

Michelson comes home for Whisky Fest

By WILL DENNER
East Oregonian

Corvallis native Jackson Michelson has seen his popularity grow steadily since he put out his first solo album in 2010.

He said he didn't set out to be a country artist, but the positive feedback he received from the album pushed him in that direction. He started touring around the West Coast, slowly gaining a following. After his 2014 single, "The Good Life," appeared on Sirius XM radio, Michelson signed a deal with Curb Records and moved to Nashville.

Since then, Michelson has continued touring and opening for artists including Lee Brice, Frankie Ballard and Blake Shelton. He released a self-titled EP in June and plans to put out a new single in the coming months.

Michelson doesn't make it back to Oregon too often these days, but Saturday will be somewhat of a homecoming. He will open the Pendleton Whisky Music Fest for headliner Zac Brown Band.

Will Denner of the *East Oregonian* spoke with Michelson by phone this week in advance of his opening set. This is what he had to say:

WD: How did your upbringing in Corvallis shape you as a country musician?

JM: A lot of people are surprised when they hear I'm a country artist from the West Coast, because there's not many artists who have come out of there ... I find it really natural just because I grew up in the grass seed capital of the world. All my friends in the summer time would work on the farm either driving a combine or a baler. Even my guitar player, he worked on the farm bagging seed. It's just a country way of life in the area I grew up in.

I grew up listening to country and when I started writing songs for the first time — I got a guitar at age 10, learned a few chords — the



EO media group file photo

Jackson Michelson performs at Riverfront Park in Salem, Oregon, during River Rock Salem in July 2014.

first songs I wrote naturally came out of stories I'd grown up with.

WD: What kind of music were you listening to growing up?

JM: I loved country music and I grew up singing in church as well, so I loved groups like DC Talk. Also my dad loved soul music, so Earth, Wind & Fire, Ray Charles, Sam Cooke — all that kind of stuff. I grew up a country-soul mutt.

WD: You toured the country with your older brother, a fellow musician, at a young age. What did you learn from that experience?

JM: I sold his T-shirts and CDs. I just watched how music worked at a national level as a business and how you have to make the numbers work out. ... His bass player got sick for a show and I played guitar, but my brother said 'Hey, you need to learn the bass and play the show tonight.' So I went for it, ended up working out and I played with him for a few years traveling the country.

WD: Was there a particular moment where you felt like you got a big break, or felt you were making real progress as an artist?

JM: Some people have that moment where their song got in front of the right person and it just blew up. I definitely think getting a song ("The Good Life") on Sirius XM really helped. I recorded it here in Oregon. That was definitely a huge factor in signing a record deal, but I'm honestly just super thankful that it's been this slow-growing process and there's just hundreds of little victories every day. There's also huge things like getting to open for Blake Shelton. Just me and Blake played a sold-out show to 25,000 people. That was pretty epic, pretty life changing. The next day my face showed up on the cover of TMZ with Blake. I was like, 'OK, this is pretty surreal. What am I doing here?'

WD: This weekend you're returning to Oregon for the Pendleton Whisky Festival. How many shows are you playing in your home state these days?

JM: Not too many. I'm playing the Willamette Country Music Festival and the Cape Blanco Country Music Festival, as well as headlining the Benton County Fair in my hometown. But Eastern Oregon is one of my favorite

places. I played basketball in high school and got to go out to the state tournament in Pendleton ... I grew up going out there with my dad hunting deer. I'm super excited to go back and hang out. And I'm a huge Zac Brown fan. It's going to be a special night and it will be great to see some familiar faces.

WD: Opening for Zac Brown Band, how does that compare to other people you've opened for?

JM: It's always great to share the stage whoever you share it with. There's certain artists you get to open for that you're a big fan of. Those nights are pretty special when you get to spend time with artists backstage. Musicians are fans of music too. That's the coolest thing, it's we're all in this together. Especially with country music, everybody wants to help each other. It's not this cutthroat thing where there's only room for so many.

I'd buy tickets to this show even if I wasn't playing.

WD: How has your move to Nashville influenced your music?

JM: I've always written songs in my living room or with my best friends, and it's always been this organic process. ... Moving to Nashville, there's some of the best songwriters in the world there, not only musicians. Sitting down to write a song with someone I've never met before and saying, 'This is what I'm thinking, this is what I'm feeling today.' Then hearing that person try to wrap his head around what's going on with me as an artist, it's such a cool thing.

