

# It takes a village to make a ruckus

Ruckus in the Boonies kicks off July 27

By TAMMY MALGESINI  
East Oregonian

Featuring everything from Americana, country punk and metal to rock, bluegrass and folk musicians, Ruckus in the Boonies is blasting into Heppner for its fourth year.

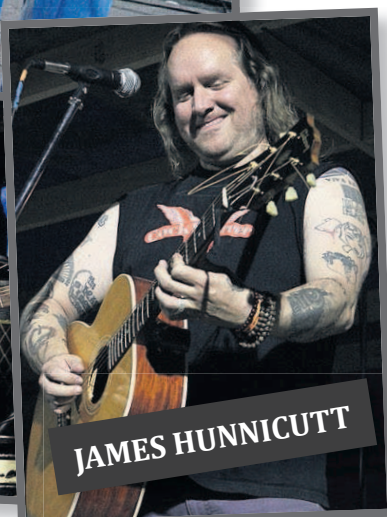
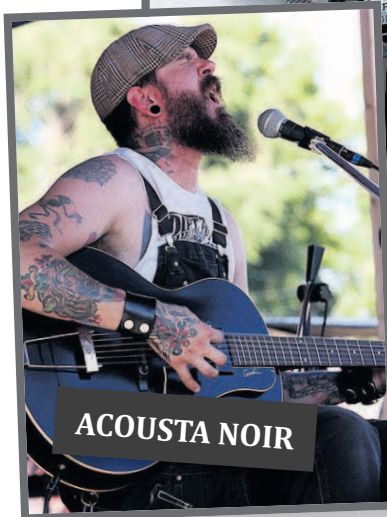
The brainchild of Aaron Harris, aka Dog Bite Harris, the home-grown country boy decided to bring the music to the people of rural Eastern Oregon. Since its inception, the music festival has grown each year. This year's event features more than 40 bands and solo acts.

"My vision for this is big, I want to take it as far as I can," Harris said. "I love the fact new exciting things are coming to our area to experience the beauty we have here."

While not everyone in the small Morrow County town has embraced the ruckus, Harris is extremely appreciative of the huge support of local sponsors and others who help put on the festival. He receives regular feedback from people applauding his efforts. Undaunted by the few naysayers, Harris will continue to pour his efforts into the festival.

"At the end of the day as long as I can walk away breaking even, we will keep doing what we do," he said.

The festival kicks off with the Ruckus Pre-Funk Party Thursday, July 27 beginning at 6 p.m. at Bucknum's Tavern, 152 N. Main St., Heppner. There's a \$5 cover charge. A half-dozen bands will warm up the 21-and-older crowd



Contributed photos by One Eyed Banks Photography

for the festival's main event.

The festival's gates open Friday, July 28 at 4 p.m. at the Morrow County Fairgrounds, 74473 Highway 74, Heppner. There will be a separate area for all-ages concert-goers, Harris said. The

music will continue until the wee hours of Sunday morning. Festival passes are \$40, which includes three nights of camping (locals can buy them for \$20 at Bucknum's). There is an additional fee for recreational vehicle passes and a few motel

packages are still available.

There will be some downtime for sleeping and camping, Harris said. However, when the music's rockin', it will pretty much be non-stop. In addition, the Ruckus in the Boonies features vendors,

merchandise, food and a miniature golf tournament.

This year's headliner is Billy Don Burns, a singer-songwriter who has written songs for Willie Nelson and other accomplished country artists. Knowing that Burns was touring this summer, Harris used his connections with mutual friends to lure him to Ruckus.

"Billy is amazing," Harris said. "He's one of outlaw country's best-kept secrets."

Co-headliners are the Urban Pioneers from Austin, Texas, The Harmed Brothers, hailing from Portland, and Husky Burnette of Denver.

The inaugural Ruckus was attended by 300 people and the second year attracted 600 — which prompted a move from Bucknum's to the fairgrounds. The 2016 event, Harris said, drew more than 1,000 people. While competition is stiff to attract top musicians, Harris does what he can to bring in big name acts while keeping ticket prices reasonably affordable. In addition, Harris plays a set and makes stage time available for other local musicians.

Harris himself continues to evolve with his own music. Growing up, watching people he cares about die and being a family man have all contributed to changes.

