

Life in the Valley

Acts added to fair concert series

Abby Luschei
 Salem Statesman Journal
 USA TODAY NETWORK

It's official – the Oregon State Fair has announced its entire summer concert series, running throughout the fair Aug. 24 to Sept. 3.

 "American Idol: Live! 2018," Christian-rock band Skillet and the touring magic show "Masters of Illusion" were announced on Monday, May 7, as part of the "Family Fun" series. The classic rock and country lineups were announced in early May and April, making a total of nine shows.

 "Going to a show is the best way to end a fun day at the Fair, whether you are catching the latest singing sensation or marveling at mind-bending magic acts," said Dan Cox, Oregon State Fair spokesperson, in a press release.

 All shows start at 7 p.m. unless otherwise stated. The full lineup includes:

"Family Fun" acts

Monday, Aug. 27: "American Idol: Live! 2018," which will feature the Top 7 finalists from the current season including Cade Foehner, Catie Turner and Gabby Barrett, along with season eight winner Kris Allen.

Wednesday, Aug. 29: Skillet, a contemporary Christian-rock band

Saturday, Sept. 1: "Masters of Illusion," a magic show, as seen on The CW, which features comedy, escapes and illusions.

Country concerts

Saturday, Aug. 25: Randy Houser, known for "Runnin' Outta Moonlight," with special guest BlackHawk, known for "I Need You All the Time"

Tuesday, Aug. 28:Roots & Boots Tour featuring Sammy Kershaw, Collin Raye and Aaron Tippin

4 p.m. Monday, Sept. 3: Happy Ending Tour featuring Old Dominion, the



Skillet, a contemporary Christian-rock band, will perform at 7 p.m. Aug. 29. OREGON STATE FAIR

2018 Academy of Country Music Awards winner for Vocal Group of the Year, with special guest Michael Ray, known for "Think a Little Less"

Classic rock concerts

Friday, Aug. 24: STYX, known for songs including "Renegade," "Come Sail Away" and "Mr. Roboto"

Thursday, Aug. 30: Kool & The Gang, known for songs including "Get Down On It" and "Celebration," and Village People, known for songs including "Macho Man" and "Y.M.C.A"

Friday, Aug. 31: John Kay & Steppenwolf, known for songs including "Born to Be Wild" and "Magic Carpet Ride," with special guests The Guess Who,

If you go

What: The Oregon State Fair concert series

When: concerts vary in times and dates from Aug. 24 to Sept. 3

When: Oregon State Fair, 2330 17th St. NE, Salem

Cost: Free for general admission first come, first serve, cost varies depending on the concert for VIP

Tickets:oregonstatefair.org

known for songs including "American Woman" and "No Time"

 Concerts are free with fair admission

on a first come, first serve basis. VIP tickets are an additional cost and give guests access to premium reserved seating and concessions, admission to the fair and a chance to win a meet-and-greet with the act.

 Tickets for the "Family Fun" series go on sale 10 a.m. Friday, May 11, and are currently available for country and classic rock concerts. Tickets can be purchased at oregonstatefair.org/concerts.

Abby Luschei is the entertainment reporter for the Statesman Journal; she can be reached at aluschei@statesman-journal.com or 503-399-6747. Follow her on Twitter @abbyluschei or facebook.com/luscheiabby.

How to keep your Christmas cacti healthy

Carol Savonen
 Special to Salem Statesman Journal
 USA TODAY NETWORK

Question: I have had a number of very large indoor grown Christmas cacti that would have been next to impossible to repot without breaking various pieces off. For years they bloomed profusely but eventually the bottom of the stems became hard and woody and the top of the stems droopy and flaccid and the plant started to deteriorate badly. Is this because they were not repotted regularly in new soil?

Answer: The Christmas cactus (aka Thanksgiving cactus) is native to the wet tropical forests of Latin America. Schlumbergera bridgesii is its scientific name. Naturally, it grows in trees in the jungle with distinct wet and dry seasons, so it grows in very little soil and has a wide tolerance range for moisture.

 When grown as a houseplant, Christmas cacti need a well drained soil. That said, they don't mind being rootbound, at least if there is good drainage in the pot.

 I've had a Christmas cactus for at least 20 years during which I've repot-



Hard, woody stems, like these ones on an old Christmas cactus, are healthy and normal. CAROL SAVONEN/ SPECIAL TO THE STATESMAN JOURNAL

ted it maybe three times. It blooms sometimes up to 4 times a year for me. So I don't recommend repotting it very often.