I think my songwriting has grown. I've learned so many things in the short time I've been there. Also I've built some great friendships and relationships with songwriters like Dan Couch, who has written hits "Hey Pretty Girl" and "Somethin' Bout a Truck" for Kip Moore. It's a really cool culture and super inclusive. ... I'm young and the new guy in town, but I'm having the time of my life.

DEATH NOTICES

Calvin LeRoy Briggs

Pendleton
July 14, 2016

Calvin LeRoy Briggs, 68, of Pendleton died Thursday, July 14, 2016, in Irrigon. At his request, no services will be held. A private family service will be held at a later date. Burns Mortuary of Hermiston is in care of arrangements. Send condolences at burnsmortuaryhermiston.com

Pearl M. Holbrook

Pendleton
June 15, 1923-July 14, 2016

Pearl M. Holbrook, 93, of Pendleton died Thursday, July 14, 2016, at a Pendleton care facility. She was born June 15, 1923. Burns Mortuary of Pendleton is in charge of arrangements. Sign the online condolence book at www.burnsmortuary.com.

Penny (Giesen) Madsen

Umatilla
Oct. 18, 1959-July 11, 2016

Penny (Giesen) Madsen, 56, of Umatilla died Monday, July 11, 2016, in Umatilla. She was born Oct. 18, 1959, in Hermiston. Graveside services will be held Friday, July 22 at 3 p.m. at the Hermiston Cemetery. Burns Mortuary of Hermiston is in care of arrangements. Send condolences at burnsmortuaryhermiston.com

Oberta L. 'Bert' Smith

Hermiston
Sept. 22, 1931-July 13, 2016

Oberta L. "Bert" Smith, 84, of Hermiston died Wednesday, July 13, 2016, in Hermiston. She was born Sept. 22, 1931, in Colorado. A funeral service will be held Saturday, July 23 at 1 p.m. at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 1035 S.E. Ninth St., Hermiston. Burial will follow at the Hermiston Cemetery. Burns Mortuary of Hermiston is in care of arrangements. Sign the online guest book at burnsmortuaryhermiston.com

UPCOMING SERVICES

SATURDAY, JULY 16

BILL, VEVA — Mass of Christian burial at 10 a.m. at St. Andrew's Catholic Church, 48022 St. Andrews Road, Mission, with the burial following at Agency Cemetery.

CIMMIYOTTI, MICK — Celebration of life service with military honors at 10 a.m. in the chapel at Burns Mortuary, 685 W. Hermiston Ave., Hermiston. Burial will follow at the Hermiston Cemetery.

MONROE, JASON — Celebration of life with military honors at 11 a.m. at New Hope Community Church, 1350 S. Highway 395, Hermiston.

MOSES, TRISH — Celebration of life from 1-4 p.m. at the Hermiston Elks Lodge, 480 E. Main St.

SMITH, BOB AND JOANN — Joint graveside celebration service with military honors for Bob at 11 a.m. at Conrad Cemetery, Kalispell, Mont.

UHLES, REBECCA — Celebration of life at 11 a.m. at the Family Worship Center, 330 N.E. Eighth St., Irrigon.

SUNDAY, JULY 17

SIEBERT, BETTY — Graveside services at 11 a.m. followed by inurnment, at the Lostine Cemetery. A potluck for family and friends will follow the services at Wallowa Park.

MONDAY, JULY 18

No services scheduled

TUESDAY, JULY 19

No services scheduled

OBITUARY POLICY

The East Oregonian publishes paid obituaries. The obituary can include small photos and, for veterans, a flag symbol at no charge. Obituaries may be edited for spelling, proper punctuation and style. Expanded death notices will be published at no charge. These include information about services. Obituaries and notices can be submitted online at www.eastoregonian.com/obituaryform, by email to obits@eastoregonian.com, by fax to 541-276-8314, placed via the funeral home or in person at the East Oregonian office. For more information, call 541-966-0818 or 1-800-522-0255, ext. 221.

MEETINGS

MONDAY, JULY 18
WEST EXTENSION IRRIGATION DISTRICT, 9 a.m., Irrigon Fire Department, 705 N.E. Main St. An executive session may be called to discuss legal issues. (Lisa Baum 541-922-3814)

WESTLAND IRRIGATION DISTRICT, 1 p.m., Stafford Hansell Government Center Doherty conference room, 915 S.E. Columbia Drive, Hermiston. An executive session will be called at the end of the regular meeting.

ECHO SCHOOL DISTRICT, 6 p.m., Echo School, 600 Gerone St.

