

BRIEFLY
Hamley's kicks off Music on the Lawn

PENDLETON — With summer just around the corner, Hamley Steakhouse & Saloon is gearing up for its annual Music on the Lawn concert series.

This year's event kicks off the first weekend in June with Elwood performing Friday, June 2 and The Rocker Fellas taking the stage Saturday, June 3. The free performances run from 6-9 p.m. on the lawn at the eatery, 8 S.E. Court Ave., Pendleton. All ages are welcome.

Hailing from La Grande, Elwood is no stranger to Pendleton. An outdoor venue is a perfect match for Elwood's music, which gains inspiration from Mother Nature.

A Seattle-based band, The Rocker Fellas love to rock — playing crowd favorites from the '60s to the present. They will play an acoustic show on the lawn.

For more information, contact bookkeeper@hamleysteakhouse.com, 541-278-1100 or visit www.hamleysteakhouse.com.

Culture keepers share 'Stories & Songs'

MISSION — Fred Hill, Thomas Morning Owl and Toby Patrick will explore the traditions of Nciwana, the big river, including Celilo Falls through songs and stories.

Culture keepers closely associated with the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, the trio are master singers on both hand and big drum. Each man participates in leadership of the Umatilla Longhouse.

"Stories & Songs," a Pepsi Primetime @ the Museum program, is Wednesday, May 31 at 5:30 p.m. at Tamástsiikt Cultural Institute, located near Wildhorse Resort & Casino. There is no admission charge. In addition, complimentary refreshments will be served.

Hill, Morning Owl and Patrick each possess knowledge passed down from their families about ceremonies — including "first fish," self-regulation of fishing practices under the system of reciprocity, tribal songs and prayers about water and salmon and life, and the traditional tools and containers that river people created.

Their stories and songs have the power to bring to life what is often referred to as a "dead" river, now a series of reservoirs behind dams. The ferocious, yet benevolent force once sustained the Plateau people. The program also will make Celilo real again, for at least an hour or so.

The special program is held in conjunction with the museum's current exhibit, "Celilo: Progress Versus Protest." For more information, call 541-429-7700 or visit www.tamastsiikt.org.

Wildflower show blooms near Bend

SUNRIVER — Hundreds of native wildflower species bursting with color are featured during the Central Oregon Wildflower Show.

Central Oregon's unique habitats and climate enable a great variety of native wildflowers, which are showcased during the 29th annual event. The show is Saturday, July 1 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday, July 2 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Sunriver Nature Center & Observatory, near Bend. Admission is \$6 for adults and \$4 for ages 2-12 for the entire weekend. The fee includes admission to the nature center.

The show also provides examples of Central Oregon's native grasses, shrubs, sages, fungi, mosses and lichen. The event includes lectures, presented by local experts in the field, information booths on invasive species, disease and fire resistant pines, medicinal plants, and rare and endangered plants. The family-friendly event offers kids' activity booths, family botanical hikes and more.

For more information, call 541-593-4394 or visit www.sunrivernaturecenter.org.

An American Forest turns Western landscapes into song

Singer-songwriter Forest VanTuyl, aka An American Forest, hesitates to be referred to as a cowboy songwriter. Aspiring cowboy singer is more his speed, since he doesn't feel he's earned the right or the experience to be referred to as a genuine cowboy.

In spite of that, VanTuyl of Enterprise has a résumé of day jobs that make any cattleman-hat-fashioning, Nashville-country-music-machine-produced artist look about as authentic as an American flag manufactured in China.

A self-taught guitarist originally from Chehalis, Washington, Forest developed an appreciation for Bob Dylan as a teenager, which led to him exploring other giants of modern folk such as Woody Guthrie, Ian Tyson and Ramblin' Jack Elliott. In 2013, while living in Seattle and working on tugboats, VanTuyl read "All The Pretty Horses" by Cormac McCarthy. The book lit a fire under him to work with horses, which led him to the inland Northwest.