"The fire for music is still in me, it just burns different," he said.

For more information about Ruckus in the Boonies, including for ticket sales, visit [www.ruckusintheboonies.com](http://www.ruckusintheboonies.com) or search Facebook.

Contact Community Editor Tammy Malgesini at [tmalgesini@eastoregonian.com](mailto:tmalgesini@eastoregonian.com) or 541-564-4539

## BRIEFLY

### Melissa Cunningham to belt out songs during park series

IRRIGON — Known for her sultry vocal tone, Melissa Cunningham is a professional vocalist who studied vocal music in college and has performed in several ensembles for years around the country.

Living and teaching in Milton-Freewater, Cunningham frequently performs in the area and is the featured performer for the Monday, July 17 Music in the Parks. The free concert starts at 7 p.m. at Irrigon Marina Park. People are encouraged to bring a blanket or lawn chair. In addition, food will be available for purchase.

Cunningham's musical interests and genres include jazz, blues, rhythm & blues and pop. Her ability to change from soft and sultry to full-on belting is something that audiences look forward to hearing.

Music in the Parks series alternates between Boardman and Irrigon marina parks each Monday though Aug. 14. For more information, call Tami Sherer at 541-571-0844. To hear Cunningham's voice, visit [www.reverbnation.com/melissacunnington](http://www.reverbnation.com/melissacunnington).

### Cory Peterson Band plays familiar tunes in Ione

IONE — Coming on the heels of opening for Sunny Ledfurd in Spokane, the Cory Peterson Band is returning to their home turf to perform during Ione Music in the Park.

The frontman for the band is a 2009 Ione High School graduate and the group always draws a crowd in his hometown. In addition to performing original songs, the band will play a variety of country and classic rock tunes that are familiar to audiences. The free outdoor concert is Saturday, July 22 at 6 p.m. at Ione City Park. People are invited to bring blankets, chairs and a cooler and enjoy the evening.

In case of inclement weather, the music will be moved to the Ione American Legion Hall, 325 W. Second St.

### Kid Rock hints at potential U.S. Senate run in Michigan

LANSING, Mich. (AP) — Kid Rock for U.S. Senate?

The musician from suburban Detroit is teasing his potential 2018 candidacy, though it is news to Michigan Republicans.

Kid Rock, who was born Robert Ritchie, said Wednesday that a website hinting at his campaign — [www.kidrockforsenate.com](http://www.kidrockforsenate.com) — is legit.

"I have had a ton of emails and texts asking me if this website is real," he said on Facebook and Twitter. "The answer is an absolute YES. Stay tuned, I will have a major announcement in the near future."

Michigan Republican Party Chairman Ron Weiser said he had not heard from Ritchie, who endorsed GOP presidential candidates Donald Trump in 2016 and Mitt Romney in 2012.

"It could be a publicity ploy. Don't know," Weiser said in a text message.

Third-term Democratic Sen. Debbie Stabenow is up for re-election in 2018 after easily winning in 2012 and 2006. Republican candidates include former Michigan Supreme Court Justice Bob Young Jr. and businesswoman Lena Epstein.

Democrats traditionally have fared well in statewide federal elections in Michigan. But Trump's narrow victory over Hillary Clinton in the state — the first for a GOP presidential nominee in 28 years — has given Republicans some optimism about facing the popular Stabenow.

Epstein, herself a political newcomer, welcomed Ritchie to "the party" and said she hopes they can campaign together.

## WHAT TO DO

### Festivals

#### Pendleton Whisky Music Fest

•Saturday, July 15, 4:30 p.m., gates open  
•Pendleton Round-Up Stadium  
[www.pendletonwhiskymusicfest.com](http://www.pendletonwhiskymusicfest.com)  
\$70-\$175/reserved seats. Kickoff party features DJ Sovem-T and The FrogHollow Band. Music festival headliner is Maroon 5. Opening acts are MAGIC!, Runaway June and Little McKay Creek Band. Camping available.

#### Veteran Benefit Expo

•Saturday, July 15; 10 a.m.-5 p.m.  
•Deschutes Fair & Expo Center, Redmond  
[www.expo.oregondva.com](http://www.expo.oregondva.com)  
Free. Presented by Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs, features 75 information booths, job fair, kids' activities and live entertainment with DD214s, Got Your Six and comedian Juan Canopii.

