

**PENDLETON**

# Whisky Fest has 2018 headliner committed

Will make announcement in coming months

East Oregonian

The Pendleton Whisky Music Fest reached a verbal agreement with its 2018 headliner last week, but won't make an official announcement until early next year.

While he didn't identify the entertainer, event co-founder Doug Corey dropped some hints as he spoke to the Pendleton Rotary Club on Monday about the upcoming third edition of the festival.

For starters, he crossed two big-name performers off the list of potential acts: Florida-Georgia Line and Imagine Dragons.

Both groups previously balked at the name of the festival, Corey said, but for different reasons. Florida-Georgia Line has its own line of liquor — Old Camp Whiskey — and was wary that the Pendleton festival represented a competing brand, while Imagine Dragons founder Dan Reynolds and others in the band are practicing members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and have religious objections to headlining a liquor-sponsored event.

With those two off the table, Corey also offered that the event's organizers and sponsors were pleased with the success of pop/rock

group Maroon 5 in 2017 after country act Zac Brown Band the year before, and they "might try to alternate" between the two genres. He also said the 2018 artist was currently a "hot" act with multiple No. 1 hits in recent years, and he used the male pronoun in one instance before correcting himself with a chuckle.

Corey gave a brief report on the growth since the event's first year at Round-Up Stadium, including more than doubling the number of food vendors from about 8 to about 18, bartenders from 40 to 140 and adding a concert featuring a regional band in downtown Pendleton on Friday before the main event Saturday.

He said organizers hope to build on that success, bringing in a more widely known act on Friday night. He said in 2017 about 40 percent of the concert attendees came from Eastern Oregon and Walla Walla, and the rest were from further away.

Getting first-tier performers to come to Pendleton has proven possible, he said, but aligning schedules and coming up with enough money — anywhere from \$750,000 to \$4 million — means it's not as simple booking whoever you want. "Just because you want Kenny Chesney doesn't mean you're going to get Kenny Chesney," Corey said.

Pendleton Whisky Music Fest is July 14, 2018.

**PENDLETON**



File photo

**Evangelina Olivera serves up pie during the 2015 Blue Mountain Community College Christmas Eve Dinner. Free to the community, 1 year's event is Sunday, Dec. 24 at the Pendleton Convention Center.**

# BMCC serves Christmas Eve meal at convention center

East Oregonian

The community is invited to a free Christmas Eve dinner presented by Blue Mountain Community College.

A ham dinner with all the trimmings, including dessert, will be served Sunday, Dec. 24 from 4-6 p.m. at the Pendleton Convention Center, 1601 Westgate. In addition, children are invited to take a special trip through Santa's Toy Shop. Kids will be able to pose for photos with Santa and pick up a free present.

Organized by BMCC's Associated Student Government, the annual dinner is in its 47th year. Typically averaging 500-600 people, the popular event moved to the convention center in order to more adequately serve

the community. Even with the extreme weather during the 2016 holiday season, an additional 150-200 people attended.

Abby Pierson, BMCC outreach program assistant, said between the 743 people in attendance and the 60 volunteers that helped staff the event, more than 800 meals were served.

"It was extremely successful," Pierson said.

The evening is made possible through generous donations of cash, toys and decorations. In addition to college staff and students, many people from the community volunteer their time to help make the event a success.

For more information, including how to get involved or make a donation, call Pierson at 541-278-5921 or Austin Shick at 541-278-5967.

**HERMISTON**

# Santa serves up breakfast, holiday traditions

By TAMMY MALGESINI  
East Oregonian

When asked if he has been a good little boy this year, Cory Kautz Jr. nodded his head up and down.

Then, the 5-year-old Hermiston boy looked at his parents for confirmation. When Cory Kautz Sr. and Britni Kautz agreed that their son had indeed been good, a melon-sized grin broke out on his face.

The Kautz family, which also includes 9-month-old Tyson, enjoyed their Saturday morning together during Pancakes with Santa at the Hermiston Conference Center. The Kautzes got their fill of flapjacks and sausage, browsed at several vendor booths and played holiday bingo, which featured green and red M&Ms as card markers.

However, there was an even more pressing reason why the family wanted to attend the event.

"He's so excited to see Santa," Britni said about her oldest son.

When asked what he wanted for Christmas, Cory said, "Presents." And, after pausing, he added, "Big ones."

However, Cory's little brother wasn't as thrilled about seeing the jolly old elf. After eyeballing St. Nick — aka John Perkins — Tyson started to cry. After event photographer Pat Hart snapped a few pictures, Britni rescued Tyson from Santa's lap. Cory lingered a little longer and then Santa offered him a candy cane.

Valerie Horton of Hermiston attended the event with her granddaughter, Alivia Estrada, and the 5-year-old's parents, Jessica Horton and Marc Estrada. Valerie said they wanted to do something as a family and to see Santa.

Alivia let St. Nick know that the top of her Christmas



Staff photo by Tammy Malgesini

**Members of Majazzty, a chorale ensemble from Hermiston High School, pose for a photo after performing at Saturday's Pancakes with Santa at the Hermiston Conference Center. The public is invited to the band and choir program's Winter Concert Dec. 18-19 in the school's auditorium.**



Staff photo by Tammy Malgesini

**Cory Kautz Jr., 5, reacts with excitement after one of his numbers is called while playing Christmas Bingo. The 5-year-old Hermiston boy was attending Pancakes with Santa Saturday at the Hermiston Conference Center with his parents, Cory Sr. and Britni Kautz, and his 9-month-old brother, Tyson.**

wish list is an L.O.L Surprise! As Jessica described the popular toy, Alivia added specific details about the type she's hoping for.