A brief stint in New Mexico inspired the songs behind his most recent album "Rosas y Mesteños." To record that album Forest moved to Enterprise to work with his friend Bart Budwig at the OK Theater. After four months of sleeping on Budwig's couch and hammering away at the record, VanTuyl found his dream job as an apprentice for a packing outfit. VanTuyl starting taking trips up into the mountains and Hells Canyon servicing hunting trips.

"I have so little experience I keep trying to write from my own experiences," says VanTuyl. "I'm not trying to write the new 'Goodbye Old Paint' or 'Strawberry Roan' or anything like that really. It's more about having that sense of nature and the natural world. The world is better for me when I'm in the wilderness and on a horse. There's a lot of love songs and heartbreak songs but I want it all to be through the lens of learning about horses or being on a horse or mule in the mountain."

Indeed, spending long days in the wilderness on horseback



Photo contributed by Ben Herndon
Forest VanTuyl, a western musician who works for a trail packing company in the Wallowas, will perform June 1 at Bellinger's in Hermiston.



Photo contributed by Cassandra Mohr
Forest VanTuyl, a western musician who works for a trail packing company in the Wallowas, will perform June 1 at Bellinger's in Hermiston.

has provided Forest a wealth of experiences to draw from. "There's this one day I was

riding down in Hells Canyon," Forest recalls. "The sun was going down and we were riding from

Go see it

An American Forest performs at The Gathering Place at Bellinger's, 1823 S Highway 395, Hermiston, on June 1 at 5:30 p.m.

Freezeout Trailhead up to Freezeout Saddle and it's switchback after switchback going right up the side of the canyon. It was right while the sun was setting in such a way that we could watch it set from one switchback and then move up two or three more switchbacks where we'd be higher in elevation so the sun would be back up and we'd watch it set again. We'd keep doing that all the way up. That's the kind of stuff that's hard to not write a song about."

VanTuyl's lyrics are less in line with cowboy storytellers and more with Zen hermit philosophers like Stonehouse and contemporary Pacific Northwest poets like Gary Snyder. For example, the song behind his recently released music video "Burnin' Starlight" is rich in imagery revolving around a midnight horseback ride. It provides the perfect backdrop to revel in the ecstasy of nature and the longing to be home.

This past winter VanTuyl spent a month in Sonora, Mexico, doing a work trade that involved, "riding Mexican ponies, leading dude rides, and eating beans." The experience became a writer's retreat of sorts that broke him out of a yearlong writer's block.

"It was a super isolated ranch. I was the only person who played music. Oddly enough while I was down there I wrote more about Oregon than I did about Mexico. I write about stuff that's not immediately in front of me."

The draw of his adopted home of the Wallowas proved strong for VanTuyl.

"I knew that this country was supposed to be my home; the Wallowa County area, these mountains, these canyons. Being down there really reinforced that and made me miss it enough that I was trying to write myself back here. A lot of songs I wrote down there are about getting a winter job in the canyons and spending the summer out on the Minam."

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.

WHAT TO DO

Festivals

ACE Car Show
•Saturday, May 27; noon-4 p.m.

•Downtown Echo
Free admission. \$20/vehicle entry, \$5/student car entry. Custom-made trophies created with car parts by students and community members. Also features food booths.

Spray Rodeo & Eastern Oregon Half Marathon
•May 26-28

•Spray
www.sprayrodeo.com
\$10/adults, \$5/kids 6-12, free/5-and-under. Rodeo action at 1 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. Buckaroo Breakfast, parade (Saturday, 11 a.m.) and Cowboy Church (Sunday, 9 a.m.). Half marathon is Saturday at 8 a.m. (\$30 for individuals or \$50 relay teams; shirts \$5).

Heart of the Country Rodeo
•Saturday, May 27; 12:30 p.m.

•Quantum 9 Arena, Helix
www.helixrodeo.org
\$10/adults, \$5/ages 5-12, free/4-and-under. Features bull riding, saddle bronc, stock saddle bronc riding, calf roping, barrel racing (ages 12-and-under), stick horse racing (ages 6-and-under) and mutton bustin' (ages 4-8). Bid on rough stock riders during Calcutta Friday, May 26 at 7 p.m. at the Helix Pub. Music until 10 p.m. after the rodeo by the Cory Peterson Band.