HELIX CITY COUNCIL, 7 p.m., Helix City Hall, 119 Columbia St.

PENDLETON YOUTH COMMISSION, 7 p.m., Intermountain ESD office, 2001 S.W. Nye Ave.

TUESDAY, JULY 19
RIVERSIDE RURAL FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT, 5 p.m., 116 S.E. Second St., Pendleton.

ATHENA CEMETERY DIS-

TRICT, 5:30 p.m., Athena City Hall, 215 S. Third St.

IRRIGON CITY COUNCIL, 6 p.m., Irrigon City Hall, 500 N.E. Main St.

PENDLETON DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION, 6 p.m., Pendleton City Hall council chambers, 501 S.W. Emigrant Ave.

EAST UMATILLA COUNTY HEALTH DISTRICT, 7 p.m., district office, 431 E. Main St., Athena.

OREGON TRAIL LIBRARY DISTRICT, 7 p.m., Irrigon Public Library, 490 N.E. Main Ave.

PENDLETON CITY COUNCIL, 7 p.m., Pendleton City Hall council chambers, 501 S.W. Emigrant Ave. Meeting includes a public hearing on the sale of surplus real property in the city, including commercial and/or residentially zoned properties.

PILOT ROCK CITY COUNCIL, 7 p.m., Pilot Rock City Hall council chambers, 143 W. Main St.

STANFIELD CITY COUNCIL, 7 p.m., Stanfield City Hall council chambers, 150 W. Coe St.

COMING EVENTS

SATURDAY, JULY 16
GREENFIELD GRANGE BREAKFAST, 7-10 a.m., 209 N.W. First St., Boardman. Cost is \$5 for adults, \$2.50 for children under 10. (541-720-7267)

LET 'ER BUCK AND DASH 'N SPLASH RUNS, 7 a.m. same-day registration and check-in, 8 a.m. 5K run begins, 9 a.m. 1K Dash 'n Splash for ages 3-11 begins, Pendleton Round-Up Grounds near Let'er Buck statue, 1205 S.W. Court Ave., Pendleton. Costs \$25 for 5K, \$15 for 1K. Shirts may be available for \$15 (adult)/\$12 (kids). Participants in the 1K run get a free pass to the Pendleton Aquatic Center plus pizza and soda after the race. Register at www.pendletonroundup.com or at Pendleton Round-Up and Happy Canyon Gift Shop, 1114 S.W. Court Ave.

HERMISTON'S OWN FARMERS MARKET, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., McKenzie Park, 300 S. First St., Hermiston. Food, crafts, live music, art.

LIL BUCKS OPEN GYM, 8:30-9:30 a.m., Pendleton Recreation Center, 510 S.W. Dorion Ave. For students in first and second grade and parents/guardians. Free basketball skills and pickup games.

CHILDREN'S CLOTHES SWAP, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Bethel Assembly of God Church, 1109 Airport Road, Pendleton. Bring gently used children's clothes to swap for other sizes. (James 541-215-8141)

INDIAN LAKE FAMILY FUN DAY, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Indian Lake Campground 19 miles south of Pilot Rock on East Birch Creek Road. Wildlife (9 a.m.) and fisheries (10 a.m.) presentations, LIGO presentation at 11 a.m., free lunch from noon to 12:45 p.m., National Weather service presentation at 1 p.m. and water fun with kayaks and canoes from 2-4 p.m. Free admission and free camping Saturday night, but camping reservations required. (Leigh or Tami 541-276-3873)

FREE FOR ALL, 9:30-10:15 a.m. Pendleton Center for the Arts, 214 N. Main St., Pendleton. Family art experience for children up to age 12. Children under 8 should be accompanied by an adult. (541-278-9201)

HERITAGE DAYS, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Emigrant Springs State Heritage Area, off Interstate 84, exit 234, near Meacham. Muzzleloaders, wood carvers, living history displays, Blue Mountain Fiddlers, scavenger hunt for kids, gold panning, cake walk, raffles, food and more. Free. (541-983-2277)

UGLY DOG CONTEST, 10 a.m., Fiesta Foods parking lot, 1875 N. First St., Hermiston. First place receives free dog food for a year; second place dog receives a full veterinary checkup; third place receives a doggy bed. Dogs of all ages and breeds welcome. Treats for all participants. (Leo Leal 541-567-4600)

HIP & HANDMADE, 11 a.m. to noon, Pendleton Center for the Arts, 214 N. Main St., Pendleton. Free drop-in art project class for adults. (541-278-9201)

