

Welcome to MailTribune.com Get Started

Current Print Subscribers, activate your online access.

Log In | Register | Subscribe

Search MailTribune.com

SOUTHERN OREGON'S NEWS SOURCE

Mail Tribune *Discover Life Daily*

October 22, 2010

51°

Forecast / Radar

GET 2 WEEKS FREE
Mail Tribune
CLICK HERE

NEWS SPORTS BUSINESS OPINION LIFESTYLE TEMPO PHOTOS/VIDEOS COMMUNITY SPECIAL REPORTS INTERACT CLASSIFIEDS MAGAZINES

A bluegrass make over

Photo 1 of 1 | Zoom Photo +



A progressive bluegrass band, Greensky Bluegrass is known for its improvisational and exploratory jamming.

Photo by Jamie VanBuhler

October 22, 2010

By **Teresa Thomas**
Mail Tribune

In its early days, Greensky Bluegrass played straight-ahead bluegrass but, over time, has developed an original soundscape, sometimes called "newgrass."

"Bluegrass is in the name of the band, but we use bluegrass and the traditional aspects of the (genre) as the jumping-off point for us to play our own original music," says the band's dobro player, Anders Beck.

Besides Beck, the five-member band, based out of Kalamazoo, Mich., includes Michael Arlen Bont on banjo, Dave Burzza on guitar, Mike Devol on upright bass and Paul Hoffman on mandolin.

In the development of their soundscape, the members found ways to tweak their traditional instruments for texture. For example, Beck uses an octave pedal with his dobro, and Hoffman occasionally uses an overdrive and distortion unit with his mandolin. With these measures, the band is able to pull off rock 'n' roll and jam-band sounds.

As part of its nearly 200-show U.S. tour, Greensky will perform at 8 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 28, at the Applegate Lodge, 15100 Highway 238, Applegate. Local bluegrass band the Bear Creek Ramblers will open the show at 7:30 p.m.

"It's not like MTV is going to scoop us up and make us overnight sensations," says Beck. "Word of mouth is really our motive of going (on tour). In order to achieve that buzz, you have to play all the time, all around. It seems to be working because everywhere we go the crowd seems to grow and grow."

The group's core members, Burzza, Devol and Hoffman, discovered a shared interest in bluegrass nearly 10 years ago. Greensky has been touring nationally for the past five years, and Beck, who joined about two and a half years ago, was the last member added to the lineup.

The group has released three studio albums — "Five Interstates" (2008), "Tuesday Letter" (2006) and "Less than Supper" (2004) — as well as one live CD — "Live at Bells."

In June the band started a new project, an album series, titled "All Access."

"The idea is that we multitrack, record, mix and master full, live shows and then release our favorites," says Beck.

Volume 1 was released in June and Volume 2 is to be released at the end of November.

Greensky's sets could feature a three-minute bluegrass song or a 15-minute improvisational, exploratory jam. The band also incorporates a myriad of covers, including selections from Jimi Hendrix, The Grateful Dead and even some Bob Marley turned bluegrass.

"We joke that we lure people in with The Grateful Dead and then hit them over the head with Greensky Bluegrass," says Beck.

Cover for the show at the Applegate is \$10. Call 541-761-9353 or see www.greenskybluegrass.com.

TODAY'S MOST VIEWED STORIES

- Woman jailed in shooting death of ex-officer - 10/22/2010
- Girlfriend held in shooting death of former Medford officer - 10/21/2010
- Esquivel feels back taxes backlash - 10/22/2010
- Emergency services - 10/22/2010

Text Size: **A** | **A** | **A**

Print this Article Email this Article

ShareThis

IF YOU GO

Who: Greensky Bluegrass
When: 8 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 28
Where: Applegate Lodge, 15100 Highway 238, Applegate
Cover: \$10
Call: 541-761-9353

Like MailTribune.com? **GET TOTAL ACCESS NOW!**

LITHIA TOYOTA OF MEDFORD TOYOTA moving forward CERTIFIED

FINANCE-A-TION II

2.9% APR UP TO **60 MONTHS**

ON ALL TOYOTA CERTIFIED USED VEHICLES

Through Toyota Financial Services. With down payment acceptable to lender. Payments of \$17.92 per \$1,000 financed. Minimum 650 FICO score, all financing on approved credit. Expires 1/3/2011.

SEE MORE DETAILS

DEAL OF THE WEEK

207 DEALS ONLINE TODAY [MORE >>](#)

Incredible Fall Promotion! \$30 For All!
Stewart Meadows Golf Course

\$50 in FREE Coastal Dining!
Coos Bay North Bend Visitors & Convention Bureau

Monday Lunch--Only \$5 With Coupon
The Wrangler BBQ & Grill

HOLIDAY CATERING SPECIAL
Rosario's Italian Restaurant

Free Hunter Douglas Design Book!
Western Oregon Window Fashions

FREE TACO (A \$3 Value)
Soco's La Burrita Restaurant

PREV LOCAL REVIEW NEXT

The Dugout Sports Grill ★★★★★
I have lunch there all the time and have had great food and the staff is always friendly. Try it!...
more posted on 10/15/2010

SUBSCRIBE TO THE
Mail Tribune
CLICK HERE TO GET 2 WEEKS FREE

Mail Tribune
Lawmaker's OK rainy-d

TOP JOBS

PLUNK TRANSPORTATION Needs west
CENTRAL POINT, or Classifieds

Care Giver ~ Group Home All shifts
MEDFORD, or Classifieds

JANITORIAL Part time. 6:30a-8a
MEDFORD, or Classifieds

Mental Health Community Programs
GRANTS PASS, or Classifieds

[More jobs](#)

HOME

