

Swilling bourbon and Rockwell tunes

Some music is meant to be paired with an alcoholic beverage. For a Saint-Saëns concerto it’s a glass of Bordeaux. For Pantera it’s Jagermeister. Imperial Twang, a Wheatstock Hefeweizen. For the Parrotheads out there, it’s margaritas and piña colodas to go with their beloved Jimmy Buffett.

In the case of Bourbon Rockwell, his name is enough of an indication of what you should be swilling while listening to his ragged country tunes. I should know — I once spent an evening at my dining room table with the man trading songs, discussing what makes a song, and polishing off a bottle into the wee hours of the morning. It was actually a single malt scotch, but any whisky will do.

This past month, the La Grande-based singer-songwriter quietly released a sparse album of folk-country tunes. Sonically, “All The Stars In The Sky” features only an acoustic guitar and Rockwell’s whiskey and cigarette marinated voice. It would make for a fine companion to be drinking bourbon (or a single malt scotch) with at the dining room table come 3 a.m.

Originally from Baltimore, Rockwell (born Will Gillespie) had the musical upbringing of a down home country boy where hootenannies were the traditional family bonding activity. “I remember sitting in my grandfather’s



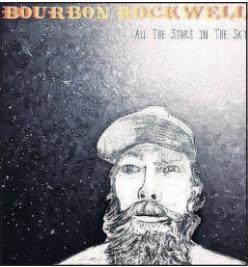
Photo contributed by Brittany Lind

La Grande-based singer-songwriter Bourbon Rockwell recently released “All The Stars In The Sky.”

basement with my grandfather, six aunts, uncle, mom, great-granddad and grandma, who’d all be sitting around playing guitars and singing,” Rockwell said. “It was pretty simple boom-chicka-boom-chicka, ‘You Are Sunshine’ stuff but that was the family activity.”

Rockwell also had exposure to more contemporary folk music.

“I had a John Prine songbook. It had the diagrams that show you where to put your fingers for the chords — I could never read the



music. Growing up with the album, I knew all the songs so I taught myself to play guitar with that.”

Those meat and potatoes influences shine through on Rockwell’s songs. A few of them have an Appalachian folk vibe — between its jig rhythm and timeless lyrics, “Where The Flowers Grow” could be mistaken for an imported Scottish ballad, the wistful waltz, “Nowhere To Go” is solidly in the tradition of the Carter Family standard “I Don’t Feel at Home in This World Anymore,” and “Into The North” is a droning minor-key ballad a la “Black Jack Davey.”

Music worth drinking whisky to must have some hard travelin’ stories behind it. At the age of 19, Rockwell embarked on a life on the road that led him to play with a performance art drum corps ensemble in the deserts of Arizona, taking his trio Mold On Rye (a psychedelic-bluegrass-punk group?) on a songwriting sojourn to the Canary Islands, back to Maryland to work as a TV news anchor (you wouldn’t think it possible seeing current pictures of him with his curly hair and beard), and finally to the Willamette Valley region where he fell in with a rough and tumble punk-country scene. The recent rapid gentrification in Portland persuaded Rockwell

to head in an easterly direction. “I came out here because my country band in Portland, The Darlin’ Brothers, split up and the drummer and his brother moved out to Baker City. I sorta got pushed out by yuppies and condos and cost of living and all that stuff and decided to come out to Eastern Oregon to play music.”

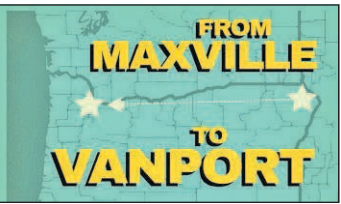
Although not a solo show, Rockwell’s next regional gig is a performance with the freshly reunited Darlin’ Brothers at Side A Brewery in La Grande. His next solo performance will be at Heppner’s Ruckus In The Boonies festival where Rockwell will be right at home in the mixture of bluegrass, crust-punk and alt-country.

“All The Stars” is the one a handful of debut releases from Huevos Records, a newly founded record label/artist consortium who claims its offices are located at the bottom of Henry Hagg Lake near Forest Grove. Rockwell has an extensive backlog of songs — he is said to possess 8-10 albums worth of material — and will be heading back into their recording studios next month to begin work on a follow-up album that he hopes to release by the end of this year.

That being the case, I best keep my liquor cabinet fully stocked.

A toast, to Bourbon Rockwell!
“All The Stars In The Sky” is available to stream for free at www.huevosrecords.com.

