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PENDLETON Whisky Fest planning for bigger crowd, traffic jam

Road closures, new parking lot
in the mix for Saturday show

By **ANTONIO SIERRA**
East Oregonian

The Pendleton Whisky Music Fest is bigger than ever, which means coordinating the event is becoming a larger task.

Whisky Fest co-organizer Andy McNally recently posted to Facebook about some of the new steps the city is taking for the concert featuring Pitbull and Blake Shelton.

McNally wrote that Whisky Fest is expecting 18,500 attendees, 2,000 more than last year. That group will include an expected 700 campers, who will be spread out between the Pendleton Convention Center parking lot, Fallen Field, Babe Ruth Park, the Indian Village, and the empty lot west of Wal-Mart.

Anticipating a crowd to rival Round-Up, McNally explained some of the preparations and new features meant to accommodate the crush of concert goers.

Transportation and parking

When the powers-that-be close one large lot to concert parking, they open up a second one.

While campers will be occupying the convention center lot and it will be unavailable for parking, McNally said in an interview they expect the newly expanded Albertsons lot graveled in time for the concert.

As of Tuesday afternoon, contractors working for the Round-Up had completely demolished the building and were leveling the ground.

In the lots near the arena, parking will likely cost \$20 for the night.

Whisky Fest is also expanding shuttle service from three buses to nine.

Starting at 2:30 p.m., shuttles will pick up attendees from the Best Western Hotel at 400 S.E. Nye Ave. and the Pendleton Chamber of Commerce at 501 S. Main St., and drop them off at the Pendleton Grain Growers parking lot on Dorion Avenue, a block away from the Round-Up Grounds.

The service stops at 7 p.m. and resumes from 10:30 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. to drop off concert-goers back at their hotels or Main Street.

Additionally, St. Anthony Hospital is sponsoring free van rides around town from Elite Taxi after the concert ends.

Following the concert, Pendleton Police Chief Stuart Roberts said authorities will close the parts of Southwest Court and Dorion avenues near the stadium to make space for buses and pedestrians.

Although he’s sending out officers to 12 fluid locations around the arena, Roberts said law enforcement is in a “no-win situation” when it comes to managing traffic after the concert.

See **WHISKY/8A**

“We were going to take a stand and take our reservation back.”
— Kola Thompson



Jazz Halfmoon Thompson, Kola Thompson and Willa Wallace have formed the outreach group Enough Iz Enough. The trio formed the group as a way to deal with violence on the Umatilla Indian Reservation in the wake of the 2016 shooting death of Tony Jimenez Jr.

From violence to healing

By **KATHY ANEY**
East Oregonian

Kola Thompson, Willa Wallace and Jazz Halfmoon Thompson know a little something about turning fear into action.

A murder on the Umatilla Indian Reservation in 2016 brought fear, shock and anger. The shooting happened after a dispute by possible rival gang members. When Beau Welch attempted to shut down a party at his house, violence erupted outside on the driveway. Julian Darryl James Simpson chambered a round and fired twice. One of the rounds struck Tony Jimenez Jr. of Pendleton, who died on the driveway. A friend of Simpson’s, Victor Joseph Contreras, took out his Glock pistol and fired 20 rounds, hitting Welch, who would eventually recover after almost losing his foot. Police apprehended Contreras after he fell into a pond. Simpson evaded capture for a week, but was finally arrested in his



Two participants in this weekend’s July Youth Basketball Camp go one-on-one. The event was sponsored by Enough Iz Enough, a community building organization started by a trio of native women.

home state of Idaho.

To add to the complexity, both Simpson, who was convicted of murder earlier this year, and Welch are enrolled members of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation.

During one vigil, Thompson took the microphone and let her feelings flow. Welch is a friend and a cousin. His brush with death and the murder of Jimenez hit hard.

“We were really upset,” she said. “We were going to take a stand and take our reservation back. Get rid of the partiers, the drugs, the alcohol and people just not feeling secure on the reservation.”

“Kola was definitely the main cheerleader,” Halfmoon Thompson said. “She said we’ve got to stand up for our community. We just rallied behind her. At the vigil, she took the mic and took control of the situation in a good way.”

Despite the common names, Thompson and Halfmoon Thompson are not related, but they and Wallace have known each other for years. The women took action by forming a group called Enough Iz Enough.

“After the shooting happened, we were really angry

See **HEALING/8A**

Ranching father and son pardoned by Trump

Five-year sentence of
Hammonds set off 2016
standoff at Malheur Refuge

By **MATEUSZ PERKOWSKI**
EO Media Group

President Donald Trump’s pardon of two Eastern Oregon ranchers convicted of arson for starting grass fires is thought by some to signify a reversal of what they say are hostile federal policies to industries reliant on public lands.

Others think it conveys a more passive approach to protecting natural resources.

Trump’s pardon of Dwight Hammond, 76, and his son Steven Hammond, 49, on Tuesday means they’ll be released from prison before serving their full mandatory minimum five-year sentences for setting fire to public



Dwight Hammond

rangeland.

To their supporters, the reprieve indicates the Trump administration is turning away from an antagonistic approach toward cattle grazing on federal allotments.

“I think this is a positive sign for ranchers across the entire country. They will be treated fairly and there will be



Steven Hammond

See **PARDONED/8A**

Republican state leaders celebrate decision

By **CLAIRE WITHYCOMBE**
Capital Bureau

SALEM — Oregon elected officials had mixed reactions to President Donald Trump’s pardon Tuesday of two Eastern Oregon ranchers, whose treatment in the court system was a stated motivation for the 2016 takeover of the Malheur Wildlife Refuge by a self-styled militia.

While Republicans expressed elation at the par-

dons, Democrats appeared less enthusiastic.

The armed militia group made up of a few dozen people from different parts of the U.S. occupied the headquarters of the refuge from Jan. 2, 2016 to Feb. 11, 2016 to protest federal land management, and the leaders of that occupation said they were trying to bring attention to the Hammonds’ ordeal. But

See **LEADERS/8A**

