



### A Midwinter's Laugh

Take the chill off with a trio of comedy shows.

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By Sonya Vartabedian

The past year — with the economy, the presidential elections and the foibles and drama surrounding pop culture — has been a gold mine for comedians, said Susan Alexander, who is hosting an all-female comedy show benefit for the YWCA Greater Newburyport Saturday night in Newburyport.

"In this day and age, there's so much to make fun of," Alexander said, "and with the economy, we all need a good laugh."

#### '5 Funny Females' hit Newburyport

Sure, they're all women. But their lives are all different, complete with their own backgrounds, experiences and offbeat stories just ripe for poking fun at, said Alexander, who brings her "5 Funny Females Comedy Tour" back to Newburyport Saturday night. The all-female lineup performs at 8 at Mission Oak Grill on Green Street.

While three of the five comedians who performed on last year's tour stopover in Newburyport are returning, Alexander promises plenty of fresh material, plus some "gold" repeats that are crowd favorites.

Since Newburyport last saw Alexander, she made the semifinals of the "So You Think You Can Roast?" competition at the famed Friars Club in New York City, where she roasted George Takei of the hit TV show, "Lost."

As the only single female on the lineup, Alexander brings a fresh take to the stage, laced with references to her own family drama. Expect her to take a stab at "American Idol" host and entertainment guy Ryan Seacrest, over the reports he was snubbed by Angelina Jolie and Brad Pitt on the red carpet during last weekend's Golden Globe Awards pre-show.

Joining Alexander on the lineup are Bethany Van Delft from the Boston Comedy Festival, Maria Ciampa, Erin Judge from Comedy Central's "Live at Gotham" and Andrea Henry, who made the finals of Nick at Night's "Funniest Mom in America" contest.

Produced by Drinkwater Productions, a portion of the show's proceeds will benefit the Greater Newburyport YWCA.

"The '5 Funny Females Comedy Tour' is a perfect concept to raise funds for the YWCA, as their mission is to empower women and eliminate racism," show producer Lisa Knight said.