 If you say your cactus is droopy, flaccid and going down hill, then by all means, it is time to repot it.

 Hard, woody stems are normal for a healthy Christmas cactus that lives to a ripe old age. This means that you've kept your plant is healthy enough to become mature individual.

Here's how to give your old Christmas cactus a "spa day," only to be done after your plant has finished blooming. Spring is an ideal time. You'll need a sharp knife or shears. Sanitize the blade (s) with some rubbing alcohol.

 First, cut back the longer droopy overgrown branches. Older branches are long and heavy and tend to break off. Look for shriveled, thin and limp leaves. These are the ones that should be cut off. Don't cut a whole branch off unless it is all tired. Just cut the leaf segments back to where the leaves look healthy. Cut between the leaf joints.

 If you want to reduce the size of your cactus, cut each branch back by at least a third and up to three-quarters of its length. You can cut branches all the way back to the woody part and it will likely regrow from that point.

 Once you have given your plant a trim, you can repot it. Be sure to have a new, lightweight, well-drained potting mixture at hand and a clean pot (about the same size as your old pot) with a drainage hole in the bottom. Something like a commercial mix for bromeliads or succulents is ideal. Or, two-thirds regular potting soil and one-third vermicu-

lite will work well.

 Repotting is a messy process, so move outdoors. Put some newspaper or a tarp down and carefully remove the plant and its roots from its pot, a task easier said than done if your plant is large and old. Too loosen the plant, I like to run a knife along the inside of the pot, then turn the pot on its side and push up into the roots via the drainage hole.

 Odds are your old soil will be compacted and hard. Have a hose at hand so you can gently wash the old dirt away from the roots. Cut back any dead roots. Fill the new pot half- full of new soil and place the Christmas cactus in the new pot so the top of the roots will come to rest about an inch below the rim of the pot.

 Add more new soil to the pot and be sure to fill in the spaces around the roots. Tamp the soil gently to help it settle and remove air pockets. Then water it gently. Place your newly trimmed and repotted plant in a shady area for a few days. This time of year, you could probably leave it outdoors in a sheltered location until fall.

DAR honors outstanding high school students

Linda Banister
 Special to Salem Statesman Journal
 USA TODAY NETWORK

Abigail Scott Duniway Chapter of the National Society of Daughters of the American Revolution has honored its 2017-2018 Good Citizens. Family, friends, school counselors and chapter members filled the historic Stayton Fire Department Conference room on April 2 at a reception to honor four outstanding students from area high schools.

 Students recognized were: Cheyenne Melia Cox, Regis; Shereé Suzanne Donohue; Stayton; Michelle Briley Santiam, Canyon; and Olivia Genevieve Meyer, Silverton. Chapter Regent Kyra Bacheller presented each student with a commemorative lapel pin and certificate of achievement.

 Since 1934, the DAR Good Citizens Award and Scholarship Contest has rewarded high school seniors across the nation who best exemplify the qualities of good citizenship: dependability, service, leadership and patriotism in their



Regent Kyra Bacheller, Michelle Briley, Shereé Donohue, Cheyenne Cox, Oliva Meyer and Good Citizen Chair Linda Banister at the Daughters of the American Revolution Good Citizen presentation. SPECIAL TO THE STAYTON MAIL

homes, schools and communities. High school selection committees evaluate each student's academic record, letters of recommendation, descriptions of community service, extra-curricular activities and their future plans.

Olivia Meyer also is competing in an essay contest. She has won the chapter, district and state contests. Her essay is now being judged in the Northwest Regional area.

Pets will be on parade May 19

Christena Brooks
 Special to the Appeal Tribune

Since 1932, children of all ages have delighted in Silverton Kiwanis' Pet Parade.

 Once again they are invited to march their pets of all varieties – from snails to llamas – through town on Saturday, May 19. In The parade also features marching bands, floats, and clowns.

 There is no registration or fee to participate in the parade. For more information, go online to www.silvertonpetparade.com.

 The parade starts promptly at 10 a.m. on Coolidge Street and travels along Main Street to First Street, ending at Eugene Field School.

 Before and after, Legacy Silverton Health Auxiliary will sell shaved ice for \$4 at the First Christian Church parking lot, 401 N. 1st Street. Proceeds support the auxiliary's scholarship fund.