#### Tamkaliks Pow Wow

•Friday, July 21, 7 p.m.; Saturday, July 22 and Sunday, July 23, 9 a.m.  
•Tamkaliks Pow Wow Grounds, Wallowa  
[www.wallowanezperce.org/tamkaliks](http://www.wallowanezperce.org/tamkaliks)  
Free. Celebration and recognition of the continuing Nez Perce presence in the Wallowa Valley includes (Friday) basket weaving and beading instruction followed by dance roll call at 7 p.m.; (Saturday) horse parade (9 a.m.), social dancing, Women Warriors ceremony and dance roll calls at 1 p.m. and 7 p.m.; (Sunday) Washat service, Friendship Feast and championship dancing. Vendors, free camping on the grounds, food, raffles and more throughout the weekend.

#### Irrigon Watermelon Festival

•Saturday, July 29  
•Irrigon Marina Park  
[www.facebook.com/irrigonwatermelonfestival](http://www.facebook.com/irrigonwatermelonfestival)  
Free admission. Parade (10 a.m.), live entertainment, raffles, vendors, food, boat rides, kids' activities, a street dance (9 p.m. to midnight) and lots of watermelon.

### Art, Museums & Authors

#### "A Love of Western Color"

•Monday-Fridays, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Saturdays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.  
•Pendleton Art + Frame, 36 S.W. Court Ave.  
Free. Features watercolors and fluid acrylic paintings by The Dalles artist Mary Rollins. Runs through Aug. 31.

#### Ozark Hippie Exhibit

•Monday-Thursdays; 11 a.m.-7 p.m.,  
•Friday-Saturdays; 10 a.m.-5 p.m.,  
•Hermiston Public Library, 235 E. Gladys Ave.  
[www.hermistonlibrary.us](http://www.hermistonlibrary.us)  
Free. The work of Hermiston artist Kim La Plant, aka Ozark Hippie, is on display. Runs through July 31.

#### "Collected Works: Black and White"

•Monday-Thursdays; 10 a.m.-8 p.m.; Friday/Saturdays; 10 a.m.-5 p.m.  
•Pendleton Public Library, 502 S.W. Dorion Ave.  
[www.pendletonlibrary.weebly.com](http://www.pendletonlibrary.weebly.com)  
Free. The work of Walla Walla artist Susan How is on display. Runs through Aug. 31.

#### PDX in PDT

•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. Features selected artists from PDX Contemporary Art, a gallery in Portland's Pearl District. Also, the Lorenzen Board Room is displaying works of Walla Walla photographer Susan How, who utilizes an early 1900s Brownie box camera. Runs through July 29.

#### "In the Darkness I Find Light"

•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 photos by Amy Friedman shot exclusively at night. Runs through July 30.

#### Steve Nilson

•Saturday & Sundays; noon-5 p.m.  
•Arts Portal Gallery, 508 N. Main St., Milton-Freewater  
Free. With a variety of mediums and styles,

the Milton-Freewater artist said, "Inspiration for me can pop up at any time and in any place."

### Music

#### Herrick

•Saturday, July 15; 8 p.m. No cover  
•Wildhorse Sports Bar, Wildhorse Resort & Casino, off I-84 Exit 216, Mission

#### Melissa Cunningham

•Monday, July 17; 7 p.m.  
•Irrigon Marina Park  
Free. As part of the Music in the Parks series, which alternates weekly between Boardman and Irrigon marina parks. Bring a blanket or lawn chairs. Food available for purchase.

#### Holiday Friends

•Wednesday, July 19; 6-8 p.m.  
•Roy Raley Park, 1205 S.W. Court Ave., Pendleton  
[www.facebook.com/soundslikeentertainmentbooking](http://www.facebook.com/soundslikeentertainmentbooking)

Free. As part of the Wednesdays in the Park, the Astoria-based band opens the season. Bring a lawn chair or blanket for the family-friendly shows. Food, beer and wine available for purchase.

