "L" shaped oak bar. Behind the bar this particular night was Miss Andrea serving cocktails, sodas

for the younger crowd and many of Portland native beers. To your immediate left in the corner is a good-sized stage, sufficient to place a drum riser in the back corner of the stage. The front stage is large enough to hold this night's four guitarists from Portland's very own Loose Change.

The rest of the bar is an expanse of a room. The back right side has three pool tables with ample room to get around them. The layout and décor invites you into a warm and comfortable evening of fun.

The venue has 24 entrees. One of their specials this writer found was

fantastic in flavor and fun – their 50/50 one-third pound burger. This writer doesn't know if Gilhooligan's owner Aaron Wright invented this, or his cooking engineering team came up with the cure for a hassle-free bacon burger. "The 50/50 burger" is 50% of their own blended hamburger and 50% bacon. There you go folks, a true bacon burger.

Loose Change reaches back 27 years, when veteran guitarist Dale Turnbull joined Derek Daggett, another well-known guitarist. Drummer M. Knapp went along with these two guitarists. Grant Remington joined them with rhythm guitar and lead vocals. His vo-

cal are perfect for the music they play. A cross of Arlo Guthrie and John Prine is the best way to describe his voice. Grant spoke of a story of how he got his 12-string Rickenbacker guitar. The story is best told by him on the first Thursday of every month on stage at Gilhooligan's.

It has been a spell since this writer had the pleasure of hearing a phenomenal drummer bending the beat to four super guitarists, stretched from one end of the stage to the other. The mere depth of this band is incredibly striking. From the first chord of the song *Poncho & Lefty*, they nailed it, chord change to chord change. The

song *Who'll Stop the Rain* showed off their vocal harmony. The guitar skill was incredible all the way through.

Once over the shock of hearing four super guitarists blow you away and focusing once again on Knapp's drums, there are several elements melding together. One is his small drum kit, how well it is tuned, the style and the microphone he uses and the symbol selection. All these things are a must-have for percussion. Knapp has mastered all of them. See them Dec. 1.

Gilhooligan's Bar and Grill is a fun place to visit. (See Music on Tap Page 2 for music schedule and ad below for New Year's Eve party info.)

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# CI Bar & Grill boasts unique variety show

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Sam Harmon, lead singer of the band Thrillride, has

always dreamed of creating an unpredictable variety show here in the Portland area. And his dream has come true, thanks to the open-mindedness of CI Bar and Grill, the support of his bandmates and an incredible bunch of unique acts that simply want a venue and audience to show off their amazing talents. The result is a special night of the most unpredictable, unique and fun shows in the area.

"The upcoming show on Saturday, Dec. 3 should be a blast!," says Harmon.

Expected to perform in between Thrillride's eclectic set of multi-genre, dance-party tunes are a myriad of acts like the ones listed above. Regulars include NW actor Glen Baggerly, belting out classic rock and country sing-a-long "campfire songs." Sir Matthew strums his guitar and shares bawdy Irish drinking songs from his childhood. Grace, "The Voice," graces everyone with a couple awe-inspiring opera classics. Local up-and-coming folk-rock recording artist Dustin Conant shares his fantastic originals. Recording artist Hewett Word blows your mind with some very hip and cerebral beat poet/acoustic-driven rap, Bill "The Crazy," juggles who knows what. Even a guy named Moody may show up and drop some sexy Shakespeare on you.

If you'd like to share your unique act at one of the upcoming shows, send an email to Harmon at [info@thrillrideband.com](mailto:info@thrillrideband.com). Simply be dang good at what you do. The more unique, the better!

Saturday night, Dec. 3, Thrillride Variety Show starts a little earlier at 8 p.m. at CI Bar and Grill, 18786 S.W. Boones Ferry Rd. in Tualatin. It is highly recommended you get there a little early to claim a seat.

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Open Mike 8 - 11pm  
Dec 2 Johnny Vargo / Dec 3 Plan B  
Dec 9 Bad Motor Scooter / Dec 10 Robin Gibson  
Dec 16 Monterey Purple  
Dec 17 Ugly Sweater Dance Party w/Kable Roc  
Dec 23 Kenny Lavitz / Dec 24 Closed @ 7pm  
Dec 25 Open @ 2pm **MERRY CHRISTMAS!!** / Dec 30 TBA  
**Dec 31 NEW YEARS EVE PARTY!!**  
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- Dec 8, 15, 22, 29 Jam w/Ed Neumann & Friends
- Dec 9 99-W
- Dec 10 Strawberry Roan
- Dec 16 Kevin Selfe
- Dec 17 Party Bus
- Dec 23 Stevens-Hess Band
- Dec 24 Closed at 3 pm - Dec 25 Closed

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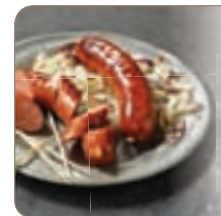
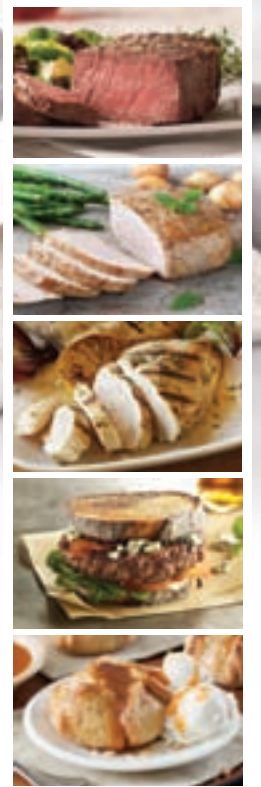
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