

# Treefort branches into Eastern Oregon

Boise's Treefort Music Festival is an annual event occurring the last weekend of March (though now expanded to a five-day stretch). Spread across multiple venues, the music primarily focuses on indie rock, though there is plenty of representation in hip hop, country, experimental, jazz, and even classical. Headliners this year included

The Meat Puppets, Jonathan Richman, and Angel Olson.

Although there are plenty of music festivals spread across the Pacific Northwest, each with quality performers, there are few that embrace cultural regionalism on such a scale as Treefort. Sure, Bumbershoot or MusicfestNW balance out their national headlining acts with some local bands (primarily from Seattle or Portland), but Treefort takes it even further by pulling in performers from the smallest of Podunk towns between Boise and the nearest metropolitan areas.

From a marketing standpoint it is a logical move due to the broadening of the potential audience and the free regional promotion for the festival that each of the four-hundred plus performers participating in Treefort provide in their social media posts regarding the event. That said, the primary intention of bringing a slew of regional bands on board is creating an environment rooted in the spirit of DIY independence and inclusivity. The added audience and promotion is gravy.

On that note, it was a welcome sight to see a fair amount of Eastern Oregon representation in the mix. Anybody from our region attending the festival would be proud of seeing their friends, neighbors and diaspora gracing the same venues as any of the major performers. (Full disclosure: My band The Eastern Oregon Playboys and I were one of the many bands performing at the festival.)

Thursday evening, La Grande based neo-krautrockers Catskills performed an energetic and sweaty set at the Neuroflux, Boise's legendary independent music venue. Many of the songs they performed came off their recently released cassette tape "Rufus Dufur."

Across town, at the Boise Contemporary Theater, Boise art-rock singer-songwriter Thomas Paul, a frequent counselor at the Pendleton Center for the Arts Rock and Roll Camp, presented a collection of songs augmented by members of the Boise Philharmonic. Among those Philharmonic musicians was



J.D. KINDLE  
Comment



James Dean Kindle and the Eastern Oregon Playboys perform at Pengilly's Saloon during the Treefort Music Fest in Boise, Idaho.

Staff photo by E.J. Harris



Pendleton native Aurora Torres plays the viola with Boise performer Thomas Paul at the Boise Contemporary Theater during the Treefort Music Fest in Boise.

Staff photo by E.J. Harris



Tyler Ketchum of Helix performs with his band Tyler and the Train Robbers at Tom Grainey's during the Treefort Music Fest in Boise, Idaho.

Staff photo by E.J. Harris

violinist Aurora Torres, a product of Pendleton School District's and the Oregon East Symphony's classical string education programming.

Friday evening, Helix born and bred Tyler Bushman and his band The Train Robbers brought their brand of outlaw country to Tom Grainey's for what amounted to one of the highest concentration of boots and buckles all weekend long. Crossing the floor to purchase a drink or dancing was nearly impossible in such a packed room, though the band didn't seem to mind.

It is worth noting that the basement floor of Grainey's houses a separate venue that was bumping heavy electronic dance music while the Train Robbers rocked upstairs. The contrast between the two acts and their respective audiences under the same roof is a perfect illustration of the diversity Treefort exemplifies in its programming.

That programming isn't just contained to music either. Treefort includes a subset of festivals (which could be stand-alone festivals in their own right) focusing on different cultural

avenues; Comedyfort for comedy enthusiasts, Alefort for craft beer fans (which included a showing by Baker City's Barley Brown's), Foodfort for food truck lovers, Yogafort for those looking to stretch out for a little bit, etc. The list goes on and on.

Writer Joel Wayne, a 2001 Pendleton High School graduate and current Boise resident, read selections of his fiction at Storyfort, the subfestival dedicated to literary arts and the spoken word. Among the works he read was "Brother's Keeper," his short story that was

nominated for Pushcart Prize and awarded the Lamar York Prize for Fiction.

On its website Treefort exudes an ethos that is admirable: "Humanity is far greater than the sum of its parts." While that may be so, it is awesome that Eastern Oregon is one of those parts.

James Dean Kindle is the East Oregonian's entertainment columnist, the executive director of the Oregon East Symphony and a Pendleton musician. Contact him at jamesdeankindle@gmail.com.

## BRIEFLY

### Acousta Noir to stomp into Hamley's

PENDLETON — Acousta Noir, AKA Joshua Esterline, returns to Pendleton with his brand of folk, Americana and stomp rock music.

Coming from a background shaped by punk, rock and roll, roots, and various traditional folk styles, Acousta Noir brings a unique, yet oddly familiar, set of original songs to the table, along with his renditions of select and obscure covers. He will perform Friday, April 7 from 9 p.m. to midnight at Hamley Saloon, 8 S.E. Court Ave., Pendleton. There is no cover charge.

Hailing from Douglas County, Esterline first began playing music in 1994, and has been a part of a varied array of musical projects. These include punk bands (as a singer, guitarist and drummer), singing for a heavy metal band and a couple projects playing the upright bass.

