



Staff photo by Kathy Aney

Carson McHone acknowledges the crowd's applause after finishing her set during Saturday's Jackalope Jamboree.



Staff photo by Kathy Aney

BJ Barham, lead singer of American Aquarium, lets loose during Saturday's Jackalope Jamboree.

# JACKALOPE JAMBOREE IS A WRAP

## Maiden music festival offers full slate

By **KATHY ANEY**  
*East Oregonian*

The Jackalope Jamboree unspooled like a dream — minus an overflow crowd.

Attendance at the maiden music festival — about 800 — was high enough, though, to suggest that the event could develop into a mainstay. During the day, spectators happily ping-ponged between two stages — one in the Happy Canyon Arena and the other on a trailer stage out in the concourse area by the main gate. The instant a set ended on one stage, another began a short walk away on the other, so music flowed seamlessly. People who stayed the entire 10 hours experienced 13 bands and solo artists.

Action began with smoky-smooth country artist Jaime Wyatt and ended with the high-energy American Aquarium with its folk-infused rock and roll. In between came many shades of rock, folk and country and a frenzied drum solo by Papi Fimbres of Mascaras. Local sons James Dean Kindle and the Eastern Oregon Playboys played their distinctive high-way rock.

Spectators took beer garden breaks or refueled at several food trucks under the grandstands. Smoke from Mario's Basque Bar B-Q wafted into the arena throughout the day. Lines formed at Granny's Tama-

les and Filipino Cuisino. Food workers listened as they served up meals. Four girls manning the Pendleton High School beverage trailer, momentarily without customers late in the afternoon, couldn't resist moving to the beat of the Lonesome Billies and set the drink trailer to rocking.

Four friends — Peter Walters and Ryan Beach, of Pendleton, and Darrin Lequerica and Chad Colwell, of La Grande — birthed the festival like four musical midwives. On Saturday, they watched the fruits of their labor with satisfaction. The financials aren't in yet, Colwell said, "but we're 100 percent doing it next year."

Attendance increased as the day unfurled, peaking in the evening during Shane Smith & the Saints. The Texas band drew appreciative applause with its harmonies and lively stage antics.

Walters, who plays guitar and tenor sax with the Playboys, said his favorite part of the day was observing his fellow musicians as they experienced other bands.

"I loved watching the artists watching the other artists," Walters said. "There was a lot of mutual admiration."

Colwell said everything went unbelievably well for a first-year festival.

"Everyone we spoke to had positive things to say," he said. "The weather was perfect. There were no hiccups."

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Staff photo by Kathy Aney

A couple swing dances as they listen to Brandy Zdan on the Goldie's Stage during Saturday's Jackalope Jamboree.



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A little girl applauds for Brandy Zdan during Saturday's Jackalope Jamboree.



Staff photo by Kathy Aney

The Lonesome Billies raise a toast during Saturday's Jackalope Jamboree.



Staff photo by Kathy Aney

Brandy Zdan plays a guitar solo during Saturday's Jackalope Jamboree.



Staff photo by Kathy Aney

Jaime Wyatt was the first of 13 bands to play during Saturday's Jackalope Jamboree at the Happy Canyon Arena.



Staff photo by Kathy Aney

Papi Fimbres, of Mascaras, plays a wild drum solo during Saturday's Jackalope Jamboree.



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BJ Barham, lead singer of American Aquarium, closes his eyes as he sings during Saturday's Jackalope Jamboree.