MCKAY CREEK ESTATES 16TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION, 12 noon to 5 p.m., 1601 Southgate Place, Pendleton. Free barbecue lunch with all the fixings, watermelon, apple pie and ice cream floats; vintage car show, entertainment and door prize drawings. (Karen Hoholik 541-276-1987)

STRAIGHT TALK WITH BECKY MARKS, 2-4 p.m., Prodigal Son Pub & Brewery, 230 E. Court Ave., Pendleton. Share thoughts with Ward 1 councilwoman. (541-276-9147)

ECHO OPEN AIR MARKET, 4-7 p.m., corner of Main and Dupont streets, Echo. Produce, crafts and more. Vendor space is \$12 per market. (echoopenairmarket@gmail.com)

PENDLETON WHISKY MUSIC FEST, 4-11 p.m., Pendleton Round-Up Stadium, 1205 S.W. Court Ave., Pendleton. Live music with headliner Zac Brown Band and openers Drake White, Jackson Michelson and DJ Soverm-T. Interactive games and activities for all ages, food and beverage vendors and beer garden for those 21 and over. Tickets \$45-\$135 at www.pendletonroundup.com

BLUE MOUNTAIN FIDDLERS, 6 p.m., Emigrant Springs State Heritage Area, off Interstate 84, exit 234, near Meacham.

MOVIE NIGHT AT THE CHURCH, 6 p.m., First Baptist Church, 200 Willow Fork Drive, Boardman. Enjoy "Last Unce of Courage." Refreshments available for purchase. (541-481-9437)

BINGO NIGHT @ THE GRANGE, 6:30-8:30 p.m., White Eagle Grange, 43828 White Eagle Road, Pendleton (between Pendleton and Pilot Rock on Highway 395 South). Cards are 50 cents each per game and \$1 each for progressive jackpot at 7:30 p.m. and blackout at 8:15 p.m. Refreshments available by donation. All ages. (Gail 541-276-3778)

SUNDAY, JULY 17
"ROBBERS, REPROBATES AND THE RED LIGHT DISTRICT" WALKING TOUR, 12:30 p.m., beginning at MaySons Old Fashioned General Store, 369 S. Main St., Pendleton. Local historian Keith May will discuss the National Historic District of downtown Pendleton. Costs \$5. (541-276-8206)

KBLU-FM CITIZENS ADVISORY GROUP, 3 p.m., Bowman Building Suite 352, 17 S.W. Frazer Ave., Pendleton. Share ideas on format of Pendleton area's newest radio station. (Vicki 541-566-2744 or Gary 541-566-0131)

ADULT OPEN GYM, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Pendleton Recreation Center, 510 S.W. Dorion Ave. Free access for ages 16 and up. (541-276-8100)

MONDAY, JULY 18
ADULT OPEN GYM, 6-7 a.m., Pendleton Recreation Center, 510 S.W. Dorion Ave. Half-court basketball. (541-276-8100)

COFFEE AND CONVERSATION WITH CHUCK WOOD, 7-8:30 a.m., Bucking Bean, 405

N.W. Despain Ave., Pendleton. Share thoughts with Ward 2 councilman. (541-310-7306 or chuck.wood@ci.pendleton.or.us)

WALKING FOR WELLNESS, 8:30-9:30 a.m., Pendleton Recreation Center, 510 S.W. Dorion Ave. (541-276-8100)

SUMMER YOUTH THEATRE CAMP, 9 a.m., Pendleton High School auditorium, 1800 N.W. Carden Ave. Sign up for a fun and informative theatre camp for kids ages 7-14. Cost is \$75 per camper; scholarships are available. Camp runs through the week with performances Friday at 7 p.m. Bring lunch and water bottle; snacks provided. (541-278-5953 or cct@bluecc.edu)

PRE-SCHOOL STORY TIME, 10:30 a.m., Athena Public Library, 418 E. Main St. For ages birth to 6. (541-566-2470)

PENDLETON SENIOR MEAL SERVICE, 12 noon, Pendleton Senior Center, 510 S.W. 10th St. Costs \$3.50 or \$6 for those under 60. Pool, puzzles, crafts, snacks, Second Time Around thrift store 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. For Meals On Wheels, call 541-276-1926. (541-276-7101)

ART STUDIO, 4:00-5:30 p.m. Pendleton Center for the Arts, 214 N. Main St. Free class for ages 7-12 to develop skills and encourage art exploration. (541-278-9201)

TEEN ADVISORY COUNCIL, 4 p.m., Hermiston Public Library, 235 E. Gladys Ave.