#### Groove City

•Friday, July 21; Saturday, July 22; 8 p.m. No cover  
•Wildhorse Sports Bar, Wildhorse Resort & Casino, off I-84 Exit 216, Mission

#### The Fire

•Friday, July 21; 7 p.m.  
•Pendleton Center for the Arts, 214 N. Main St., Pendleton  
[www.pendletonarts.org](http://www.pendletonarts.org)  
\$15. Scottish fiddle champion Rebecca Lomnicky and musicians David Brewer and Adam Hendey return to present their unique blend of traditional and contemporary Scottish music.

#### Cory Peterson Band

•Saturday, July 22; 6 p.m.  
•Ione City Park  
No cover. As part of the monthly Music in the Park concert series, features the local group country group. Bring lawn chairs or blankets and a cooler.

#### Dallin Puzey

•Monday, July 24; 7 p.m.  
•Boardman Marina Park  
Free. As part of the Music in the Parks series, which alternates weekly between Boardman and Irrigon marina parks. Bring a blanket or lawn chairs. Food available for purchase.

#### Foxtails Brigade

•Wednesday, July 26; 6-8 p.m.  
•Roy Raley Park, 1205 S.W. Court Ave., Pendleton  
[www.facebook.com/soundslikeentertainmentbooking](http://www.facebook.com/soundslikeentertainmentbooking)  
Free. Wednesdays in the Park features the San Francisco-based band. Bring a lawn chair or blanket for the family-friendly shows. Food, beer and wine available for purchase.

### 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

#### Watermelon Wrestling

•Saturday, July 29; 9 p.m.  
•Sub Zero Restaurant & Lounge, 100 W. Highway 730, Irrigon  
Free or \$5/after 8 p.m. Cash prizes and followed by Lucky Coyotes dancing. Call 541-922-4374.

#### LOL Comedy Jam

•Thursdays; 8 p.m.  
•Wildhorse Sports Bar, Wildhorse Resort & Casino, off I-84 Exit 216, Mission.  
No cover. July 20: DC Malone; July 27: Susan Rice

#### Digital Karaoke

•Thursdays and Fridays, 8 p.m.  
•The Pheasant, 149 E. Main St., Hermiston

#### 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](http://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 & lectures

#### Stand in the Shadow of the Moon

•Sunday, July 16, 6-8 p.m.  
•Prodigal Son Brewery & Pub, 230 S.E. Court Ave., Pendleton

Free. Astronomer Shane L. Larson will discuss eclipses and their importance in developing a better understanding of the Earth and its place in the Cosmos.

#### "Despicable Me 3"

•Saturday, July 15; 10:30 a.m.  
•Hermiston Stadium 8 Cinema, 355 W. Theater Lane  
[www.facebook.com/arcofumatilla-county](http://www.facebook.com/arcofumatilla-county)

\$5. In conjunction with The Arc Umatilla County, sensory-friendly screenings with lights up a little and volume down. Doors open at 10 a.m.

#### Pendleton Movies in the Park

•Saturdays; dusk  
•Community Park, 1000 S.W. 37th St., Pendleton  
[www.facebook.com/PendletonParksRec](http://www.facebook.com/PendletonParksRec)

Free. Bring lawn chairs or blankets. Concessions available for purchase. July 15: no movie, July 22: "Grease." Cancellations for inclement weather posted at the park and Pendleton Parks & Recreation's Facebook page.

#### Ione Movies in the Park

•Saturdays; dusk  
•Ione City Park  
Free. Bring lawn chairs or blankets and a cooler. July 15: "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone," July 22: no movie.

#### Hermiston Movies in the Park

•Fridays; dusk  
•McKenzie Park, 320 S. First St., Hermiston  
[www.facebook.com/hermistonrec](http://www.facebook.com/hermistonrec)  
Free. July 21: "Moana," July 28: LEGO Batman Movie." Bring a blanket, chairs and snacks.

### Hot tickets

•**Ruckus in the Boonies:** (features Americana, country punk, metal, rock, bluegrass and folk artists) July 28-29, Morrow County Fairgrounds, Heppner. Admission includes camping (\$40). Some motel packages available via [www.ruckusintheboonies.com](http://www.ruckusintheboonies.com)

•**Ramón Ayala:** July 29 at Wildhorse Resort & Casino. Tickets (\$39-\$109) available via [www.wildhorseresort.com](http://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](http://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](http://www.ticketfly.com)

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