Prestige Championship Wrestling 2
•Friday, June 23; 7-11 p.m.

•www.pcprowrestling.com
•Eastern Oregon Trade and Event Center, 1705 Airport Road, Hermiston
\$15-\$50. Features the best independent talent in the Pacific Northwest as well as former WWE superstars Val Venit and Shannon Moore, current UFC star Tom Lawlor, current Impact! Wrestling star Davey Richards.

Art, museums & authors

"Western Shadows"
•Saturday, May 27; 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Last day

•Crossroads Carnegie Art Center, 2020 Auburn St., Baker City
www.crossroads-arts.org
Free. Features acrylic paintings on Plexiglas by Brian Sostrom of Carnation, Washington.

Runs through May 27.
Pepsi Primetime@the Museum

•Wednesday, May 31; 5:30 p.m.

•Tamástsiikt Cultural Institute, near Wildhorse Resort & Casino.
www.tamastsiikt.org
Free. Features three culture keepers, who will explore the traditions of Nciwana, the big river, including Celilo Falls through songs and stories. Held in conjunction with current exhibit, "Celilo: Progress Versus Protest." Complimentary refreshments.

"Starting Summer"
•Friday, June 2; 5-10 p.m., opening

•Tuesday-Sundays, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.

•Peterson's Gallery and Chocolatier, 1925 Main St., Baker City

www.petersonsgallery.net
Free. Features a collection of artwork by regional artists depicting the summer season in Eastern Oregon. In addition, the summer menu of chocolates, flavors and drinks, including the chocolate granita, will be available. Opening held in conjunction with the First Friday Artwalk in downtown Baker City. Runs through June 30.

Open Regional Exhibit
•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
Free. View work of 100+ artists from across the region, who will be vying for more than \$1,200 in prize money. Runs through June 23.

"Spirit of Place"
•Monday-Fridays, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Saturdays; 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

•Pendleton Art + Frame, 36 S.W. Court Ave.
www.pendletonartandframe.com

Free. Landscape oil paintings of the changing seasons and colored pen and ink images by Paulette Carter are on display through June 30.

"Celilo: Progress Versus Protest"
•Monday - Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

•Tamástsiikt Cultural Institute, near Wildhorse Resort & Casino.
www.tamastsiikt.org
\$10/adults, \$9/senior citizens, \$6/youths, free/5 and under or \$25/family of four. The building of The Dalles Dam on the Columbia River in 1957 and the resulting submersion of Celilo Falls was done under the flag of progress. Biologists, sport and commercial fishermen, congressmen, and

citizens opposed and protested the dam. Almost 60 years later, American Indians are protesting yet another "progressive" project, the Dakota Access Pipeline. Is history repeating itself? Runs through July 14.

Music

Valley Stream
•Saturday, May 27; 2-5:30 p.m.

•Sno Road Winery, 111 W. Main St., Echo
No cover. Kid-friendly musical performance.

Lincoln Barr
•Saturday, May 27; 7 p.m.

•Echo Ridge Cellars, 551 N. Thielsen St., Echo
No cover. All ages. The Seattle transplant presents tunes from his recent solo debut album, "Trembling Frames," select numbers from his band Red Jacket Mine's catalog, and some choice covers.

TripleShot
•Saturday, May 27; Monday, May 28; 8 p.m. No cover

•Wildhorse Sports Bar, Wildhorse Resort & Casino, off I-84 Exit 216, Mission

Ugandan Kids Choir
•Sunday, May 28; 10:30 a.m.

•Hermiston Church of the Nazarene, 1520 W. Orchard Ave.
www.facebook.com/ugandankidschoir

Free. Features 10-child choir presenting traditional rhythmic dances and songs of Africa.

"Showstoppers"
•Wednesday, May 31; 7:30 p.m.

•McKenzie Theater, Eastern Oregon University, La Grande
www.granderondesymphony.org

\$12/adults, \$8/seniors, \$2/college students, \$1/grades 8-12. Grande Ronde Symphony Orchestra performs tunes from movies and the world of rock. Also features winners of the concerto-aria competition, including Sidney Tovey, a junior violin player from Hermiston High School.