■
James Dean Kindle is a Pendleton musician and executive director of the Oregon East Symphony.



Contributed
“From Maxville to Vanport” features a musical presentation incorporating the stories of two unique towns in Oregon’s history.

Presentations share history of Maxville and Vanport

Several community-guided musical presentations incorporate the stories of two unique towns in Oregon’s history — Maxville and Vanport. Featuring poetry by Renee Mitchell, music by Ezra Weiss and video by Kalimah Abioto, “From Maxville to Vanport” includes musicians from the Portland Jazz Composers Ensemble. Area presentations include:

- Thursday, April 12 at 7:30 p.m. in Loso Hall at Eastern Oregon University, La Grande. (Free).
 - Friday, April 13 at 7 p.m. at the OK Theatre, 208 W. Main St., Enterprise. (\$20 for adults, \$15 for seniors and veterans and \$10 for students).
 - Saturday, April 14 at 5 p.m. at Baker City Heritage Museum, 2480 Grove St., Baker City (\$50, which includes dinner).
- Maxville and Vanport both had significant multicultural populations at a time when Oregon was particularly unfriendly to non-white residents.

Maxville came into existence in 1923 when logging camps and mills were sprouting throughout Eastern Oregon. With the stock market crash of 1929, the lumber market hit a slump and the town declined. By 1933, Maxville became a ghost town. Vanport was built in order to provide housing for the influx of workers coming to the Kaiser Shipyards during World War II. Although assured the dikes were strong and safe, on May 30, 1948, a railroad berm on the edge of Smith Lake was breached. The floodwaters destroyed Vanport.

For more information about the presentations and a link to tickets, visit www.pjce.org.

Bluegrass band performs for fundraiser

KENNEWICK — A fundraising event for the Sacajawea Bluegrass Festival and Dutche Oven Rendezvous will feature a concert by the Badger Mountain Dry Band.

The event is Friday, April 13 from 7-9 p.m. at The Hidden Scene, which is above Artmil Design, at 5601 W. Clearwater Ave., Unit 109, Kennewick. The cost is \$10 per person.

The Badger Mountain Dry Band has been playing progressive and traditional bluegrass for more than 25 years. Their eclectic song choices, tight harmony singing and inspired instrumental work offers an enjoyable experience for music fans.

For more information, contact Reade Oborn at reade.oborn@gmail.com, 509-492-1555 or visit www.mctama.org.

WHAT TO DO

Community theater to stage ‘Baskerville’

WALLA WALLA — The Little Theatre of Walla Walla is holding auditions for the farce “Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery” by Ken Ludwig. The play requires four to six male actors and one to four female actors. Additional backstage crew will also be needed. The auditions are Tuesday, April 17 and Wednesday, April 18 from 7-9 p.m. at 1130 Sumach St., Walla Walla. Those planning to audition should arrive a few minutes early to fill out paperwork. Actors will rotate through reading from some short scenes provided. “Baskerville” will be directed by Whitman College professor emerita Nancy Simon. The production will be staged June 1-2, 8-10 and 15-17. For more information or questions, contact 509-301-5527 or bradley.nelson@ltww.org. For more about the theater season, visit www.ltww.org.

Chocolatier, 1925 Main St., Baker City
www.petersonsgallery.net
Free. Features the paintings by Baker City artist and author Nancy Coffelt. Runs through April 30.
“H2O Today”
•Monday-Saturdays, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., regular hours
•Tamástslíkt Cultural Institute, near Wildhorse Resort & Casino.
www.tamastslíkt.org
\$10/adults, \$9/senior citizens, \$6/youths. The traveling exhibition from the Smithsonian Institution explores the beauty and essential nature of water, the challenges of maintaining global water sources and promoting conversation. Runs April 6-June 14.

First Draft Writers’ Series
•Thursday, April 19; 7 p.m.
•Pendleton Center for the Arts, 214 N. Main St.
www.pendletonarts.org
Free. Features Clemens Starck, an award-winning poet who considers Pendleton one of his old stomping grounds. Also, short open mic readings from the audience.

Open Regional Photography Exhibit
•Saturday, May 5; noon-4 p.m., accept entries
•Friday, May 11; 5:30-7 p.m., opening reception
•Pendleton Center for the Arts, 214 N. Main St.
www.pendletonarts.org
\$10/adults; \$5/youths entry fee per piece of art. Cash prizes awarded. Visit the arts center website for details on entering. The exhibit runs May 11-June 29. (541-278-9201).

