

TOM Brosseau — BACK IN BAKER CITY

By Lisa Britton
For EO Media Group

BAKER CITY — Tom Brosseau is returning to the stage after long months of no performances.

“Like everybody in the arts, it came right to a halt,” he said.

That halt ends — at least temporarily — on Thursday, Oct. 1, when Brosseau plays at Churchill School with the show broadcast to the screen outside in the parking lot.

In addition to the drive-in concert, the show will be streamed on Churchill's YouTube channel: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCcBxaeLY7T6u-Tmpsw_kDwQ.

The parking lot opens at 6:30 p.m. Donations are appreciated.

“This might be the only show I do this year — or next year,” he said. “I’m going to make it count.”

He also plans to see the town, something he didn’t have time for when he played at Churchill in September 2019.

“I’m looking forward to it,” he said. “It’s a great community. Baker City is a cool town.”

Brosseau grew up in Grand Forks, North Dakota. Music has been a part of his life for as long as he can remember.

His family, he said, “is on the quiet side” but music always brought them together.

“We all listened to music. That’s something we shared,” he said. “All you need to do is put on a good song.”

Music surrounded him at home, at church and at school.

“It was always around me,” he said.

His favorite styles are those he grew up with: folk, roots, country. He names The Carter Family and The Ink Spots among bands he enjoyed.

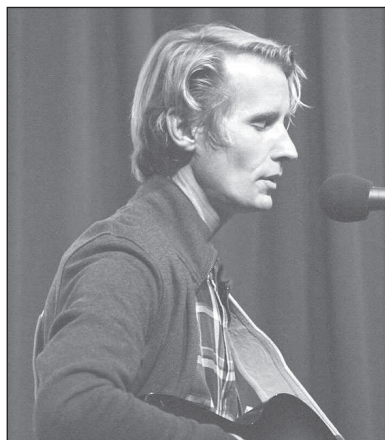
But to perform music as a living wasn’t something that really crossed his mind, at least not at first.

“I loved music, but it didn’t seem

connected to playing the guitar or writing songs,” he said.

He taught himself how to play the guitar.

“It was more like a friend to me, a buddy,” he said. “That’s the way it is today — I have to spend time with this friend of mine.”



Tom Brosseau performs tonight at Churchill in Baker City.

His life of music isn’t just concerts, which in a typical year number at least 150 performances. He said this lifestyle requires other support, such as merchandise and playing requested music at special

events, weddings or funerals.

He noted that it’s not where he performs but why.

“You realize the calling is much greater than what you think it is,” he said.

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Brosseau hosts “The Great American Folk Show,” a monthly radio program that brings together people of all ages and backgrounds to share stories and sing songs. It airs the first Sunday of each month at 5 p.m. (CST) and is produced by Prairie Public Broadcasting. It also streams online at <https://news.prairiepublic.org/programs/great-american-folk-show>.

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