

HELIX

# Co-headliners to rock stage as Wheatstock celebrates 10 years

Concert Aug. 19 at Quantum 9 Arena

By TAMMY MALGESINI  
East Oregonian

Wheatstock Music Festival is pulling out all the stops as it celebrates its 10th year with dual headliners in Supersuckers and Too Slim and the Taildraggers.

The event is Saturday, Aug. 19 with the gates opening at noon at Quantum 9 Arena in Helix. Tickets are \$20 if purchased in advance or \$28 at the gate. Admission is free for military personnel with identification and youth 12 and under.

Free camping is available with tickets. In addition, Andrae's Kitchen of Walla Walla — named the 2016 Food Truck Restaurant of the Year — returns with plenty of food offerings, said DuWayne Dunlap, president of the Wheatstock board. Also, there will be bouncy houses for kids and a beer garden for adults.

Supersuckers frontman Eddie Spaghetti doesn't pull any punches, calling the group, "the greatest rock-n-roll band in the world."

**"It's not overwhelming huge. It's just a lot of fun and the music we get is all top-notch."**

— DuWayne Dunlap, Wheatstock board president

While that may sound a bit arrogant, Spaghetti has the backing of many musicians in the business. From Eddie Vedder and Willie Nelson to Little Steven Van Zandt and Elijah Wood — they all sing praises for the Seattle-based band.

Dunlap is thrilled with landing the group for Wheatstock's 10th year.

"They kind of started out as a punk rock band and then transitioned into a country rock genre," Dunlap said. "They really are a top-notch band."

Too Slim and the Taildraggers features guitarist Tim Langford. Formerly of Spokane, Langford and his bandmates are now based out of Nashville.

"He's an award-winning blues guitarist," Dunlap said. "This guy can shred guitar."

Headliners for the anniversary show, Dunlap said, are a bit off the Wheatstock beaten path. Over the years, the festival has focused on attracting a number of musicians from the Texas Red Dirt scene.

"We're just trying to keep fresh faces and fresh music coming on the scene," he said.

In addition, the music festival provides stage time



Supersuckers is one of the dual headliners for the Wheatstock Music Festival. Celebrating its 10th year, the event is Saturday, Aug. 19 at Quantum 9 Arena in Helix.



Too Slim and the Taildraggers is one of the dual headliners for the 10th annual Wheatstock Music Festival.

for regional musicians, including Tylor & the Train Robbers, referred to as "the house band." Tylor Bushman Ketchum, who grew up in Helix and cut his teeth on the Wheatstock stage, is making a name for himself in the Boise music scene. Other performers include George Devore (Austin, Texas), and Pendleton-based bands Imperial Twang and Little McKay Creek.

In addition, the show kicks off with a Guitar Pull. Various artists, including Rob Bonifer and Tyler Brooks, will warm up the audience at 1 p.m.

Referring to Larry Parker as the "grass whisperer," the Helix wheat farmer nurtures the rodeo arena into a lush blanket of grass, Dunlap said.

"It's just a dirt arena but by the time August rolls around, it's amazing," he said.

In addition to providing music to the masses, Dunlap said the purpose of the festival is to raise money for the music program in the Helix School District and to Divide Camp, a wilderness retreat for combat veterans in the Wallowa Mountains. The show is dedicated to Army warrant officer

HERMISTON

# City council weighs ag service district, annexing 13 acres

By JADE MCDOWELL  
East Oregonian

The Hermiston city council will vote Monday on whether to support a proposed service district for the Oregon State University Extension.

The new district, if approved by voters, would have a tax rate of 33 cents per thousand dollars of assessed property value. Due to compression, taxpayers would not see a higher tax bill, but other taxing districts would see less money, including the city of Hermiston, which estimates it would lose about \$87,605 per year that would have gone to the general fund. The money would provide a longterm source of funding for agricultural programs.

Councilors will also hold a public hearing on a request to annex 13 acres at 995 W. Gettman Road for a planned residential subdivision.

Developer Frank

Gehring has submitted two applications to the city, one to annex the property into the city and one to rezone it from "future residential" to "low density residential." The proposed development would contain 46 lots.

On Monday the council, acting as the Hermiston Urban Renewal Agency, will also consider a façade grant to Lucky Endz at 239 E. Main Street. A 50 percent match for the stucco and awning project would be \$7,475.

Afterward, the council will convene into a closed-door executive session to conduct labor negotiations.

At a 6 p.m. work session before the regular meeting at 7 p.m., the council will also discuss street improvement projects needed around town, giving the public infrastructure committee a chance to share their progress on a comprehensive capital improvement plan for the city, and to discuss the street portion of the project.

BRIEFLY

## Stanfield City Council to discuss modifying nuisance ordinance

STANFIELD — Stanfield's city council has a relatively busy agenda Tuesday as the council discusses its nuisance ordinance, a new taxing district and financing options for a new public works storage building.

The last council meeting was packed with more than two dozen people asking the city to do something about the strong odor coming from 3D IdaPro Solutions' dehydration plant in town. The council voted to use the council's current nuisance ordinance to fine the plant, and directed city staff to look for ways to shut the plant down — an action City Manager Blair Larsen said would be difficult to do legally under the city's current laws.

Tuesday the council will take up the topic again and consider "potential modifications" to the nuisance ordinance.

The council will also consider approval for the Oregon State University Extension to include Stanfield in the ballot measure it intends to pursue in May, which would create a new taxing district at a rate of 33 cents per thousand dollars of assessed value to support new and existing agricultural programs.

The council meets at 7 p.m. Tuesday in city council chambers, 150 West Coe Avenue.

## Kwong's Cafe again changing hands

PENDLETON — Kwong's Cafe in Pendleton is closing again. But property owner Edward Ng said he's already working on a new deal to keep Kwong's kicking.

Kwong's, 1003 S.W. Dorion Ave., closed in 2016 until Ng reached a deal with Ji Fon, a restaurant manager and owner from Columbia, South Carolina.

Ng in an email Friday said Fon decided to quit the business.

"However," Ng continued, "we have been fortunate to have some new people to take over the business. They plan to open up hopefully at the end of August or beginning of September."

The sides have yet to finalize arrangements, but Ng added the "new folks seem to have the experience and approach that will make the restaurant much better than what it has experienced in the last year."

Wheatstock

- Saturday, Aug. 19
- 1 p.m., Guitar Pull
- 2 p.m., George Devore
- 3 p.m., Imperial Twang
- 4 p.m., Little McKay Creek
- 5 p.m., Too Slim and the Taildraggers
- 6:30 p.m., Tylor & the Train Robbers
- 8 p.m., Supersuckers

Adrian Stump, a Pendleton man who died in a helicopter crash in Afghanistan in 2005.

Nearly \$30,000 has been raised in the event's 10-year history, Dunlap said. And, upwards of 500-600 people attend each year.

"It's not overwhelming huge," he said. "It's just a lot of fun and the music we get is all top-notch."

For more information or to purchase tickets, visit [www.wheatstock.org](http://www.wheatstock.org).

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

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