

PENDLETON

# Kindle & the Playboys skate into 10th year

Tickets available at Great Pacific

By TAMMY MALGESINI  
East Oregonian

Playing everywhere from dive bars and rodeo arenas to prisons and concert halls, James Dean Kindle & the Eastern Oregon Playboys is celebrating its 10th birthday as a band.

The group is hosting a roller skating party, complete with music and an ice cream cake. The celebration is Friday from 9:30 p.m. to midnight at Pendleton Skate City, 407 Highway 11. In addition to a performance by Kindle and the Playboys — Peter Walters, Brian Baird and Adam Mack — several special guests will play. Tickets are \$7 and can be purchased in advance at Great Pacific Wine & Coffee Co., 403 S. Main St., Pendleton.

Singer-songwriter J.D. Kindle always wanted to front a Western swing band dubbed “The Eastern Oregon Playboys.” While the group isn’t exclusively in that category, he said they do embrace elements of the genre. Prior to the official name, Kindle said it came with several variations along with his name.

“We are from Eastern Oregon and it felt like a nice way to take some regional pride,” he said. “The boys weren’t that hot on it initially but I was pretty insistent. We kept using the name, and it has stuck by now.”

Starting as a duo with Peter Walters, Kindle intended on fleshing out arrangements of songs he had been performing in a solo capacity. Kindle had relocated back to Pendleton and the high school buddies started inviting a few friends to attend rehearsals, including Brian Baird with his bass, Cody Nash on guitar and drummer Matt Van Sickle. Kindle said



Photo contributed by Tristan Paige  
James Dean Kindle & The Eastern Oregon Playboys, featuring J.D. Kindle, Adam Mack, Brian Baird and Peter Walters, are celebrating its 10th anniversary as a band.

“We are from Eastern Oregon and it felt like a nice way to take some regional pride.”

— J.D. Kindle, on the band name

the band performed as a five-piece group for a few months until Nash left to join the Air Force. They’ve remained a four-piece band since that time.

Kindle, Walters and Baird are all products of the Pendleton High School music department. In January 2015, Mack, the newest Playboy, relocated with his family from the Portland area around the same time Van Sickle left to pursue other opportunities. Kindle had previously toured with Mack as a substitute bass player during gigs with Sean Flinn & The Royal We. They became familiar with each other while cooped up for hours together on the road.

“Since we already had

### James Dean Kindle & the Eastern Oregon Playboys

- J.D. Kindle: vocals, guitar, keyboards, harmonica, kazoo
- Peter Walters: guitar, vocals, tenor saxophone, vibraphone, auxiliary percussion
- Brian Baird: bass, vocals
- Adam Mack: drums, percussion, vocals

a good rapport and I knew he was a solid musician it was a natural arrangement,” Kindle said.

Kindle likened being in a band as having multiple significant others simultaneously. With the exception of Mack, Kindle said the connection between bandmates is probably the longest relationship they’ve been involved in. The key, Kindle said, is that they are friends — while they sometimes fight like brothers, they also look out for each other.

“Also, it helps that we all really like burritos and beer,” Walters added.

As individuals, the members of the group are often involved with other musical projects, whether as a solo artist, promoting shows or performing with other bands or choirs. The group has collaborated with the Oregon East Symphony on several occasions, and

has been featured on Oregon Public Broadcasting, Boise State Public Radio and as part of an ad campaign for Travel Pendleton. In addition, when the group performs local gigs, they share stage time to further introduce other musicians to Eastern Oregon audiences.

James Dean Kindle & the Eastern Oregon Playboys is releasing its fourth album, “Roaming Charges May Apply,” this winter. For a sneak peak, hit up the jukebox at The Packard Tavern in Pendleton. Also, Kindle will release a live solo album later this month that was recorded during an August residency at Great Pacific.

For more about the band, visit [www.facebook.com/jamesdeankindle.EO](http://www.facebook.com/jamesdeankindle.EO).

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

BRIEFLY

### Recital features student musicians

PENDLETON — The public is invited to tonight’s recital featuring cello students of Loree McKenna.

The free performance is Tuesday at 7 p.m. at Pendleton Center for the Arts, 214 N. Main St. Those playing include Shae and Sage Wyland, Elijah Spencer, Paige Pitner, Ashtyn Larsen, Michael Morrow, Caleb Picken, Reilly Lovercheck and Kieric Speakman, all of Pendleton, and Matthew Estrada and Shiela Burkhardt of Hermiston. The program also includes two ensembles, a cello quartet and a duet. Accompanying on piano is Myrna Van Cleave.

For more information, contact McKenna at 541-276-4237 or [loreec5645@gmail.com](mailto:loreec5645@gmail.com).

### Trivia event benefits Heppner Day Care

HEPPNER — Trivial information can result in prizes and fun.

Mr. Bill’s Traveling Trivia Show will help raise money for the Heppner Day Care Friday at 7 p.m. at the Heppner Elks Lodge, 142 N. Main St. The cost is \$150 per team (suggested six-member teams) and pre-registration is strongly encouraged. The event includes gift drawings and a basket raffle.

For more information or to register a team, call 541-676-5429, visit [www.facebook.com/little.peopleABC](http://www.facebook.com/little.peopleABC) or stop by the day care at 330 Gale St., Heppner.

### Rally features films, drumming

PENDLETON — In observance of Indigenous Peoples Month, an awareness event is planned in Pendleton.

Everyone is welcome to attend the Indigenous

Awareness Rally. It features a pair of films, “Historical Trauma” and “We Shall Remain,” Saturday at 1 p.m. at Pendleton Center for the Arts, 214 N. Main St. There is no admission charge. Afterwards, the rally will feature drummers, singers and speakers at Brownfield Park, 12 S. Main St., Pendleton.

For more information, text/call Destiny at 541-215-3764.

### Music workshop incorporates sports techniques

HERMISTON — A music teacher enrichment workshop can provide tips and techniques that can help in student learning.

The free session for pianists and piano teachers uses ideas that come through sports as well as research on learning. “Practicing and Coaching: Ideas from Psychology and Sports” is Saturday from 10 a.m. to noon at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 850 S.W. 11th St., Hermiston. Pre-registration is not required.

Sponsored by the Umatilla-Morrow District of the Oregon Music Teachers Association in partnership with the Oregon Community Foundation, the workshop is presented by Bonnie Esbensen. A private piano teacher for more than 40 years, Esbensen taught psychology and education at Oregon State University and Western Oregon University.

For more information, contact Sue Nelson at [musicdoc3@mac.com](mailto:musicdoc3@mac.com) or 541-276-0346.

Submit information to: [community@eastoregonian.com](mailto:community@eastoregonian.com) or drop off to the attention of Tammy Malgesini at 333 E. Main St., Hermiston or Renee Struthers at 211 S.E. Byers Ave., Pendleton. Call 541-564-4539 or 541-966-0818 with questions.



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