

FAIR RUNS THE MUSICAL GAMUT

The Umatilla County Fair's concert series will feature five nights of music that range from soulful country to heavy metal. There's a little something for everyone.

An Upbeat Opening

The first two nights of the fair are for those whose heartstrings twang to the sound of country music. Kicking off the concert series for the week will be the energetic and soulful band Sawyer Brown. The five-man group formed in 1981 out of Don King's band, and won the televised competition "Star Search" in 1983. Boasting a pop sound hasn't always been forgiving for the band's radio influence, but the band maintains a robust touring schedule that has helped them build up a loyal fan base over the years. Sawyer Brown has two number one Billboard chart hits: "Some Girls Do" and "Thank God For You," both of which are upbeat, feel-good tunes.



SAWYER BROWN

Soft Southern Charm

With a deep voice and slow cadence reminiscent of Johnny Cash, Ned LeDoux will bring a softer tone to the stage on Aug. 8. The 41-year-old country singer is the son of country music star Chris LeDoux, and got his start drumming in his dad's band Western Underground. After his father passed away in 2005 from cancer, Ned picked up a guitar and started to sing his father's songs. Concert-goers can expect to hear a Chris LeDoux fan favorite "This Cowboy's Hat," a slow and melodic ballad about overcoming



NED LEDOUX

ing differences between groups of people. Ned uses a box of his father's unfinished songs as inspiration for his own material and released his gritty debut full-length album "Sagebrush" in 2017.

A Rockin' Night

The last three nights of performances stray away from country sounds. The night of Aug. 9 will be filled with the tunes of heavy metal band Skid Row. Despite a number of breakups and reformations, this band, which describes itself as an "us-



SKID ROW

against-them musical coup d'etat," is still going strong. Formed in 1986, Skid Row achieved fame and success in the late '80s and early '90s. Its second album "Slave to the Grind" achieved the number one spot on the Billboard 200 in 1991. It is currently recording its third album, "United World Rebellion Trilogy."

Latin Night

The fair board increased the budget for Latino night for this year's fair and will feature five bands. Latin Night took a brief



ALACRANES
MUSICAL

hiatus from the Umatilla County Fair and returned about five years ago says entertainment director Lucas Wagner. "It was successful for the first time five years ago and it's been more successful every year since," he said. Alacranes Musical, which translates to "Musical Scorpions," will be featured on the fair main stage on Friday night. The band formed in 1998 but really hit it big when it made it onto Billboard's Top 200 in 2005. The band's popular rhythmic, upbeat tunes such as "Por Tu Amor" and "Por Amarte Asi" will surely amp up



BLUES TRAVELER

the crowd. Other Latin acts of the night include Tormenta de Durango, Grupo Fatal, La Nobleza de Aguillilla and Los Canarios de Michoacan.

'90s Revival

Last but not least, the blues-rock band Blues Traveler will close the concert series with its swaying harmonies. The group was founded in 1988 and was prominent in the '90s. The band offers a diverse range of musical experience. It's quintuple platinum status album Four, with hits like "Run-Around" and "Hook" offer leisurely and steady sounds carried by the fixed pulse of a drum. The 1993 "Save His Soul" is characterized by hard rock sounds reminiscent of Led Zeppelin. In contrast, older albums, such as the self-titled album "Blues Traveler," present a staccato beat accompanied by frantic harmonica notes.

The band's new studio album "Hurry Up and Hang Around" is slated to come out on October 12.

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