MUSIC IN THE PARK, 6 p.m., Boardman Marina Park, 1 Marine Drive. Free family-oriented musical performance featuring a juggling workshop at 6 p.m. and Jugglemania at 7 p.m. Bring a lawn chair or blanket and a picnic. (Tami 541-571-0844 or Renee 541-922-1560)

ATHENA KNITTERS GROUP, 7 p.m., Athena Public Library, 418 E. Main St. Open to all knitters, crocheters and lovers of needle work. (541-566-2470)

TUESDAY, JULY 19
TERRIFICALLY FREE TUESDAY, all day, Children's Museum of Eastern Oregon, 400 S. Main St., Pendleton. (541-276-1066)

ADULT OPEN GYM, 6-7 a.m., Pendleton Recreation Center, 510 S.W. Dorion Ave. Half-court basketball.

LOTTERY

Thursday, July 14

Lucky Lines

1-6-12-14-19-22-27-32

Estimated jackpot:

\$23,000

Pick 4

1 p.m.: 8-7-1-2

4 p.m.: 7-6-1-6

7 p.m.: 9-5-6-8

10 p.m.: 8-3-0-4

Friday, July 15

Pick 4

1 p.m.: 5-2-1-3

ketball. (541-276-8100)

PRE-SCHOOL STORY TIME, 10:30-11 a.m., Stanfield Public Library, 180 W. Coe Ave. (541-449-1254)

BOARDMAN SENIOR MEAL SERVICE, 12 noon, Boardman Senior Center, 100 Tatone St. Costs \$4 for seniors 55 or \$5 for adults. (541-481-3257)

HERMISTON SENIOR MEAL SERVICE, 12 noon, Hermiston Senior Center, 435 W. Orchard Ave. Costs \$4 or free for children under 10. Extra 50 cents for utensils/dishes. Meals on Wheels available. Transportation arranged by donation. (541-567-3582)

PENDLETON SENIOR MEAL SERVICE, 12 noon, Pendleton Senior Center, 510 S.W. 10th St. Costs \$3.50 or \$6 for those under 60. Pool, puzzles, crafts, snacks, Second Time Around thrift store 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. For Meals On Wheels, call 541-276-1926. (541-276-7101)

CRAFTERS' MEETINGS, 4 p.m., Pendleton Public Library, 502 S.W. Dorion Ave. Drop in for a group or individual craft project. (541-966-0380)

INSIDE OUTSIDE THE LINES ADULT COLORING, 6-7:30 p.m., Irrigon Public Library, 490 Main St. Materials provided by the library. Bring snacks to share.

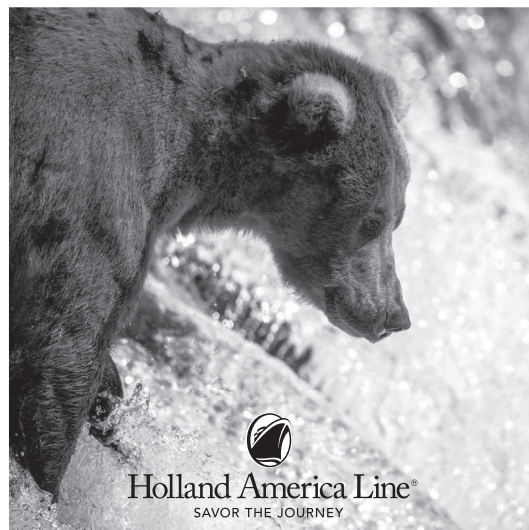
PENDLETON KNITTING GROUP, 6 p.m., Prodigal Son Brewery & Pub, 230 S.E. Court Ave. (541-966-0380)

PENDLETON EAGLES BINGO, 6:30-9 p.m., Pendleton Eagles Lodge No. 28, 428 S. Main St. Public welcome. (541-278-2828)

STORY AND CRAFT TIME, 6:30 p.m., Milton-Freewater Public Library, 8 S.W. Eighth Ave. For elementary school-age children. (Lili Schmidt 541-938-8247)

AAA MEMBER APPRECIATION

ALASKA CRUISE



All pricing is per person, double occupancy, cruise only, and subject to change and availability. Air, transfers, fuel surcharges, government taxes and fees are additional. Shipboard credit is up to \$50 per person for a maximum of \$100 per stateroom. Ships' Registry: The Netherlands.

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