For more information, contact Amy Nelson at bookkeeper@hamleysteakhouse.com or 541-278-1100. For more about Acousta Noir, visit [www.reverbnation.com/acoustanoir](http://www.reverbnation.com/acoustanoir).



Contributed photo

### Eclipse shines at Salem winery

SALEM — As accommodations are at near-capacity throughout the path of totality during the Aug. 21 total solar eclipse, Eola Hills Legacy Vineyard announced it still has availability during its Eclipse Wine Festival.

The event runs from Aug. 18-21 at the property, located just outside of Salem. The winery is offering room and camping reservations paired with entertainment and eclipse day packages. Prices for accommodations and a wide variety of entertainment packages range from \$0 to \$2,900.

Activities include a Field & Vine dinner, live music, guided star gazing, winery hiking and biking trails, and astrological, geological and viticulture learning. Free bus transportation is provided. Featured performers during the event include Nu Shooz, Patrick Lamb and Quarterflash.

For more information, call 503-623-2405, 800-291-6730 or visit [www.eolahillswinery.com](http://www.eolahillswinery.com).

Send information to [community@eastoregonian.com](mailto:community@eastoregonian.com), or c/o Tammy Malgesini, 333 E. Main Street, Hermiston, OR, 97838.

## WHAT TO DO

### Festivals

#### Echo Red 2 Red XC

\*April 1  
\*Intersection Main/Dupont streets, Echo  
[www.echoed2red.com](http://www.echoed2red.com)  
\$45/adults, \$20/youths. In its ninth year, riders start and finish in downtown Echo. Includes all ages and skill levels with awards and a raffle after the race. Race postponed from March due to trail conditions.

#### Adams Day

\*Saturday, April 8  
\*Adams, various locations  
[www.cityofadamsoregon.com](http://www.cityofadamsoregon.com)  
Free entry. The Adams Ladies Club is throwing a party in celebration of the start of the Triangle Little League. Includes a parade, breakfast, vendors in the park, yard sales, library book sale and baseball games all day.

#### Prestige Championship Wrestling 1

\*Saturday, April 15; 7-11 p.m.  
[www.pcprowrestling1.eventbrite.com](http://www.pcprowrestling1.eventbrite.com)  
\*Eastern Oregon Trade and Event Center, 1705 Airport Road, Hermiston  
\$15-\$50. Features some of the biggest current and former stars in WWE, TNA and UFC, including former UFC star "Filthy" Tom Lawlor.

#### BMCC Arts & Culture Festival

\*April 17-20, various times  
\*Blue Mountain Community College  
[www.bluecc.edu](http://www.bluecc.edu)  
Free. Open to the public, activities are planned on the Pendleton and Hermiston campuses of BMCC.

### Art & Museums

#### "The Path of Totality"

\*Monday, April 3; 9 a.m.-5:30 p.m., art accepted  
\*Friday, April 7; 5:30-8 p.m., opening reception  
\*Crossroads Carnegie Art Center, 2020 Auburn St., Baker City  
[www.crossroads-arts.org](http://www.crossroads-arts.org)  
\$15/members, \$20/non-members. Up to three pieces accepted by amateur and professional artists depicting the theme inspired by the upcoming Aug. 21 total solar eclipse. Show and sale runs April 7-29.

#### "A Place for All People"

\*Wednesday, April 5; 4 p.m., public reception  
\*April 3-7; 11 a.m.-4 p.m.  
\*Multicultural Center, Hoke Union Building  
\*Eastern Oregon University, La Grande  
[www.eou.edu](http://www.eou.edu)

Free. The poster exhibition serves to introduce the National Museum of African American History and Culture. The newest Smithsonian museum opened last fall in Washington, D.C. The public reception features a presentation by Gwendolyn Trice, executive director of the Maxville Heritage Interpretive Center.

#### Let's Call It Spring

\*Tuesday-Sundays, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.  
\*Peterson's Gallery and Chocolaterie, 1925 Main St., Baker City  
[www.petersonsgallery.net](http://www.petersonsgallery.net)

Free. Features a collection of bright and colorful artwork by favorite artists. In addition, new spring chocolate line is available. Opening reception held in conjunction with the First Friday Artwalk. Runs through March 31.

#### Chuck Close: Portraits

\*Tuesday-Fridays, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Saturdays, noon-4 p.m.  
\*Pendleton Center for the Arts, 214 N. Main St.  
[www.pendletonarts.org](http://www.pendletonarts.org)  
Free. Selection of Close's works from the collection of Jordan Schnitzer.

#### Open Regional Exhibit

\*Saturday, April 29; noon-4 p.m., accept entries  
\*Thursday, May 4; 5 p.m., opening reception  
\*Pendleton Center for the Arts, 214 N. Main St.  
[www.pendletonarts.org](http://www.pendletonarts.org)  
\$10/adults; \$5/youths entry fee per piece of art. Cash prizes awarded.

