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Pendleton Bike Week to thunder into town Wednesday

By **BEN LONERGAN**
East Oregonian

PENDLETON — Thousands of motorcycle enthusiasts will ride into Pendleton this Wednesday for the fifth annual Pendleton Bike Week and Northwest Moto Show at the Pendleton Convention Center.

While last year's event drew more than 16,000 attendees over the four-day event, Pendleton Bike Week co-founder Eric Folkstad expects turnout to exceed last year's numbers.

"We don't have the smoke and hot weather from last year, so I expect a much better turnout," he said. "We have a lot of interest from riders from throughout the country, we love Pendleton and it's been really good for us to be here."

In place of the annual Sheriff Til Taylor Ride, Pendleton Bike Week will kick off with the "Ride With the Raiders" event at the Eastern Oregon Regional Airport in Pendleton. The event, a tribute to the Doolittle Raiders, will feature a flyover by a B-25 bomber similar to those used in the 1942 Doolittle Raid on Tokyo, Japan. The plane is set to touch down at the airport where it will be met by a motorcycle hearse carrying the names of all Oregon service members who have died in the line of duty.

This year, the Northwest Moto Show will feature a variety of motorcycles spanning many years, makes and models with a new Sheriff Til Taylor commemorative Harley Davidson expected to be a major attraction.

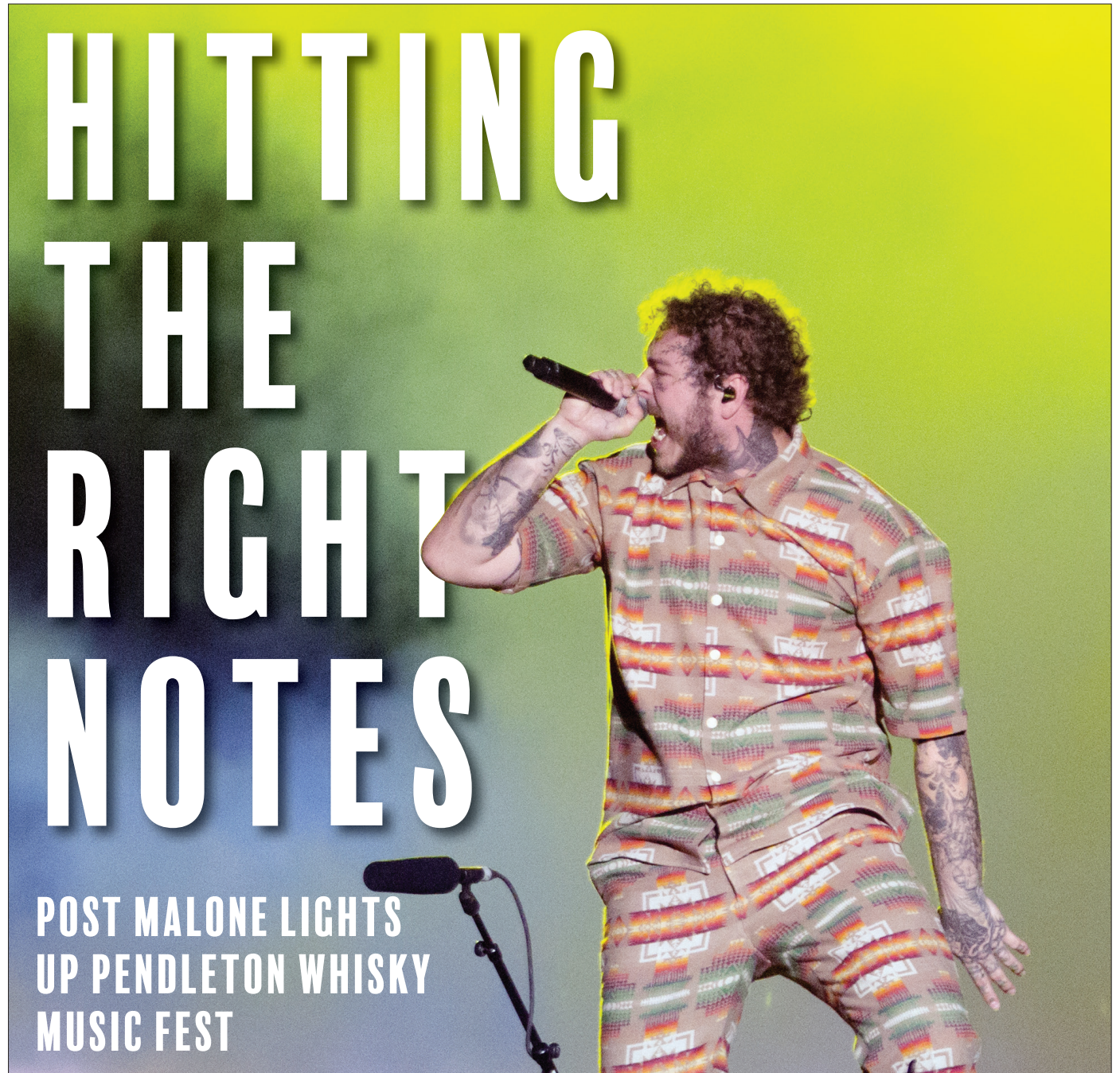
Family day at Pendleton Bike Week is Thursday and will offer free admission for Umatilla County residents and their families.