Elwood
•Friday, June 2; 6-9 p.m.

•Hamley Steakhouse & Saloon, 8 S.E. Court Ave., Pendleton

No cover. All ages event as part of the Music on the Lawn concert series. The La Grande musician shares his love and inspiration from Mother Nature.

Jet City Players
•Friday, June 2; Saturday, June 3; 8 p.m. No cover

•Wildhorse Sports Bar, Wildhorse Resort & Casino, off I-84

Exit 216, Mission
The Rocker Fellas

•Saturday, June 3; 6-9 p.m.

•Hamley Steakhouse & Saloon, 8 S.E. Court Ave., Pendleton

No cover. All ages event as part of the Music on the Lawn concert series. The Seattle-based band performs crowd favorites from the '60s to the present.

Night life

DJ music
•Saturdays, 8 p.m.

•The Pheasant, 149 E. Main St., Hermiston

Karaoke w/DJ David
•Saturdays; 8 p.m.

•Riverside Sports Bar, 1501 Sixth St., Umatilla

Yoga & Wine Tasting
•Saturday, June 17; 3:30 p.m.

•Echo Ridge Cellars, 551 N. Thielsen St., Echo

\$20. Includes yoga, wine tasting, hors d'oeuvres and a raffle ticket for a bottle of wine. Bring a yoga mat and wear comfortable clothes.

Digital Karaoke
•Thursdays and Fridays, 8 p.m.

•The Pheasant, 149 E. Main St., Hermiston

LOL Comedy Jam
•Thursdays; 8 p.m.

•Wildhorse Sports Bar, Wildhorse Resort & Casino, off I-84 Exit 216, Mission.

No cover. June 1: Gabriel Rutledge; June 8: Harry Riley

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.

Wine tasting
•Fridays, 4-8 p.m.

•Sno Road Winery, 111 W. Main St., Echo.

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

Karaoke w/DJ David
•Fridays; 8 p.m.

•Riverside Sports Bar, 1501 Sixth St., Umatilla

DJ and dancing
•Fridays, 8 p.m.

•The Pheasant, 149 E. Main St., Hermiston

Cimmi's Late Night Martini Lounge

•Fridays; 9 p.m.-midnight

•Virgil's at Cimmiyotti's, 137 S. Main St., Pendleton

No cover. Features martinis, mixology and music.

Theater, stage & film

"The Little Mermaid"
•Wednesday, May 31; 6 p.m.

•Echo School District, 600 Gerone St.

www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q3HpYkVKYQ
Free. Echo Middle School students present the Disney musical.

Hot tickets

What the Festival: June 16-19, Wolf Run Ranch, near Durfur. 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

People's Pick Local Music Showcase: (featuring 100+ acts) June 30-July 1, Bohemia Park & Amphitheater. All ages, free admission. Camping (\$10-\$60) via http://peoplespick.cgmmapresents.org

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

Ramón Ayala: July 29 at Wildhorse Resort & Casino. Tickets (\$39-\$109) available via www.wildhorseresort.com

Umatilla County Fair Main Stage: Reserved seats \$12-\$20. LoCash (Aug. 8), Tracy Lawrence (Aug. 9), Marshall Tucker Band (Aug. 10), Latino Night (Aug. 11), Great White (Aug. 12). Tickets via www.umatillacounty.net/fair

Maryhill Winery Summer Concert Series: Michael McDonald & Boz Scaggs, Aug. 12 (\$46-\$325), ZZ Top & The Doobie Brothers Aug. 26 (\$76-\$400), Steve Winwood, Sept. 9 (\$46-\$86), Goo Goo Dolls & Phillip Phillips, Sept. 17 (\$50-\$1,500) near Goldendale, Washington. Tickets via www.ticketfly.com

Want to get your event listed in our calendar? Send information to community@eastoregonian.com, or c/o Tammy Malgesini, 333 E. Main Street, Hermiston, OR, 97838.