### Music

#### Tyler and the Train Robbers

\*Saturday, April 1; 7-10 p.m. No cover  
\*40 Taps, 337 S.W. Emigrant Ave., Pendleton

#### Nuketown

\*Saturday, April 1; 8 p.m. No cover  
\*Wildhorse Sports Bar, Wildhorse Resort & Casino, off I-84 Exit 216, Mission

#### Itts Cuzzen

\*Saturday, April 1; 9 p.m.  
\*The Pheasant, 149 E. Main St., Hermiston  
No cover. Cover band from Spokane plays hits from the '60s to present.

#### Hymnspiration

\*Sunday, April 2; 7 p.m.  
\*Victory Square Baptist Church, 103 E. Main St., Hermiston  
Free. An evening of singing old hymns, featuring food, fun and fellowship.

#### Tyler and the Train Robbers

\*Monday, April 3; 7-9 p.m.  
\*Great Pacific Wine & Coffee Co., 403 S. Main St., Pendleton  
No cover. All ages. Also features DoublePlusGo.

#### Momentum

\*Monday, April 3; 7 p.m.  
\*Hermiston Church of the Nazarene, 1520 W. Orchard Ave.  
[www.newhope.edu/creative\\_arts/ca-momentum](http://www.newhope.edu/creative_arts/ca-momentum)  
Free. The Eugene-based college group presents worship through music, dance, drama and technical arts.

#### Yaquina Bay

\*Thursday, April 6; 7-9 p.m.  
\*Great Pacific Wine & Coffee Co., 403 S. Main St., Pendleton  
No cover. All ages. Also features DoublePlusGo.

#### Live Music Thursday

\*Thursdays 7-9 p.m. No cover  
\*40 Taps, 337 S.W. Emigrant Ave., Pendleton

#### Decade X

\*Friday, April 7; Saturday, April 8; 8 p.m. No cover  
\*Wildhorse Sports Bar, Wildhorse Resort & Casino, off I-84 Exit 216, Mission

### Night life

#### Karaoke w/DJ David

\*Saturdays; 8 p.m.  
\*Riverside Sports Bar, 1501 Sixth St., Umatilla

#### Mac's Trivia Night

\*First Thursday of month, 8 p.m. No cover  
\*Mac's Bar & Grill, 1400 S.W. Dorion Ave., Pendleton  
21 and older. East. Drink. Think. Teams of 2-8 compete in trivia contest with other teams. Live host and prizes.

#### Midget Wrestling Fiesta

\*Friday, April 14, Saturday, April 15; 8-11 p.m.  
\*The Pheasant, 149 E. Main

St., Hermiston  
[thepheasant.ticketleap.com](http://thepheasant.ticketleap.com)  
\$20-\$40. Micro Wrestling Federation event.

#### Open Mic

\*First/Third Friday each month, 8 p.m.-midnight  
\*The Packard Tavern, 118 S.E. Court Ave., Pendleton  
[www.facebook.com/groups/pendletonopenmic](http://www.facebook.com/groups/pendletonopenmic)

### Theater & film

#### "Treasure Island" Auditions

\*Saturday, April 1; 2 p.m. & 5:30 p.m.  
\*A.C. Houghton Elementary School, 1105 N. Main Ave., Irri-gon  
Presented by Missoula Children's Theatre, featuring area youths.

#### Dancing With Your Pendleton Stars

\*Saturday, April 8; 7 p.m.  
\*Vert Auditorium, 480 S.W. Dorion Ave., Pendleton  
[www.facebook.com/events/402373760146806](http://www.facebook.com/events/402373760146806)  
\$20. Presented by CAPE-CCO, features six local celebrities teamed up with members of the Utah Ballroom Dance Company.

### Hot tickets

\*Chippendale's. April 29 at Wildhorse Resort & Casino. Tickets (\$34-\$54) available via [www.wildhorseresort.com](http://www.wildhorseresort.com)

\*Viva Las Vegas Rockabilly Weekend: April 13-16, Las Vegas. Early bird four-day pass (\$140) through March 15 via [www.vivalasvegas.net](http://www.vivalasvegas.net)

\*What the Festival: June 16-19, Wolf Run Ranch, near Dufur. Three-day music, art, film and interactive festival. Features 90 electronic music DJs on eight stages and the largest splash pool in North America. Camping options available (\$300-\$2,500) via [www.whatthefestival.com](http://www.whatthefestival.com)

\*Pendleton Whisky Fest: (featuring Maroon 5) July 15, Pendleton Round-Up Grounds. Box/grand stand seats still available (\$70-\$95) via [www.pendletonwhiskymusicfest.com](http://www.pendletonwhiskymusicfest.com)

\*Northwest World Reggae Festival: (music, camping, food, vendors) July 28-30, Pfau Family Pfarma, 13 miles west of Sandy. Early bird prices (\$120) via [www.nwfff.com](http://www.nwfff.com)