Music
Brass Fire
•Saturday, April 7; 7-10 p.m.
•Red Lion, 304 S.E. Nye Ave., Pendleton
No cover. Features regional horn band, playing the music of

Santana, Chicago, Elvis, Earth Wind & Fire.
Oldies Night in Milton-Freewater
•Saturday, April 7; 7 p.m.
•Wesley Methodist Church, 816 S. Main St., Milton-Freewater.
Free. BJ the DJ spins tunes of Linda Ronstadt. Snacks available.

Notorious 253
•Saturday, April 7; 8 p.m. No cover
•Wildhorse Sports Bar, Wildhorse Resort & Casino, off I-84 Exit 216, Mission.
Spring Fling
•Saturday, April 7; 9 p.m.
•The Pheasant Blue Colar Bar & Grill, 149 E. Main St., Hermiston

No cover. A night of music and dancing. Formerly known as the Reggeaton Party, the fun continues with dancing music with Diego.
Badger Mountain Dry Band
•Friday, April 13; 7-9 p.m.
•The Hidden Scene, 5601 W. Clearwater Ave., Unit 109, Kennewick.
www.mctama.org
\$10. Benefit for the Sacajawea Bluegrass Festival and Dutch Oven Rendezvous features the progressive and traditional bluegrass band who has been playing for more than 25 years.

Funk Factory
•Friday, April 13; Saturday, April 14; 8 p.m. No cover
•Wildhorse Sports Bar, Wildhorse Resort & Casino, off I-84 Exit 216, Mission.
Wasteland Kings
•Thursday, April 19; 7 p.m.
•40 Taps, 337 S.W. Emigrant Ave., Pendleton
No cover during Live Music Thursday.
The Wiz Kid
•Friday, April 20; Saturday, April 21; 8 p.m. No cover
•Wildhorse Sports Bar, Wildhorse Resort & Casino, off I-84 Exit 216, Mission.

Smith/McKay
•Wednesday, April 25; 8-10 p.m.
•Great Pacific Wine & Coffee Co., 403 S. Main St., Pendleton
No cover. All ages. Ex-Gourds co-frontman Jimmy Smith and bluesman Pat McKay bring their power duo that’s as full as a 4-piece with drum stomping, guitar banging and vocalizing.
Open Mic at GP
•Thursday, April 26; 7-9 p.m.
•Great Pacific Wine & Coffee Co., 403 S. Main St., Pendleton
No cover. All ages are welcome during the last Thursday of each month. Bring your instrument, voice, family and friends.

Night life

Karaoke w/DJ David
•Saturdays; 8 p.m.
•Riverside Sports Bar, 1501 Sixth St., Umatilla
Saturday Trivia Nights
•Saturdays; 9 p.m.
•Midway Bar & Grill, 1750 N. First St., Hermiston
No cover. Join in for trivia fun and a chance to win prizes. Also features DJ music.

Comedy w/Alex Elkin
•Saturday, April 7; 5-8 p.m.
•Sub Zero Restaurant & Lounge, 100 W. Highway 730, Irrigon
\$13/18-and-older, \$18/VIP. Ages 18 and older for comedy show. Lucky Coyotes finish out the night for the 21-plus crowd. (541-922-4374)

Oregon Lottery Party
•Saturday, April 14; 5-7 p.m.
•Midway Bar & Grill, 1750 N. First St., Hermiston
Free. The Oregon Lottery is bringing free games (and prizes) to town, including a Video Lottery group game. One lucky player will win a \$100 Visa gift card.

Wino Wednesdays
•Wednesdays, 2-6 p.m.
•Echo Ridge Cellars, 551 N. Thielsen St., Echo

Karaoke at the Packard
•1st/3rd Wednesday, 9 p.m.-midnight
•The Packard Tavern, 118 S.E. Court Ave., Pendleton
No cover.

Thirsty Thursdays
•Third Thursday; 6 p.m.
•Midway Bar & Grill, 1750 N. First St., Hermiston
No cover. Hosts a local brewery offering tastings.

LOL Comedy Jam
•Thursdays; 8 p.m.
•Wildhorse Sports Bar, Wildhorse Resort & Casino, off I-84 Exit 216, Mission.
No cover. April 12: Rich Williams, Ryan Reaves; April 19: Don McEnery, JR Berard

Wine tasting
•Fridays, 4-8 p.m.
•Sno Road Winery, 111 W. Main St., Echo.