The Seattle Cossacks Motorcycle Stunt and Drill Team will perform Friday and Saturday afternoon at the convention center for crowds.

Prior to the wrap-up of Pendleton Bike Week

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WHISKY FEST



Staff photo by Kathy Aney

Post Malone performs during Saturday's Pendleton Whisky Music Festival.

By **WYATT HAAPT JR.**
East Oregonian

PENDLETON — A bet by concert promoters on the appeal of rap in a region where country music is king paid off Saturday night as about 17,000 people flocked to Pendleton Round-Up Arena to catch two of the genre's biggest names — Post Malone and 50 Cent — at Pendleton Whisky Music Fest.

The daylong event drew people from across Oregon, as well as neighboring states, on a beautiful sunny day when the temperature hovered around

the high 80s only to cool off a bit and give way to a star-filled evening sky by the time Post Malone took the stage amid much fanfare.

For some concertgoers, such as Jake Thomas of Madras, the event marked his first visit to Pendleton. But it was the second time he attended a concert at which Post Malone was performing. Thomas, who came to the show with Bridget Neikirk of Bend, said the first time he saw Post Malone perform was

in Brisbane, Australia.

"It was just a random event," said Thomas in recalling a moment leading up to the performance.

"OK. So let's go see (American DJ) Diplo and Post Malone ends up opening for him. And I'm just like, 'This could be the best night of my ... life.'"

Thomas and Neikirk were pumped to be in the company of the thousands

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SEE PAGE B3 FOR MORE WHISKY FEST PHOTOS

Music fest puts demand on Pendleton police

By **PHIL WRIGHT**
East Oregonian

PENDLETON — Pendleton police officers worked as human shields for the main entertainers Saturday night during the Pendleton Whisky Music Fest. Police Chief Stuart Roberts said accommodating the unusual request took every officer he had on duty in the Round-Up Arena.

"It seemed like each time we pulled our people out of the venue, we'd have a skirmish," he said.

As many as 17,000 people attended the event, now in its fourth year, and a throng of around 6,000 packed the party pit. Police handled several incidents of disorderly conduct, he said, and when officers could intervene they escorted people from the fes-



Staff photo by Kathy Aney

Police officers subdue a suspect during Saturday's Pendleton Whisky Music Fest.

tival and released them to responsible people rather than haul them to jail.

Pendleton officers and Oregon State Police troopers on bicycles worked the

event while security fell to three companies. TCB Security Services of Newport was the main provider, and Elite Security Professionals of Salem also was on site. Rover

Security of Gresham, a staple of local events, kept eyes on the camp sites. Festival organizers also brought in a security expert with the National Finals Rodeo in Las Vegas, Nevada, who created safety plans and coordinated efforts on the ground.

Rapper 50 Cent and headliner Post Malone had a number of safety concerns, Roberts said, and he and his department strove to meet them. The most significant challenge came in delivering the two entertainers from their green rooms at the nearby Pendleton Convention Center to the backstage of the musical festival. The route wove around next to the new areas for campers, and Roberts said there was concern someone could run up to the vehicles.

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