

## Lunchtime Live Concert Series Split into Two Sessions for 2014

After a successful debut in 2013, the *Lunchtime Live* concert series, which takes place on Fridays at Performance Park in Downtown Yakima, is being tweaked a little bit for its second go-around. Instead of running for 13 consecutive weeks as it did last year, the 2014 series will be split between a seven-week spring run and a five-week late summer/early fall run.

The first session of the 2014 *Lunchtime Live* series will start on May 2<sup>nd</sup>, about a month earlier than last year, and will run through June 13<sup>th</sup>. The late summer/early fall session will run from September 5<sup>th</sup> through October 10<sup>th</sup>.

The change to the popular concert series has been made in order to feature live, free, outdoor music performances in Downtown Yakima for more of the year and to avoid what are typically the hottest weather months for the Yakima Valley.

The crowd was baking in the noontime heat on a few of the dates last year, said City of Yakima Economic Development Manager Sean Hawkins. By taking a break during July and August, we'd hopefully avoid most of the hot weather this year. Plus, last year's series started in June and ended in August, said Hawkins. By splitting *Lunchtime Live* into two sessions, and when combined with the Thursday *Downtown Summer Nights* concert series, we'd have live, free, outdoor music for people to enjoy six months this year instead of three months like last year.



**Yakima Morelia Jazz All Stars will kick off the 2014 Lunchtime Live concert series on May 2<sup>nd</sup>.**

This year's *Lunchtime Live* series, which is being sponsored by Solarity Credit Union, will kick off its run on **May 2<sup>nd</sup>** with **Yakima Morelia Jazz All Stars**, a group of musicians from Yakima and its sister city in Mexico. The group has performed in both the U.S. and Mexico and was the headline act on the second day of the 2014 Jazztival in Morelia, Michoacán, Mexico this past March. **Powerline** will bring its rock, blues, and country sound to the *Lunchtime Live* stage on **May 9<sup>th</sup>** and will be followed on **May 16<sup>th</sup>** by **James and Yesenia Hunter**, a duet that performs Afro Latin folk music.

Seattle-based **Ghosts I've Met** will add its indie folk vibe to the *Lunchtime Live* series on **May 23<sup>rd</sup>**. The **May 30<sup>th</sup>** show will feature **Shoot Jake**, a blues/rock/soul/funk group that was the opening act for the 2013 *Lunchtime Live* series. American quintet **Blackheart Honeymoon** will perform on **June 6<sup>th</sup>**. Yakima is one of the stops on the Seattle-based band's spring regional tour, which will help prepare the group for its national tour later this year.

The first session of the 2014 *Lunchtime Live* concert series will wrap up with the **Rod Giles Band** on **June 13<sup>th</sup>**. Led by frontman Rod Giles, who has performed with such greats as Tommy Castro, Coco Montoya, and Curtis Salgado, the blues group is a favorite at Northwest venues big and small.

All *Lunchtime Live* shows will take place at Performance Park, which is located on the corner of 2<sup>nd</sup> Street and S Sgt. Pendleton Way, and will run from 11:45 am to 1:15 pm. Food will be for sale from Yakima restaurants *Carousel* and *Russillo's* during the shows.

Hawkins said the lineup for the second session of the *Lunchtime Live* series will be unveiled later this year. Performers for the 2014 *Downtown Summer Nights* series will be announced soon.



**Frontman Rod Giles and his band will close out the first Lunchtime Live session on June 13<sup>th</sup>.**