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

Karaoke
•Fridays; 9 p.m.
•Midway Tavern, 1750 N. First 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

“The Last Hot Lick”
•Saturday, April 14; 3 p.m.
•BMCC Bob Clapp Theatre, 2411 N.W. Carden Ave., Pendleton
\$12/general, \$8/ Round-Up and Happy Canyon Hall of Fame members. Advance tickets available at the Pendleton Round-Up and Happy Canyon Hall of Fame, 1114 S.W. Court Ave., Pendleton (541-278-0815). The film, which includes scenes shot in Pendleton, Rufus, Wasco and the Painted Hills, stars Jamie Leopold and Jennifer Smeija, two Portland musicians. A person attending the screening will win a new Pendleton Woolen Mills Bucking Horse blanket.
Auditions for “Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery”
•Tuesday, April 17 & Wednesday, April 18; 7-9 p.m.
•Little Theatre of Walla Walla, 1130 Sumach St.
www.ltww.org
Free. Play requires 4-6 male actors and 1-4 female actors. Additional backstage crew also needed. (509-301-5527)

Hot tickets

•**Umatilla County Fair** main stage performers (cost TBA). Reserved and premium seating going on sale soon. Watch for details in upcoming edition.
•**Blue Oyster Cult** (April 20, \$24-\$59) and **Hal Ketchum** (May 26, \$25-\$45), at Wildhorse Resort & Casino. Buy tickets for the 21-and-older shows via the Wildhorse Gift Shop or www.wildhorseresort.com
•**Eagles**. May 5, Moda Center, Portland. Tickets (\$59-\$400) via www.ticketmaster.com
•**Summer Concert Series: Hunks the Show** (June 2, \$29-\$65); **Kim Russo: The Happy Medium** (June 16, \$65); **Naughty by Nature, hip hop party w/ Sir Mix-A-Lot & Tone Loc** (July 27, \$49-\$99); and **Ramon Ayala** (July 28, \$49-\$129) at Wildhorse Resort & Casino. All shows are 21-and-older, except the hip hop party, which is 18-and-older. Tickets available via the Wildhorse Gift Shop or www.wildhorseresort.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.

MOVIE REVIEW

‘A Quiet Place’ is an intoxicatingly creepy thriller

Let’s start with a popcorn warning. If you’re bringing your usual tub of multiplex popcorn into “A Quiet Place,” just be aware that you’ll be hearing every single crunch.

That’s because much of John Krasinski’s ingeniously creepy new film, in which he stars alongside his real-life better half, Emily Blunt, takes place in virtual silence. This is a movie about a world where noise gets you killed. In fact, if you ate popcorn IN the movie, you’d quickly be dead.

Krasinski, in his third feature outing as director, has a lot going for him here: An inventive premise, a terrific cast featuring two extremely effective child actors, and the always superb Blunt,

who can register fear, joy, love and anxiety in one scene without needing to utter a word. He takes all this and runs with it, producing a taut, goose-pimpling thriller that earns its jump-out-of-your-seat moments and only occasionally strains its own logic — and then, who really cares? It’s a monster flick!

We begin on “Day 89.” But what exactly happened 89 days ago? Our first clue is that there’s nobody in the streets of the desolate town where the Abbott family — Lee, Evelyn and three young kids — makes a precarious shopping trip. The most obvious clue is that the family cannot speak, or make a sound. They communicate in sign language, and

“A Quiet Place”

★★★★☆

PG-13, 90 minutes

walk barefoot on soft sand and dirt so even their feet won’t give them away.

An early, shocking tragedy makes it clear what they’re up against: evil, hungry monsters who consume anyone who catches their attention with sound. Soon, that fateful Day 89 skips ahead to Day 472. The monsters still rule, and now Evelyn (Blunt) is pregnant. As the family goes about its soundless daily routines, one wonders how they’ll possibly bring a baby into

the world without making noise. Krasinski and fellow screenwriters Bryan Woods and Scott Beck are cleverly tapping into universal parental angst here. First, childbirth, already pretty darned painful and stressful, is made even more difficult — you can’t even scream! And how on Earth can you keep a newborn from crying? More broadly, there’s the constant fear for Lee and Evelyn that any daily task can lead to an errant noise, and quickly, death. What’s worse than feeling like you can’t protect your child? “There’s nothing to be scared of,” Lee tells young son Marcus reassuringly as they leave the house. “Of course there is,” the boy replies, correctly. — *Jocelyn Noveck, AP*