Larry Fetter, Hermiston Parks & Recreation director,

said partnerships with the Hermiston Kiwanis Club and local Key Club members were an integral part in making the third annual Pancakes with Santa a success. Also, he said personnel from the Naval

Weapons Systems Training Facility in Boardman assisted with serving. Fetter said the event drew about 130 people, which was held for a second year at the conference center after outgrowing The Arc building.

"It's starting to turn into a local holiday tradition," Fetter said. "It's such a fun event and people look forward to it."

Entertainment was provided by the band and choir students from Hermiston High School. After performing their set, Majazzty choir members headed back for a group photo with Santa Claus. Choir director Jordan Bemrose-Rust said Pancakes with Santa marked the ensemble's 10th special holiday performance.

The community is invited to their final public performances of the season Monday and Tuesday at 7 p.m. in the HHS auditorium, 600 S. First St. There is no admission charge for the Winter Concert, which features band and choir programs.

**BRIEFLY**

## City to discuss raising maintenance height for trees

PENDLETON — While the trees lay dormant for the winter, the Pendleton City Council is considering raising the minimum height of their branches.

The council will meet Tuesday, where members will discuss amending an ordinance raising the minimum maintenance height for trees adjacent to properties from 11 feet to 14 feet. According to a staff report, the new standard will accommodate larger vehicles, including city machinery like street sweepers and vacuum trucks.

Besides finalizing a contract with McCormack Construction handle general contractor and construction management duties on the new fire station, there aren't any other action items of note in the council's final meeting of the year.

The council will meet at 7 p.m. at the council chambers in city hall, 500 S.W. Dorion Ave.

## Imaginative artist-poet to headline First Draft

PENDLETON — A poet and multidisciplinary artist from Eugene is featured during this month's First

Draft Writers' Series. Sam Roxas-Chua, whose writings have been called "tidal and full of magical realism," will share from his latest works. The free event is Thursday at 7 p.m. at Pendleton Center for the Arts, 214 N. Main St. The author-artist is said to possess a profound imagination and brings a unique and distinctive voice to the literary scene.

Roxas-Chua's work, which has appeared in numerous literary magazines and journals, has been invited to read at local government events and for the Oregon State Legislature. His collection of poems, "Diary of Collected Summers," placed first in poetry during the 2014 Missouri Review Audio Competition. Also, Roxas-Chua's fall release, "Echolalia in Script," is described as a truly original marriage of visual art and poetry.

Showcasing notable Pacific Northwest authors, First Draft Writers' Series meets the third Thursday of each month. In addition to the main presentation, the gatherings include an opportunity for up to 10 local writers to share from their original works during an open mic.

For more information, call 541-278-9201 or visit [www.pendletonarts.org](http://www.pendletonarts.org). To learn

more about Roxas-Chua, visit [www.samroxaschua.com](http://www.samroxaschua.com).

## J.D. Kindle to perform late-night lounge set

PENDLETON — If the countdown to Christmas is starting to take its toll, take a break and let James Dean Kindle entertain you with a late-night lounge set.

Performing solo, the Pendleton musician will offer up an evening of country & western songs, jazz standards and sombre Christmas tunes. The event is Saturday from 9 p.m. to midnight at Virgil's at Cimmiyotti's, 137 S. Main St., Pendleton. There is no cover charge.

For more information, contact Cimmiyotti's at 541-276-7711 or Kindle at [jamesdeankindle@gmail.com](mailto:jamesdeankindle@gmail.com).

## Heppner chamber accepts award nominations

HEPPNER — In preparation for the annual Town and Country Community Awards, the

Heppner Chamber of Commerce is seeking nominations.

South Morrow County residents are encouraged to think about fellow citizens, businesses and youths who make the area a great place to live and work. The award categories include man, woman, business, youth and citizen-educator of the year. Also, nominations for the Lifetime Achievement Award, which recognizes someone with significant contributions over a period of time, are being sought.

Forms are available at the Bank of Eastern Oregon, Heppner City Hall, Community Bank and the chamber office. They must be completed and submitted by Friday, Jan. 12 to Kuhn Law Offices, 267 N. Main St., the chamber office, 133 N. Main St., or via email at [heppnerchamber@centurytel.net](mailto:heppnerchamber@centurytel.net).

The Town and Country banquet is Thursday, Feb. 9 at 6 p.m. at the Morrow County Fairgrounds. Tickets will be available at a later date.

For more information, call the chamber at 541-676-5536.

**12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS!**  
**30% OFF**  
Select Items each day!

Wed., Dec. 20th All Purses & Jewelry  
Thurs., Dec. 21st All Willow Tree  
Fri, Dec. 22nd All Farm & Garden  
Sat., Dec. 23rd All Clothing  
Sun., Dec. 24th All Christmas

\*Excludes All fresh flowers and plants.  
Watch for our After Christmas Sale Dec. 26-31!

541-567-4305 • Hwy 395, Hermiston  
[www.thecottageonline.com](http://www.thecottageonline.com)  
Mon-Sat 8am-8pm • Sun 12pm-5pm

Enter To **WIN**  
**\$4,000**

\$100 awarded weekly \$3,000 Grand Prize  
Newspaper sponsored - Local shopping survey

Enter to win now, go to:  
[www.pulsepoll.com](http://www.pulsepoll.com)

**Selfies with Santa**

Friday, Dec. 22 2017  
3:30pm to 5:30pm

**NYDENE MOORE - STATE FARM**  
395 E. Highland Ave. | Hermiston, Or.

Look who's coming to see us. Haven't gotten your selfie with Santa yet? Stop by our office, bring the kiddos and their final lists to hand them to Santa personally. Enjoy some hot cocoa and a cookie while you wait your turn to see jolly Old Saint Nick.

Sponsored by  
**NYDENE MOORE - STATE FARM**