

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE Jan. 26, 2024

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CELEBRATE INCLUSIVITY AND LOVE IN THE HEART OF HOOD RIVER AT THE INAUGURAL WINTER PRIDEFEST, FEB. 9-10 Trio of ticketed events, special lodging packages highlight celebration of inclusivity benefitting Columbia <u>Gorge Pride Alliance</u>

(HOOD RIVER, Ore.) —Visit Hood River announces the inaugural Winter PrideFest on Feb. 9 and 10, celebrating its LGBTQ+ community and visitors. Hood River's natural beauty and cultural richness provide a welcoming experience for all to participate in Winter PrideFest events and winter recreation.

Drawing inspiration from the ancient legends of the native Klickitat people, who revered love as the force that shaped the nearby iconic peaks of Mt. Hood, Mt. Adams, and Mt. Saint Helens, <u>Visit Hood River</u> has partnered with the <u>Columbia Gorge Pride Alliance</u>, <u>Hood River Hotel</u>, <u>The Ruins</u>, and <u>First Nature Tours</u> to organize a series of vibrant events for this inaugural celebration. Highlights include:

Fri., Feb. 9 – <u>Winter Pride at The Ruins, featuring Ashleigh Flynn & The Riveters, Mawlee Jones Band,</u> <u>Slutashia, with host Shandi Evans</u>

(doors at 6 p.m., show 7-10 p.m.; \$15 in advance, \$20 at the door, ages 21+)

Experience the dynamic energy and spirit of Ashleigh Flynn and the Riveters' musical homage to Rosie the Riveter, the raunchy tonk twang of The Mawlee Jones Band, multi-talented rap and drag from Slutashia, all hosted by the sparkly force to be reckoned with, Shandi Evans for a night of celebration of the LGBTQ+ community and allies.

Sat., Feb. 10 – Winter Pride Diva Drag Brunch at the Hood River Hotel Emerald Room
(doors at 11 a.m., show 12-2 p.m., \$20 does not include food or alcohol, ages 21+)
Enjoy a colorful and spirited Drag Brunch from Justin Buckles ProductionsDiva Drag.
Join the Hood River Hotel and Justin Buckles Productions' all-star cast for the biggest and best Drag Brunch in the Pacific Northwest. It features drag, burlesque, acrobatics, live singing, and more. (\$20 does not include

food or alcohol, ages 21+)

Sat., Feb. 10 – Winter Pride Burlesque at the Hood River Hotel Emerald Room

(doors at 7 p.m., show 8-10 p.m.; \$20 does not include food or alcohol, ages 21+)

Be mesmerized by a captivating burlesque performance filled with artistry and flair. Join the Hood River Hotel and Justin Buckles Productions for TEASE Burlesque Revue. Featuring Zora Von Pavonine, Jaxin Ryan, Asteria Atombomb, Abby GoLucky, and Jayla Rose for a night of mesmerizing and erotic performance. "This event is more than a celebration; it's a reflection of our community's commitment to inclusivity and love of adventure," said Katie Kadlub, CEO of Visit Hood River. "Attendees are invited to make a weekend out of Winter PrideFest. Experience the thrill of the slopes at Mt. Hood Meadows before attending the Winter PrideFest events for a vibrant blend of outdoor adventure and inclusive community celebration."

A portion of the proceeds from the events will continue to advance the goals and programs of the Columbia Gorge Pride Alliance. The Columbia Gorge Pride Alliance is a group of volunteers, organizations, and businesses that work to create a city where lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex, and asexual plus people thrive as healthy and equal members of society. It strives and advocates for respect, equity, and justice and to build a safe, peaceful, and culturally rich community for LGBTQIA+ people and allies.

For more information on Hood River Winter PrideFest and to book lodging and purchase tickets all in one click, visit <u>https://visithoodriver.com/event/winter-pridefest/</u>. For more information on Hood River, visit <u>visithoodriver.com</u>.

For more information on Columbia Gorge Pride Alliance, visit the organization's website https://nextdoorinc.org/cgpa/.

About Visit Hood River:

Located at the crossroads of the spectacular Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area and the magnificent Cascade Range and just an hour from Portland, Hood River offers outdoor recreation, dramatic vistas, historic landmarks, bountiful fruit, and fantastic food, wine, beer, and cider. With accommodations ranging from luxury hotels to historic B&Bs, Hood River is a four-season destination for families, outdoor enthusiasts, weddings, corporate events, and more. It was named a Best Adventure and Explorations Town by the 2023 Sunset Travel Awards and Nature Lovers Destination in the 2022 Sunset Travel Awards, a Top 10 Wine Destination for 2017 by Wine Enthusiast Magazine, and 2015 Best Adventure Town in the West by Sunset magazine. Visit Hood River supports economic development, community development, and destination marketing for Hood River, Cascade Locks, Mosier, Odell, Parkdale, Pine Grove, and Mount Hood. For more information, call 800-366-3530 or visit www.visithoodriver.com.

